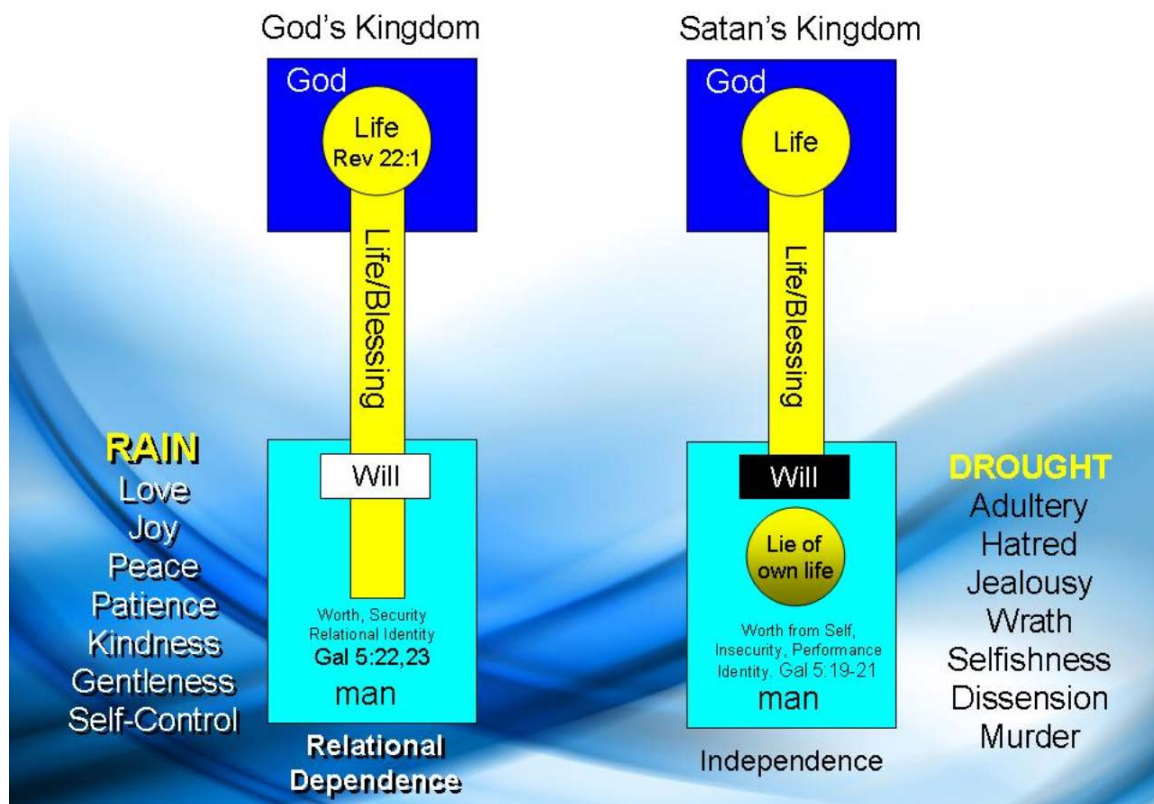


# Identity Wars – The Search for Home Identity Reclaimed

This presentation we are going to look at is Identity Reclaimed, we looked at the last presentation, the last couple of presentations, we've looked at God's kingdom as opposed to Satan's kingdom and the basic differential between the two systems is God's principle that all life flows forth from Him, and we have that life through a relationship with Him. That's the only way that we have life, and we're going to look more in the coming presentations on how that we can protect [the flow of blessings], God has set up a system to protect this flow of blessing to us.



But Satan introduced the lie to Adam and Eve “you shalt no surely die,” and that initiated the belief that we have life in ourselves, so that we don't look up here [to God] for life and blessing, we look here [within ourselves] for life and blessing and what we can obtain, and of course what we noticed is, that actually shuts the will to the blessing that comes from God. And It not only shuts out many physical blessings, it shuts out the most important blessing of all, and that is, a sense of worth, a sense of value.

The lie of the serpent causes us to feel worthless, and we looked in the initial presentation where if we look around the world today, many, many, many people

are depressed, discouraged, suicidal, because we've been affected by the lie of the serpent, which says that happiness and joy come from what we can procure from within ourselves, and of course, when we unblock the blessing, all love, all joy, all peace, all these things flow to us freely from God, from the throne of God, out through his Son, and down to us, and love, joy, peace, can be freely ours, if we will but acknowledge where it comes from.

But to acknowledge where it comes from, means we must identify clearly who God is and clearly identify who we are, and that's why I call this series Identity Wars. There is a war over our true identity, as to who we are, and as to who God is. What is the true identity of God, what is the true identity of ourselves? This is the war that we have entered into because of the lie of the serpent. The serpent says that you have life in yourself. That's your identity. Whereas the Bible teaches that God is the source of all life and our value and sense of worth come alone from him and nothing that we do ourselves. Anything that we do is only out of the sheer enjoyment and pleasure of living in God's kingdom. Not because we need to, not because we have to, to prove ourselves, but simply enjoying our relationship with God.

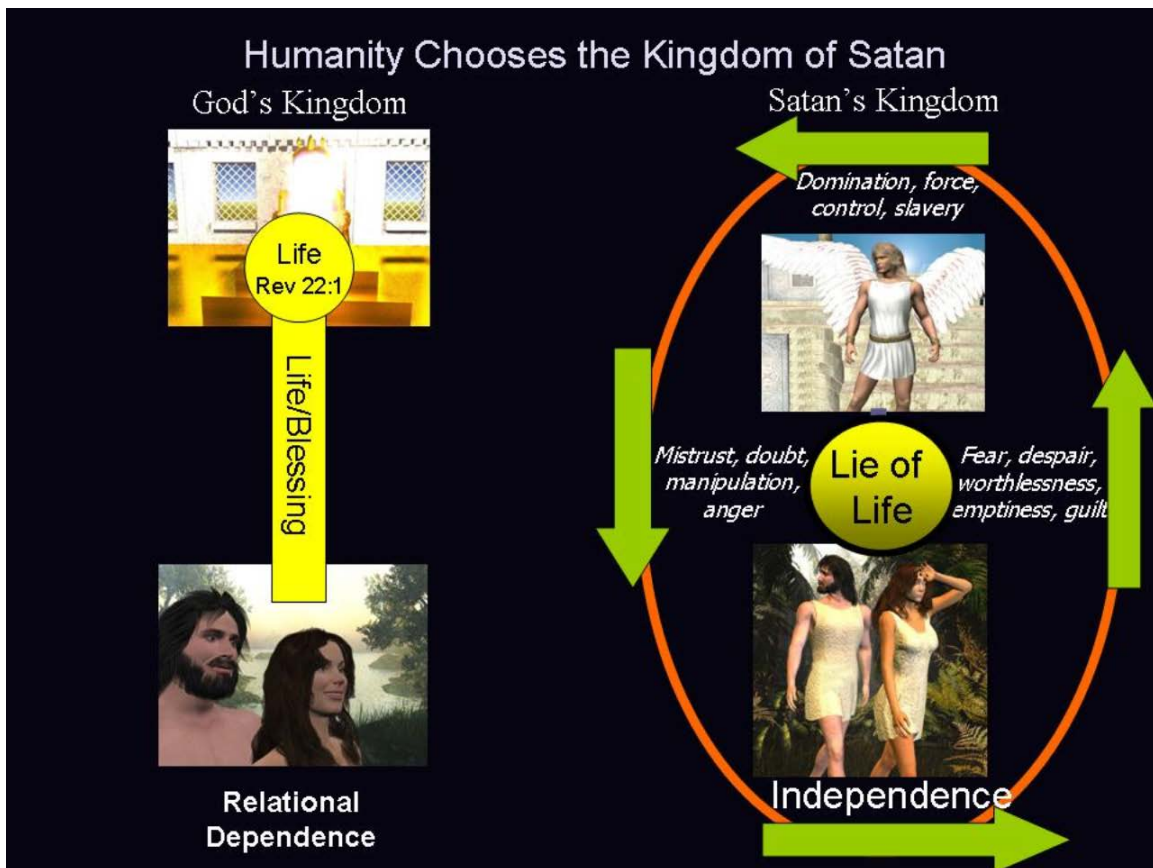
When we are open to the blessing of God, we are filled as I said, with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control. Do you ever hear people say, "you know, I really lack patience, I need to really work on being more patient," That's working out of this kingdom, you have to work at things. In God's kingdom the thing you have to work at, is believing that you are a child of God, and that God will give you these things... freely! As the Bible says, "Christ in you, the hope of? Glory! Is Christ loving? Is Christ patient? Is Christ joyful? Well, if Christ is in you, then aren't those things going to manifest in your life? That's the only thing, but why it's so hard for us, is that we're still confused by this lie, "I have to produce, I have to bring forth, I have to bring fruits and vegetables to the Lord like Cain did, so that He will acknowledge me." And we're going to talk a bit more about how Jesus's overcome this. Remember we talked about the river, the river of life that flows down into the universe, out of the throne of God, it brings with it, water, it brings with it, life. Wherever the river flows, Ezekiel 47 says, there is life.

And that is symbolized by the rain that comes, when we open. And we had a reading here just before about the latter rain. The receiving of the latter rain, I might suggest to you, briefly, comes, and will come very easily with the true understanding of God, and the true understanding of man. Is that simple. Then it will flow! And the river will come! That's as simple as it gets and we can go a lot more into that. Rain will come to us, but there is drought and in Galatians 5:19 it talks about what happens to the natural man who chooses to believe like Nimrod that he has life in himself. You get adultery, hatred, jealousy, wrath, selfishness, dissension, murder, and all of these things arise out of fear of protecting yourself, because the first emotion that Adam experienced when God came to him was fear.

