

THE LORD IS COMING  
*1 Corinthians 16:22*



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**MARANATHA**

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**GOD'S  
PROPHETIC  
Clock**

.....Page 03

**DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE OF  
ISRAEL**

.....Page 06

**ACTIVITIES  
RERPORT**

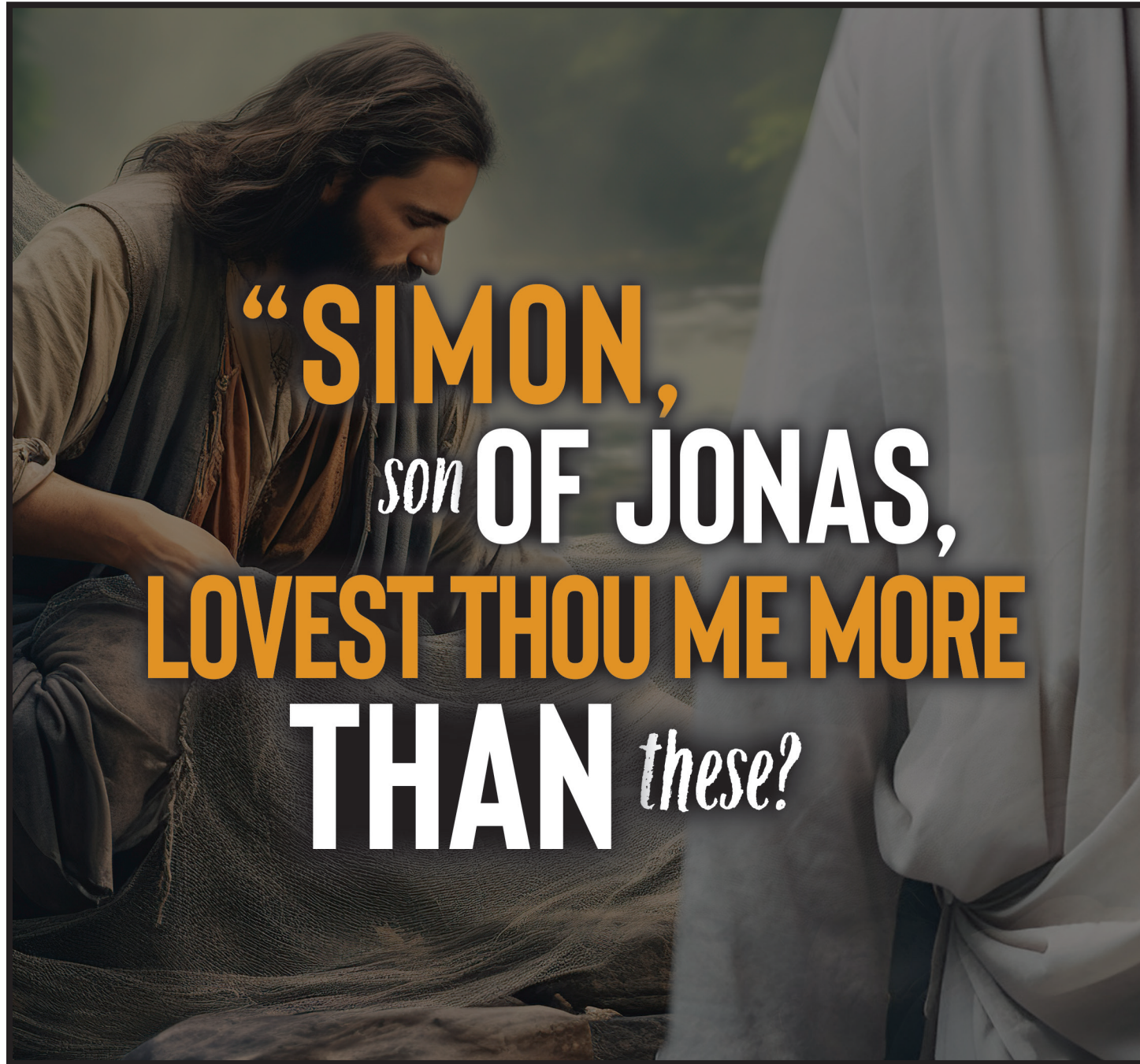
.....Page 10

**BAPTISM IN THE NAME  
OF OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST**

.....Page 14

**WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?**

.....Page 15



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## EDITORIAL

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

*UNTO MY GOD: HE HEARD MY VOICE out of His temple, and MY CRY CAME BEFORE HIM, even into His ears... He sent from above, HE TOOK ME, HE DREW ME OUT OF MANY WATERS (distresses). He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. They prevented me in the day of my calamity (oppression and trouble): but the LORD was my stay. HE BROUGHT ME FORTH also into a LARGE PLACE; HE DELIVERED ME, because He delighted in me" (Psalm 18:6. 16-19).*

God bless you.  
Pastor Efraim Valverde III.

### TRUSTING IN CHRIST

*In my struggles Master I know I  
can conquer  
trusting only in you  
I feel like I surrendering hearing  
Your voice,  
Which says: "Without Me you are  
nothing."  
Permit me my Lord, to always  
remember  
The price paid for me:  
your precious Blood of unparalleled  
cost,  
That could only save me.*

### CHORUS

*And now I go forward carrying  
Your cross,  
Trusting that I will arrive  
To that beautiful place, where I  
will live  
Forever flooded in Your light.*  
II  
*Always give me fear to recognize  
That you are higher than I,  
That only in humility I will be able  
to receive  
Your Grace and Your sublime love.  
You have taken in Your hands,  
Master,  
my being, And I want to be Yours,  
Lord.■*

a strong conviction we he says: *"For Thou art the God of my strength" (Psalm 43:2).* Indicating that David knows who the strength of his life is. But, in his *"distress" (Psalm 18:6)* he asks the God of his strength: *"why dost Thou cast me off" (put aside, rejected, renounced, failed me)?"* Instead of feeling the strength of the Lord in the midst of trial and problems, the psalmist felt rejected. How many times (or at the present) has the child of God felt alone and without strength? The psalmist also felt the same way. This is how it is for many children of God, knowing who their Strength is in the midst of *"distress"* many times feel *"cast down"* (demoralized, depressed, discouraged) and *"disquieted"* (concerned). As children of God, when we least realize it we can shift from our mind being focused on the strength of our life to being consumed with their present situation or circumstance in which they find themselves and become distressed (sink, become depressed and discouraged) and upset (agitated and worried) in their soul (mind) with the present trials and problems.

