



THE LORD IS COMING  
*1 Corinthians 16:22*

A translated version of the International Christian periodical

# MARANATHA

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## A SPECIAL MESSAGE

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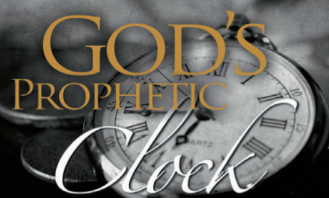
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# IT IS TIME

## TO WAKE UP AND PREPARE!



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## EDITORIAL

Esteemed readers, I greet you once again in the marvelous Name of our beloved Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for my grandfather, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., who lived desiring to see *“the day of the Lord”* (1 **Tes. 5:1-6**) or to *“be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”* (2 **Cor. 5:8**). This is why his life was dedicated to genuinely loving our beloved Lord, Christ Jesus. My beloved grandfather departed from his body to be present with the Lord on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003. This year marks 19 years that he has been with the Lord. His testimony, words, preaching, teaching, counsel, rebuke, passion and example of an intense love for the Lord were used by the Lord to encourage and provoke us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and strength, and to never offer Him leftovers.

When we truly understand who God is, what He did and is doing for us, and what He has promised to those who love Him, we will seek to wholeheartedly and joyfully obey His Word every day out of love and gratitude for Him. Let us continue to walk with Him, showing Him our intense love and desire to be in His Visible Presence one day. *“How lovely (desirable) are thy tabernacles, o Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord!”* (Ps. 84:1).

*“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple”* (Ps. 27:4). What greater

desire can there be (and one that we should have) than to covet to be in the Presence of the One who is the beloved of our soul? Among the last expressions that we find recorded in the Word of God are the words which express a great desire and longing that exists in the true Christian who loves God: *“Come, Lord Jesus!”* (Rev. 22:20).

The Lord tells you and me: *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (Jn. 14:15). With all humility and willingness, we declare: *“I can do all things through (You) Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Phil. 4:13). Amen, Lord Jesus Christ. We can do all things through the strength of your Holy Spirit! Lord, we will love and honor You by being children who are obedient to Your Holy Word!

*“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him”* (1 **Cor. 2:9**). *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have KEPT the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing”* (2 **Tim. 4:7-8**). Those who fight the good fight, who finish the race and who keep the faith are the ones who truly love the Lord Jesus and who desire His Return. We do all things for Him and to be with Him, moved by our passion for the Lord. God has glorious things prepared and reserved for those who love Him (by keeping His Word) and who love His Appearing.

*“He that hath My commandments (we have them by His Grace), and KEEPETH them, HE IT IS THAT*

*LOVETH ME: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him”* (Jn. 14:21). We have His Holy Word and it contains what the Lord demands from His beloved children. *“If you keep My commandments, ye shall abide (remain) in My love”* (Jn. 15:10). It is not enough to have His commandments, we must obey them.

The Lord declares: *“He that loveth Me not, keepeth not My Sayings...”* (Jn. 14:24). No one among the People of God would dare say with their mouth that he does not love the Lord. But in reality, what about what we do or our lack of obedience? The Lord tells us through the apostle Paul: “If any man loveth not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. Maranatha (the Lord cometh)” (1 **Cor. 16:22**). He who loves the Lord is and will be blessed, but he who does not love the Lord is accursed. Help us love you, my God!

Let us not be counted among those who *“profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient (to His Word), and unto every good work reprobate”* (Tit. 1:16). *“And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him”* (1 **Jn. 2:3-5**).

*“But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”* (Jam. 1:22). *“My sheep hear My voice (His Word), and I know them, and they follow Me (obey My*

*Word); and I give unto them eternal life...”* (Jn. 10:27-28).

In these Scriptures, we can understand that he who does not truly love God or His Return does not obey His Word. He can certainly claim to know God, but through his disobedience he denies God. He is abominable, disobedient, a reprobate and a liar, and the truth is not in him. He is accursed. He hears God’s Word but does not obey it, therefore deceives his own self.

He who truly loves God will obey Him. He will be loved by God and God will manifest Himself to him. If this person remains in God’s love, he will receive what God has prepared for him. He knows God, walks in truth and the love of God is perfected in him. He is in God and is known by God. He follows the Lord, and the Lord will give him eternal life.

*“A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a Father, where is My honour? And if I be a master, where is My fear (reverence)?”* (Mal. 1:6). *“Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he who DOETH the will of My Father which is in heaven”* (Mt. 7:21).

If we truly desire to be with the Lord when He returns, we will love Him here while we are waiting for Him by keeping His Word. We must be in Christ so that we can live as He commanded us. Be encouraged, people of the Lord! Let’s live to LOVE HIM to be with the LOVE of our life one day soon!

God bless you,  
Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■



“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (the Jewish People) and upon they holy city (the Old City of Jerusalem)” (Dan. 9:24).

I greet you with the Shalom of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are living in unique times which are the last days of the Age of God’s Grace. God’s clock is more relevant than ever as it points to the Coming of Israel’s Messiah, who by the Grace of God is also our Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Glory to the God of Israel!

I will now share some of the most outstanding and important events that have occurred during the past three months in relation to God’s People and His Holy City.

**March 29, 2022-** “*The Times of Israel*” reported the following: Five persons were assassinated by an Arab terrorist who opened fire on a group of passersby in Bnei Brak, on Tuesday night, marking the third fatal terrorist attack in Israel during the past eight days.

**April 3, 2022-** “*The Jerusalem Post*” published an article stating that the new chief investigator of the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) has compared the “Nakba” (Palestinian “catastrophe”) with the Holocaust and supports the de facto destruction of the Jewish nation-state, according to Eilon Shahar.

**April 7, 2022-** “*Israel National News*” reported the following: There are two dead and eight injured (including four persons who are in serious condition) as a result of a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

**April 10, 2022-** “*The Jerusalem Post*” informed that the anti-Semitic hate crimes in New York City have increased a surprising 92% in March of 2022 in comparison to the same month in 2021, according to new data published by New York Police Department.

# GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

**April 18, 2022-** “*Israel National News*” announced that the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, condemned Israel’s response to the violent protests which occurred on the Temple Mount during a phone call with the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, according to Russia’s official news agency, RIA.

**April 23, 2022-** “*The Jerusalem Post*” reported the following: Death threats against the Jews are openly chanted in meetings all across the United Kingdom. The Jewish leaders among the Jewish community in the United Kingdom stated that the police have no desire to enforce the law, even when the protesters openly shout death threats against Israel throughout the United Kingdom.

