

## WINTER HAVEN CHAPEL

### BROWNSVILLE, TX.

## OUR TROUBLES ARE ACHIEVING FOR US AN ETERNAL GLORY?

**2 COR. 4:17** FOR OUR LIGHT AND MOMENTARY TROUBLES ARE ACHIEVING FOR US AN ETERNAL GLORY THAT FAR OUTWEIGHS THEM ALL.

THIS MORNING I AM GOING TO SHARE WITH YOU SCRIPTURE FROM THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENT THAT SHOWS WHAT JESUS AND THE PEOPLE WERE TALKING ABOUT AND DOING SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO THE CRUCIFIXION.

THE FIRST SET OF SCRIPTURE GOES BACK TO KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR OF BABYLON [630 TO 562] BEFORE THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD BECOME THE “ROD OF GOD’S WRATH” BY CONQUERING THE LAND OF JUDAH BECAUSE OF THE JEWISH’S PEOPLE FAILURE TO SERVE HIM.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR BURNED THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON AND EVENTUALLY CARRIED MOST OF THE YOUNG JEWISH PEOPLE BACK TO BABYLON AS SLAVES. IN JEWISH HISTORY THIS IS CALLED THE “BABYLONIAN EXILE”

HERE I WANT TO INSERT SIX THINGS THAT HAVE JUST HAPPENED OR ARE ABOUT TO HAPPEN THAT I BELIEVE WILL HAVE PROFOUND EFFECT ON OUR LIVES.

ONE - SEVERAL YEARS AGO IN ISRAEL THE PEOPLE ELECTED A SANHEDRIN, THE RELIGIOUS HEADS OF THE HEBREW RELIGION.

TWO - THIS LAST WEEK AFTER TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES TO SERVE IN THE TEMPLE THEY HAVE PURCHASED A HERD OF GOATS.

THREE - THEY HAVE DRAWN UP PLANS FOR A RAMP THAT GOES UP TO THE TEMPLE MOUNT HILL WITH OUT GOING ACROSS THE LAND THAT THE MAUSOLEUM MOSQUE IS ON CALLED THE “DOOM OF THE ROCK” THEY ARE READY TO IMPLEMENT THESE PLANS. THIS IS CAUSING RIOTING IN THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM BY THE PALESTINIANS EVEN THOUGH OUR PRESS DOES NOT THINK IT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO COVER, THE MOSLEMS FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS ALL MEANS.

FOUR - THE PLANS FOR WHAT CHRISTIANS CALL THE TRIBULATION TEMPLE, THE JEWS CALL THE THIRD TEMPLE ARE COMPLETE, MATERIALS HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE AND WORK IS READY TO BEGIN ON THE TEMPLE.

AND THE FIFTH ITEM - THIS PASSEOVER SEASON, PASSEOVER IS APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> THE JEWISH PEOPLE WILL OFFER SACRIFICES TO GOD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY 1,910 YEARS IN THE TEMPLE AREA. THE LEADERS SAID THAT WHILE THE ACTION, EVEN IF MERELY SYMBOLIC, IS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE IN A WAY THAT IS OBVIOUS TO ALL THAT THE EXPECTATION OF TEMPLE RITUALS WILL RESUME IS REAL, AND NOT JUST TALK.

6<sup>TH</sup> ITEM -I HAVE SHARED WITH YOU IN THE PAST MONTH THAT IN THE NATION OF SUDAN MORE THAN 1,000,000 MOSLEMS HAVE TURNED TO CHRIST. THIS PAST WEEK IRANIAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD WENT THERE ON A TWO-DAY STATE VISIT TO FORGE A MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE BETWEEN IRAN AND SUDAN, TO DENOUNCE ISRAELI JEWS AS CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL AND TO DENOUNCE THE UNITED STATES FOR TRYING TO PLANT "SEEDS OF SECTARIAN DISCORD" THROUGHOUT IRAQ AND THE MIDDLE EAST.... HE WENT ON TO SAY "THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE WORLD THAT SUFFERS FROM DIVISIONS AND WARS UNLESS AMERICA OR THE ZIONISTS' FINGERPRINTS ARE SEEN THERE."..

I HOPE WE CAN ALL UNDERSTAND THE REAL MEANING OF THIS, THE DISCORD THAT HE IS SPEAKING OF IS CHRISTIANITY, AND IT WILL NOT BE ALLOW TO FLOURISH FOR LONG IN THE LANDS THAT HE CONTROLS.