As the psalmist realizes that his mind has switched from being on the Lord to his problems, he encourages himself to redirect and refocus his mind to his Strength, and provokes himself by asking himself the following: *"why go I mourning... why art thou cast down (sinking, depressed, discouraged), O my soul and why art thou disquieted (overwhelming emotions, agitated, you are worried) in me? Hope (be patient, endure the pain, trust) in God for I shall yet (I have reason to) praise Him (be thankful and worship) Who is the health (liberation, help, victory, well-being, salvation) of my countenance, and my God" (Psalm 43:2. 5).* That is to say, at this present time, in the midst of the trial, we have much to be grateful for, trusting that through faith in Him, He will help us and give us strength in the midst of all circumstances, and if He wants, He will free us from our anguish.

The child of God has to praise the Lord at the present in the midst of all his anguish and even praise Him for the anguish in which He will deliver him from. Hallelujah! The psalmist praises God in the present in the hope of being able to praise him in the future by declaring: *"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13).*

To all the children of God, the Lord knows your struggles, trials, problems, temptations, tribulations, difficulties, discouragements, attacks, afflictions and anxieties that are in your life. Set your eyes on Him, and like the apostle Peter when he began to sink, in his anguish he cried out to the Lord, saying: *"Lord, Save me! And immediately JESUS STRETCHED FORTH HIS HAND, AND CAUGHT HIM..." (Math. 14:30),* Likewise, when the child of God sees that he is sinking in anguish, mourning and feeling dejected and troubled, we must look to the Lord and cry out to Him with all our hearts: LORD SAVE ME!

The Lord promised to be with His disciples every day until the end of the world. A disciple is one who disciplines himself to learn from his teacher and follows him. If this is you, my brother, my sister, and the Lord is your Master and you want to follow after Him, take courage and follow Him! And if not, what are you waiting for? Come to Him, return to Him!

Life has many troubles, adversities, afflictions, pains, tribulations and more, and it is much better to have the Lord with us than to go through all this without God and without hope. *"We are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor. 4:8-9).*

*"In my distress (a narrow place, trouble, adversity, affliction, pain, tribulation) I called upon the LORD, and CRIED*

I greet you in the Supreme Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, trusting that each one of you is reaching toward *"the mark" (Phil. 3:13-14),* being that *"the mark" is "much closer than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11) "But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul" (Heb. 10:39).* In the child of Gods life there are and will be trials, struggles, afflictions, tribulations and more, but take courage my brethren, who love and seek Christ Jesus our Lord!

*"In my distress (a narrow place, trouble, adversity, affliction, pain, tribulation) I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry came before Him, even into His ears... He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. He brought me forth also into a large place; He delivered me, because He delighted in me" (Psalm 18:6. 16-19).* In the Bible we read how David and other men and women of God were surrounded by trials and problems. Some of the trials came from being faithful to the Lord, and others came from their own carelessness, which caused them to suffer depression, troubles, marital and family problems, etc., etc.

In this occasion I want to focus on *"distresses" (Anguish, problems, adversities, afflictions, pains, tribulations)* that affect the lives of the children of God who are striving daily to be faithful to their beloved Lord. The Psalmist David says: *"Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man. For Thou art the God of my strength: why dost Thou cast me off (put aside, rejected, renounced, failed me)?"* But then there is a change in the mind and he exclaims, saying: *"why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise Him, Who is the health of my countenance, and my God" (Psalm 43:1-2. 5).*

In this Scripture we see the psalmist has



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

Shalom from the God that is Shalom and will soon establish shalom at His coming. Meanwhile we continue to love our older brother, Israel, praying for the people, blessing them, and teaching others to do the same. Israel is living very tense moments and is experiencing extreme pressure from the world, and this only continues to mount. The God of Israel has entrusted us with this responsibility that few understand and are willing to take. By God’s Grace and through a lifetime of my grandfather of blessed memory, Efraim Valverde Sr’s instruction, we have accepted this assignment.

The following are the most outstanding events that have taken place in the first three months of this year, dealing with Israel and the Jewish people.

**January 11, 2024.** *“The times of Israel”*, announced the following: The Antisemitism in United States has shot up in the three months that transpired since the invasion of Israel of the Hamas Terrorist Group on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October of 2023.

**January 13, 2024.** *“The Jerusalem Post Notified”* the following: 67% of the Arab world believe that attack of the Hamas Terrorist Group was a “legitimate resistance” against Israel. 8,000 surveyed from 16 different countries responded. And in a survey made on the Palestinians, 93% don’t believe that Hamas committed war crimes.

**January 14, 2024.** The news group *“Axios”* reported that Presidente Biden and other United States senior officials are more and more frustrated with the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and his rejection to most of the recent offers of the administration related to the Gaza war.

**February 6, 2024.** *“Israel National News”* published: The spokesman for Mahmud Abbas, leader of the Arabs called “Palestinians”, asks the United States to recognize “Palestine”.

# GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

**February 8, 2024.** *“The Times of Israel”*, announced the following: The ex-secretary of State of the United States, Hilary Clinton, criticized on Wednesday, the management of the war between Israel and Hamas by the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and asked his destitution. “It is absolutely necessary for Netanyahu to leave.”

**February 16, 2024.** *“Israel National News reported”*: “I stated my position concerning the recent conversations about imposing a Palestinian State”, in the cabinet meeting, said Netanyahu. “My position is resumed the following two points: 1. Israel categorically rejects the international dictates about a permanent agreement with the Palestinians. Such agreement will only happen through direct negotiations between both parts, without previous conditions”, he added. 2. Israel will continue opposing the unilateral recognition of a Palestinian State. Such recognition, after the massacre of October 7<sup>th</sup> would give terrorism an enormous recompense, without precedence and would impede any future peace treaty”, affirmed the Prime Minister.

**February 28, 2024.** *“The Jerusalem Post”* announced that Iran has given the Lebanese terrorist group, Hezbollah a green light to intensify their attacks along Israel’s northern border, the Arab Post informed Wednesday, citing strong Iranian and Lebanese sources.

**February 29, 2024.** *“The Times of Israel”* informed the following: A survey reveals that 1 in 4 US citizens has anti-Semitic opinions, it is the highest figure in 60 years with an uneasy inversion in the tendencies that demonstrate that the younger generations are more apt to believe anti-Semitic tropes than earlier generations.

**March 8, 2024.** *“CNBC NEWS”*

published that visible tensions are appearing between the historically close relation between the White House and Israel. As the Gazan war turns into a humane disaster que gets worse, and as the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu resists the pressure from the Biden administration to achieve a change of course.

**March 10, 2024.** *“The Jerusalem Post”* announced the following: “The Biden administration is trying to topple Benjamin Netanyahu’s government.” A high-ranking member of the Israeli government said Tuesday night: “We hope our friends act to topple Hamas terrorist regime and not the elected Israeli government”.