**April 27, 2022-** “*The Jerusalem Post*” published that even though the expression “Never Again” for many years has been associated with the commemoration of the Holocaust, almost half (47%) of the general public in Israel is worried that another Holocaust can occur to the Jewish people, according to a recent survey which was taken a few days before the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust in Israel.

**May 1, 2022-** “*Israel National News*” reported the following: Israel has reported the highest level of immigration in the past 20 years with 38,000 new immigrants moving to Israel since Israel’s Day of Independence last year.

**May 3, 2022-** “*The Jerusalem Post*” reported that among the Jewish community throughout the world one in every seven Jews is Ultra-Orthodox and it is projected that this number

will increase to 20 or 25% by the year 2040. This high percentage of increase among Ultra-Orthodox Jews has boosted their population to more than two million. This increase represents almost 80% of the increase in the total Jewish population in the world.

**May 7, 2022-** “*The Times of Israel*” announced that on Friday the Biden administration criticized Israel’s plans to build almost 4,000 new homes in the settlements located in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). President Biden stated that this measure would “deeply harm the possibility of a two-state solution.”

**May 8, 2022-** “*Israel National News*” reported the following: In light of the escalation of tension in the Transnistria region, the Jewish community of Moldavia assured that it would engage in an emergency airlift to rescue the elderly survivors of the Holocaust and those who have been wounded during the war in the Ukraine.

**May 11, 2022-** “*The Israel National News*” reported the following: The Jordanian Foreign Minister, Ayman Safadi, criticized Israel and declared that “Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine.”

**May 18, 2022-** “*Israel National News*” reported: Is Israel headed to a confrontation with Russia? A Russian attack against warplanes of the Israeli Air Force over Syria can possibly be signaling a change among bilateral relations among the two nations.

**May 22, 2022-** “*Israel National News*” published the following: A group of 420 Israeli rabbis condemned the government led by Naftali Bennett during an emergency meeting and

called for the dissolution of the current government in Israel.

**May 27, 2022-** “*The Jerusalem Post*” announced: Is the return of Netanyahu becoming more likely each day? The current status of the coalition has caused Israel’s citizens to ask if Benjamin Netanyahu will once again assume the role of prime minister in the near future.

**May 30, 2022-** “*Ynet News*” reported the following: “The reserves of enriched uranium (material used to create nuclear weapons) in Iran have exceeded the limits agreed upon in 2015 by 18 times, according to the Atomic Energy International Agency.”

**June 10, 2022-** The news agency, “*Washington Free Beacon*,” reported: The Biden administration took an important step toward counteracting the decision made by Donald Trump to move the United States Embassy to East Jerusalem. The State Department confirmed to the newspaper that it will establish a new Office of Palestinian Affairs in Jerusalem which will function independently from the office of the U.S. ambassador in Israel.

**June 15, 2022-** “*Israel National News*” reported: Russia condemned Israel three times in one day. The Russian government emitted an official statement which declared: “We find ourselves forced to emphasize the fact that the bombing carried out by Israel directed against Syrian territory is a direct violation of the basic norms of international rights and is unacceptable.”

**June 23, 2022-** “*Ynet News*” announced: Teachers of the UNRWA (United Nations Relief Works Agency, an agency established to assist Arab refugees in the Near East) incite Palestinians to assassinate Jews. Twenty new cases have been reported of employees who have incited anti-Semitism and terror against the Jews.

**Continues on page...7**





*“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light” Ephesians 5:14*

As editor of the Maranatha Christian Magazine, Pastor Efraim Valverde III has continued the practice of providing the reader with up to date headlines of the current status of the world under various categories, as inspired by the founder of the magazine, Efraim Valverde Sr (his grandfather). It was and continues to be our desire that these “alarming” headlines of the current state of the world will inspire the reader to “awaken” from any spiritual “sleep” and “arise” from amongst those who are spiritually “dead or asleep” to the “light” (guidance – spiritual awareness), that can only be achieved by drawing close to God (**James 4:8**), in order to prepare for the imminent return of *“our great God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13)*.

*“Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all they company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days thou shalt be visited...” Ezekiel 38:7-8*

## ECONOMY

United States

-US economy continues to falter in its recovery from the COVID-19 shut downs.

-The spending power of the dollar continues to drop - 15 cents in the last 2 years.

-Skyrocketing fuel cost not seen since the 1970's

-40 year high inflation rates

impacting housing, food, utilities, goods

-Rapidly increasing interest rates topped by the uncertainty and fear in the markets

### Russia-Ukraine

-The war is having a direct impact on the world economy

-Rising prices and fear amid disruption in the supply chain

-Russia exports 6.5 million barrels of oil per day

-Russia accounts for 17% of the world's natural gas production

-Russia accounts for 15% to 17% of the world's fertilizer exports

-Russian & Ukraine account for 29% of the world's wheat exports

-Russian & Ukraine account for 75% of the world's edible sunflower oils

## WORLD

-According to the World Bank, global growth continues to be impeded from the COVID-19 shut downs.

-Material supply chain bottlenecks are impacting the overall production of goods.

-Together with supply disruptions and higher food and energy prices, inflation is on the rise across many countries at an alarming rate.

# IT IS TIME TO WAKE UP AND PREPARE!

## ARMAMENT

-Rising tension amongst the world Super Powers (Russia, China, USA) has created a unprecedented demand for modern day weaponry of high sophistication – with deliberate concentration on the battle field of the present and future wars in “space”.

-The number of nuclear weapons in the world is set to rise as global tensions flare amid the Russian/Ukraine war – after 35 years of decline.

-NATO has announced that it will dramatically increase its forces on high alert to over 300,000, up from 40,000, amid the Russia threat.

-Robotic (unmanned) weapons and precision-guided munitions are in demand at the highest level from all the armed forces of the world.

## WARS & RUMORS OF WARS

-Russia – Ukraine: The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has many military strategist proclaiming that this is the beginning of World War-III.

-United States - Russia: Russia has been threatening the USA with the stationing of troops in Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba for their support of Ukraine in this conflict.

-China – Taiwan: Only 14 countries in the world recognize Taiwan as a country, and this is partly due to pressure from China with the sole purpose of annexing the island – the invasion of Ukraine by Russia has only accelerated their motive.

-United States – China: Along with its support of Taiwan, in 2021 the United States announced a new pact with Australia to build nuclear-powered submarines to counter China's aggression in the Far East.

-Israel – Palestinian: In 2021, the world saw the fourth Gaza-Israel war in just over a decade, illustrating again that the peace process is dead.

-United States (Israel) – Iran: Hope of reviving the Iran nuclear deal continues to fade. Escalation of a possible military confrontation between Israel and Iran looms. Israel has proclaimed that Iran is weeks away from nuclear capability.