THIS ALL LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THERE IS A SPIRITUAL WAR THAT IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE THAT IS GREATER THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED.

SO NOW LET US GO BACK 2,500 YEARS AGAIN TO THE BABYLONIAN EXILE. THIS IS ALL RECORDED IN **2 KINGS 25:1-17** SO IN THE NINTH YEAR OF ZEDEKIAH'S REIGN, ON THE TENTH DAY OF THE TENTH MONTH, NEBUCHADNEZZAR KING OF BABYLON MARCHED AGAINST JERUSALEM WITH HIS WHOLE ARMY. . . . . <sup>11</sup>NEBUZARADAN THE COMMANDER OF THE GUARD CARRIED INTO EXILE THE PEOPLE WHO REMAINED IN THE CITY, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE POPULACE AND THOSE WHO HAD GONE OVER TO THE KING OF BABYLON. <sup>12</sup>BUT THE COMMANDER LEFT BEHIND SOME OF THE POOREST PEOPLE OF THE LAND TO WORK THE VINEYARDS AND FIELDS . . . . . <sup>14</sup>THEY ALSO TOOK AWAY THE POTS, SHOVELS, WICK TRIMMERS, DISHES AND ALL THE BRONZE ARTICLES USED IN THE TEMPLE SERVICE. <sup>15</sup>THE COMMANDER OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD TOOK AWAY THE CENSERS AND SPRINKLING BOWLS--ALL THAT WERE MADE OF PURE GOLD OR SILVER.

ONE OF THE YOUNG MEN TAKEN INTO SLAVERY WAS DANIEL, WHO WE KNOW AS A GREAT PROPHET. HE WAS LATER PART OF THE COURT OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR ALLOWED THE EXILED JEWS TO SETTLE ALONG THE BANKS OF THE EUPHRATES RIVER AND TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN CENTERS OF LEARNING AND WORSHIP.

BUT THE KING DIED AND HIS GRANDSON CAME TO RULE. BELSHAZZAR AS MENTIONED IN DANIEL THE 5<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER.

HE HAD THIS GREAT FEAST AND WAS DRINKING FROM THE HOLY VESSELS LOOTED BY HIS GRANDFATHER FROM SOLOMON'S TEMPLE PRAISING THE :GODS OF GOLD AND SILVER" WHEN HE AND HIS QUESTS SAW A MYSTERIOUS HAND WRITING A MESSAGE ON THE WALL.

EVENTUALLY DANIEL WOULD INTERPRETED THE WRITING AND ITS MEANING; THE END OF KING BELSHAZZAR'S REIGN AND OF THE JEWISH PEOPLES EXILE IN BABYLON.

THAT VERY NIGHT THIS ALL TOOK PLACE.

EVENTUALLY CYRUS WOULD RULE THIS AREA IN WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE KING CYRUS LOOKED ON THE JEWS WITH FAVOR. AND HE BECAME JUST AS MOSES DID BEFORE HIM, A TYPE OF MESSIAH THAT ALLOWED THE JEWS TO GO WHERE GOD WANTED THEM. HE DECREED THAT THE JEWS SHOULD RETURN TO JUDAH AND REBUILD THEIR TEMPLE. THE LEADERS OF THE JEWS DID RETURN, BUT MANY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE DID NOT.

AFTER THE DEATH OF CYRUS IN 369 YEARS BEFORE THE BIRTH OF JESUS WE SEE THE STORY OF ESTHER AS RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER. AND THE MAN THAT WOULD DESTROY THE JEWS, HAMAN. WE ALL KNOW THAT ESTHER WILL BRING DELIVERANCE FOR HER PEOPLE.

THE SUCCESS OF ALL THIS LED TO A DAY OF CELEBRATION CALLED PURIM, CALLED PURIM BECAUSE HAMAN HAD CAST LOTS TO DETERMINE THE DAY ON WHICH TO DESTROY THE JEWS. THIS CELEBRATION IS STILL PART OF THE JEWISH WORSHIP EVEN TODAY. IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN OUR TOWN LAST WEEK.

ALL OF THE ABOVE WOULD HAVE BEEN GOING ON DURING THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE.

