

HELL IS REAL - PART 1

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Father, it is so good to be in Your presence this morning. It's so very good that we have this opportunity to come together in the position of exalting You or giving preference to You. Father, we're glad that we have this privilege, this opportunity, this freedom by which we might express our belief without fear, at least at this point, of repercussion. Father, we ask for Your anointing to be upon the Word. We ask for Your anointing to be upon our ears. We ask for the anointing to be upon our souls. So very important, Lord, that we hear and that what we hear is assimilated or has an opportunity to germinate and that requires good ground, fertile ground. It requires some effort upon the part of the hearer. So, Father, we pray for Your anointing, not only this morning, but in the times to come as we leave this place. We ask You, Lord, to help us, in Jesus' name.

There are several things that are kind of pressing on me this morning. I trust that they will come together as I am bringing them up and putting them out on the table. I trust that they will be a blessing to you in the days to come.

I've been watching a series of tapes from some of the conferences that we have had and in one of the tapes Brother duCille was talking about the soul of man and the doors of that soul. I believe it was the Schuyler conference. I'm glad that I have that ability to sit down and to go over the Word of God that has been given to some of the pioneers: Brother Ravenhill, Brother duCille, some of those individuals who have had a validated experience in God. I'm very much aware of the need for the Body of Christ to have Christ, or some realization of the need of Christ, within. There's an old saying that I know to be quite true, I found to be quite true when I was younger and I was dealing with horses. The expression is, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." That is not just a colloquialism, that is something that is actually true. It doesn't make any difference what you do with that horse, if he doesn't want to drink, he's not going to drink. I find that somewhat true with regard to the Word of God. I find that somewhat true with regard to Christianity. Now, if I know the horse needs water, then I have a responsibility to bring the horse to the water and to do whatever I can to try and get him to drink. It doesn't make any difference if he's not going to drink, and as frustrating as it may be, you still have a responsibility. There's no man that has a horse that is worth anything at all and he needs water who will leave him in his stable to die without trying to do something to save his investment. Well, I believe that God has an investment in humanity. He has a big investment in humanity, because it says that ***while we yet were sinners Christ died for us*** (Romans 5:8). Now, I don't know if you've given that scripture any particular thought from the time you were saved or not, but I have thought upon it repeatedly. I have meditated upon it much, because I know what kind of sinner I was and I know what I was involved in and I know where I was going. I knew to what degree that I blasphemed the Name of God. Do you hear me? Not only verbally, but in action, and in thoughts, and in deed, I blasphemed God. I made mockery out of the

fact that God loved me. Yet it says while I was in that condition, God sent His Son that I might be redeemed. So, I would think that that speaks of a considerable investment with regard to humanity.

Now, the one problem I have is that I'm not God and I often lose my perception or my perspective with regard to individuals and with regard to the move of God and become quite frustrated, not only with individuals, but with my own inadequacy. Sometimes it's like, I think it was my mother... All of these things are starting to come back to me now that I've crossed over the fifty line. I don't know whether it just happens when you cross over fifty or what, but before I couldn't think of anything my mother said, and now it seems like all I can think about is what Mother said. But the fact of the matter is, she said a lot of things that have been coming back to me with regard to those things that pertain to righteousness. I believe that God has a considerable investment and she said, "Sometimes you're too close to the forest and you can't see the trees." You know, I never knew what that meant when I was young growing up. I always thought, "Well, how blind can you be? If you're in the forest, there's a tree, and you can see the tree." But there's something of a grandeur and something of individual characteristics that a forest has, if you can get back away from it a ways and view it as a whole. I found, though, that all trees don't look alike, there is always something about the trees that are different, not only in variety and species, but even among the species. Each has a different shape. Each has a different color. Some are in good health. Some are not in good health. Sometimes we are involved with life in that way with God. Sometimes we are so close to our natural, or so much encompassed by our natural set of events, that we cannot see God. Therefore we judge or we assess things from an improper perspective and we make decisions based, not on the outcome of the thing, but on what we perceive as right. Are you following what I'm saying? Nine times out of ten the decision that we make, unless God has mercy, that's the one time out of ten, we usually make the wrong decision. Hallelujah.

God sees the future. God has seen the future from the very beginning. Do you know that? He said, "I Am..." What? "Alpha and I Am Omega." That means that God was in the beginning and God is in the end. He saw the end, as it were, from the beginning. He knew about all of the things that were going to transpire with regard to history and the development of civilization and nations and times and troubles from the very beginning. Are you aware of that? Are you aware that God saw you and I at this particular point in time? Now, do you perceive that from an intellectual position of understanding, mentally, or do you know it in the heart position of your soul? The only way that you and I are going to know it is if we have a relationship with Jesus Christ and that there is something of a reality of Christ being birthed within us. Hallelujah.

