



Beyond the Doors of the 21st Century

(Based on the Welcome Message to the International Memorial 2000 Convention given by Leon Willis)

Part I

There are six major events, either in process now or will become evident beyond the doors of the 21 Century.

1. Unity of the Body of Christ

Based on the Word of God it can be boldly stated that beyond the doors of the 21st Century we can eventually expect total victory over Satan and His kingdom of darkness on this planet Earth. The process of total victory is directly tied to the "unity of the Body of Christ." Jesus prayed "that they may all be one; even as You Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, **so that** the world may believe that You sent Me" (St. Jn. 17:22). The fate of the harvest of souls depends on the unity of the body of Christ. "I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, **so that** the world may know that You sent Me..." (St. Jn. 17:23). "Perfected in unity" clearly indicates that a process has taken place. The Holy Spirit is within us working out the plan of God, eliminating self attributes that separate Christians, changing us into the mind-set of God--that we may be one in Him.

This Holy Spirit initiated process of bringing the Church into outward harmony and unity has been gathering considerable momentum over the last decade. Permanent unity cannot be realized through philosophical principles, religious councils, nor legislated by political governments. Unity in the world is always temporary and incomplete. Usually, unity of people and nations is because of a major crisis, or a goal that cannot be attained any other way, yet after the crisis, it quickly deteriorates. Political power, fear and intimidation are the major players that hold empires together, but with the Holy Spirit, it is a change of heart and nature.

2. Resurrection life

The momentum that has been building over the last decade is manifesting as the "resurrection life" of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies, through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Ro. 8:11). The resurrection life of God is within the believer, which is the power of life over death. The normal assignment of this phenomenon is upon the return of Jesus when

the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised. However, Romans 8:11, is also referring to the resurrection life that is currently within the believer. The power of resurrection life over death is now being revealed to His people. More and more this phenomenon will manifest in the lives of the believers who are being changed from glory to glory.

The drive of Apostle Paul to intimately know Jesus, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings was to “attain to the resurrection from the dead” (Phil. 3:10,11). It is clear that the resurrection he was referring to was not the physical resurrection that is scheduled to happen upon the return of Jesus, 1 Thess. 4:16, but a resurrection life emerging from the believer in this present world. Paul in verse 12 explains his thoughts, “Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” The “resurrection life” under discussion was reachable in this life. The word “resurrection” (Strong’s number: 386) in verse 10 is different in verse 11 (1815). “Anastasis” is preceded by “ek” or out of. Otherwise Paul is saying, “The out-resurrection” of the dead. It is the emergence of the “God type of life” from within the natural man that overpowers the force of death that exists in the world. Jesus promised that “out of the belly” shall flow living waters. May the volume of water continue to increase in our homes, churches and countries.

3. Purification of Church Leadership

The sequence of events recorded in Acts 5:1-16 is prophetic of our day. Because of their personal ambitions, Ananias and Sapphira, lied about the amount of money they had given to the church. Suddenly, without warning, the severe judgment of God struck first Ananias, and later Sapphira, dead. Is the death sentence attached to lying? Many have been recorded in the bible as lying, but were not stricken dead by God. Why now? It could be that both of them were part of the original 120, and were in the core of leadership. At this point in the infancy of the church, corruption had to be drastically dealt with. God purified His leadership.

Before unity of the Church can take place in its intended fullness, the leadership of the church must be touched with the fire brand of God. Even as the burning coals touched the lips of the Prophet Isaiah, so must the unclean lips of the preachers be touched today. Self related, self ambitious preachers, who are driven by “carnal dreams” of earthly prosperity, and not driven by the “harvest of souls”, must be and will be purified by the “baptism of fire” of the Holy Spirit.

4. Reverence for the Lord

“Great fear (reverence) come over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things” (Acts 5:11). “But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem” (Acts 5:13). Because of the severity of punishment God inflicted on Ananias and Sapphira, reverence of God’s righteousness and presence increased. Also others who had selfish ambitions decided it was too risky to pursue those ambitions.

