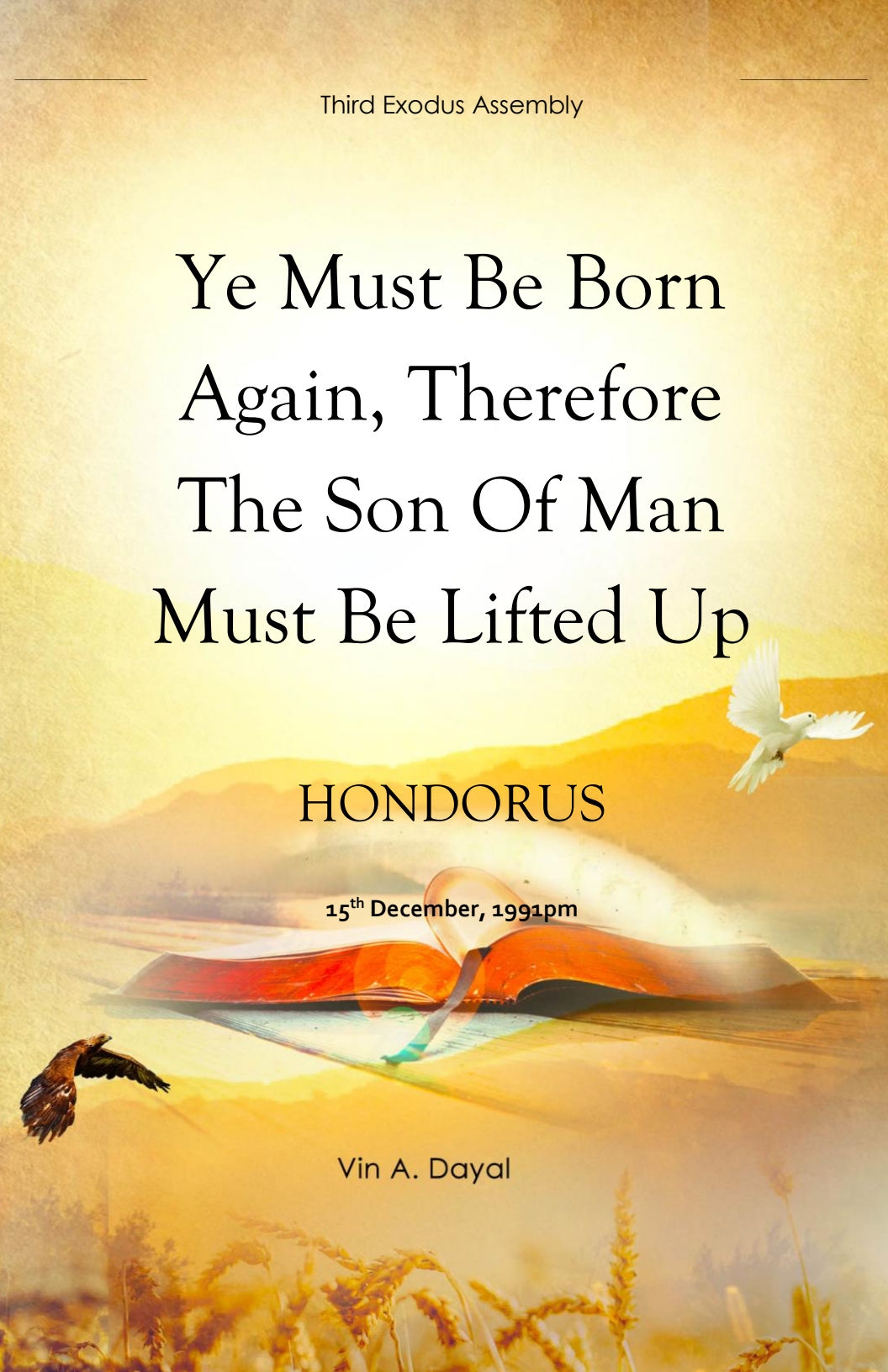

Third Exodus Assembly

Ye Must Be Born Again, Therefore The Son Of Man Must Be Lifted Up

HONDORUS

15th December, 1991pm

Vin A. Dayal



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MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP**

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FOREWORD

This is a sermon preached by Bro. Vin A. Dayal and is published through the freewill offerings of the members of the Third Exodus Assembly.

It is intended to edify the reader and make clear the Bride-Promises of God, which were revealed through the ministry of God's Prophet-Messenger, Bro William Marrion Branham, for the Elect in this Day. It is not meant to promote any special doctrine or person, save, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Divine Word.

The original video and audio recording can be accessed through our website www.thirdexodus.org

We pray the blessing of God upon each reader and may illumination by the Spirit of God be each one's special portion.



Excerpt:

So the death of Christ, the Son of Man being lifted up, is the only basis for Life to a fallen man. Amen! The Son of Man must be lifted up. Why must He be lifted up? Because I must be born again. I must have New Life. And that Life is in the Son of Man and it could only be mine through His death. Amen! ***(Page 16)***

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BRO. VIN A. DAYAL

Amen, there is a River. Jesus said “He that believeth in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of Living Water.” [John 7:38 –Ed.] Amen. The Bible says the Spirit and the Bride says, come. He that is athirst let him come and drink out of the River of the Water of Life. [Revelation 22:17 –Ed.] Amen. In that Pyramid City there is a River and it’s flowing out of the Throne.

I believe there is part of that City here, tonight. That River is flowing out here tonight, with Water as clear as crystal. May we drink and be refreshed, tonight. May It wash away everything that needs to be washed away. Amen. We have come to the last service. The Bible says in the last great day of the feast, Jesus said, “If any man is athirst let him come.” Amen. So I think it is appropriate that we should sing that. Amen.

I want to say, I certainly enjoyed being here and it being a real wonderful thing, I believe, that the Lord has done, after all the pressures and battles to come. I remember the first night that I walked in the building here and the Presence of the Lord was already in the building. I felt so encouraged to come and preach that first service because in my heart, I have such a great respect and admiration for many of the saints here whom I’ve come to know. And I’ve had opportunity to spend time and fellowship with them and I’ve always counted it a great privilege, when the Lord would make a way to come.