I don't know how anyone can read the paper or listen to the TV or just sit down in a restaurant. I'm not an eavesdropper. I try not to listen to conversations most of the time because I don't want to hear what they're talking about, and most of the time because they're using words or vocabulary that I don't want to hear. I have learned to be adept at tuning things out, sometimes much to my wife's consternation. But nevertheless, I am able to do that. But, you know, sometimes you just can't tune some things out. I don't know if any of you are aware of what people are talking about, but I am very much aware of what people are talking about. If I didn't read the newspaper, if I didn't listen to

the radio, the news on the radio or if I didn't watch the news on TV, I would know that the time frame in which we live is something that is somewhat insecure and unstable with regard to all the facets of our living. You know, I feel a little sorry for you because there is a burden that is upon me, there's a pressure that is upon me with regard to the time frame we're living in. In a manner of speaking, you are living with me, and I have to be faithful to do or to speak or to sound the trumpet that God has given me to blow. I'm sure it might seem to you somewhat repetitious because I'm here every Sunday or every Sunday that I'm here, you're here, or vice versa, and if I'm going to minister, that is what I'm going to minister. I'm going to minister on the thing that is pressing against my soul and with regard to the position of jeopardy that I see humanity coming into. I think it's very important for us to be in a place of readiness.

Now, whenever the nation inducts someone into the military service, they do not take that individual and just dress him up in the military garb and stick him in the front line, at least, that is not their optimum type of circumstance. They might do it in an emergency type circumstance, but they're going to pay a price for that, that they may not really want to pay. What they do is they take the individual and they put him in what they call a Boot Camp, and in that Boot Camp they begin, first of all, to dissimulate him as an individual. They try to break down all of his positions of personal privacy. They try to break down all of your positions of personal preference. They try to break down and disassemble you as an individual entity that has operated for however many years in that mode. Once they feel like they have achieved that objective, they begin to rebuild you into what they consider a machine that will respond to the military mind and in a manner that would be satisfactory in order to gain the maximum result. Are you following what I'm saying with regard to all of that? That is what they call Boot Camp. It can be a very humiliating experience, a very embarrassing experience, a very devastating experience. Some people do not make it, because of emotional or mental reasons, they just are not able to stand the pressure. That is Boot Camp. Hallelujah. I believe that in the realm of Christendom there is also a preparatory process that God has ordained for His people. Hallelujah. If you want to go through the Old Testament and look at the relationship that God had with Israel, the places that He put them, all of it was a process of, first of all, dissimulating them. He put them where there was no water. They could have dug to China and found no water. Do you hear me? He put them in a situation where they could not buy clothes. He put them in a situation where they could not provide their own food. Hello? You know, God could have led them anywhere. Do you know that? God could have led them into a region that had... You know, there's water over there somewhere. There's water over there somewhere, but God chose them to lead them out into the wilderness of Sin. What an apropos name with regard to the position, the place that we often find ourselves in with regard to the environment that we live in, not only out there, but sometimes in the very midst of our homes, when sin is prevalent and predominant and creates, as it were, a wilderness. Hallelujah! But God led them. It was by the leading of God. It wasn't happenstance, it wasn't circumstantial, it wasn't by gambling or the spitting in the hand and then slapping it to see which way the spit flies. "Oh, (slap) that way. We go that way." No. It was by the direct leading of God. You remember the leading of God? Remember the pillar of fire? Do you remember the cloud that covered them during the day and wheresoever the cloud went or wheresoever the pillar went, they went. Well, you might say, "Well, I would really like

to have some of that fire.” Well, I don’t know if you would or not. You do have that fire because God said in Luke 3:16, He said, “There’s one that cometh after me who will baptize you with Holy Ghost fire.” Now, the Bible says, “Holy Ghost and fire,” but the Holy Ghost is fire. If you look into the translations, I think that you will find that it’s not “Holy Ghost and fire” but it’s “Holy Ghost fire.” There’s evidence of that given in the testimony that we find in Acts concerning the upper room. I think that anyone who has had that type of experience, who has had that type of relationship or the benefit of that type of relationship, finds himself in the same position. They are under, as it were, a flame of fire. There is a pillar of fire that is over them. Now, the only difference between you and I with regard to that fire and the house of Israel in the Old Testament is that they had no choice. They had no choice. Now, you may think that we have a choice, but quite frankly, I don’t believe that we have much choice in the manner of speaking with regard to not following the fire. Do you hear me? I really don’t think we have much choice, because any disobedience or moving contrary to the direction of God in the Old Testament was met with instantaneous judgment, either by God or dealt out in the name of God by His ministers or His priests. Acts of rebellion were not tolerated in the camp of Israel. If you transgressed the law of Moses, which was the law of God, you were met with stones, or the earth opened up and swallowed you, or there were serpents that came up out of the ground, or scorpions that came up out of the ground and bit you. All of those things were written and experienced by a people. Men suffered, women suffered, children suffered, many died as an allegory for you and I. Hello? There is a great price that has been paid with regard to the redemption that has been given to you or that you have received by the Blood of Jesus Christ. Many have given their lives. Now, lest you think that God was harsh or vindictive or in some manner revengeful, I want to remind you that God knew that these people would have an opportunity to be redeemed. Because it says that Christ, the man Jesus Christ, when He was crucified, He went into hell and He testified or He gave witness to redemption. Paul said, “He led captivity captive.” Hello. “He led captivity captive,” and all of those that could be redeemed out of the place that was called Sheol, or the Place of the Dead, were redeemed. Are you following me? So, we find that there is a price that has been paid with regard to the redemption that you and I so often take for granted. Hallelujah.

