

Humble Yourself Before God...

11 March – 14 April 2002

Part 11

Persecution will Come

On the 26th of March 2002, I had a dream. In the dream, I realized that I had become very tall, touching the ceiling. Even my old red shoes or fellies, were too small. In the dream I got a new pair of brown boots that was not polished. I went and sat on a couch, but forgot to close the door. Suddenly a reddish dog came into the thatched roof house, growling at us. We were afraid because it looked very hostile. So I told my brother not to attack him, but to treat him nicely. When we did not attack, this dog seemed loving and was all over me, dirtying my clothes. I then decided to put this red dog outside, where the other dogs were ready to attack and kill it. As I got up to put this dog outside, I saw Jesus, standing, tall and full of compassion and gentleness towards this dog.

As I woke up I asked the Lord the interpretation of this dream. Then the Lord gave me His word by the prophet Micah, which he gave to the elders of his people, saying: **8 But truly I [Micah] am full of power, of the Spirit of the Lord, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.** **9** Hear this, I pray you, you **heads of the house of Jacob** and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor and reject justice and pervert all equity, **10** Who build up Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity. **11** Its **heads judge for reward and a bribe** and its **priests teach for hire and its prophets divine for money;** yet they lean on the Lord and say, Is not the Lord among us? No evil can come upon us. [Isa. 1:10-15.] **12** Therefore, shall Zion on your account be ploughed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps [of ruins], and the mountain of the house [of the Lord] like a densely wooded height. [Jer. 26:17-19.] (Mic 3:8-12) **Ampl God had made me full fire and zeal to declare His works and His justice to the elders and to the people. The Spirit inside of me burnt like fire, calling men back to the standard of His word.**

After this the Lord gave me His word to the prophet Hosea, whom He called to marry and love a prostitute, who said to Israel, who kept turning their backs on God: **1** WHEN ISRAEL was a child, then I loved him and called My son out of Egypt. [Matt. 2:15.] **2** The more [the prophets] called to them, the more they went from them; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning incense to the graven images. **3** Yet I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms or taking them up in My arms, but they did not know that I healed them. **4** I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love, and I was to them as one who lifts up and eases the yoke over their cheeks, and I bent down to them and gently laid food before them. **5** They shall not [literally] return into [another bondage in] the land of Egypt, but **the Assyrian shall be their king** because they refused to return to Me. **6** And the **sword shall rage against and fall upon their cities** and shall consume the bars of their

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gates and shall make an end [of their defences], because of their own counsels and devices. **7** My people are bent on backsliding from Me; though [the prophets] call them to Him Who is on high, none at all will exalt Him or lift himself up [to come to Him]. **8** How can I give you up, O Ephraim! How can I surrender you and cast you off, O Israel! How can I make you as Admah or how can I treat you as Zeboiim [both destroyed with Sodom]! **My heart recoils within Me; My compassions are kindled together.** [Deut. 29:23.] **9** I will not execute the fierceness of My anger; I will not bring back Ephraim to nothing or again destroy him. For I am God and not man, the Holy One in the midst of you, and **I will not come in wrath** or enter into the city. **10** They shall walk after the Lord, Who will roar like a lion; He Himself will roar and [His] sons shall come trembling and eagerly **from the west.** **11** They shall come trembling but hurriedly like a bird out of Egypt and like a dove out of the land of Assyria, and I will cause them to dwell in their houses, says the Lord. **12** Ephraim surrounds Me with lies and the house of Israel with deceit, and Judah is not yet steadfast with God, with the faithful Holy One. (Hos 11:1-12) **Ampl God, in His compassion had not given up on Israel, nor with his prostituted wife, the church who defiled herself. God sends prophets to her to turn her back to Him. In his mercy He desires for her to see His acts of loving kindness towards her.**