And out of fear comes everything else, fear of not being liked, fear of being overrun, fear that other people will take advantage of you, fear of being attacked, fear of

death, all of these things. And that's what brings the drought. And a continual resistance, when you block the water through the will, blocking, and believing in the lie in yourself, and there is no water, when you have no water, you get a drought, don't you? That's what happens and we are well attuned to drought, I can see that. We understand these principles.

We also looked at the fact that humanity chose Satan's kingdom. Some people ask me, "You know, Adrian, why do you keep going over this stuff? We know this." I keep going over the stuff because it's based on a principle called repetition and expansion based out of the prophetic books of the Bible. By the time we finish this, hopefully these charts will be well imbedded in your thinking, and if that is a bit frustrating for some of you who think a bit fast, I'm sorry. Other people are taking it in a bit more slowly.



So we see that originally, Adam and Eve were in this relationship, and remember that their life, their joy, their peace, everything came from God, but when they chose against God, they chose to believe the serpent's lie, they became locked into a cycle, an independent cycle. Do you know, there is nothing more dangerous than a person who will not take counsel from those that are deemed to be in authority around them. Someone who places themselves in a position of being completely independent from counsel from anybody around them is a dangerous, dangerous, individual.

Why? Does anyone know why? No? Well, if they can't be guided, they can't be led, they're just going to go on a track, and if they're not guided by God, they can't be told, nobody can be told, "hey, maybe you're making a mistake here, maybe," because we are all sinners, we all make mistakes, but if someone can't be told, they're in a dangerous, dangerous situation. But this is what happens in Satan's kingdom, you can't be told. You cannot be told, "maybe there is a problem, maybe we need to look at this," but let's word it this way, how many here like to be told they're doing the wrong thing? Anybody? Vince? No, of course you don't! How many here like to be told, "you are doing the wrong thing?" Do you like it? Even when they say it really harshly? I find it hard, I'll be honest; I'm probably with everybody else that didn't put their hands up. When someone comes and says, "look Adrian, this is wrong, you are doing the wrong thing, and what you preached before is garbage, it's total garbage." I sort of get a bit defensive when people start coming on like this.

I don't like to be told, and it's something that's in human nature. We don't like to be told, but fortunately the Spirit of God has ways of speaking to us and telling us that maybe we got a problem; it's probably better than other people pointing our faults. It's a challenge, to learn. But the reason why we find it hard it's also related to the lie. If I have life in myself, why do I need to worry about other people? Why do I need to take their advice on board? Why do I need to listen to my parents? Why do I need to take their instruction on board? You know, I said this the other week, when I turned 13, 14 years of age; all of a sudden my father became extremely dumb. I couldn't work it out. He got this disease, and he just suddenly, he didn't understand how life worked anymore. He just didn't have a clue how things worked. I did not want to be told.

Now, unfortunately, my assertion of resistance toward my father intensified his desire to control! And to dominate! See I wasn't smart enough to work out that if I cut my dad a little bit of slack, he might've gone a little easier on me, and interestingly enough, when I turned 21, 22, 23, all of a sudden my dad got smart again. It was really funny, it was quiet amazing, I started to see, "hey, my dad is not so dumb after all, he is had a bit of life experience," and, yeah, but I had changed in my understanding of life and after my first son was born, I went to my father and said, "Dad, look, I'm really sorry for the way I treated you over the years, it must to have been hard at times, because I didn't like to be told when I was wrong." And that's because of the lie. It's an extension of that lie.

If I had realized that there were many blessings to be had for me through my father I would've been a lot more careful. But then again, it goes back generationally, doesn't it. My father didn't have a lot to fall back on. He was never told by his father that his father loved him, so he didn't have a lot to fall back on, and considering, my dad did really well. I'm really proud of my dad. I love my dad, but you'll hear more about that another time. All right, enough of that.

## Drought Builds Barriers to God's Calls to Return

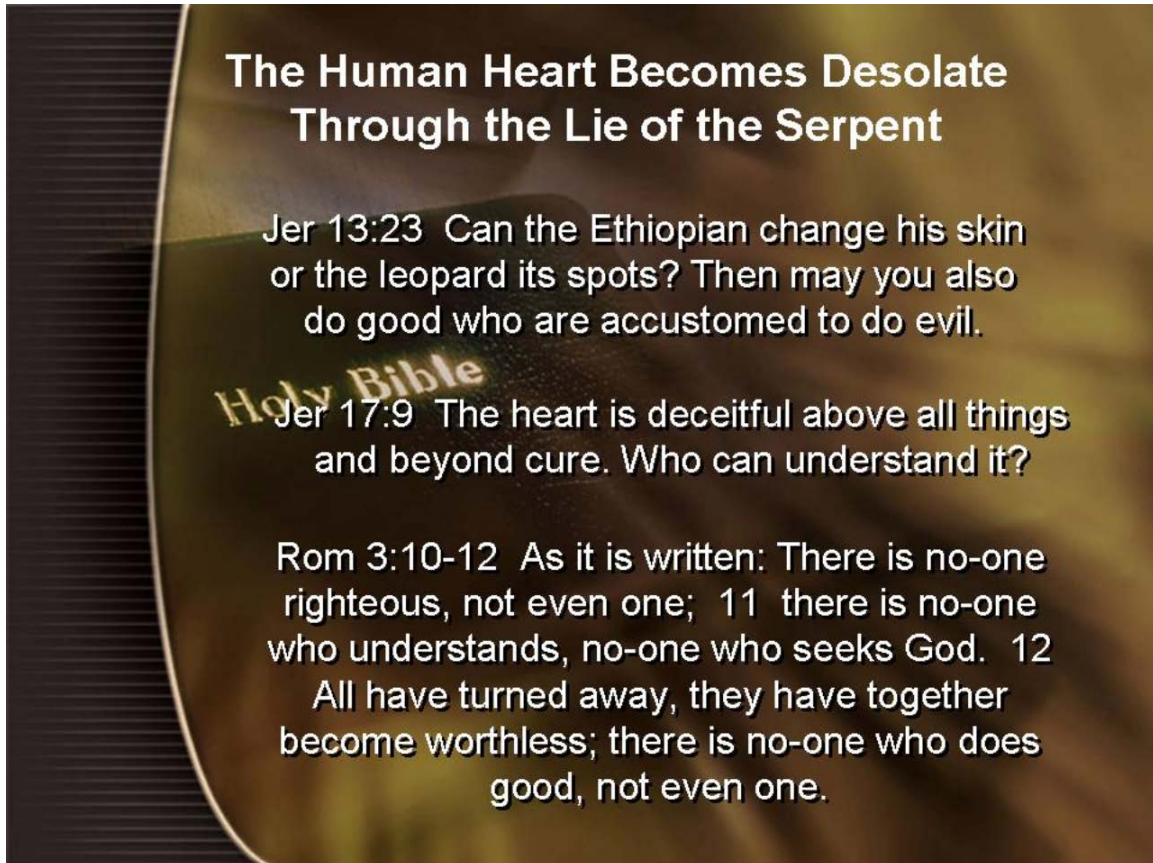


Now, once we come into this cycle of drought where these lie says, "It's O.K. You can make it, you can work it out," you get locked into what I call the mountains of pride and the valleys of depression and these mountains actually isolate us like a cocoon, we become cocooned in this system and we come into a situation of drought. Now, I want to suggest to you that this is going on [in the human heart] I'm talking about the human heart, O.K.?

When the human heart comes into a drought situation, it becomes desolate. The heart becomes desolated, and we can go into a whole subject talking about a complete system that desolates the human heart. Do you know what it's called? It's called the abomination of desolation. It desolates the human heart. It takes away from us the channel of blessing. It presents to us a false view of God, a false view of ourselves and it causes desolation. Just put that away, that word, abomination. I know many of you understand what that word means, abomination of desolation, but think of it in terms of the human heart, and the desolation that comes to the human heart. The desolation of relationships, the desolation of family structures, this is what Satan is trying to accomplish. It's to block us into this system, so that we can't get out. That the only way out is death, and I might mention to you, that is the only way. The only way out of this system is death. Either rejecting God all the way, and then dying and losing eternal life, or accepting Jesus and dying to self. That's the only way out of this system. You must die. There is no other way out. Does that make sense? O.K.



So we looked at this concept of the mountains and the valleys. When we are in this situation, what is God going to do to reach us? How does he reach into this human heart that is desolate? When we think about the fact that we cut off God's ability to put water, He can't get seed in, He can grow anything in the human heart. It's become a desert, and this is what God says, this is what God says regarding the human heart:



Jer 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

The human heart becomes incapable of responding to goodness, or doing good things, because there is nothing in the human soil that responds to God anymore. It's become desert. So how is God going to fix this problem? Let's have a look at a few more texts:

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Now, that is rendering from one of the modern translations, but I believe it's more correct. The human heart in and of itself is beyond cure. You cannot cure it, you cannot reform it, you cannot go to self-help people to fix the human heart. The soil has no response, as the Bible says in Romans chapter 3, there is none that seek after

God, no, not one. If you are seeking after God it is because God is drawing you. You are not seeking Him, He is seeking you. That's what's going on.

