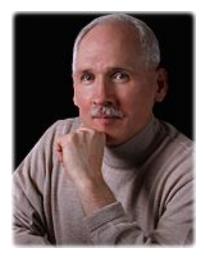


# Revelations on Revelation Series

## By Apostle Eric vonAnderseck



What should we understand from the book of Revelation? End times Apostle and Prophet, Eric vonAnderseck's series "Revelations on Revelation", brings clarity to the epoch events that will soon be cast upon the world's stage. Make no mistake, the human race is about to enter into a time of judgment.

The day of reckoning is here! The world, having refused God's grace, will openly accept their false messiah and bring upon themselves utter destruction and sorrow, the likes of which no human eye has ever seen.

The book of Revelation is the disclosing of God's judgments upon man for having rejected His Christ. The Antichrist, False Prophet, and Dragon will come into power and fallen angels will again rule the world as in the days of Noah.

Apostle Eric vonAnderseck

Demon locusts are released to plague mankind, angels pour out the judgment vials upon the earth, 1/3 of all waters are poisoned, earthquakes and tsunami remove all islands and many coastal cities, 2 billion people die in the first year of the Tribulation. In anguish the people cry out, "Hide us from the face of Him that sits upon His throne," (Revelation 6:16) for they know their judgment is just.

As things progress in the second half of the seven year tribulation, the Mahdi, having begun his religious reign will confirm the first Beast (Antichrist) as the messiah to join all religions into one. Upon this achievement the Antichrist will stand in the temple to join the Jews to this new world religion and make his proclamation, claiming the gospel scriptures to be prophetically written and not historically. To him, the Jesus of Nazareth stories was only a prototype of himself.

The Beast shouts out a scripture from Isaiah saying, "That you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed" (Isaiah 43:10). Shrines of the image of the Beast will emerge in all places and the 'temple-banks' will issues credits to the faithful.

Not long after the resurrection of the two witnesses, Enoch and Elijah, and the second rapture (the rapture of the 144,000 elect and called ones), the Lord God Almighty will issue an order for the defeat of the three entities called the Antichrist, false Prophet, and the Dragon as they join forces to face off with Christ at Megiddo.

Revelations on Revelation Series

Transcription of Lecture by Apostle Eric vonAnderseck

Revelation 2:12-17

Satan's Seat, False doctrine rules the church

Series:5 of 38

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# Revelation Chapter 2

(continued)

Through Apostle John, God addresses the church of Pergamos, He identifies the presence of Satan's seat in the church, and chastises those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. In this lecture, Satan's seat is defined and parallels are yet again made to today's church, exposing Satan's seat in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church. The great mystery of Satan's acculturation of the church is made known, the achievers of aspiration are held in ill repute as God again challenges the church to righteousness.

Ministers of unrighteousness have tried to bring the things of this world (the wisdom of this world and the spirit of this world) into the church with carnal things. The problem is, the things of this earth, being temporary, satisfy the flesh, but they don't bring life to the soul. So, the soul, being empty of the tokens of God, only becomes the habitation of every unclean things, the hold of every demonic creature and winged fowl that is unclean. This is a message that can no longer be ignored!

Revelation 2, beginning with verse 12.

# **12:** "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which has the sharp sword with two edges;"

As we read on you can see the progression of the tokens, which God gives to each church for the challenges that face them, regarding overcoming their own personal feelings (concerning change), and to embrace the rhythm of the Spirit.

Each challenge receives a reward, a token. This is what God does, regarding the challenges he sets for our faith and the tokens he rewards us with for our choices of faith. As we see in the book of Revelation, the progressiveness of this and the numerous tokens God gives.

Now, there are three things we have to overcome: the greatest barrier and greatest challenge has to do with our own perception and feelings, as we overcome ourselves, Satan, and the world.

The Apostle John writing his epistle, reflects upon these rewards, as he's writing his epistle there in  $1^{st}$  John,  $2^{nd}$  John,  $3^{rd}$  John. So, we see the rewards here, and these rewards are tokens. As you go through your cycles of growth your choices of faith are rewarded. We see the rewards in Revelation chapter 2, concerning, "he that overcomes will I grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

We see a token here regarding access to these things, even to that of the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven, and also to that which will be present in this dimension during the millennium.

We've viewed these tokens as something that's nonsensical, or not valid, concerning our every day struggles of overcoming, but the validity of these things increase as you increase with the increase of God, as you overcome by the presence of His grace. And we'll expound on these things more as we progress and get into the book of Revelation, in chapter 21.

Remember, overcoming has to do with the personal challenges that face us and the circumcision of our own perceptions as we take on the rhythm of the Spirit, as we take on God's perspective, which we see in chapter 1 in the vision, which the Apostle John had. He is now taking the perspective of the throne.

We have the perspective of God with "eyes as of flame, and feet like unto fine brass". Our perspective is the perspective of the throne with having eyes of flame.

The eyes of flesh only see the immediate resolving of struggles, trying to change the circumstances. But God never called us to change the circumstance. God called us to salvation as the changing of the perspective. And, of course, God is in charge of the circumstances and the scenarios.

<sup>1</sup> Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

<sup>2</sup> Rev 1:14,15 His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire (15) And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

It was God that brought the children of Israel into the situation where they were caught between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army. God brought them to that position. He could have easily led them out through another way. He could have had enough ships supplied for them in order to take them by sea into the promised land. But he didn't choose that because they never would have learned the fear of the Lord, regarding the immediate resolve of the struggles of their imagination.

The Lord also leads us into these scenarios of choices for reward. And here, those of Smyrna, their reward was that they should not be hurt of the second death<sup>3</sup>, which has to do with (not only) the removal of one's sovereignty, but also the judgments on that choice (4) of resisting the plan of God; they'd be cast into the lake of fire, whereas death and hell will continue to feed on them. Hell will continually torment them, and death will continually restrict them as they are in the lake of fire.

Death and hell will also continue to feed on Satan's imagination, and continue to feed on his fears because he also will be severed from the life of God as he is put into the lake of fire. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet are. (That means, at the time when they will be cast in; they're not there right now, but I'm quoting out of Rev 19 on that.)

And when we get to the church of Pergamos (right here), what's interesting is we'll be reading about Satan's seat: how the roots of a particular philosophy began to dominate their thinking, that they began to look at the gospel as a text of living, rather than a confirmation of revelation.

These scriptures were written before time for our learning, as the Apostle Paul said, and the scriptures written afore time were penned by holy men of God—those that God selected to preserve this testimony. So that when God would engage Adamites (man) with this revelation, they would read these ancient texts and be able to identify these particular judgments of God…because the things of the Spirit are only understood by the things of the Spirit.

This is what Paul brings out, that "he which is spiritual judges all things". Now, how do we judge these things? What God initiates and establishes a testimony, it's only understood by the text; that these things, which God initiates are in rhythm with his plan. Just like the second 8<sup>th</sup> week; it is in rhythm with the plan of the weeks.