You know, I recently got in a conversation with someone, and I have a great deal of respect for this particular person. He doesn’t necessarily have the revelation of the Word of the end time, but I have a great deal of respect for him in his position with regard to Christianity. There was a conversation that we had which I came away from feeling very disappointed with regard to my own response, because of my, for lack of a better word, my own position of humanity. We need to have the Word of God in us, moving in us, not intellectually or mentally ascertaining or perceiving what God is saying about this, but in the fact of how God expresses Himself. You know, I don’t know if you have good friends or as husbands and wives, but there is something about a good friend that you can sit down and have a very meaningful conversation. Some children have it with their parents, some brothers and sisters might have it, some husbands and wives might have it. I don’t know, but I know that there are places that you can sit down and have a very good relationship with one another in words. Hello? The words that are spoken together leave you with an impression of the other individual’s soulish position and strength and vitality. Oftentimes, something of that conversation imparts something

to you or you have imparted something to them that they come away knowing you, feeling comfortable, feeling a sense of peace, feeling a sense of serenity, feeling a sense of comfort that you have this type of a relationship, you have this type of friend. You know, you will go to great depths, or great lengths not to violate that position of trust. If someone was to say something bad about them that you knew were not to be true, you would say, “No, that is not true. That is not something that is true about them.” I remember a man that was telling me about an experience he had. He had labored with some people that he thought were his friends. They had a good relationship, he thought, and they worked together and they played together and they talked together. But something was said about him to them and the only response that they made wasn't that they reassured the people that the things that they were saying were not true, but they just said, “Well, you need to talk to that individual.” I can remember the disappointment he had because of the fact that he felt, in the friendship, he had been let down. He felt like he had given a good example, he felt like he had been in a position and they had seen his behavior. Hello? I don't know whether his perception was right, you understand, but I understand the disappointment that he had with regard to the reaction of those he called his friends.

We are supposed to know God in that respect. Now, it's a little more difficult for you and I than it is on a natural level because we don't perceive God, as it were, on a natural level. I think that's really our fault because I think, if we had a spiritual perception, we would perceive God. Hello. That's what Romans says. Isn't that what Romans the 1st Chapter says? Doesn't it say that the whole creation manifests or exemplifies or demonstrates the reality of God? Do you ever look at a flower and think about the beauty of God? Do you smell a flower and think about the fragrance of God? Do you watch the birds moving about or the animals or just a blade of grass as it breaks forth out of the dirt? Does that blade of grass or the activity of the animals bring to you any conscious reality of the goodness of God and the ability of God to speak life unto dirt and out of the dirt spring forth life, or is it just grass or just weeds or is it just birds? Do you understand what I am saying? There needs to be something of a cognizant position of awareness that we have with regard to God that is around us! If we do not perceive God is around us, how in the world, or how in the name of heaven will we ever perceive the realness that is within us? You can't. You can't. Every situation that you find yourself in, there is something of a word that God is speaking to you and I with regard to that situation. Doesn't make any difference whether it's good or bad. Now, we can sulk, we can pout, we can do all manner of having fits. Whatever they might be called, you know, because we are not getting what we want or our way is not coming about, but the fact is, it does not relieve us or do away with the fact that in the circumstance, in the situation, God is speaking to us about Himself. There's something of a reality that God has for us. Is not that what God was saying to the children of Israel? You know, with almost every situation that Israel found themselves in, there was a demonstration or a name of God that came out of it. Hello. If they needed provision... What's the word? Jehovah Jireh! Out of the circumstances of their need and God providing, God revealed some aspect of His nature, Jehovah Jireh. “I'm Jehovah Jireh.” I want to mention something again, I've said it before. These songs that we sing, you people that are musically inclined, and we use the name “Lord,” you should find some name of God that is pertinent to the words that we're singing and insert it. Get rid of the word “Lord.” It's