## OTHER CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

-Ethiopia – TPLF Rebel Forces: Fighting has already killed tens of thousands of people and uprooted millions of Ethiopians from their homes and both sides stand accused of atrocities with the possibility of neighboring countries being pulled into the conflict.

-Islamic State – Africa: The rise of Islamic militancy in Africa has seen numerous revolts in weaker African nations supported by the Islamic State and Al-Queda.

## IMMORALITY

-Sexual depravation of all sorts, child abuse, drug use, crime,





corruption in the work place, civil disobedience, the destruction of the nuclear family, with the gender ideology and much more.

-The development of the internet has enhance the level of depravity today spreading to the younger generations that are being brain washed by their appetite for the social networks.

-The infiltration by supporters of the homosexual life-style in the Education Department of USA and many other nations has further championed immorality.

### HUNGER

-In 2021, about 193 million people in 53 countries/territories experienced acute food insecurity (hunger) at crises levels or worse – 40 million people more when compared to 2020.

-Worldwide, 1 in 5 deaths among children under 5 years old is attributed to severe acute malnutrition.

-Conflicts amongst nations, extreme weather patterns, economic disparities and the Corona Virus are main drivers behind the rise of food shortages worldwide.

-The war in Ukraine has exacerbated the global food insecurity.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

-The mention of the advancement of Space Technology (space travel, satellites, Hubble telescope, solar cell advancements)

-The discovery of the metaverse and digital communication beyond the cell phone and internet (virtual reality).

-Robotic Techniques have

revolutionized surgeries.

### RELIGION

-Amongst the so-called “civilized Christian nations”, beginning with the USA, most have distinguished themselves by their spiritual corruption noted by their ever-growing number of religions, doctrines, cults, and every type of mind-set one can imagine.

-In the USA, support for Israel among young Evangelicals dropped from 75% in 2018 to 34% in 2021.

-Many countries in Western Europe have far lower levels of belief in God. This is according to a 2019 Pew Research Center study referencing belief in God in the following countries as follows: Germany 60%, the UK 58%, and France 56%.

-Christianity is still the largest religion in the world. The Muslim Islamic faith is the second largest and the fastest growing religion at this time.

### CONTAMINATION

-The contamination of the planet’s natural resources (food, air, land, waterways and oceans) is at levels never before recorded. This is fueled by the toxic waste of the products and resources demanded by the modern day lifestyles of mankind.

-The COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to its knees – (over 800,000 people have died in the USA of this illness – 5.3 million through-out the world) – the virus is having a ripple effect in healthcare delivery around the globe.

-The healthcare community has

been sounding off the alarm for decades that newer forms of viruses and diseases are evolving resistance against modern day vaccines. There are heightened fears of the next worldwide pandemic that is closer than many believe.

### HUMAN POPULATION

-It is believed that the world reached 1 billion inhabitants in the year 1804, 2 billion by 1927 and only took 33 years (1960) to reach 3 billion

-Present Day (approximately 7.96 billion inhabitants)

-China – approximately 1.45 billion

-India – approximately 1.40 billion

-USA – approximately 325 million

-World population is expected to reach 8.6 billion before the year 2030.

-Many scientists think Earth has a maximum carrying capacity of 9-10 billion people.

### ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

-To conclude this general description of the signs of the end, it is indispensable to mention the greatest one of all, God’s Clock - Israel. We have continuously dissertated in the pages of this Maranatha Publication, for the simple reason that it’s imperative for the real follower of Jesus Christ to know what is “God’s Clock” and to learn to read that clock. The latest happenings in Israel, their war against the Arab terrorists in Gaza and the massacre of the innocent by the hands of the

Islamic extremists along with all that has been taking place directly in Jerusalem in these last days is accelerating the fulfillment of **Zachariah 12:3**. The worlds’ opinion concerning Israel has gone from bad to worse. Even in the United States, in Congress itself, the latest public polls have indicated a negative change concerning Israel. It is impossible to describe, in a few words, all the details of this very important topic. I can say one thing, which summarizes everything, The Word of God has to be fulfilled especially as it relates to “God’s Clock”. The Lord Himself anticipated saying: *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away”*. **(Matthew 24:35)**

All who profess to be Christian and are not spiritually awake, aren’t aware of the times. Unless they wake up from that horrible spiritual stupor, a terrifying shock awakes them on that Day of *“...the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”* **(Titus 2:13)** *“but ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”* **(I Thes. 5:4)** He that is in the light loves Israel and the Church of the Lord, does not walk in darkness, knows where he or she stands, and understands that **IT IS TIME TO AWAKE AND PREPARE!**

God bless you.

By Pastor Efraim Valverde, III and collaborators, Esteban Trujillo, Daniel Perez and Adam Perez. ■





## A SPECIAL MESSAGE

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

## GOD WARRED FOR ISRAEL

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

*“AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, TO THEM WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.” (Romans 8:28)*

I was strongly inspired by the Lord to write this important message directed to a group of people who are very special to the Lord. To these I say, YOU, WHO TRULY LOVE GOD, HAVE BEEN CALLED WITH A PURPOSE.

You, my brother, my sister, as a result of your love for the LORD are giving your life and your all, with sincerity and without limits, exceptions or self-interest to serve your fellow man. You must remember that you are privileged to participate in the special group pointed out in the quoted Bible Verse above.

Ah! But it turns out that you are not abounding in blessings and material benefits. You may be physically ill and/or experiencing many difficulties and family problems. You may be enduring hardships and difficult heart-wrenching situations that you notice; not even unbelievers go through. The devil tells you that those things are happening to you because God is not pleased with you, and at times you have believed this to be true.

Dear brother and sister, as you are drying the tears blurring your vision, my LORD has commanded me to tell you to pay very close attention to what this verse is telling you, and rejoice in it. It is a very special message for you. Thinking

*dear brother and sister, as you are drying the tears blurring your vision, my lord has commanded me to tell you to pay very close attention to what this verse is telling you, and rejoice in it. it is a very special message for you. thinking of giving up? no, sir! stop serving? never! so what's next? regardless of what comes your way, continue to move forward with the help of our lord jesus christ!*

of giving up? No sir! Stop serving? Never! So what's next, you might ask? REGARDLESS OF WHAT COMES YOUR WAY, CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE HELP OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

God bless you. ■

The spectacular victories of the Jewish people have caused amazement in all the world. How could such a small nation, with a population of less than three million people, defend itself from and defeat six Arab allied countries with a combined population of above one hundred fifty million people in only six days, as well as conquer Jerusalem and the adjacent lands?

