

THE LORD IS COMING
1 Corinthians 16:22



MARANATHA

A translated version of the International Christian periodical

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PERSECUTION
AND MARTYDOM
ARE COMING!



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EDITORIAL

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

I greet you in the Almighty Name of our LORD Jesus Christ. I thank Him because throughout all the year 2023, it was He who provided our strength to remain in Him. He was also our salvation against the wiles of the enemy, of our condition and the innumerable dangers that surrounded us. Many of these dangers we weren't even aware of. How many times did the LORD deliver us from the mouth of the devouring lion (**Psalm 22:21**) or from being stuck in the miry clay (**Psalm 40:2**), from which when one tries to remove himself, we can" on our own. *"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"* (**Lamentations 3:22-23**). We awoke and arose for 365 days in the year 2023! Thanks be to His mercies! Great is His faithfulness!

We find ourselves ending another year and entering the year 2024 not knowing what awaits us. The entire world is in a state in which it has never been before. Just as the Word of God declared it would be before His Second Coming in **Zachariah chapters 12 and 14**, today the eyes of the world are over Israel and the hardened hearts of its enemies are against the Jewish People as they try to impose a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capitol all while Israel is at war on seven fronts. The war in Ukraine and Russia grows much more intense as well with surrounding European Nations. Tensions increasing between USA and Iran. China's President Xi Jinping has declared openly that he will take Taiwan this year 2024. We also have the conflicts between Pakistan, India and Iran. The military disputes between Sudan, Congo and Ruanda. The disturbances in Myanmar, Sahel and in many regions of the

world. Without mentioning the world economic situation that is bursting in debt, immorality, perversion and corruption.

With all that is unraveling and transpiring today as well as what's coming ahead we must place and maintain our eyes on our LORD. Today more than ever, we must learn to walk daily with the Him, cultivating in our mind a consciousness of God's presence at all times and in all places, doing all that we can to cultivate this awareness and consciousness always being mindful of Him. This pleases our Father. *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee"* (**Isaiah 26:3**).

May our life flow from our communion with God and His word this year 2024. My grandfather learned to walk in this manner for a lifetime. The LORD wants us, His sons and daughters to learn to do daily do the same. When we have a greater conscience of the Presence of the Lord, then we will have greater reverence for God in our thoughts, words and actions. There will also be more communion with Him as we are more conscientious of Him and we will thereby acknowledge Him in all our ways as we do *"ALL as unto the Him"* (**Colossians 3:23**), in His Name.

We must strive to draw nearer to Him and not be conformed or complacent in our relationship this year 2024. Our LORD Jesus Christ will help all those who desire and seek intentionally to cleave to Him with their minds, hearts and lives. He is our Life!

God bless you.

Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■

GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city (Old City of Jerusalem)" (**Daniel 9:24**).

Shalom beloved people of God! What amazingly prophetic times we are living today. I insist that not only did the prophets desire to see and live in these times, the apostles also desired to live in these times, which are the last minutes of the last hour that precede the Second Coming of our LORD.

If there is someone that thinks that the situation against Israel is diminishing or that it's lessened completely in intensity, you are very wrong. On the contrary, the situation has advanced much more extensively in the region and around the world since the 7th of October. The fire of anti-Semitism has been become very incendiary throughout the world. In some places where there were manifestations of the diabolic spirit of anti-Semitism it has become even more inflammatory. In countries where it had been hidden in the hearts of the people and it hadn't been declared for fear, it has now been manifested openly with the world's support. In other places where there wasn't anti-Semitism, or minimal, now it has been abundantly sown in the minds and hearts of multitudes as they hear so much false and twisted news about Israel and the Jewish People throughout all the means of communication.

This anti-Semitism has also provoked an extraordinary phenomenon of the Spirit of God in the minds and hearts of the Jewish People around the world, especially in those living the United States and European countries. This is occurring in countries that many Jews are prosperous and comfortable. Suddenly the environment has changed in these westernized countries. Many are thinking and

desiring to go home, to the Land of Israel. Praise the LORD! In the midst of the situation against Israel and the Jewish People, God is working everything in his favor by directing the minds and hearts of His People to go to the Promised Land and to look unto Him. The Aliyah (the return to Israel) is coming to its end soon.

"...and when he shall have accomplished (complete, fulfill, end) to scatter (diaspora) the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished" (**Daniel 12:7**). In other words, the Jewish people were scattered at one time to all nations (**Luke 21:24**), and then the time to be scattered finalizes and time to return begins. When is this time to complete the scattering of Jewish People with their return to the Land of Israel? This time begun almost 150 yrs. ago and is coming to an end soon with their final wave returning home, to the Holy Land (this is being fulfilled now, at the end of the last half of the seventieth week of Daniel!), it during this time when soon *"all these things shall be finished (come to an end)"*. We could very possibly be witnessing the last Aliyah (return to Israel) of the people that are still scattered, which is directly linked to and points to the end of the age, times of the gentiles, the time of the Grace, the Second Coming of the LORD!

What took place on the 7th of October of 2023, though it was very painful, it accelerated the journey to the end. This has shaken all Jews, in and out of Israel throughout the world. It has caused and stirred an awakening in many Jews to get closer to their people, to their land and above all to their God, *"The Holy One of Israel"* (**Isaiah 45:11**). God is doing a special work in the midst of the beginning of the fire which will only increase



against the Jewish people until the Day of The LORD. Just as the fire of anti-Semitism is throughout the world, persecution (for blessing) against the Church will also be incinerated, just as the Lord is beginning to work in the Jewish people, He will also do it in His church in persecution.

Here are some of the most outstanding news during the last three months in regards to the Nation of Israel, the Jewish People and the Ancient City of Jerusalem.

October 7th, 2023. *"The Jerusalem Post"*, announced the following: Israel is at war. Hamas surprised Israel Saturday with the most damaging surprised attack by land, sea and air. The terrorist group invaded with success in 22 communities of the Gaza corridor, cutting through the border municipality enforced by the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) in various points along the border, carrying out amphibious landings with naval commandos in Zikim and motorized paragliders and drone type vehicles that took off simultaneously at around 6:30am. There were more than 1400 dead and 250 hostages.