**March 21, 2024.** *“The Jerusalem Post”*, notified the following: “The military operation to eliminate the Hamas Terrorist Group in Rafah is going to happen and will happen, even if Israel is obligated to battle alone, even the whole world turns against Israel. United State included, the minister of Strategic affairs, Ron Dermer affirmed.

**March 22, 2024.** *“The Jerusalem Post”* informed that Spain has agreed with the leaders from Ireland, Malta, and Slovenia to take the first steps towards the recognition of a Palestinian State.

**March 25, 2024.** The *“Axios”* News reported that the UN Security Council approved a resolution of high power in Gaza; THE UNITED STATES DID NOT VETO SUCH RESOLUTION.

**March 26, 2024.** *“The Jerusalem Post”* published the following: The UN’s special Narrator, Francesca Albanese, presented a report to the Human Rights Council of the organism Tuesday, affirming that the Israeli military company in Gaza since October 7<sup>th</sup> equates to genocide, asking countries to impose sanctions and an embargo of arms to Israel immediately.

**April 5, 2024.** The *“Axios”* News informed that President Biden presented an ultimatum to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his Thursday phone call: If Israel doesn’t change courses, “we cannot back you up”, he said, according with three sources with knowledge of the telephone call.

All that has happened is accelerating everything towards **Zacariah 14:1-2**. Of all that has been mentioned, the most outstanding is what took place on March 25<sup>th</sup> in the UN Security Council Meeting. On that day there was a profound change in the world landscape when the United States abstained from voting against resolution 2728 of the Security Council of UN, which demands a cease fire on the part of Israel in Gaza. The world consensus is against the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet in Israel. The terrorist attack against Israel of October 7<sup>th</sup> has certainly accelerated these prophetic times in an amazing way. This is another reason why today more than ever, it is necessary for the Church to accelerate its spiritual pace in these last moments of the last times in which we are currently living.

*“And that, KNOWING THE TIME, that now it is high time (the last time) to awake out of sleep: (recollect spiritual faculties, we must wake up from the spiritual sickness, to rise up from being seated, from being in a lying down position, rise up from darkness and inactivity) for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed” (Romans 13:11).* Each day we need to understand what time we are living in so we can be Looking for **THAT BLESSED HOPE, and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ” (Tito 2:13).** Our brother tells us how we should be waiting: *“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God...” (II Peter 3:12).*

God bless you.

Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■





*“If any man loveth not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema (accursed)” (1 Cor. 16:22).*

I don't think that it is necessary for someone to be a biblical scholar for them to understand the terrible significance enclosed in this declaration made by the apostle Paul. Any Christian who is spiritually awake, no matter how reduced or limited their understanding might be, knows that the entire message of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is based upon this fundamental truth.

A Jew, whether they are observant of the Law or not, did not have a choice in whether or not they were going to be a member of the chosen people of God. They acquire this place by right, by inheritance (in fact, there are many Jews who have tried and who currently try to deny or hide their origins). On the other hand, no member of the Church was born a Christian. Every one of us is a Christian by our own choice, especially those of us who are Gentiles. According to the plan established by the Lord a Christian is *“he that believeth”* (Mk. 16:16) and *“who desires”* (Lk. 9:23).

For those of us who were *“brought out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay”* (Ps. 40:2), (and with all the more reason those who are the *“blessed”* ones of Psalm 1:1 who God did not allow to live through that bitter experience), it is a marvelous fact that when the Lord called us out of darkness we did not have to keep any of the commandments stated in the Law in order to be children of

## “SIMON, SON OF JONAS, LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE?”

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

God. We should appreciate this truth with a profound gratitude. All we had to do on that special day in which the Lord called us was to first of all acknowledge that we are sinners who need a Savior, believe with all our heart and confess that the Lord Jesus Christ died and resurrected in order to save us from our sins (Rom. 10:9, Matt. 9:6). Having accepted with our soul that it is by His Grace that He saved us (Eph. 2:8), we repented (Acts 2:38, 3:19, Prov. 28:13), and were baptized in His Name, the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38, 4:12, 22:16). And from that day on we pledged to love Him with the same intensity that He loved us and to keep His Word (Jn. 14:15).

It is therefore imperative that each one of us, regardless of our age or of the amount of time we have been walking with the Lord, or of the place we might occupy in the Church of the Lord, continuously bring to remembrance the beginning of our walk in His Way (Acts. 19:23) so that we will always testify about our experience in order to not forget and not take lightly *“the purification of our old sins”* (2 Pet. 1:9). I emphasize the fundamental truth that we are not Christians by inheritance and that we are not standing today by our own right or by our own good works, but we are only still standing by His mercy and by His Divine Grace (Lam.

3:22). The apostle Paul, even though he had a calling much greater than ours, was absolutely convinced and aware of this marvelous truth and he wrote amply out this truth for our benefit today. That is why I know that the apostle Paul's declaration that I cited at the beginning: *“If any man loveth not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema (accursed)”* (1 Cor. 16:22) is not a superficial or shallow statement, but it is a tremendously profound proclamation. It contains a curse of death that no one can place on any other person or no one can remove from another person. It is an individual situation which depends exclusively on the personal affection of every Christian in their relationship with the Lord.

It is easy for anyone to make a judgment that the topic I am writing about today is something very common and that it is not a novelty. Therefore, someone might think that it is not important enough to focus a lot of attention on. But the reality is that if it is dangerous for a member of the Church to think this way, with all the more reason it is dangerous for a person who professes to be a minister of the Lord to think in this fashion. Therefore, before our God (who knows each one who might read this article), I challenge the reader, whether you are a member or a minister, to take what I am mentioning here very

seriously so that you may receive the blessing of God. On the other hand, if someone takes this message lightly, then that person is bringing upon themselves the curse that I mentioned previously.

It is certainly true that the warning concerning this curse is not limited only to the verse I cited at the beginning but it is included throughout God's Book. In the New Testament it is stated to us more directly that each one of us who professes to be a disciple of Jesus Christ our Lord can deliver ourselves from this curse by loving Him with our lives. However, the type of love that He demands from us in order to receive His blessing is not the frivolous, lukewarm or superficial love that is prevalent among most Christian environments. The love the Lord Jesus demands from us is an intense, profound love similar to the love that He displayed to us at Calvary, a surrender to serve Him by following His Word (John 10:27).