I just wish some of the brothers would come and visit me sometimes. Amen. So the same way you hear the

Message interpreted to you and you are still blessed with it; the brothers could come and preach the Message and have it interpreted there and we could be blessed with it also. Amen. So, I sincerely mean that (amen); that the brothers, the Ministers from here would come, (amen) that God would make a way for them.

Because the people back home, they know we leave every so often to come here and the most that they know of you, is by a photograph or something. And sometimes we play the tape back in service, so they could share in the blessings and it's such a great blessing for them – hearing the singing many times. Amen. So it would be real good if we could have you visit us also. We would try to do everything within our hearts and within our ability to make you feel welcome. Amen.

So, may God richly bless you and all the servants of God, the Ministers that are here. I heard there were quite a few of them in the meeting. Some I know by face and name. I didn't have the chance to shake everyone's hand, but maybe tonight after the meeting is finished, I'd get the opportunity to shake your hand. I certainly appreciate the Ministers leaving their churches and coming to give support in the meetings, to pray for us who are bringing the Word. Amen.

And I certainly appreciate the faith in the people. They make it so easy to preach standing here, that sometimes, you know, I think I hold you too long, but you are such an easy people to preach to, amen.

So may in this last service tonight, that the Holy Spirit do something special (amen); something that would touch our hearts in such a way that we could serve Him without reservation, (amen) that we could surrender everything (amen); we will find a greater strength.

Sometimes we feel weak when we think about surrendering and giving up everything, we feel insecure

because we learn to depend on what we can see and what we can touch, but His strength is made perfect in weakness. Amen. The very thing that you feel will make you unable to serve Him and have the victory; that is the place, where you find the greatest strength because He is faithful and true. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He promised it, and let us believe it with all our hearts. Amen.

As we bow our heads for a word of prayer, I'd like to ask Bro. Elias to pray.

[Bro. Elias Barjun prays - Minister -Ed.]

Amen. I'd like to read from St. John chapter 3 and Numbers 21. We are going to read from the Book of Numbers first. We are going to begin from verse 5, Numbers 21. [Scofield Bible -Ed.]

⁵ And the people spoke against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

⁶ And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many people of Israel died.

⁷ Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

⁹ And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Amen. St John chapter 3:

¹ There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

⁸ The wind bloweth where it willeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

⁹ Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a teacher of Israel, and knowest not these things?

¹¹ Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that which we do know, and testify to that which we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

¹² If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you heavenly things?

¹³ And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man who is in heaven.

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

May the Lord add His blessing to the reading of His Word. You may have your seats. "If you know these things..." St John chapter 3, in verse 7, Jesus says: *You must be born again.* And in verse 14 he says: As Moses lifted up the Brass Serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. Amen. There are two 'must'. It is absolutely necessary.

The word 'must' is a little word, just four letters but it's a powerful word. It means compulsion or obligation; it is absolutely compulsory. It means requirement or prerequisite: You *must* be born again: it's a requisite; it's a requirement. It means inevitability or certainty; it's inevitable. Amen. You cannot get into the Kingdom of God without it; it's a certainty. It also means an absolute requirement (amen), unavoidable responsibility. It also means 'of cardinal importance' and it means 'absolutely necessary'.

To think that one little four letter word could mean so much that, you *must* be born again. It is absolutely necessary. Amen! It's a compulsion. It's a requirement. It's inevitable. Amen! Then It also says: the Son of Man *must* be lifted up. It was necessary that Jesus had to die. Hallelujah! It was compulsory, if we had to live, the penalty of God had to be met. Hallelujah! It is necessary that Elijah *must* come before all things could be restored. Amen! Glory.

So as we look at this word *must*, it has a very strong meaning. When that word is used in the Bible, it is speaking of a necessity arising from the determinate will of God. Amen. In St. Matthew chapter 17—maybe we could turn to some of the Scriptures quickly. Verse 10:

*¹⁰ And his disciples asked him, saying,
Why then say the scribes that Elijah must
first come?*

Amen. He must come first, because the Word comes to a prophet, and Elijah had to be there. That was the way God planned it; that a forerunner will come (amen) and the Messiah will be revealed by the forerunner.

Look at Matthew 24, verse 6:

*⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of
wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all
these things must come to pass, but the end
is not yet.*

Amen. A woman, before she gives birth, must have pain and trouble and distress (amen) – and the earth must have all these things. Amen. It must go through that, so we are not worried (amen) because it must be.

In 1st Corinthians 15, verse 51:

*⁵¹ Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall
not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

*⁵¹ In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.*

*⁵² For this corruptible must put on
incorruption, and this mortal must put on
immortality.*

It is inevitable, (amen!) it is absolutely necessary for us to inherit that Kingdom. This mortal must put on immortality. This corruption must put on incorruption. So I want you to notice every time this word is being used, it is arising out of the determinate will and purpose of God. It is what God has predetermined to happen, especially regarding the salvation of man

through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Look at Acts chapter 3, verse 21. Let's read verse 20 first.

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, who before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of [the] restitution of all things,

Look at Acts 4:12:

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Amen, God's will – His determinate counsel. And we see that when He uses that word *must*, it has to deal especially with the salvation of man. Elijah *must* first come. This mortal *must* put on immortality. You *must* be born again. The Son of Man *must* be lifted up. Amen! The heavens *must* receive Jesus. Hallelujah!

So I want to take for a little title tonight, **“YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN, THEREFORE THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP”**. Amen! If He was not lifted up, we could never be born again. Amen. The reason why we can be born again: because He was lifted up.

As Moses lifted up the Brass Serpent in the wilderness; why was Moses lifting up the Serpent in the wilderness? People were perishing. They were dying. They were bitten by the serpents. They had sinned and death was working in their members and they were heading to the grave. Hallelujah. Moses didn't give them an injection, he didn't give them some syrup to drink. He looked around the camp, his people were dying everywhere. Something was happening to his people.

How does a shepherd feel when he looks at his church and his people are dying and he doesn't know what to do? He goes to God. He begins to pray. He begins to

seek God for revelation. He wants to bring Life to his people: something that could abolish death, something that could destroy the power of death, something that could bring immortality and Life to Light.