The Apostle Paul brings this to the attention of those he wrote to in Thessalonica, regarding understanding the times and the seasons, which regard to the weeks and the things that unfold within these weeks... (6) "even as we taught you".

So, the Apostle Paul talked about and explained to the first century saints, the time of the antichrist, the spirit of the antichrist, which is already in the world.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3 &</sup>lt;u>Rev 2:11</u> He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

<sup>4</sup>\_1Cor 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

<sup>5</sup> Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The Apostle John (also) taught about that, as well as (about) the antichrist man, and the time (or) revelation of his appearance, which the Apostle John saw. He saw this on God's video screen...his screen of virtual reality...John saw thousands of years into the future as God was revealing to him these events, which had already come to pass on his time line.

Now, he's overseeing these things fulfilled in our time frame, as the time frame of the flesh is following the time frame of the spirit. The body follows the spirit because the spirit is the life of the body. The body without the spirit is dead.

So, the plan of God, which is unfolding itself in the time frame of the flesh is following that which has already been previously unfolded in the time frame of the spirit, which is the eternal time frame. As we go on here,

"And to the angel of the church of Pergamos write; These things saith he which has the sharp sword with two edges;"

Interesting enough, it does not say, These things saith he which has his arms opened wide and his hands waiting to embrace in charity.

We're seeing the two sides and the two kinds of judgments of God. We're also seeing the character of God played out here. We see the God-Code<sup>6</sup> with his wrath, and the God-Code with his mercy. As we see these things played out in the character of God, we can also understand how we can consent to these things by accepting the rhythm of the Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ. So he says,

**13:** "I know your works, and where you dwell, even where Satan's seat is:" Now, Satan's seat is any place where false knowledge originates and is promoted (8).

We can see that Satan's seat is like mushrooms in a forest—they sprout up in a particular period of time, and then they're dissolved. And during this time frame of death and darkness, and the times of the flesh, and the age of impiety, these mushrooms are springing up all over the place because they grow in places where there's a lot of moisture and darkness. They favor those particular regions.

Satan's seat is springing up all over the world. The earth itself is in the lowest of the heavens and the darkest of the heavens. God established the earth first regarding the depth of the heavens. So, the earth was established first as a reference point in regards to his location of the throne, which is on the sides of the north<sup>7</sup>, established in the heavens for height and the earth for depth.<sup>8</sup> The earth is at his footstool, under his feet.<sup>9</sup> The dust of the clouds are like a carpet, which shields him.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Learn more about the "God-Code" at: <a href="http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=111&lesson=the-god-code">http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=111&lesson=the-god-code</a>

<sup>7</sup> Psm 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, [is] mount Zion, [on] the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

<sup>8</sup> Mat 5:34,35 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: (35) Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

<sup>9</sup> Psm 18:9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness [was] under his feet.

<sup>10</sup> Psm 18:11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him [were] dark waters [and] thick clouds of the

As carpet shields the feet from the wood floor so, also, the clouds thereabout in the dust of his feet, shields his light from this dimension. God himself is surrounded with clouds of darkness so that the carnal eye cannot see him.

If the carnal eye could perceive the presence of God, then everything would be extrapolated from that, from things that are carnal. But God hid from the carnal eye (by his own choice) and decided, before the creation of the world, that he would reveal himself by his Spirit to the spirit of man.

So, we know him by the Spirit, and he that is spiritual judges all things. 11

The person that follows the pattern and rhythm of the Spirit by this new knowledge, which we 're born into..... When we were born according to the forms of the flesh, we followed the course of the world. But what do the scriptures say (10)?

We know the writer of the Psalms 22 says: "I was cast upon you from the womb". 12 That means, When I was born, I did not follow the rhythm of nature, nor the rhythm of man, nor the course of this world. When I was born within this dimension, I came with the light of God, and I praised him".

As we see (also) when Noah was born, he was born with a demdema, and he praised the Lord (1Enoch 106:1-19). Same thing with Moses; he was born with a demdema. When he was born in that light, he was severed from the rhythm of the world unto the rhythm of God.

And with Jesus, being our Sabbath, when he was born within this dimension, time froze. This was showing that the Sabbath time was born into the Sabbath man, and time froze...which we see also in the testimony of Joseph, when he himself was the only living witness to observe a time frame that was frozen. That time frame could have been frozen for 1500 years, and no one would have known about that.

Can you imagine that, a time frame frozen? It's like a pause in a movie. You can leave that pause there for a few minutes, or you can leave it there for a few years, and it will still be on pause. But that which has been printed on the film has absolutely no concept of that being frozen. So, if God would have framed time within a particular element of himself, his creatures would have no concept; they would have no kind of knowing the passage of time. This shows that the Sabbath man entered into this dimension, born of the virgin, Mary.

As we go back here, any place where Satan's philosophies prevail is called Satan's seat—where false doctrine originates and is promoted, that's the house of Baal. So, the house of Baal is the environment (12) that's favorable for this perspective because these doctrines favor the moral code, which is tethered to the flesh, which is tethered to Satan's kingdom.

skies.

<sup>111</sup>Cor 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

<sup>12</sup> Psm 22:10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou [art] my God from my mother's belly

Satan rules over the perspective of sinners. Those that are not in covenant with God are under (you might say) Satan's care; he dominates, he oppresses, and he rules the minds of the unrighteous until they cry out to God and come in covenant with him. Then your whole perspective goes through cycles of circumcision until Christ be formed within you, as the Apostle Paul says.<sup>13</sup>

Through these cycles of circumcision, you began to become upright in your thinking. When you came into covenant with God you were on all fours as a bovine or beast, and you had to be tamed and retrained: like adopting a pet, bringing an animal from the outside into your living room. That animal now has to learn new rules. You can't just go to the bathroom anyplace any longer. I have selected a place for you to go to the bathroom. And we have also times for your feeding, and we have times for your doting, whereas I can pick you up, and I can dote upon you.

That's what God does with us; he's training us for his doting, that is, for his good pleasure. He's house training us: when we were in the kingdom of darkness, we exhibited all forms of iniquity, of envy, (because) envy was a token of Satan's perspective.

As Satan is envious with Adam, so Adamites that take on Satan's perspective become rivalers [as to rival] of their neighbor. They don't love thy neighbor, they rival thy neighbor; they compete with thy neighbor; they measure themselves by the measure of their own neighbor. Everything has to be standardized to the oath of the beholder.

Well, what about the beholder who is in heaven? We have to be aware of his presence (14). That's why he gives us his knowledge and faith to work with him, because by faith we are tethered to his Oath, we are tethered to his perspective. Jesus Christ is our lifeline.

This is what Enoch saw, that there was a particular tethering to the righteous that took on the form, which looked like (to him) like ropes. When we view a sunset you see the rays of the sun, as the sun is setting, its rays keep the time of darkness. . .as the darkness begins to encroach. . .the sun is setting and the darkness is now coming. There's a certain tethering that remains until the sun is completely over the horizon.