Then God gave me His word to the prophet Joel, calling all men to repent and rend their hearts and not their garments, wanting still to show them compassion, if they would turn back to Him, for He is full of mercy and compassion, towards those whom He love, saying: **11** And the **Lord utters His voice before His army**, for His host is very great, and [they are] **strong and powerful who execute [God's] word.** For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible, and who can endure it? [Isa. 26:20, 21; 34:1-4, 8; Rev. 6:16, 17.] **12** Therefore also now, says the Lord, **turn and keep on coming to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning [until every hindrance is removed and the broken fellowship is restored].** **13** **Rend your hearts and not your garments** and return to the Lord, your God, for He is **gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness;** and He revokes His sentence of evil [when His conditions are met]. **14** Who knows but what **He will turn, revoke your sentence [of evil], and leave a blessing behind Him [giving you the means with which to serve Him],** even a cereal or meal offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; **set apart a fast [a day of restraint and humility]; call a solemn assembly.** **16** Gather the people, **sanctify the congregation; assemble the elderly people,** gather the children and the nursing infants; let the **bridegroom [who is legally exempt from attending] go forth from his chamber and the bride out of her closet.** [None is exempt from the humiliation.] **17** Let the **priests, the ministers** of the Lord, **weep between the porch and the altar;** and let them say, Have pity and spare Your people, O Lord, and give not Your heritage to reproach, that the [heathen] nations should rule over them or use a byword against them. Why should they say among the peoples, Where is their God? **18** Then was the **Lord jealous for His land** and had **pity on His people.** (Joel 2:11-18) **Ampl God is calling all men to earnestly and radically to turn back to Him, before it is too late. God is jealous for you who have backslidden and want to also to return with all your heart, to Him and to the standard of His word.**

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Then the Lord assured me, by the word of the Psalmist, David, if we turn back to Him, although he has turned His face away from us, He will turn back and have mercy on us. He will even leave a blessing. God wants us to be refined and purified by His word and by His prophets. Then our offerings and sacrifice of prayer and worship will be heard before His again, but if we rebel we will not see the mercy of God, saying: 8 Bless our God, O peoples, give Him grateful thanks and make the voice of His praise be heard, 9 Who put and **kept us among the living**, and has **not allowed our feet to slip**. 10 For You, O God, have proved us; **You have tried us** as silver is tried, **refined, and purified**. 11 You brought us into the net (the prison fortress, the dungeon); You laid a heavy burden upon our loins. 12 **You caused men to ride over our heads** [*when we were prostrate*]; we went through fire and through water, **but You brought us out into a broad**, moist place [*to abundance and refreshment and the open air*]. 13 I will come into Your house with burnt offerings [*of entire consecration*]; I will pay You my vows, 14 Which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in distress. 15 I will offer to You burnt offerings of fat lambs, with rams consumed in sweet-smelling smoke; I will offer bullocks and he-goats. Selah [*pause, and calmly think of that!*]

16 Come and hear, all you who reverently and worshipfully fear God, and **I will declare what He has done for me!** 17 I cried aloud to Him; He was extolled and **high praise was under my tongue**. 18 **If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me;** [*Prov. 15:29; 28:9; Isa. 1:15; John 9:31; James 4:3.*] 19 But certainly God has heard me; **He has given heed to the voice of my prayer**. 20 Blessed be God, Who has **not rejected my prayer** nor **removed His mercy and loving-kindness** from being [*as it always is*] with me. (Psa 66:8-20) Ampl

The Lord councils us, not to trust in man, not even in leaders of men, who do not fully follow His words, but to trust in the Lord and in His council, by His Word and His prophets, saying: 1 PRAISE THE Lord! (Hallelujah!) Praise the Lord, O my soul! 2 **While I live will I praise the Lord;** I will sing praises to my God while I have any being. 3 **Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man,** in whom there is no help. 4 When his breath leaves him, he returns to his earth; in that very day his [*previous*] thoughts, plans, and purposes perish. [*I Cor. 2:6.*]

5 Happy (blessed, fortunate, enviable) is he who has the **God of [special revelation to] Jacob for his help**, whose hope is in the Lord his God, [*Gen. 32:30.*] 6 Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, Who keeps truth and is faithful forever, 7 Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets free the prisoners, 8 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the [*uncompromisingly*] righteous (those upright in heart and in right standing with Him). [*Luke 13:13; John 9:7, 32.*] 9 The Lord protects and preserves the strangers and temporary residents, He upholds the fatherless and the widow and sets them upright, but the **way of the wicked He makes crooked** (turns upside down and brings to ruin). 10 The Lord shall reign forever, even Your God, O Zion, from generation to generation. Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!) [*Ps. 10:16; Rev. 11:15.*] (Psa 146:1-10) Ampl

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After this God promises protection and special treatment for those who return to Him with all their hearts, saying by the mouth his servant David: 1 PRAISE THE Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God, for **He is gracious and lovely**; praise is becoming and appropriate.