What did God tell Moses? God had the remedy. God dropped down a revelation to Moses, God was speaking to his prophet; the prophet was catching the mystery in the Mind of God, as the mystery unfolded. He said, "Take one of those serpents – a Brass Serpent; put it on a pole, lift it up in the camp. Tell the people, 'Look and live.'" Hallelujah! Glory be the God!

I could imagine Moses, when the revelation broke to him; he was coming back to his dying church, but he was packing a revelation that would remove death from among his people. Amen. How does a Minister feel when he breaks into that Seventh Seal, the Seal of Life, and he could come to his church with a revelation to drive away death from around them; to bring them out where he can tell them, "Sin shall not have dominion over you."

Sin is the sting of death; is that what the Bible says? It says: Sin is the sting of death. And that Serpent, the devil, he was named under the Fourth Seal (hallelujah!) and his name was death. Hallelujah! But there was something that could drive that death back. Amen.

So look at Moses, he knew he heard from God. He knew God spoke to him, he knew God revealed His thoughts to him, he knew that sin will not have dominion over his people anymore; death will have dominion over them no more. They could say, "Oh death, where is your sting? Oh grave, where is your victory?" Hallelujah! Moses could deliver his people and keep them marching on to the promise. Hallelujah!

And Jesus; the first doctrine He preached was: *Ye must be born again*. [St. John 3:7 -Ed.] The human race was bitten by the Serpent in the Garden of Eden and the human race was dying, but Jesus, a Prophet like unto Moses, He had the Mystery. He had the revelation

that the Hour had come that death would be abolished, amen. Hallelujah.

In the Bible in 2nd Timothy 1, he is speaking about death being abolished. The appearing of our Saviour had abolished death and had brought Life and Immortality to Light. Amen. In the Book of Hebrews he was speaking; he says He destroyed the power of death. Amen. Through death, He destroyed him who had the power of death and delivered them, who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

So here Jesus was preaching to Nicodemus and this man wanted to know – he wanted to know who Jesus really was. They had a partial revelation. He says, “Lord, we know you are a Teacher come from God; no man could do these things except God be with him.” Amen. You know sometimes you see something happening; you see the Word moving in a man, you see the Supernatural following the man, it attracts your attention. Something in your heart desires to know more about It.

But the Bible, you know, is such a tremendous Book. When we see Jesus beginning His Ministry, we see Him coming forth to begin to teach, His first doctrine went right to the problem that the human race had. Amen! Hallelujah! He went right to the birth. He went right to that nature. Hallelujah! He began to deal with the sin question because He came to bring Life. Amen! Glory!

Now when man was created by God in the beginning, he was made in God’s image and likeness, but when man was born of a woman, he was conceived in sin and shaped in iniquity and he bears the image and likeness of a fallen creature. That is different: a man born of a woman, and a man created by God. Amen. Man born of a woman: he entered into this world with the image of his fallen parent stamped upon him. Amen. And Jesus, He came and He told Nicodemus: “You must be born again.”

Now let us get the picture right. Let's look into that picture and see something. This wasn't a sinner. This wasn't a drunkard out in the street somewhere. This was a ruler of the Jews. This man belonged to the strictest sect. He was a teacher in Israel. This man was a priest. This was a holy man. If he wasn't living right, he would have died. Amen. These men's lives were blameless.

So here is God and Nicodemus – God and man – the Redeemer and fallen man (amen) on the rooftop. And here was fallen man in his most moral condition (amen!), that Adamic nature was at its moral peak. Nicodemus represented the human race in the height of its moral condition (amen!) – the most refined a man could be, the most polished a man's nature could be, the most religious a man could be (amen!), as high as a man could attain without the New Birth; that was Nicodemus right there. He was a symbol of that. And Jesus' first message was to man at his best on the earth, (hallelujah!) saying: "You must be born again." Hallelujah! Glory!

So if He's saying that, if we are looking at man at his most refined state, at his most religious condition; where are you going to stand if you don't have the New Birth? If you are not born of water and Spirit, on what basis will you enter? Because it showed Nicodemus right away, everything had to be set aside; man in his best estate had to be totally set aside. If I must be born again, I must have a New Life; I must have a new nature. Amen! It doesn't matter what I could boast of.

He never said that you must try and be better or you must turn a new leaf. If Jesus had told Nicodemus that, he wouldn't have asked, "How can these things be?" Because on Old Year's Night, you make a resolution: "I wouldn't drink for the New Year. I wouldn't smoke for the New Year. I'm going to turn a new leaf." Everybody does that, (amen!) but Jesus wasn't talking about that. He wasn't speaking about a change of conduct or a

change of character: “Well, I’m going to try to refine myself; I’m going to change my image. I’m going to try to, you know, go to one of these schools where they train you, how to walk and how to talk and do all these things.

They have these courses today: ‘The Total Woman’. Amen, my! It doesn’t work, friends, because Jesus wasn’t talking about self-improvement. He wasn’t talking about moral reform. He said, “You *must* be born again.” It is absolutely necessary, amen! Glory! It is not reformation; it is regeneration. Not improving the old life; it is receiving a New Life.

How can we get this New Life then? In verses 14 and 15, we see Nicodemus wondering how he was going to get this New Life. And we find that Jesus, He was the fullness of the Godhead bodily (amen), He was the Fountain of all wisdom, He was the Word, He was the Author of the Word; He was the Revelation of the Word. Amen!

He looks back in the Bible; out of all the places in the Bible, Jesus singled out a particular place to reveal the Mystery of the New Birth. Hallelujah! He looked back in the first Exodus to a prophet who met a Pillar of Fire, (hallelujah!) who received a revelation when his people were dying, (hallelujah!) who lifted up something among his people (amen!) and who was able to bring deliverance to his people.

But it wasn’t just an ordinary symbol, because we noticed that the symbol (that Jesus picked out from the Bible) with that Brass Serpent being lifted up, it had its roots back in the Book of Genesis. Amen. Because Genesis is the first place that we find out about the Serpent and the Serpent is connected with the first birth. Hallelujah! The Serpent is connected with the fall. It was because of the Serpent that Jesus’ promise was given: The woman shall receive a Seed, and the woman’s Seed will bruise the Serpent’s head. And

Jesus was that woman's Seed and He came to bruise the Serpent's head. Hallelujah!