a generic term. Let's call Him by the name that He has given Himself! I tell you, I think you'll get a lot more response from me by calling me by my name than saying, "What's his name," or "man." "Hey, man." Oh, my. You'll get a lot more response from God if you call Him by His name. The fact of the matter is there's a verse in the New Testament where Jesus stood upon the mount and He overlooked Jerusalem and He wept and He said, "I would have gathered you even as a hen would gather her chicks. I say unto you it shall be desolate. You shall be left in desolation," until what? "You can say blessed is He that cometh..." and they put in Lord and they've taken out the name of Yahweh. He's talking about the nature, the character, the aspect of His Father. I don't think He came to His Father and He said, "Hey, you." There are some children who treat their parents that way. It's like, "Hey, you." In fact, I know some children who, as a manner of stating their position of equality with them, use their parents' first name. Hallelujah! Hallelujah. Growing up in a Godless society. Hallelujah. There is a place in the Word that we need to know with regard to the nature of God, all of which comes down to the bringing us to a position of awareness that you and I need Christ in us. We need Christ in each other. We need to be working toward the development of Christ within each of us and each other. If the things that we are not doing are bringing out something other than the nature of Christ, that nature that is in opposition to Christ will devour you, will destroy you, will bring you into a place that the Bible calls hell. Hello? Hell is very real. You know, I was just a young Christian, I don't know, maybe the young people today just don't want to think about hell, but I thought about hell a lot. I thought about dying a lot. I was brought up in a Christian, not a Christian home per se, because my Dad wasn't necessarily Christian, but my mother was Christian and she prayed for us continually with regard to having a personal position of relationship with Jesus Christ. So, I was very much aware of hell and I'm very thankful for that because that thought brought me to a confrontation with God and I didn't want to go to hell. Hell is real. Hell is real! Hell is real! I'm telling you, hell is real. But that's a reality that some of you are going to have to confront for your own sake. You are. You're going to find out how bad hell is. You're going to have to find out how bad the taste of hell is, how much fear there is in hell, how much fear and trepidation and uncertainty and chaos and confusion is in the aspect of the word that we say when we talk about the devil and hell in eternity. Hell is real. Hallelujah. I want to tell you, it's not a place that I want to be. You know, I have had a little of the taste of hell with regard to my position of life. I have seen hell as it has moved into personal family environments. I have seen hell as it has moved into soulish environments of men and women and of children. I have seen the destruction. I have seen the dissimulation. I have seen the derelict attitude or environment that it produces. Hell is real! God says that you and I are supposed to be working out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). So, there is some aspect of reality that we have to have with regard to hell. Hell is real. Hell is real, and the Bible says that hell is not an inactive or impassive entity. Hello. It's not something that cools its heels or twiddles its thumbs. It's not something that is not directly involved in your life. It's not something that doesn't have some sort of interest with regard to your life and your destiny, because the Bible says that the devil, who is lord of hell and hell is produced or made up after his nature... We have hell because we have a devil, you know? Hell has been created to house the nature that we call Satan. He is lord, if anyone can be lord of hell, he is lord. He is god of hell, a domain of desolation and death, devastation, confusion, anguish, fear,

trembling, all of the things that are pertinent to what make up experiences that you and I on a natural, normal level would not want to experience! Hell is real! It also says that hell is as a lion going back and forth, across the nations, around the world, seeking what? Whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). So, hell has it's mouth wide open! It's not passive, brethren! It's not passive. You think because of this or that you are in a safe and secure position. I want to tell you something, the only thing that prevents you and I from going or dropping into hell is being continually propelled... Is it propulsion? Hell and sin, sin and hell, they're like gravity. Do you know that? They're always there. They're always present. Why? Because he has been given a charge of the environment in which we live. This is his domain. It says, "The prince, the power of the air..." is who? Jesus Christ? No! He is prince and he is in a position of power over the environment, over the nations. Do you know of any nation that is really under God? Do you know that to be under something you have to willingly submit yourself to it? Hello. But if you have morals and regulations and rules against being in that position of submission to the entity that we call God then the nation in which you are growing is not under that principle. Now, it's very difficult for you and I to probably understand that because we have always heard from the time we were little people growing up to be big people that we are "one nation under God, indivisible." You know, our forefathers had a very, very, very noble, very right thought in wanting to serve the living God. Do you hear me? They wanted an opportunity... They were very noble, they were very right. They were very cognizant of the desire and they worked very hard to try and to establish something on a natural plain. But try as hard as they might, what they did would not really produce the fruit that they wanted. Why? Because it's not one nation under God. There is a spirit in the world today that has one thought, one destiny in his mind and that is to bring every thing that is called humanity into a place of devastation and corruption that is called hell. If you don't believe me, read Matthew 24. Read Matthew 24, that's the end of the matter. It tells you the condition of humanity no matter what nation it is, where they are in the geological configuration of the world. It tells you where it is and it tells you that everything is coming to a confrontation of good and evil. It's not the United States coming up and flexing it's muscles, or the United Nations moving in their thought of supreme authority or one-world government. It has nothing to do with peace and harmony. It has everything to do with death and hell. Somebody had said something like, "Children playing, children playing in the market place. Doing what we want to do when we want to do it and how we want to do it, and the devil takes the hinder parts." You know who said that one, right? That was Richard Nixon. Well, I guess the devil got his due in that one. It's not every man for himself. There's no hope for you and I if we are the paramount position of our perspective.