2 The Lord is building up Jerusalem; He is gathering together the exiles of Israel. 3 **He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds** [*curing their pains and their sorrows*]. [Ps. 34:18; Isa. 57:15; 61:1; Luke 4:18.] 4 He determines and counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names. 5 Great is our Lord and of great power; His understanding is inexhaustible and boundless. 6 The **Lord lifts up the humble and downtrodden**; He **casts the wicked down to the ground**. 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praises with the harp or the lyre to our God!-- 8 Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains. 9 He gives to the beast his food, and to the young ravens that for which they cry. 10 **He delights not in the strength of the horse, nor does He take pleasure in the legs of a man**. 11 The **Lord takes pleasure** in those who **reverently and worshipfully fear Him**, in those who hope in His mercy and loving-kindness. [Ps. 145:20.] 12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! 13 For **He has strengthened and made hard the bars of your gates**, and He has blessed your children within you. 14 **He makes peace in your borders**; He fills you with the finest of the wheat. 15 He sends forth His commandment to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. 16 He gives [*to the earth*] snow like [*a blanket of*] wool; He scatters the hoarfrost like ashes. 17 He casts forth His ice like crumbs; who can stand before His cold? 18 He sends out His word, and melts [*ice and snow*]; He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow. 19 He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His ordinances to Israel. [Mal. 4:4.] 20 **He has not dealt so with any [other] nation**; they have not known (understood, appreciated, given heed to, and cherished) His ordinances. Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!) [Ps. 79:6; Jer. 10:25.] (Psa 147:1-20) Ampl

After this showed me the life of Job, how he was persecuted by those who were suppose to be his friends. God encourages us that we will be persecuted by our own people, whom we love and adore, saying by the mouth of His great servant, Job: 1 BUT NOW they who are younger than I have **me in derision**, whose fathers I disdained to set with the dogs of my flock. 2 Yes, how could the strength of their hands profit me? They were men whose ripe age and vigour had perished. 3 They are gaunt with want and famine; they gnaw the dry and barren ground or flee into the wilderness, into the gloom of wasteness and desolation. 4 They pluck saltwort or mallows among the bushes, and roots of the broom for their food or to warm them. 5 They are driven from among men, who shout after them as after a thief. 6 They must dwell in the clefts of frightful valleys (gullies made by torrents) and in **holes of the earth and of the rocks**. 7 Among the bushes they bray and howl [*like wild animals*]; beneath the prickly scrub they fling themselves and huddle together. 8 Sons of the worthless and nameless, **they have been scourged and crushed out of the land**. 9 And now **I have become their song**; yes, **I am a byword to them**. 10 **They abhor me**, they **stand aloof from me**, and **do not refrain from spitting in my face** or at the sight of me. 11 For **God has loosed my bowstring and afflicted and humbled me**; they have cast off the bridle [*of restraint*] before me. 12 On my right hand rises the rabble brood; **they jostle me and push away my feet**, and they cast up against me their ways of destruction [*like an*

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advancing army]. 13 They **break up and clutter my path** [*embarrassing my plans*]; they urge on my calamity, even though they have no helper [*and are themselves helpless*]. 14 As through a wide breach they come in; amid the **crash [of falling walls]** they **roll themselves upon me**. 15 **Terrors are turned upon me**; my honour and reputation they chase away like the wind, and my welfare has passed away as a cloud. 16 And now my **life is poured out within me**; the **days of affliction have gripped me**. 17 My bones are pierced [*with aching*] in the night season, and the pains that gnaw me take no rest. 18 By the great force [*of my disease*] **my garment is disguised and disfigured**; it binds me about like the collar of my coat. 19 [*God*] has cast me into the mire, and **I have become like dust and ashes**. 20 I cry to You, [*Lord,*] and You do not answer me; I stand up, but You [*only*] gaze [*indifferently*] at me. 21 You have become harsh and cruel to me; with the might of Your hand **You [keep me alive only to] persecute me**. 22 You lift me up on the wind; You cause me to ride upon it, and **You toss me about in the tempest**. 23 For I know that **You will bring me to death** and to the house [*of meeting*] appointed for all the living. 24 However, does not one falling in a heap of ruins stretch out his hand? Or in his calamity will he not therefore cry for help? 25 Did not I weep for him who was in trouble? Was not my heart grieved for the poor and needy? 26 But when I looked for good, then evil came to me; and **when I waited for light, there came darkness**. 27 My heart is troubled and does not rest; days of affliction come to meet me. 28 I go about blackened, but not by the sun; I stand up in the congregation and cry for help. 29 I am a brother to jackals [*which howl*], and a companion to ostriches [*which scream dismally*]. 30 My skin falls from me in blackened flakes, and my bones are burned with heat. 31 Therefore my lyre is turned to mourning, and my pipe into the voice of those who weep. (Job 30:1-31) Ampl **God's servant was persecuted just like Jesus was, even prophesying of the persecution and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for us.**