So Jesus was opening up that Mystery of the New Birth. He picked up a symbol of sin being judged, because brass signifies judgment and the Serpent was a symbol of sin. It is a symbol of the devil. Amen! Hallelujah! And here sin was being judged. It was the Mystery in God's Mind. Amen!

When Moses lifted up that Serpent in the wilderness, he was lifting up the Mystery of Christ on the Cross, the Lamb that was slain in the back-part of God's Mind; we could look upon the Son of Man lifted up and live. Hallelujah! And Moses lifted up the Brass Serpent in the first Exodus; Moses lifted up the Brass Serpent – in the second Exodus, Paul was lifting up the revelation of the Mystery of Christ (hallelujah!) on the Cross.

That revelation has come back in the last days (amen!), has been restored. The Son of Man is being revealed again, that men could lift it up. Amen! There are dying people in the Message. They came out in the Exodus; they were bitten by the Serpent, but it is going to take a revelation, the revelation of the Son of Man, the Seventh Seal to be lifted up. Hallelujah! It will bring Life among the people, amen!

So Jesus, looking back in the Old Testament, picked out that special place. He wanted to bring it so close to Nicodemus. He wanted to lay it Scripturally for him, so he could have a place to base his faith, so he could understand the Ministry of Jesus. Hallelujah! Glory! He says, "After being a teacher in Israel, you don't know these things; you don't have a revelation of the New Birth? Then what are you teaching?" Amen!

That is where you have to start (amen!) because without a revelation of the New Birth, you can't bring Life. You can't remove death. Amen! Glory! You can't bring the people to a change. You'll have a church full of unconverted people; religious, polished. You might preach Church Order to regiment and control the

people: "You can't talk in the church. You sit in your seat. You don't move here," but if they have no life, they wouldn't come up in the resurrection anyhow. Amen! It is going to take the New Birth.

And Jesus began to open it up Scripturally. He went back to the Bible. He went right back to where death started, where death came into the human race, where the Serpent bit the woman. Hallelujah! And Adam went wilfully and through Adam, through one man – Romans 5: 12 to 21; right there, it explains the whole thing; how death came in the human race and in Adam all died. Because that poison from the Serpent's bite came into the human race when we were born by that birth. We were born with the poison inside of us. We were born and are dying. Amen! Glory!

So Jesus was showing Nicodemus, that without that Brass Serpent lifted up in the wilderness for the serpent-bitten people, they would have all perished. You think about Moses seeing his people dying; asking their pastor Moses, "What can you do for us? We are sorry. We repented, but how do we come out of under the dominion of sin? We are dying. We see the grave before us. We have no victory over it. What shall we do, Pastor Moses?" Amen!

Moses didn't try to bring some philosophy, he didn't get some well worked out explanation, he didn't try to make an educated guess (amen), he went back into the Word. He began to seek God. Hallelujah! Oh, he began to cry out. Hallelujah! And the Bible says, "And God spoke to Moses." Oh My! God told him what to do. He had a revelation and he believed it, because he went and made the Brass Serpent (hallelujah!) and he wasn't ashamed to come in the church with his revelation. Hallelujah! He knew he heard from God. He was under expectation.

Maybe some of the people were kind of curious; maybe they were suspicious. They never saw Moses come with that before. They were wondering where he

got that from. Some had reservations; they were standing afar off. But Moses was under expectation that God would back it up among the people, that God would confirm it among the people. Amen! Glory! And when the people began to see the effects of the revelation, then the faith began to rise because they saw the Word being manifested. They began to see the deliverance. They began to get confident that Moses really got that from God. Hallelujah! Glory! Amen!

Oh, that we could get in the Word – the Word is God – into the Pillar of Fire, the Logos, and come back out with the revelation that could bring Life, (amen) to remove the death that there could be Life in the camp, amen. You see, what if Moses never raised it up? What if God didn't talk to him? They would have all perished. The race would cease to exist. Amen! But this human race, the elected seed will go all the way into the Millennium and into the New City.

Before the foundation of the world God had determined that He would bring them back to Eden. So they had to have something while the world was perishing; graveyards were becoming bigger. The first graveyard was outside of Eden. Today every country around the world has a graveyard. They have hospitals; everywhere sick and dying people, but there will not be one hospital; there will not be one graveyard in that New City. Amen! Glory! Why? Death has been abolished (amen!) but it takes somebody to prove it. Glory!

And Moses knew death was abolished. It was revealed to him to make an atonement and lift it up, because that atonement signifies that sin was judged; the requirement of God was met, the enmity was removed, and the people could pass out under the dominion of death and come back into life. What life? Life that they had before the serpent bit them. Hallelujah!

These people were marching. They had no death in them, they had no serpents biting them, they had joy

and peace and happiness; God was in their midst meeting every need. And the serpents bit them, then death began to work in their members; then they came under the dominion of death (amen), sin reigning over them. Amen! Glory! But then, here was something happening to abolish death.

You find like you're dying spiritually (amen!), you can't seem to have victory in your life; there is a lack of power, like you're going down; no power to read the Word, no power to prayer, no power to worship God, no power to resist sin; you find that you're just coming to church and going through the religious motions; your children are going out in the world, your home falling apart; it seems like you just can't seem to get a hold of God (amen!); you could look and live, tonight. Hallelujah! Amen! As Moses lifted up the Brass Serpent, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. [John 3:14 -Ed.]

In every Exodus, God lifts up that Atonement. Amen! In the first Exodus, that was the Son of Man being lifted up in the form of a Brass Serpent: a symbol of the Son of Man. In the second Exodus (amen) he was lifted up again. This spake He, signifying what death He should die: St John 12. Amen!

And in these last days, that revelation, the fullness has come through the opening of the Seven Seals, that we can see what Christ's death accomplished for us. And it has been displayed through the life of the Prophet, and we saw a man who could create by the Spoken Word; a man who lived a life that God could say, "This is My beloved Son, hear ye Him." Amen! Glory! A man who overcame in this evil Age (amen), and that's the same promise to everyone that is part of the Word in this Day.