At least in the USA there is not an adequate respect or reverence for the presence of God. However, the “Nadab and Abihu” attitude in the church community will be dealt with by God. Coming before the presence of God with “strange fire” can be hazardous.

Unity of the Body

With the increased reverence and respect for the word of God and His presence, “they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico” (Acts 5:12a). Apostle Peter wrote, “For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God...” (1 Peter 4:17a). For the body of Christ to come together in the unity of the Spirit, its leadership must know that God is serious and will not continue to tolerate insubordination, personal gain, unholy ambitions and recklessness. The “Solomon’s Porch” experience is yet to be realized by this generation. “Unity in Righteousness” is on the horizon of the 21st Century for the Church.

5. Wave of Miracles

Such faith grew in the hearts of the people that even the shadow of Peter brought about special miracles. With the combination of purification of leadership, increased reverence and respect for God, unity in fellowship and worship, that the approval of God swept over the people in the form of special miracles. Miracles manifest the approval of God. Peter could have capitalized on his sudden popularity, but he knew the judgment of God and knew who was working the miracles.

The mantle of Elijah will once more envelop the emerging church of unity, empowering the church for battle against the cults of the world and the wisdom to make the war room decisions required for total victory.

6. Wave of Deception

On the other side of the coin, beyond the doors of the 21st Century, will reveal a massive cloud of political and religious deception similar to the deception of the Middle Ages. However, what worked then is not going to work as effective now. Today’s leadership is being armed with the knowledge of what went wrong from 67 AD-500 AD with the early church, that had digressed from a powerful, unified force of believers into a corrupted religious system characterized by violence, deceit, fear and torment.

Apostle John, who is reputed to be the elder statesman of the 1st Century Church, wrote these words around the year 95 B.C., “*Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God lives forever*” (1 Jn. 2:15-17). He saw that worldly ambition was flooding the believers of his day, and they were compromising their righteous position, going after the carnal things of the world. The anti-Christ spirit was growing and becoming a threat against believers, yet to counter that evil deceptive force, he encouraged believers to listen to their inner abiding anointing, the Holy Spirit. The very purpose of the Son of God coming to the earth was to destroy (to loosen from) the works of the devil, and this freedom from the works of the devil was to be accomplished through the working of the Holy Spirit from within the believer.

Whoever is born of God and whatever is born of God overcomes the world, but obviously, the believers of John’s day, did not take heed to the exhortations--they followed after their own understanding. Darkness prevailed over the face of the earth. When there appeared to be little hope of ever witnessing another powerful, overcoming church in the world, the Spirit of God moved on the face of the earth, and in time a small sprout appeared out of dry ground and began to grow in the light of the sun of righteousness. From the era of Martin Luther until now, the church has been changing again into the image of the conquering Christ. Buckle-up your seat belts, because the ride is going to be fast and exciting into and beyond the 21st Century.

Beware

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. If therefore they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go forth, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:23-27).

Beware of counterfeits! Because the supernatural appeals to the natural man, do you think it is odd that the devil would not use his power to deceive believers? There are demanding voices in many countries crying out, *“I have the anointing--come over here!”* Jesus predicted that false Christ and prophets would be present in the time of the end of the age performing great miracles, but do not go after them. Even as the Church in Ephesus tested the apostles to see if they were genuine, the Church of Today must do the same. There are effective five-fold ministers tests available for the church: such as, **the word test, character test, fruit test, attitude test, motive test, love test.**

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 1 Tim. 4:1

“Test the spirits,” and see if they measure up to the tests listed above. The church **“Beyond the doors of the 21st Century”** will encounter two distinct classes of leadership: Deceivers and Deliverers.