October 13th, 2023. *"The Jerusalem Post"*, reported: Putin compares the Israeli action in Gaza to the Nazi tactics of the Second World War. The Russian president, Vladimir Putin said on Friday that an Israeli offensive would provoke an "absolutely unacceptable" level of civil victims.

October 18th, 2023. *"Express News"*, published that the between Israel and Hamas could unchain a "Nuclear War" if Iran rushes to build the bomb, an ex-official of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

October 24th, 2023. *"The Jerusalem Post"*, made known that the minister of Foreign Affairs, Eli Cohen, accused the General Secretary Antonio Guterres of justifying the October 7th Hamas attack and he canceled his meeting with him. "I will not meet with the UN General Secretary. After October the 7th there is no place for a balanced focus. We need to erase the terrorist

group Hamas from the world!" Cohen affirmed.

October 24th, 2023. *"Israel National News"*, announced, worrisome data: the anti-Semitic incidents in United States have risen to 400% since the war begin. The ADL (Anti-defamation league) league registered 312 anti-Semitic incidents between the 7th and the 13th of October of 2023, 190 of them were directly related to the war.

October 28th, 2023. *"The Express News"*, notified that Turkey's president, Erdron, threatens to declare war on Israel and to send military to Gaza in a chilling warning. The Turkish president suggested in a discourse in a pro-Palestinian meeting this afternoon that Turkey could "come unexpectedly at any night."

November 2nd, 2023. *"The Jerusalem Post"*, informs: Vasily Nebenza, Russian representative said this last Wednesday in the United Nations that, "Israel has no right to defend itself because it is (illegally, according to International Law) occupant power."

November 5th, 2023. A declaration of the European Commission about anti-Semitic incidents in Europe: The European Jews live again today with fear. We have seen a resurgence of incidents and anti-Semitic rhetoric in the European Union and in all the world: Molotov Cocktails launched against a synagogue in Germany, stars of David sprinkled on residential buildings in France, in a Jewish cemetery profaned in Austria, stores and Jewish synagogues attacked in Spain, the protestors sang slogans of hatred against the Jews.

November 8th, 2023. *"Fox News"*, reported that New York City is experiencing an increase of 214% in anti-Jewish crimes in October in the midst of the Israel and Hamas conflict.

November 9th, 2023. *"The Jerusalem Post"*, announced the following: the reports of the anti-Semitic incidents 800% in the Lower countries since October 7th, an important Jewish Dutch organism reported.

November 13th, 2023. *"The Daily News"*, reported that the hate crime against the Jewish people increased 200% since the October 7th war began.

November 13th, 2023. *"The Washington Post"*, reported the following: Israeli Intelligence officials, as well as Unites States officials with internal knowledge, affirm that the documents found on the bodies of the Hamas dead terrorists suggest that the terrorist organization could have had the intention of profoundly penetrating Israel and to reach Judea and Samaria during the surprise attack on October 7th.

November 14th, 2023. *"The Times Israel"*, notified that tens of thousands of people, partisan of the principal religious political party rallied in the eastern city of Lahore in Pakistan, calling for a yihad ("holy war") against Israel.

December 8th, 2023. *"The Jerusalem Post"*, reported that in the midst of escalated anti-Semitism, 39% of Ultraorthodox Jews in United States are considering Aliyah (return) to Israel.

December 12th, 2023. *"CNN News"*, published the following: The divisions between Israel and United States came out to public light Tuesday, when President Joe Biden warned that Israel was loosing support for their campaign against Hamas and the Prime Minister publically rejected the United States plans for the postwar Gaza.

December 13th, 2023. *"The times of Israel"*, notified the following: Survey shows growing Palestinian support for Hamas. The survey found that 72% of the surveyed believe that Hamas did "the right thing" when launching the attack of October 7th, with the support of 82% in Judea and Samaria and of the 57% in Gaza.

December 17th, 2023. *"The Times of Israel"*, informs: The Arab don't accept the normalization the ties with Israel unless Israel accepts a Two State solution.

December 18th, 2023. *"The Jerusalem Post"*, announced that ALMOST HALF of the Britannic Jews have considered abandoning the United Kingdom since October 7 due to anti-Semitism.

December 19th, 2023. *"Reuters News"*, Published the following: The militant Houthis backed by Iran in Yemen, have intensified their attacks against ships in the Red Sea to show their support to the Islamic Palestinian group Hamas.

December 19th, 2023. *"All Israel News"*, informed: During the weekend bomb threats were sent via email to hundreds of Jewish institutions and synagogues in the United States, being that anti-Semitism continues to grow to a world level in the midst of the ongoing .

December 26th, 2023. *"Independent News"*, reported the following: The Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, said that Israel is being attacked in seven separate fronts in the midst of the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip and until now Israel has responded to six of them. "We are in a multiple fronts. "We are being attacked from seven different fronts: Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Judea and Samaria, Iraq, Yemen and Iran."

December 28th, 2023. *"The Jerusalem Post"*, notified that on Thursday, France, Germany, Great Britain and United States condemned an increase by Iran in the production area of Uranium highly enriched of up to 60% of purity, close to the level used for combustion needed for nuclear arms.

Let us continue to pray for the hostages who have not yet returned home, as well as for the soldiers who continue to in the battlefield of war and for the families of the fallen soldiers. We continue united in daily prayer for the Jewish people, and in prayer that the Prince of Peace will soon return. The Savior of Israel and ours will very soon manifest Himself!

God bless you.
Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■



PERSECUTION AND MARTYRDOM ARE COMING!