I was sitting back there a couple weeks ago and I had a vision. I've been sitting on it, praying about it. In the vision I saw a meadow. It was a very nice meadow, a very lush meadow, had nice grass growing. Along the fringe of the meadow there were trees like a forest. You could hear the birds singing and the sun was out and it wasn't really hot hot like an Illinois day. There was a breeze blowing. You could see it moving as it moved across the grass. There's something very comforting in all of that. When we grow wheat out here or we grow some other type of grass, I can just stand out there and watch the wind blow across and it rolls like waves. No wonder they say "waves of grain." It became something of a reality to me this last summer, last spring. The

meadow was kind of like it was in a U-shape, the valley was in a U. It came out like it was here and it came around and all around here there were trees. But it kind of ran out, as it were, like you would see a river opening up into a larger expanse of water, but it wasn't water. It was just land. In the midst of the meadow there were cows feeding. There were cattle and they were eating their heads off. Have you ever watched a cow that was really content with the pasture he's in? He just gets his nose right down into the grass and he's just chewing away, chewing away, chewing away and you know that cow is in cow heaven. He's just as content as he can be. He's just chewing his head off. These cows had nice slick coats, and they didn't even seem to be bothered by what cows are normally bothered by. There were no flies or fleas or whatever it is that bothers cows. There were a lot of cattle out there and they were just eating their heads off. They were just out there and they had their noses buried in that grass and they were just eating away, eating, eating, eating. Then here comes the farmer and he's driving down through the valley with a truck and he's dishing out, if that wasn't enough, he's dishing out grain for them and the cows are loving it. They're coming in there, and they're coming and they're moving around and they're coming up and they just bury their noses in that and it's like if you were sitting at a table and you had food all around you and you just began to stuff it into your mouth, like as if some of the cows had hands and they were eating with such voracity. The Lord told me to look up over on the horizon. I looked on the horizon down where the valley spread out like this. All the way over from the very edge of my sight came this spiral of smoke rising, as it were, on the horizon. It was a slender single spiral of smoke. And I said, "Lord, what is that?" Because there was a certain dread that I was experiencing in my soul, a certain trepidation and it was almost like I was scared. I said, "God, what is that?" It was like God put me, as it were, like a telephoto lens and it came closer and I could make out buildings, like a facility of some sort. And I said, "God, I can't make it out. I can't see it. It's not clear." Again He zoomed in and all of a sudden the thing that I was seeing came upon me and I almost had to catch my breath. It was a slaughter house. A marked contrast. I could smell the stench and I could feel the spirit of death and I could hear the bawling of the animals, but it was too late. It was too late. It was too late. They were being herded into their chutes and they were marching, as it were, one by one to the drum of the rancher or the farmer. His whole purpose in giving them everything that they wanted, the whole purpose of providing them an environment of comfort, the whole purpose of it was that they might come to the position, the place, the day of death, the day of slaughter!

So it is like us. We are a church asleep. We are a church asleep. We have aspirations and desires. We want to be married. We want wealth and possessions. We want things that are comfortable, a good car, good clothes. We want a good job. We want to make money. We want money in the bank. We have no concept, we have no reality of the position or the place of destiny that has been described and ascribed unto us by the prince of the power of the air.

God has not put us into this position, God has not put us into this place that we might line our pockets or find ourselves some sort of security with regard to retirement. My God! Some of us are not going to see the age of retirement! We're not going to see it! We don't know the plans and the purposes the devil has perpetrated for our children, but we act as if there's no destiny ascribed unto them that is detrimental and something totally contrary than what we would want if we knew! There is a place in the Spirit

where you and I can get and dwell in. There's a place, a position, a place of authority, but it's not given on the basis of who you fellowship with on a natural plain or what you're doing! It all depends on the position, the place of relationship that you have with what the Bible calls, "A living God." There was a bumper sticker that I saw in California. It said, "My God's not dead, how about yours?" The fact of the matter is, we're not serving a living God! We're not serving a living God! We're not moving in the realm of the heavenlies! We're moving in a realm of natural affection with regard to those things that are in the world. God is doing everything He can, everything He can... You know, it says that God has no delight in the death of a sinner? And because you think you're saved, that doesn't exclude you from that position. You don't know what your destiny is up there. You don't know what the word, what the finger of Satan has indelibly inscribed upon your stony heart. You know, I go out through the graveyard and I walk through the graveyard and I look at all the inscriptions that are written upon stones about men and women and children that have come and they've gone. All it does, it tells me that there is no reality, there was no concept of a living God. Satan has inscribed, as it were, his destiny. They were born, they lived, they died in the midst of all of their humanity not realizing that there was a position or place that they had in God by which they might have obtained unto.

Word to a young lady in the meeting: "The devil desires to sift you, young lady, sift you like wheat. You better gird yourself up, gird yourself up, gird yourself up. He desires to sift you like wheat. And if you don't get your aspirations and your desires pointed in the right direction, for the right thing and the right purpose, the thing that has been spoken about you is going to come to pass. You need to shake yourself, shake yourself! Fast and pray, dear one, fast and pray and ask God to deliver your mind from the things that it dwells on and the things that it thinks about. And if you don't do it for your own sake, do it for the sake of your children! There's been a word that's been spoken over your young son and you're the only thing standing, as it were, between it and the thing that the devil desires to do. Get yourself up in the Spirit, in the Spirit. Hallelujah." *End of word.*