Or like the rays of the sun breaking through the clouds after a storm; it's like a tethering to this dimension. That's what Enoch saw, and this is also what the Spirit of the Lord is revealing regarding our tethering to the Son of God. He erased the clouds of our ignorance, and the light of his countenance shines in our hearts that we no longer are working in the rhythm and time zone of the flesh; we're working in the rhythm and time zone of the Spirit, the Eternal Spirit.

Satan keeps the ignorance of the sinner tethered to Satan's time zone, the age of the impious, and they behold everything from that perspective, even persecuting the righteous.

<sup>13</sup> Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

#### "I know your works"

the works (again) have to do with the faith of the priesthood.

If you're severed from the stewardship, your priesthood becomes invalid. Even as Aaron, if he were to say, Well Moses, even though you're my younger brother, yet I perceive that the priesthood has been granted to me. So, I really don't need you anymore. You can go ahead and retire.

Now, we have people saying the same thing today in the house of Baal. The house of Baal says, Well, we really don't need apostles today (16). Yet I find it difficult to understand that these people, who claim to have great intelligence of the scriptures, can come up with such a crazy conclusion of madness. This is their folly. Whereas they don't see this in the Bible, yet they say that they uphold everything in the Bible.

They say, We don't need apostles today. They say, Tongues aren't for today. And their service to God, being independent from the light, takes on its own form, or, its own entity of living. Every denomination is like a different mushroom; it takes on a life of its own, like its own entity. And that's the spirit that's ruling over it. Their perspective of life, or that particular entity, takes up a perspective within them, a new life begins to emerge within them; not the life of God, but a different life, which requires physical contact points. And their holiness is involved in their frailty, rather than in the holiness of Christ.

That's why they preach that the journey is in trying to find themselves and trying to achieve a level of holiness to be accepted of God. But holiness is not in the achieving of it, it's in the practicing of it. They're on the journey of seeking it; we're in a journey of partaking of it.

We are a migrating species from the bosom of the Father to the bosom of the Father. But that which is of the flesh, their migration ends at the time of death, as the worms consume the corpse in the grave. That is the time element of their power.

But the time element of the power of Christ is revealed to us from day to day, and it doesn't end at the passage of death. Why, that's just the beginning of our reward: "He that overcomes shall inherit all things"<sup>14</sup>

#### "I know thy works"

with regards to the priesthood; the God-Code being connected to faith (18) continues to bring substance within the soul—not independent of God, but because you're joined with God, the soul, as a hungry baby, is continually crying out to be fed. And you're feeding it with the good things of heaven. The bread of heaven will satisfy the soul.

The things of this earth, being temporary, satisfy the flesh, but they don't bring life to the soul. So, the soul, being empty of the tokens of God, only becomes the place of the habitation of unclean things; even as the city of Babylon becomes the hold of every evil creature, every demonic creature and winged fowl that is unclean.

<sup>14</sup> Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

So, the caverns of the soul of the sinner becomes the habitation of every unclean thing—every offense, every endeavor, every experience becomes nothing more than a bondage.

"I know thy works,"

as regarding your faith being joined to the God-Code, and functioning in your priesthood, "and where you dwell"

concerning the assembly.

"was my faithful martyr"

I know the design of your soul, that it must remain consistent with the knowledge that the first apostles gave you;

"and where you dwell, even where Satan's seat is:"
going on in verse 13—
"and you hold fast my name"
regarding the kingdom and this knowledge
"and have not denied my faith,"
that is, of the covenant;
"even in those days wherein Antipas"
which was an elder there in Pergamos

Antipas stood against the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. But because the preachers of unrighteousness dominated the thinking of the people and were robbing the hearts of the people, particularly the new converts, they began to sow discord and separation, like Diotrephes did in 3<sup>rd</sup> John.

Diotrephes was in a position like Antipas, but Antipas was a righteous man. Diotrephes took a stand against the chief apostle (against John) and against the stewardship because Diotrephes wanted to reset the record (20); he wanted the record to reflect his [own] oath, and not the Oath of Christ. And because of his ignorance and not continuing to be steadfast, he was a great achiever of the aspiration, but he was a low achiever regarding his faith.

If you're a great achiever of your aspiration, know this for a fact, that you will lose your life. And this is what Jesus said; "He that finds his life shall lose it, but he that loses his life for my sake" (and my kingdom), he shall find it." (Mat 10:39; 16:25)

He that finds his life has to do with the key of his aspiration. When you find sources, those things you resource with your aspiration, you become louder and louder with this, to the point where it drowns your faith. And he that finds his aspiration, shall lose his life. But he that loses his aspiration because of the covenant and faith in me, he will find his life.

That means, the things of my kingdom begin to dawn on him, and my tokens are granted to him freely because he's overcoming himself. He's not distracted by the shouts of this world (the kingdoms of this world, which are always trying to gain the attention of the righteous to keep them looped to the things of death).

So, Antipas was a faithful martyr simply because he was consistent with the kingdom of God. And he refused the knowledge of the ministers of unrighteousness, which portraying themselves as ministers of righteousness, yet their works testify against them...that they're ministers of unrighteousness – [2Pet chapter 2], that the standard they were setting for the faith of the saints was looped in the things of their own carnality (those things of that first covenant). They were trying to find God through types and shadows, rather than seeing the Lord through covenant.

We who walk in covenant behold the face of the Lord everyday because we are tethered to the things of the Spirit; we are tethered to the rhythm of God's kingdom by faith in Jesus Christ. So, we behold the face of the Lord through these tools, that through these things we are able to weigh spiritual things with spiritual (22).

But the carnal minded, the natural man, those who live by instinct, see no value in the things of the Spirit because they're foolishness to him, as Paul brings out. The things of the Spirit are foolishness to them because [those things] don't work in rhythm with their aspiration; they see no value in that.

They try to bring the things of this world (the wisdom of this world and the spirit of this world) into the church with carnal things (observing the Sabbath Day, circumcision, tithing, communion, baptism). And with these carnal things fables begin to abound in the church, which the apostles said would be the most evident where the apostate church would be standing against the stewardship of the government of God, despising government (Peter and Jude both said that.<sup>15</sup>, <sup>16</sup>); they would despise government and (turn to) the prevalence of fables.<sup>17</sup>

And fables are prevailing today because of the absence of stewardship as they attribute the prosperity of their particular doctrines they're embracing, particularly tithing, and healings, and deliverance; instead of that which is immersed within the covenant, it's severed from the covenant by the selection of the text.

By the selection of the text there's a point of ownership; just like Satan took ownership of the text, and he said, "If you be the Son of God, cast yourself down, for it is written". Satan was taking ownership of that text in Psalms there, 18,19 and was applying it to Jesus' circumstances. This is what the children show of unrighteousness do today.