It would be impossible to cite all the passages in the New Testament which speak about this subject, but on this occasion I want to mention four Scriptures which confirm what I am sharing here. The first one contains the essential condition that the Lord Jesus Himself demands from every one of His followers: *“He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me”* (Mt. 10:37-38). These are not simply words that He





spoke but contain a life or death message which, unfortunately, many times only a few people take seriously, because a great majority of Christians love the things of this world more than they love the Lord.

In the second Scripture God uses the apostle Paul to issue the following warning: *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing”* (1 Cor. 13:1-3). Upon reading this warning, the Christian who is awake will understand the terrible consequences implied in this warning and will also notice that there exists a multitude of professing Christians who do not truly understand the danger that they are in. Presently many are deceived and believe that love is simply a feeling and that it is not of great importance. However, the reality is that “Love” is not “something,” but rather it is Someone: it is the Lord Himself who lives in His child. When His presence is evident in the life of His child, then that Christian will love the Lord with all of their strength and will have within them the *“mind which is in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 2:3-5).

The third Scriptural portion is the one in which the apostle James

warns us: *“But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above but is earthly, sensual, devilish”* (James 3:14-18). Here the Lord, through the apostle, declares that there are two types of wisdom, clearly warning us that it is possible for a person to possess *“diabolical wisdom”* without realizing that they are being guided by this type of wisdom. Multitudes of Christians, the majority of them being ministers, have fallen into this infernal trap and have brought a curse upon themselves. Invariably, the cause of this situation has always been the same: the absence in their life of a true, intense, profound love for the Lord.

The fourth and final Scripture is the one in which the Spirit declares: *“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and has borne, and has patience, and for My Name’s sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen...”* (Rev. 2:2-5). In this verse, the Spirit points out the curse which many have brought upon themselves when it mentions those who *“have fallen”*.

Throughout my lifetime I have known thousands of Christians who possessed a deep love for the Lord when they first began walking with Him. However, as

the years passed by, Satan has managed to work in a very subtle manner to cause them to stray away from their first love. That sincere, intense, genuine love that they had for the Lord in the beginning of their walk (which is precisely what the Spirit calls the *“first love”*) is slowly transformed into an *“appearance of godliness”* (2 Tim. 3:5), into a curse. PETER, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?

In the first part of this article I mentioned the Scriptural declaration made in 1 Corinthians 16:22, including the terrible curse that this declaration contains. However, in the headline of this article I included the question that the Lord directed toward the apostle Peter: Do you love me more than these?

I would now like to elaborate on the reason that the Lord posed this gripping triple question to the apostle Peter. The undeniable lesson here consists in the truth of the fact that as our responsibility grows in the service of the Lord; it is indispensable that the depth of our love toward Him should also increase. The members of any Christian congregation should love the Lord with all their heart, soul and might. However, the love toward God of the spiritual leader of each congregation should always be greater than that of the members. If this is not true, then that leader cannot truly be a leader. In fact, even if this type of person claims to be a leader, he is false.

It was not the apostle Peter who took the initiative to tell the

Lord that his love for the Lord was greater than that of his brothers. It was the Lord who posed this question to Peter. We find the reason for this in this same Scripture when we read that the Lord instructed Peter three times to *“feed His sheep”* (Jn. 21:15-17). The undeniable lesson that we can learn from this interaction is that the Lord is demonstrating that it would have been impossible for the apostle Peter to fulfill the ministry that had been commended to him if he did not have within him a greater degree of love for the Lord than that possessed by others. This requirement, even after 20 centuries have passed, continues to be the same. No one can truly deny the truth of this declaration.

During the time that I have spent writing about this truth, the power of the Holy Spirit of my God has come upon me several times and I have been overcome with emotion. I know that to feel the intense passion alluded to by the Lord was not an exclusive prerogative of the apostles, but it is something that is also demanded from us. This is the Divine immutable rule by which each one of the faithful and true ministers of God is measured, even to this day. Each one is measured according to his position, capacity and calling. This is true for the most prominent ministers as well as for the least, most simple and unknown ministers. By the way, if you are included in this number, my brother, I am sure that as you read this you are

**Continues on page...9**





## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

Blessed is the God of Israel who this May 14, 2024 has allowed the Modern State of Israel to celebrate its 76th anniversary of His fulfilled promise to the Jewish People.

The following is the text of the declaration of Independence of Israel. Eretz Israel was the crib of the Jewish people. Their spiritual, religious, and national identity was forged here. Here it achieved its sovereignty, creating cultural values of national and universal significance and they gave the entire world the Book of books.

After having been exiled from their land by force, the people kept their faith during the entire Dispersion, and they never ceased to pray and wait for their return to it, for the restoration and political liberty.

Moved by this historical and traditional bond, the Jews sought in each generation to reestablish themselves in their ancestral homeland. In the last decades they returned in mass. Pioneers, maapilim ("illegal" immigrants) and defenders, made the desert to blossom, they revived the Hebrew language, they built cities and villages, and they created a prosperous society that controlled their own economy and culture, loving peace, but capable of defending itself, carrier of blessings and progress for all inhabitants of the nation, and aspiring for the independence and the recognition as a nation.

In the year 5697 (1897), responding to the father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the first Zionist Congress took place, which proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to the national restoration in their own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of November the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917 and reaffirmed in the mandate of the League of Nations, that specifically sanctioned internationally the historical connection between the Jewish people and Eretz Israel and the right of the Jewish people to reconstruct their National Home.

The latest catastrophe that recently struck the Jewish people, was the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe. This was another clear demonstration

of the urgency to resolve the problem of their lack of a home, reestablishing in Eretz Israel the State of Israel that will open wide their doors to all Jews and grant to the Jewish people the status of privileged membership in the family of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe, as others from other parts of the world, continued to emigrate to Eretz Israel, overcoming difficulties, restrictions and dangers and never ceased to demand their right to a life of dignity and work in their Homeland.

During the Second World War, the Jewish community from this country contributed with all their strength in the battle of the nations, lovers of liberty and peace, against the perverse nazi troops. By the spilled blood of their soldiers and their military effort, the right to be recognized amongst the nations that established the United Nations was won.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of November of 1947, the General Assembly of The United Nations approved a resolution asking the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz Israel. The General Assembly required from the inhabitants of the Eretz Israel that they take all the needed measures in their own hands for the implementation of such resolution. This recognition by the United Nations concerning the right of the Jewish people to establish their own State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people of being owners of their own destiny, like all other nations, in a sovereign individual State.

