

"Write the Vision!"

*"Surely the
Sovereign Lord
does nothing
without
revealing His
plan to His
servants the
prophets."
(Amos 3:7)*

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PREFACE

To some this material will be a confirmation of what you have been led to believe. For others it may be so new, or seemingly “unbelievable” that you may simply want to disregard it all.

But instead of being hasty, earnestly pray and seek the Lord’s leading! Time is running out, and each believer is to be about his Master’s business in the end-time harvest. God uses whomever He pleases, and He is pleased to use you.

— Anne Rose.

The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, the house of Israel is saying, ‘The vision he sees is for many years from now, and he prophesies about the distant future.’ Therefore say to them, ‘This is what the Lord says: None of my words will be delayed any longer; whatever I say will be fulfilled, declares the Sovereign Lord’” (Eze. 12:26-28).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Abba, I want to thank you for all you have done for my family and me. Thanks for loving us with an everlasting love, and you were prepared to send your Son Jesus Christ to save my family and me. Then you filled us with the blessed Holy Spirit just as you did to all the believers in the Book of Acts.

We are eternally grateful to you for such a love that knows no bounds. Thank you Jesus for washing away our sins with your precious blood and bringing us to the Father as His children. It has been our privilege to follow your bidding since you called us to follow you in 1979.

May you receive all the glory, praise, and honor from the publication of this book you impressed on me to write. And, may the blessed Holy Spirit witness with the reader that the message is true so he or she can run as a herald with this end-time message of hope that is soon to be fulfilled by the ingathering of the lost from every nation through the preaching of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

M A R A N A T H A

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FOREWORD

Desmond Rose and I first became acquainted when he was pastoring a local church and working on his doctoral program. What impressed me about him was his close walk with the Lord. He shared testimony after testimony with me how the Lord had blessed him in miraculous ways by bringing physical healing as well as financial answers to prayer. It was clear to me that he knew and practiced “walking by faith and not by sight.”

I have maintained a friendship with Desmond off and on over the last 12 years, and I have gained some additional insight into his spiritual life. Not long after he completed his doctorate, he fell into hard times financially and spiritually. This caused me to have doubts about Desmond and his close walk with the Lord that I had known previously (no doubt he had some questions himself). But as with Abraham who waited on the promise, Joseph in prison in Egypt, Moses in exile, the Israelites in the wilderness, Ruth the Moabitess, the shepherd boy David, Esther the Jewess, Job in his affliction, Daniel in

the lion's den, Jesus in the desert, the believers in the Upper Room, Paul in prison (and many others), this was a time of trust and testing and waiting. All of us have had similar struggles and trials. Even through hard times, God is still on the throne.

When he shared with me about the three visions relating to South Africa and the end-time harvest, I felt a strong witness in my spirit that this was from God (and not from man). The signs of Christ's coming are all around us. Look and take heed to what God is telling us.

God is calling us to prepare for and be active in the end-time harvest. This means much prayer, fasting, diligence in the study of God's Word, and actively doing what God has called each one of us to do for His Kingdom.

Dr. Desmond Rose is a servant of the most High God, full of the Holy Spirit and approved unto God. Being from South Africa himself, Desmond has a clear understanding of the people and culture there, as well as the moving of God in that part of the world, both past and present. It is fitting that God has used this servant to make plain the vision set before us (which is confirmed by being given

three different times on three different occasions). I encourage you to prayerfully and humbly take note of all that God is saying through this end-times vision and the related information. May God bless you as you read this book.

Glenn W. Gohr

Reference Archivist, Flower Pentecostal Heritage
Center
Springfield, Missouri

Chapter 1

HIS MANDATE:

“WRITE THE VISION!”

*“Surely the sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets”
(Amos 3:7).*

What the Lord revealed to me about the end-times compelled me to seek further instruction from Him. I asked the Holy Spirit, *“What do you want me to do with this information?”* *“And the Lord answered me, and said, ‘Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it’”* (Hab. 2:2 KJV). So this I have set out to do, His mandate!

At first I was under the impression that those to whom He had given the vision should write the book. But that is not the case. I was clearly led

to write down the vision so that the Church will know what the Lord of the Harvest is about to do shortly. By reading this message you can now *“tell the vision”* to everyone you know about the coming outpouring, known as the *“latter rain”* in the Scriptures. Once you have completed reading this account, I strongly urge you to earnestly pray and seek the Lord as to your part in these unfolding events.

I am humbled by this project. There is no rhyme or reason why I should be the one the Holy Spirit has chosen to get this word out to the Church. He is the One who directed me to discover the visions given to three men from different parts of the world. Nevertheless, it is too wondrous for me to fathom His choosing me, except to express what is written, *“From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do”* (Isa. 46:11).

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you the reader so that you will better understand who I am. My name is Desmond Rose, and after receiving Jesus Christ as my

Savior in 1979, the Holy Spirit called me into the ministry. Soon after committing my life to Christ I sought the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a couple of months later I was baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues as the Spirit enabled me (Acts 2:4). In December of that year I went through the waters of baptism (Rom. 6:4; Col 2:12) as the Scriptures teach. The Lord took me by the hand and started preparing me, and my family, for the ministry He had ordained me to do. Little did I know what He had in store for me!

I am reminded of the prophet Amos when challenged about his calling, who said: “. . . *I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel'*” (Amos 7:14-15). And so it is in my case. I had a background in electrical work and business, but when this wonderful call into ministry came to me, I left the latter and followed the call of my Heavenly Father. Just as Amos was saying he was not a prophet, so I am saying I was not worthy of this calling. Nevertheless, just as he responded to the

Master's bidding, so did I because I wanted to serve Him in any way possible out of gratefulness for what He had done for my family and me. And now after many years of following His Call, He is raising me up to be the writer of this Vision, for the Body of Christ to run with it and herald it from the rooftops.

I was raised in the Goldfields of South Africa in the City of Welkom and later lived in Virginia, a small town 26 km (15 miles) from Welkom. The possibilities of anything coming out of there that the Lord could use are just impossible to my thinking. But that is His specialty – the impossible! It was during this time that a German, Reinhard Bonnke, missionary to the country of Lesotho, was being raised up as a mass evangelist. He came to the City of Welkom to do a citywide evangelistic crusade. I thought this was my opportunity to help him in ministry – something like Paul and Timothy, so I discussed this possibility with him. He was not in favor of this idea as he already had his ministry team in place.

However, he did say to me that I should go and study in America and prepare myself

theologically. My comment to him was that I was not a wealthy person, and I would not be able to afford the tremendous costs involved with such a move. His response to me was *“If God guides, He provides.”* This was a word from the Lord to me. I was not convinced about having to study, as I never was much of a student. Nevertheless, soon thereafter, while reading the Scriptures I found, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Tim. 2:15 KJV). Now upon reflection, I know that this was God’s will for me, and His direction through the evangelist. I was to come to America to study.

I pursued the direction the Lord had given me, and in 1989 I graduated with my Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethany University in California. The Holy Spirit then directed me to pursue further studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. I spent a year there in the Master of Arts program studying Church Growth, Church Planting, and Church Evangelism in the School of World Mission. As that year came to an end the Spirit of God prompted me to apply for admission to the Assemblies of God

Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri. I was accepted and completed the Master of Divinity degree in 1993. Upon graduation, I applied for entrance into the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program offered by Oral Roberts University, and I graduated in the spring of 2000.

During my doctoral studies I pastored a local church for eight years. Just before graduating, the Holy Spirit prompted me to do a forty-day fast with water only (March 8 – April 17, 2000). I wanted to know what my Heavenly Father wanted me to do next. I came to the conclusion that my time at the church had come to an end, and upon further consultation with my family, this was confirmed. It was time to move to another part of God's vineyard. I resigned at the end of summer of that same year and left in good standing. Once my family and I moved on from pastoring it seemed that everything began to unravel around about us!

I could not get any ministry positions, and even itinerant preaching was limited at the time. The outgoing president of the Caribbean College of the Bible International (CCBI) approached me and asked me to consider applying for the position he

was vacating. I put my application in and was interviewed for the position. The vote was unanimous, and I became CCBI president with the understanding that I was to raise my own support. This lasted for two years until the Board of CCBI decided to relocate the college back to the Caribbean.

During this time I also worked in a number of secular jobs to support my family. One thing I knew for sure, my calling was the ministry, and I had the education to confirm it. Nevertheless, *“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps”* (Prov. 16:9). Most secular employers would not recognize my theological education. I became an intellectual working for minimum wage, which was very humbling to say the least. I still had bills to pay. Many times I worked eighty hours per week to keep *“the wolf from the door.”* My work on weekdays started at 3:00 a.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m. Then every weekend I worked two ten-hour days. I knew I could not keep this up. I became very discouraged, as I did not have time to go to church either. I was between a rock and a hard place to say the least.

It was at this time that a brother in Christ came to me and suggested that I consider going back into the electrical field, which was my trade in South Africa before working in a family business. He gave me the name of a company, and after an interview, I was hired. My pay increased considerably, whereby I was able to give up all the other jobs. Clearly this was not what I wanted, but it obviously was my Heavenly Father's plan for my life. I worked in the secular field for ten years. On occasions I had the opportunity to preach in various local churches and internationally.

We, my wife and I, became members of a church in Springfield as we had been visiting churches around the area for a number of years and decided it was time to find a church home. As one can imagine there were many days that my wife felt that we surely had *"messed up big time"* and God had changed His mind about our calling. By this time we had become nominal Christians, like so many others. But we always remembered: *"God's gifts and His call are irrevocable"* (Rom. 11:29) – that is, God does not turn His back on any of His children.