The Jewish young man, Abraham Eliezer, an Evangelical Christian who served in the War of 1967 (the Six-Day War) gives us his eloquent testimony.

“Before the Six-Day War, an elderly man was walking through the streets of Jerusalem predicting what was going to take place and the day the conflict would start. He declared that the GOD of Israel was alive and had promised to be with His people during the battle. The prophecy was literally fulfilled. GOD fought for Israel during the Six-Day War. If this hadn't been the case, we would have never won, especially when one considers the disproportionate size of the armies involved.

After the war, some of my companions told me that our forces had advanced with such rapidness in a specified area that they had taken an Egyptian aviation camp in the Sinai Peninsula before the Arab allies were alerted. The Arabs, without suspecting anything, called the camp offering Algerian combat planes. Our official responded in

Egyptian, allowing the landing of the planes, all which were immediately captured.

“What was most interesting”, Abraham Eliezer continues, occurred in the Sinai campaign when the Egyptian army were taken prisoners. We asked an Egyptian war veteran the reason they surrendered with such ease, and he responded that he and his companions had seen angels alongside the Israelis. Abraham Eliezer concluded, “GOD truly intervened in defense of the small Nation of Israel.”

In the Six-Day War some Israeli skydivers successfully accomplished their mission of removing the enemy from a strategic position by pretending to be tourists. The Egyptians fled without a bullet ever being fired.

In the Yom Kippur War (the Day of Atonement) a similar miraculous event occurred. Even when the Jews were caught off guard in a surprise attack, they assumed complete control of the situation. They would have taken the country of Egypt itself, had it not been for the cease fire that was rapidly decreed by the United Nations and insisted upon by Egypt and its allies (**Isaiah 19:16-17**).

GOD fights for His people!

GOD bless you. ■





# WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HYPOCRISY AND THE HYPOCRITES. BEWARE MY BROTHER!

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

**God's Prophetic Clock...  
Comes from page...03**

**June 27, 2022-** "Israel National News" reported: Despite the current political unrest in Israel the president of the United States, Joe Biden, will visit Israel in July. This visit worries the Israeli government because it fears that during his visit President Biden could try to demand the reopening of the Palestinian consulate which was closed during the Trump administration.

**June 28, 2022-** "EFE and Aurora" published: The Israeli Parliament will dissolve on Wednesday, paving the way for new elections which will be the fifth election held in four years. Once the government is dissolved the current Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yair Lapid, will assume the role of interim prime minister until a new government is formed.

**June 30, 2022-** "EFE and Aurora" published the following: It is a confirmed fact! The Israeli Parliament approved its dissolution and convoked elections to be held on November 1, 2022. According to surveys published during the last few days former Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is projected to be highest vote getter in a repeat of what happened during the last four elections. However, his possibilities to form a new government depend highly on the alliances he can form prior to the upcoming elections.

Beloved people of God, the Lord wants to help us be awake during these last days, that we may be prepared for the terrible things which lie ahead and be ready for His Return. Almost everything is in place in preparation for the return of the Lord, the King of Glory. God is returning the Jewish people to Israel and is restoring His people to Him in the midst of a time of intense opposition. The Lord is doing the same work in His Church. Come, Lord Jesus Christ!

God bless you,  
Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■

*way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger." (Job 17:8, 9)*

*"Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? Though His Excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds; yet he shall perish forever like his own dung; they which have seen him shall say, where is he?" (Job 20:4-7)*

*"For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul? Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?" (Job 27:8, 9)*

*"For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery. They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit." (Job 15:34, 35)*

*"But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: they cry not when he bindeth them. They die in youth, and their life is among the unclean." (Job 36:13, 14)*

## THE BLESSING FOR THE SINCERE OF HEART

How beautiful is, on the other hand, the blessing of the sincere children of God.

***Hypocrisy  
abounds in this  
day and age, this  
prevails within  
Christianity itself  
and there is more  
scarcity of sincere  
people than ever.  
Are you sincere, my  
brother? Are you?***

*"The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me." (Psalm 116:6)*

*"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned." (I Timothy 1:5)*

*"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ." (Philippians 1:10)*

Hypocrisy abounds in this day and age, this prevails within Christianity itself and there is more scarcity of sincere people than ever. Are you sincere, my brother? Are you? ■

*"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." (Matthew 23:27, 28)*

*"In the meantime, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known." (Luke 12:1, 2)*

*"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" (I Timothy 4:1, 2)*

*"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him." (Job 13:15, 16)*

*"Upright men shall be astonished at this, and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite. The righteous also shall hold on his*





We thank the Lord greatly for the tremendous experience we partook of in this annual fellowship service. We had not been able to celebrate this special activity for the last two years because of the pandemic. The Lord distinguished this service and surpassed all of our expectations.

## FELLOWSHIP SERVICE REPORT IN SALINAS CA

Brother Phillip Nava



appreciate greatly). A new connection with the leadership of the people of Israel was established through this visit. God has used Pastor Efraim Valverde, III to make these connections a reality. Through the words of Rabbi Glick, we were able to hear the heartfelt gratitude and appreciation of the Jewish people, the people of the Bible. In his words there was thankfulness and love for the support that they feel for those who sincerely and strongly transmit the love of the true Church towards the Chosen people. The people to whom belongs and through whom this Salvation came (Jn. 4:22).

The attendance was numerous, more than expected. The Word the rabbi spoke to us was edifying. There was gladness and singleness of heart in the fellowship of those who attended. We ate, laughed, cried and meditated together as a family. The rabbi spoke quite a bit about caring for one's family also God's love and desire for His people to return to Him. We were provoked to reflect on the present times that we live in and what we must do since we are part of God's people. Once again, I thank God for this phenomenal experience. Thank you, my Lord!

Sincerely,  
Brother Phillip Nava. ■

*Through the words of Rabbi Glick, we were able to hear the heartfelt gratitude and appreciation of the Jewish people, the people of the Bible. In his words there was thankfulness and love for the support that they feel for those who sincerely and strongly transmit the love of the true Church towards the Chosen people. The people to whom belongs and through whom this Salvation came*

The Lord poured out His blessing abundantly with the visit of Rabbi, Yehudah Glick, from Jerusalem, Israel (who we





**Pastor Gary Sevillano,  
Esmeraldas, Ecuador**

## PASTORS AND MINISTERS SEMINAR REPORT GUADALAJARA, JALISCO

taken into account by my brothers from Maranatha International newspaper, and I also thank brother Fernando Amador, who is the pastor in Woodburn, Oregon, and brother Jaime Canzino, for inviting me to this activity.