Then the Lord reminded me that when we are persecuted, we should call out to Him in our distress and humiliation, not blaming Him, but trusting in Him, even to the point of death, just as the David wrote in his persecution, saying: 1 [*A Psalm*] of David, to bring to remembrance or make memorial. MAKE HASTE, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O Lord! 2 **Let them be put to shame and confounded that seek and demand my life**; let them be *turned backward and brought to confusion and dishonour* who desire and delight in my hurt. 3 Let them be turned back and appalled because of their shame and disgrace who say, Aha, aha! 4 May all those who seek, inquire of and for You, and require You [*as their vital need*] rejoice and be glad in You; and may those who love Your salvation say continually, Let God be magnified! 5 But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my Help and my Deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry! (Psa 70:1-5) Ampl

To conclude the Lord gave me the book of Ester, reminding me how He will always, in our time of need, hear the prayers of those who earnestly come to Him, trusting in Him, even to the point of death. Therefore, in the words of Jesus, I say to all those who will be persecuted, even by their own bothers and sisters, in the near future: "Blessed and happy and enviably fortunate and spiritually prosperous (in the state in which the born-again child of God enjoys and finds satisfaction in God's favour and salvation, regardless of his outward conditions) are **those who are persecuted** for righteousness' sake (for being and doing right), for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven!** (Mat 5:10) Ampl

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Jesus will not only leave us for the wolves, but said: 15 For I [*Myself*] will give you a mouth and such utterance and wisdom that all of your foes combined will be unable to stand against or refute. 16 You will be delivered up and betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and [some] of you they will put to death. 17 And you will be hated (despised) by everyone because [you bear] My name and for its sake. 18 But not a hair of your head shall perish. [*I Sam. 14:45.*] 19 By your steadfastness and patient endurance you shall win the true life of your souls. (Luke 21:15-19) Ampl

The Consequences of my Sins of Pride

During that same day, on 26th of March 2002, the Lord revealed the consequences of sins to me. The Lord revealed the consequences of the sins, which I have done in the past, but did not realize the full impact of the consequences of my sins. We do not fully realize the impact and the wickedness of that, which is still hidden in our hearts. That day, God severely rebuked my pride and arrogance, even showing the spirit of the Anti-Christ, which was still residing in my own heart. I saw the consequences of my sins, which I have done, towards God and others, hurting men. God showed the deceitfulness of the pride that was hidden, under a mask or religion. I confessed these sins to God and asked Him to reveal my heart to me. As I begged God, He started to break my heart, showing the hypocrisy of my heart! God rebuked and disciplined me. I realized how easy it was for repentance to be half hearted and only skin deep. We can easily repent in the mind, but not be cut to the heart. Our first brothers and sisters, who turned to the Lord Jesus, repented with all their hearts on the day of Pentecost, as was written: "Now when they heard this they were **stung (cut) to the heart**, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles (special messengers), Brethren, **what shall we do?** (Act 2:37 Ampl) Those early believers were deeply cut to the heart. They did not only except their quilt on a mental level, but in a real way, changing their entire lives, from that moment onwards.

During this day God gave me a great revelation, which would change me life forever. Committing adultery against God is great wickedness in God's eyes. The sin of fornication and adultery are always mentioned first in all the lists of sins man can commit. Paul said all other sins are outside the body, but when one commits adultery you sin against you own body. This day God revealed the consequences of not only of adultery, but also of spiritual adultery before His face. We do not realize the depth of the hurt we have caused others, until God shows us the impact of our sins. We live in ignorance and even continue with same unrepentant heart, without knowing it.

That day, God gave me His word by the mouth of Solomon, revealing the heart's deceitfulness, saying: 20 My son, keep your father's [*God-given*] commandment and forsake not the law of [*God*] your mother [*taught you*]. [*Eph. 6:1-3.*] 21 Bind them continually upon your heart and tie them about your neck. [*Prov. 3:3; 7:3.*] 22 When you go, they [*the words of your parents' God*] shall lead you; when you sleep, they shall keep you; and when you waken, they shall talk with you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp, and the whole teaching [*of the law*] is light, and **reproofs of discipline are the way of life**, [*Ps. 19:8; 119:105.*] When God reproof us we are not unloved but rather His rebuke will lead us to life.