Deceivers

Apostle Paul’s instructions to the charismatic Church of Corinth is very clear:

*“But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or you receive a **different spirit** which you have not received, or a **different gospel** which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully” (2 Cor. 11:3-4).*

*“For such men are **false** apostles, **deceitful** workers, **disguising** themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds”(2 Cor. 11:13-15).*

*“For you bear with anyone if he **enslaves** you, if he **devours** you, if he **takes advantage** of you, if he **exalts himself**, if he **hits you in the face”** (2 Cor. 11:20).*

There is only one Jesus, one Spirit of God, one gospel of truth, each one of these are explained thoroughly in the scriptures by only one proven and tested bibleBwritten by holy men of God who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. There is not a second new testament of Jesus Christ as one religious group claims. The Messiah has come in the form of the Son of God, namely, Jesus of Nazareth, who preached the good news of God unto the people of Israel, and commissioned twelve to preach the same good news to the entire world.

If one preaches another Jesus, manifests another spirit, proclaims another gospel, reject him false, deceitful and a servant of unrighteousness.

If any group enslaves you, devours you, abuses you, takes advantage of you and the founder exalts himself, beware! Excessive controls and demands upon individuals are clear indicators that the environment is unhealthy for you and needs to be seriously examined by those individuals.

If a person does the above they are identified as false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. The use of the word “disguising” is interesting. It is *metaschematizo* and not *metamorphoo*. What is the difference? If a Mexican restaurant is changed into a Italian restau-

rant, it is *metaschematizo*. But if the Mexican restaurant was changed into something entirely different, such as a fish pond, it is *metamorphoo*. It is possible for Satan to *metaschematizo*, transform himself into an angel of light, that is take the whole outward resemblance of such, but to any such change it would be impossible to apply the *metamorphoo* for this would imply an internal change, a change not of appearance but of essence, which lies beyond his power. A purposeful appearance to deceive is the issue.

Deceive implies deliberate misrepresentation of facts by words, actions, generally to further one's ends.

Mislead is to cause to follow the wrong course or to err in conduct or action, although not always by deliberate deception.

Beguile implies the use of wiles and enticing prospects in deceiving or misleading.

Delude is to fool someone so completely that he accepts what is false as true.

Betray implies a breaking of faith while appearing to be loyal.

The context of 1 Corinthians 11 is based on the story of the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

The serpent **got her attention** with the tree.

The serpent **got her thinking** about the fruit of the tree.

The serpent **got her tasting** the fruit of the tree.

Three steps to disaster! Satan is a master at getting the attention of people. A flag waver. In the modern frame, he uses crafty advertising that appeals to convenience, personal status and worldly acceptance. He uses sex appeal to the ultimate. "Just pause and consider," is his scholarly approach to lead you into the final step. "Taste and see if it is good," if not, "What do have you to lose--it is just a taste." "A little indulgence will not do any harm," chides the master deceiver. "You were born to have freedom of expression without restraint," reasons the devil. Don't go for this ploy and be destroyed!

Deceivers cause fear, bondage, poverty, sorrow, and finally, destruction. If a group wants to control your personal activities as a father does his children, beware. This is modern day slavery. Bondage is excessive weight that is difficult to bear, and if a group places extreme demands on your time and energy, watch out, and if they want to control your personal assets, or require that you sign over your personal belongings, beware! This will leave you in poverty, making you dependent upon them, and eventually it will lead to sorrow and finally, destruction.

6b. Wave of Deception

The question arises: what is a cult? "A cult is a group or movement exhibiting a great or excessive devotion or dedication to some person, idea, or thing and employing unethically manipulative techniques of persuasion and control (e.g., isolation from former friends and family, debilitation, use of special methods to heighten suggestibility and subservience, powerful group pressures, information management, suspension of individuality or critical judgment, promotion of total dependency on the group and fear of leaving it, etc.) Designed to advance the goals of the group's leaders to the actual or possible detriment of members, their families, or the community." (*West & Langone, 1986 Characteristics of a Destructive Cult.*)

Please consider some examples:

Jim Jones was a charismatic preacher who led several hundred people to Guyana, South

America, and when they came under the scrutiny of certain influential people of California, around 900 people perished in a planned suicide.

The International Chivalric Order Solar Tradition was a destructive, doomsday cult founded by Luc Jouret in 1977. Jouret convinced his followers that he was a member of the 14th Century Christian Order of the Knights Templar during a previous life, that his daughter Emanuelle was a cosmic child, and that he would lead them after death to a planet which revolves around the star Sirius.

