

Kingdom Feature, December 2019

“Restoring the Presence of God within the House of God”

By Apostle Jerry Upton

Amos 3:7 “...Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”

“Restoring the Presence of God within the House of God”

**Question: “How shall I bring the Ark of God home to me?” - 1
Chronicles 13:12**

Ark of God - Represents God’s presence, favor, divine authority, His consistent guidance and direction in all things we face.

There is a cry going forth from my heart, as well as from the hearts of many of you who receive this newsletter, to see the True Presence of God in our personal lives as well as our churches. Many try to make it appear that all is well within the church and in our nation, but those of us who have the “discerning eyes” of the Holy Spirit see clearly the “desperate need of the church and our nation as a whole.”

I was moved by the Holy Spirit to really discuss with you in this newsletter the subject of “The Presence of God”, and as I began to write the initial words, I clearly heard the Holy Spirit say:

“WHAT IS BEING DECLARED TO BE THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND THE MOVING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MANY PLACES IS THE IMPOSTER WHO HAS CREATED AN ILLUSION OF THE TRUTH.”

Now before I get too deep into this subject, let's look at the dictionary definition of two very important words: **imposter** and **illusion**.

IMPOSTER — One who engages in deception under an assumed name or identity.

ILLUSION — An erroneous perception of reality, or an erroneous concept or belief.

I want to really expound on these two areas due to the fact that even as you are reading this newsletter, **Revelation 12:9** is being fulfilled like never before.

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

I specifically underlined "which deceiveth the whole world" in order to illuminate the very fact that there would be a time and hour that the deception of the devil would actually have an effect over the entire world in a very astonishing way. Now I already know that most of you have always been taught that you would be "raptured" out of here before things got that intense, but if you simply read the next 3 verses, you will be able to see 7 specific points of "revelation knowledge".

Rev. 12:10-12 — "(10) And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

(11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

(12) Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Vs. 10 (1) This time period that is being described is “after” salvation has been provided through the power of Christ, because of His death, burial, and resurrection.

Vs. 10 (2) The “accuser of the brethren is cast down” is not referring to when Satan was “cast out” of heaven. It refers to when he was “cast down” from actually holding the territorial authority of the “prince of the power of the air” (**Eph. 2:2**) and the authoritative position as the “god of this world”. (**2 Cor. 4:4**)

Vs. 10,11 (3) There would be accusation and offense in the midst of the brethren like never before because “the accuser of the brethren”, who once brought his accusation about us before God, no longer will have access to do so. This is one of the reasons Jesus warned us about “offense” in **Matthew 24:10**. Now the enemy would major in creating strife, division, quarreling, opposition, and warring in the body of Christ.

Vs. 11 (4) This would also be an hour for the true church of God to demonstrate the overcoming power that is realized by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony (notice it doesn’t say *words* because “The Word” of our testimony is Jesus, who is the way, truth and life. (**John 14:6**)

Vs. 11 (5) There would be believers during this time who would be so free from self-preservation, self-exaltation, and self-glory that not death itself would be able to detour them from their purpose and mission for God.

Vs. 12 (6) The inhabitants of the earth who are not covered by the blood of Jesus and the Word of God would experience a time of “WOE” — trouble, calamity, destruction, death, violence, and perplexity like never before. Why is this?

Vs. 12 (7) Because at this time the devil finally comes to know how “short” his time really is; and if there is any chance for him to prevail (of course, we know there isn’t), he must put everything on the line in order to try to defeat the true “seed of Almighty God.”

Now please understand from these as well as many other scriptures that only **the true presence of God can withstand this all-out attack**. The pretense, hype, and illusion of God's presence won't be enough during a time like this. Only the true presence of God will be able to handle what is described in **Rev. 12:17... "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."**

While I realize that it's not too popular to teach that we are still called by God to keep His commandments, I tell you now that when God's presence is truly in our lives, it will also create a deep hunger and thirst to do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Throughout the entire Bible, there are some very obvious characteristics of the times when God's presence is flowing freely in a believer's life and within the church. This is especially related in the story found in **1 Chronicles, chapters 13-16**.