THEREFORE, WE THE MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ ISRAEL AND THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE

GATHERED HERE IN THE DAY OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ ISRAEL, BY THE VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND BASED ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WE PROCLAIM A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ ISRAEL, WHICH WILL BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE DECLARE that, from the moment in which the mandate terminates, this evening, the eve before Shabat, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Iyar of the year 5708 (May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948) and until the establishment of the elected and permanent authorities of the State, in accordance with the constitution that will be adopted by the Constituent Assembly to be elected by no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of October of 1948, the Council of the People will act as interim of Provisional Council of the State and its executive branch (The People's Administration) will be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State that will be called ISRAEL.

THE JEWISH STATE will remain open to Jewish immigration and for the internal reunion of the exiled, it will promote the development of the nation for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on the principles of liberty and peace, according to the teachings of Israel's prophets, it will assure the complete equality of political and social rights to all its inhabitants, without any difference of religion and creed, race or sex, it will guarantee liberty of religion, conscience, language, education, and culture, it will safeguard the sacred sites of all religions; and it will be faithful to the letter of the United Nations.

THE JEWISH STATE is willing to cooperate with the agencies and the representatives of the United Nations in the implementation of the General

Assembly resolution dated 29<sup>th</sup> of November 1947, and it will take the necessary measures to achieve the economic union of Eretz Israel.

We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the construction of their State and to admit the State of Israel into the family of nations.

WE EXHORT (even amid the bloody aggression that has been launched against us for months now) the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to maintain peace and to participate in the construction of the State, upon the bases of full civil rights and of an adequate representation in all the provisional and permanent institutions. WE EXTEND our hand to all our neighboring States and their peoples in an offering of peace and good neighbors, and we encourage you to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign and settled Jewish people in the Holy Land. The State of Israel is willing to do its common effort for the progress of the Middle East. WE MAKE a call to all the Jewish people of the Diaspora to congregate around the Jews of Eretz Israel and second it in the tasks of immigration and construction and be together in the great battle of the materialization of the millennial dream, the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR FAITH IN THE ALL POWERFUL, WE PLACE OUR SIGNATURES ON THIS PROCLAMATION IN THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE, UPON THE GROUND THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL AVIV, IN THIS EVE OF SHABAT, ON THE FIFTH DAY OF IYAR OF 5708 (November 14, 1948).

Note: Yom Haatzmaut is the Day of the Independence of Israel, a day of great celebration that is celebrated in Israel each year at the end of April or the beginning of May (according to the Jewish calendar). This year 2024, Yom Haatzmaut (day of the Independence of Israel) falls at sundown of the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, until sundown of the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. ■





## THE NUCLEAR THREAT

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

We know that the nuclear bombings in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which took place in August of 1945 were horrifying (from 105,000 to 120,000 people died instantly and more than 130,000 resulted injured of which the majority died, due to poisoning of the radiation. Even now, there are people that have died of leukemia and different types of cancers due to the bombings), but this is only “History”, we must realize that in today’s much more technologically advanced weaponry and hostile world environment, much greater attacks can occur in an instant.

We do not commit the sin of being pessimists if we affirm that humanity is on the edge of an unprecedented thermonuclear

threat. The danger of the world becoming inhabitable due to the Godlessness and insanity and of men has never existed like today. The earth today looks threatened and maybe even doomed to the culmination of its history. The unleashing of a new world conflagration, in which the implementation of the thermonuclear bombs that could destroy almost all signs of vegetal, animal, and human life from the earth can happen in an opening and closing of the eyes. This is no strange thing, being that more than once, the most eminent

scientific men have made joint declarations, warning us of the apocalyptic threat that hovers over our generation.

Today, thermonuclear bombs can be hundreds of thousands of times more powerful than the one that flattened the city of Hiroshima and no one knows with certainty the extent of destruction the radioactivity fallout can bring.

A new war with nuclear arms would annihilate most of the human race. All humanity on earth would not die, however, the

survivors would drag with them the torture of disintegration. The great cities would disappear, and the world could not be reconstructed for many centuries (Something practically impossible now, being that Lord’s return is at hand). In the meantime, we are all in physically extreme danger.

But we, as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ know that the only effective way of being kept in the midst of the terribleness that looms is to secure ourselves by dwelling in the secret place of the Most High and abiding under the shadow of the Almighty (**Psalms 91:1**), our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you. ■

## THE AFFLICTION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

*“That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David; That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph” (Amos 6:4-6).*

It is easy to apply the divine warning that the Lord gave through the prophet Amos to the people of Israel. However, the reality is that God’s Word is for all times and the warning of that time still stands today, not only for the careless segment of Israel today (in Israel and in the diaspora), but it is also for the professing Christians within the gentile world.

I was moved by the Lord to write this brief article, after reading the headlines of the newspapers reporting with big bold letters, the praising the sports teams and seeing the multitudes in the stadiums and the TV screens, fired up with emotion, praising their favorite team with great commotion. And over in a corner of the newspaper, in a somewhat hidden article, was the news of the dead Jews by the suicide bombs of the terrorists.

I am certain that for the multitude of “Christians” and pagans, those pastimes are common and

ordinary. All human beings (in all ages) have always sought in what and how to entertain themselves and doing whatever they can to have a “good time”. But what continues to be heartbreaking about the whole picture is to see the Christians who profess to know the Lord closely and to be serving Him, wasting their time miserably in the entertainments of the masses while removing their attention from the things that are serious and of much greater importance.

These Christians live exactly like the prophet Amos says, they live

relaxed, trying to enjoy the earthly happiness, just as the multitude of those who don’t know the Lord Jesus Christ, “*but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph*” (**Amos 6:6**). Today Israel (our older brother), continues to suffer horribly from the hatred from many around the world and being pursued and killed by the terrorist murderers.

I ask you today, my dear reader: “How are you living? Are you at ease, living a superficial way of life or do you feel the pain of the people from whom our salvation comes (**John 4:22**)? If this does not matter to you right now, one day you will give account of it before the God of Israel and of the Church, but then, it will be too late.

God bless you. ■





## THE LIBERATION OF JERUSALEM

Eliezer Whartman

Jerusalem! Due to the recent anniversary of the unification of the City of Jerusalem after the Six Day War in 1967, this date brings many memories.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June of 1967 a squadron of bulldozers drew near to the high protective walls of concrete and to the horrible anti tank artillery and the large stretches of barbed wire that separated the Jewish and Arab quarters in Jerusalem. At the given moment, the mechanized “peace corps” destroyed the divisive barriers and reunited a City that had been divided for 19 long years (1948-1967).

As soon as the rubble and dust settled the Jews and the Arabs surged over the destroyed barriers, anxious to see one another. They wanted to see how it was to live on the other side and, in many cases, to search for old friends. Three weeks before, on the 28 of the month of Iyar (June 7), the Israeli troops had entered into the Old City and had quickly searched for the Western Wall, which for the first time since the destruction of the Temple almost 19 centuries ago was once again under the control of the Jewish people.