That does not divorce us from our position of responsibility. I want to tell you something, brethren, we are responsible for one another. We have a Holy Ghost that has been given unto us. It is not just for the one that brings correction or brings a word here or brings a word there, sometimes it's meant to get us down on our face before God and say, "God, You need to intercede! You need to intervene!" Is there a willingness to pay the price for that intervention? And don't think there isn't a price for it. Don't think there isn't a price for it. Don't think there isn't a price for it. I remember the vision that Brother duCille shared when he was interceding and praying for an individual and the angel that was bringing the chord of deliverance said, "Unto whose account do I put this?" He was praying for someone's healing, I think. Brother duCille said, "Put it to mine." I was in a camp up in Canada and Brother Warnock said that unless we come to the position, the place of willingness to have God put upon ourselves the disfigurement or the disability, oh hallelujah, we will not come into the place of intercession that God has called us to and was demonstrated by Jesus Christ. It says, "Upon Him was laid..." It said that He became sin. "Cursed is He that is nailed to a tree (Galatians 3:13)." He willingly substituted Himself. Willingly! Are you? Humanity is going to hell. Loved ones are going to hell. Children are going to hell. It may not look like it, you may not

think that way. They're going to hell, because we have not done what we are supposed to do as a church, as a Body, as individuals in God. God said, "I looked for someone to stand in the gap." Do you think it's any less true today than it was in the day that He spoke it? Absolutely not! Well, I would like to be able to sit up here and preach to you some message that would bring some sort of encouragement and joy to your soul. I really would! But I can only preach that which God has been speaking to me. Hallelujah. Sitting there last night, God spoke a word to me and it's found in II Chronicles and it's also found in Kings. He says, "I saw Israel and they were scattered like sheep upon a hill and they had no shepherd." You ought to read the story. It's when Ahab and the King of Judah, what was his name? Jehoshaphat, oh my. Listen to this, just listen to this. Turn over in your Bibles, if I can find it. Now, I want to go over into Chronicles, it gives a better definition of it. Let's see if I can find it. Oh yes, I like this first verse. I'm in II Chronicles 18:1.

You have to understand the setting here. Do you know that God removed the scepter of ruling from Israel to Judah? So, in the Bible when we read about Israel, we read about Judah, there are certain things that God is wanting to bring to our attention with regard to the position and how it relates to us in this hour. It was out of Judah that Christ came. Hello. He was not of the Levitical priesthood. He came out of the tribe of Judah. The Levitical priesthood was something that had been ordained by God to be a service unto God for the children of Israel and God changed the rules. So glad that God can change the rules! So glad that God can change the rules! But there was, in the changing of the rules, a tighter line and a stricter requirement with regard to the one that became His favorite. Hello. God required something of David that He didn't require of other people, and because David moved in a certain manner and had a certain relationship, God made David a promise. It was on the basis of that promise that God did not completely and totally annihilate Judah. Do you know that? Time and again He said, "But for my servant David's sake I will leave but a remnant." Many times the devil tried to rise up and to smite all of Judah. Read the story about Athaliah who, when her son was killed, rose up and destroyed all of the seed royal. Why? Do you think she was motivated by self interest? Maybe, but I'm telling you, she was motivated by the prince and the power of the air and trying to snuff out, as it were, the life of the royal seed of God. Not Judah per se, but those that would come forth in that forty-second generation that you and I are a part of! We have been birthed, not by a natural process, but by a spiritual reality of the overshadowing of God, hallelujah, for you and I become as much a part of the house of Judah in a symbolic sense, as the word is ascribed unto them in a natural plain.

Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour... Oh, my. Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance... Sounds a little like the western society, doesn't it? Sounds a little bit more like the western society of the western church. Do you know that your salvation is called in the terminology of the Bible, like riches. If you don't believe me, go into Matthew, Luke and John. He said, "Therefore lay up...what?...treasures in heaven." Why? "Where moth cannot destroy or corrupt." Paul said, "I have laid up for me treasure in heaven. I have for me a crown (2 Timothy 4:8)." Hallelujah! Peter had the revelation, he said, "We are kings and we are priests." Who was he talking to? He was talking to the household of faith. Peter's epistle was written, not for the Jewish

chronology or the remnants of Abraham, but it was for the children of faith who believed in God through the Blood of Jesus Christ and that were born again. Hallelujah!

The verse here says, *And after certain years...* You know, time is terrible in the sense that it can erode our position or sense of integrity. Sometimes I think we act a lot like Nebuchadnezzar. We have our bills paid. We're driving a nice car. We've got a roof over our heads. We've got good jobs. We've got security being built up in a retirement program. We've got our 401K's and our 402L's and all these different things to go with it. We've got U.S. Savings Bonds. My goodness. What if there's no U.S.? What are your bonds worth? Who are you going to take them to to redeem them?