So Jesus was showing Nicodemus that it is absolutely necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up, in order that a man must be born again and have Eternal Life. Because the poison of that Serpent's bite which

contaminated Adam and Eve, came into the bloodstream, and sin, the sting of death, the Serpent, entered into the world. Amen!

So right here in St. John 3, there is God the Redeemer and there is man at his highest moral condition. And He's showing him; "You have to be born again, but you can't receive it until I be lifted up, and I must go to the Cross. No man take My life. I am being delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God: On to this end was I born, for this cause came I into the world." [John 18:37 – Ed.] Amen! Hallelujah!

So here, Jesus with that revelation (amen) was showing Nicodemus, that the Son of Man was going to be lifted up. The death of the Second Adam, the Son of Man, is the only crown for Life, is the only basis upon which a man could receive Life (amen); one look at Christ lifted up, amen. There is nothing like a Christian who has not been to Calvary. You say "I'm a Christian," and you have never had a revelation of Calvary? No, no; you don't understand what a Bible Christian is. Amen! That is the place where all men see Him.

When the Greeks came to see Jesus; *Sir, we would See Jesus.* [John 12: 21 –Ed.] He didn't point them to His baptism; He didn't point them to where He was born, in the manger, in Bethlehem: Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone. [John 12:24 –Ed.] Amen!

So the death of Christ, the Son of Man being lifted up, is the only basis for Life to a fallen man. Amen! The Son of Man must be lifted up. Why must He be lifted up? Because I must be born again. I must have New Life. And that Life is in the Son of Man and it could only be mine through His death. Amen!

There is no other way to get that Life outside of His death. Amen. So the first thing that is necessary for a fallen person – anyone who was born by sex, is to know that he was bitten. Amen! If you don't realize that your birth condemns you – that is what we have been

preaching through these services – like Hezekiah, he tried to plead his good works before God. You don't try to present that, friend. Amen. You come God's provided way.

The only way for any person who was bitten to live, was to look upon the Son of Man lifted up. Amen! It didn't have two ways or three ways. The Prophet said, "Come and look and live." Amen!

So when a person knows that that poison is in them, that nature, and that nature is condemned (amen!), then they would be concerned about their condition, because they know that they can't educate themselves into the Kingdom. You can't try to do good works to enter the Kingdom. No! It is: *He that believeth and is baptized.* [Mark 16:16 –Ed.] But your baptism is only your identification with His death burial and resurrection (amen), with the Son of Man being lifted up (amen!), but you have to believe it first. Amen! You believe first, then you repent when you believe. Amen! Glory!

So watch. If one of those Israelites who were following Moses, wasn't concerned about his condition, then he was going to stay right there and die, though there was a provided way. Somebody might have told him—they might be seen him drinking all kinds of syrup, trying to take injections, trying to do penance or doing different things. And they might have said, "No. There is a prophet and the prophet has the remedy. God revealed to him what to do, and all you need to do is to go up there and believe." Amen!

But if he says, "Oh, there's nothing to that. It is too far to go up there." Amen! Then he's going to stay home and die. Amen! He had to know that there was a God-provided remedy.

What about if a man looked at the Brass Serpent and thought that was just, maybe a little ornament, and he's relating to it just like a little relic, it is not going to do anything for him.

How do you relate to the Message? Just another religion? Just a different teaching? Or, do you see it as God's provided way to bring total deliverance. Amen! So many lives are being destroyed today because they don't know God's provided way. Amen! They had to know about it. They had to recognize that that was God's way. Amen! They had to know that they were bitten and God had a way to take them out of it, and they had to approach that way with confidence. Amen!

When you come to church, what is it to you? Do you see a shepherd lifting up the Son of Man, the God-provided Remedy? Do you approach Him with faith? Do you recognize that old nature in you; you will die? That is the poison of the Serpent biting you. But that Minister with that Message – by the foolishness of preaching is the way that God chose to save you, to give you faith to look and live, and to recognize what God has done. Amen!

Then he had to know also, that it was of no effect until it was applied. You might say, "You know I like how they are doing the books now. They have the Prophet's picture at the back of it and I like the cover that they are putting on it." Amen! And it is just a nice ornament to you (amen); it has no effect. That doesn't bring deliverance; it's applying the Word! Hallelujah!

If a man had refused to look at it, he was going to die. Amen! If a person refuses to accept Christ as their Saviour, they will die. That is God's provided way. Amen! It wasn't just the Brass Serpent, it was the look of faith that brought the healing. They looked and they believed. They weren't gazing at it, they weren't staring at it; they were looking with faith, with expectation. Amen, hallelujah! And God had promised, one look with faith was going to bring the salvation, was going to bring the deliverance. It wasn't anything complicated (amen); a shepherd standing there with the serpent on the rod, lifted up among the people.

In the second Exodus when Jesus saw them; He said, "You snakes in the grass," (amen) ecclesiastical Serpents were biting the people with their poisoned doctrine. Hallelujah! And you know that the Serpent is very polished, very beautiful; very wise (amen! Yes sir!), but his bite is deadly too. And when Jesus saw those Serpents in the grass, (amen) He warned the disciples because He knew the bite from that false doctrine was death. Amen.

You see them, today; Baptist Serpents bit them, Catholic Serpents bit them, Pentecostal Serpents bit them; they're dying! But if somebody could lift up the Son of Man (hallelujah!) and they could look with faith; they could live. Hallelujah!

When this true Atonement is revealed and lifted up in the last days, all those people who have the sting of death, will come to a full, complete Redemption. In the first Exodus, they went on to receive the promise. In the second Exodus, when they saw the Son of Man lifted up, they came into an earnest of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Amen! But in the last days, when the Son of Man is lifted up, they are going to come into a full, complete Redemption. Amen! Hallelujah! Glory!

In every Exodus – In the first Exodus, Moses lifted up that Brass Serpent. In the second Exodus, Paul lifted up the revelation of that same Atonement, but in reality form. And in the third Exodus, Malachi 4 lifted that up, amen! Remember the vision of the binding of the mamba? Amen! The bite was death," he said, "in these last days." Amen! But he had something that could bind that Serpent in a knot. Hallelujah! Glory! Amen!