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

These are the words of a young Christian woman who previously believed in the rapture: "...since I had been taught that the Church was going to be caught up in the rapture before the Great Tribulation began, I thought that should live comfortably, enjoying life. However, now that God has shown me through His Word that the Church is going to be *"caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord"* on the day of His Second Coming (1Thess. 4:15-17), I have understood that the doctrine of a mysterious rapture occurring before His Second Coming is a snare set by Satan in order to cause many Christians to live as I was living when I was still deceived by this teaching of the rapture. Satan has done this so that many will be unprepared for the days that are coming ahead. Now God has shown me that I should walk closely with Him so that I can be spiritually awake and strong. Only in this manner will I be able to be faithful to Him in the midst of the terrible events that lie ahead in which God will demonstrate His wrath and judgment upon those who live wickedly, but in which the LORD will be glorified in His People in the same manner that He did it with Israel when He sent the plagues upon the Egyptians but delivered His people." This statement was made by a young Christian woman to whom the LORD gave the revelation to understand the truth about the days in which we are living and about what is coming in the days ahead.

We should not think that we are going to convince anyone through our own efforts. The Lord Himself has warned us that this is impossible. However, He has also given us the responsibility to declare and forewarn about what is coming in the days ahead, whether they listen to us or not or whether they understand it or not. The truth is that the Bible

DOES NOT TEACH about a "mysterious rapture." The only thing that someone has to do to be convinced of this truth is to search the pages of God's Book because no one can find proof of this false teaching in the Word of God. The prophets announced and the apostles taught about the Second Coming of the LORD in glory in which *"He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe"* (1Thess. 1:10) in which He will rescue His people, Israel, as described by the prophet Zechariah (Zech. 14:2-4). On this occasion, it is not my purpose to speak about the false teaching of the "rapture," since we do not have the time or the space to go into detail about this subject. However, if anyone is moved by the Holy Spirit and is interested in knowing more about this important prophetic subject, they can write or call us and we will happily send them a copy of our book titled: "The Truth about the Rapture."

The message that God has commanded us to announce (this is precisely what we have been doing from the pulpit and on a personal level and through written publications, radio programs, television programs and through the internet) is that days of persecution and martyrdom are coming for the People of God and God wants His children to be prepared in order to be faithful witnesses in the midst of the darkness that is covering the Earth. As it is written: *"For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people"* (Isa. 60:2). The two witnesses, who are faithful Israel and the faithful Church, are

and will be in a wide spread manner martyred at the hands of Gentile nations as a prelude to the Second Coming of the LORD (Rev. 11:7-13). At this present time, it's an undeniable reality that antisemitism has increased, not only among Communist nations, but also among western nations, including the United States. On the other hand, the true servants of Jesus Christ the LORD are presently suffering persecution and martyrdom in many parts of the world in which *"the darkness"* (Isa. 60:2) has already arrived.

Throughout the ages, and even to the present, God's plan has always been that the light that is in His People should shine forth in the midst of the darkness. He has done this with Israel and with the Church. However, in order for this plan to be fulfilled it is indispensable that the People of the LORD be united in perfect communion. Invariably, this has only been achieved in the past through tribulation and persecution. As long as the People of God live surrounded by wealth and material comforts, as is the case in the parts of the world where we live, this communion decreases or is lost completely. Consequently, the light becomes dim or is completely extinguished. It is then replaced by a false light. It is certainly true that this all happens as a result of the operation of the prince of darkness who has the ability to transform himself into *"an angel of light"* (2 Cor. 11:14). However, it is impossible for this false light to remain. On the other hand, *"the True Light"* (Jn. 1:9) will always overwhelm the darkness for

the simple reason that the Word of God and His divine will cannot be stopped from being fulfilled because the Almighty God has declared that *"heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away"* (Matt. 24:35).

Therefore, as the *"wrath of God"* (1Thess. 5:9) increases upon the wicked (something which has undeniably been evident in the past century, as well as in the present) the persecution and martyrdom of the People of God at the hands of the people of the world will also increase (2Thess. 1:4-7). However, as I have explained previously, this is not something with negative results. It is God's plan so that the light of the *"two candlesticks"* will shine brightly and so that the *"two olive trees"* can produce oil (Rev. 11:4). Regarding the modern State of Israel, it is currently under a tremendous pressure which is impossible for me to describe in a few short lines. World opinion is against the Jews. Its "friends" are dismembering Israel "for its own good," and its staunchest enemies are, more than ever before, planning its complete destruction. Wherever the Jews of the Diaspora (the Scattering) are living throughout the world, including in the United States, throughout the past year there has been an alarming increase in the acts of vandalism and persecution directed against the Jewish people. It is a proven fact that in these regions of the world where we live it is considered a "curse" by the majority of people for Christians to openly declare their support of Israel and the Jewish people. In fact, many Christians, and among them many ministers, believe and teach different doctrines which include varying levels of antisemitism. Others do not say or do not do anything negative against the Jews, but they ignore their place and their existence. They even forget that *"salvation is of the Jews"* (Jn. 4:22). On the other hand,



the Christians in whom resides the distinctive of God: to do righteousness and to love their brother (1 Jn. 3:10) acknowledge, love, defend and protect their brother Israel and the Jewish people scattered around the world. This attitude was put to the test in a unique manner during the years of the Holocaust which occurred during the Second World War. However, in these present days and because of the persecution and martyrdom that is coming in the near future, God is allowing us another opportunity to demonstrate our love for the Jewish people.

The faithful Church is also being purified by the same “medicine” of persecution and martyrdom and there are many who are already experiencing these things. However, multitudes of Christians who have not yet experienced these things believe that they will not suffer because they have been taught that the “Church is called to not suffer,” and that they will “disappear in a ‘mysterious rapture’ before the tribulation begins.” Many of them will not believe until they find themselves in these critical situations. Presently there is no reasoning or explanation that will convince them because the spirit of deception is extremely powerful. The LORD has shown us that during the days of persecution and martyrdom that lie ahead there will be two types of behavior exhibited by Christians who do not currently believe they will suffer. There will those who when faced with the reality of the situation will be convinced of this truth and they will surrender themselves in the hands of the LORD in order to glorify Him unconditionally. However, those who will be disillusioned by the reality of suffering something they did not expect to endure will deny the LORD out of fear of losing their

lives or the lives of their loved ones. The LORD has been speaking to them so that they will believe the truth about what is coming and prepare and fortify themselves spiritually, but who, because of their stubbornness and pride, have not attended to the Voice of the LORD. The Holy Spirit has told this type of Christians that when persecution arrives the LORD will forsake them because they have taken His Voice lightly (Rev. 3:10, Heb. 2:1-3). It would be great if the theory of the “mysterious rapture” was true, but the truth is, as we have previously stated, that the Word of God does not teach this false theory.