The counsel I received at this seminar has moved me to be more diligent in my spiritual life and calling as a pastor, it also enlightened me to areas in my ministry that were being neglected where I need to implement God's order. What was spoken to us was extensive, I thank the Lord for that.

Today I understand the great importance of holding seminars for pastors and ministers. As pastors, we need to humble ourselves and recognize that we must be ministered to, taught and exhorted in the great love of the Lord. It was a great blessing to meet and fellowship with new brothers. All of this unites us as the body of Christ (**Eph. 5:30**). This has encouraged me to continue serving the Lord with fervent love.

Let us unite in prayer for the ministry of our brother, pastor Efraim Valverde III and his family, so that the Lord will continue to use him powerfully and the pastors and minister's seminar will continue to take place.

My wish for all of you is that God bless you and keep you (**1 Thess. 5:23**).

**Pastor Alfredo Tienda,  
Vista, California, US**

I thank God who allowed me to attend the pastors and minister's seminar, in Guadalajara, Jalisco.

Pastor Efraim Valverde III began the teachings sharing with us about the times we are living in, using the Biblical Verses from **1 Chronicles 12:32, Luke 21:24** and **Revelation 6:6**. We also heard about the tremendous importance of prayer, because God sees a prayer service just as important as regular worship service, it is through prayer that we communicate with Him and this is how we are known more intimately of the Lord. We also studied of the book YHWH (written by Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.), among many other teachings that we heard. It was a great blessing for me to have attended this seminar. Let's keep praying for Pastor Efraim Valverde III and his family. May the Lord bless you.

**Sister Luz Martinez,  
Wife of pastor Alfredo Córcoles.  
Purepero, Michoacan**

God bless you, my sisters. I thank God for allowing me to be in the special meeting that was held for the pastors' wives, in Guadalajara, Jalisco. The words the Lord spoke to us through my sister Claudia Valverde greatly blessed me. My sister shared with us about being the help meet for our husband, that help that he needs; to do good to him and not do evil to

him. Likewise, she shared with us that we need to be intentional with sharing God's Word with people and that we have to begin sharing His Word at home with our children. I also want to thank my sister Claudia, and my sisters from Guadalajara, for the special gesture of preparing a meal for us to eat together. I also thank God for my sisters from California, for their participation. My God bless you; I love you and you are in our prayers. God bless you.

**Sister Araceli Nuñez,  
Wife of Pastor Miguel González.  
Cuernavaca, Morelos**

God bless you. I am very grateful to the Lord for allowing me to write these words and I also thank him for the women's meeting that took place in Guadalajara, it was a great blessing for my life. In this occasion God used our sister Claudia, to remind us of the importance of loving the Lord with all of our heart, and being filled with God's Spirit and with His Word in order to minister to our children (**Dt. 6:5-7**). She explained to us the importance of sharing with them about the wonders and miracles that God has done in our lives so that they can know Him. She encouraged us to be diligent in prayer, fasting, and the reading of God's Word in our homes (**Col. 2:7**). Our first priority of relationship is to the Lord after that it is our family (husband and children), may God help us so that together we can fulfill the mission that He has entrusted to us.

I ask for your prayers for my family and for the congregation, God bless you (**Ps. 27:14**). ■

**Pastor Gonzalo Álvarez,  
Tlaquepaque, Jalisco, México**

First of all, I thank the Lord, for this great privilege of being





After two years of not being able to have camp, we went to this camp with desire and expectation. On the first day a good number of brothers, sisters and young people arrived. God had something special for all of us who made it to this camp, it was surprising and wonderful. The teaching was very uplifting. The spiritual environment that God provided us was a sign of our Eternal Gods approval. Our pastor spoke to us about what God through His word gives to us, and the danger of being rejected by God at the day of His Coming, at the same time reminding us of the curse for those who do not love the Lord; loving God means obeying His Word. On the last night, we heard about the importance of knowing the times we live in. On that night God poured out His blessing through message He put in our pastor Efraim Valverde III heart. The Lord lit up the atmosphere that night with His Holy Spirit. Our pastor could not finish the message because of the strong Presence of God. Most of us ended up at the altar and there was a loud crying

## CAMP REPORT AT OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Brother Phillip M. Nava.



out to God for about two hours. It was a glorious thing that God did on that last night.

When it was time to go, no one wanted to leave the camp. The economic investment and physical efforts we made to be here are not to be compared with the great blessing we received. We are very grateful to the host pastors for their vision and to those who carried out the administration of the camp. After leaving

the camp, we gathered to fellowship at the church property at Elma, Washington, where brother Clemente Pérez is the pastor. May God recompense them for their attention and service of love. God allowed us to partake of a family atmosphere at that place.

God willing, next year another camp will be held at Black Lake Camp. I invite you to mark your calendar now to be ready for next year, God willing.

God bless you.  
Your brother,  
Felipe M. Nava. ■

We thank God for allowing us to travel to La Paz and accompany our brothers for this fellowship service, we rejoiced together with all those who were able to attend this service. The activity began with our pastor Efraim Valverde III ministering from (1 Cor. 16:22) *"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema."* He reminded us by

## REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN LA PAZ, B.C.S.

Pastor Eladio Lopez

emphasizing the importance of loving the Lord with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind and with all our strength (Mr. 12:30), and that the proof of our love for God consists in the keeping of His commandments (Jn. 14:15), and to obey Him by doing His will (Jn. 14:21).

Let us continue to pray for our brothers in this area and for our pastor, that the Lord continue to use him to confirm and encourage us.

I send my Greetings to all our brothers.

God bless you.  
Pastor Eladio Lopez. ■





We thank God, that on Friday, June 24, the fellowship service began here in Ocotol Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras, where Brother Edy Flores is the pastor. The first service began at 10:00 am. Our brother Abimael from Bonanza, Nicaragua shared the Word of God with us: *“Redeeming the time”* (Dan. 12:7; Eph. 5:16). Later on, Saturday night, brother Erlin Deras, pastor of Callejones, ministered the Word of God to us, focusing on the fact that: *“We haven’t done anything yet”* (Lk. 17:10). On Sunday, we were reminded about the books and writings that the Lord allowed

## REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN HONDURAS

Pastor Orlando Fernandez



Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. to write. Later we had a meeting of pastors and ministers, where we promised to pay closer attention to these teachings. Thus, we all fellowshiped together, in praise and prayer. At the end we shared a delicious meal that our sisters prepared for us. We ended our service with prayer thanking God for the opportunity to gather together.

God bless you.  
Pastor Orlando Fernandez. ■

I send my greetings to all my beloved brothers who read the Maranatha newspaper. The Maranatha newspaper has been a great blessing for many children of God.

## REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN TIJUANA B.C.

Pastor José Covarrubias



what God has done in our lives.

Later, we finished the activity by praying together, pouring out our hearts before the Lord. Afterwards we all shared a meal together with joy and gladness of heart.

I thank the Lord because he allowed our pastor, Efraim Valverde III, to be with us. Likewise, may God bless each pastor and congregation that accompanied us in this occasion, and in a special way I thank my Lord Jesus for my wife and children, who help me in this work, and my brothers from the local congregation for their mindset and support in helping.

God bless you  
Pastor José Covarrubias. ■

I thank the Lord Jesus, whom I love with all the might of my heart, for allowing us to hold our annual confraternity and for His presence with us in this service. We began our service praising the Lord with all our hearts, then Pastor Chuy Bailón from Guerrero Negro, B.C.S., shared Gods Word with us, I thank the Lord for my brother. Later that day Pastor Efraim Valverde III shared with us the unique place that Israel has in God’s Word and how it is connected to understanding the times we live in.

He also taught us through Gods Word the importance of transmitting to the next generation





## YOUTH SECTION

Brother Gabriel Ramirez



*day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).* The word prosper in this sense means to mature spiritually, to grow in the knowledge of God and in a greater and closer relationship with Him.

God has been using Pastor Efraim Valverde, III in this present time to exhort us and motivate us to occupy ourselves in the reading of God's Word. And not only to read but also to memorize His Word. The same God that spoke to Joshua and to the rest of the prophets is that same one that said, when He came to this earth in the days of His flesh: *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).* How marvelous is the Word of God, because it teaches us how to live, it is the Word which sheds light on our steps: *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).* Many times we try to live with our own light (understanding), we deviate from way of Truth. May the Lord help us to not walk in our own opinion but rather that we may walk with fear and trembling.

So young people, be encouraged! I conclude these brief words with a prayer: May the Lord give me more desire and hunger of His word and also in each and every one of you as well.

God bless you

Brother Gabriel Ramirez  
Santa Maria, CA

## WOMEN OF GOD

**S**halom to all my dear sisters in Christ.

By means of the pages of this Maranatha Publication I greet you and also write the following with the purpose of encouragement.

I wish to share some things with you my beloved sisters, beginning with the thought that at the end of a large regional gathering we now return to our daily activities. As we return to our daily living we see and feel the undesired impact of reality. Despite the reality it would be incorrect to say: "I have returned from the great gathering to the struggle again", because the reality is that we are always fighting the battle with is called evil. On the other hand, it is correct to say: "Thank you God for giving us the opportunity to be together to encourage, teach and help each other". Another words, lets return home with a thankful heart and attitude.

This has always called my attention, when I read that Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. The Word of God says: *"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes..." (Gen. 3:6).* This was a three step process: First the devil convinced her that it was "good". Secondly, he presented evil in a pleasing way. And thirdly, she desired or "coveted" it. Eve wanted it because it looked appealing to her eyes. And the most freighting thing is that it looked "pretty" because if she hadn't liked it, she would have never coveted it!

Do you see my point, my sister? For example, when we go to the store to buy things, we always buy "what looks pretty". When have you ever heard a sister say. The devil first of all tries to convince us that "evil is good", but we should not allow the false beauty of the world and its pleasures to deceive us, because it is written: *"But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (I Tim 5:6).* How many times does the devil try to con-

vince us that a little bit of "this" or of "that" will make us look prettier and that there is nothing wrong with it, and that contrary, it is good. It is true that we as women, descendants of Eve, are beautiful but, woe unto us my sister! May God help us so that when the devil offers us the world, that we may reject it and that we may choose to be light and a good example of the true beauty of a woman: *"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:20, 29-30).* *"Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things" (I Timothy 3:11).* *"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Peter 3:3, 4).* Let us be careful my beloved sisters to not do anything contrary to what the Word of God tells us and that our beauty be not according to the "deceitfulness of sin", but to the real beauty.

*"But thou, O man of God (woman of God), flee these things; (from the deceitfulness of sin) and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (I Timothy 6:11, 12).* *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)*

Let us be wise and prudent so as to not be deceived with the false beauty of the world.

God bless you. ■

**G**reetings in the Almighty name of our Lord Jesus to all of my young brethren. It is an honor for me to write in this international Maranatha Publication.

I'm grateful first of all to God for His many mercies that He has had for me. God, using the apostle Paul, exhorts the young Timothy, telling him: *"Till I come, give attendance to reading..." (I Tim. 4:13).* The verb "occupy" or attendance is present and active, this is not a recommendation, but rather a commandment. And it is the Holy Spirit of God that continues to order and command us to occupy in reading; and superficially but "search" the Word of God and to put it into practice.

The psalmist exclaims with a question: *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psalm 119:9).* We see also that which was written in the book of Proverbs: *"Keep my commandments, and live..." (Proverbs 7:2).* And when the Lord spoke to Joshua, He was very clear: *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein*



The serious student of the Bible first discovers Jerusalem in **Genesis 14:18**, when *Malchizedek, the king of Shalem*, approaches Abraham after his astounding defeat of a group of kings. (Shalem means “peace,” as well as “complete, perfect;” Jeru-salem therefore means “the city of peace and wholeness.”) It appears as well later in **Genesis 22:2**, when G-d tells Abraham to offer his beloved son as an offering *“upon one of the mountains which I shall tell you.”* The mountain that G-d picked for the dramatic display of the perfect faith a human being could have in G-d was what later would become the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. When Jacob sees angels ascending and descending on a ladder, he was sleeping in that same place, at least according to Jewish tradition. Jewish tradition also asserts that Adam brought the very first offering on the same spot.

When the Israelites are instructed to bring their offerings to one place alone, they are told *“You shall seek out His Presence, and come there.”* (**Deuteronomy 12:5**). G-d does not name the place. Nor does He tell them that a prophet will arise and show it to them. Rather, He tells them that they are to seek out His Presence. When they find the place where they can feel a difference – where they can feel how incredibly close and immediate He feels to them – then they will know that they are on the right track.

That place, of course, proved to be Jerusalem, where both Temples were built, and the third and final one will stand one day. Many people not only claim that they can feel the specialness of the place, but that G-d’s Presence there profoundly affects them. (I have an acquaintance who secretly visited Israel from a Muslim country. After a short trip to Jerusalem, he said to me, “In Jerusalem, you can feel the Presence of G-d walking in the streets!”)

But why is all this true? Why do important events keep happening in one particular location?