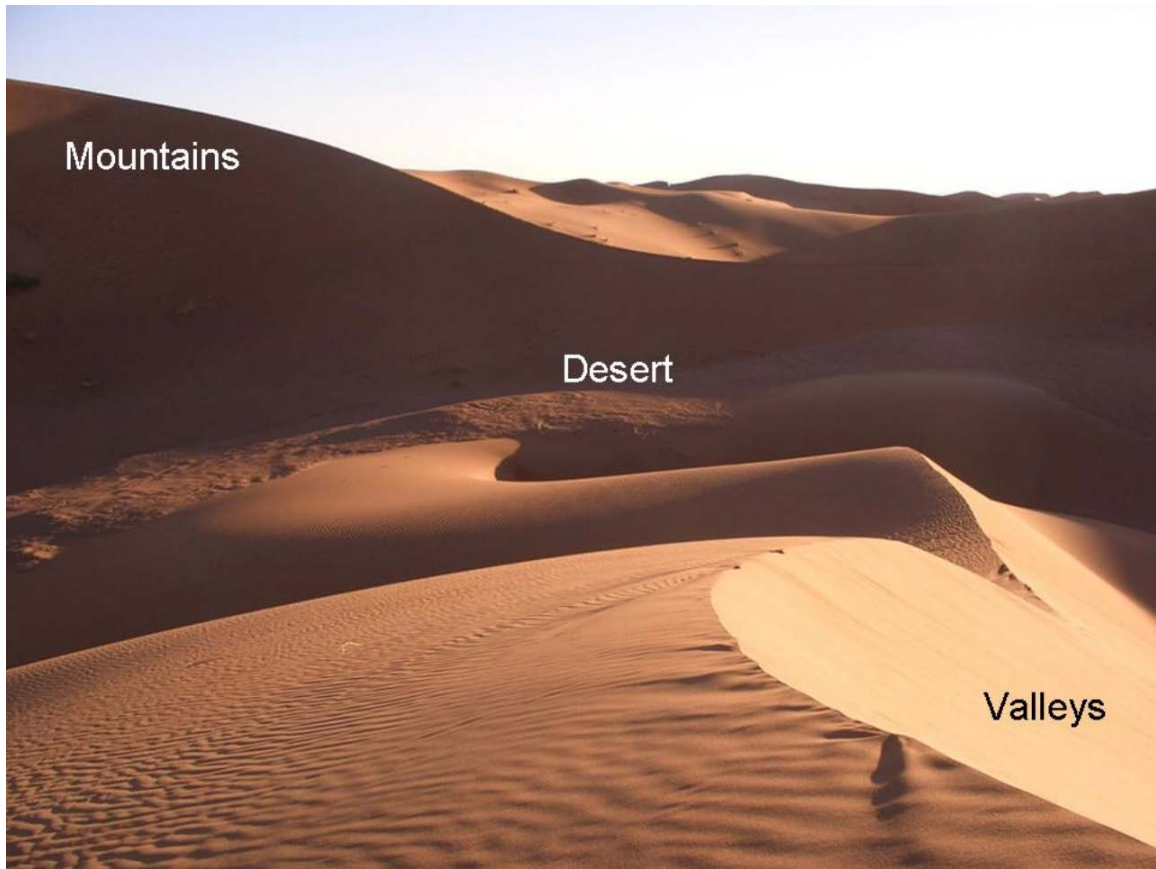
I just quoted this:

Rom 3:10-12 As it is written: There is no-one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no-one seeks God.

You know, there was a point in my life when I was reading in the book of Romans, and I was in a joyful experience with Jesus, just fairly new in my experience, and I came across this verse and it says, "There is no one seeking after God," and I broke down and wept, because I knew that I was in a relationship with God, not because of me, but because of Him. He was the One that drew me. He was the One that drew me to Himself. I thought that it was me who was making all the moves toward God. Not so, He was making all the moves toward me, through His Spirit. Beautiful verse.

When you understand this the correct way, and again, in the two kingdoms, in God's kingdom this is a beautiful verse, a wonderful verse of promise, "there is no one good, no, not one." People say, "that's a good verse?" That's an attack on human nature, but what that verse says, is that you don't have to produce goodness because you can't. That's good news! You don't have to produce it! You don't have to make yourself good, because it comes from God. Does that make sense?

Some people are looking at me like "huh?" What's he talking about? We cannot produce it from within ourselves; we can only receive it from above. The effort that we must exercise is in opening the will to the Fountain of blessing and allowing the Spirit of Christ to flow through our lives. That is freedom. Freedom from trying to prove, freedom from trying to perform, freedom from constant guilt and frustration that, "I can't do it." God already knows you can't do it. If you read the Scripture carefully, that's why He sent His Son. We're going to go on, I'm getting ahead of myself.



So we see, this is a good illustration of the human heart. A desert. Can you grow anything in that? You can't. And then you have mountains and you have valleys that block the way, that prevent God from reaching us. He can't reach the heart because there is a mountain in the way. He can't get to us because there is a valley that He can't get over so that He can get to us. You see? And this is what the serpent's lie does to the human heart. Its no accident that God allows deserts to form. This is the Sahara desert, and I believe one time this was a very, very beautiful place, but now it's become a desert. God is showing in physical form, in the physical realms around us what happens, in the physical realm as to what happens in the human heart: desolate. Nothing left. Nothing left.

This is where, if you've been noting carefully, some of you've been picking up the verse where we're going to go to next. This is the message of hope. What is God going to do? What did He plan do to? How would He reach us? We are completely isolated from Him by this lie, we have no interest in Him, we have no desire to seek for Him, we are completely cut off from him in terms of human thinking. But God had a plan to reach the human heart, and that message comes to us in Isaiah chapter 40. Listen carefully to what this says:



## A Message of Hope and Comfort

Isa 40:1-5 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. 2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand Double for all her sins." 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Isa 40:1-5 Comfort, yes, comfort my people...!

Someone who has a desert heart needs comfort, don't they? Where there is nothing but pain.

... Says your God. (2) Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins...

Very interesting meaning in these passages, we don't have time to cover all that. Now we come to the interesting part:

(3) ... The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert..." What have we been talking about desert?

... make straight in the desert A highway for our God. (4) Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; (5) The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Now, in the context of what we've been talking about, about mountains and valleys and deserts, can you see what this verse might be alluding to? And when it says "The

voice of one crying in the wilderness,” who is that voice? Who was the one who claimed to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness? John the Baptist, who came in the power and the Spirit of who? Elijah! This is the Elijah message, to bring down the mountains, to raise the valleys, to make straight in the desert a highway. A highway for what? Isn't the river? What's the highway for? It's for the river to bring life back into the desert, the desert of the human heart which does not respond to God. This is what this message is. It's a message of comfort, to comfort God's people. This is a very, very exciting chapter, this whole chapter from here on. All right, notice what it says,

## A Message of Hope and Comfort

Isa 53:1-5 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Isa 53:1-5 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? (2) For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of where? Dry ground! This tender shoot, who is this referring to? This is a prophecy of Christ, and it says that Christ will grow out of a dry ground, or a desert. That's interesting, isn't? This tender shoot, this beautiful, fresh, tender, shoot grows up in the middle of the desert. Very interesting, and then it goes on:

...There is no beauty that we should desire him, he is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

I'd like to spend a lot of time on that particular passage, but we need to move on. Now notice, what it says, we were speaking to this issue before:

## A Message of Hope and Comfort

Mar 1:1-3 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' "

This message, the message of Elijah is to prepare the way for the human heart to be reconnected to this channel of blessing. Remember, we've been cut off by the lie of the serpent. God needs to find a way to reconnect the human spirit, or humanity with this channel, and the way He's done it is through His Son. And we're going to look at how he's done it through His Son. How He's reconnected us to the channel of blessing, to the river of life.



## The Seed of the Woman

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Holy Bible

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

This is a prophecy also of Christ, is it not? [Gen 3:15] It's referring to a seed. A seed that is planted in the human heart, that grows up as a tender plant and brings life back to the desert. Can you see what's going on here? That the only way that God could reach us was to come like us, to come into our human experience as a seed that had life, and in that life was the connection to the Father that would then open again the floodgates of the river of life and to reconnect us to heaven. Can you see it? It's a beautiful picture.

Our next passage:

Gen 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

Christ is the seed, planted in the human heart that grows. And I want you to notice, this is a familiar passage to many of us, Hebrews 2:14-18. When Jesus came, there is much discussion about what Jesus was like. When he came, was He truly like us? Or was He not like us? Could He truly come, could someone of such purity, someone of such majesty muddy himself in a wretched human experience? Could He do this? Notice what the Bible says:

## Jesus Made Like Us

Heb 2:14-18 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For verily he took not on *him* the nature of angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Heb 2:14-18 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same...

Now, I want you to notice, when it says "He also Himself, likewise," Do you think the author is trying to make a point? He is saying, "It's the same people, It's the same," "He also himself, likewise took part of the same," I think he is trying to make a point.

... That through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death [here is that fear issue again] were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

That fear of death relates to the lie, doesn't it? We became afraid of death because we have to protect this life source that's inside of us. That's why we have fear. But Jesus came to deliver us from that fear by getting us to focus our attention on where the really life source is, not here [within us], up in heaven, from the Father.

(16) For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed (of who?) Abraham.