They find 7000 promises in the Bible, and then they take ownership of the text (apart from covenant), and they extrapolate from that and bring nothing more than confusion and conflict in the soul by making these promises...that the promise is in the text, they say, because the Bible says it. But the promises are not in the text, they're in the covenant. The scriptures are written (24) only to show us and to help us understand the

<sup>15 &</sup>lt;u>2Pet 2:10</u> But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous [are they], self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

<sup>16</sup> Jude 1:8 Likewise also these [filthy] dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

<sup>17</sup>\_2Tim 4:4 And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

<sup>18</sup> Mat 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

19 Psm 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

rhythm of the Spirit, not to replace the rhythm of the Spirit. That's why we live by faith and not by sight.

Those that live by sight are living by the text (the precept) and the carnal tools. Those that live by faith (we) are living by the things that are from above. That's where we set our affection.

Jesus made the same distinctions in his teachings in the first century when he said to the Jews, "Don't think like the Gentiles think; they're always thinking on the scale of probabilities—profits and loss—they're always thinking about tomorrow, rather than thinking about today—pleasing God."<sup>20</sup>

The prayers that we make today is what Jesus is emphasizing. That's why he says at the end of that exhortation [Matt chapters 5 & 6], "Therefore, when you pray, pray thus: our Father, which art in heaven, holy is your name; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

That means that the souls of the righteous will continually reflect the perceptions of the throne and not reflect the evil conscience of man. For those that continually select the text and the precept, continually struggle with their conscience, trying to bring the conscience into line with what the text says, which Paul says, is will-worship.<sup>21</sup>

The Apostle Paul calls that will worship because all they're doing is bending the will, smiting the conscience with the moral code for the purpose of bringing the moral code in subjection to spiritual things. But that won't happen. That will never happen. That's the struggle of the conscience of those that are outside of covenant.

The books of the unrighteous flood the markets for the purpose that they're addressing those that are not in covenant. The 9 steps, the 12 steps, the 10 steps, of how to find the will of God...Here is a person that's in darkness telling people that they're walking in light. That's what Jesus warned about concerning the blind leading the blind (26). Those people you let alone because they have already found an expression of their aspiration through their religion, rather than finding faith in covenant......Going on here......

#### **14:** "But I have a few things against you,"

These were those that came in covenant by the preaching of the apostles, but because of the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes taking root there, and the doctrine of Balaam, which has to do with the severing of government, these people wanted to live independently of government. They say, Well, God called me, and I don't have to listen to you, John (the

<sup>20</sup> Eph 4:17-19 ¶ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, (18) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: (19) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

<sup>21 &</sup>lt;u>Col 2:20-23</u> Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, **(21)** Touch not; taste not; handle not; **(22)** Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men **(23)** Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in **will worship**, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Apostle John); Well, if God called me, why do I have to listen to Apostle John? I'm just going to do my ministry.

The thing of it is, is that every calling that God gives is always in respect to the stewardship, never severed from it.

When God selected Moses as a vessel to express his mind through to the children of Israel, those who also felt they had a calling of God started standing against Moses. Even as Balaam; Balaam had a call of God as a prophet, but he used that position, not only to confirm, but he did not conform to Moses. And he refused circumcision, which had to be done in order for him to enter the camp...because you cannot observe the things of this covenant without circumcision. That was a law, and it's still a law today.

You cannot enter the house of the Lord without your circumcision; "You must have this token as a ticket, or a pass, into my house."

Many people possess certain vessels, but their vessels are empty. And those whose vessels are empty will always cry without saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us". And then the Lord's going to say, I would open to you, but your vessel is empty; you can't come in here. You possess no token as a gift in my courts. Therefore, your presence here is an offense to me, because you did not take forethought regarding what was required.

And this (of course) has to do with the parable of the ten virgins; five were wise, and five were foolish. The foolish ones took no oil in their lamps, but the wise took oil in their lamps. Those, which were foolish, tried to use the tokens of other people (28).

And this is what people do today; they try to use association for credibility. And God says, You cannot use association for credibility, for every man shall stand before me according to his own works, not the works of somebody else. Just because you're a pastor's son doesn't mean you have immediate interest in my kingdom because I have no respect of persons. I don't identify you by your flesh; I only identify you by that which you mirror of my kingdom. I must see my face in you.

So, Antipas was a faithful martyr because he stood against those who were embracing the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, particularly the priests who were converted to Christianity and (yet) continually wanted to maintain the traditions of Moses. They were mingling covenants.

People today are doing the same thing; they're mingling covenants. And by doing that, they're children of wrath. We see that in every cult.

A cult is a culture in and of itself. That's where the word, cult, comes from; it springs from a different culture, by taking one culture and bringing that into a different culture. So, they take the knowledge of God, which is of the tree of God, they break the branch, and then they plant it in another location.

But Jesus says, "I am the vine and you are the branches"<sup>22</sup>. "You must remain within me. You can't spring out a culture of your own." And denominationalism is a culture; it's a culture all to itself. It's roots are in its founders, built upon those commentaries, and concordances, and they even rewrite the Bible in order to confirm their own culture. But the scriptures only confirm the rhythm of the Spirit, not the culture of man. It confirms the culture of God.

The culture of man has been titrated by Satan's presence. Satan's presence acculturated all the thinking of man into his own culture. Yet people think that they have ownership of their own life, and they don't. "You can't serve two masters", Jesus said, "And whom you're serving right now, you're not even aware of" (30), as Jesus told the woman at the well.

Now let's look at verse 14:

#### "But I have a few things against you"

It's not that Jesus was a fault-finder; he's not finding fault regarding character. He says, I have a few things against you, and finding fault is concerning your choices. I'm not charging you (with regards to) your form, because I made you that way. If I condemned you because of the way I created you, then the fault would lie with myself. But I created you in this manner to provide a covenant. In this choice, I find fault; because you have what?

#### "But I have a few things against you, because you have there them"

These are people that emerged as leadership because of their aspiration.

Notice that when we lived in the false religious system, the people that emerged in positions of leadership were the most aggressive with their aspirations. We watched a certain culture emerge. Those loudest in their aspirations became leadership, and they led aspiration with aspiration. They were not leading people by the Spirit of God, they were leading people by their own aspirations.

They got into positions of influence, but the influence was not by the choice of God, it was by the choice of man. So, those that were put in those positions of leadership were not called of God, but they were called of man, and therefore, they sought to please man. Galatians chapter 1 talks again about that; "For if my calling", as the Apostle Paul brings out, "For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." But if my calling is of man, then it's him who I'm pleasing. But if my calling is of God, then I must please him."

And those who are in covenant are standing in the position of pleasing God through the tokens, which he has given. So, as we continue to be steadfast in the faith, God continues to issue us these rewards; these tokens are rewards—in dreams, in visions, in

<sup>22</sup>\_<u>Jn 15:5</u> I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

<sup>23</sup> Gal 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

the experiences.