Just as God has united and continues to unite the Jewish people through the suffering of persecution and martyrdom they have endured, He is doing the same with His Church. We are presently experiencing the days in which the Lord is calling His children out of “Babylon” (Rev. 18:2-4) and He is giving them the understanding that the Church does not consist of the politico-religious organizations that the world recognizes as “churches.” These organizations have been the most effective method that the antichrist, who is Satan, has used to divide Christianity, causing them to despise, abhor, hate, and condemn and to curse one another.

In the current religious environment today, many Christians who have begun to understand this truth and who have left the politico-religious systems are suffering persecution at the hands of their own brothers who remain blinded to this truth. This is a fact which is prevalent among all colors and races of people. It is happening in America, in Asia, in Europe and in the other continents. It is occurring among hundreds of denominations, beginning with the “great whore” (Rev. 17:1) and continuing with her daughters. All

this is currently happening and will increase so that God’s plan for His People may be fulfilled, so that His People will be united with the only legitimate ligature approved by God: THE LOVE OF GOD.

Many of the true followers of Jesus Christ the LORD, in the midst of persecution and martyrdom, being moved by the love of Christ will not only seek out their brothers, but will also be willing to give their lives for them. They will be willing to do this not only for their Christian brothers, but also for their Jewish brothers who “concerning the Gospel, are enemies for your sakes, but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sake” (Rom. 11:28). After all, the final purpose of the Eternal One is that His People should become ONE FLOCK, under the care of ONE PASTOR (Jn. 10:16).

The LORD is warning His children that wars, pestilences, earthquakes, famine and persecution are coming (Mat. 24:5-11). He is telling us to exercise ourselves in walking closely with Him in holiness, humility, sincerity and brotherly love. He desires that we should be “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:18). The LORD is warning His Church that we should not behave as Israel did in the time of Jeremiah, when they did not humble themselves nor did they believe that affliction was coming until it was already upon them and found them unprepared.

Terrible things are about to happen when the maximum force of “the wrath of God” (1 Thess. 5:9) will be unleashed upon the impious world. It is impossible to deny the fact that this “wrath” has already begun to fall upon humanity because the evidence of this truth is overwhelming. The

Eternal One’s whip has been lashing out against the wicked world for some time now and the climax of this wrath (“the final plague”, Ex. 11:1-7) is at the doors. In the midst of all of this the faithful Church (as well as faithful Israel) as endured and will continue enduring “great tribulation” (Rev. 7:14) at the hands of the world which afflicts it until “that day” (2 Tim. 4:8) arrives. This “great tribulation” (Rev. 7:14) which the children of God endure is not the “wrath of God” (1 Thess. 5:9). This “tribulation” is the fruit of “the wrath of the devil” (Rev. 12:12) and of the world which “troubles” (2 Thess. 1:6) the saints. However, the Lord’s purpose is that in the midst of the darkness and persecution the light that He has placed in His Faithful Church (Matt. 5:14-16) should shine forth brightly so that His Marvelous Name, JESUS CHRIST our LORD, should be known and called upon by many. In this manner, in the days that are coming ahead, the same will occur as happened among the Egyptians who believed in the God of Israel when the LORD sent the plagues in order to deliver His People, so that they can also believe in Him and be saved.

Let us believe what the LORD is saying and let us be vigilant. There is no time to be playing around with God. We must be serious in our walk with Him. There is no longer time to be dreaming and to be making plans as if this world is our life. We must live for Christ one day at a time with the understanding that the marvelous day of our deliverance is imminent. We must have “our loins girded, our shoes on our feet, and our staff in our hand” (Ex. 12:11), because our Paschal Lamb (Christ) has already been sacrificed and by His Blood our doors (our hearts) have been marked. Come LORD JESUS!

God bless you. ■



HOLOCAUST MEMORIES

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

«Why is there an urgency in me to write this article about what occurred in the Varsovia, Poland concentration camp? Could it be because of all that has recently been written and spoken of in the various means of communication? It must be more than that. What then is the reason? I ask myself time and time again. This question provokes the memories and the pain in my mind. Memories that I thought I had forgotten, but it is not so. These memories that take me again to Varsovia, to the year 1939, when the Nazi German armies entered my native town, they bring with them the great nightmare that radically changed the entire course of my life.»

on fire everywhere as well as the screams and cries of the hurting and those that were dying. The entrance of the Nazi German army with the Nazi occupation began the persecution and the systematic destruction of the inhabitants of Varsovia, whose purpose was to exterminate the European Jewish community and other national groups of oriental Europe. I feel the urgency to bring these events to the minds of my brethren, because I will never forget the bravery and hope of my people, who are called by the God of Israel to never be exterminated. My desire is for you to know of the resistance of the human spirit. I want you to know how, amid a situation of profound tragedy and immense misery, a people abandoned to themselves, in their misery, impotency and desperation, arose to such level of valor that it dared to challenge its powerful conquerors, without weapons and without any hope of winning, but only to preserve its own respect and dignity. God created man in His own image, God gave man a soul.

I remember the coming of the first refugees to the Varsovia ghetto. They were German Jews, walking in silent rows. They looked extremely sad but with dignity. I cannot say the same for the multitudes that arrived later, they were all torn up and half

dead of hunger. In the beginning, we tried to organize ourselves, forming committees according to the sections where we lived, so that the refugees would accommodate themselves in private homes. When the Gestapo closed the schools, we organized the children in groups and our teachers would teach them. When the food began to get scarce, we opened communal kitchens. But soon the ghetto, surrounded by walls was too small to contain the growing number of Jews that kept arriving, having been driven out their villages and towns of the Varsovia region. Typhoid began to cause harm, and without medicine the number of deaths were at an alarming rate. Helping was beyond our human capacity. Life turned into a horrible nightmare. Then came the transportation people from the streets and houses, taken to never be seen again. By this time there were only 60,000 of the 500,000 of us that were originally in the ghetto, but hope of living prevailed. That hope was what kept us alive.