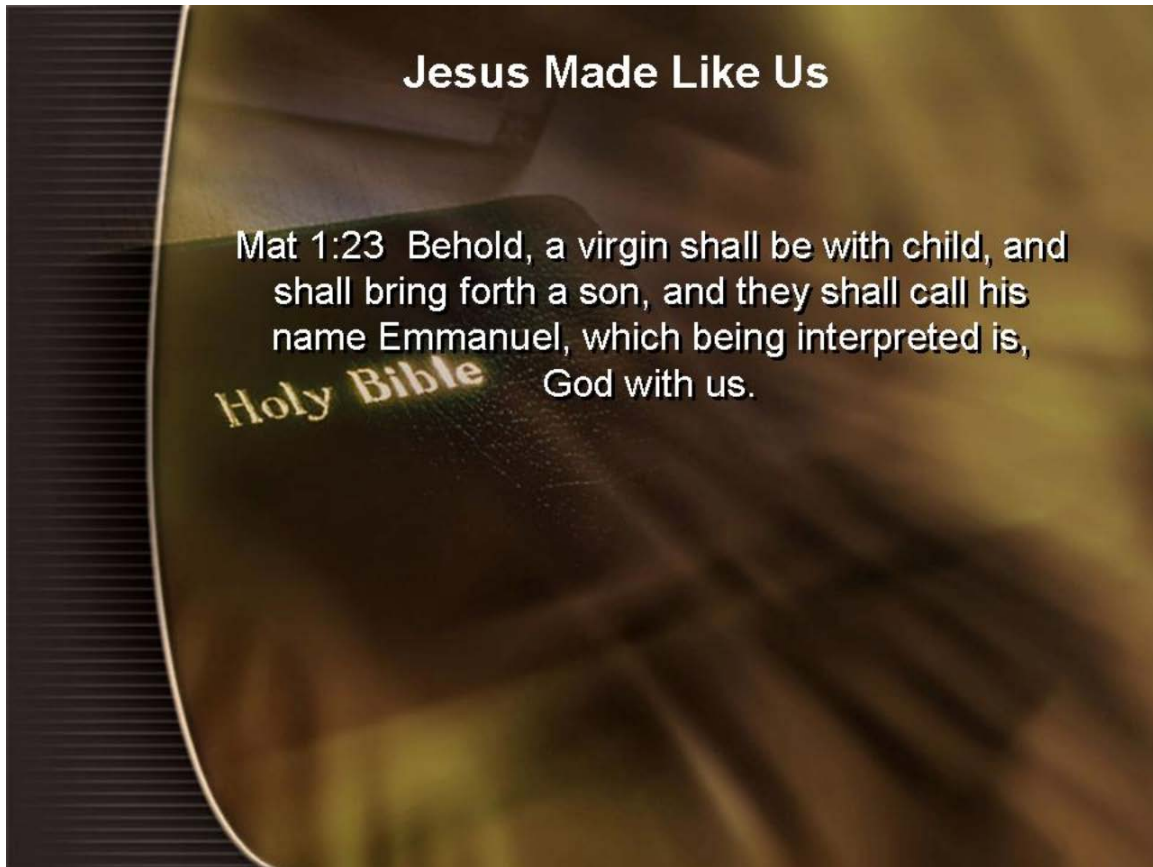
He was made like Abraham, He had in his experience, in his nature, a nature like Abraham's. That's what it says, doesn't it?



(17) Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made unto his brethren (in how many things?) All things.

If God is going to reconnect the channel, the river of life to the human heart, doesn't he have to come to where the human heart is? Doesn't he have to come into the desert? Doesn't he have to plant the seed in the desert? That's where He has to go to reconnect us to Himself. If He came, and did not come to where we were, If he came to the rain forest, and we are all out in the desert, what good is that? He can plant the seed in the rain forest, and of course it'll grow. But we needed it planted in the desert, because we are all out in the desert as human beings. We've cut ourselves off from the river of life, so Jesus had to go out into the desert.

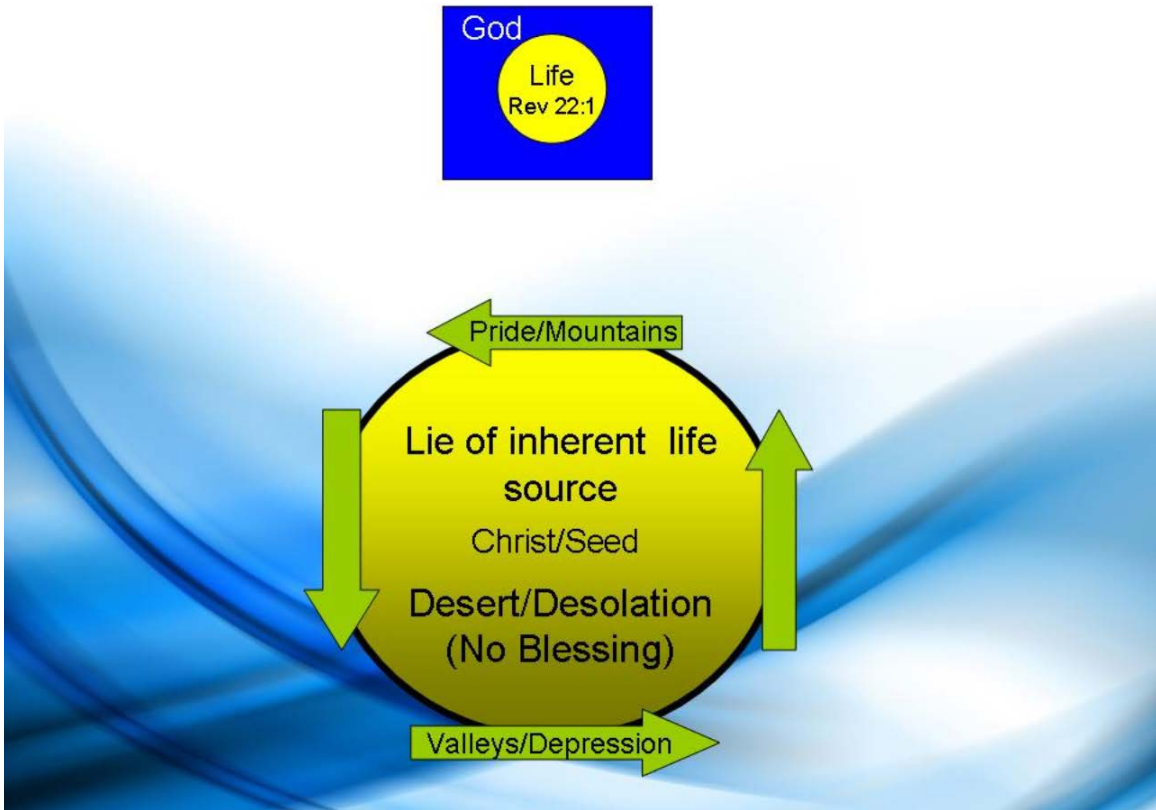
Is it interesting to you, that when Jesus began His ministry, the first thing he did was to go where? Into the desert! Isn't that interesting? And He achieved something in the desert that was very, very important, which we're going to have a look at.



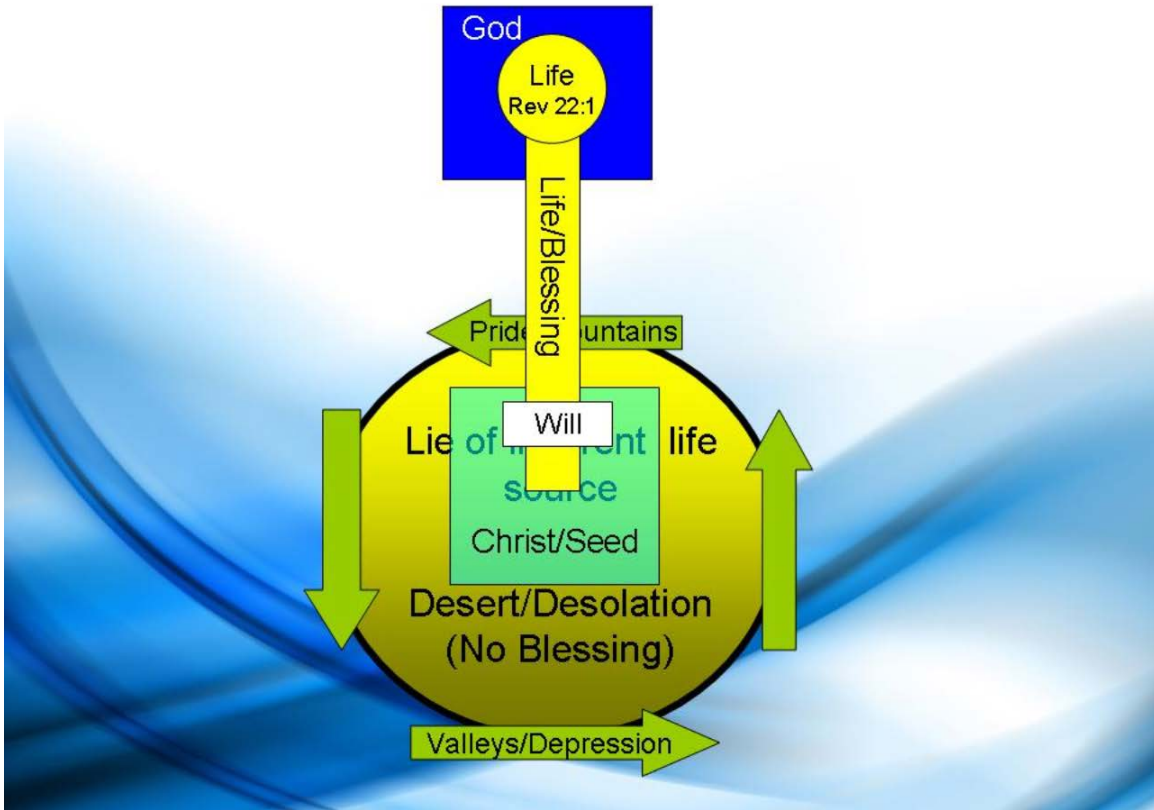
Isn't that a wonderful thing? That God would be with us, and that He would enter into our experience. One of the best joys that I have is knowing that Jesus knows how I feel, that He knows how I feel, when I struggle, He knows that struggle. When I feel rejected, he knows rejection. When I'm persecuted, He knows persecution. He understands these things. When I suffer physical pain, Jesus has suffered physical pain. A lot more physical pain than I have. He knows how I feel. That gives me

comfort, that when Jesus asks me to do something in the Scriptures, He is not asking me to do something which He himself knows nothing about. That is a wonderful thing. And I would like to suggest to you that dwelling on these thoughts brings a lot of peace. That He knows how we feel. He knows our experience.