All our hopes and dreams seemed to vanish like a vapor before our eyes. Yet we continued to look to Him, the “. . . *author and perfecter of our faith, . . .*” (Heb. 12:2a). I knew that God was doing a work in our lives, even though we could not discern it at the time. Thanks be to Him our total perspective has come into focus. We fully realize that we had left our first love for Him and not the other way around (Rev. 2:4).

I say all of this because I know that there are others who have served the Lord and have ended up like we did with all their dreams, hopes, and desires lying in ashes around their feet. Nevertheless, I will say to you, “*Do not despair!*” We decided no matter what the cost (Luke 14:28) we were going to serve Him the rest of our lives even if none of the promises we had received ever came to fruition. We put our priorities in order and began serving Him as we had in the beginning.

At this juncture I was working in the office for the electrical company. A number of years earlier I had developed tendonitis in my feet, and I struggled to work on a construction site, so my boss created an office job for me. One Monday

morning (September 8, 2008), as I sat at my desk, the Holy Spirit impressed on me to get all my personal things packed up. That Friday my boss came into the office and asked me if I would consider going back into the field as the office work had slowed down considerably. It was hard being on my feet, and many a day I wept and asked the Lord to help me make it through. Little did I know that this would not last, and the Lord was soon to set me free from the secular work force and put me back into ministry.

On February 9, 2009 I was laid off and knew immediately in my spirit that this was of the Lord's timing. It was after being laid off that the Lord revealed the message of this book to me. I am of the persuasion that believes if God can still use an old man like me in His Kingdom then He can use you as well no matter how old you are. This gave me time to fast and pray (Neh. 1:4; Acts 13:2-3). I now had the opportunity to read and study the Scriptures in a comprehensive manner. It became a wonderful time of refreshing for me and still is. I have learned so much from Him over these past months, and I am very excited and humbled – an

oxymoron to say the least – at what He has shown me.

So without any further ado, let me get into the book and its reason for being. I am but the writer. You, however, can run to the ends of the earth with this end-time message of hope for it will come to pass even though the vision tarry (Hab. 2:3b KJV). May the Ancient of Days, who created the Heavens and Earth, be glorified in this book and through what He is about to do in this world. May His Church be ready for the massive harvest of precious souls, which are about to be birthed into the Kingdom of God.

I would like to express my gratitude to my Heavenly Father, Abba, for revealing His secrets to me about what He has purposed for this last day church. And to my Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, be all the glory, honor and praise due His immaculate name for saving my family and calling me into His ministry. And to the Lord of the Harvest, the Holy Spirit, I thank Him for choosing me to be His voice to His people at this late hour. May He lead and guide us through these coming

days as we co-labor with the Lord of the Harvest
reaping multitudes for the Kingdom of God.

Chapter 2

MISSIONARY J. R. GSCHWEND:

A BURNING CANDLE

"Then the Lord replied: 'Write the revelation (Vision) . . .'" (Hab. 2:2).

One evening I picked up my Bible and started to read the Book of Acts chapter twenty-seven, which is an account of Paul the apostle on his journey to Rome because of an appeal he had made to Caesar. While en route to Rome on a ship, Paul warns the centurion about impending danger at sea even before leaving the port of Fair Havens. The centurion, the pilot of the ship, and the owner ignored what Paul told them. Needless to say, they set sail for Rome and encountered a treacherous storm at sea and when about to be shipwrecked Paul had a visitation from an angel of

the Lord (Acts 27:23) assuring them they would all live if they listened to what he had to say.

It is so amazing how many times the Lord will send someone into our lives with the message of impending danger, but we decide we know better. But then when in trouble, we willingly hear the man of God. Even in this situation, he cared for the men on board the ship, and *“Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. ‘For the last **fourteen days,**’ he said, ‘you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food – you haven’t eaten anything. Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head”* (Acts 27:33-34).

It is at this juncture, while reading these Scriptures that I realized the Holy Spirit was calling me to a fourteen-day fast. I made it a matter of prayer and asked God’s blessing. I then took a step of faith by declaring it to be so. The dates set for the fast were April 13 – 27, 2009. I asked the Holy Spirit to help me by taking all desire for food away, but I also knew it was going to take discipline to achieve my goal. During the fast, two interesting

things happened. First, I was reminded of a vision I had heard about soon after becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. Secondly, I was reminded about an issue between a fellow pastor and myself, which I thought had already been dealt with.

This then brings me to the vision the Holy Spirit brought to my remembrance. Many years ago, Rev. Walter Compton told me about a missionary who had a vision. He had at that time related to me that the vision was of a world map hanging on a wall and below it was a lit candle whose flame ignited the map at the tip of the African continent. The fire consumed Africa, spreading to the rest of the world. This vision was now suddenly so fresh in my mind that I decided to find out the authenticity of it. I made an international call to speak to Rev. Compton.

He personally knew the missionary, J. R. Gschwend, who had experienced the vision. When I inquired if Rev. Compton had any documentation about the vision, he said he did not. I was not about to give up! I asked him if the missionary was still in South Africa. He told me that Rev. Gschwend had passed on to be with the Lord. At

this juncture in the conversation I thought that I had totally missed the leading of the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, as the conversation continued, I learned that he had established a gospel ministry. Upon further inquiry I was told the name of the ministry, so I did a search on the internet for their website. The website gave me all their contact information and also listed Manasseh his son and Eugene his grandson, who manages *All Nations Gospel Publishers*, the ministry Gschwend had established in Pretoria West, a large city in South Africa.

I made an international phone call, and after introducing myself, I told Eugene the reason for my call, which was to verify this vision. Eugene not only confirmed that the vision is authentic, but that his grandfather had written a book called, *A Burning Candle*, giving all the details of this vision. He also mentioned that on the cover of this book is a picture of the vision just as his grandfather had seen it.

After talking with the grandson, and obtaining a copy of the book, I learned that this missionary, Joseph Reinhard Gschwend (1894-

1988), was born in Alstätten in the Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland. He was raised Roman Catholic and served in the Swiss Artillery at the outbreak of the First World War (1914). After being in the army for two years he was granted three months leave to do personal business in Germany.

Upon return home he was arrested and accused of spying and sent to prison. These charges later would be found to be untrue. It was during this experience as a prisoner that he came to know Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and promised to serve Him.

Soon thereafter charges were dropped, and he was released and returned to the Swiss army. After the war he studied at a Bible school in England in preparation for the ministry. Upon completion of his studies, he made plans to go to South Africa as a missionary. He was ordained with Pfingst Mission in Switzerland and worked interdenominationally as a missionary. He met a South African girl, Evaline Mahon, a missionary to Lesotho, and married her on her parents' farm "Mooigelegen" near the town of Reitz in the Free State province of South Africa. They had five

children. In 1929, while living in the city of Pretoria, he had this vision. It was also here that his ministry was established and where eventually in 1960, he wrote the account of his missionary experiences in his book.

Before we delve further into the book and its contents, I think that it would be wise to discuss the integrity of the man. I believe there will be those who are going to be critical about the vision, which the Holy Spirit has led me to uncover at this point in time, raising questions about the authenticity of the vision he had. When dealing with prophecies, visions and dreams it is always wise to consider the source and not accept anything verbatim as genuine (1 Jn. 4:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 14:29).

Here is a man who has a dream-vision and the question is who is this man? What do we know about him? Is he a charlatan? What are others who knew him saying about him? These are very important questions one has to ask these days as there is so much misleading information in the world. With much care I have interviewed people who knew him personally. I have given a little background on each of those who knew him so that

you the reader will be better informed about their testimony about him.

First, I had the wonderful opportunity to interview his son, Joseph Reinhard Gschwend, Jr. who lives in America, in the State of South Carolina where he and his wife retired after many years in the ministry.¹ He was born in South Africa. During their years of ministry (he and his wife), they were missionaries to South Africa where they conducted tent crusades and helped plant churches in the neighboring nations. He has been ordained with the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC) for the past fifty plus years.

This is what he has to say about his father. He was a man of God and filled with the Spirit of God who called him into the mission field of Africa where he served out the rest of his life. He served his Lord writing and publishing gospel literature to the local farmers in South Africa, and in later years his gospel booklets, pamphlets and tracts were being dispersed throughout the continent and printed in four hundred fifty six different tribal languages. He was also involved in the local churches and was affiliated with the Apostolic Faith

Mission of South Africa. He was a wonderful father and loved his family very much.

Next I interviewed Dr. Isak Burger² who has been President of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa since 1988. He pastored two churches beginning in 1974 until he became a lecturer and registrar of the AFM Theological College in 1982. He is well known as a preacher and prolific writer. Dr. Burger has this to say about Gschwend. He was a man of God and was always busy about His Father's business. Initially he ministered in Lesotho, formerly Basutoland. He then worked as a missionary under the auspices of the AFM, and it was during this next period that he built a Bible college as well as a large church and established All Nations Gospel Publishers. He was well known for his prophetic utterances of which many were verified in later years. He was one of the most respected men of God that he had ever met.³

Another testimony came from Rev. Walter Compton.⁴ He was ordained with the Assemblies of God South Africa from 1984-2006. He pastored five churches during this time and currently has a

teaching ministry and is conducting *Divorce Care and Recovery Seminars*. Rev. Compton came to know Gschwend because of God's call on his life to be a soul-winner as a young man. He needed literature for two mission stations he started on local farms on the outskirts of his hometown. God led him to Gschwend's publishing ministry, and he has this to say about Gschwend. He was a man who loved God and walked close to Him, and it was always a joy to be around him. In all his dealings with him, in or out of business, he saw his commitment to the Great Commission of our Lord and that was to get the gospel into the hands of every unbeliever. He was a true disciple of Jesus Christ until our Lord took him home to be with Him.