I. "And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul." (1 Chron. 13:3) Now those of you who are also students of the Old Testament will recall that the Ark of God was originally instituted and revealed in **Exodus 25:10-16** and continues to exist in heaven today (**Rev. 11:19**). The Ark of God represents several things in the Old Testament that are also an example of "typology and symbolism" for us today.

The Ark of God represented...

- A. The Testimony of God (Ex. 25:16)**
- B. The Mercy of God (Ex. 25:21)**
- C. The Holiness of God (Ex. 26:33-34)**
- D. The Presence of God (Ex. 30:6)**
- E. The Anointing of God (Ex. 30:25-26)**
- F. The Glory of God (Ex. 40:33-35)**

...as well as many other beautiful things.

But, let's go back to **1 Chronicles 13:3**. The very crucial point I believe that is found in verse 3 is that there has to be cultivated, once again, an

overwhelming desire in the hearts of God's children to no longer settle for the "illusion" of God's presence; but whatever it takes, we will seek, inquire, and search after until we have the glorious presence of God in our very midst. I'm not talking about hyped-up, fleshly entertainment, leftover sermons, man-made revelations, or church as usual with all of our tradition and pagan rituals; no, I'm talking about **THE TRUE PRESENCE OF GOD**.

Because there are so many who have never really experienced God's divine presence, there is also no hunger or thirst for more than what they are currently experiencing; but the time is coming real soon that the true body of Christ will settle for nothing less than the **True Presence of God**. I have been privileged and so blessed to have truly experienced God's Presence that I refuse to settle for anything less. Even in the midst of prison, where there is so much hopelessness and oppression, I am able to enter into the secret place of the most high God and have true, unhindered communion with my God.

II. As David and the congregation attempted to bring the Ark of God back into their midst, only after tragedy and death took place did David ask the question that he should have asked from the very beginning: **"And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?"** I truly believe that it is past time for those of us who are serious about their walk with God to let go of our preconceived ideas about God's Presence; to let go of our traditional, religious, programmed attempts at pretending that we have God's Presence; to let go of our fear and concern about who we will offend and make mad by truly going after God's Presence; and to let go of our pride and egotistical mindsets and allow God to move, demonstrate, reveal, expose, correct, instruct, and manifest Himself any way He chooses to do so. Although David's heart was pure and his motives sincere, it is so clear to me that this is an example to us today — that we must humble ourselves, stop leaning to our own understanding, and truly allow God to show us how to do things His way and His way only. Now, of course, this means becoming vulnerable and totally reliant on God, but the truth of the matter is that this is where God has called us to be anyway.

III. Because David didn't yet know or perceive the proper order and way to bring the ark back into their midst, he had to carry and leave it in the house of Obbedom. Now notice what it says in **1 Chronicles 13:14** —

"14 And the ark of God remained with the family of Obededom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the house of Obededom, and all that he had." What a powerful scripture and also one of the most revealing characteristics about what God's presence looks like and will produce.

All across our land today, families are in desperate need of the blessing of God upon their houses and all that they have like never before. Now, since I am a minister, let me purposely speak to the many men and women of God who are reading this newsletter. No matter how anointed and gifted you are, how big a crowd that you're able to draw, or how recognized you are throughout the world, when the TRUE PRESENCE OF GOD is upon your life, it will always have a positive impact upon your family as well. Many Christian ministers today are seeing their homes broken up, divorce at an all-time high, children deep in bondage and captivity, yet they continue with the program of church services and meetings with all the shouting, singing, preaching, prophesying, and business as usual while their families are in total disarray. Now, I'm just keeping it real because I've been there myself, and I've come to find out that the same "anointing" that we preach and proclaim that can set others free is also available for our own house and families if we would only humble ourselves and truly seek God's face in sincerity and truth.

The word "**blessed**" in vs. 14 comes from the Hebrew word "barak" and it conveys a meaning somewhat different from the way we see and think it means to be blessed. A few of the primary root words associated with this word are: to kneel, to bless God as an act of adoration, to praise, salute, and give thanks. Now what I believe is being conveyed here is that God's presence and loving kindness was so abundant upon Obededom and his house that continuous praise, thanksgiving, worship, and adoration of God was upon everyone who lived there. Because of this, not only did Obededom experience this kind of anointing, but "all that he had" was touched by the awesome presence of God as well.