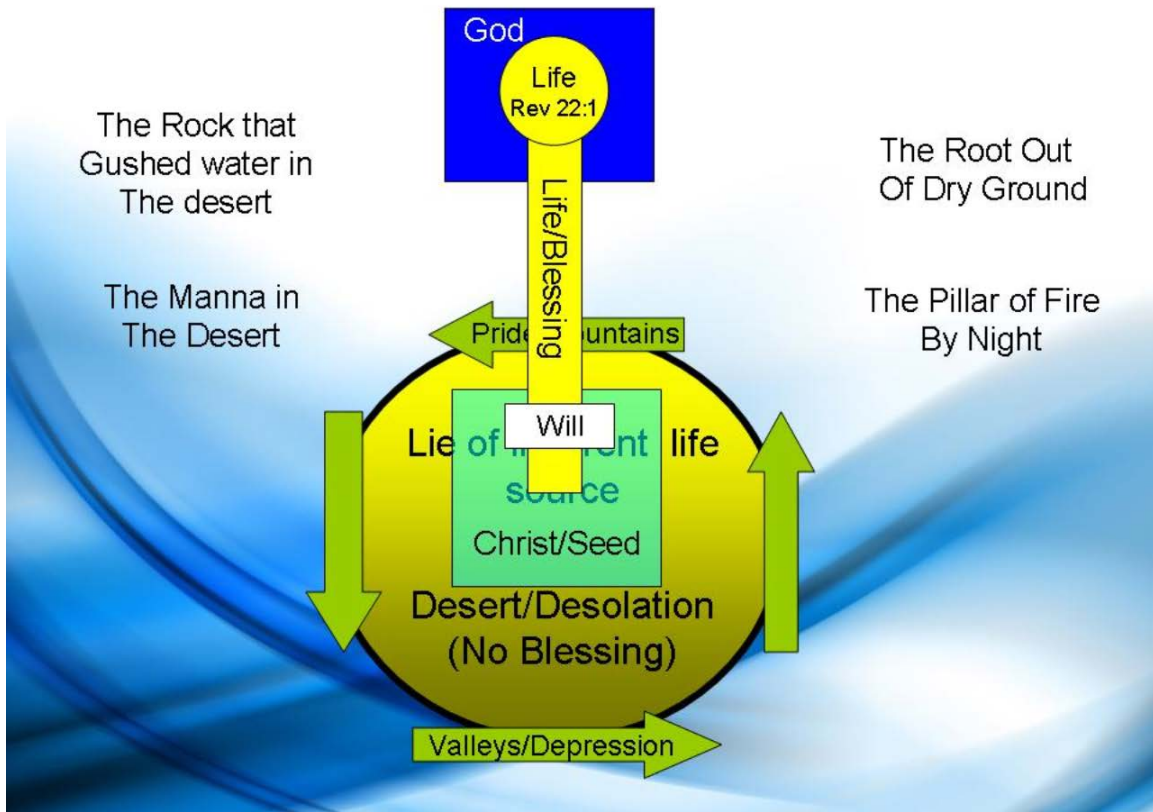




Now, we see God as in heaven on his throne and we are down here, but how does God reach into the center of this desert from where He is in heaven? This is in an illustrated form how I understand that takes place. That God's life flows down into the center, and Christ is planted right in the heart of the human experience and reconnect us to God. Can you see how that works?



Christ had to come right into the heart of his enemies. He went behind enemy lines, and the seed was planted in the desert, and a miracle occurred, because in the middle of the desert, this plant begins to grow, because it is still connected to the life source. It could grow in the desert. Jesus was the only one that could grow in the desert, and to begin to bring back life, an oasis in the desert, where people can draw water, and start to reclaim the desert and bring back the garden, the garden that was taken from us. This is how God has reconnected and opened again for us the channel of blessing, the life flow of blessing. Jesus is the key for us to be reconnected to the Father, through this process. Does that make sense? Can you see that? This is how God did it, in sending His Son He sent Him right where we are.



And we noticed, symbols, there's symbols of this all throughout the Old Testament, the children of Israel, where were they? When they left Egypt, where did they go? Into the desert, they were in the desert, and the Rock, the Rock was in the desert, and what came out of the Rock? Water. That's a symbol of what we are talking about here. The water flows out of the desert for all the people to drink so that even though we are all in the desert, we can come to the Rock and the water flows out of the Rock and we can have life, through Christ the Rock.

The manna, the manna is a symbol of who? Who said He is the bread of life? You have bread falling in the desert. Could there be a more beautiful symbol than that? God now is able to give life to us through His Son. He's reconnected us so He can rain bread from heaven. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." Beautiful! And as we mentioned before, He is the root out of the dry ground. What about the pillar of fire by night, in the midst of a desert? In something like the Sahara, how much wood are you going to find in the desert to get fire and warmth? Not much. But the fire, Jesus, through the fire and the light, all of these symbols, and if you notice carefully, and I'll just do a very quick survey.





If you look carefully at all the elements that the Bible speaks about that reflect this flow: Water, fire, light, bread, oil, breath, all of these things symbolize the connection to God. All of these symbols are found in the Old Testament Sanctuary service. This fire on the altar, this water in the laver, this bread on the table of shew bread, this oil in the candlestick, this light in the candlestick, this incense on the altar.



Do you see how it's all connected, to reconnecting us, can you see it? It's a beautiful thing. All to reconnect us, and it's all heading us in one direction. It's the Most Holy Place. And what's in the Most Holy Place? The throne of God, the crown around the edging, what's in the Ark of the Covenant? The Ten Commandments. The object is to bring us back to the Ten Commandments. Tomorrow we are going to explain why. Why the Ten Commandments is the focus. We'll look at that tomorrow. So you'll have to come back tomorrow for that one.







Jesus breaks the cycle. In Christ we have the One who can break the cycle of worthlessness, this cycle of pride and depression. He is able to break this cycle for us. Now that God has sent His Son, and His Son now is imbedded in the human experience. He's taken our nature upon Himself. He's reconnected us to the channel. God can now begin to flow His blessings to us once again, and He can now speak to us through His Son. Notice what God speaks to us through His Son:

[This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matt 3:17.](#)

You know, this is what the Father has been wanting to say to us all along. In speaking this to Christ, who's become one with us, the Father is speaking this to you and to me, and in accepting that statement, the cycle of worthlessness will be broken. This is the key. Can you see it? By accepting that you are a son or daughter of God, simply because God says so, through His Son, worthlessness will vanish. You are a child of the King, you are a son or daughter of the One who made the heavens and the earth, the King of the universe.

And as we looked up earlier today, He thinks about you every moment of every day. His thoughts toward you are peace, not evil. His desire is for you to live with Him for ever, not to cast you away. He wants you desperately to live with Him. He just wants you to know Him, and that you'll always be with Him forever and ever. That's what He's been wanting to tell us. And in His Son, the Father now can speak to us, and tell

us His thoughts and His feelings directly. He spoke through prophets in the past, but now He can speak to us more perfectly through His Son.

What does it say in Hebrews chapter one?

God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, (2) hath in these last days spoken unto us by *His* Son.

This is the key that breaks the cycle. Jesus reclaims for us a sense of worth, because the spirit of the vagabond, the spirit of Cain, does not allow us to believe this. "I cannot be a son, because I've done wrong things." That's the valley view, the valley view is I'm not good enough. The mountain view is, who is the Lord that I should obey him? I don't need God. Both of these statements can bring that down. To bring down the mountains, to lift the valleys, to make straight in the desert a highway for our God, that the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And what is the glory of the Lord?

Exodus 34, when God passed before Moses, and He hid him in the cleft of the Rock, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful gracious, abundant in goodness and truth." This is to come into our experience, prepare ye a highway in the desert for our God, and the glory of the Lord will come in, where? Into the human heart, so that His goodness, His mercy, His spirit of patience and abundance, flows out of our lives. What did Jesus say in John chapter 7? Come unto me all ye who thirst, and out of his belly will flow what? Rivers of living waters, so it flows from heaven, it flows into us, and then it flows out of us in love, joy, peace. Everyone of us is a tree. We are going sideways now, but this is good. Everyone of us is a tree, it says in Psalm chapter 1, we are a tree planted by the rivers of water. Every one of us produces fruit. What is the fruit that you are producing? Is it love, joy, peace, patience? Or is it adultery, anger, hatred, fear, violence, sedition, heresy.

Every one of us produces fruit, and every time we come in contact with another person they have to eat our fruit. Are we giving people stomach aches and indigestion? Or are we allowing our highway for our God to come through? A message of comfort, so that people can receive love, joy, peace, patience, temperance, discipline? Is that what is received? I think you get the idea.

So Jesus breaks the cycle. Now, I want you to notice, and I want you think about this carefully: Jesus had to first reconnect us to the Father so that we could have a sense that we are His children. This is really, really important, and I'll go through this briefly, because the death of the cross does not make sense to someone who is not a child of God. Do you understand what I'm saying? In Satan's kingdom of inherent life source, God is your enemy. When an enemy gives you a gift, what do you think? What's the motive, what's the catch? What are you doing this for?