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24 To keep you from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a loose woman. 25 Lust not after her beauty in your heart, neither let her capture you with her eyelids. 26 For on account of a harlot a man is brought to a piece of bread, and the adulteress stalks and snares [as with a hook] the precious life [of a man]. Who is this loose woman, this harlot? We have always seen the sin of adultery in this passage, but God revealed something hidden much deeper to me in the scriptures. Let's continue.

27 Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one go upon hot coals and his feet not be burned? 29 So he who cohabits with his neighbour's wife [will be tortured with evil consequences and just retribution]; he who touches her shall not be innocent or go unpunished. God is asking us a question? You can put a coal on your lap and not expect it to singe you clothing. We often play with fire, not realizing that it pulling us in.

30 Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry; 31 But if he is found out, he must restore seven times [what he stole]; he must give the whole substance of his house [if necessary--to meet his fine]. God said that if a poor man steals, because he is hungry, people feel mercy for him, but it is a totally different story when this man is caught by the one from whom he stole. He would have to pay back all the damages done to the man from whom he stole, even 7 times that which he took at first.

32 But whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks heart and understanding (moral principle and prudence); he who does it is destroying his own life. 33 Wounds and disgrace will he get, and his reproach will not be wiped away. God says when we commit adultery we are fools, we are drawn it and a dart pierces the heart. We are reduced to shame and rejection, having no more integrity. We wound only ourselves. Our reproach will not be wiped away! Why?

34 For jealousy makes [the wronged] man furious; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance [upon the detected one]. 35 He will not consider any ransom [offered to buy him off from demanding full punishment]; neither will he be satisfied, though you offer him many gifts and bribes. (Prov 6:20-35) Ampl The married man or women, against whom we have sinned, not even to mention the children, which we have sinned against, will not spare us. Even if he is begged or if one tries to bribe him, he will not spare your life. He will, in his jealousy, kill the adulterer. Suddenly, the Lord opened my eyes to the sin of adultery's wages. He who does such a thing will be killed by all, as is written: The man who commits adultery with another's wife, even his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. (Lev 20:10) Ampl The price for adultery is death. You have destroyed another man's family and life. I never even considered the hatred and anger of the husband, of her with whom adultery was committed. I realized that the lives of not one, but two were destroyed. We have all done things in the past that we are not proud of, but do we realize the impact of the wickedness of that which we have done. Do we really become broken over the lives of other people whom we have destroyed, only because we wanted to please ourselves and do our own will? In great anguish of heart I said to the Lord: "I will do anything to make up for the things I did! The Lord continued

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showing me the consequences of my sin, not only towards Him, but toward the husband. The Lord showed me how even in our example to others, especially towards our parents and those who looked up to us, we blasphemed His Name. Again I asked the Lord how I could make up for the grievous consequences of my sins. Then God showed me an even deeper sin that is lingering in the hearts of all men, who like a seductive harlot, deceived us all. The Lord opened my eyes to His word, to Solomon, saying: **“He will not consider any ransom; neither will he be satisfied; though you offer him many gifts and bribes.** God showed me that this man would not forgive me, but would rather kill us when he finds us. I realized that I deserved to die for what I have done. I have destroyed the lives of those whom God love. I realized that even though I would want to pay back in some way, I would not be able to restore what I have done against people in the past. I wept bitterly before the Lord Jesus Christ, asking Him to forgive me for what I have done. I could not make right the evil I have committed against people. I did not realize the flippant attitude we have towards our sins. Only then did I realize the depth of the arrogance and pride which was in my heart.