I was an eyewitness of the capture of the Arab quarter as well as of the Western Wall.

On Monday at 11 a.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June of 1967, Jerusalem was bombarded intensely from beyond the borders of Jordan. The foreign correspondents had their base at the Government Press Information building which was then located on the Jaffa road. Every two hours the reporters who had radio programs would leave the destroyed buildings and protecting themselves in the doorways of

buildings for 300 to 400 yards would head to the radio station located at the Central Office of the Postal service.

This caused some fear, particularly during the darkness of the night when artillery fire would be directed to targets on the upper part of the buildings and to nearby streets.

On Tuesday afternoon, I went to the headquarters of the artillery watch command that had its base on the roof of the Histadrut building in Reho Straus from which the panoramic view of the Old City was spectacular.

The watch commander told me: “If you want to witness the fall of the Old City, come back tomorrow at 7 a.m.”

As a native of Jerusalem who had suffered through repeated attacks from the Legionnaires from the other side of the wall, I had been waiting for this moment for many years. I was there at the office the next morning at 7 a.m. with my recorder in my hands.

The commander and his men were gathered around a table on which a detailed map of the area was laid out. Next to the map was a schedule. They were in constant communication through portable radio transmitters with the Israeli batteries that were scattered throughout the City. These batteries would inform them about

Arab targets, the most important one being the Augusta Victoria hospital which had been transformed into the headquarters for the Arab Legion. The commander was also coordinating the direction of the attacks made by the field units since they could not clearly see their targets.

“How long do you think this will take?” I asked. “About three hours,” was the reply promptly given to me.

During the following three hours, I remained near the commander with my binoculars in my hands, fascinated by the development of the battle which I was witnessing. Usually, a war correspondent travels with a unit on the front lines through which he can only view a minimal part of the conflict in general. Or sometimes he is with the generals in a situation where he cannot see anything that is happening. I had the good fortune to be in a location in which all the battlefield was in front of me and I was being informed of the progress of the attack.

“We will bombard them for an hour in order to break them,” the commander informed me, “then we will send in the tanks. We must not damage the Old City, even though this may cost us lives. We are not permitted to touch the Holy Places.” He then called out to me: “Now, look over there!” A column of tanks and heavy vehicles

were opening making its way up to the Old City from behind the Old City. They were spreading out from north to south and were headed toward the Intercontinental Hotel and the nearby hospital. A short time after the area behind Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives had been taken and the escape route to Jericho had been blocked.

We could hear the persistent explosions caused by lengthy discharges of gunfire from machine guns. “Our boys are on traveling through the forest on Scopus and are headed toward Augusta,” declared the commander with satisfaction as he reviewed his schedule. “At 9 a.m. our planes will cover their advance by firing bombs and missiles.”

Exactly at 9 a.m. a squadron of Voiture bombers was flying over the area of the hospital. Each one of them opened fire against the Arab headquarters. “They will return in 20 minutes,” the commander promised. They reappeared at the exact time that he had indicated.

From my position, next to the commander I witnessed the battle as it developed exactly according to the plan with a precision of fractions of seconds. The tanks and heavy vehicles had already descended and were preparing to enter into the Old City.

“They will enter through the Lions Gate!” the commander shouted above the noise of the artillery fire.

The Chief Rabbi, Shlomo Goren, carrying a shofar had joined us on the roof. He was in an agitated contact by radio with Motti Gur who was leading the troops down below. “Nu, when can I meet with





you?” Goren repeated again and again. Gur’s brief reply was: “In a short time, I will let you know when.”

At 9:50 in the morning the noise caused by the artillery fire suddenly increased in intensity. We heard the voice of Gur saying: “We are going in.” From where I was standing I could see the column of smoke and dust which was caused by the repeated attacks being made a short distance from the point of entry which was below our line of vision.

Gur suddenly issued an order to Goren: “Come down, now!” At precisely 10:00 a.m. (exactly three hours since the first concentrated attack had begun) the radio transmitter reported that the parachutists had reached the Western Wall. A few minutes after this the ecstatic Goren sounded the shofar (it was the same one he had blown at Bergen-Belsen after it was liberated and on Mount Sinai after the Sinai Campaign had ended in 1956).

During the time that I was collecting my equipment in order to rapidly head to the radio station to emit my scheduled program at 10:30 a.m. the radio transmitter gave us the incredible news that the first troops had reached the Suez Canal.

I was stunned because I realized that I had the greatest two breaking news stories concerning the war. I also knew that my program would be on air before the reporters who had accompanied the parachutists and the units operating in Sinai had a chance to reach a phone to report the news.

The censorship which had been placed on reporting about the war

on the two fronts was lifted a minute before I sat down in front of my microphone. I transmitted the last ten minutes of the recording I had made relating to the fall of the Old City and I then added the news about the victory in the Sinai. Ironically, the outside world was the first to hear about these two historic victories which, surprisingly, were achieved almost simultaneously and which marked that the war was about to come to an end.

As I was triumphantly leaving the radio station I remembered the bitter war that had been waged for the Old City of Jerusalem in 1948. I had been a machine gun operator in one of the infantry battalions. How many of my friends had fallen! We had wept in desperation when our leaders agreed to petition made by the United Nations calling for a ceasefire just a short time before we were about to take control of the Old City. Now, after 19 years, I observed how our soldiers had entered the Old City and had quickly made their way to the Western Wall which, after the destruction of the Temple that occurred 19 centuries before, was once again under Jewish control.

I marveled about the fact that I had been given the privilege of being the herald who announced to the world that the Jewish people had returned to the Temple Mount and that the prayers of hundreds of generations had just been answered.

By Eliezer Whartman.

This article was first published in the Jewish newspaper B’nai B’rith Messenger. ■

## Simon... Comes from page...05

going to feel the presence of the Lord bearing witness of this truth and this is a proof that you are my companion in this sacred calling.

During these days as I once again read the story of my Lord’s sacrifice on Calvary, I once again examined myself. Just as a doctor measures the pulse of his patient, I was able to feel the pulse of my heart and feel this *“first love”* (Rev. 2:4) which overwhelmed me in my beginnings (back in 1948) and could detect that this *“first love”* is still in me as the presence of the Lord overcame me once again. I know that you, my brother who in like manner loves the Lord with all the strength of your being, have also continuously measured your own spiritual heartbeat. That is why I also know that you are in agreement with me when I say that as long as we do not stop cultivating in our heart this love toward our God and Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord, we can be secure in the fact that we will be delivered from the curse mentioned previously and will have the Lord’s blessing upon our lives.