God wants you to experience his kingdom, and he does this by providing tokens—the gifts, the callings, and the graces of God, which he pours out abundantly.

#### "But I have a few things against you, because you have there them" (32)

These people are titrating your faith. They're holding to the doctrine of Balaam, Balaam's teaching, which has to do with a form of engagement without commitment; that's fornication: terms of engagement without commitment.

There are people in the church that are trying to engage God by the perspective of the world. That's fornication. And then adopting the things of the world to replace the things of Christ is also adultery. The Apostle Paul brings that out, concerning the natural and the spiritual. He's using the natural courses of adultery in order to teach man how God views things spiritually.

If you are in covenant, and you're engaging, or, resourcing the things of this world, he says, then you're expending your seed senselessly. If you're to sow seed, sow it in your own soil, but if you're casting seed into the wind, then it's going to land in your neighbor's field. What good is it then? Sowing seed in your neighbor's field?

So, the doctrine of Balaam not only has to do with a calling, but (also) a severing. Balaam was chosen by God. He saw an angel; he saw into the spirit world, and he also heard the voice of the Lord. But God stood against him for his choices. Balaam's choices had to do with his own self-preservation and pleasure of life. And he taught Balak. He was teaching Balak these things because they were relatives of the Hebrew people. They were relatives, being children of Abraham. And the children of Abraham, through Keturah, also came the Midianites.

Notice the children of Israel went through the land of the Edomites, and the Moabites, and the Midianites, which were all distant relatives. But even though they were distant relatives, notice that there was war within their own family.

And that's exactly what Jesus said; those that will afflict you the most I be those that are closest to you (34). So, we can see the similarities, that there should be war in one house: daughter against her parents, parents against the children, two against three, three against two.<sup>24</sup> Jesus was giving various scenarios regarding that which the children of Israel faced after their purging.

When they came out of Egypt they went through their purging. And now they were facing a new reality; they had to face their relatives. Would the Midianites be converted into the covenant of Moses? Or, would the children of Israel be converted into the religion of the Midianites? Well, the opposite happened.

<sup>24</sup> Mat 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

As long as these two entities remained together there was always a disturbance. And when there's a disturbance in the soul, the Holy Ghost will leave. If you're not going to feed the Holy Ghost with the tokens of God and faith, then the Holy Ghost will leave you.

And he left (regarding) the children of Israel because iniquity and righteousness cannot dwell together. There's no fellowship between light and darkness, and when such agitation is there because of the angel of iniquity, the angel of righteousness will leave. And then you become enslaved to the angel of iniquity until repentance is forthcoming.

And the children of Israel began to be overcome through this form of engagement. They were there for a period of time, to where Moses, being the chief steward of the house at the time, didn't say anything because God did not allow him to say anything; this was a testing of the people.

We would look at Moses as being slow in thinking and getting things done. Why, if you think that of Moses, you would think the same thing of Jesus, whereas Mary and Martha laid blame on Jesus, saying, "Lord, if you'd have been here, my brother had not died".<sup>25</sup> They were blaming him for the death of Lazarus, weren't they.

What you view as slowness, has to do with God's choosing and (time of) testing of the heart. Slowness does not mean ignorance, but it has to do with timing. That's why we have to be longsuffering and patient in the plan of God. Patience (again) assigns that of the passage of time (36). Faith works with you as you're patient, and longsuffering (concerning) the contrary circumstances that exist, or may be very overwhelming, but you will overcome in the end; as the Apostle Paul brings out: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man." <sup>26</sup>

So even though the force of contrariness is present as you continue to endure, though you are splashed with the mud of the circumstances, yet you endure to the end, and I will cleanse you and accept you. I'm accepting you on the conditions of this covenant, and you're enduring.

That's what the children of Israel went through. They had a lot of scenarios, which God assigned to them to test them. When God brought them out of Egypt, and they passed to the Red Sea, notice that they went to a land where there was no food, there was no water. These were the circumstances, which began to contaminate their thinking, and they began to murmur against Moses, saying, Moses, if you were going to kill us, why didn't you just kill us over there? There's plenty of land for cemeteries over there. But over here, we will never be remembered.

And Moses said, God didn't bring you here to kill you; he brought you out here to test you; he brought you out here to purge you; he brought you out here to reveal himself to you. And you're going to hear his voice, and you're going to see his presence in fire, and

<sup>25</sup> Jn 11:21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

<sup>26 &</sup>lt;u>1Cor 10:13</u> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].

you're going to hear his voice, and you're going to receive his commandments, and you're going to be his people, and he will be your God. But you have to be patient to see these things.

This is what God is doing today; through faith and patience we inherit the promises. That's the pattern and rhythm of the Spirit. You have to make the choice—I'm going to accept the revelation of God, I'm going to follow the path of faith, until my joy is full. And that's exactly what Jesus taught his apostles. Jesus taught his apostles the same thing; you have to endure until the end to be saved.

So, Balaam was selected by God in order to bring about the scenario for the purpose of bringing contrariness. . . death was present in this. . . (38) there was contrariness, contrast, controversy, contradiction; there was a lot of conflict unfolding here between the Midianites and the Hebrews because (they were saying) These are cousins; after all Moses married a Midianite, so why can't we marry a Midianite? Because the law has changed now. The rules changed friends. Before, yes, it was Ok. But now it's not OK any longer.

God does the same thing with us. God will allow certain things to take place in your life, but there comes a point when he says, You can't do that any longer. The same thing that he did with the Midianites: Moses married Zipporah, and his father-in-law was a priest of Midian (Jethro). So, you can see that there would be conflict of interest here, but the conflict of interest only existed after the law of God was given to Moses. Then there was contrariness. Before there wasn't.

Moses lived there in the land of Midian; he lived there, he conversed with them, he ate at their tables, he shared his conflicts with them. But when the voice of God called to him and put him into a different scenario, (then) he was being circumcised (or) he was breaking his relationship with Midian. "I'm going to bring you from this house into my house now." So, we can see that [regarding] relationships, Jesus said, those of your own house will become your enemy.<sup>27</sup> And this is what Jesus also faced with his own brothers (his half brothers). Let's go back here now to verse 14. . .

# "But I have a few things against you, because you have there them" those that are embracing the philosophies of the house of Baal; "Trying to bring them into the kingdom of my house; they want to bring them in my temple."

Just like Ahab, or (one of the kings there) after he returned from Syria, he also wanted to have a design of the altar which he saw in Damascus, Syria. But that contaminated their faith. They had everything going for them except for these tokens of contamination—which today has to do with Satan's perspective (40).

He says, You that hold the doctrine of Balaam. So, we get a little more insight into the doctrine of Balaam as being independent of government; he had a calling on his life, but

<sup>27</sup> Mat 10:36 And a man's foes [shall be] they of his own household.

he wanted to remain independent of government to pursue his own idea of what the ministry was all about. He died in his sin. He didn't die the death of the righteous, he died the death of the wicked; he died by the sword.

