

“TURN ON THE LIGHT!”

WEEKLY SABBATH LESSONS

Thy
WORD
is a
LAMP
unto my feet,
and a
LIGHT
unto my path.

Psalm 119:105



1ST QUARTER – 2025

THE CHURCH OF GOD at JERUSALEM ACRES
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“THE LAST TRUMP” – Part 1

LESSON 1 • For week ending January 4, 2025

NOTE: This is NOT a political discussion. This is a discussion about Last Days' Prophecy.

You and I have just *survived* a very contentious presidential election. If you are like me, you were glad to see it end. Regardless of party affiliation or personal feelings, we can all agree that Americans voted for CHANGE on November 5. And, if we are being truthful, a lot of that desire for change was based on MONEY—or should I say, *the lack of money*. As students of God's Word, we are always watching what is happening around us with a desire to see what God's Word has to say about it. So, let's take a look at ALL THE CHANGES happening in our world. – **Bishops Lavell Craig & David Kramer**

KEY TEXT: “*And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes*” (Daniel 8:23).

1. IS DONALD TRUMP OUR “SAVIOR”?

- » First, it must be established that God is in control of whomever inhabits the White House.
- » Let's read Daniel 2:20,21, “*Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.”*
- » So, God is in charge! That doesn't mean that every leader/president/king around the world is *approved* by God, it simply means that God *allows* that leader to ascend to that position.
- » Read Isaiah 45:7, “*I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.*” This scripture makes it clear that GOD ALLOWS darkness and calamity (evil) to exist in our world. In this passage, God reveals His sovereignty over all creation, asserting His control over both the light and darkness that influence human experience.
- » We must understand that God has a MASTER PLAN. Read Acts 3:18. There is nothing that surprises God. In fact, there is *nothing new* under the sun! Read Ecclesiastes 1:9.

2. TYPES AND SHADOWS.

- » Just because God allowed Donald Trump to become President of the USA, does not mean that Donald Trump is a man of God (Luke 6:43-45). Remember, God is the Judge, not us!
- » Consider the example we find in the Old Testament with Nebuchadnezzar (King of Babylon). Nebuchadnezzar was a wicked man. He was also an idolater (Daniel 3:1).
- » What did God have to say about King Nebuchadnezzar? Read Jeremiah 27:5,6.
- » God refers to the King of Babylon as “*My servant.*” How is that possible? How is a wicked man also a *servant of our Holy God*? The answer is this: God can use whomever He wants, however He wants, and wherever He wants. I don't know about you, but that gives me GREAT COMFORT! God is able to make wicked men obey His will and command.
- » God used King Nebuchadnezzar to punish the Nation of Israel for its disobedience and rebellion (Jeremiah 29:10).

3. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THAT DONALD TRUMP IS A TYPE OF THE “MAN OF SIN”?

- » The main message that Donald Trump campaigned on was: MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN.
- » Trump promises to improve the economy and put more money into your pocket. That message resonated with people. People (probably including you and I!) WANT MORE MONEY.
- » As Bible scholars, our prophetic antennae picks up the theme: SHOW ME THE MONEY! That's exactly what the Man of Sin will do in the Last Days.
- » Read Daniel 8:25. God's Word prophecies that the Man of Sin “*shall destroy many in their prosperity.*” People do a lot of crazy things for money. What does the Bible say about the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10)?
- » How can a convicted felon be our 47th President? We'll continue our discussion next week.

“THE LAST TRUMP” – Part 2

LESSON 2 • For week ending January 11, 2025

NOTE: This is NOT a political discussion. This is a discussion about Last Days' Prophecy.

On January 20, 2025, Donald Trump will be inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States of America. Trump has bragged, “*I suspect I won't be running again unless you say, 'He's so good, we've got to figure something else out,'*” Trump told House Republicans on November 13, perhaps jokingly. Could Trump be our last president? Are we at that stage in Bible Prophecy? Again, our job is to watch. Let's get out our binoculars and see what's happening. – **Bishops Lavell Craig & David Kramer**

KEY TEXT: “*Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants and prophets*” (Amos 2:7).