I wept and broke down, feeling helpless and worthy only of death. I was deeply convicted by the Holy Spirit, who convinces us of not only our sins committed, but also their consequences and the pride hidden behind these sins. The Holy Spirit is the one who brings deep conviction and not guilt as Jesus said: **“And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness** (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment: (Joh 16:8) Ampl

As soon as I was deeply cut to the heart, and saw the pride, of not realizing the impact of my sins, and saw its abomination in God’s eyes, the Lord immediately answered me, by His word to the prophet Isaiah, saying: **3 He was despised and rejected** and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like One from Whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him. **4 Surely He has borne our griefs** (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and **carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment]**, yet **we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken**, smitten, and afflicted by God *[as if with leprosy]*. *[Matt. 8:17.]* **5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities;** the chastisement *[needful to obtain]* **peace and well-being for us was upon Him,** and with the **stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.** **6 All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way;** and the **Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all.** *[I Pet. 2:24, 25.]* **7 He was oppressed, [yet when] He was afflicted,** He was submissive and opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. **8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away;** and as for His generation, who among them considered that **He was cut off** out of the land of the living *[stricken to His death]* **for the transgression of my [Isaiah's] people, to whom the stroke was due?** Then I broke down and wept even more bitterly, because **FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I SAW HOW JESUS WILLINGLY TOOK THE PUNISHMENT THAT I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN AND HOW JESUS PAID THE 7 FOLD PRICE FOR MY SINS.**

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The Lord revealed the dept of the pride of our hearts, which like a seductress woman, leads us to Sheol or hell. God warns all men by the words of Solomon, as is written: 5 That they may keep you from the loose woman, from the **adventuress who flatters with and makes smooth her words**. 6 For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice. 7 And among the simple (empty-headed and empty hearted) ones, I perceived among the youths a young man void of good sense, 8 Sauntering through the street near the [*loose woman's*] corner; and he went the way to her house 9 In the twilight, in the evening; night black and dense was falling [*over the young man's life*]. 10 And behold, **there met him a woman**, dressed as a **harlot and sly and cunning of heart**. 11 She is turbulent and wilful; her feet stay not in her house; 12 Now in the streets, now in the marketplaces, she sets her ambush at every corner. 13 So she caught him and kissed him and with impudent face she said to him, 14 Sacrifices of peace offerings were due from me; this day I paid my vows. 15 So I came forth to meet you [*that you might share with me the feast from my offering*]; diligently I sought your face, and I have found you. 16 **I have spread my couch with rugs and cushions of tapestry**, with striped sheets of fine linen of Egypt. 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come, **let us take our fill of love until morning**; let us console and delight ourselves with love. 19 For **the man is not at home**; he is gone on a long journey; 20 **He has taken a bag of money** with him and will come home at the day appointed [*at the full moon*]. 21 **With much justifying and enticing argument she persuades him**, with the **allurements of her lips she leads him** [*to overcome his conscience and his fears*] and forces him along. 22 Suddenly he [*yields and*] **follows her reluctantly** like an ox moving to the slaughter, like one in fetters going to the correction [*to be given*] to a fool or like a dog enticed by food to the muzzle 23 **Till a dart [of passion] pierces and inflames his vitals**; then like a **bird fluttering straight into the net** [*he hastens*], not knowing that **it will cost him his life**. 24 Listen to me now therefore, O you sons, and be attentive to the words of my mouth. 25 **Let not your heart incline toward her ways**, do not stray into her paths. 26 For she has **cast down many wounded**; indeed, all her slain are a mighty host. [*Neh. 13:26.*] 27 **Her house is the way to Sheol** (Hades, the place of the dead), going **down to the chambers of death**. (Pro 7:5-25) Ampl not fall into the trap of pride. The Lord opened my understanding about this scripture, showing me that this woman who had led me astray was not an adulterous or a harlot, but the deceitful pride of my own heart. The Lord humbled me, throwing me off my high horse of pride and self sufficiency.

In conclusion, the Lord gave the solution to pride and arrogance – *the wisdom of humility*, confirming His hatred towards pride, saying: 13 The **reverent fear and worshipful awe of the Lord** [*includes*] the **hatred of evil; pride, arrogance, the evil way, and perverted and twisted speech I hate**.

14 I have counsel and sound knowledge, I have understanding, I have might and power. 15 By me kings reign and rulers decree justice. [*Dan. 2:21; Rom. 13:1.*] 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges and governors of the earth. 17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me early and diligently shall find me. [*I Sam. 2:30; Ps. 91:14; John 14:21; James 1:5.*] 18 Riches and honour are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness (uprightness in every area and relation, and right standing with God). [*Prov. 3:16; Matt. 6:33.*] 19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than refined gold, and my increase than choice silver. 20 I [*Wisdom*] walk in the way of righteousness (moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation), in the midst of the paths of