Maybe, you’ll say, that it adds meaning and significance when the people can be bound together by remembering the

most important events of the past. That makes sense – but it doesn’t work! If we have to choose between all places, and find the single one that is most important to Jewish (and human!) history, it would not be Jerusalem. It would be Mt. Sinai, where G-d came down from the heavens and gave His instructions to all of humanity on how they should lead their lives and achieve happiness in both this world, and the eternal world beyond. It’s not even a close call! Yet today, we’re not even sure where Sinai was, and the site that is the current best guess is not particularly venerated by anyone. Why is this?

The answer may lie with the nature of holiness, of sanctity. There are two things that can generate holiness. One is G-d. The other is Man.

Mt. Sinai became holy when G-d brought His Presence to the mountain. The Israelites were told to cordon it off. No one was to get too close. A few handfuls of special people were allowed to ascend part of the way. Moses ascended all the way to the top. Awesome things happened. Overpowering and frightful lights and sounds, culminating in G-d speaking the Ten Commandments. Yet, a few months later, a shofar sounded the all-clear signal, and the mountain lost its special status when G-d withdrew His Presence. The holiness of the place was a product of G-d concentrating His Presence there. When it left, the mountain ceased to be holy. In other words, holiness created by G-d lasts only as long as He is connected to it.

Jerusalem, however, was different. Its holiness came about because of the many things that human beings did there, well before King David located the future site of Solomon’s Temple. Strange as it may seem, holiness created by humans is longer lasting. Even when those people had long departed, the

holiness they brought to a site through their service of G-d left a lasting impression upon the place. Jerusalem, then, wins hands-down over Sinai!

This is one of the ironies about the way G-d created His world. The holiness He allows us to introduce is longer-lasting than what He introduces! His is there as long as He is; Man changes things permanently.

We’re not yet there. We’ve used the word “holiness” without examining what it means. It is one of these words that is used so often in religious conversation, that we take it for granted, as if its meaning was obvious.

It isn’t. The most common mistake people make to define holiness is the absence of the unholy. They assume that sin and bad character traits are unholy. If you avoid all of those, you are then holy.

This, however, cannot be true. Consider **Leviticus 19:2**, *“Be holy, because I am holy!”* This certainly can’t mean that G-d doesn’t steal, or murder, or lust. His holiness clearly is not just the absence of something negative, but the presence of something positive. Nor can holiness, as applied to G-d Himself, mean “special,” or “consecrated,” which are some of the other ways the word is sometimes explained. Rather, G-d’s holiness means that He is transcendent, above all limitations. Nothing pulls at Him to act in a less than noble manner. It is a state-of-being. He commands us to not only avoid sin, but to become people who don’t just act holy, but are holy – sharing some of this special quality that He possesses. It’s almost as if holiness is like a substance – in this case, a spiritual substance, that we can incorporate within ourselves.

Study the Bible, and you will see that it speaks of a holiness that attaches itself

to three things, besides G-d Himself. One is people, as we just said. People can become not only good or even great people. but holy people. Holiness also attaches to time. The Bible tells us to remember the Sabbath day, to make it holy. Holidays are called that, because they originally meant holy days, not days that we are off from work and watch special football games. The Biblical holidays are not days of remembrance of events in the past, but days in which time itself is suffused with holiness, and our job is to take advantage of it.

And so it is with the third thing that can become holy: place. Some places have more of this commodity we call holiness than others. That holiness is created, as we said above, by the actions of Man – but it means that a quality of G-d is joined to that place.

The holiest place on earth is where the Temple stood. It was so holy, that G-d chose it to be the place where He would continue to be present for Man. They could seek Him there, and experience Him more directly than any other place on earth. Although Man can call upon Him absolutely anywhere, He chose Jerusalem as a kind of interface between Him and Man. Prayers uttered anywhere on earth find their way to Him, but they “travel,” in a manner of speaking, through Jerusalem, and from there ascend to Heaven. (In Jewish teaching, even Heaven has its Jerusalem, connected directly to the earthly one.)

Even though the Temple was destroyed some 2000 years ago, much – but certainly not all – of the holiness remains. That is why people who come there can sense the Divine.

We are very conscious of the fact that it is only some of Jerusalem’s holiness that survives. That is the reason that, from the time of the destruction of the Temple, Jews have prayed three times each day for the restoration of the Temple, meaning the full holiness that Jerusalem is supposed to have – and will have, when the Messiah comes.

Rabbi Yitzchok Adlerstein. ■

## JERUSALEM, HOLY CITY OF PEACE AND WHOLENESS

Rabbi Yitzchok Adlerstein





## BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

discussing the subject of water baptism with the purpose of obtaining members for a certain religious denomination or organization. Rather, my goal is that the obedient Christian, whoever and wherever he is, will receive from God the fullness of His salvation. Now that we are aware of these basic truths, let us now continue in our discussion by considering the following questions.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM?

The Lord stated that *“he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mark 16:16). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, through Peter’s lips, declared: *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you...for the remission of your sins...”* (Acts 2:38). Paul, referring to the Lord’s sacrifice, declares that the Lord gave Himself for His Church *“that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water (baptism) by the Word”* (Eph. 5:26). Peter, referencing the fact that Noah was saved by water in the ark, states: *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...”* (1 Peter 3:21).

### HOW SHOULD WATER BAPTISM BE ADMINISTERED?

Paul explains to us that baptism is a symbol of the burial of one who has died. For this reason he poses the following question: *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were*

*baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death”* (Rom. 6:3). On another occasion he explains to us that we are *“BURIED with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him”* (Col. 2:12). According to these Scriptures, baptism is a symbolic burial through which the believer, now dead to the world (repented) is buried in the waters of baptism and emerges from them, ready to live a new life in Christ. For this reason, baptism should be administered through immersion, submerging the body of the penitent completely in water, according to the example given by the Lord Himself when He entered into the Jordan River to be baptized: *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water”* (Matt. 3:16). Likewise, when Phillip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, the Scriptures tell us that *“they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water...”* (Acts 8:38-39).