"They taught Balak" this form of stumbling, "this stumbling block"

this stumbling block had to do (again) with the engaging; making barriers to the faith of the children of Israel, giving them false justification

"before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication." We talked about that.

An idol (again) has to do with the image of one's philosophy:

A flag is an image of one's philosophy,

Or a logo on the side of a building

That logo stands for the philosophies of that industry.

Well, God also has a token, or a logo, which stands as a sign of his kingdom, and that's the Holy Ghost. My logo is the Holy Ghost; my logo is invisible; my logo exists within your temple. And the industry of my Spirit will bring forth the products of my kingdom. But the Holy Ghost, which is in you—the Comforter, which is in you, has been assigned to bring forth fruit within your life.

That's why as you pray in the Spirit there's a form of communication going on between your soul and the kingdom of God. In the Spirit you speak mysteries; you speak of things that you don't understand. And that's OK; God didn't ask you to understand them, he only asked you to believe. "I want you to work with my token, not dissect it."

That's like getting a brand new car and taking it to the garage and disassembling it to find out how it works. And there are particular people that are inclined and want to do that, they want to take everything apart to see how it works. But God never called us to disassemble the Holy Ghost, He just called us to believe him (42).

#### "to eat things sacrificed unto idols"

These are the doctrines (again), that honor the moral code.

The doctrines an philosophies of this world honor the moral code. And this is where psychology comes in. The psychology of this world is always in conflict with truth, and it always will be in conflict with truth. Those that are of this world are trying to discover themselves through the knowledge of the Bible with the moral code, rather than allowing the Holy Ghost to heal them. They're trying to resolve the struggles of their conscience, but faith resolves that.

The sinner tries to resolve the struggle of the conscience by application of text, and when they make application with the text, they're putting confidence in the letter, not in the Spirit. And the letter kills. Death accompanies the letter, as Paul was warning: "If you're trying to build a relationship with God on text and precept, you're going to offend God because the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."<sup>28</sup>

28 2Cor 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter

Those that work with the Spirit will find the life of God and resolve those struggles within the conscience because faith will cleanse the conscience to where the conscience, being purged, will continually reflect the kingdom of God. It will mirror God's conscience.

When we enter into the kingdom of heaven, God accepts us on conditions of the conscience. If the conscience possesses that reflection of faith, then you're accepted; now you're accepted in the beloved, Jesus Christ.

We are not accepted on the conditions of the fractures of our own frailty. God assigned fractures of your frailty for the struggle and for the presence of death. But then God will circumcise those things from us in the second circumcision.

And also they said,

"to commit fornication."

which (again) sowing seed in another field does not profit your house.

That's what the scriptures say, "Thou shall not allow thine oxen to gender in another's field", 29 (44) because they'll take ownership of that, and you're going to suffer loss. This is teaching us two things, with regards to responsibility in physical things, and also [regarding] the kingdom of God.

That's why Jesus spoke in parables. A parable addresses two things: the struggle of the flesh in the moral code, and giving us eyes to see into the rhythm of the Spirit. Those that are of faith see the rhythm of the Spirit, but those that are carnal minded only see an application of their own struggle.

**15:** "So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate."

There it is again.

We have the deeds of the Nicolaitanes in the church of Ephesus, and now we see the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which is emerging here in Pergamos. We can see that it began to migrate from one church to another church, and that the ministers of unrighteousness began to evangelize the church in their own image with their own doctrine.

That's why the apostles had to compile. . .they wrote an epistle to those that were at Antioch and Syria to settle their conscience because there were a lot of struggles going on there. And the apostle Paul came into [one such] an assembly where there were people (who were) claiming to be sent by James. And they were claiming, "Unless you be circumcised, you can't be saved."

killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

<sup>29 &</sup>lt;u>Lev 19:19</u> Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woolen come upon thee.

And the people say the same thing today: Well, unless you tithe, God's not going to get involved with your life. That's a lie! God's involved with your life through the covenant of Jesus Christ, not through tithing. Tithing is the wrong covenant, my friend.

We tithe now in the form of prophecy, so the more you sow, the more you grow. As you continually tithe to the kingdom of God, you tithe that which is of the Spirit. Our baptism is of the Spirit. Our communion is of the Holy Ghost. Our Sabbath is of Christ, even as our baptism is of him. Everything was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The law came by Moses, but grace and truth came through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now, he says in

#### **16:** "Repent"

The word, repent (here), is in the application (46) that you have to abandon these doctrines of the Nicolaitanes and these false ministers, these ministers of unrighteousness, which are claiming to have the authority to be true apostles.

And we have that today: we have people that are claiming to be and to have the authority of the first century apostles just because they embrace the letters that they wrote. The letters that they wrote do not validate the spirit that they're using. But the Spirit, which we are resourcing, validates that the doctrines we're embracing were indeed given to us by God.

Those who are in covenant, these things that are written, only address those that are in covenant, not those that are outside of covenant. Those that are outside of covenant are taking mail from the neighbor's mailbox. Those that are IN the covenant are receiving the mail that is addressed to them. If you were to steal mail from somebody else's mailbox, that's a federal offense. You're opening somebody else's mail; that has nothing to do with you.

This is what those in the house of Baal do; the house of Baal stops the mailman on his route and says, Do you have any mail for me?

No, I'm sorry, there's only mail for the house down the street—the house of our Lord. Well, why don't you give the mail to me, and I'll give it to them.

This is what the house of Baal does; they're taking the letters, which God has given to the church, they're taking into their own residence and trying to make application with it. But the letter's not even addressed to them.

These epistles were not addressed to, Whomsoever—to whomsoever this concerns; it doesn't say that at all. It says, "Unto the church of ". It's addressing those that are in covenant. It's addressing those that were founded by the apostles. But now the apostles are bringing them back under their wing. The Apostles James<sup>30</sup> and Peter<sup>31</sup> both bring out that these epistles are written to those that are scattered abroad, and who came into the knowledge of Christ. But now being scattered abroad, they have broken the bone.

<sup>30 &</sup>lt;u>Jas 1:1</u> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are *scattered abroad*, greeting. 31 <u>1Pe 1:1</u> ¶ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers *scattered throughout* Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

"Come back into this stewardship, and heal thyself; do these things, for if you embrace these things, you shall be saved (48)." That's exactly what Paul wrote to Timothy<sup>32</sup>

#### "Repent; or else I will come unto you quickly,"

That means, "My eyes are here to behold your choices; if I see that you, at this time, embrace this knowledge, which the angel has given (that the angel was given by the angel of the Lord), written to the stewardship of the Apostle John (notice that the Apostle John received it to give to them), and upon receiving this letter, if you work with the grace of God, then you will gladly receive this rebuke.