An infant, aged three months, was killed in 1994 by a wooden stake driven through the heart. The killing was ordered because the baby was believed to be the Anti-Christ described in the Bible. After having a religious Last Supper together, mass suicides and murders were conducted at two villages in Switzerland and in Morn Heights, a ski resort north of Montreal, Quebec. 15 inner circle members (called the awakened) committed suicide by the use of poison. 30 (called the immortals) were killed by bullets or smothering. 8 others (called the traitors) were also killed. In 1995 16 more members were murdered by sleep inducing drugs.

The Solar Temple group continues to exist; it is believed to have over 30 surviving members in Quebec and from 140 to 500 worldwide.

David Koresh of Waco, Texas, leader of the Branch Davidian, perished in the flames of his own futility, along with scores of men, women and children. He was a high school dropout, rock musician, polygamist preacher, and he built his church on a simple message: "If the Bible is true, then I'm Christ." It was enough to draw more than a hundred people to join him at an armed fortress near Waco, Texas, to await the end of the world. The same message tempted Koresh to entertain a vision of martyrdom for himself. He would die in a battle against unbelievers, then be joined in heaven by the followers who chose to lay down their lives for him.

Thirty eight members of **Heaven's Gate**, under the leadership of Marshall Applewhite, committed suicide near San Diego, California. This was their way of getting on board of an alien space ship.

Joseph Kibwetere, an ex-Roman Catholic Schoolteacher, leader of the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God Movement, was responsible for 934 known deaths in Uganda, by fire and murder.

On the Web Page of **Kingdom of Identity Ministries** of Harrison, Arkansas, this applet was displayed:

Mock Him..Crush the weak..rage against heaven..fist the pope
Dethrone the Son of God..spill blood..Christ lied..seek freedom
Satan wants to set you free..churches will turn to ash..hail victory
Burn the face of God.

(Some of their offered articles)

Mock Him..Rise up against the enslaver.
Jesus Christ was a radioactive space alien.
Christ is the crucified whore.
Your lord has failed!
Jesus Christ lord of abominations and lies.

The "anti-Christian" movement is growing in the USA under many names, influencing the political positions of many of our leaders. Each year our State and National legislatures are flooded with anti-Christian measures. The war is very apparent between Christ and Satan. Pat Robertson was

recently branded by a leading candidate for the Republican nomination for President as being part of a hate group—the radical right.

Right now, I am throwing up a “red flag,” “warning sign”—deceitful workers are growing in numbers. We, being the elect of God, need to be alert concerning the times/seasons and counter with the truth, the wisdom and power of God.

A pattern left by “false brethren”:

A Charismatic-preacher.

A dream from God, or a personal communication with God.

They say they are God, Messiah, Prophet or that they alone can interpret the scriptures the way God intended.

They normally are self appointed.

A deception in recruitment or fund raising.

Isolation from society.

An authoritarian pyramid structure with authority always at the top.

The use of mind control techniques:

Milieu Control: control of the environment and communication within the environment.

Mystical Manipulation: seeks to promote specific patterns of behavior and emotion in such a way that it appears to have arisen spontaneously from within the environment, while it actually has been orchestrated.

Demand for Purity: separate from other peoples, such as was demanded by Kibwetere, no soap, sex or speech.

Confession: to be able to track the thinking processes.

Sacred doctrines: they are above question. If one questions the beliefs of the group or the leaders of the group, one is made to feel that there is something inherently wrong with them to even question.

Dispensing of Existence: Since the group has an absolute or totalist vision of truth, those who are not in the group are bound up in evil, are not enlightened, are not saved, and do not have the right to exist.

There are scores of groups around the world trying to get your attention, influence your thinking, control your future.

6c. Wave of Deception

There are accurate five-fold ministers tests available for the church: such as, the word test, character test, fruit test, attitude test, motive test, love test.

Predictions: You be the judge using the “six tests” as the guideline.

Stewart Best: he predicts that a small polar shift may occur between now and 2001.