And after certain years... There was a lady that had a dream and she came to me and in the dream it seemed to be saying that, because of the amount of time that was elapsing, the Word that we were preaching and the thing that was supposed to have happened was not happening, the word was not relevant. Do you know I've been preaching the coming of Jesus for over thirty-five years? Does that make it any less a reality to me today than the day that God called me and began to ask me to preach it? But you know something, not everybody has that sense of reality. Time, time, we come, we go, time, time, time, time, January comes, December comes, January comes, December comes, January comes, December comes, one year after the other and we begin to relax. Sometimes, for some of us, it doesn't take years, it just takes months and sometimes it doesn't take months. Sometimes it just takes weeks and there are some of us that don't even take weeks, it takes days. It's like a day is a thousand years.

And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. I don't have time, I don't have time, you don't have the patience, nor do I think you have the endurance, to sit here and listen to all of it. I mean, that's a word in itself. I think it's apropos to your and my circumstance, the taste that we have. It says, "Oh taste and see how sweet..." We used to sing a song, 'Honey in the Rock.' Are you familiar with the song? Well, that was before your time I guess. 'Honey in the Rock, oh taste and see that the Lord is good.' No? 'Honey in the Rock...' Come on...Nobody here... 'Sweet honey in the Rock, sweet honey, oh taste and see, sweet honey in the rock.' We begin to forget the taste. We begin to forget the sweetness. We forget goodness and we begin to take things for granted. You know, taking things for granted isn't a human response. It's diabolical. It isn't something that is human, it's diabolical. It's meant to derail you! It's meant to defraud you of a position of eternal security, if there is such a position. I believe there's a position because if I'm in Him, I'm eternally secure! He's eternal, but I have to stay in Him. I have to labor in Him. I think a lot of us are going down, in our minds if not in actuality, to Ahab in Samaria. Ahab was a king. He was not only king, but he was king of Israel. He wasn't part of the heathen nation, he was part of the bloodline of Israel. He had come out of the loins, as it were, of Abraham. He was in a position and a place and yet, the place he was in was not a good place. The Samaritan was an unclean person to the Jewish nation. It wasn't that the Samaritan people were not redeemable, but for the sake of instruction, God said they were unclean. Why? Because they were mixed. Their bloodline was mixed. They were not of the household of pure Israelite blood. They were mixed and Ahab was the king over this mixture. We have submitted ourselves, as it were, to the king of mixture.

He says, *...and he went down... And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead.*

Now, I want you to turn back over into 1 Kings because it gives you a much clearer definition of the joining. 1 Kings chapter 22:1, *And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel. ²And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. ³And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?* Hey, if you don't call that diabolical reasoning, I don't know what you would call it, because devil comes to you and says, "Well, don't you know that all that is in the world is yours? That you have a right to it? That you have an ability to pronounce a claim over it? That you have a right and a position to exercise your faith by which you might prosper?" I think in the Body of Christ, my personal opinion, my personal conviction, but I believe it's God, is that if you prosper, you prosper for one thing and one thing only. Hello. We're not teaching our children that prosperity is something other than for them to be in a position of prospering, so that they might enjoy the benefits of that prosperity. Oh, yes, that's what we're teaching them, that's what we're teaching them. We are teaching them to hold onto society in which we are carnal, teaching them. There's only one reason why you and I would ever, ever, ever, ever, ever be prospered with regard to prosperity and that is for building the kingdom of God! Have you ever meditated on the thought that Abraham sought for a city whose builder and maker is God? Did you think he found it on the natural terrestrial bar? He criss-crossed back and forth across the far east. He went back and forth, up and down, all around. He went here, he went there. Why? He was looking for something that his eyes would tell him, his heart would tell him, "This is God." It was at Abraham's expense that he went to war to redeem Lot out of the hands of the Hittites or whoever they were. He redeemed Sodom and Gomorrah. They saw a demonstration of salvation and yet it did not turn them, it did not turn them. It did not turn them! You and I have seen the salvation of God.

Word to a young man in the congregation: "God has intervened in your life, young man. He's redeemed you from the pit of hell. He succored you, He saved you, He gave you what you asked of Him. I mean, you were going into hell. You were going into hell. God redeemed you and gave you far beyond your wildest expectation. But He redeemed you for a purpose and that wasn't to expend yourself on the things that pertain to this realm. You and your wife are to be expended for the kingdom. You're in jeopardy, you're in jeopardy, you are in jeopardy of losing your election, your calling. You're in jeopardy!" *End of word.*

Time has a way of eroding the goodness of God. Time has a way of taking the fear of God out of our minds and out of our hearts and we move along as though everything was OK. It's not OK. It's not OK! Not OK, not OK! Ahab killed sheep... You can have it. You can have it. You'll have sheep, you'll have oxen and all the blessings of the world. What does the scripture say? You aware of it, Jansen? "What if we would neglect so great a salvation." Where is it? Hebrews 2:3, the witness and the fullness all at the same time.

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation... What's he talking about? Verse 1, ***Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*** You have the power to hold onto them or release them. You have the power, you have the right. It's been apportioned unto you to hold onto it or let it slip away! The problem is we don't think we're dying. The problem is we don't think we're drowning and we're up to our eyebrows in something that is not air, spiritually speaking.