So when that Brass Serpent was lifted up, it represented a dead serpent, judged and destroyed; its power was broken, it no longer had the sting of death. Amen! Death, which was having dominion over many people in the camp, was being abolished. Different ones begin to testify and were delivered: "Something happened in my life. I went to the service last night; the

Minister was preaching; I looked and lived.” They said, “The death left me. Today, I’m rejoicing.” Hallelujah! “I’ve passed from death unto Life.” Glory! Amen! It was made actual in their experience.

It wasn’t just mind over matter. The people were sweating. The poison was working through them; death was in the members of their bodies. Death is in the members of this body, right now. There is a law of sin. Amen! Where did it come from? The Serpent’s bite, amen! But thank God, tonight (amen), the Son of Man is lifted up. Glory be the God! Amen.

What a tremendous thing it was! While they were dying and the people, you know, they could hardly do their work. They, maybe, were laying on a stretcher and all they could see was death: they couldn’t lift up their hand and praise God anymore; they couldn’t speak and praise Him anymore, their eyes were getting dim, the ear was getting deaf, the feet couldn’t walk anymore, (amen!) but the prophet, he was coming with a message. Glory be the God! He was in the Presence of God. He was coming with deliverance. It might look ordinary in his hand (amen!) but brother, that atonement had the power to remove all sickness, to remove all death.

The people recognized what was happening to them. They said, “I could lift up my hands now. I could give God an applause. I could shout and praise Him. I could read God’s Word. I could hear what the Minister is saying. I could believe it with my heart.” Amen! It was being made actual in their own experience. Amen! They could say, “I know, I once was dead but now, I’m alive.”

Their families might be digging graves for some of them; had the hole in the back of the house. “There’s no hope for this boy. There’s no hope for this girl; after that she’s gone,” and they have the grave there. But they walked into a meeting and a man was lifting up the Brass Serpent; they went home running – mama wanted to know what happened; papa wanted to know what happened – and they looked through the window and

they saw the grave; they said, “Oh grave, where is your victory?” Hallelujah! Amen! Something happened to them. Hallelujah! Oh my!

If Moses could do that—if people could have such faith with a man lifting up a piece of brass, in the first Exodus; how much greater it is tonight, when a man would stand up and lift up the Son of Man, break that Seventh Seal (hallelujah!) that you could look and live; that you could pass from a mental faith into a spiritual revelation; you could pass from a moral life to a spiritual Life; we could pass from our phileo love into Agape Love. Hallelujah! You could look and live tonight, from the carnal nature to the Divine nature. Amen! Glory!

It is happening again, friends. That sting of death, that poison could no longer work inside of them. There was something paralyzing the effects of it. There was something destroying the power of it, amen. And those people came out from under the dominion of sin and death, into life, when they believed (amen) God’s provided way of deliverance for their condition. They accepted it. They identified with it. Amen!

He, who had the power of death was destroyed when that Brass Serpent was lifted up, because it represented it judged; its head crushed. They didn’t have to fear death anymore. They didn’t have to be in bondage of death anymore, because He took death that He might destroy him who had the power of death. He abolished death and He brought Life – Eternal Life and Immortality to Light.

Before the Serpent bit us in the Garden of Eden, the Life that we had, we could have spoken to a storm; we could have created a squirrel, we could have spoken to a tree, we could have spoken to the wind and it will obey us (amen!), but then the Serpent bit us (amen) and we began to die. But then God lifted up the Son of Man (hallelujah!) that we could come back into the Life that we had before we were bitten.

Because those people... A man might have said, "I could have ran well, but since the serpent bit me I have to use a crutch, I'm paralyzed." A man might have said, "I could have seen so clear but since the serpent bit me, I got blind." A man said, "I could have believed, I had a good heart, but since that serpent bit me, it's only heart attacks. (Amen!) But since I looked on that pole, (hallelujah!) I came back into the life that I had before I was bitten."

Look at Peter and they; when they saw Him lifted up they passed out from under death, they came back into a life that they could say, "Such as I have, give I unto You." Amen! Glory!

So, look at Moses. Jesus was showing Nicodemus that it was because of a definite condition. Amen! A definite condition existed among the people and God gave a definite remedy. Amen? Exactly!

Let's turn to a little Scripture here. I'm getting ready to close. 2nd Kings, Chapter 18, verse 1 to 4:

¹ Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea, son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

² Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah.

³ And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.

⁴ He removed the high places, and broke the images, and cut down the idols,...

Thank God for Ministers who would remove the high places, and break up the images, and cut down the idols: fashion idols and sport idols and movie idols, amen!

And look at this now:

... and broke in pieces the brass serpent that Moses had made; for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.

Amen. Look in another season; after a prophet came, revealed this atonement, lifted it up among the people and people could approach it with faith, and passed out from under the dominion of it – of death, and come into life; now that very thing had become an idol. People were approaching it now with superstition, with their little incense. Amen! The very channel of revelation from which the blessings of God had flowed, when it was approached with faith and sincerity, was now being approached with superstition and insincerity, and it was being idolized. And they were relating to this work with a different attitude now, with a different purpose which was totally unscriptural. Amen!

And look at what is happening today, in another season. The same Atonement that brought deliverance was becoming an idolatry; (amen!) that we see that same spirit moving today, trying to idolize the very channel of revelation that was lifted up in *this* Exodus, by *this* Prophet. Amen, hallelujah! Malachi 4, a prophet like Moses, lifted up the Son of Man. Amen! To some people, the Cross of Christ is just a little ornament on a chain.

They say, "I'm a Christian." They say, "I'll get a nice chain with a cross or I'll get two ear-rings with crosses on them," or some little Christian emblem that they could buy in a Gospel store, (amen!) and they wear that thinking that they are a Christian, and they don't even have any revelation of the redemptive work that took place on the Cross. They are not even crucified unto the world with Christ. Amen!