The next testimony comes from Rev. James Cole-Rous, who is currently Director of Content, with the *Network 211* ministry in Springfield, Missouri, USA. Originally he was a South African, and as a young man God called him into ministry. He was ordained with the South African Assemblies of God in 1958 and planted five churches over a number of years. He enjoys evangelism and is a pilot. He used this skill while working for Mission

Aviation of South Africa and made mission trips to the Congo. In the seventies he came to America to study, and in 1979 he was ordained with the U.S. Assemblies of God and has worked in various ministries since that time.

This was one of those “*Kairos Moments*” because the chances of finding someone here in Springfield was not even on the charts, but God knew this brother was in town and I needed to interview him about Gschwend for this book. Cole-Rous first met him in 1954, and later he was invited to have dinner at Gschwend’s home where he was shown the printing press in his garage. Over the years he visited a couple of times with the family and always found a warm welcome and encouragement in the Lord there.

Cole-Rous relates further to me that it was the custom of the Assemblies of God churches to have “*open ministry*” on a Sunday morning. That is when any believer can get up and preach or give a word of encouragement, etc. Usually there would be two or three that would get up and share what the Lord had shown them, and then the pastor

would tie together the Word that God had brought through his messengers.

It was at such a meeting that Gschwend got up and directed everyone's attention to Matthew 5:1 where Jesus went up onto a mountain and sat down. He said, "*Jesus sat on the mountain, he went up onto the mountain and sat on it. He did not let the mountain sit on Him! We must be like Jesus and not let the mountains of life sit on us!*" and that was all he said. Cole-Rous says he has never forgotten that message preached some forty years ago. He was clearly a man led by the Spirit of God.⁵

As one reads the testimonials of Gschwend from these men it is obvious to see that he lived for Christ on a daily basis. And, therefore, one can conclude that for those who are faithful to God and trustworthy, God will reveal His secrets to them (Amos 3:7). Now that we have the testimony of two or three witnesses let us return to the book and discover God's coming visitation.

I asked Eugene Gschwend⁶ to send the book⁷ to me, which he did. It arrived in the mail at the latter part of my fourteen-day fast. I

immediately started reading the book. At the end of the book Gschwend wrote the vision he had seen. Upon further reflection, Gschwend felt that the Lord had fulfilled this vision with the establishment of his own ministry and the distribution of all the gospel literature throughout the continent.

However, I am not convinced about his conclusion, and believe that this was a vision of greater proportion, yet to have a major fulfillment in end-time prophetic events. This vision I believe is about the end-times. Prophetic utterances in the Scriptures usually have a minor fulfillment, and a major fulfillment. I am convinced that in the case of Gschwend it had a minor fulfillment in that missionary's life. He admits that it could mean something bigger than what he envisioned or saw fulfilled. I am of the mindset that there is going to be a major fulfillment of this vision in the near future, and as you read further you will see why I have come to this conclusion.

I say this because after seeking the Lord over the past two weeks I had discovered the authenticity about this prophetic vision but did not know yet what to do with it. I researched the matter

further and discovered: “. . . A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses” (Deut. 19:15b). And, Jesus said, “. . . every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses” (Matt. 18:16b). He went on to say, “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid. There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is valid. You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. Not that I accept human testimony . . . I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me, has himself testified concerning me . . . These are the Scriptures that testify about me . . . If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me” (John 5:31-46). Clearly Jesus establishes the fact in the Scriptures that it is by two or three witnesses that a matter is established.

With this in mind, I asked the Holy Spirit to confirm this *VISION* if the major fulfillment had not yet taken place, with the testimony of two or three witnesses. By way of reminder to the reader, I was

in a time of fasting seeking guidance from the Lord for future ministry when the Spirit of God brought to my remembrance this vision. And now for the first time this book was in my hands as a testimony to the fact that the event had taken place in South Africa by a missionary from Switzerland. This is the first witness of the vision, and I quote:

**JESUS THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH
GOD IS COMING SOON.**

*Let us be occupied till He comes. Let our loins
be girded, and our lights be burning. Let you
and me be at least*

A BURNING CANDLE

Many years ago I was awakened through a short but very clear dream vision. I could see a map hanging on a wall showing Africa and Europe with adjoining parts of the world. Below the map, near the wall, stood a small table. There was a burning candle upon the table held in a candlestick, throwing its flickering light on to the large map. Just then, a gentle breeze blew the flame of the candle towards the map causing it to catch alight, at the lowest point of Africa. Flames flew upwards across the African continent, on to Europe as well as to India and other parts of the world.

I awoke and, deeply impressed by this short clear vision, I uttered these words. "This is a revival fire." Falling on my knees, I prayed. "O God it is wonderful that a small burning candle can set a whole continent like Africa on fire. May I be such to Thee! If I cannot be a famous preacher or missionary, may I, Oh Lord, at least be a burning candle, burning for Jesus wherever I may be!"

I realized that a candle that is burning is of more use than the most luxurious lamp that does not burn, even though it is full of oil. It was the fire of cloven tongues that descended upon the 120 disciples on the day of Pentecost that set the church of Christ ablaze and made it to be the "Light of the World."

May the whole of Africa be set on fire for God with a vision for the salvation of precious souls throughout the world. It is not impossible that God may graciously use South Africa as the starting point of a worldwide revival. Let us pray, and let us be burning candles placed by God, in the right place, maybe the earth's darkest corners.⁸

In the last paragraph mentioned above is a hope that God could and would do something great on the African continent, which would affect the entire world. I believe that Gschwend, like any other clergyman, knew the chances of that happening were unlikely. I too am a native South

African, and I too find the possibilities of that happening very remote.

Nevertheless, I am reminded of the Scriptures where *“Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ ‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked. ‘Come and see,’ said Philip”* (John 1:45-46). It is my desire that God, in His infinite wisdom, will do such a thing in Africa, and set it on fire by the Holy Spirit, and the Church will say to the rest of the world *“Come and See.”* God will receive all the glory as He stirs up the believers in a continent where it is not expected to happen at all. Nevertheless, let us continue our pilgrimage through the pages of this book so that we too can discover what I discovered that got me to *“Write down the revelation (vision), and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it”* (Hab. 2:2).

Chapter 3

PASTOR DANNY FISHER:

A BURNING MATCH STICK

" . . . Make it plain on tablets . . . "
(Hab. 2:2).

The second thing that occurred during the fast was that the Holy Spirit revealed to me an issue involving a fellow pastor. One morning I woke up at 3:00 a.m. in pain. While I was lying there, I was wondering why my prayers were not being answered, as I desperately needed a healing.

From the time that I was a youngster I had suffered occasionally from a discomfort in my left side. When asking doctors about it, they always said it was nothing to worry about, and I did just that. As I got older the pain became a dull ache that was ever present. The dull ache started becoming a consistent pain, and it was

progressively getting worse. I made an appointment with my doctor, and he ran some tests, which came back clear. I rejoiced at this but the pain persisted. I am telling you about this medical condition because it plays an important part in what happened next.

Andrew Murray says, *“It may be that there is much in you that prevents the answer. Delay in the answer is a very blessed discipline. It leads to self-searching as to whether we are praying amiss and whether our life is truly in harmony with our prayer.”*⁴⁹ This was the driving force behind me asking the question, *“Lord what is preventing my prayers from being answered?”* I rolled out of bed and onto my knees to pray and seek an answer, because I was prepared to do anything so that He would heal me.

Immediately, I thought of this unfortunate incident where I committed a wrong against a pastor I had contact with in the past. As you can imagine I started arguing with the Holy Spirit about it being *“under the blood”* as I had confessed it before. I had asked His forgiveness and had believed it was over.

Apparently it was not, and the Holy Spirit was not going to let me off the hook either! The last thing I want to do is not to do what the Holy Spirit directs. I said, *“If this is your leading, and not a trick of the devil, please heal my side”* which was hurting intensely. I said to Him that should the pain be gone in the morning, I would go to the pastor and confess my sin and ask forgiveness. The Book of James says, *“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed”* (James 5:16).

When I awoke the next morning I had no pain! The Lord gave me clear direction as to what I had to do. I wasted no time, going to his church to meet with him. Upon his arrival we went into his office and after some preliminaries of why I was there, I confessed my sin and was reconciled to my brother. He prayed for me and while in prayer the Holy Spirit laid on his heart the following Scriptures, *“Come let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence”* (Hosea 6:1-2).

I was amazed and claimed those Scriptures to be mine. On the second day I wanted to be revived, and on the third day restored! The pastor then asked what I had been doing since we had last spoken? I related to him how the Lord had led me over the past ten years. I told him that the Lord had led me back into the electrical field but I had recently been laid off due to the downturn in the economy. Nevertheless, I said to him that I could see the Lord's hand in this as He is taking me back into ministry, which He had called me to do in the first place.

I also told him about the fast I had been doing and how the Holy Spirit had led me to find Gschwend's vision. He was amazed to hear the account, and he made a statement that stunned me. He told me he knew a pastor in Oklahoma who had been given a similar vision. I asked him who the pastor was, and he told me that it was the Rev. Danny Fisher of *Immanuel Fellowship Church* in Seminole, Oklahoma.