MARK 10:17<sup>17</sup>AS JESUS STARTED ON HIS WAY, A MAN RAN UP TO HIM AND FELL ON HIS KNEES BEFORE HIM. "GOOD TEACHER," HE ASKED, "WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?"  
<sup>18</sup>"WHY DO YOU CALL ME GOOD?" JESUS ANSWERED. "NO ONE IS GOOD--EXCEPT GOD ALONE.  
<sup>19</sup>YOU KNOW THE COMMANDMENTS: 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY, DO NOT DEFRAUD, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'" <sup>20</sup>"TEACHER," HE DECLARED, "ALL THESE I HAVE KEPT SINCE I WAS A BOY." <sup>21</sup>JESUS LOOKED AT HIM AND LOVED HIM. "ONE THING YOU LACK," HE SAID. "GO, SELL EVERYTHING

YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE POOR, AND YOU WILL HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN. THEN COME, FOLLOW ME." <sup>22</sup>AT THIS THE MAN'S FACE FELL. HE WENT AWAY SAD, BECAUSE HE HAD GREAT WEALTH. <sup>23</sup>JESUS LOOKED AROUND AND SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "HOW HARD IT IS FOR THE RICH TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD!" <sup>24</sup>THE DISCIPLES WERE AMAZED AT HIS WORDS. BUT JESUS SAID AGAIN, "CHILDREN, HOW HARD IT IS TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD! <sup>25</sup>IT IS EASIER FOR A CAMEL TO GO THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE THAN FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD." <sup>26</sup>THE DISCIPLES WERE EVEN MORE AMAZED, AND SAID TO EACH OTHER, "WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED?" <sup>27</sup>JESUS LOOKED AT THEM AND SAID, "WITH MAN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT NOT WITH GOD; ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD.

A. AS WE ENTER THIS PASSOVER SEASON I WANT US TO THINK ON THESE FOUR THINGS.

- I. THE JEWS WERE CELEBRATING THEIR DELIVERY BY GOD FROM SLAVERY IN BABYLON
- II. THEY WERE GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE THEIR DELIVERY FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT.
- III. AND THE SIGNS OF THE TIME THEN; GOD WAS ABOUT TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM THE BONDAGE OF THE ROMANS.
- IV. AND TODAY MANY WHO TEACH PROPHECY ARE SAYING THAT IT IS MORE THAN POSSIBLE THAT GOD IS ABOUT TO DELIVER HIS CHILDREN FROM THE COMING DESTRUCTION OF THE PRESENT WORLD SYSTEM. WHAT THE CHURCH CALLS "THE GREAT TRIBULATION"

B. WITH THESE IN MIND, LET US HEAR THE QUESTION OF THE RICH MAN AGAIN!

- I. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?
- II. HEAR THE ANSWER? "NO ONE IS GOOD, EXCEPT GOD ALONE"
- III. THE YOUNG MAN IS LOOKING TO HIS WORKS TO BRING HIM ETERNAL LIFE. JESUS TELLS HIM WHAT HE MUST DO IF HE IS TO LOOK AT HIS OWN MERITS.
  - (1) GO YOUR WAY
  - (2) SELL ALL YOU HAVE
  - (3) GIVE TO THE POOR
  - (4) COME TO ME
  - (5) TAKE UP THE CROSS
  - (6) FOLLOW ME