Because of the desperation, the will to resist resulted and it was in 1943 when there was a historic uprising in the Ghetto of Varsovia. I was taken from the Ghetto of Varsovia to a prison and a concentration camp where with the help of some Polish people who were not Jews, my life was preserved.

The memories of these horrible experiences awoke in my mind the question of the "purpose". Why did God want to preserve my life?

Sister Krummel, is a Jewish woman born in Poland, who is now a believer in the LORD Jesus. In this article, she recounts some of the experiences in her own life in Poland, during the first years of the Second World War.

«Why is there an urgency in me to write this article about what occurred in the Varsovia, Poland concentration camp? Could it be because of all that has recently been written and spoken of in the various means of communication? It must be more than that. What then is the reason? I ask myself time and time again. This question provokes the memories and the pain in my mind. Memories that I thought I had forgotten, but it is not so. These memories that take me again to Varsovia, to the year 1939, when the Nazi German armies entered my native town, they bring with them the great nightmare that radically changed the entire course of my life.»

By this time, I was already married, and my son Matthew was six years old. My husband and I were working, and life presented many promises and smiles to us. Yes, there were certainly threats from Hitler, but that was happening in Poland, we were confident that the alliance with France and England could easily fix the Hitler problem. But it didn't work out that way.

I remember how everything started: the horror of being bombed day and night and seeing things



And what was His purpose for me? In the concentration camp, I met a woman of great faith, who was the first person that made me think of the real meaning of being a Christian. After I came to London, England, where I currently reside, I was able to meet other Christian brethren who caused me to think about the LORD Jesus as Israel's Messiah. After some time, my awakening related to the LORD intensified to the degree that He became my personal friend and the Savior of my soul.

After having found the LORD, I found my own self. I continue to be a Jew until this day, but today I am a complete Jew. I have even learned more concerning my people; the people that God chose to bring the Messiah and salvation to this world. I have arrived to the conclusion that those who love the LORD Jesus, by the study of the Word of God get to a profound understanding of the Jewish nation.»

This testimony is from "The Hebrew Christian" magazine.

One of the fundamental messages that the Lord has commanded me to proclaim, for many years, by all the means possible, including the pages of this Maranatha Magazine, has been the cardinal importance that exists between the Jewish People and the LORD's Church, amongst the gentile world. The Sacred Texts that have been used as the principle foundation for this topic have been the following:

The memories of these horrible experiences awoke in my mind the question of the "purpose". Why did God want to preserve my life? And what was His purpose for me? In the concentration camp, I met a woman of great faith, who was the first person that made me think of the real meaning of being a Christian. After I came to London, England, where I currently reside, I was able to meet other Christian brethren who caused me to think about the LORD Jesus as Israel's Messiah. After some time, my awakening related to the LORD intensified to the degree that He became my personal friend and the Savior of my soul.

"Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22) and "For I WOULD NOT, brethren, that YE SHOULD BE IGNORANT OF THIS MYSTERY, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:25). Much has been insisted on instructing the Christian people of this vital topic, especially when we see the profound ignorance that exists among the majority of our brethren concerning this important truth and the sad consequences that this ignorance produces.

I have taught that it is not possible to be a true follower of God while not loving the people from whom our salvation comes. The most terrible curse that the apostate Christianity has brought upon itself, in the course of the centuries has been to despise, hate, persecute and kill the Jewish people. The word of the Eternal One is the same until today when He says: *"Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee" (Numbers 24:9).* In the course of the almost four millenniums that have transpired since the God Israel declared what He said, the blessing continues to be fulfilled in those that bless the Jewish People, and the curse has also continued to be fulfilled in those who curse them. The Holocaust is the ultimate proof of the

fulfilment of the Word of the Eternal One.

Individuals and nations, equally, during the ages have witnessed and have also experienced the veracity of the spoken Word by the Almighty, in favor of the people that He chose to create to make them distinguishable during the times and places. Today, like in all other times and places, there are many nations and a great number of individuals who don't believe what God has said about Israel. This operation is not something that works only in pagan and atheist minds, in them it should not surprise us, but this operation has also worked and continues to work in the minds of Christian world, among whom Lucifer has manifested himself with his hatred against the chosen people and nation of God.

We are aware that this operation is not going to end until the Second Coming of the LORD, when the God of Israel, Jesus the LORD, the Christ of the church, the Messiah that the Jewish people are waiting for to manifest Himself in His Glory. We are also aware that until He arrives, we Christians among the gentiles that are awake to the truths of the Word of God, we must demonstrate our love and even defend in all possible ways and means, the people through which God has chosen to give to us the book of life, the Holy Bible. To do such thing, it is indispensable to be informed about it and



that is what we try to do with all Christians.

The LORD has instructed me to inform Christians who don't know about the holocaust and remind those that do know, and more particularly through this Maranatha newspaper. Sister Krummel's testimony is published for that same purpose. Her experiences are a minuscule fraction of the horrid memories that are still in the minds of the multitude of survivors of the concentration camps and Hitler's ovens. One of Satan's earliest operations is to shamelessly deny the reality of the Holocaust, and many have been believing that same thing. Among them are many Christians who because of their ignorance concerning this important reality have been taken in that infernal deceit. The point of the devil is to discredit, in every way possible the people that God has chosen. But at the same time, it is a challenge that the LORD presents to the true believers in Jesus Christ, to do our part to defend the righteousness that belongs to the people of the Book.