There is only a short time left in which we can continue the work of the Lord. The Coming of the Lord is very near. The prophetic signs are being fulfilled daily at an accelerated rate. This is particularly true concerning the chosen people of God, the people of the Bible, Israel, the Jewish people. I continually raise my supplications to the Lord in their favor. I also continue

insisting that we continue praying so that the God of Israel can comfort them and sustain them in the midst of what they are currently experiencing and throughout the days of anguish and tribulation that are coming ahead according to the prophecies (Zech. 12:1-3, 14:2-4).

But returning once again to our part and considering our limitations and the immense work that lies ahead, I ask: How are we going to be able to do all that there is to do? Through our own strength? NEVER! All that we can do, just as we have been doing for many years, is to *“pray that the Lord of the harvest”* not only send *“laborers into His harvest”* (Mt. 9:38), but that He also provide us with the necessary resources, both for our material needs as well as providing the physical strength to those who are taking part in this warfare. We also ask Him to give us by His Holy Hand the spiritual power that we are daily seeking from Him through prayers and supplications.

I invite all of the members of His *“little flock”* (Lk. 12:32) to greatly increase the intensity of our love for our Lord Jesus in this prophetic year. And using all of our strength, let us more vehemently ask the Lord for His blessing. After all, we are His children, and He is our Father and our God.

God bless you. ■





*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! (Psalms 133).*

**W**ith this scripture I begin this report of the service in Salinas, California. In this occasion, we had the great blessing of having a member of the Jewish people in our midst, Rabi Chaim Eisen all the way from the beloved city of Jerusalem. May the Lord bless our Pastor Efraim Valverde, III who God has used to follow in the steps of his grandfather, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., who received revelation to explain and declare “the mystery of Israel” (Rom 11:25).

Among all that was taught, we were told God has called us to be lamps in the midst of the darkness: *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land,*

## FELLOWSHIP REPORT SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

Pastor Jaime C. Vidal



*not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord” (Amos 8:11).* God will open doors; our mission is to be emissaries to “light up the world”. *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).* *“The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up” (Matthew 4:16).*

God bless you. Pray for us here in Oxnard, California and let us continue to pray for the blessed people, Israel.

Your brother in the faith,  
Pastor Jaime C. Vidal. ■

**M**ay the Lord bless every one of the readers of this informative newspaper with substantial messages.

We inform you that our last camp in Lockwood, California received a good number of attendees. Many brothers and sisters, mostly young people, but a good number of older saints also attended. It was a special blessing to see many young people fired up with the Lord’s fire and experience the God’s glory in our midst. The teachings given by pastor Efraim Valverde III were substantial, edifying and moving. He shared with great detail concerning the times we are living in, as we watch the hands of God’s clock (Israel) moving towards the end of all things (I Peter 4:7). He also spoke about how to guard ourselves from our enemy’s attacks who come to put us into a dormant spiritual state and take us prisoners. He emphasized to us that we must be vigilant over the level of our fervor, intensity, our maturity, our attitude,

## FELLOWSHIP REPORT LOCKWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Brother Phillip M. Nava



and character, how we speak, our decisions, the way we dress and our thoughts. The details of the establishment of the Modern State of Israel that he presented were eye opening, being that in the specifics of the historical events we are brought closer to the visualization of God’s clock. In the end all attendees we blessed with the powerful presence of God.

We thank God greatly for His approval of all that took place. We also thank our hard-working sisters that cooked the delicious meals, all the brothers who took part in the different necessary tasks that each one of these events entails. Let us keep our pastor and his family in prayer, who serve with joy in this important work.

We invite you our next camp in Lockwood if God gives us life. Shalom.

Your brother and fellow laborer  
Phillip M Nava. ■





I thank God for allowing us to celebrate our Fellowship on the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March of the present year 2024. May the Lord's Name be glorified now and forever.

We are also grateful to God for all those who supported this fellowship. Brother Nestor Quintanar, brother Eliezer Mendoza and I ministered the Word of God on this occasion. Saturday night the children recited all the books of the Bible and what each book means, it was wonderful to hear and see, the Lord bless the

FELLOWSHIP REPORT  
NAVOLATO, SINALOA

Pastor Alfredo Tienda



teacher that instructed them. Brother Nestor ministered to us Sunday morning about the process of the new believer. I had the privilege of baptizing a wife of a man that had been set free from drugs and had been baptized there years ago and now the Lord in His great mercy reached his wife as well. We also had a presentation of a child.

The work of the Lord under the care of brother Elias Cruz Montalvo has continued to move forward in this city, please keep him in your prayers. We also thank the cooks and the local congregation for their great assistance.

Your brother,  
Pastor Alfredo Tienda. ■



May God bless you my beloved brothers and sisters. We are very grateful to the Lord for allowing us to hold this fellowship service, in which He greatly blessed us.

FELLOWSHIP REPORT  
JUXTLAHUACA, OAXACA

Pastor Timoteo A. Cervantes

By God's mercy we began the activities, once again with an evangelistic activity in the business center of our city, Friday afternoon, sharing the Word of God (Mr. 16:15-16).



shake many minds and hearts. He stated that some are involved in one thing, others in another and yet others are confused in their minds and instead of serving as steppingstones, they serve as stumbling blocks. He explained that that happens because no counsel is sought after and thereby allowing pride to work in their lives, which is the root of all pitfalls (Prov. 16:18).

On Saturday, Pastor Efraim Valverde, III spoke about Israel and the second coming of the Lord. He told us that the Lord's return is near, at the doors (Matt. 24:33), and that the event of the 7<sup>th</sup> of October of 2023 accelerated the coming of the Lord (II Peter 3:12). He also made mention that in these last days Satan has sought to perturb the hearts of many, to



Sunday, Pastor Efraim Valverde, III spoke about the importance of humility. I believe it is also necessary to also mention that Pastor Valverde, III also devoted time to speak with the pastors, he gave them pastoral instruction on Saturday and Sunday.

God bless you  
Pastor Timoteo A. Cervantes. ■





May God's blessing be with everyone of you. By God's mercy we were able to attend the service where Rabbi Chaim Eisen ministered.