- (A) EVEN IF HE DOES ALL THIS, HEAR THE WORDS OF JESUS - REALLY HEAR THE WORDS OF JESUS - NO ONE IS GOOD EXCEPT GOD ALONE.
- (B) NO MATTER WHAT THIS MAN DID, HE CAN NOT DO ENOUGH TO BE SAVED.  
THERE IS NONE GOOD BUT GOD. WHAT HE HAD TO DO WAS FOLLOW JESUS.
- C. JESUS SAYS AGAIN, "HOW HARD IT IS FOR THE RICH TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD."
  - I. HE IS REPEATING A STATEMENT THAT HE HAD JUST MADE!
    - (1) BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE RICH MAN JESUS HAD JUST TOLD THEM THESE WORDS.
      - (A) THE KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE [THOSE THAT WILL TRUST GOD]. <sup>15</sup>I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, ANYONE WHO WILL NOT RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF GOD LIKE A LITTLE CHILD WILL NEVER ENTER IT.
  - D. IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THEN AND MUCH OF THE CHURCH TODAY - PEOPLE THINK WEALTH IS A TOKEN OF DIVINE FAVOR.
  - E. JESUS NOW GIVES ANOTHER CLUE TO ETERNAL LIFE.
    - I. "WITH MAN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT NOT WITH GOD; ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD.
  - F. AND ANOTHER CLUE!
    - I. <sup>29</sup>"I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, NO ONE WHO HAS LEFT XXXXX FOR ME AND THE GOSPEL <sup>30</sup>WILL FAIL TO RECEIVE A HUNDRED TIMES AS MUCH IN THIS PRESENT AGE AND IN THE AGE TO COME, ETERNAL LIFE.
    - II. WHAT DID HE JUST SAY?
      - (1) NO MATTER WHAT YOU GIVE UP, IT IS NOT AS GREAT AS WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE, "ETERNAL LIFE, NOW AND IN THE AGE TO COME"
  - G. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS RICH MAN DID NOT GET WHAT HE WANTED FROM JESUS.
  - H. BUT HE DID, WHAT HE WANTED WAS AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, HE GOT THAT.
  - I. NOW I WANT US TO LOOK AT ANOTHER PORTION OF SCRIPTURE.
- 2. MARK 10:46 <sup>46</sup>T THEN THEY CAME TO JERICHO. AS JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES, TOGETHER WITH A LARGE CROWD, WERE LEAVING THE CITY, A BLIND MAN, BARTIMAEUS (THAT IS, THE SON OF TIMAEUS), WAS SITTING BY THE ROADSIDE BEGGING. <sup>47</sup>WHEN HE HEARD THAT IT WAS JESUS OF NAZARETH, HE BEGAN TO SHOUT, "JESUS, SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME!" <sup>48</sup>MANY

REBUKED HIM AND TOLD HIM TO BE QUIET, BUT HE SHOUTED ALL THE MORE, "SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME!" <sup>49</sup>JESUS STOPPED AND SAID, "**CALL HIM.**" SO THEY CALLED TO THE BLIND MAN, "CHEER UP! ON YOUR FEET! HE'S CALLING YOU." <sup>50</sup>THROWING HIS CLOAK ASIDE, HE JUMPED TO HIS FEET AND CAME TO JESUS. <sup>51</sup>"**WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?**" JESUS ASKED HIM. THE BLIND MAN SAID, "RABBI, I WANT TO SEE." <sup>52</sup>"**GO,**" SAID JESUS, "**YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU.**" IMMEDIATELY HE RECEIVED HIS SIGHT AND FOLLOWED JESUS ALONG THE ROAD.

I. JESUS IS ON HIS WAY TO THE CROSS - THE PIVOTAL POINT IN HUMAN HISTORY.

II. A OLD BLIND BEGGAR NEEDS HELP

(1) HE GETS IT, WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RICH MAN AND THE BEGGAR?

III. THE RICH MAN THANKS THAT HE HAS TO DO SOMETHING TO EARN IT. HE IS LOOKING TO HIMSELF FOR THE ANSWER.

IV. WHEN THE BEGGAR HEARS WHO IS COMING DOWN THE ROAD, HE GETS PRETTY EXCITED.

(1) **EPHESIANS. 2:4-5** BUT BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, GOD, WHO IS RICH IN MERCY, <sup>5</sup>MADE US ALIVE WITH CHRIST EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN TRANSGRESSIONS--IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED.

(2) **TITUS 3:5** HE SAVED US, NOT BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUS THINGS WE HAD DONE, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY. HE SAVED US THROUGH THE WASHING OF REBIRTH AND RENEWAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,

(3) **1 PETER 1:3** PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! IN HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD,

B. JESUS WILL AGAIN TELL HIS FOLLOWERS WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, AND AGAIN THEY DO NOT HEAR HIM. THE QUESTION, HOW MUCH DOES GOD SPEAK TO US TODAY AND WE DO NOT HEAR HIM?

3. MARK 10: <sup>32</sup>THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY UP TO JERUSALEM, WITH JESUS LEADING THE WAY, AND THE DISCIPLES WERE ASTONISHED, WHILE THOSE WHO FOLLOWED WERE AFRAID. AGAIN HE TOOK THE TWELVE ASIDE AND TOLD THEM WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM. <sup>33</sup>"**WE ARE GOING UP TO JERUSALEM,**" HE SAID, "**AND THE SON OF MAN WILL BE BETRAYED TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND TEACHERS OF THE LAW. THEY WILL CONDEMN HIM TO DEATH AND WILL**

HAND HIM OVER TO THE GENTILES, <sup>34</sup>WHO WILL MOCK HIM AND SPIT ON HIM, FLOG HIM AND KILL HIM. THREE DAYS LATER HE WILL RISE."