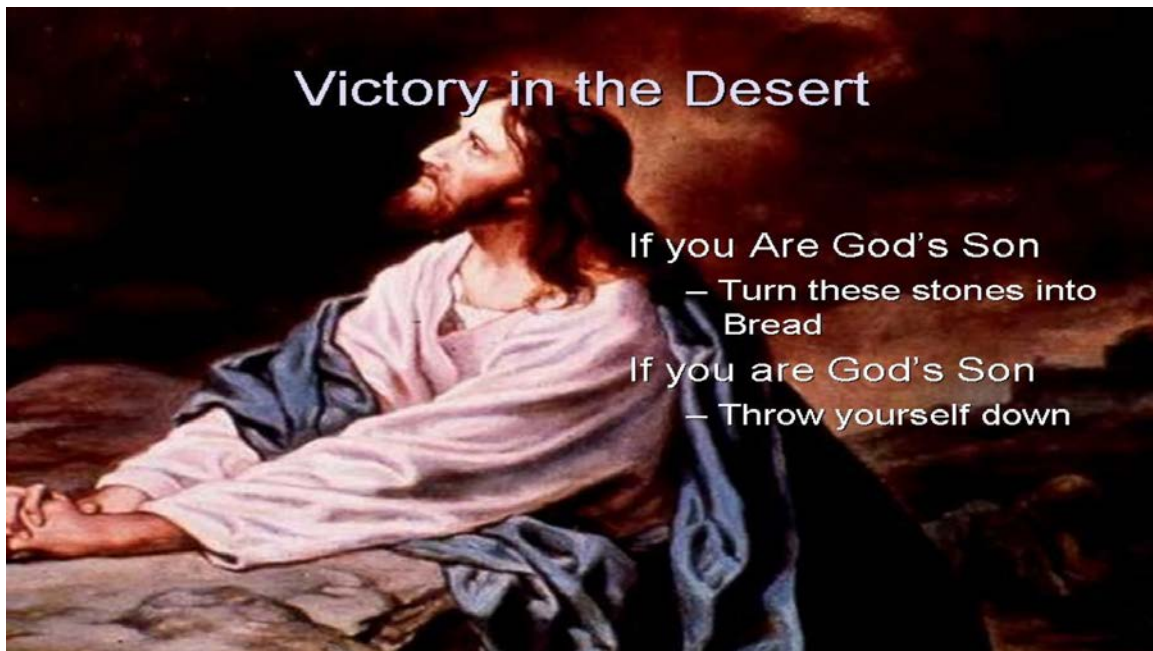
A gift can only be received from a friend, and Jesus shows us that we are God's friends through His Son. We have to accept sonship and daughtership before we can

fully accept the cross for what God really intended it to be. Many people misunderstand what the cross of Christ it's all about and what that gift was about. When we understand who God is, and why He gave His Son, and why He had to die, then it will make sense to us. But if we see the cross as a great thing that God has done for us, then we are motivated to do great things for Him, but for the wrong reason, out of a sense of obligation, not joy. Can you see the difference? Motivated by the wrong reasons.

There are many people who wish to serve God. Did not Cain wish to serve God? But he was motivated by a wrong spirit, and it led him in a wrong path. There is another thing that Jesus had to reclaim for us to help us to believe this statement. There is a lot that He had to do. He had to go into the wilderness, and deal with the central issue of being sons and daughters of God, whether we could believe this or not. And the beauty is that because He is at the beginning of this channel, whatever He accomplishes on our behalf automatically flows to us through the channel. Can you see that?

So whatever Jesus accomplishes, automatically becomes ours. The symbol of this is shown, for instance, in the story of David and Goliath. One man takes on another man, and the whole nation goes free. Do you see the principle? One man fights, wins the victory on behalf of a whole nation. Jesus wins a victory on behalf of the whole world. The story of David and Goliath is the story of Jesus in the wilderness. It's the same story, if you look at it carefully.

How long was Goliath calling out obscenities and abuse toward the Israelites? How long? 40 days! Oh, that's interesting. How long was Jesus in the wilderness? 40 days! There is parallel there. Go and study it. Go and look at it.





Victory in the desert. Now this is what Jesus had to overcome. This is how He had to smash the principle of the inherent life source. Now, notice, when Satan came to Jesus, what was the issue? It was a question concerning His relationship with His Father. Wasn't it? Are you? If you are God's Son. What is he saying? If you are God's Son, turn these stones into bread. What's he saying? Prove it. If you are God's Son, demonstrate from within yourself. Satan is trying to draw Christ onto his life source philosophy system. But what does Jesus respond? How does He respond? How does He deal with this issue? It is written. I want you to think about that. From the point of view that Jesus has won this victory, he beat Satan on this issue; Satan came at Him, tried to get him to perform and achieve and to do things, Christ refused, He clung to the Word and as He mentions "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God," what was the last word that the Bible indicates that Jesus heard from His Father? "This is my Beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased!"

Does he accept that statement on face value or does He about to try and prove it? If He went about to try and prove it, won't He then be doubting what His Father had said? That's what He'd be doing. He'd be doubting what His Father had said. He could not. He could only say, my God had already said that I'm His Son. I don't have to prove that to you. I don't have to prove it to anybody. My Father's already said it, that I'm His Son.

And so Christ conquers this need to prove ourselves. When Satan comes to you and says, are you a follower of God? Are you a Christian? Prove it! Come on, where is your knowledge of the Bible. Do you know the Bible? Have you been good today? Did you do bad things today? You are not a Christian! It's Goliath yelling at you, swearing and cursing at you, telling you're hopeless and you're no good. What are you going to do? You're going to say, yeah, he's right.

Jesus has already won the victory, and it flows to us. We simply turn to the Bible, and we open the Bible and we go to John 1:12, and we tell him [figuratively speaking], "you know what John 1:12 says? As many as received Him to them gave He authority to become the sons of God, Satan! Take that, jump on that, Satan! I am a child of God, because the Bible says so, because my Father says so. I don't care what you say; yes, Satan, I have sinned, and I have done many wrong things." More than he knows, because he can't read my mind. He doesn't know all the evil thoughts going on in my mind. He can't read them!

But the Bible says that through Christ I'm a son of God, I'm accepted in the Beloved, as it says in Ephesians 1:6. I am a son of God, and Satan cannot do anything to take that away from me. That's good news! That's good news!

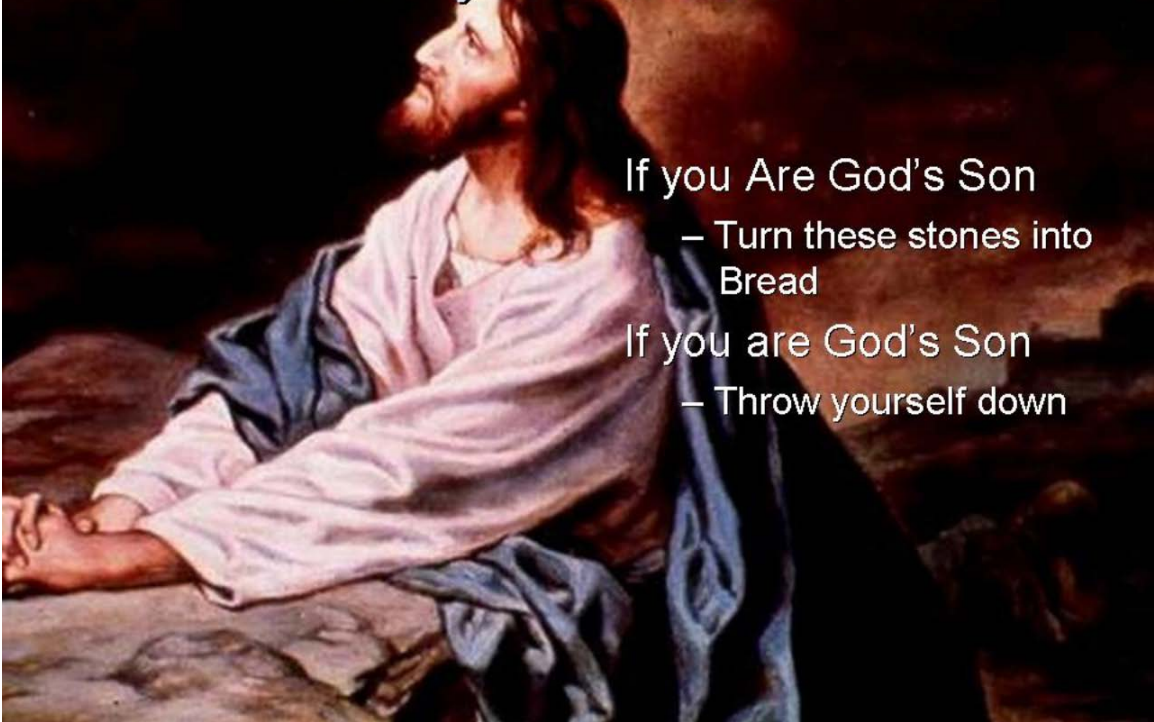
This is how we conquer. Christ has come into the desert where we are, He's planted the seed of life to reconnect us to the life source so the Father can tell us, "you are my beloved child in whom I'm well pleased." You only have to believe that Word, "and the Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart." Just believe the

Word and Satan is vanquished. Who can separate us from the love of God? What does it say in Romans 8? "Height nor depth, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us," that's what the Scripture tells us.