The following is a summary of what Rabbi Eisen shared God's Word with much passion, fervor and emotion in explaining the message concerning Israel, Jerusalem and the Temple. He spoke to us about several men who visited the land of Israel during the period when the land was desolate, dating 200 to 300 years ago, during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. One of them was the famous writer and historian Mark Twain. All cited what they saw with their own eyes, and they even cited the Scriptures in their testimonies of the condition of the land of Israel. He also shared concerning the Hebrew word "Berit" that is translated into the Spanish word "pact" or "covenant". This word means promise or vow that cannot be broken. It is the promise that the Lord made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He asked us at one point, has God cast away

## FELLOWSHIP REPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

Pastor Fred Griffith



His people? He received a resounding NO! from the audience. We are witnesses that God has been and continues to be faithful to the Jewish people, and He will fulfill to His people all the promises that are yet to be fulfilled, many of them, he said, will be fulfilled during the millennium.

God bless you.  
Pastor Fred Griffith. ■



Shalom to all our brothers and sisters! I greet you from the state of Oregon where we held our regional conference and where we were greatly blessed (**Psalms 133**).

We thank the Lord for Pastor Juan Enriquez and the congregation for organizing this special service. If I had to describe the message that was ministered with one word, it would be RELEVANT, in other words, it was a message that is important and necessary. We were exhorted by the Pastor Efraim Valverde, III, that we ought to give more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip (**Heb. 2:1**). We were particularly encouraged to pay attention to God's clock, Israel and what is happening in the Holy Land. In the pastoral meeting, we were given

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REPORT SALEM OREGON

Pastor Noe Rodriguez



instruction on how to conduct ourselves in the system of God, with all respect and with wisdom, honoring and giving attention to the communication details, considering the place that God has given each one. The pastor also answered questions and cleared up some commentaries from the pastors that were present.

What I can say with assurance of all that we heard is that today more than ever it is necessary to heed to the exhortation of our Lord Jesus Christ, to be vigilant, alert, be faithful, prudent, and pray one for another and for those who preside over us and exhort us.

May the Lord bless and keep you.  
In Christ,  
Your brother Noe Rodriguez. ■





## YOUTH SECTION

Brother Esteban Trujillo



*"Because God said: **'I will never leave you nor forsake you'** (Hebrews 13:5). The Lord will help us, so let us hold on, because **'...He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear...'** (I Cor. 10:13). Amidst all that we may be going through, let us be faithful, He will make us victorious, the Lord will not leave us in that situation always.*

No matter how heavy the battle and pain might be, *"The God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psalms 46:11)*. He is great over all the earth, He is the All-powerful, the Creator, the Owner of everything, and He is our Father, and no matter what we may be going through, He will pull us out from there with His mighty hand and He will comfort us with His love and mercy. We must remember that if the Lord is permitting us to drink that "bitter cup" it is not meant to destroy us, but to *"do us good in the end" (Deut. 8:16)*, it is all for our good. There is none like our God. Let us trust in the Lord, do not distance yourself from Him, but rather, in those moments of affliction, we must seek Him more than ever. Let us surrender our burdens on the Lord, let's place ourselves in His hands, lean on Him and receive from His strength to go through day by day out to confront whatever present situation, but it must be, cleaving unto the Lord.

I thank God for the men of God that He has placed in my life, that when I have gone through difficult moments of great affliction, they have been with me and the Lord has helped and consoled me, many times through them. Thank you!

Young man and young lady, we are not alone, God is with us! No matter how hard the trial that you are going through may be, draw closer to the Lord, don't move away from Him, seek the Him in prayer and in His word. The Lord is waiting for you, get closer to Him and you will experience His love, and He will comfort you. Take refuge in the Lord. God is great and so good!

God bless you.  
Brother Esteban Trujillo. ■

## WOMEN OF GOD

Sister Patty Madera



Lamb's Wife" (page 21), written by Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. It has encouraged me to actively seek to love my God more and more: «For God, there is nothing in all Creation and in the entire universe that can compare with the deep, fervent and intense love of His children, who have learned to love Him more than anyone and anything. There is no holocaust or greater offering for the Eternal than the pure, humble and sincere life of His children, who choose to worship Him and serve Him with all their strength regardless of their circumstances. The prayers, fastings, tears and praises of these special treasures are like "golden bowls full of perfume" (Rev. 5:8) to "the Lord of Glory" (1 Cor. 2: 8).

Dear sisters, I greet you in the glorious name of my Lord Jesus Christ, desiring that His love and peace rule in your homes.

Keeping in mind that the Second Coming of our Lord is at hand, I want to encourage you to pay greater attention and to put into practice what the Lord tells us: *"Take heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:33; Matt. 26:41)*. With this in mind, I want to share one of my favorite verses that has greatly helped me keep my eyes on my Lord Jesus: *"Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6)*.

In this life, it's very easy to fall into the web of materialism and vanity which results in putting other things before God. We need God to help us put our trust in Him. God knows what we need, and He will provide according to His will. What is of supreme importance, however, are spiritual matters which are eternal. May we dedicate our energy and strength to serving and loving God with all our *"heart, soul, and might" (Deut. 6:5)*.

I'd like to share with you a paragraph from the book "The Bride, the

What a wonderful privilege that God sees us like this! I bless my Lord for giving me understanding to comprehend His Oneness, His Supreme Name - Jesus Christ the Lord (invoked upon me at baptism), and the important place that our older brother, Israel, has and for all the spiritual teachings we've received.

My beloved sisters, let's not lose our place in the Lord. We're almost home! Very soon we'll be before the Beloved of our soul, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Savior and great God! We will behold Him. We will touch Him. We will worship Him in person. How wonderful and glorious that day will be! Sisters, let us keep striving forward and leave behind everything that hinders us from loving and serving our God. (Mt. 24:35) God bless you!

Your sister in Christ,  
Sister Patty Madera. ■

God bless you, young men, and young ladies! I thank the Lord for the great privilege He gives me to write these words in this Christian newspaper that has been a great blessing to my life.

We all have petitions before the Lord, I encourage you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to not be discouraged. God knows all our dreams and desires. We must realize that there are times when God's answer is no, because He knows what is best for us, but in other instances His answer will be yes, but only if it's within His will and if it be according to His perfect will, He will give us that which we greatly desire. But it doesn't mean that He will give it to us in the instant that we ask, we must be patient. Sometimes it might take years to receive what we are asking for, so let us not be discouraged. We must wait for God's answer in prayer and fasting, trusting in Him, with the understanding that God's timing is perfect and precise. When we receive the answer, we need to be sure that we understand that the Lord allowed it to arrive in His perfect time, it will not arrive before or after, but rather it arrived just in time, because the Lord does know.

In our journey with the Lord, we will always run into trials, difficulties, temptations, pain, affliction and much more. When we are passing through pain and distress, we must grab a hold of God's hand (this is what we should be doing at ALL times). It is in that moment in which we must trust in Him, in His Word like in no other time.



## BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

must clarify here, that I am not 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.

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





**TO WHOM DOES THE  
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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