Our focus today has become perverted when we associate material things and objects as being the "sign and approval" that God's presence is in the midst of our families and our houses, when at the same time, strife, division, hostility, and hatred are prevalent in the midst of our homes. It is a scriptural fact that the Presence of God also brings about His blessings, but these blessings are designed to strengthen, build up, empower, and

create joy in the midst of our families and homes. **(See Deuteronomy 28:1-3)**

Many pastors and spiritual leaders are devoting most of their time, energy, and effort to ministering to those in the body of Christ who have literally placed their whole dependency on them. As a result, those very leaders have failed to take into consideration that the very first ones that God has called them to lead and bring into God's presence...**ARE THEIR VERY OWN FAMILIES (See 1 Timothy 3:1-5)**. I send out a plea today to my brothers and sisters who are called by God to lead His people. No matter how busy you are, how demanding things have become, or how many people "seem to not be able to make it without you", please don't forsake your families and homes; and never allow yourselves to become so busy doing things "for God" that you don't have **time** to spend "with God."

IV. In Chronicles, chapters 15 and 16, David finally taps into what it will take to restore the Ark of God back into their midst. In these two chapters there is also a beautiful picture that reveals how we, as God's children, can also begin to experience more of the "tangible presence of God."

1. **1 Chronicles 15:2** — **"Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever"**. It is time for us to find out from God what He has called and anointed us for and to stay and walk in that anointing only. There is a tendency of many in the church to try to walk in areas of ministry which God has never anointed them for or called them to. David realized that God had already established who was to carry God's Ark and that if he would simply do things God's way, then everything would work out accordingly. One of the key scriptures that confirms what I'm saying is verse 13 — **"For that we sought him not after the due order."** Just doing and living according to how we choose will not keep the consistent flow of GOD'S PRESENCE in our lives. It's past time that we stop leaning to our own understanding and begin to seek God with all of our hearts.
2. **1 Chronicles 15:15-22** — The combination of praise, worship, exalting God, being thankful for all he has done, having hearts of

adoration — not just when we show up for church services or Bible studies, but living this way in our homes and lives each day — will keep the continuous presence of God in our lives. I have learned live quite well from being where I presently am that location has nothing to do with being able to give continuous praise, worship, and adoration to the Most High God.

3. **1 Chronicles 15:26-28** — Notice what it says in verse 26: “And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord...” I purposely saved talking about our covenant relationship with God until now. God is calling many of you into a deeper, more intimate covenant relationship than you’ve ever experienced before. Don’t frustrate yourself trying to work up stronger feelings, more spiritual works, or outward forms of intimacy; simply receive this basic truth: **“God will help you.”** I know that this may seem “too good to be true” to many of you; but accept by faith that “God not only wants you to truly experience HIS presence, He also wants to experience YOUR presence as well. This is what it means to be in true covenant relationship — each party is so important, vital, and unconditionally loved by the other that they truly long to be in each other’s presence. This is more “than just being saved and enduring church services.” No, what I’m talking about is intimate fellowship and communion that doesn’t decrease with time; it increases and intensifies.
4. **1 Chronicles 15:29** — Now please understand, the moment you get rid of the restraint, inhibitions, fear of man, and traditions, and begin to go after God’s Presence with all of your spirit, soul, and body, there will be those who have once been close to you who will resent and literally despise you. So, as I always say, “YOU HAD BETTER COUNT THE COST,” because seeking God’s Presence this way will appear radically different to many who will tell you, “Why can’t you just be satisfied with what you’ve always had?” Now I don’t know about you, but I want all of God that I can get; I refuse to be satisfied with yesterday’s blessings or presence; I want the abundant life that only His NOW PRESENCE can bring.

1 Chronicles 16 is one of the strongest chapters of praise, worship, and adoration that you’ll ever read. It is a declaration about the everlasting covenant of God, an exhortation to always be mindful of His covenant, the

strength of God's covenant that He made with Abraham, and the mercy that is demonstrated through His covenant. For those of you who are serious about advancing your intimacy with God's Presence, I exhort you to meditate on the entire chapter and confess it as much as possible.