And this is good news, this is where I get excited, and the thing that is so beautiful about this, and I want you to think about this. Think about what Jesus went through so that you and I can have this privilege. It says in the Scriptures, that when He went in the wilderness, that He was marred more than the sons of man, his whole visage was changed with the temptations that Satan was bringing upon Him to trust in His own power. And I want you to think for a minute, was the temptation for Christ to trust in His own power that had been given to Him harder than it is for us? Could He at any moment summons the power that was rightfully His and annihilate His enemies? He could, couldn't He? It was a hundredfold harder for Christ to submit to that hunger, that depravation and listen to these taunts "If you are the Son of God," He could've had blinked one of his eyelids, and Satan would've vaporized.

He could've done it, couldn't He? But He just had to take it, and say, "my Father has put me in this position, he's allowed me to hunger in this situation, and He would deliver me when it is His time, and not before hand." What a Saviour! Friends, this, what Jesus has done, it's now available in the flow, this blessing flow, it's in the river of life, its there for you and for me. You don't even have to procure it yourself, you just have to embrace Christ, and accept the Word concerning Him, that you are His child, so that when Satan comes against you, as it says in Corinthians, "casting down imaginations," and the greatest false imagination in this world is the belief that we have life in ourselves. "Casting down imagination and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of God," the God who made the heavens and the earth, the God who gives us life, and breath, and all things. I just pray that we will take hold of these things. There is no more words I can say, so we better move on.

## Victory in the Desert



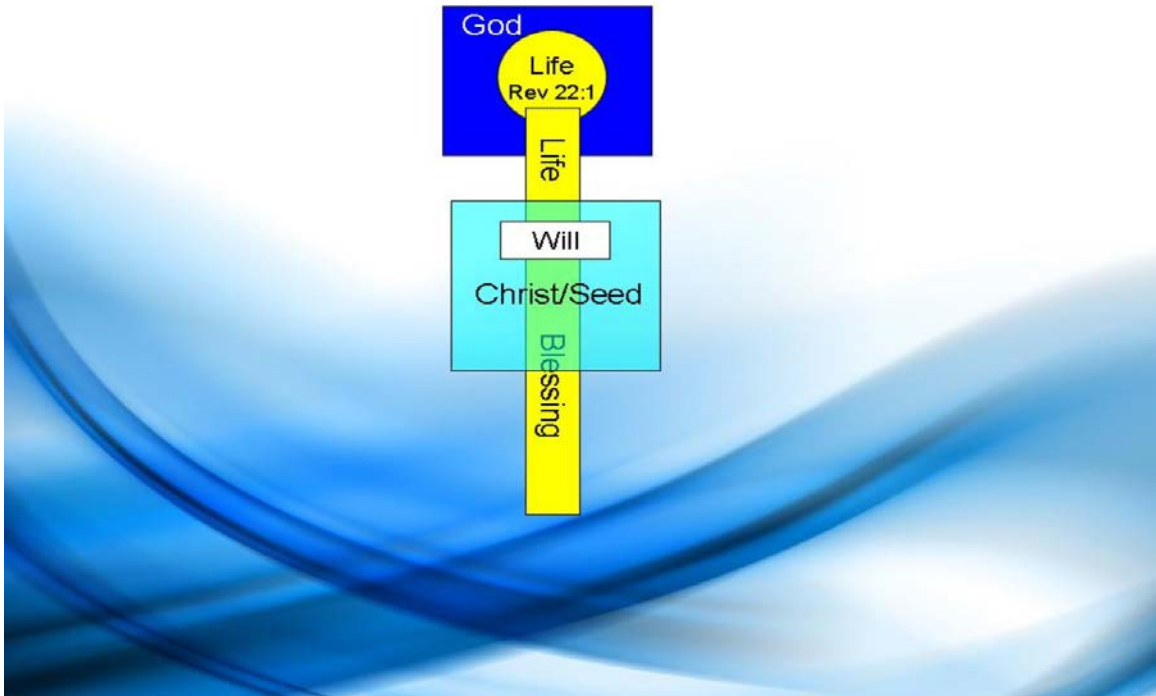
If you Are God's Son

– Turn these stones into  
Bread

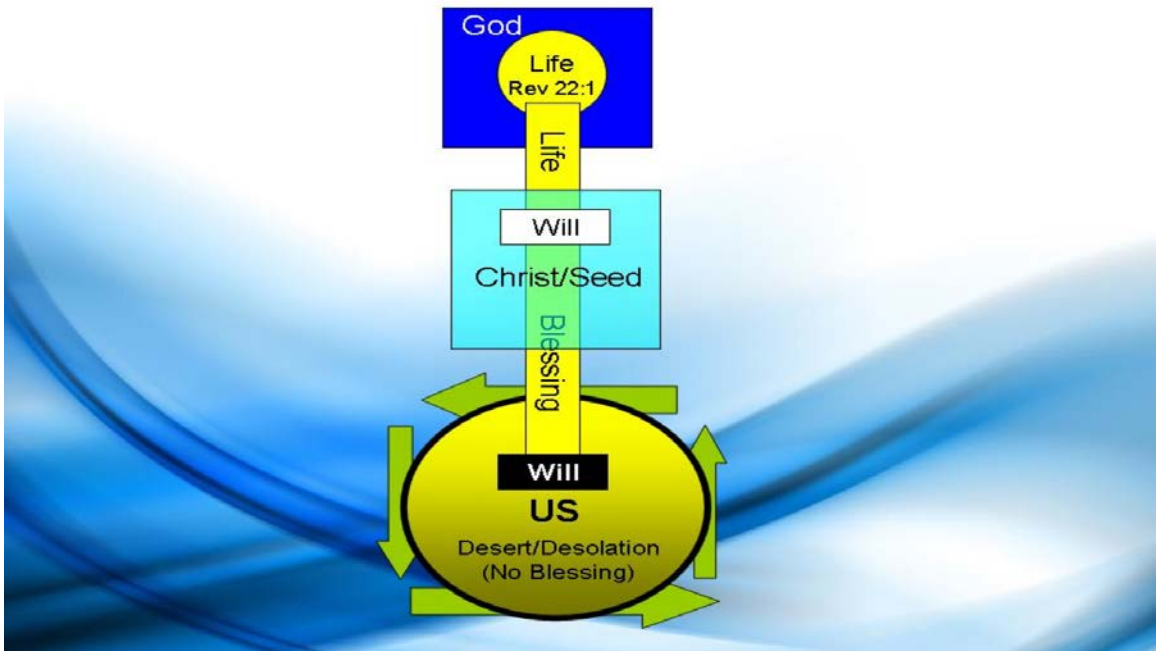
If you are God's Son

– Throw yourself down

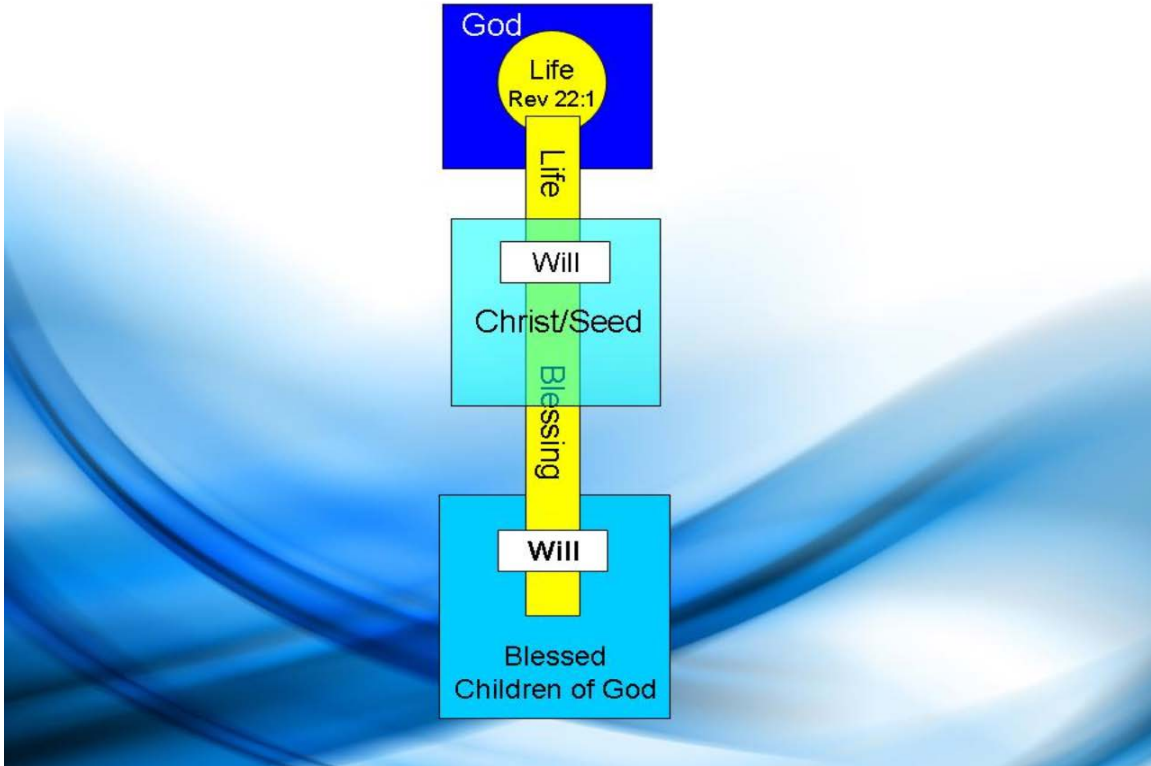
Again, "If you are the Son of God throw yourself down," the challenge is "if you are the Son of God," the question as to whether a human being can be considered a child of God has been answered already in the affirmative. We just have to accept it! By faith! And we will receive all the fullness. What does it say, that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with who? Christ! He won for us the victory. It's ours by faith, accept it! Give up the lie of the serpent! Give it up! Don't try and work it out yourself. You can't do it.