Not long after our conversation, I called Pastor Fisher on the phone.¹⁰ After introducing myself and telling him the reason for my call, I

related the *Burning Candle* vision to him. I then mentioned that I had heard he had a similar vision.

Before I tell you of his vision I want to share with you what I have found out about this pastor so that you will have all the confidence in what God showed him. The Scripture says, “*Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other*” (1 Thess. 5:12-13). The King James Version says we need to “*know them who labour among you*” (1 Thess. 5:12a). This is very important in the ministry because there are those Jude warns us about, “. . . *certain men . . . have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men . . .*” (Jude 1:4), seeking to deceive the sheep thereby leading them astray. As you know from chapter two about J. R. Gschwend, I listed a couple of men in the ministry who knew him, and I am going to do the same here.

I am going to start with Rev. Kobus Swart¹¹ who is a South African and very much involved in ministry in the City of Somerset West, Western

Cape Province. He is the Founder and Principal of the Bizweni College and also Senior Elder of the Bizweni Community Church,¹² which he and his wife Hazel, founded in 1986. He has been in ministry for over thirty years and is accountable to apostolic teams (*International Christian Leadership Connections*¹³) in South Africa, U.K., Brazil and the U.S.A. and other countries. Through this network of Christian Leaders he has come to know Pastor Fisher over the years.

While on an international call to the U.K. with Rev. Swart¹⁴ I asked him what he could tell me about Pastor Fisher, and he told me that he was a genuine man of God, a visionary and had a passion for God. His gifting was prophetic, and he wanted to see the nations touched by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As an individual he is sincere, a person of integrity and recently at a meeting in the U.K. he found Pastor Fisher to be even more intense than ever before. Rev. Swart said, "*He comes highly recommended.*"

I also had the privilege of interviewing one of Pastor Danny's board members of the church he pastors. His name is Mike Scheller,¹⁵ and he has

known Pastor Fisher for the past 20 years. He has been on staff since 1994 at the church and is in charge of administration. When I asked him about his pastor he said that he regards his pastor as dedicated, trustworthy and loves God with all of his heart. He would never do anything that would grieve the Holy Spirit. He says Pastor Fisher has been a spiritual father to him and he would trust him with his life.

When I inquired about how he is perceived by the congregation, he said that they loved him as their pastor very much. This I can attest to as my wife and I recently attended a Sunday morning service¹⁶ followed by a luncheon with the congregation in their Family Center facility. They regard him as a person of integrity and a biblical teacher who feeds the sheep. I then took it a step further and asked what the local community thought of his pastor, and he told me that he was highly regarded among them and has lived in this community for thirty years.

Now let me pick up with where I left off. It was during our conversation that Pastor Fisher told me his personal testimony of how the Lord saved

him from a dysfunctional and abusive background. This generational curse followed him into his adulthood, and in 1977 at the age of twenty-five he came to know Jesus Christ as his personal Savior in a Southern Baptist Church. He was called into the ministry at the same time as his conversion, and he was ordained in 1982 with the Southern Baptist Convention. He pastored various churches since being called into ministry and now is a Spirit-filled believer also. For the past twenty-four years he has been the pastor of Immanuel Fellowship. In 1988 the Holy Spirit led him to start doing missions trips, and he has ministered in approximately twenty-seven nations. He is affiliated with International Christian Leadership Connections.

As one can see from the above resume and testimonies, Rev. Fisher is called of God, a man of integrity and faithful to His Master. And God has revealed His secrets (Amos 3:7), of the end-time harvest to him, which is about to consume the world. Here is Rev. Fisher's account of the vision he experienced as he related it to me over the phone.

A BURNING MATCH STICK

In 1991 during the month of October, he traveled to South Africa. He was part of a group from America which went to the Cape Province to minister in a church in a coastal city called Somerset West. The group had just returned to the home of Kobus Swart, where they were staying. The house had an upper level and a lower level or basement where he had his guest bedroom.

Once they all retired for the night, Pastor Fisher not being able to sleep, decided to spend the time in prayer, as he was the only one in the basement, and he would not be a hindrance to those who were sleeping upstairs. After going from room to room he found one that had a beanbag chair in it, and he decided this was the room to pray in since there were no other distractions in it.

In the early hours of the morning, while praying, he suddenly had a vision, seeing a giant open map of the world, suspended in the air. While looking at the map, suddenly a giant hand appeared holding a matchstick, and something caused it to ignite. The hand holding the burning match made its way down to the southern most tip of South Africa and set it ablaze. The fire spread up the African continent consuming it in its entirety and at the same time spread to all the continents around the world.¹⁷

While listening to Pastor Fisher I sensed that the Lord of the Harvest is about to do something wonderful in the world starting in my home country, South Africa. I am amazed that the Holy Spirit would use a sin that I had committed as a catalyst to bring glory to the Name of the Lord by finding out about this vision. Truly, what the enemy had meant for destruction, God took and turned to his glory. We serve an awesome God, and just to think that had I refused to go and confess my sin and be reconciled to my brother in Christ, I would not have received the second confirmation of the vision Rev. Compton had spoken of.

May the Lord receive all the glory that is due His Name as He brings to a close the time of the Gentiles with this massive influx of precious souls into the Kingdom of God, that is represented on this earth by the Church, His bride.

Chapter 4

EVANGELIST T. A. RALEKHOLELA:

GOD'S RING OF FIRE

*" . . . So that the herald may run with it"
(Hab. 2:2).*

After I had spoken to Pastor Fisher I just sensed a prompting of the Holy Spirit to do a Google search on the Internet for any similar visions. I punched in certain keywords to get the search started and found, on the first page, the site of a fellow South African's ministry, Rev. T. A. Ralekholela. On his website page I found a small paragraph of a vision this evangelist had seen. This vision told of a fire starting on the southern tip of Africa and spreading over the continent and then into the uttermost parts of the world. I was ecstatic as this was the third confirmation of the same vision.

I have learned through years of study that it is essential to verify everything, as there are so many charlatans in the ministry. Needless to say, the fruit that remains of Gschwend's ministry confirms the first manifestation of the vision. The second confirmation of this vision has been verified by a number of people who know Pastor Fisher personally. And, a very good friend of mine in South Africa, Dr. Johan Combrinck, President of Africa Network Evangelism Task (AFnet) Ministries, is able to confirm the third vision in reporting Rev. Ralekholela as being a man of God and one of *"the most prominent evangelists in South Africa today."*¹⁸ And there are other confirmations too.

Dr. Isak Burger, President of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa, was introduced in Chapter 2. He has had the privilege over the years to watch Ralekholela's calling start off in a small way and has seen how God raised him up to be a well-known evangelist in Africa. This is what he has to say about Rev. Ralekholela. He is ordained with the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa and is generally recognized as one of the most influential and successful evangelists in the

country. He ministers mostly interdenominationally and often makes use of a mega-tent to accommodate the crowds.

One more testimony to the credibility of this evangelist is Pastor M. George Mahlobo¹⁹ who is General Secretary of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa. He says he is very well acquainted with Rev. Ralekholela's ministry and knows him personally. He points out that he is well educated in theology and has excelled as an intern pastor and as a presiding pastor initially. In 1987 he left pastoring to follow God's call into evangelism and remains in good standing with the AFM of SA. After hearing the endorsement of these witnesses, we are ready to hear from the evangelist himself.

This is the account of Evangelist Thibello Annanius Ralekholela of Gospel Fire Evangelistic Ministries, Vereeniging, Gauteng Province, South Africa. He was born in Parys, a little town in South Africa, and belongs to the Sotho tribe. On June 6, 1978 he repented of his sins and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He entered full-time ministry in 1980, and was ordained (March 23, 1985) with the Apostolic Faith Mission of South

Africa. He pastored a church for twenty-one years in the Kingdom of QwaQwa, which is in the Free State province.

Eventually the Lord took him into interdenominational ministries across the continent. While in ministry he has pursued further training at the International Theological Institute, and has completed his B.A. honors in theology with the University of Potchefstroom. He is currently completing his master's degree at the University of South Africa in Pretoria. It was after having the following vision that he founded Gospel Fire Evangelistic Ministries International.²⁰

In 1986, Rev. Ralekholela was holding meetings in a township called Mitchell Plains located in Cape Town, South Africa. He was staying in Sea Point at the time when one night, at midnight, the Holy Spirit gave him a vision of what God was going to do in Africa and the world in the end-times. From my home in Missouri I did an international telephone interview with Rev. Ralekholela, and he related the vision the Holy Spirit gave him that night, and I quote:

God's Ring of Fire

I was in Cape Town ministering at Mitchell Plains and staying in Sea Point. I had been preparing for the meeting, and it was about midnight when the Holy Spirit gave me a vision. I saw fire starting in Sea Point and spreading through the whole of Africa until it was covered with fire. And the Lord spoke to me at that moment and said, "There is going to be a visitation of God in South Africa, but not just for South Africa, but for the whole of Africa."

And again I saw in the vision the fire come down on the bottom of the map of Africa then going up in the direction of the east, in the direction of Kenya, then covering the western part, then going up to Nigeria, Ghana, and suddenly that fire was covering the whole continent of Africa. Once again I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!"

In the vision I saw the fire coming like drops, drops, that is, like sparks, and then it came up until the whole continent was under fire. Again the Lord said, "This is the end-time revival that is coming in your continent."