The Holocaust is the most gruesome reality, whose magnitude has no parallel in the annals of human history. Just as it has been explained in the pages of this Maranatha newspaper, the Holocaust has been the exact and literal fulfillment of the prophecy found in the book of Revelation concerning the

woman being with child with birth pains (**Rev. 12:1-2**). That *"woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars"* is the Jewish race. It is a nation dressed in glory and made different than all the other nations of the earth, by the absolute will of the eternal God; *"Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises"* (**Romans 9:4**). The birth pain that the woman suffers is none other than the horrendous torment that the chosen people of God suffered, when more than six million of its members were systematically massacred in ways never experienced. The crime for which they were taken to the degradation and death, was for being Jews. As a result of the "birth pain" of the women, the son was born: The Modern State of Israel. The kingdom of Israel of which the disciples of the LORD asked, was restored (**Acts 1:6**) and which the dragon did want for it to be born (**Rev. 12:3-4**). But the time of the prophecy had come and nothing or no one would be able to prevent its fulfillment, being that it was declared by the Holy One of the saints when He said: *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away"* (**Matthew 24:35**).

Israel has been restored according to the prophecies, so that thereby the last prophecies, related to the end times should

be fulfilled. Some of them are having their literal and undeniable fulfillment before the eyes of the world, such as: *"And in that day, will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it"* (**Zacharias 12:3**). This prophecy and others could not in any way have their due fulfillment before the establishment of the State of Israel, and before the City of God, Jerusalem was in the hands of its legitimate owners: the Jewish People.

Nevertheless, according to the prophecies of Israel, they yet have to go through more distress, pain and shedding of blood, being that *"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city"* (**Zacharias 14:1-2**), but Israel is not alone in that distress, the Scripture says: *"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST"* (**Rev. 12:17**). The faithful Israel and the faithful church are marked with the same mark by the sovereign will of the Eternal One: *"Yea,*

for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter" (**Psalm 44:22, Romans 8:36**), *"and the scripture cannot be broken"* (**John 10:35**). Distress, pain, persecution, martyrdom and death awaits true Christians, together with Israel. That's why true Christians have always loved and continue until today to love Israel and the scattered (Diaspora) Jewish People and we will be with them in their suffering.

The apostate Christianity, on the other hand, has hated and persecuted the Jewish People since the first centuries of the Church until this day. It was the "Christian" Nazi Germany who was the executioner of the Holocaust. In these days, it is the same "Christianity" who continues to hate Israel and the Jewish People throughout different parts of the world. It is precisely those "Christians" who strive to convince the world with their message of hate, saying to all, what they want to hear, that is that the Holocaust never happened, that it is another made up lie by the Jews. But thank God that the true Church is also in the scene and the true followers of Jesus the Messiah that love Israel and the Jewish People, we pray for them, and we are here to defend them and stand with them in their calling.

God bless you. ■



“He that is unjust (acts wrong, wicked), let him be unjust still: and he that is filthy (immoral), let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous (observes God’s Word), let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” (Rev. 22:11).

On many occasions, when reading this tremendous declaration of the Holy Spirit, I’ve questioned the LORD about this statement. According to common logic, it should rather say that the unjust repent of his injustice, and that the unclean turn from his filthiness and sanctify himself. (I confess that I am one of those who have thought this and wished it were not so). But the LORD Himself warns us, saying: *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways” (Is. 55:8)*. Therefore, we must search *“the mind of the LORD” (Rom. 11:34)*, with *“the mind of Christ”* that is in us *(1 Cor. 2:16)* in order to understand the reason for this declaration.

In the course of my long journey, I have observed, with considerable pain, this terrible sentence fulfilled in the lives of many professing Christians, as well as ministers. The conclusion I’ve reached is the well-known truth that GOD’S PATIENCE HAS LIMITS. Those on whom the aforementioned curse has been fulfilled have not believed or have simply failed to take seriously, this limit of God’s patience. For God, in His righteous judgments, never *“gave them up” (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28)* or gives up anyone today without prior warning; He always warns His children of the danger

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JUST AND UNJUST, HOLY AND FILTHY

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

that lies ahead. It is precisely in situations when God’s warnings have been ignored, that we reach the point that the apostle John calls, the *“sin unto death,”* about which he suggests, saying: *“I do not say that he shall pray for it.” (1 Jn. 5:16)*. For God speaks many times to His children in one way or another, *“yet man perceive it not” (Job 33:14)*. The day comes when God’s patience reaches its limit. It is then that God himself, [and no one else, *“For only Thou [God] knows the hearts of the children of men” (2 Chron. 6:30)*,] determines that because of man’s rebellion, he is already spiritually dead. It is these whom the initial Text refers to.

I insist, on the fact, that in the vast majority of cases it is not man, as a minister of God, who can definitively say that someone has sinned unto death, and there is, therefore, no remedy for him. I mention this because throughout my years in the ministry, I have known of those who sentence others and yet they themselves have been more spiritually dead than those being sentenced. Sometimes the sentenced person, moved by the Spirit of God, is so burdened by his sin (primarily moral sins of the flesh) that he repents and begs God to have mercy on him. On the other hand, often times, the “judge”, who sentences others, may be

committing sins classified as *“uncleanness of the spirit” (2 Cor. 7:1)*, which are worse (beginning with pride) yet he erroneously lives believing he is fine.

It is very possible that those sentenced, through the process of repentance, can be restored. It is, however, more possible for the horrible sentence in the aforementioned Text to be fulfilled on the hypocritical “judges” unwilling to repent. *“For the LORD sees not what man sees; For a man looks at what is before his eyes, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7)*.

The fact that this statement, cited in our Initial Text, is almost at the end of the Holy Book, has great significance. Through the Holy Spirit we understand that having dealt sufficiently with His people during these Last Days, *“the wise”* will continue to be *“purified, but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand” (Dan. 12:10)*, but *“they will go from bad to worse” (2 Tim. 3:13)*. Those who have been warned by the LORD not to hate their brothers but have persisted in continuing to do so, will hate even more. Those who have been unjust will be more unjust. Those who have pretended and been hypocritical, will be even more so. Adulterers, also, will continue to commit even more adulteries, and sexual pervers are going to be even worse. The apostates and deceivers will continue deceiving and being deceived. The puffed up will swell even more, and the proud will be yet even more proud, etc., etc.



God bless each one who receives and reads this newspaper with Words of life.