- A. LET ME REPEAT HERE AGAIN WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPENING IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AT THAT TIME.
    - I. THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN CELEBRATING PURIM - THE DELIVERANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL BY THE HANDS OF FIRST DANIEL THE PROPHET, THEN SYRUS THE GENTILE KING AND FINALLY QUEEN ESTHER. ALL THESE PEOPLE DOING THE WILL OF GOD TO BRING THE PEOPLE OUT OF THE BABYLON EXILE.
    - II. THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN STARTING TO THINK ABOUT THE GREAT YEARLY PASSOVER FEAST THAT WOULD HAVE REMINDED THEM OF THE ACTS OF MOSES, THE DEATH ANGEL THAT BROUGHT THE NATION OUT OF BONDAGE TO EGYPT.
    - III. THE GRACE OF GOD CAME TO THE CAPTIVES IN BABYLON NOT BY THE WHOLE NATION GOING TO WAR, BUT BY THE ACT OF A FEW PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONS OF GOD.
    - IV. WHILE THERE WERE MORE THAN A 1,000,000 OF THEM IN EGYPT, IT WAS NOT THEM TAKEN UP ARMS OR PUBLIC DISOBEDIENCE THAT BROUGHT THEIR FREEDOM, BUT ONE MAN MOSES FOLLOWING THE WILL AND DIRECTIONS OF GOD THAT DID IT.
  - B. NOW JESUS HAS ONCE AGAIN TOLD THEM WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO. DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER IN OFFERING HIMSELF AS A SACRIFICE FOR ALL MAN KIND.
    - I. THEY DO NOT GET IT. MUCH OF THE WORLD STILL DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS HAS ACCOMPLISHED.
4. THE REASON, MAN'S THOUGHTS ARE STILL ON HIMSELF JUST AS THE RICH MANS WERE AS SEEN AGAIN IN THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE.
- A. MARK 10:35<sup>35</sup> THEN JAMES AND JOHN, THE SONS OF ZEBEDEE, CAME TO HIM. "TEACHER," THEY SAID, "WE WANT YOU TO DO FOR US WHATEVER WE ASK." <sup>36</sup>"WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?" HE ASKED. <sup>37</sup>THEY REPLIED, "LET ONE OF US SIT AT YOUR RIGHT AND THE OTHER AT YOUR LEFT IN YOUR GLORY." <sup>38</sup>"YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE ASKING," JESUS SAID. "CAN YOU DRINK THE CUP I DRINK OR BE BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM I AM BAPTIZED WITH?" <sup>39</sup>"WE CAN," THEY ANSWERED. JESUS SAID TO THEM, "YOU WILL DRINK THE CUP I DRINK AND BE BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM I AM BAPTIZED WITH, <sup>40</sup>BUT TO SIT AT MY RIGHT OR LEFT IS NOT FOR ME TO GRANT. THESE PLACES

BELONG TO THOSE FOR WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN PREPARED." <sup>41</sup>WHEN THE TEN HEARD ABOUT THIS, THEY BECAME INDIGNANT WITH JAMES AND JOHN.

I. QUESTION? CAN I HAVE A HIGH POSITION IN THE KINGDOM?

(1) ANSWER ONE!

(A) YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU ASK!

(I) TO BE GREAT, YOU MUST DRINK THE CUP AND BE BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM THAT I AM BAPTIZED WITH.

1) THIS IS THE SEVENTH BAPTISM OF THE BIBLE. THE BAPTISM OF SUFFERING.

2) OUR SCRIPTURE LESSON TODAY SAYS THAT WHEN WE GO THROUGH TESTING AND TRIALS IT IS BUILDING A REWARD FOR US IN HEAVEN.

(II) JESUS NOW TELLS THEM THAT THEY WILL DRINK THE CUP AND BE BAPTIZED AS HE WILL BE.

1) **ACTS 12:2** HE HAD JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JOHN, PUT TO DEATH WITH THE SWORD.