### WHAT NAME SHOULD BE INVOKED DURING BAPTISM?

The Lord commanded His disciples to baptize the Gentiles *“in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matt. 28:19), and when the apostles carried out the Master’s commandment, they baptized thousands upon thousands of believers in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They did

not disobey the Lord, as some have had the audacity to say. On the contrary, they faithfully executed His commandment, because they had understood that the “Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” is JESUS the Lord, and that He is ONE. They understood when the Lord told them: *“He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father”* (John 14:9). They understood that *“God was manifest in the flesh”* (1 Tim. 3:16). They understood that the Lord Jesus was Israel’s Messiah, and that He could be none other than God Himself, because there is only one God (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 44:6). They understood that only the God, YHWH, can save, and they were given revelation to understand that the Lord Jesus is that same God, because the Name of God given to men that they might be saved is JESUS the Lord (Acts 4:12). This is the Name “which is above every other name” that Joel mentioned when he prophesied: *“That whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered (saved)”* (Phil. 2:9, Joel 2:32). The following Scripture verses bear witness that the original believers in the Church were all baptized calling upon the Name of Jesus Christ, and never with the titles Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5, Acts 22:16, Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, 1 Pet. 3:21. The baptism invoking the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was not utilized in the apostolic era or in the first centuries of the Church. It was an interpretation which came later as part of the package of many other false doctrines, fruit of the apostasy, which were accepted and confirmed by the Council of Nicea in the year 325 A.D.

TO WHOM DOES THE

The doctrine of baptism is a subject of supreme importance, and has been considered to be so throughout the centuries which have passed since the Church was founded by our Lord Jesus Christ. He himself demonstrated the prominence of this sacrament when he issued the following command: *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:16). He also commanded His apostles to: *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”* (Matthew 28:19). He also emphasized the importance of being baptized, when He traveled to the Jordan River where John was baptizing, and asked John to be baptize Him, saying: *“Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness”* (Matthew 3:15).

Many present-day religious leaders teach that baptism is not truly important; thereby contradicting the same Lord they claim to obey and serve. They are following the example of the Pharisees and lawyers who *“rejected the counsel of God against themselves”* by refusing to be baptized by John (Luke 7:30). Nevertheless, this tract is not directed to those who oppose the Word of God, but to the sincere Christians, who, having a pure and sincere heart, want to obey the Word of God. These Christians are willing to obey God’s commandments, whether they come directly from the Lord or through His apostles, since the Lord bestowed upon them His authority when He declared: *“He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me”* (Matthew 10:40). I must clarify here, that I am not





## BAPTISM BY IMMERSION, INVOKING THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, APPLY?

You, the reader, can find the answer in the Word of God. It is for the Jews (**Acts 2:36-38**). It is for the Samaritans (**Acts 8:14-16**). It is for the Gentiles (**Acts 10:45-48**). It is for believers who have already been baptized with other baptisms (**Acts 19:1-5**). *“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, EVEN AS MANY AS THE LORD OUR GOD SHALL CALL”* (**Acts 2:39**).

In conclusion: My beloved brethren and friends, if you love the Lord and are one of those who are interested in being sure of the salvation of your soul, we sincerely invite you in the love of Christ to meditate on this important doctrinal subject. The message contained within this tract is not merely a denominational point of view, but is a very specific commandment given by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who declared: *“He who believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”*

Note: If you were enlightened by reading this brief tract or if it awakened an interest in you to know more about this fundamental doctrine in the process of salvation, we invite you to visit your brethren at the address listed on this tract or write to the editor of Publicaciones “Maranatha.” ■

*“Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”* (**Acts 16:29-31**).

**I** must inform you that this message is not for everyone. It is only for those who are convinced of the fact that none of the many things that this world has to offer can give the peace that their soul desires.

Neither is it written with the intent of obtaining followers by attempting to convince someone to leave their religion to accept a different one. On the contrary, it is for those who have already experienced the fact that no religion can change their lives. This message is intended to help those who, because of the miserable circumstances in which they presently live, whether it is a sickness, marital or family problems, addictions, traumas, prisons or similar situations, have arrived at the conclusion that only God can deliver them.

It is for those who have come to the point in their lives in which they are compelled to ask the same question that the jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas: *“What must I do to be saved?”* If you find yourself in this category, through the love of Christ the Lord, I will explain to you God’s plan of salvation precisely as it is described in the Holy Bible.

# WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

**FIRST STEP:** You must acknowledge and confess your misery and need before God, and you must sincerely repent from your sins. Without this fundamental step, everything else you do will be in vain (**Acts 3:19**).

**SECOND STEP:** You must now accept the Lord Jesus as the Savior of your soul. You must believe that by His Grace and His Blood that He shed on the cross, He is able to cleanse all your sins, no matter how filthy they might be (Isaias 1:18).

**THIRD STEP:** You must believe that by doing the previous step, this is proof that you have become a partaker of the miracle of having been *“born again”* (John 3:3), which is the same miracle as having been *“born of God”* or *“begotten of God”* (**1 John 5:18**).

**FOURTH STEP:** It is now imperative for you to be immersed in the waters of baptism just as the Lord was, making certain that when you do so, the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ is invoked upon you (**Acts 2:28 and 4:12**).

**FIFTH STEP:** Being now a *“child of God”* (**1 John 1:12**), a *“new creature in Christ”* (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), allow the Lord—who now lives within you—to direct you in how you must live, what you must do and what things are not beneficial to you.

**SIXTH STEP:** The Lord has promised to give each of His

children the power of His Holy Spirit to help us to overcome and to give forth the *“fruit of the Spirit”* (**Galatians 5:22**). Ask the Lord to give you this gift together with the evidence of *“speaking with other tongues”* (**Acts 2:4**).

**SEVENTH STEP:** Exercise yourself in reading the Word of God so that you might grow spiritually and become grounded in your faith. Occupy yourself as much as possible in serving others, thereby doing God’s work.

**FINAL STEP:** now try to live the rest of your life in peace and in holiness, loving everyone, and being in communion with those who love the Lord as you love Him now. Seek out as much as you can the fellowship of those who live *“looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”* (**Titus 2:13**).

**CONCLUSION:** Even though we may not know you, the Lord knows who you are, and our prayer is that He will bless you. We also ask our Lord Jesus that He will work in your life, praying that the plan described in this tract will bring the change in your life that you greatly desire. If the Lord places in your heart the desire to receive help from us in any way that we can, please contact us. We are here to serve you ■



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831-206-1042

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## FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

The LORD our God is one  
LORD (Dt.6:4)

God is not a Trinity  
(John 1:1, Col. 1:15)

The Supreme Name of our  
God  
Is the LORD Jesus Christ  
(Phil. 2:9)

Baptism is by immersion  
(Rom. 6:4)

In the name of the LORD  
Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38)

The Holy Spirit of God  
manifests itself by means of  
the fruits (Gal. 5:22-26)  
The gift of the Holy Ghost by  
the evidence of speaking in  
tongues.

Seeking to live a sanctified life  
is an imperative requirement  
(Heb. 12:14)

The Church is ONE and it  
belongs to the LORD  
(Matthew 16:18, Acts 20:28)

The Church of the LORD is  
not a religious organization,  
It is the body of Christ  
(1 Cor. 12:27, 2 Tim. 2:19)

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