On Saturday morning, Pastor Efraim Valverde III spoke to us about the seventy weeks of Daniel, pointing out the time in which we are living and admonishing us to wake up and draw near to the LORD. He also taught us about the Greek word "kai" ("and"). At noon, he taught about scriptures that have not been understood about the Second Coming of the LORD and that have been twisted to teach of a rapture that does not exist. In the evening, the message was to Look, Watch and Pray (Mark 13:33). We ended that night at the altar, seeking the face of our Heavenly Father and crying out to Him with tears.

On Sunday morning, our pastor shared with us the meaning of the word "hear" ("shema" in Hebrew).

SALINAS SEMINAR 2023

Pastor Fred Griffith



Listen very carefully in order to carefully obey. At noon, our brother rabbi, Yitzchok Adlerstein, from Jerusalem, arrived and taught us about "God's plan" from the first day of creation until the Messiah comes. He also spoke to us about the importance of holiness, which begins in the heart, where only God can see, and extends to our outward appearance, where everyone can see. When we have true reverence for God, our bad character traits can be turned into good ones.

This is a brief summary of how much we ministered. Be encouraged and march forward, army of the LORD!

God bless you.
Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Fred Griffith. ■

FELLOWSHIP REPORT HERMOSILLO, SONORA

Pastor Delfino Chávez López

I thank our LORD Jesus Christ, who granted us another year to have our Fellowship Service, to exalt the Glorious Name of God. It was a great blessing and the saints of the LORD were edified.

On Friday, Pastor Alfredo Tienda taught us from God's Word that we must be of the same mind, of one accord. Pastor Néstor Quintanar spoke that night, using God's Word to teach about faith (Heb. 11:32-39). On Saturday morning, Bro. Eliezer Mendoza spoke to us about the importance of not living self-confidently because persecution is coming (Lk. 21:12). Pastor José Covarrubias taught us what God's Word says about humilIty, and it was a great blessing. On Sunday morning,

Bro. Néstor Quintanar spoke about the presentation of children and baptism.

I also thank God for the pastors and brothers who visited us from different places and for the pastors and brothers here in Hermosillo and Poblado Miguel Alemán. What a great blessing when our LORD Jesus Christ brings us together to glorify His "Name which is above every name" (Philip. 2:9).

Blessings to all those who read the Maranatha Periodical. We continue to pray for our pastor, Efraim Valverde III, thank you for the companionship you have shown us. Pray for us. My wish is that God bless you.

Pastor Delfino Chávez López. ■

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REPORT MADERA, CA

Pastor Bernardino García

First of all, I give honor and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to have our annual confraternity and for seeing so many young people receive the Word and message of our LORD Jesus Christ.

It was a blessing to have received our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III. The LORD used him to minister to us in the morning and early afternoon. We were taught once again about the

importance of the Name of God, which is Jesus Christ the LORD, and he emphasized not taking His Name in vain. In the afternoon, we were encouraged to "immerse ourselves in the Scriptures."

It was a blessing to have received so many brothers and that they were able to be with us.

The LORD bless you!
Pastor Bernardino García. ■



God bless all of you who read this informative Periodical with timely messages.

The camp was attended by many brothers. Mostly young people, but also a good number of older people. It was a special blessing to see many young people experiencing the fire and glory of God's presence. The teachings shared by Pastor Efraim Valverde III were substantial, edifying, and moving. He shared with great detail about the end time we are living in, pointing out the hands of God's (Israel's) clock moving and approaching toward *"The end of all things"* (1 Pet. 4:7). He also stressed to us that we must take care of our fervor, intensity, the level of our maturity, our attitude, character, how we speak,

YOUTH CAMP LOCKWOOD, CA 2023

Brother Felipe M. Nava



our decisions, our clothing, and our thoughts. The fellowship was blessed with the presence of God.

We thank the LORD very much for His Presence in everything we did. We also thank our sisters, who cooked, and our brothers, who took part in all the other tasks necessary for this event. Let us pray for our pastor and his family to continue to serve with joy in this important work.

We hope to see you at the next camp in Lockwood, if God grants us life.

Shalom.
Your brother and servant,
Felipe M. Nava. ■

First of all, I thank our LORD Jesus Christ for allowing us to gather together in this activity where we could greatly rejoice *"in one accord"* (Phil. 2:2). God brought our brothers from Bellingham, Washington, Pennsylvania, Juxtlahuaca, Oax., and many other places.

God moved in a special way through His Word, using our pastor, Efraim Valverde III, to mention that there is a propaganda war around the world to turn people's minds, also amongst Christians, for the sole purpose that Israel would be ignored, so it is important to arm our minds with the Word of God, which is His truth (2 Cor. 10:4). He encourage everyone to unite on the Prayer Wall (www.evalverde.com) and choose your time slot being part of those who have committed to pray for Israel (Is. 62:6).

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REPORT SANTA MARÍA, CA

Pastor Justino Flores



Afterwards, a video conference was held with Robert Ilatov, a former member of the Knesset, who gave us a report on the situation regarding the attacks by the Hamas terrorist group on Israel on October 7. He informed us of the things that have occurred since then. *"For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee."* (Psalm. 122:8).

I thank all my brothers and sisters, young men and young ladies, who made the effort by committing themselves in organizing this activity. Thank you so much! (Gal. 6:9). God bless you all, and take heart; our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ, will soon come! Hallelujah!