2) **REV. 1:9** I, JOHN, YOUR BROTHER AND COMPANION IN THE SUFFERING AND KINGDOM AND PATIENT ENDURANCE THAT ARE OURS IN JESUS, WAS ON THE ISLAND OF PATMOS BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF GOD AND THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS.

(2) ANSWER TWO

(A) IT IS NOT FOR ME TO GRANT.

(I) THIS IS ONE OF THE CLUES ABOUT THE KINGDOM. IT ALSO TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF JESUS. JESUS WILL NOT BE ASSIGNING POSITIONS

(B) THESE PLACES BELONG TO THOSE FOR WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN PREPARED."

(I) IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED WHO WILL DO WHAT.

1) WILL MAN EVER UNDERSTAND THAT GOD IS IN CHARGE.

B. ANSWER THREE - ONE OF THE LEAST TAUGHT THINGS IN THE BIBLE

I. IF YOU ARE TO BE A CHILD OR SON OF GOD, WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT WHEN YOU GO THROUGH ETERNITY?



(1) MARK 10:42 YOU KNOW THAT THOSE WHO ARE REGARDED AS RULERS OF THE GENTILES LORD IT OVER THEM, AND THEIR HIGH OFFICIALS EXERCISE AUTHORITY OVER THEM. <sup>43</sup>NOT SO WITH YOU. INSTEAD, WHOEVER WANTS TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU MUST BE YOUR SERVANT, <sup>44</sup>AND WHOEVER WANTS TO BE FIRST MUST BE SLAVE OF ALL. <sup>45</sup>FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY."

(I) WHAT WILL THE NEW CREATION, THOSE WE CALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD DO THROUGH OUT ETERNITY.

(II) THEY WILL BE JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST.

(III) WHAT WILL JESUS THE CHRIST BE DOING.

(IV) HE WILL BE RULING, BUT NOT AS THE GENTLE RULERS DO, BUT AS GOD DOES. HE AND WE WILL SERVE OUR GOD BY SERVING NATURAL MAN.

1) THOSE THAT WE ARE GIVEN CHARGE OVER, WE WILL BE THEIR SERVANTS. INSTEAD, WHOEVER WANTS TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU MUST BE YOUR SERVANT,

2) AND THOSE WHO WANT TO BE FIRST, THOSE AT THE TOP. WHOEVER WANTS TO BE FIRST MUST BE SLAVE OF ALL.

5. WELL THEN WHAT ABOUT REWARD?

A. MARK 10: <sup>28</sup>PETER SAID TO HIM, "WE HAVE LEFT EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW YOU!" <sup>29</sup>"I TELL YOU THE TRUTH," JESUS REPLIED, "NO ONE WHO HAS LEFT HOME OR BROTHERS OR SISTERS OR MOTHER OR FATHER OR CHILDREN OR FIELDS FOR ME AND THE GOSPEL <sup>30</sup>WILL FAIL TO RECEIVE A HUNDRED TIMES AS MUCH IN THIS PRESENT AGE (HOMES, BROTHERS, SISTERS, MOTHERS, CHILDREN AND FIELDS--AND WITH THEM, PERSECUTIONS) AND IN THE AGE TO COME, ETERNAL LIFE. <sup>31</sup>BUT MANY WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST, AND THE LAST FIRST."

I. OUR REWARD IS GOING TO BE GREAT.

(1) IF GOD HAS ASKED US TO GIVE UP SOMETHING. REMEMBER THE RICH MAN, THEN GOD WILL REWARD US.

(2) PETER AND JOHN GAVE UP A FISHING BUSINESS - WHAT REWARD DID THEY GET IN THIS LIFE?

(3) PAUL SAYS AT TIMES I HAVE A LOT OF MONEY, OTHER TIMES I HAVE NONE, HE SAYS IT DOES NOT MATTER - WHAT WAS HIS REWARD WHILE HERE ON EARTH?

B. OUR REWARD IS GOING TO BE, BEING IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL MIGHTY GOD - WE ARE GOING TO BE HIS.

I. WE ARE GOING TO LEARN THE MEANING OF BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS.

II. IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE.

III. MY GREAT JOY IS DOING THE WILL OF MY FATHER.

IV. NO GREATER LOVE IS THERE THAN THIS, I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THOSE I SERVE.

FATHER THIS SEASON MAY WE SEE IN THE GIFT YOUR SON, THE REAL MEANING OF LOVE AND SERVING.

A MEN.