As you can see on my logo the ring I have put there. I saw the ring surrounding this continent, and then as I prayed to the Lord, the Lord said to me, "This ring symbolizes that I will cover the whole continent with fire. Not only Africa, but this fire is going to touch the whole world."

The ring showed me what the Lord had started is going to be completed. The whole continent will be surrounded by the fire of the Holy Spirit, the fire of the gospel of Jesus Christ will spread from where it started to the rest of the world.” That is where my vision and ministry started.²¹

Now that we have read about the visions the Holy Spirit gave these three men of God, we know they vary a little from each other but the gist of these visions are the same. It would be similar to comparing the Gospel accounts written by four men, but they tell one story about Jesus Christ, e.g., four pictures of one person. These visions speak of one thing, **“HARVEST!”**

We have heard what outside sources have said about these men also, and the conclusion I think we need to come to is that God is about to do something very big in this end-time Church. Once again I would like to invite the reader to do his own examination of these men who have had these visions, and I believe you will come to the same conclusion I came to – they are God-fearing men!

It is also very interesting to see that God brought two of these men to South Africa for missions work and revealed the vision to them there. They came from different parts of the world,

i.e. Europe and America. These are countries, which historically have sent out missionaries into the entire world and have now become almost heathen continents. Nevertheless, God brought these men to South Africa and revealed His plans to them via a vision to let them know what He is going to do in the future. And the two also saw that their own continents were going to receive a baptism of fire in these end-times.

I know that God's love for mankind is to seek and save the lost (John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10). Therefore I believe that everyone will have an opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and respond to the message (Acts 2:38; 4:12; Matt. 24:14). The result will be that this outpouring of fire will encompass the entire globe.

At the time of the impartation of these three confirmations, I was sitting at home relating to my wife, Anne, about the insights the Holy Spirit had led me to discover over the past week. I commented to her that these three men were led to believe that "*revival fires*" were coming to Africa and the rest of the world, but I just could not concur with that even though the above mentioned vision

in its three forms said so.

This was bigger than “*revival fires*” which we have seen throughout history, which are sporadic. That is, they are similar to a shower of rain here and there; localized and not affecting the entire world, but this was totally different. As I sat there pondering this, my wife said, “*It is not revival fires, but an awakening that is coming to the world.*” It struck me like a sledgehammer that this is exactly what is about to happen, but bigger than anything we have experienced in the Church Age. It is a ***visitation of God!***

My Bible was open on my lap as I sat there pondering Habakkuk chapter two verse two, which is the Scripture reference quoted at the beginning of this chapter. As I read verse three, “*For the revelation (vision) awaits an appointed time; **it speaks of the end** and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay*” (Hab. 2:3). I could not contain my excitement, as I believe the Holy Spirit had just confirmed that this was speaking of the end, which would be the fulfillment of the time of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:25).

Chapter 5

THE OUTPOURING:

THE FORMER & LATTER RAIN

*"But Peter . . . lifted up his voice and said
. . . in the last days, saith God, I will
pour out my spirit upon all flesh:"
(Acts 2:14a, 16-17a).*

The Former Rain

Joel prophesied: ". . . and it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28a KJV). Peter recognized this and declared it under the anointing of the Holy Spirit by quoting the prophet in his sermon to the crowds on the day of Pentecost. On July 11, 1869, the "Prince of Preachers," Charles Haddon Spurgeon delivered a sermon called "The Former and the Latter Rain." His text was "Let us now fear the Lord our God, that

giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season; he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest” (Jer. 5:24 KJV) In his sermon he comments,

As it is in the outward world, so is it in the inward; as it is in the physical, so is it in the spiritual: man is a microcosm, a little world, and all weather and seasons find their image in him. The earth is dependent upon the rain shower from heaven, so are the souls of men, and so are their holy works, dependent upon the grace shower which cometh from the Great Father of light, the giver of every good and perfect gift.²²

It is clear from this man of God that just as there are spring and autumn rains to water the farmer's fields so it is in the spiritual realm.

The fulfillment of what God has instructed the Hebrews, and us is that just as in the natural realm there is former rain for the planting season, and latter rain for the harvest, so there is a former and latter rain in the spiritual realm, which will manifest in the natural on those who will love and obey Him as we see in Acts 2. Peter in his discourse says to the hearer on that day and to us today too, “. . . *And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom*

the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38-39). This is a foretaste of things to come and the evidence is observed on the believers as the Church was birthed and grew daily throughout the book of Acts because of God's ongoing outpouring of His Spirit.

This outpouring on the Day of Pentecost is also the start to the Last Days. It is the marker for believers today who are living in the latter part of the last days, which could very well mean that the *"times of the Gentiles"* (Luke 21:24b) is nearly fulfilled. This *"former rain"* was the power of the Holy Spirit that the disciples needed for the task that lay ahead. They responded immediately with boldness and took the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the streets, preaching repentance in His name, with signs and wonders following. This powerful infilling the disciples received on Pentecost empowered them to accomplish the Great Commission Jesus had given them starting in, ". . . *Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:8b).

I found this article that clearly expresses my thoughts about the former rain. It is an excerpt

taken from George Hawtin's booklet *Beholding The More Excellent Glory* in which he says,

So great was that outpouring that by the end of the century one twentieth of the entire Roman Empire had been converted to Christ, and by the year 300 A.D. Christianity far exceeded paganism. Following Peter's sermon at Pentecost, three thousand souls were saved and the day following another five thousand were saved. In the days following multitudes both of men and women turned to the Lord. Mighty signs and wonders were done by all of the apostles. By Paul's hand God wrought special miracles. The sick were brought and laid in the street that the shadow of Peter falling upon them might bring healing to their bodies. The glory of that former rain beggars description. Truly they had been baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost and the heavenly 'wind' was blowing whithersoever it listed. This was a mighty manifestation of the glory of God. This was God's glory falling as rain among the people and filling their hearts with joy and gladness, transforming their lives and making them sons of God.²³

Much more can be said about the former rain on Pentecost, and I suggest to you the reader that a good place to start would be to study the Book of Acts and the writings of Paul to immerse yourself in what God did then and what He is going to do now.

The Church has failed miserably at winning the lost to Christ over the past several centuries. There have been sporadic moves of the Holy Spirit in diverse places, but as we will see, He is about to pour out the “*latter rain*” that will put the “*Holy Spirit fire*” back into His people as they work under His direction in this latter day visitation.

The Latter Rain

*“The Glory of this
latter house will be
greater than the
former . . .”
(Haggai 2:9a).*

The writer, J. Preston Eby does a word study on Hosea 6:3 which I believe you will find interesting and enlightening as to the accuracy of God’s intended actions of what we are discussing here. It is pertinent to the conversation.

His going forth is prepared as the morning; for He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” Then from Young’s Literal Translation, “As the dawn

prepared is His going forth, and He cometh in as a shower to us, as the gathered rain – sprinkling earth.” There are two qualifying words to which I would draw your reverent attention. “Latter” rain, with this word “latter” from the Hebrew MALQOSH, meaning GATHERED or HEAVY rain. While the “Former” rain comes from the Hebrew word YARAH, meaning SPRINKLING or FIRST rain. Thus, the former rain moderately is showers of sprinkling rain, whereas the latter rain is cloud bursts of heavy torrential downpours – copious effusions of the Spirit!²⁴

Obviously Hosea is saying that the former rain would be a sprinkling, and it was just that as it fell initially on only one hundred twenty people. He also implies that the latter rain will incorporate the former rain. That, as the author says in the quote, will be a cloudburst of heavy torrential downpours. Joel says that this rain will be poured out on ALL flesh.

Zechariah says, *“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field”* (Zech. 10:1 KJV). When Zechariah speaks of *“bright clouds”* he is speaking of *“lightning”* and *“thunderstorms”* and he says we are to ask (pray) the Lord for this

outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us in these last days and believe that He will do it and trust Him to do it! This latter rain will touch each individual person in the world when it is poured out just as Zechariah says.

With this in mind let us take a look through recent history, starting with the 1800's. During these past two centuries we have witnessed the latter rain being poured out sporadically in America and other nations, but the fullness has not yet come. God says through the prophet Amos, "*I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still three months away. I sent rain on one town, but withheld it from another. One field had rain; another had none and dried up*" (Amos 4:7). This has very well happened for I can point to the Great Awakening, Azusa Street, the Evangelical Movement, Vatican II, the Charismatic and Jesus Movements and the outbreaks of restoration revival happening in scattered places all over the world.²⁵

During the research of this project I discovered a "*timeline*"²⁶ from 1900-2006 in the form of a bar chart. It was interesting that at the beginning of the twentieth century there was a

distinct spike on the graph depicting the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles and then tapering off over a number of years. From this revival many Pentecostal denominations were birthed. Needless to say, there has been constant activity by the Holy Spirit in the Church since that time. I did observe that towards the end of the last century the activity of the Holy Spirit has been constantly increasing.

Rev. D. Wesley Myland in his book *The Latter Rain Covenant* says that God made a covenant with his people (Deut. 11:10-21; 2 Cor. 3:7-11), and goes further to say,

This term "Latter Rain" Hebrew, mal-koshe, signifies "the rain of the latter or second growth; the harvest rain, the rain of the after crop." This term is used seven times in the Old Testament and once in the New Testament. The Greek word is a compound, op-si-mos and signifies "late in the day rain, rain at close of day, at evening; in the end of time or dispensation; rain needed to get the last drop or fruit."²⁷

Once again the Scriptures say that the farmer waits patiently for the latter rain: *"Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and*

spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near" (James 5:7-8).