That's what the scriptures say; rebuke, resort, and reproof, with all authority.<sup>33</sup> You see that in Titus 2:15; "Let no man despise thy youth", as he's telling Titus; "Don't assess things according to the eyes of the world. Those that are of the Spirit will be able to see that these things are indeed of the Spirit. So, rebuke, exhort, "and with all longsuffering and doctrine"<sup>34</sup>. It takes the stewardship to do this. The Holy Ghost individualizes through the gifts of the Spirit, concerning edification, exhortation, and comfort in the assembly.

But those that are in the false religious system want the Holy Ghost in order to give them doctrine for correction, and it doesn't come that way. When the Apostle Paul wrote that down, it was coming from the position of stewardship. Notice that the Holy Ghost did not teach the church self-correction. The Holy Ghost does not do that.

The Holy Ghost, his job is for the purpose of regeneration, that you would work with him in building the house of God. But reproof of truth comes through stewardship: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and it's profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness" Where does it come from? It comes from the stewardship.

But we have those in the false religious system (that are) under the delusion that the Holy Ghost is going to teach them everything. If that's true, then why are they in conflict with God? The Holy Ghost does not give things that are contrary to God (50); Satan does that. So,

"Repent; or else I will come unto you quickly"

And the eye of the Lord will be present to see your choice,
"and I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

I will resist those who contest against me, even the false elders.

"with the sword of my mouth"

because I will fight against them with dreams and visions. And I will frustrate their folly,

<sup>32&</sup>lt;u>1Ti 4:16</u> Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

<sup>33</sup> Tts 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

<sup>34</sup>\_2Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

<sup>35 2</sup>Tim 3:16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

and I will call them to accountability. Those that resist my grace, "I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth".

"I am he that has a sharp sword with two edges"; remember he says that in verse 12? He's identifying not only the circumcision of the heart, but also the judgments of the chastisements.

#### 17: "He that has an ear"

Those who are humbled to grace will see this; those that are seeing God out of a pure heart, a heart full of faith, they will behold the face of the Lord. But those who continually embrace the aspiration with the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes will not behold the face of God.

"He that has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says unto the churches;"
That is, that which the Spirit reveals versus the carnal. So,
"He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; To him that overcomes"

See that language again?

What are we overcoming? You have to overcome yourself by this reproof, rebuke, this reproof of doctrine. He that overcomes his feelings, the feelings of being reproved by the Lord.

Now, whom the Lord loves he chastens, because he loves them. If the Lord doesn't chasten you, then you're standing on the wrong side of the fence.

We do not chastise our neighbor's children. And neither does God chasten the sinner. He judges the sinner in his wrath, but he chastens his own children. "For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives" (Heb 12:6); chastening, scourging, cleansing, purging—the whip of the truth upon the soul continues to address (or adjust) your perspective.

When your perspective begins to change in the things of the Lord, then he will chastise you, as also Apostle Paul brings out in Philippians, chapter 4. (chapter 3, esp. 3:15)<sup>36</sup>

#### "To him that overcomes" (52)

his feelings of this form of chastisement, and the form of rebuke, and the form of reproof of this doctrine.

You have to sever yourself from the spoilers: "Come out from among them"<sup>37</sup>. You have to sever yourself from the spoilers. So, when the Lord said that, in Rev 18:4, "Come out from among them" ("from her"—Babylon)<sup>38</sup> he says, "Those that behold the judgments of

<sup>36 &</sup>lt;u>Phil 3:15</u> Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

<sup>37 &</sup>lt;u>2Cor 6:17</u> Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,

<sup>38</sup> Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

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God and accept them as the judgments of God have to leave the house of Satan. You can no longer remain there."

These were people that received the illumination of his grace, but never committed themselves to build in covenant because people confuse illumination with conversion. The house of Baal confuses illumination with conversion.

Even the apostles were illuminated to the grace of God, and Jesus affirmed that. But then Jesus told Peter, "after you are converted, strengthen your brethren" "You must receive this know, which I have giving you, and I want you to build on this for the confidence of your hope. After my death and after my ascension, you're going to be in leadership—You, James, and John, I have appointed as leadership—chief stewards. So, you will strengthen your brethren with these words. Even as I was also strengthened of my Father when I was in the garden.

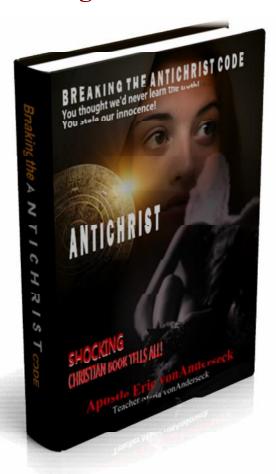
He sent his angel to strengthen me regarding the sufferings that I'd have to face for your salvation. So, also, I'm strengthening you by the words of my Father. As my Father has loved me, so have I loved you. I want you to continue in my love."

<sup>39</sup> Lk 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

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# Covenant Faith: Three Simple Steps to Making a Decision To Follow Christ

Everyone comes to a point in their life where they want to know more about God. Some people say they want to get closer to God. Some say they sense something missing in their faith. Others say they are desperately trying to fill a void in their life. However you say it, God has been ministering to you and calling you to Him for a long time.

You may have tried different religions or churches, looking for God. Or maybe you tried to find God in nature. But no matter what you tried, you always came back to the same place of emptiness, feeling there should be something more to life.



Regardless of how much life or religion has disappointed you, God was there time and again, encouraging you not to give up. He was there telling you that He would help you. There is a Psalm that says, "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy," Psalm 64:1. And another favorite is, "Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust," Psalm 16:1.

So, here you are. All those moments of intervention on God's part (His grace) has brought you to this point where your faith is about to embark on the final journey home.

Covenant Faith in Jesus Christ is that journey. It is vital that you understand what happened when Jesus shed His blood, and what His death and resurrection means to God. God wants to save, heal, and deliver you. God wants to remove you from Satan's kingdom of darkness where you were spiritually

imprisoned by his lies. God invites you to have a personal relationship with Him in His

kingdom, where He will accept you as His child and free you of the hold Satan has on you. God's invitation is to free you to Him.

Covenant Faith is a simple faith to walk. You'll learn what it means to become a Christian, and how it is possible to please God and live the kind of life He wants you to live every day. You'll learn how easy it is to have a personal relationship with God as you walk in your spiritual priesthood. The truth of Jesus Christ will be broken down for you in ways you never thought possible. God will begin to answer many questions that you had about Him and the purpose of your existence.



Let's now go through a few steps that will guide you to make a faith decision to follow Jesus Christ in the new way of His covenant.

# Step One: Understand Where You Are Spiritually and How You Got There

For most, life's journey is not an easy one. It is much like being on a ship, drifting through thick fog; you feel lost and uncertain of your future. Every time the waves threatened to capsize your ship you cried out, "God, where are you?! I can't see through this fog, and the waves are too high for me! Help me!"