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justice, 21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit [true] riches and that I may fill their treasuries. 22 The Lord formed and brought me [Wisdom] forth at the beginning of His way, before His acts of old. 23 I [Wisdom] was inaugurated and ordained from everlasting, from the beginning, before ever the earth existed. [John 1:1; I Cor. 1:24.] 24 When there were no deeps, I was brought forth, when there were no fountains laden with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth, [Job 15:7, 8.] 26 While as yet He had not made the land or the fields or the first of the dust of the earth. 27 When He prepared the heavens, I [Wisdom] was there; when He drew a circle upon the face of the deep and stretched out the firmament over it, 28 When He made firm the skies above, when He established the fountains of the deep, 29 When He gave to the sea its limit and His decree that the waters should not transgress [across the boundaries set by] His command, when He appointed the foundations of the earth--[Job 38:10, 11; Ps. 104:6-9; Jer. 5:22.] 30 Then I [Wisdom] was beside Him as a master and director of the work; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing before Him always, [Matt. 3:17; John 1:2, 18.] 31 Rejoicing in His inhabited earth and delighting in the sons of men. [Ps. 16:3.] 32 Now therefore listen to me, O you sons; for blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are those who keep my ways. [Ps. 119:1, 2; 128:1, 2; Luke 11:28.] 33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not refuse or neglect it. 34 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. 35 For whoever finds me [Wisdom] finds life and draws forth and obtains favour from the Lord. 36 But he who misses me or sins against me wrongs and injures himself; all who hate me love and court death. We are so hardened in our ignorance that we could not see our own pride, but God gives us the way to live – humility and wisdom.

Praise God who knows the hearts of all men and who knows all things,

For there is nothing hidden that shall not be disclosed,
nor anything secret that shall not be known and come out into the open.
(Luke 8:17) Ampl

Later that same day the Lord gave me great insight into His word to His disciples, and those things which He taught them during the Beatitudes. Jesus taught His disciples to be poor in spirit or humble. Those who are poor in spirit will not trust in themselves but let go of all high and self-willed thoughts, just like one who is poor in his thinking about himself, completely trusting and relying upon Jesus. God opened up the scriptures to me showing me that in all things Jesus was teaching His disciples to be humble and to humble themselves before God and man. Even fasting was a way of humbling oneself before God. Then God reminded me of His word of the apostle Paul, saying: 1 SO BY whatever [appeal to you there is in our mutual dwelling in Christ, by whatever] strengthening and consoling and encouraging [our relationship] in Him [affords], by whatever **persuasive incentive** there is in love, by whatever participation in the [Holy] Spirit [we share], and by whatever depth of affection and compassionate sympathy, 2 Fill up and complete my joy by **living in harmony** and being of the **same mind** and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of **one harmonious mind and intention**. 3 **Do nothing from factional motives** [through contentiousness, **strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends**] or prompted by conceit and **empty arrogance**. Instead, in the **true spirit of humility**

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(lowliness of mind) **let each regard the others as better than and superior to himself** [*thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves*]. 4 **Let each of you esteem and look upon and be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others.**

5 **Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you** which was in Christ Jesus: [*Let Him be your example in humility.*] 6 Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [*possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God*], **did not think this equality with God** was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, 7 **But stripped Himself** [*of all privileges and rightful dignity*], so as to **assume the guise of a servant** (slave), in that **He became like men** and was **born a human being**. 8 And after He had appeared in human form, **He abased and humbled Himself** [*still further*] and **carried His obedience to the extreme of death**, even the death of the cross! **After 30 years of teaching and of experience**, Paul taught the church of the Philippians the most important lesson he had learnt, in His ministry, saying we should humble ourselves. Then the words of Jesus, which He said to all who wanted to follow Him, got a new meaning. **Jesus said: 26** If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his [*own*] father and mother [*in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison with his attitude toward God*] and [*likewise*] his wife and children and brothers and sisters--[*yes*] and even his own life also--he cannot be My disciple. **27** Whoever does not persevere and carry his own cross and come after (follow) Me cannot be My disciple. **God calls all of us to a life of humbling ourselves before God and man. This is the cross we must bear in following Jesus Christ, our example.**

In conclusion Jesus reminded me saying: "...learn from Me, for I am **gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart**, and **you will find rest** (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. [*Jer. 6:16.*] (Mat 11:29) **Ampl Jesus beckons us to come and learn from Him, for He is humble before God and man.**

From the directors: "The Witness"

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