1. DONALD TRUMP IS ONE OF THE MOST POLARIZING FIGURES ON THE POLITICAL SCENE.

- » Some have called him a *madman*. He has been called a *dictator*. He has even been called, “Hitler.”
- » Donald Trump has befriended Russian President Vladimir Putin. He has even tried to cultivate a friendship with North Korean President Kim Jong Un. He clearly has an “authoritarian” streak (Daniel 11:36)!
- » Again, our prophetic antenna should be up. God's Word talks about an authoritarian world leader arising in the Last Days (Revelation 13:3-8). He will look good to begin with (Revelation 13:11).
- » Is Donald Trump the Man of Sin, the AntiChrist? The answer is NO. However, he may be a “type/shadow” of this coming world ruler.
- » As Trump assembles his cabinet members, they have all been described/labeled as “loyalists” to Trump. Again, pundits have claimed that Trump *demand*s loyalty to him and his agenda.
- » Last week we used the example of King Nebuchadnezzar in the Old Testament. What did Nebuchadnezzar demand of his people? Read Daniel 3:1,4-6.

2. DONALD TRUMP: “I WILL RESTORE PEACE!”

- » For the first time in many years, our world is experiencing war around the globe. Jesus talked about these times in Matthew 24:6,7.
- » We see Russia (and now North Korea) at war with Ukraine. We have watched Israel be savagely attacked on October 7, 2023 and they have been at war with Gaza ever since (Zephaniah 2:4,5). That war has expanded to include Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and even Iran at times (Psalm 83:2-5).
- » Concerning the war in Ukraine, Donald Trump has proclaimed that “*he could end the almost three-year-long war "within 24 hours", without providing details.*”
- » As Bible students, we are picking up on the promise of PEACE by the actions of one man. Trump is essentially saying, “*Elect me and I will make peace around the world.*”
- » Again, along with prosperity, the Man of Sin will promise to bring “peace” to the world. Read I Thessalonians 5:3 and Daniel 9:27.

3. “DRILL BABY, DRILL!”

- » Prosperity. It's not a dirty word; however, it can be detrimental if we allow it to be. Trump has promised prosperity to the people of the USA. He has even dubbed his coming presidency as, “The Golden Age” of America.
- » Satan has a plan to deceive you and I. A lot of it has to do with *prosperity* (I Timothy 6:9). Read the words of Jesus found in Matthew 19:23,24.
- » I believe that one of the greatest threats to you and I in these Last Days is the promise of *prosperity*. Does God want you financially broke? The answer is NO! God promises to supply your needs and to provide for you. What does Jesus say about the *cares of this life* (Mark 4:18,19; Luke 21:34)?
- » Have you ever watched someone literally be *pulled out of church* because of their job and/or work schedule? Have you watched as our jobs seems to demand all of our time? Some may say, “Yes, but it's a good job!” Satan will distract you with whatever means he can use. Only what you do for Christ will stand!
- » According to Jesus, where should our treasures be? Read Matthew 6:19-21.

“EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED” – Part 1

LESSON 3 • For week ending January 18, 2025

I have been in The Church of God for my entire life. I’ve heard preachers talk about how everything will change one day. Every December I would hear talk of how this coming year could be the year it happens. And, subsequently, I would be disappointed when nothing really changed. Well, guess what? It’s January of 2025: A brand-new year! And I promise you that everything is changing rapidly! Let’s take a look at what is changing around the world.

– **Bishop David Kramer**

KEY TEXT: *“For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory, says the LORD of hosts”* (Haggai 2:6,7).

1. HEAR ME OUT!

- » Most of you are aware that the Church conducted a School of Ministry in November of 2024. Your pastor and the general ministry gathered in Cleveland, Tennessee for a time of learning, refreshing, renewal, and hearing from God (II Timothy 2:15).
- » It was during that School of Ministry that the Holy Spirit spoke to us directly saying: “Things have changed!” Read Amos 2:7.
- » During the last session of the School, the Holy Spirit moved in a tremendous way. Prophecy was given and a time of praying for the ministry ensued. People’s lives were changed and everyone left the convention refreshed and re-energized (Acts 2:1-4).

2. THE CHANGE BEGAN IN 2020 WITH COVID-19.

- » We grew up going to Church. We didn’t miss church. Even if we were sick, all the more reason to go to church and be healed—right? James 5:13-15 was practiced in our family!
- » In the Spring of 2020, a huge change took place. For the first time in my life the government said that I could not go to church. The churches were closed. This was one of the first changes: Government interference in our churches. And, the truth be told, some people are still sitting at home watching the service online (Hebrews 10:25).
- » Have you ever turned on that channel on your TV with the video of the fire place burning? It’s beautiful, right? However, it doesn’t keep you warm. There’s nothing like being in a church service as opposed to just watching one online—it’s just not the same. God placed you in His Church and you are an important part of your local church body (Ephesians 4:16).