Jerry Falwell: he predicted in January of 1999 that Jesus could return within ten years. He also calculated that the Jewish Anti-Christ was alive and ready to be revealed at the right time.

A so-called “The prophet” has predicted the rapture would occur before April, 2003.

Thomas Chase predicts that when the world’s population reaches 6.66 billion, the war of Armageddon may occur. As of May, 2000 it is nearing 6.0 billion.

The Weekly World News has divided 2000 by 3, using integer arithmetic, the answer is 666.

This might indicate that some enormous events are ready to take place.

Father Gobbi of the Marian Movement of Priests has claimed that the Virgin Mary told him: "I confirm to you that, by the Great Jubilee Year 2000, there will take place the Triumph of my Immaculate Heart, of which I foretold you at Fatima, and this will come to pass with the return of Jesus in glory, to establish His Reign in the world."

Michael Drosnin, author of "The Bible Code," found a hidden message in the Pentateuch (the first five books in the Bible) that predicts that World War III, involving a worldwide atomic holocaust, will start in 2000 (or perhaps 2006).

Nick Mann in the Weekly World News (Dec. 1999) reported that thousands of Christians have reported sightings of angels swarming to the Holy Land. He predicts that "...Jesus Christ is coming home..certainly within a few months."

The book "5/5/2000" describes how the first alignment of Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn in 6,000 years will cause total devastation, ice buildup at the south pole will upset the world's axis, sending trillions of tons of ice and water sweeping over the planet. (You be the judge. May 5, 2000 is history).

Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher, predicted that a massive solar flare will erupt and bathe the earth with enormous amounts of energy. This will burn and blind millions of people worldwide. Reported by Weekly World News.

Jim Searcy, pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian church predicted the end of the world in October of 2000. He also has concluded that Prince Charles is the Anti-Christ.

Nostradamus predicted that a giant asteroid will hit the earth in late November, 2000. This will start a fire that will burn up the planet. Reported by Weekly World News.

The Unarius Society has received interstellar though messages from a Pleiadean starship. They will land in the year 2001 on Atlantis, which will have risen from the depths of the earth in the Bermuda Triangle. Earth will join an alignment of 33 planets to form "Interplanetary Confederation for the Spiritual Renaissance of Humankind on Earth!"

Jack Van Impe in his book, "On the Edge of Eternity" predicts 2001 will "usher in international chaos such as we've never seen in our history."

Elohim City is located in the Cookson Hills of eastern Oklahoma. 100 heavily armed inhabitants live there under the leadership of Robert Millar, a former Mennonite preacher. They expect an invasion of the USA by Asians. He believes that a series of natural disasters will occur probably soon after the year 2000. The wicked and unworthy will be purged from the earth at that time.

Sun Magazine reported in its October issue, 1997, that Noah's Ark had been discovered intact in undamaged form on a slope near Mount Ararat in Turkey. Inside were a group of 6 copper-gold-silver scrolls, each 12' square. Scroll 2 reveals that the sun will superheat the earth, melting both polar ice caps, and creating a world-wide flood. Scroll 3 reveals that Doomsday is set for January 31, 2001.

Philip B. Brown predicts that the Great Tribulation will start on April 7, 2001, when the two witnesses described in Revelation will start to prophecy.

Charles Spiegel, a retired psychology professor, preaches from a small town near San Diego, California that the ancient land of Atlantis will emerge from the Caribbean circa 2001 CE. Shortly thereafter, 1000 extra-terrestrials from "Myton" in 33 spaceships will land there and bring new knowledge to humanity.

Annie Stanton predicts that a 14.4 mile long asteroid will collide with the earth. Jesus will arrive and a 1000 year period of peace starts.

The Family, a group in England, anticipates the end of the world in 2006. Members are said to be stockpiling food and planning to hide in caves in India.

The Sword of God Brotherhood believes that Armageddon will occur in 2017. The Prophet Gabriel has told them this. Only their own members will survive to repopulate the world.

I have on file 52 failed predictions of disasters that were to happen between 1997 and 2000. Again, beware of false prophets!

The second class of leadership to emerge in the coming months and years.