The rain must fall so that it will plump out the grain or fruit just before it is to be harvested or reaped. Myland speaks about this latter rain as falling at the end of the day or time which means that which I have discovered from these three visions, is confirmed by the Scriptures, *"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie: . . ."* (Hab. 2:3a KJV). It is my belief that when accounts of these visions are fulfilled it will be the end!

Jackson Snyder says he believes that the former rain that fell on Pentecost was not the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy in its entirety and refers to a time that once again the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all flesh. Here are his thoughts on the matter,

The former rain only partially fulfilled what Yahweh meant when he said he'd pour out his Spirit upon all. While the "first" Pentecost (former rain) was directed toward men of many nations, the latter-day Pentecost, or latter rain, promised that the Spirit might be poured out on all humanity, including non-Jews, women, and slaves. Including you and me!"

The Latter Rain

*Yahshua never specifically referred to the latter rain outpouring but he did refer to the prophecy of Joel that included it. (Compare Joel 2:31 to Matthew 24:29) The inference of Yahshua's vision for the future found in Matthew 24 is that immediately before he returns, two things will be happening: the great tribulation and the latter rain outpouring; humanity will be immersed in both.*²⁸

He introduces a new concept into the discussion we are having and seems to combine the Great Tribulation with the latter rain outpouring. It is my opinion that we are going to see an increased amount of catastrophes in the world according to the synoptic Gospels (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21:8-36), and the latter rain prophecies in the Bible are going to be poured out at the same time, but the Great Tribulation is separate and distinct. The Church is caught up to be with the Lord, and John being taken up to heaven in Revelation chapter four is a picture of the Church. He wrote the Gospel of John, which was written to the Church and the Church is not mentioned after that except when she returns with Christ, *"The armies of heaven were following Him,*

riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean” (Rev. 19:14).

So with worldwide calamities the Holy Spirit is going to bring about a manifestation of His presence among His people that is going to be greater than that at Pentecost. Every believer will be empowered as T. B. Barratt alludes: *“To be candid, dear reader, I do not believe that anything now, short of the same Pentecostal power that fell on the disciples at Jerusalem, will suffice; but when that once falls on the Church as a whole we will witness the same demonstrations as recorded in the Acts, and the same, yea, even greater results, because the Church is more extensive now than then.”*²⁹

Another aspect I would like you to consider is how great a visitation of God this is going to be. We have seen here in America and other parts of the world stadiums filled to capacity with believers praising and worshiping the Lord. Renowned men of God are doing these types of meetings all over the globe at present. These are usually special planned events to which the people of God attend. However, in their daily walk with the Lord, people

attend thousands of little churches spread out all over the world. In some instances there has been a tendency towards mega churches, which have mushroomed in different countries, the biggest being in South Korea. This has all been wonderful, and we rejoice at the local church and the mega churches.

My experience in the ministry has seen the people of God continually moving from one church to another and yet the numbers have remained the same and in some cases declined. God is interested in numbers, especially when it comes to the lost souls of the world, and the church has miserably failed in this area. The Holy Spirit started the first church, so too the last church is going to be brought to completion by the Holy Spirit.

I foresee that in this coming visitation of God we are going to see the stadiums of the earth filled to capacity and overflowing with the lost calling out to God for mercy. This is not going to be believers gathered together but rather the lost crying out to God in repentance. This visitation will bring in the lost from the *“palace to the prison”* who will all come and repent before the Almighty God of

heaven and earth. I believe this harvest will bring in the supernatural as we have never seen before, and the Sons of God will be manifested for this very purpose.

There will be new leadership birthed into the Kingdom, and they will walk in the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit. The old wineskins that do not change with this coming harvest will be removed, and new wineskins will accommodate the harvest. This visitation of God is going to change the landscape of the church as usual, and we will return to the template of the first church, which was made up of house churches.

There will be those who embrace this visitation: *“Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God”* (Heb. 6:7). And, there will be those who turn against the Lord of the Harvest: *“But land that produces thorns and thistle is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned”* (Heb. 6:8). It is my belief the end of the Church Age is at hand and the fullness of the

Gentiles is going to be brought in with or without the Church's permission.

These stadiums all over the world are going to be too small for this visitation of God, and we are going to witness entire cities as in the day of Jonah repent and turn to God. The Holy Spirit is going to bring supernatural conviction on the entire human race that is going to shake cities, nations, and continents. Then the end will come.

This harvest of souls is going to reach the remotest villages, towns, cities, provinces/states, and entire nations will be saved. Just as in the days of Noah God was patient for one hundred twenty years before the flood came and only Noah and his family was saved, so it will be for the nations that reject God's coming visitation. They will go through the Great Tribulation period. On the other hand, there will be entire people groups as in the days of Jonah who when God's visitation came to them did repent and were saved.

This last outpouring known as the latter rain is going to be too marvelous for words. Actually most believers that read this will say it is not possible for this to happen – it is too big. That is

exactly why our God is going to do it: *“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible’”* (Matt. 19:26). The Scriptures teach: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him”* (John 3:16-17).

God is not about to hand over the vast populations of the earth to Lucifer, the deceiver, so he can harvest the multitudes to spend eternity with him in Hell. I do not believe so! I know that I would do everything in my power to save that person who was drowning out there and was calling for help, and I am a sinner saved by grace. How much more will our Heavenly Father who is perfect and gave His Son as a sacrifice on the cross of Calvary for our sins, look upon His creation in these last days and do everything in His power to harvest the lost through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit brings to my remembrance Jesus' words, *“For the Son of Man came to save what was lost”* (Matt. 18:11). Therefore, He, the

Lord of the Harvest is going to come and empower His workers to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, convicting the world of their sins so that whosoever may call upon the name of Jesus will be saved, producing a harvest of souls that will bring the time of the Gentiles to a close.

Chapter 6

THE VISION:

GOD'S CONSUMING FIRE

"Say to the southern forest: 'Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the sovereign LORD says: I am about to set fire to you, and it will consume all your trees, both green and dry. The blazing flame will not be quenched, and every face from south to north will be scorched by it. Everyone will see that I the LORD have kindled it; it will not be quenched'"
(Eze. 20:47-48).

There is no shadow of a doubt in my mind that the Holy Spirit has led me to find the vision these three men have had in the latter part of the twentieth century. We are on the cusp of something wonderful which is about to take place,

starting at the most southern tip of Africa and spreading across the continent and to the four corners of the earth.

In 1995 South Africa had a transition in government, which surprised the world because there was literally no blood shed between the different racial groups. The churches, before the change in government, gathered together to pray and fast for this peaceful transition of power. The Church took to heart the exhortation God gives when He says, “. . . *if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land*” (2 Chron. 7:14). This He did by honoring his children’s prayers, petitions, and requests. The little unrest that occurred at the onset was put to rest in a matter of hours.

Over the past fourteen years we have seen a move towards God as the country has collapsed into lawlessness and violence. Poverty has increased and AIDS has devastated the Sub-Saharan nations on a grand scale. Nevertheless, God is working among the diverse ethnic groups

and tribes of the country. Many are returning to their Christian roots, and others are finding Christ in the midst of their troubles and being birthed into the Kingdom of God. All churches across the board are seeing a massive influx to their services. Evangelistic crusades have increased, as the populace is hungry for God and the Gospel net of the evangelists are harvesting precious lost souls for the cause of Christ.

Over the last number of years God has raised up a farmer, Angus Buchan from New Castle, KwaZulu-Natal, who came to know Christ in the 1970's. Through a miracle, which took place on his farm, the movie *Faith like Potatoes* was made.³⁰ Over time God started to open doors of ministry for him, and today he spearheads *Shalom Ministries*,³¹ which does mass evangelistic campaigns throughout South Africa. He has recently been invited to minister in England and Australia.

These meetings started small but have grown to encompass thousands. He is predominantly reaching white males. But, from what I have observed in the reports there are women as well as native Africans in the mix. This

new move of God, I believe, is preparing the population for the coming latter rain that is going to harvest millions across the continent. I have never seen such a hunger for God among the South Africans as I see today.

I would liken this move of God, which is taking place through his ministry, to that of the *Promise Keepers* who were so vibrant a number of years ago between the Evangelical and Pentecostal/Charismatic churches. You may recall this was predominantly focused towards the Christian males in the churches. It was also an evangelistic thrust into the male unbelievers who were friends and family of the believers. I believe the movement had a big affect on the growth of the church community and also the individual as each believer in Christ grew spiritually. This is what is happening with the campaigns Buchan is having throughout South Africa. I have heard that it has surprised many in the country as to how many men are turning their lives over to Christ.

Currently in East London, South Africa, according to the *Dispatch Online* newspaper, thousands from all over Africa and the world are

converging on this coastal city to be a part of the revival that is ongoing there at the writing of this book. Many are being trained to do street evangelism and are going on the streets during the day and soul-winning the unchurched. Dr. Rodney Howard-Browne is at the forefront of this move of God called *Days of Glory*,³² which started at the River Church, also known as *River Park Ministries*. He is a South African, born in the Eastern Cape. He has lived in America for many years and resides in Florida where he has his International Ministry headquarters and pastors a church.