Look at even the medical doctors today; they have the symbol of the serpent on the pole. That is a symbol of Divine healing, yet many of those doctors don't even believe in God; don't even believe in Divine healing. It's

just a symbol of the profession to them. And so many people, they have a symbol of the Cross but their life is not a crucified life. There is no power in that life. Amen, hallelujah!

And when those Seven Seals opened in this Day, it revealed to us the true achievement of that work on the Cross. But what is happening is: so many are drifting back in the world today because they never had a real revelation, and they never came to a real identification with Calvary. Amen!

Because the Message of the Hour, the Atonement, the revelation of the Son of Man which is lifted up, is not something just to polish up, is not a little ornament. Amen! And we are seeing that people today, they want to make a little idol out of it. But let me say this tonight, as we close these meetings; when you are living in defeat, a faithless life that cannot receive or be fully identified with what God has made available to us; if this is not being made actual in your experience to show forth His victory and the reason of His death, then you are making the Cross an idol.

Those people in Moses' time: they passed out from under the dominion of death, and they came back into life that they had, before they were bitten by the serpent. In the second Exodus: they passed out from under the dominion of death; they came back into the Holy Ghost Life, into the Power of God. Amen! And in the third Exodus: there must be a people that it will become real in their experience also. Amen! If that is not real in their experience, then it is a little ornament. Amen!

If a man is preaching some little intellectual conception or some little, well-worked-out explanation that is just reforming people, instead of them dying out to the world and receiving the New Birth, then that man is making the Cross an idol. If he's only getting them to join a church, and that is as far as he's bringing them,

and they are being reformed and become churchy, he is crucifying the effects of the Cross.

If there is a group that is still under the dominion of sin and fear and being overcome by the world, and yet they claim that the Son of Man is being revealed; that He has been lifted up in their midst and they still can't walk in victory, then they have been deceived and the Message has become an idol. Amen!

This is an Age of idolatry. Amen! Friend, I'm not trying to be critical, I'm trying to be truthful. Moses saw his people dying. He knew why they were dying: the serpent's poison was inside of them. When a man sees his people dying, "Why are they dying spiritually?" It's the old nature! Amen! Is there something for them to pass out from under the dominion of that old nature and come into the Divine nature? Sure there is. What is it? The Son of Man must be lifted up.

And if a man is afraid to preach that: saying the Seven Seals is not opened, the Seven Thunders is not revealed, he's trying to make the Message an idol. Because he has to lift up that Atonement; he has to raise up that Son of Man to bring Life and victory. Amen! Glory!

This is an Age of idolatry. Many people have all kinds of idols today: movie idols, fashion idols, music idols, sports idols. Amen! They know a lot about their idols. It's amazing how people could tell you about this footballer and all that he does or they can tell you all about a certain singer and what song they sing; or they can tell you all about a movie star and yet they don't know them personally. They even emulate their dress. They act like them. They talk like them. Amen!

And so many today, they have a Message idol too. Because they took the Message from out of all the denominations, they chose the Message; it's their religious idol. It's a religious fan-club. It's just a Society to them – that we get around and we tell stories: how many miracles took place in this Message, how many places around the world have this Message, but the

Message is not living in them. They don't really know the Message. Amen! Idolatry is a deceiving thing.

Hezekiah, he saw something happening among his people. Instead of approaching that Brass Serpent, the atonement that the prophet lifted up for the people, who were bitten by the serpent, to come into victory and true life; he was seeing his people now, relating to it in a different way than they related to it originally. The same nation, in another season, relating to the same thing that they were so sincere with at one time, now it was just a little ornament. Isn't that the Bible? It wasn't another nation, it was the same nation. The prophet was off the scene, but they had the atonement that the prophet lifted up.

The Prophet is off the scene but we have the Atonement; same Message people. Bro. Branham talked about those people coming in the prayer line. The woman said, "If I have to die, let me die in the prayer line." He talked about the people in Mexico City. They were there since 9 o'clock in the morning, in the hot sun, waiting. He talked about them in Africa, amen! He talked about the people couldn't wait for the doors to open. He talked about the time when in the Tabernacle, there was sawdust on the floor; they got down there and cried and wallowed in the sawdust. But then what happened afterwards? Do you see that today? It's a little ornament today. They are relating to it different, now. Amen! They are making idolatry out of it, today. Amen!

And Hezekiah took the courage to mash it up to pieces. Amen! Glory! And let me tell you; it was his father, a man named Ahaz – if you read his history in the Bible... When you go home read it. It is in the 16th chapter of 2nd Kings. He was the one that loosed the spirit of idolatry.

It was bound for many years. No man dare come with any nonsense. But then you get a good mixer sometimes, and he tried to make a true man of God look

like a legalist. He wanted to allow certain things. He said, "It's not wrong if you just cut your hair a little bit. After all, if it's breaking up in the ends; trim it. It's not wrong if you wear a little chain or something." He said "I mean, if you have to go out in the yard, you could wear a culotte." [women's wide-legged trousers that resembles a skirt -Ed.] Amen! He said, "After all you have to have your balance, because I saw a picture and the Prophet's wife had on all this necklace, and I saw a picture of his children and they had on these sleeveless dresses. So it's okay, you could wear it." Amen!

And when they began to open the flood gate; worldliness began to sweep through the Church, and it spread like an epidemic. Amen! And Hezekiah rose up and he watched the attitude of the people and he read Numbers 21; he said, "Something is wrong. They are not relating to this thing in the same way," and he mashed the thing up in pieces.

Because what is happening today is: the Message is a good commodity. Men are becoming smart, "We could market this thing. We could get a profit by it. We are going to put a nice cover on the books. We are going to do this thing a little better. We are going to polish it up now. We are going to make it so attractive, that the whole world will want to look in their 'study' [room for reading - Ed.] and they're lined off there on their bookshelves." It's no longer something to put in the hearts anymore; it is something to put on the bookshelves to make the place look attractive. "Line up all the tapes; it doesn't matter if we are distributing them or not." Amen. "We are going to dress it up nicely. It is something that has a great historical past, great historical significance; this was brought to us by a Prophet." Amen!

I can imagine it was some man back there, who looked at the Brass Serpent; had some dust and cobwebs on it. Amen! And he said, "It is not looking too nice."