...More earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. ²For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast... He's talking about the Word in the Old Testament that was delivered to the house of Israel. ***...And every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward.*** We were talking about it, do you understand? They took them out and stoned them!

³How shall we escape... How are you gonna escape? Which way you gonna run? I remember a word Brother Campbell brought to us a year and a half ago about the sewer, two years. I think that we are seeing more of a reality of that and the inability for us to climb up out of the place today than we were then.

³How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; ⁴God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? ⁵For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. ⁶But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? ⁷Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst...who? Man! You! You! Crowned you! Crowned you! Crowned you! God has crowned you! It's not that eternal crown that you're going to get somewhere, sometime, somewhere out there! God is not a sometime, somewhere, somewhere out there type of God! He's the God of the living. He's the God of the living! He's your God! He's my God!

...Thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: ⁸Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. ⁹But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels... Made after the likelihood of you or my flesh, your flesh, your emotions, my emotions, your mind, my mind, your desires, my desires. Jesus had the same position, the same relationship with humanity! Put all things in subjection under His feet.

⁹But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. ¹⁰For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many... Many, many, many, many ***...sons unto glory, to make the captain...*** Captain has to have privates. Captain has to have a troop. Captain has to have a battalion. By the sake of being captain, he has a platoon, he has a company.

He said, ***to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*** Suffering! Doesn't mean you're not going to be sick. Suffering! Doesn't mean you're

not going to be poor. Suffering! Doesn't mean you're not going to be hungry. Suffering! Doesn't mean you're not going to be cold. Suffering!

Africa or India might be a good place to be a year from now. I had somebody write me an e-mail from Nigeria. He said, "We never expected to see in the United States what we are seeing in the United States." I've got, not one, but many e-mails from around the world. One person said, "In my country, yes, your country, no."

*And after certain years he went down to Ahab of Samaria. Hallelujah. In 1 Kings 22 he puts it a little different, second verse, **And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down...*** I like the expression "came down." You have to be somewhere up to come down, that's how you get North and South, South is down, North is up. *...It came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down...* Why in the world did he not beckon the king of Samaria to come up? At least meet him on his own turf! No! Abdicated his position! He left his position, his place of destiny! Peter said, "Ye are kings, you are priests." There's a story in here that you ought to read about Jehoiada the priest and the king Joash. You ought to read that story. It's a similitude story between the position of Christianity under the environment of supervised religion. Hello? Hello? You and I, most of us are performing some of our Christian duty because of an external pressure of those that are in a position or a place of authority. They go to God and they pray for your soul!

³*And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?* Read the history of why they were in there! Do you know why they were in there? You know why they were under the hand of Syria? Because they rebelled against God. They rebelled against God. They had some aspect of their imagination that was contrary to the relationship that God was requiring of them and God gave them over and the man had the pompous audacity to declare that they could rid that oppression or that hand of correction. Sometimes we intervene in the business of God with regard to the discipline that God puts upon us and others.

⁴*And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.* He committed himself lock, stock and barrel. Boy. You read down there, read on down the story. Do you know that Ahab convinced the king of Judah to wear his clothes? Why? Because he wanted to preserve his life. He knew that if he went out in his regalia that they were going to be looking for him. The stupidity of this man! He dressed up in King Ahab's garments and then when he got out there he chickened out. He saw the crowd and the host, they were after him. They said that Syria had told these men, "You look for the king of Israel, you look for him. I want his carcass." My goodness. That did not deliver Ahab. It says that an archer by chance, by speculation drew a bow and he shot an arrow. He wasn't even aiming at Ahab and it struck Ahab between the harness. Brethren, let us not be counted as cattle for slaughter. Let us not be found, as it were, in a place of deception. Let us not be found, as it were, clothed in the garments of the world, so that you are considered and counted as part of those that are in the world! Do you know that when the command was given to the man with the ink horn... Do you remember the story of the four carpenters? Wasn't it four carpenters? It's in Ezekiel. Or was it...remember, when they had the slaughter weapon.

They had slaughter weapons in their hands and the Lord said unto them, “Go throughout Jerusalem.” Let’s look at it.

Ezekiel 9:1, *He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. ²And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar. ³And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer’s inkhorn by his side; ⁴And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. ⁵And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: ⁶Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women...* You know what that tells me? Do you know what it tells me? It tells me that there are little children that sigh and cry. It tells me that there are women that sigh and cry. It tells me that there are young and old that sigh and cry.

He said, *but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary.* Peter said it a different way. He said, “Judgment begins at the house of God, which house we are (1 Peter 4:17).” I think he said something about giving more earnest heed. *Slay utterly old and young, both maids...* Now, I’m not making this up. I didn’t write this. I did not intend to preach on it.

⁷And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

The outcome is inevitable. If you are wanting God, you will find God and you will find release. You will find peace. You will find safety. Outside of that, you will find nothing. There is a great consequence to pay for rejecting the message. But my words are words to you, but I want you to mark it in your book that, when the reality of the things happen, you heard the Word, because I believe it is the Word of the Lord. Amen.