Many churches from around East London have come to help in this outpouring of salvation to get the new converts into churches to be discipled. In the Gospel of Luke Jesus said to Peter after he and his partners had been fishing all night and had caught nothing, “*Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.*” *Simon answered, ‘Master we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in*

the other boat to come and help them and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink” (Luke 5:4b-7). After this miracle Peter, James and John left their fishing business and followed Jesus to become fishers of men. And, in like manner, these believers in this coastal city are catching many in the nets of the gospel. To God be the glory!

In the early 1970's Reinhard Bonnke, a missionary to Lesotho, was led by God to do an evangelistic crusade in a stadium in Maseru, the capital. The meeting was so successful that he knew God was calling him into evangelism. Soon thereafter He formed a ministry called *Christ for all Nations*³³ also known as CFAN. I remember him repeatedly saying *“Africa shall be saved; Africa shall be saved.”* He started with tent crusades until the crowds outgrew the tents.

Today he holds open-air services throughout the continent and has been evangelizing Africa for approximately thirty years. Each campaign draws crowds upwards of one million attending the nightly meetings. Thousands of conversions have taken place over the years,

and signs and wonders have followed the preaching of God's Word at these meetings. The church on the continent, as in the book of Acts, has been strengthened, and added to daily. These prophetic words, "*Africa shall be saved!*" uttered by Bonnke under the unction of the Holy Spirit are being fulfilled before our very eyes, and Africans are being harvested in droves. This is a foreshadowing of this coming visitation of God.

With this coming visitation there are going to be other events taking place in the world that are going to be catastrophic in nature. I believe the calamities and visitation will occur simultaneously. There are various modern-day prophets prophesying the impending judgments of God on the United States and others nations around the world. You can research this subject by doing a search on the internet as to what God has shown them about the end-times. When considering the end-time events, which Jesus spoke of in the Gospels, one can see clearly the signs of the times are screaming at us. Nevertheless, He said: "*When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is*

drawing near" (Luke 21:28). Take heed dear reader for the coming of the Lord is nigh.

The prophets of the Old Testament saw calamities coming on the world and were openly shocked at the devastation that was to occur in *"that day,"* referring to the last days that I believe we are in. The secular prophets of today see all these things happening and explain it away as *"global warming"* but do not realize that it is in actual fact a call from God for all mankind to repent and turn to Him. Those who are perishing refuse to see this last ditch effort as *"God's warning"* trying to get man's attention to turn his life over to Him. Nevertheless, the account of events to come in Matthew 24 is not only about destruction, but Jesus speaks of hope too for all mankind. The hope is the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to preach the good news of salvation and reconciliation unto God throughout the earth, and then the end will come.

I believe that we are at that very place on the stage of history because this Gospel of the kingdom is being preached all over the world. Hundreds of ministries are taking the Gospel

message to the nations today. Not only are these ministries sending missionaries around the world but there are other mediums God has raised up such as Christian Television, radio and the Internet proclaiming this message to the four corners of the earth. One such ministry is Trinity Broadcasting Network, which has seventy satellites in space and the footprint of each satellite covers every continent and island on the planet.

Once again the words of Jesus come to my remembrance, *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father”* (John 14:12). This is being fulfilled by the obedience of these ministries. Now that the Gospel is being preached throughout the world the *“rapture”* of the Church is at hand.

The foregoing evidence confronts each one of us that we are on the cusp of the *“Harpazo”* that is found in 1 Thess. 4:17a; which means the believers *“ . . . will be caught up . . . ”* This word is found in the original Koine Greek language of the New Testament, and means *“to seize: - catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force).”*³⁴ The idea

of the believers being “*caught up*” is not a new concept to the Bible at all. It is an old concept reiterated in the New Testament taken from the Old Testament.

The Hebrews were taught principles in each of the feasts which they had to commemorate yearly. These feasts were dress rehearsals of the real thing that God was going to fulfill in time and still is going to do. The prime example is that Jesus fulfills the feast of Passover by becoming our Passover Lamb.

Therefore, if one understands the Jewishness of the Scriptures you would understand that there is going to be a “catching away” of the saints before the tribulation just as the Apostles depicted in their writings to us. This is commonly known as the “*rapture*”³⁵ of the Church, which is not preached much in the churches anymore and has to do with the imminency of Christ’s return. Jesus told His disciples what was going to happen before His return, and now it is being made known to you as well through this book.

Therefore we need to be vigilant as the five wise virgins were (Matt. 25:1-13). Consider that in

the parable all ten were virgins but only five were wise. Today in the church all may be believers, but are all heedful of the times?

As the above events unfold so are we going to see the Lord of the Harvest come as the Latter Rain being poured out upon the earth. The workers in the field He raises up, namely: you and me, are going to come rejoicing bringing in the harvest into the Kingdom of God. Churches are going to burst at the seams, and the concept of the old wineskins is going to have to be changed, as new wineskins are developed to contain the new wine.

This is not a revival being discussed here but rather a worldwide *visitation of God*. Some would liken this to an *“Awakening”* but it is not; it is way too big. I know you are going to be one of the workers the Spirit of God is raising up for such a time as this, because you are reading this book at this pivotal point and are now aware of God’s end-time plan. Keep watching for the signs as depicted in the vision the three men of God had, for the Scripture says, *“The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon”*

(Gen. 41:32). Even so may this vision take place soon.

Chapter 7

MARANATHA:

CHRIST'S IMMINENT RETURN

*"Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand - "
(Joel 2:1).*

I have laid out the facts of the coming awakening as the Holy Spirit revealed them to me. We know the continent where it will begin as well as the locality. We know that such a global visitation of God has never been recorded. We know it is going to be a universal move of God's Spirit, which is going to usher millions into the Kingdom of God. We know the Lord of the Harvest is raising up thousands of workers worldwide right now who are being prepared to bring in this harvest

(Matt. 9:37-38). I know that the Holy Spirit has impressed on me that it is going to be soon and suddenly (Mark 13:36-37; Rom. 9:28).

I am making a statement of faith that I believe we will see the fruition of God's visitation in power during our lifetime. Immediately thereafter the *rapture* of the Church will occur (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-52). However I hasten to add here that we will not know when the number of the Gentiles is fulfilled (Luke 21:24b; Rom. 11:25b), therefore, we need to be alert by watching and praying (Matt. 24:44; Luke 21:36; Col. 4:2), and looking for His appearing (Acts 1:10-11; Titus 2:13).

What I do not know is the exact timing this latter rain is going to occur. But once the harvest is completed I believe the Church, the Bride of Christ, will be snatched away (1 Thess. 4:17) "*in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, . . .*" (1 Cor. 15:51-52), and united with the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. With the Church removed, the onset of the Great Tribulation will begin upon the earth. Those who harden their hearts towards God's visitation now will be left behind to face the judgments of God as laid out in the Book of Revelation.

It is important to remember the specific day and the hour we do not know (Matt. 24:36)! Nevertheless, Jesus did tell us to be faithful and watchful (Matt. 24:42-25:1-30; Mark 13:33-37; Luke 21:34-36). He also told us to learn a lesson from the fig tree, referring to the birth of the nation of Israel. He went further and told us about the days of Noah (Matt. 24:32-39) that would be speaking of this present day and age and its likeness to Noah's day. When we see the evidence of these two things come to pass "*that generation*" would witness His return. I believe at this point it is wise to consider the history of the State of Israel, i.e., the fig tree over the past century.

In 1897 it first took root (Isaiah 27:6a; 37:31; 2 Sam 7:10). That was when "*Theodore Herzl summoned the first Zionist Congress and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to a national rebirth in their own country.*"⁸⁶ In 1917 Israel blossomed (Isaiah 27:6b; Jer. 23:7-8; 31:10; Zech. 10:8-9). "*The Balfour Declaration, a letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Lord Rothschild in which the British made public their support of a Jewish homeland in*

*Palestine.*³⁷ In 1948 The State of Israel budded (Eze. 34:11, 13; 36:1-38; Isa. 43:6; 66:7-8; Jer. 31:8; Amos 9:14-15), and became a sovereign nation³⁸ and we know that she will bear fruit during the millennium reign of Christ (Isa. 62:3; Jer. 32:41; Hos. 14:5-6; Zeph. 3:16-17; Zech. 9:16-17).

Now let us consider the importance of what Jesus told us about the “*generation*” which will see these things come to pass. At this point the question one should be asking is “*What constitutes a Jewish generation?*” To know exactly the time length in years of a Jewish generation would help us discern where the Church is in the context of the fig tree’s growth over the past century. Maybe knowing this would shed some light on the imminency of Christ’s return. It would also make the Church realize that should this event happen in our lifetime we better be busy preaching repentance and the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus, and His soon return.

The dictionary defines a generation as “*the average span of time between the birth of parents and that of their offspring.*”³⁹ According to this dictionary information it is very vague as to what

the time span of a generation is. A generation could vary from person to person. Surely there is a definite amount of years that make up a generation. I researched this further with other sources so as to throw more light on this question. I found a biblical encyclopedia, which states, "*The average length of a generation is often assumed to be forty years, for in the wilderness all the men over twenty died within that time.*"⁴⁰ From this, many believers have understood the forty years time span in the desert to be a generation. My understanding would be that those who went into the wilderness were an average age of twenty, plus the forty years in the wilderness, which gives us a total of sixty years. Is this then a correct analysis of what constitutes a Jewish generation – sixty years? I decided to research this subject further.