So now we see, Christ has reconnected us to the channel of blessing. Here is our stand in the desert. Now Christ is flowing to us. His victories, His accomplishments, what He has done on our behalf, now flows into the desert, into the human experience, and the will, which has been locked by the lie of the desert, when it changes, it makes a decision, "I choose to follow Christ and Him crucified."



The will is changed, we are locked in that cycle, but then the will is softened by the influence of the Spirit of God. The barriers come down, the mountains and the valleys are cut down by the message of Elijah, and we become blessed children of God. Hallelujah!



That's good news, isn't? And now we're reconnected to the channel. Now we are in God's channel of blessing, now all the fullness of God's character is available to us, through Christ His Son. Not of works, lest any man should boast. That's a beautiful thing. A beautiful thing!



## A Wonderful Inheritance

1Co 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Holy Bible

Gal 4:6-7 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

And as it says, “Because you are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son,” see how it says, who is it that comes to us? The Spirit of His Son, the Spirit of Christ comes into us crying what? Abba, Father. So when your heart cries out “Abba” it’s an affectionate term, isn’t it? Daddy! When your heart cries “Father” who is actually the one that initiates the cry? The Spirit of His Son it’s the one that cries from the heart, it’s the Spirit of Christ. Isn’t that what we said this morning? The human heart does not have the capacity to love, it doesn’t have the capacity to seek God. But now, lo and behold, out of the desert comes forth a cry “Father,” and so the hearts of the fathers are turned to the children, and the children’s to the fathers. Can you see it? It’s a beautiful thing. It’s a beautiful thing!

(7) Wherefore thou art no more a servant. What is a servant in the master’s house? What assurance does the servant have of staying in the master’s house? Does he have any assurance? His assurance of staying in the house is based on one thing: His ability to perform. He doesn’t know from one day to the next whether the boss is going to come and say, “leave.” You are no longer in this situation now that you are connected to the channel of blessing. You are a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. That’s good news, that’s wonderful news.

## A Wonderful Inheritance

1Co 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Holy Bible

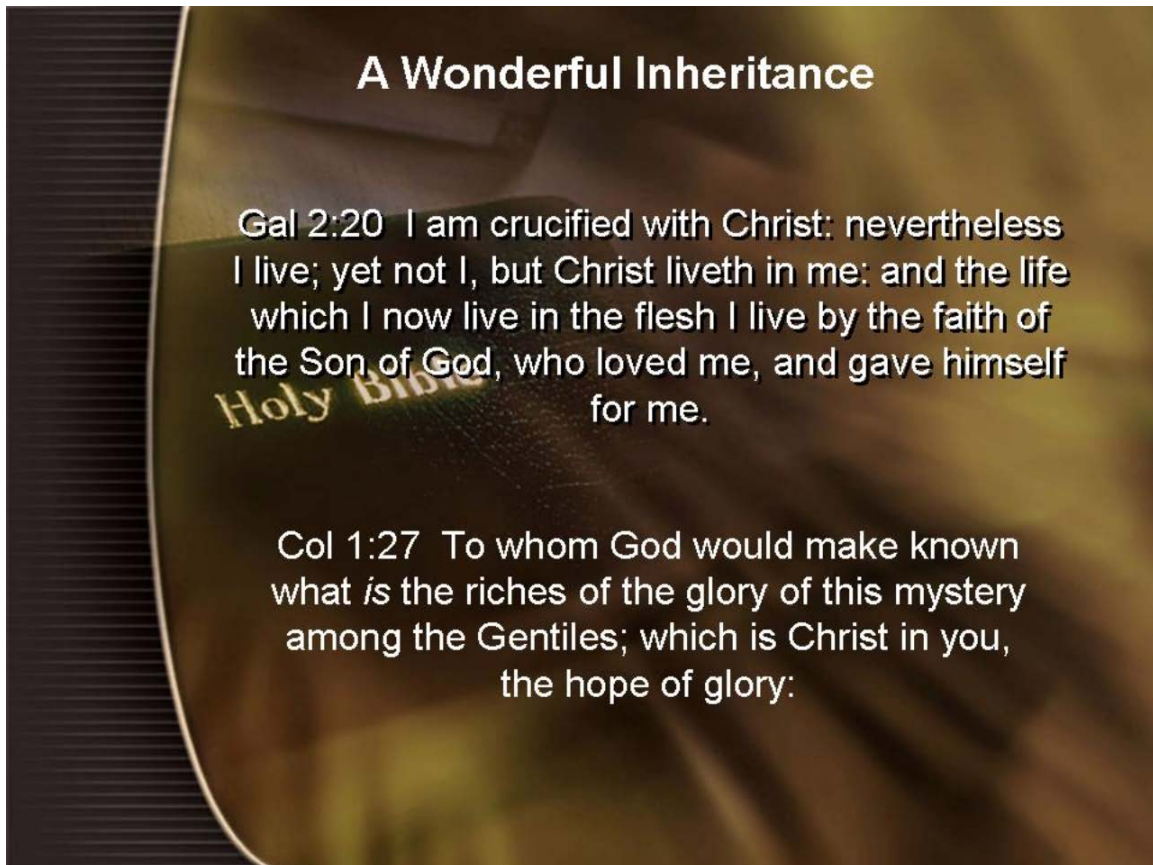
Gal 4:6-7 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Now, think of this carefully, (1 Co 2:16) For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But what does it say next? What does that verse say? We have the mind of who? Does anyone here have the mind of Christ? You're catching on. I saw the arms of faith being raised. I believe that the mind of Christ is mine, not because I feel it, not because I sense it, but because God's Word says it! God's Word says that the mind of Christ is ours! How can you have a bad day with a text like that? Don't ever say that you had a bad day! We have the mind of Christ! We have the inheritance of Christ, which is eternal life. Don't tell me that you're having a bad day! You can't have a bad day if you believe this! All things work together for good to them that who? Love God, that are in the channel of blessing, to those who are called according to His purpose.

This is what this is about, dwell on these things, think about these things. I mean, what is this compared to winning lotto? I mean, lotto. I mean, If a hundred thousand Melbournians, can get excited about guys running around in short shorts kicking a stuffed leather ball between two big sticks, I mean, can I get excited about this? What is the IFL compared to this? This is good news! I have a permanent supply of love, of joy, of peace, of patience, right there for me, and I just have to embrace it and accept it. Why is it so hard?

Unbelief. Why do we not believe? It's the lie of the serpent. It's this latent sense. Christ has crushed the serpent's head, and that's the lie that says, "you shall not surely die." He's already destroyed it! You don't have to believe that anymore,

whenever Satan comes to you and says “you are not good enough, you are not performing, you’re not reading your Bible enough, you’re not doing this enough,” say, [figuratively speaking], “Get thee hence, Satan! Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, and the Word of God says that I am a child of God, and I just happen to believe it.” That’s what you can tell him, “pack your bags and leave. I’m not going to follow you anymore. You can beat me up for my sins, my Father already knows what I’m like.” He already knows my weaknesses and faults. More than he does, more than Satan knows. All right.



(Col 1:27) “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery,” because it is a mystery, how that Christ could come as a seed into the desert, and this tender plant arises and grows, and then He brings life to us. It’s a mystery. The mystery of Christ incarnated in the flesh, we don’t fully understand it, but we know enough from the Scripture to know that it’s good news.

...The glory of this mystery among the gentiles; which is? Christ in you. Is it Christ in you? Is it the person of Christ? Through His Spirit, but it must be the Spirit of Christ, because Christ is the One who knows how I feel. He is the One that went through all the tests for me, isn’t he? He is the One that can comfort me, isn’t He? Isn’t it Isaiah 40, “comfort my people?” And didn’t Jesus say, “I’ll send you a Comforter?” “I will come to you,” Christ in you, the hope of glory. His Spirit, His life, His victory, it’s given to you. We can say it over and over

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me. Who lives in me? Christ! And the life, which I now live in the flesh, that means today, right here, I live by the faith, in the Son of God? Is there a difference? Whose faith is it? His faith, his faith that He won for us in the wilderness, the victory over the doubt that I'm a child of God. He is won that, his faith, to cling to sonship and daughtership to God, He won for us. It's the faith of Jesus, which flows into my life and keeps me connected to Him.

The Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. Amen. Will you believe God's Word?

John 1:12 But as many as received him to them gave he power (authority) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. My challenge to you now is, are you going to believe this Word? Or not? Let's bow our heads.

*Father in heaven, words fail. What good news! There is comfort for those of us in the desert where we have been desolated by the serpent's lie and through the instruments of the abomination that makes desolate. You sent your Son, made of the seed of Abraham, made of the seed of David according to the flesh, so that you could reopen for us the channel of blessing of your life, and we thank you Lord Jesus, that you were willing to endure suffering and pain for us, so that we can know by the word of God that we are your children. Lord, there are some struggling tonight to believe that. Satan is tempting them to think they're not good enough. Others might be distracted by other issues; others might be questioning the integrity of the one speaking from the front. Anything to get them away from thinking about the truth that we are your children through Christ by faith, that you have reconnected us to life. We thank you Father, that you were willing to yield up your own son, that we might live with you forever. We praise you and we thank you, in Jesus's name. Amen*