Pastor Justino Flores. ■



God bless all my brothers. The Lord granted us the opportunity to meet once again in Independence, CA, on October 7 and 8, 2023. It was a memorable weekend since on that day, October 7, the attack against Israel that began the most recent war occurred

On Saturday morning, our pastor, Efraim Valverde III, noted that there is always a parallel comparison between Israel and the Church and that just as Israel is at war, so is the Church, but in spiritual war. In the afternoon, our young people gave a presentation of a medical analysis of the crucifixion of our LORD Jesus Christ, which was a great blessing. In the evening Pastor Efraim ministered to us about being prepared for the worldwide shaking that is coming before the coming of the LORD

On Sunday, we were able to connect with Roberto Ilatov and Rabbi Yehuda Glick via Zoom, who shared

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REPORT INDEPENDENCE, CA

Pastor Javier Núñez



their perspective and hearts on what occurred the day before in Israel. Afterwards, the pastor ministered to us once again about: *“Woe to them that are at ease in Zion* (and the Church)” (Amos 6:1). He also encouraged us to do our part for the people of Israel. While we cannot enlist in the army of Israel, we certainly can be spiritual warriors of prayer and fasting, and we can bless them with our financial resources

We are grateful for all the brothers who attended this service. We appreciate the unity and coordination of the local churches in Bishop and Lone Pine and every one of our brethren who collaborated to make this youth service special. God bless our pastor and his family and continue to give them strength

With God’s help we’ll see you next year

In the love of the Lord,
Pastor Javier Núñez. ■

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REPORT JUXTLAHUACA, OAXACA

Pastor Timoteo Cervantes



Greetings to all my brothers, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for allowing us to have our youth fellowship on October 6, 7 and 8, 2023.

Our brother pastor, Néstor Quintanar G., counseled the young people to be responsible by respecting their parents and submitting themselves to the Word of God. Afterwards, Pastor Elías Murillo spoke to us about the great need to pray for the people of Israel. He spoke to us about the situation on October 7, where an escalation of violence began with the launching of rockets by the Hamas terrorist group against Israel. Urging us to *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee”* (Psalm 122:6). Not confusing material prosperity with spiritual prosperity when praying for God’s people, understanding the blessing we receive from the LORD is His power to be able to live for Him and strength to obey His Word; love Israel with a

sincere heart and with genuine love. Afterwards, our brother Esteban Trujillo shared some Scriptures with the young people about the importance of being awake and praying for the people of Israel (Is. 62:1-7). He shared with us part of his testimony also how to address the LORD inquiring direction regarding secular education, specifically our relationship with God while focusing on our education. Brother Samuel Quintanar, spoke about philosophy and ideology, mentioning that we are living in crucial times and of prophecies about apostasy

Finally, the call was made for those who wanted to get baptized. Thank God there were some brave young people who gave their lives to the LORD, being baptized in the Name of our LORD Jesus Christ. This is how we finalized our youth fellowship. We ask for your prayers for us. God bless you.

Pastor Timoteo Cervantes. ■



YOUTH SECTION

Brother Moisés Cruz

chose to teach us through our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., and more so in these last days where there are many “offers” from various denominations that can make us feel “comfortable” and “at ease” in our flesh, believing that everything is alright, but the opposite is true. The LORD has desired to give us a great treasure through these messages and He wants us to occupy ourselves in them. Walking with the LORD doesn't consist of accepting those offers of “new” and different teachings.

There are many examples in the Word of God of a generation that knew and walked in fear before God, but then *“...there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord”* (Judges 2:10). That brought devastating consequences and we see this in the present time. Many of our

older brothers experienced suffering for the Word of God and those experiences helped them to walk with appreciation for that blessing, each day. But we have not experienced the same thing and maybe that's why we don't give these treasure the importance and the value that they have and deserve because we have everything so easy. But we must be grateful to God for giving us these messages and for not having to be searching and begging in other places to find them. We need to ask God for His help so we don't take these messages for granted, but that we instead, may we may be affirmed in those messages to the degree of understanding them, live them and share them with those around us, in school, at work and wherever the LORD would open doors for us to share them, because it is our

responsibility to give testimony I invite you, my young brother and sister, to continue to go forth in the place where the LORD has placed you. That you may contribute in the work, keeping yourself occupied in the things that God expects from us. And stay far from seeking and desiring to be acknowledged and recognized, or desiring to be someone in the church or desiring someone else's place. Let's seek to serve, always remembering that if we are able to do something it is because it has pleased our Creator to give us that blessing, and not because we deserve it.

The Word of God tells us: *“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee”* (Deut. 31:6). He promised to be with us, and if there is someone who will not defraud us, it is our LORD.

May the Lord bless you,
Your brother, Moisés Cruz. ■

God bless you, young people. First of all I want to thank God for the opportunity that He gives me to be able to share these short words. Since the Lord saved me, in my adolescent years, the messages that are shared in this Maranatha Newspaper have been a blessing. They have helped me grow in the knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ and in my spiritual growth.

May the LORD help us to take advantage and appreciate these unique messages that the LORD



WOMEN OF GOD

Sister Helen Rodríguez

support with joy, knowing that their recompense is in heaven. We can count on them to do a job, big or small.

The Phebe sisters are invincible! No don't wait to be begged nor to be applauded when they serve. They're aware that what they do, they are doing it for their LORD Jesus Christ with love and for love. They do, even if no one else does, without murmuring, complaining or criticizing. They are always willing to help. Just as the apostle Paul said about Phebe: *“...she hath been a*

succourer of many, and of myself also” (Romans 16:2).

Phebe was a Deaconess. What is a Deaconess? Someone who serves. Don't seek who to be, seek what to do, as our elder pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. would say.

You know what you have done for the work of God my sister, beginning in your home, serving your husband and your children. Then, serving you're your brethren in the church as well as others. You know how many meals you have prepared; how many

tables you have served, how many dishes you have washed. You know how many people you have encouraged with your words, and how many visitors you have welcomed, etc. Maybe you have lost count, but God knows and remembers.

God bless you “sister Phebe” for your help and service. Your labor and work in the LORD is not in vain. And you my sister who are no longer able to work in physical labors and tasks, there is still something you can do and that is to pray for those that can.

I ask prayers for all the “Phebe sisters” we need always are in need of your prayers. God bless you. Sister Helen Rodríguez. ■

Greetings to all my sisters in Christ. I am Sister Helen Rodríguez, wife of Pastor Baudelio Rodríguez Sr., pastor in Forest Grove, Oregon.

I thank God for all the “Phebe sisters” (Romans 16:1-2) in the church, who help without complaining. They back up and



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 Philip 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 baptized 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?**

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

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.

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 (**Isaiah 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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*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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