What I discovered is that the Scriptures promise us seventy years or eighty if we have the strength, "*The length of our days is seventy years— or eighty, . . .*" (Psalm 90:10). Once again it is very confusing to see the outcome of this research as the numbers keep changing. Could the possibility exist that somewhere in Scripture God

makes it known what the time span of a Jewish generation is? And, if He does, then surely we can deduce how he interprets a generation from His viewpoint. We, on the other hand, would have a clearer understanding of the time span Jesus was alluding to when He referred to *“that generation”* not passing away when all these things happened. Just recently I made a wonderful discovery while researching this subject and listening to a sermon.

The pastor was teaching about Abram’s dilemma of being childless and his discussion with God about this. God promises Abram that Sarai will give him a child and makes a covenant with him. Let us pick up the account as it is unfolds in the Scriptures: *“As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the Lord said to him, ‘Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated **four hundred** years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at the good old age. In the*

fourth generation your descendants will come back here, . . . ” (Gen. 15:12-16).

Joseph's family were welcomed into Egypt by the Pharaoh and given the land of Goshen. As time marched on new Pharaohs took over who did not know the history of the Hebrews. Eventually enslaved by their rulers for four hundred years the Israelites cried out to God, who under the leadership of Moses, delivered them, and they came out of Egypt with great wealth. While listening to the sermon I suddenly made the connection to the Jewish generational timeline. The answer I had been seeking for so long had been right before my eyes all the time. How many times had I read these verses in Genesis and not made the connection? The question in my mind about a Jewish generation was solved. Four hundred years divided by four generations is one hundred years! This is confirmed through Abraham since he was one hundred years old when Isaac, the son of promise, was born (Gen. 21:5). When considering the information and doing the calculations from the time that Israel budded then we know we are very close to the imminent return

of Jesus Christ. We are *“that generation!”* Remember, we do not know the day or the hour. However, Jesus does teach us this about the Holy Spirit: “. . . and He will tell you what is yet to come” (John 16:13b).

I have covered a lot of information in this book. Hopefully it will have you pondering end-time events for a long time to come. Hopefully, you will become more aware of what is going on locally and internationally, in the secular and spiritual realm. God is moving behind the scenes, and we as the Body of Christ need to have a clear understanding of how close we are to the end of the Church Age. Fortunately, we have the Holy Spirit, and He will search out all things and make them known to us (1 Cor. 2:10), which I believe is the message of this book to our generation.

Therefore, it is imperative to be wise with this information. It is at this point in time that I strongly suggest that you the reader are to **“STAY PUT”** and not head for the southern tip of Africa. This book is **not** a clarion call for all to assemble in Cape Town, South Africa. It is rather to prepare you for this coming move of God in your place of

residence by being vigilant and focusing on the following:

- Pray for the latter rain to fall (Zech. 10:1; James 5:18; Jer. 5:24).
- Pray the Lord of the Harvest to raise up workers (Matt. 9:35-38; Luke 10:2).
- Live a holy life (2 Cor. 7:1).
- Learn to endure (Heb. 10:35-37).
- Be patient as you wait (James 5:7,8).
- Be sanctified by God (1 Thess. 5:23).
- Be diligent (Heb. 11:6).
- Be a faithful disciple (1 Tim. 6:14).

To the pastors and denominational leaders, prepare your people for the harvest. Set in place a framework of action so that when this visitation of God manifests in Africa you will be prepared for the tsunami of the Spirit of God to cascade upon your shores. And finally remember the focus is souls, not bigger organizations, or churches. This move is going to be, I believe, the formation of house churches across the world. Expand your leadership and train the workers. Be constantly in contact with the Lord of the Harvest, and He will direct your path. Waiting on the Lord is the right

thing to do. Pastors, preach the full Gospel, which includes heaven for the believer, and hell for the unrepentant sinner. Christians, live your lives as if Jesus is coming today and be a witness!

"For those that believe no proof is necessary; for those that do not believe no proof is enough!"

Maranatha!

*"For the Lord will
carry out his sentence
on earth with speed
and finality"
(Rom. 9:28).*

Invitation to Accept Jesus

For those of you who do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, I want to extend an opportunity to you to receive Jesus Christ today, and know the joy of sins forgiven and eternal life. The prophet Isaiah teaches us that *“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”* (Isa. 53:6). Paul says, *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* and *“. . . the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).

That’s right! Everyone born into this world is a sinner, and there are consequences for sin. But, the good news is that Jesus said, *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me”* (Rev. 3:20). Have you heard the knocking on your heart’s door as you have been reading this book? If you have, then it is time to open the door of your heart and ask Him to come in.

Paul says it like this, *“The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,’ that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame’”* (Rom. 10:8-11). And, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – ”* (Eph. 2:8).

For those of you who have read these Scriptures and know that if Jesus were to come today you would be left behind, then I want to give you an opportunity to make a decision. It will be the most important one you will ever make in your entire life. Will you accept Jesus Christ today as your Savior and Lord? Then pray this prayer with me:

“Jesus I am a sinner and I ask you today to save me and forgive me. I believe that you came in the flesh; died on the cross and on the third day you rose from the dead and are at the right hand of God making intercession for me. I

believe that the blood you shed on Calvary washes away my sins. I thank you for forgiving me and cleansing me from all my sins and that through you I am born again. Amen.”

Now that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, I want to be the first to welcome you into the family of God. Now that you have made this commitment, John says to you, *“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life”* (1 John 5:13). As a child of God it is imperative that you confess Him before men. Tell someone of your decision today. Jesus says, *“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven”* (Matt. 10:32-33). The next step is very important for your growth as a Christian.

Receiving the Infilling of the Holy Spirit

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells His disciples: “You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you” (John. 15:3). Notice what He is saying to them prior to His death and resurrection that they were forgiven of their sins,

proving He is God. He did this on other occasions too when He forgave the paralytic his sins; the woman caught in adultery; etc. His instructions to His disciples were to wait for the promise of the Father, which was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts Chapter 2. As you do a study of this event throughout the Book of Acts you will discover that it was not only on the 120 people in the upper room that this gift was given, but also for all that received Jesus as Savior and Lord thereafter. And this includes you.

Peter tells the three thousand in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost that this gift was for all who would believe the message of the gospel. Everyone who received Christ in the Book of Acts were filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in heavenly tongues (Acts 2; 19:2-6).

This baptism of the Holy Spirit is for everyone as you have just read, and that includes you whether you have just become Jesus' disciple or whether you have been following Him for many years. I want you to remember that just as you received Jesus by faith, so too you will have to receive this baptism by faith. The baptism in the

Holy Spirit will give you supernatural power to be an effective witness for the Kingdom of God just as the Spirit did for the believers in Acts.

The question you are most probably asking right now is, “How do I receive this baptism?” The answer is to simply thank the Father for the gift He gave on the day of Pentecost and open your mouth and speak in other tongues. Do not doubt your decision, only believe. The Lord bless you as you make this decision to move in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. Now that you have completed these initial steps of being Jesus’ disciple, it is imperative that you do the following:

- Become a member of a Spirit-filled church.
- Be baptized in water.
- Daily read your Bible and pray.
- Fellowship with other believers.
- Confess Jesus to your family and friends.

Endnotes

Chapter 2

- ¹ Telephone interview with J. R. Gschwend, Jr., August 18, 2009.
- ² Telephone interview with Dr. Isak Burger, August 17, 2009.
- ³ E-mail: Dr. Isak Burger, e-mail to Dr. Desmond Rose, August 20, 2009.
- ⁴ Telephone interview with Rev. Walter Compton, August 16, 2009.
- ⁵ E-mail: Rev. J. Cole-Rous, e-mail to Dr. Desmond Rose, August 18, 2009.
- ⁶ Telephone interview with Eugene Gschwend, grandson, June 25, 2009.
- ⁷ J. R. Gschwend, *A Burning Candle* (Pretoria South Africa: All Nations Gospel Publishers, 1960).
- ⁸ J. R. Gschwend, *A Burning Candle* (Pretoria, South Africa: All Nations Gospel Publishers, 1960), p.136-137.

Chapter 3

- ⁹ Andrew Murray, *The New Life* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany Fellowship, Inc., 1965), p. 164.
- ¹⁰ Telephone interview with Rev. Danny Fisher, April 23, 2009.
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- ¹⁴ Telephone interview with Rev. Kobus Swart, August, 19, 2009.
- ¹⁵ Telephone interview with Mike Scheller, August 24, 2007.
- ¹⁶ September 6, 2009 in Seminole, OK, U.S.A.
- ¹⁷ Telephone interview with Rev. Danny Fisher, July 3, 2009.

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- ¹⁹ E-mail: Pastor M. George Mahlobo, e-mail to Dr. Desmond Rose, August 21, 2009.
- ²⁰ <http://www.gospelfire.co.za>, accessed August 13, 2009.
- ²¹ Telephone interview with Rev. T. A. Ralekholela, July 15, 2009.

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- ²² C. H. Spurgeon, "The Former and the Latter Rain," *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit: Containing Sermons Preached and Revised*. Vol. 15 (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1969), p. 385.
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²⁶ http://www.google.com/search?q=history+of+pentecostalism&hl=en&client=safari&rls=en-us&tbs=tl:1&tbo=u&ei=r_BtSuCDPI3KsQP7K3KDg&sa=X&oi=timeline_result&ct=title&resnum=11, accessed Aug. 1, 2009.

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²⁹ T. B. Barratt, *In The Days of the Latter Rain* (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Ltd., 1909), p. 8.

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³⁴ James Strong, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2007).

³⁵ The Vulgate version was translated into Latin and the word used is "Rapiemur" when translated into English means "Rapture." I will continue to use "rapture" because it is so commonly used among believers.

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