Because Ahaz went up to another country, and when he went to Assyria they had a nice altar. And the Bible said that he got the blueprint of it and he sent the message back to his high priest. He said, "I want you to build one just like this." And the Bible said, before he even got back to his homeland, the priest had already built it and he called it: The Great Altar. He said, "From now on, we will offer all sacrifice on this altar and we'll use the brass altar for something else."

And he took the brass laver and he removed all the base from it and he began to change it around and move it from its position. What was happening? He was influenced. Maybe, he went to Oral Roberts' University and Tommy Osborne's School and he found, "We are not running the Message the way that we ought to run it. The reasons why these people are bigger than us: They have more administrators. They have it in a better package. They know how to attract the crowds with it; so we want to compete with them."

Oh my, so they got the Brass Serpent, "We are going to polish it up with some brass; have it shining nice. We are going to get a glass case and put over it. We are going to get a special stand to put it on. We'd call it the Brass Serpent Shrine, (amen!) so people could come and visit it. We'd have a tour-guide and he would tell them all about it. People will stand next to it and have their photographs taken. We will make little brass souvenirs; we will make them into tie-pins and earrings, and belt buckles and bumper stickers, amen! Then we will have little stalls, and we'll have candles and incense that they could buy when they come, and they could burn one to it. We will give it a name. We would called it Nehushtan." Amen!

The Bible said they gave it a name and they burnt incense to it. And maybe, they made a little documentary video on it so they could export it to other countries, so that people who cannot come to the Brass Serpent Shrine—like they do with the Holy Land

(amen!), you could look at the pictures and you could hear a narrator explaining everything about it. "We would get some brother with a nice, clear voice, who could speak and move the people, and talk about how God spoke to the prophet and where the prophet got the brass from, and the name of the man who molded it. We will put out a little booklet on it." Amen, glory! We would advertise it." Amen!

Their inspiration was taking them into something commercial and something religious, instead of something spiritual (amen) and the spirit of idolatry began to move among them. And when God saw that the people's minds were being channeled in the wrong direction, and the people were relating to this God-given blessing in the wrong way (amen!), and that the emphasis was now being put on the wrong things; He inspired Hezekiah to break it to pieces, to kill the effect of the spirit of idolatry that had subtly infiltrated Judah and diverted the people from the original objective; the way that the prophet had them relating to it. Amen! Moses had them relating to it a certain way. Amen. Glory!

What a time it is! But as we look and we see – as Moses lifted up the Brass Serpent; as Paul, after he met the Pillar of Fire too and he lifted up the Brass Serpent and he cried out: "O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? This mortal must put on immortality; this corruption must put on incorruption," [1st Corinthians 15:54, 55 –Ed.] – we will pass back into the Life that we had, before the Serpent bit us.

And that same thing has come back, friends. Let us not relate to it the wrong way. Let us keep relating to it the original way, with the emphasis in the original place, that the Prophet put it when the Prophet was here. Amen! The same people with the same Atonement, in another season were crucifying the effects. And the people's minds were being channeled into a commercial thing, into a religious thing, into a

superstitious thing and not something with faith, to bring them back into full dominion. Amen!

The Son of Man is being lifted up in this Hour. Lift Him up in this Hour. Amen. And may God's people, when you see that you have a shepherd that would lift up that Atonement, you would look and live. Hallelujah! Amen. Because God has sent that among you, that you could come back into dominion over death and over sin. It could be your footstool, it will not reign over you; it will not overcome you because you have seen God's provided way. Have you seen it? Do you believe it? Amen.

Let us all stand to our feet.

Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I would draw men unto Me." Amen. What a tremendous Hour it is! It is a great time to be a believer, amen. When we see what the Holy Spirit is doing in this late Hour; there are not many places, friend; there are not many places today, you can find the blessings and feel the Presence of God and the Holy Spirit, as you have among you.

Keep walking in the Word. Keep It the way It is spoken in the Message. Let us not drift to the right nor to the left (amen) and you watch and see, God will bring It to pass. Many are falling away today, many are going in different directions. The Prophet said, "Don't try to put It on a new cart. Don't try to make It any bigger than It is. Don't try to make It any littler than It is." He says, "Just keep the Bride in step. Just keep It the way that God gave It. He is the Author and He is the Finisher." May God richly bless you.

I've really been strengthened and encouraged by preaching to you, and seeing your attitude towards the Word and the Presence that I felt to bring It to you. I trust that you have received It in the depths of your heart. Amen! The only objective I have is to see you walk closer to Him. I've come here to give strength and to help strengthen your faith, standing as a fellow laborer with your Pastors that you have here in this

country, and those that have visited; putting my shoulders with theirs to the wheel to help encourage, even to be a confirmation (amen) that what they are speaking to you is the Truth.

I am sure – I am positive and sure that the Things that have been spoken, It may just come in a different way because we all express It in a different angle, but It's nothing new. It is what they have spoken to you (amen); It's what they believe.

So may we press on from here. It's not many more days, friends. Let us keep the faith. Let us fight the good fight. Let us be determined to finish our course with joy. Like the apostle Paul said, "I count not my life dear to me, but only that I might finish my course with joy; whether in life or in death, that Christ would be magnified in my body." [Acts 20:24 -Ed.] Amen! "For me to live is Christ and for me to die is gain." [Philippians 1:21 -Ed.]

As we bow our heads for a word of prayer.

Almighty God, it has been wonderful, Father. I thank You for the blessings and the joys of the Holy Spirit that we were able to share, in this great feast around Your Word, as we sat around Your table and You have broken the Bread and given It unto us. Our eyes have opened, our hearts are rejoicing, our faith is inspired, our lives are strengthened, we feel rooted and grounded. We want to rededicate our lives to You. We want to walk closer to You.

Bless all Your servants. Bless all the people. Oh God, may You grant it, Lord. We give all glory and all honour and all praise. Keep these under Your wings, Lord, and all that is connected with them, in the secret of Thy Presence, until Jesus comes to take them away. We thank You and we praise You, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Hallelujah, amen! God richly bless you. Amen. You pray for us; we would be praying for you. We feel a special bond in our hearts with you and really love you, in the Love of Jesus Christ. Amen.



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