Deliverers

The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion to judge the mountain of Esau, and the kingdom will be the LORD'S. Obadiah 1:21

Deliverers cause: *freedom, fruitfulness, fabulous life, future.*

The Deliverer of all deliverers is Christ Jesus. "For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Col. 1:13).

Freedom from the kingdom of Darkness:

Not only did Jesus rescue us from the control of the kingdom of darkness, but he transported us into His own kingdom. Jesus included all in His death, took all into the grave, raised all in His resurrection, and seated all in heavenly places. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us, and if One died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. The Deliverer loved the world and gave Himself for the salvation of the world. The act of Deliverer, Jesus Christ, is history. The appropriation of this freedom from the domain of darkness is by faith, in other words to activate this provision, confess Jesus Christ as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you shall be saved from the day of wrath and the judgment of God.

Freedom from Sin

"For he who has died is freed from sin" (Ro. 6:7). If One died for all, then all have died. 2 Cor. 5:14. Through the death of Jesus, all have been removed from the slavery of sin and the penalty of sin. Sin reigned in the old nature of Adam, dominating and controlling all of his children. But the great Deliverer, Jesus Christ, became the last Adam, included all the world in His loins, took all the world to His cross, and with His death, all the world died. Therefore, sin does not have any power over a dead person or a dead race. Jesus, the Deliverer, is the head of a new race, made after His image and likeness.

Freedom from sins' penalty

But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. 1 Cor. 15:54. The penalty of Adam's sin was death and through this one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. Ro. 5:12. Praise God! The free gift of Jesus Christ, the great Deliverer, is not like the transgression of Adam, but much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. The grace of God has super abounded even beyond the need of the entire world to escape from sins' penalty. Judgment arose from Adam's transgression that placed the world under condemnation, but on

the other hand, the free gift of the great Deliverer, Jesus Christ, erased the condemnation and established justification for all. Through Adam's act of disobedience, everyone was constituted sinners, even so through the obedience of our great Deliverer everyone was constituted righteous. Death, the penalty of sin, has been swallowed up by the Lion of Judah, Jesus Christ!

Freedom from the power of Satan

Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; Hebrews 2:14. The devil is identified as the prince of the power of the air, god of this world and the ruler of the world. Eph. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4; St. Jn. 14:30. The question arises: how then is he made powerless? His power is in the old creation, the old nature or in the physical, however, the old creation was included in the death of Jesus Christ. The battlefield is now in the spirit realm, and in this realm, Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings. We do not wrestle in the physical against Satan, but in the spirit realm. Eph. 6:12. Every weapon given to the Christian soldier is a spirit weapon, and even as Christ defeated Satan in the wilderness (Mt 4) by spirit weapons, we can do the same.

Freedom from the Law

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. Romans 6:14. Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God. Romans 7:4. It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

The Law brought condemnation, but there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Ro. 8:1. A believer is saved by grace, the free gift of God, and not by the law. It has been proven over again and again, that one could not keep the whole law, yet the Old Testament promise was: if you keep My commandments you will live. And the rule was: For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. James 2:10. The Law demonstrated that another way for salvation was absolutely necessary. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24

Religion cannot save. Keeping the "do's and don'ts" cannot save. Working good deeds cannot save. Genealogy cannot save. Ignorance cannot save. Jesus delivered us from the kingdom of darkness, from sin, from sins' penalty, from the power of Satan, and finally, from the Law! The grace of God reigns through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord (Deliverer). Ro. 5:21.

The Great Deliverer caused Fruitfulness

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5. To abide in Jesus is to take up residence in Jesus, not as a guest, but as a permanent residence. And by abiding in Jesus, the Great Deliverer, we were "also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God" (Romans 7:4). Fruitfulness is through abiding in Jesus, growing in His grace, and this is without labor or struggle. A fruit tree does not struggle and labor to bear fruit, but because it is alive,

it bears fruit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, Galatians 5:22. The fruit is not for the tree, but rather for others to enjoy. Growing the fruit of the Spirit is just as simple as abiding in the Spirit, and as the fruit matures, others are attracted to its beauty, flavor and life giving substance. Fruitfulness is not the reward of working, but that of living. The quality of the fruit of the Spirit is “in all goodness and righteousness and truth” (Ephes. 5:9), and the filling of the “fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (Philip. 1:11).