This cry the soul makes for God is desperately repeated thousands of times every day. The Psalmist said, "Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation," Psalm 27:9.

## What the Bible Says About Man's Condition



Man's separation from God is a direct result of Adam having accepted Satan's promises. Satan gave Adam knowledge for his mind to work with that was a direct contradiction to the things God had told Adam. God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and Satan said, "Yes, but. . . if you eat of this tree you will get what you want."

Satan offered Adam knowledge (promise) that worked with what Adam wanted and by that knowledge, Satan taught

Adam how to work around what God had said. In this way Satan took captive Adam's mind, and this is why all Adamites today are prisoners to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

This is what God said: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die," Genesis 2:17. God breaks sin down for us: Sin is the kingdom of Satan that Adam joined himself to by reaching for Satan's promise. There is no life in Satan's kingdom, only death.

Nothing about sin has changed since the garden. Satan continues to promise liberty, but his promise is a bondage to our self image, which brings uncertainty, works doubt in the heart, and causes man to live in fear.

Knowing these things makes the choice for life easy. Choose life by choosing to enter into God's kingdom by coming into covenant with Him.

## Step Two: Recognize the Voice of God Calling You

**Did you know:** Everyone has heard the voice of God calling them out of Satan's kingdom many times. This call is the most wonderful and sweet thing imaginable. It is like a call home, a longing to be with God, a knowing that you were created for something other than what you are now experiencing.

God's call to you is special. But it's only when you stop and listen that you can hear Him more clearly. You may be wondering, If God has been calling me all my life. why has it been so difficult to find him?



The reason for this difficulty is that Satan has been there too.

Every time you heard God calling you, Satan was there hanging around, listening, just like he did in the garden when God spoke to Adam. Satan designed many spiritual paths hoping you would choose one and get lost, looking for God's purpose in the wrong place.

This is why some think God's call is a call to spirituality and begin to search into everything spiritual, while others think it's a call to find themselves and begin a journey of self discovery.

It's hard to find God's true spiritual path of the covenant when Satan volunteers to be our path finder. It's like taking a trip to a faraway place. You're trying to find your way to the tourist center when this man walks up to you and tries to sell you an all-inclusive package to visit the wonderful and exotic places that only he knows about.



Everything sounds adventurous and

exciting, and you trust this guy because he appears to know what he is talking about. But you haven't seen the posters around town warning tourists not to trust themselves to this murderer and thief.

In the same way, when people hear the call of God, Satan is there to send them on another journey far away from God. How do you know that is true? Because you come back to the same struggle, the same questions, the same emptiness, and the same disappointments. Does this describe your condition today?

#### God's Call Into Covenant With Him

A call into covenant is a call into Christ for the salvation of our souls. The Bible says that God created man in His image and likeness: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness," Genesis 1:26. When Adam accepted Satan's knowledge, he lost the likeness of God and gained Satan's mindset.

Just as a father would be disappointed in a son who follows another path, because the father no longer sees in his son an image of himself, so God, in the same way, is disappointed with man.

When He looks at man's soul he does not see a likeness of Himself. What does he see? He sees the likeness of Satan. This is the likeness man gained after Adam's fall: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23.

Jesus knows this to be true. This is why he referred to Satan as the "father" of the sinner (John 8:44). All sinners shall have their portion in the lake of fire because that is Satan's destiny. Nothing of Satan can be allowed into God's kingdom.

To change this, God provided man with a way back to Him. God gave man a chance to regain the likeness of God. God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of the world, thereby offering forgiveness by a covenant of blood.

#### John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

#### Hebrews 13:20-21

"Now the God of *peace*, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting *covenant*, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

#### 2 Corinthians 3:18

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same *image* from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

God is calling to you to believe the testimony of Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus is the Messiah, the Saviour. He is the one who was prophesied to make reconciliation for the sins of the world, to blot out your transgressions, and to join you back to God through Himself.

Jesus shed His blood to provide the terms or grounds of the Second Covenant to sanctify your faith, that your faith may be pleasing to God.

Jesus rose again from the dead to establish a new priesthood in Himself, a living priesthood of knowledge to establish your communion with Him by this knowledge, that God might change you into His image by the power of the Holy Ghost.

You must believe this report and be baptized with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues. It is by this engrafting of the Holy Spirit in you that you gain His likeness.

### Step Three: Make the Decision to Come Into Covenant With God

Jesus said, "him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out," John 6:37. God makes it easy for you to come to Christ that God might establish His testimony in you. All you need to do is respond to His grace and accept His invitation. If you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and if you desire God's forgiveness of sins, I invite you to respond to His grace by praying this prayer right now.

### **PRAYER**

Almighty God, I humbly come before your throne of grace. I believe the testimony of Jesus Christ; that He is the Messiah, the Savior, that He is the one who was prophesied to come to seal our faith and make us complete in Him, and that it is His sacrifice that blots out our transgressions. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died to make reconciliation for the sins of the world to join me back to You through Himself.

I believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood to provide the terms or grounds of the Second Covenant to sanctify my faith, that my faith may be pleasing to You. I believe that Jesus rose again from the dead to establish a new priesthood in Himself, a living priesthood of knowledge to establish my communion with You by this knowledge that I might be changed into His image by the power of the Holy Ghost.



I ask that You forgive me for walking contrary to your covenant for I ignorantly worshiped what I did not understand. It is You that put a difference between truth and error, darkness and light, and I choose to leave the kingdom of sin and enter into your kingdom.

I am tired of living by Satan's lies, and I desire to walk on the true path of faith in Jesus Christ whereby I can regain your likeness. I accept your knowledge of faith and ask that You baptize me in the Holy Spirit and assist me to pray in tongues.

If you have prayed this prayer with faith in your heart, then God has forgiven you of your sins and declared you righteous. He will now seal your faith with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and you will begin to speak in tongues that you may begin a relationship with Him.

## God's 4-Step Program

To convert you to Christ God is bringing you through 4 steps of His own to claim you as His child.

- 1. The first step is *grace*: Grace is His voice that you are hearing right now, calling you. That is God's part, to provide you grace that you may believe in Jesus. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
- 2. The second step is *faith*: That is your part. God's invitation to come into covenant is made effective upon grace entering into your heart. You need to yield to the grace of God and accept it. Your confession of faith means that you believe the testimony of Jesus Christ. *Ephesians* 2:8-9
- 3. The third step is *righteousness*: Upon seeing your heart of faith yielding to His grace God declares you righteous; you have met the standard God placed in His Son for faith to reflect Him, and you are now ready for the final step to come into covenant with God. *Romans* 4:6,9,12
- 4. The fourth step is the *seal* of the Spirit: The seal of the Spirit is the baptism of the Spirit evidenced by tongues. God needs to bring your faith into the house of Jesus Christ where He can properly care for you and nurture you. *Romans 4:11; Ephesians 1:13*

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