The Great Deliverer caused a Fabulous life

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.” John 10:10

“And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.” Ephes. 1:19

“In order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Ephes. 2:7

The “more abundant living” because of the overflowing grace of God is for the believer, right now in the ugly now and now of this present world. The trials of Job, problems of David, difficulties of Daniel, or enemies of the soul, cannot stamp out the “joy of Lord”, the hope of our redemption, and our great salvation.

A plurality of Old Testament deliverers

Please be reminded that people, things, and events in the Old Testament are examples, types, shadows for believers in the new testament, and may be used for profitable instruction. 1 Cor. 10:11; Heb. 8:2; 9:8. The book of “Judges” tell the stories of several outstanding deliverers of the Nation of Israel. “Therefore Thou didst deliver them into the hand of their oppressors who oppressed them, but when they cried to Thee in the time of their distress, Thou didst hear from heaven, and according to Thy great compassion Thou didst give them **deliverers** who delivered them from the hand of their oppressors” (Neh. 9:27).

Othniel, lion of God, Caleb’s younger brother delivered Israel from Cushan-rishathaim.

Ehud, the strong one, delivered a secret message from God to king Eglon. The message was in the form of a 7 inch dagger.

Shamgar, the cupbearer, armed with an ox goad killed 600 oppressors. A cupbearer? God can use whosoever he wills to bring deliverance to the people. The most unlikely candidates for heroic assignments, God selected. “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are” (1 Cor. 1:27-28).

Deborah, a bee, allied with **Barak**, stung Sisera and his army with defeat. A woman commonly was confined to the household during those days, but God is not bound by the traditions of men, and she being in touch with God received a message for the nation. Against all natural odds, she and Barak brought about a great deliverance for the nation.

Gideon, the smiter, with only 300 chosen men who had been hiding in the caves of Israel,

brought great destruction upon the armies of the Midianites and delivered Israel from their oppression. 300 is God's number for total victory.

Jephthah, the persuader, convinced the Amorites that God was greater than their might. He being an outcast of society, was chosen by God to lead His people in battle. He subdued the enemy and brought freedom to his beloved country.

Samson, of the sun, shone brightly during his days. Regardless of his shortcomings, he being a blind prisoner of the Philistines, locked his arms around the two main supporting pillars of a Philistine sports arena, pulled with all his might. The jeers of the 3,000 lords who were offering sacrifices unto Dagon for the great victory over Samson, turned to shirks of terror as the stadium crumbled under them. God is the Lord of the second chance!

Deliverers come in many shapes and forms. Esther, a young Jewish girl in Media/Persia among the captives of Israel, was selected by King Ahasuerus to be his queen. Recognizing the fate of her people, and her unique position before the king as being from the Lord, cried out, "...If I perish, I perish!" She saved the people of Israel from destruction.

Usually God used, the least of the family, such as David and Gideon, to bring about victory for the people.

Even when Israel was in Egypt as slaves, God chose a little baby floating in a reed ark to lead the people out of bondage. Consider Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob, who was sold as a slave in Egypt, he through a chain of events, was eventually elevated to the number two man in the greatest country of his time. Recognizing his purpose, not considering the wrongs that were done to him, declared, "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive" (Genesis 50:20).

Briefly scanning the history of the Old Testament, the list of God's selected deliverers grows on and on. Seemingly without rhyme or reason, God chose, developed and succeeded in bringing common people, many without the qualifications of the world, on a level of exceptional successes. And it can be concluded that it is by God's grace and election that deliverance is brought to the people of God.

In conclusion, "...but the people who know their God will display strength and take action" (Da. 11:32). In the latter times "those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever" (Dan. 12:3). Along with the deception predicted to increase at the time of the end of this age, there is the counter of God in developing special deliverers to expose the deception and bring victory to the church of the living God!

The End