3. WE HAVE WATCHED OUR WORLD CHANGE DRASTICALLY SINCE 2020.

- » Since the outbreak of COVID-19, over 7 million people have died worldwide from the pandemic. Jesus told us that things like this would happen in the Last Days (Matthew 24:1-7). Does that mean that Jesus can return at any moment? The answer is NO. Jesus summarizes what all this means in Matthew 24:8.
- » So, what else has changed since 2020? First, Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. This war is still ongoing—it will soon be 3 years.
- » Jesus also warned us about wars between nations happening in the Last Days (Mark 13:8). Notice the phrase: *“Nation will rise against nation.”* Russian President Putin has said that his reason for attacking Ukraine is to prevent Ukraine from becoming part of NATO (a group of Nations)—which would NATO right at Russia’s doorstep.

4. HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SYRIA?

- » Talk about change—we’ve just witnessed an incredible change in the Middle East!
- » Syria—who has been engaged in a civil war since 2011—just changed leadership from a Dictator to a group of formerly ISIS/Al-Qaeda Rebels who are now advocating peace and safety (as opposed to the brutal dictatorship of former Syrian President Bashar Assad). More on this subject in the coming weeks!

“EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED” – Part 2

LESSON 4 • For week ending January 25, 2025

We concluded our lesson last week by talking about change in the Middle East. We will pick up the Middle East again discussion this week. Let’s set the record straight this morning: Israel is the apple of God’s eye. Our job as believers is to watch and pray. Let me reassure you this morning: YOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP IS WIDE AWAKE AND WATCHING WORLD EVENTS UNFOLD. Things are changing by the day. Nations are at war. People are being killed. Let’s see what God’s Word has to say about all these changes.

– *Bishop David Kramer*

KEY TEXT: *“For thus says the LORD of hosts: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye” (Zechariah 2:8).*

1. ISRAEL AT WAR!

- » The nation of Israel consists of approximately 10 million people: 7.7 million Jews and 2.1 million Arabs.
- » On October 7, 2023, Hamas and several other Palestinian militant groups launched coordinated armed incursions from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel, the first invasion of Israeli territory since the 1948 Arab–Israeli War. From that moment until now, Israel has been at war with Gaza.
- » As Bible scholars and students, we are always watching the Nation of Israel. Why? Because it plays a major part in God’s Last Days’ prophecy.
- » So far, some 43,000-plus people have been killed in Gaza. You and I have watched most of it play out on our Smartphone or TV.
- » Discuss the role of technology in the Last Days. We are able to watch the changes happen and unfold around the world. Prophecy alludes to such technology in Psalm 91:7,8.

2. THE WAR IN ISRAEL IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

- » The Bible warns us that people will say that the changes we are seeing happen are just part of modern life and have always happened. Read II Peter 3:1-6. Discuss the first phrase of verse 5, *“For this they willfully forget...”* The NIV says, *“deliberately forget”*.
- » You and I have watched this war in Israel expand to include Lebanon, Yemen, Iran and even Syria. This war is not the end—it’s the beginning.

3. WHAT’S HAPPENING IN GAZA?

- » How many have seen the devastating pictures of the rubble and destruction in Gaza? We’ve all seen it on the Nightly News and our Smartphones.
- » What does God’s Word say about Gaza? Let me say this up front: IT’S NOT GOOD! Let’s take a look at what the Book of Zephaniah has to say about Gaza.
- » First, just to refresh our memory, let’s read Zephaniah 1:14-16. This passage references the events that you and I witnessed on 9/11 (September 11, 2001) when the United States was attacked by Al-Qaeda. The Church identified this as a “sword in the land” and alerted the people. 9/11 changed our world.
- » Now we are witnessing God’s prophecy concerning Gaza unfold. Read Zephaniah 2:4-7.

4. WILL GAZA BE RESTORED AND REBUILT?

- » Did you know that the Arab Nations in the Middle East are already preparing to rebuild Gaza once the war with Israel concludes? One billion dollars has already been pledged to restore and rebuild Gaza.
- » What does God’s Word say about Gaza being rebuilt? Read Amos 1:6-8. Gaza was the home of the Philistines during Bible times. Will God relent concerning Gaza (Read Amos 1:11,12)?
- » While we have watched the war between Israel and Gaza expand to Yemen, Iran, and Syria, we may have still underestimated its effect on the stability of the Middle East overall.
- » The uprising in Syria, after a 13-year Civil War, is in part attributed to the wars in Russia and Israel. Russia was the power behind former Syrian President/Dictator Bashar Assad. Russia and Iran helped Assad suppress dissent for 13 years. However, they were too entrenched in their own wars to offer aid to Assad in this latest uprising. The Syrian rebels advanced without opposition and are now ushering in change to a nation who was ruled by a cruel authoritarian government for 54 years. Things are changing!

“EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED” – Part 3

LESSON 5 • For week ending February 1, 2025

We’ve spent the last 2 weeks talking about changes that have happened around the world. Today’s lesson will focus on what is happening in Syria. God has a master plan for this world and for you and I as His chosen people. I don’t know about you, but I am aging by the moment. I’m not getting any younger! I’m anxious to see the plan of God unfold. However, God tells me, “Wait for Me!”

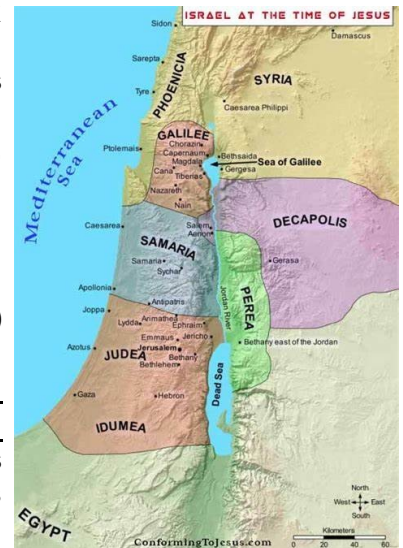
– **Bishop David**

Kramer

KEY TEXT: *“Therefore wait for Me,” says the LORD, “Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all My fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy” (Zephaniah 3:8).*

1. WHO CARES ABOUT SYRIA?

- » Damascus, the capital city of Syria, holds a rich history that dates back thousands of years. Known as one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, Damascus has witnessed the rise and fall of countless civilizations and empires. It is also known as the fourth holiest city in Islam.
- » According to Wikipedia, the FALL OF DAMASCUS occurred in December, 2024 when rebel forces ousted Syrian President/Dictator Bashar Assad who escaped to Moscow, Russia.
- » NOTE: The word *Syria* actually means *the north* (with regard to its location north of the Arabian Peninsula–Saudi Arabia). Syria is also translated *Aram* which is found in the Bible. Isaac sent Jacob to Padam Aram (Syria) to find a wife amongst the family of his wife, Rebekah (Genesis 28:1-5).



2. PROPHECIES CONCERNING DAMASCUS.

- » The Bible tells us that scoffers will say that nothing is changing and life is going on as usual (II Peter 3:3,4); however, wide-awake students of God’s Word are watching with excitement as world events are changing at a rapid pace (I Thessalonians 5:4-6).
- » God’s Word tell us that Damascus, one of the oldest cities in the world, will cease from being a city (Isaiah 17:1). While this hasn’t fully happened just yet, the process has begun—in other words, something has changed!
- » God talks about Syria and the city of Damascus in Amos 1:3-5. Notice this prophecy also includes destruction upon Gaza as well (Amos 1:6-8).
- » Just because a Bible prophecy was given thousands of years ago does not mean that God has forgotten about it. God does not change (Malachi 3:6) nor does He relent (Ezekiel 24:14).

3. WE ARE BEING “SET UP”!

- » We have watched as the whole world has been horrified by the killings in Gaza. Gaza health officials recently announced that the death toll has surpassed 45,000 people. We’ve watched the reaction to these deaths around the world with protests in our country, England, France and Muslim countries as well.
- » I find it interesting that not one protest has occurred over the estimated 500,000-plus people killed in the Syrian Civil War which began during the Muslim “Arab Spring” in 2011.
- » The Rebels in Syria where able to advance and take control of the country because Russia and Iran were distracted—and their military assistance limited—because of their war with Israel. See how everything is linked together?
- » Did you know that Turkey—the remains of the Islamic Caliphate—supported the rebel overthrow of Syria? Can you see how everything is tied together? As students of Bible Prophecy, we are watching for the rise of that 8th Kingdom—the restored Islamic Kingdom (Revelation 17:10-11).
- » Let me encourage you to pick up your Bible and study God’s Word. It’s the LIGHT (oil, truth) we need to navigate these Last Days! Read Matthew 25:1-13. Psalm 119:105 confirms this truth.

“THE NEW WORLD ORDER”

LESSON 6 • For week ending February 8, 2025

Something very interesting happened in Russia last Fall. A convention was organized by Russian President Vladimir Putin with an organization known as BRICS+. It's an organization of nations with primarily authoritarian governments that want to introduce a counter-initiative they dubbed as: A NEW WORLD ORDER. That was the headline that was broadcasted on the Evening Nightly News. Of course our church leaders went right to work to identify this new worldwide initiative and its relevance to Last Days' Prophecy. — **Bishop David Kramer**

KEY TEXT: *“He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him” (Daniel 2:22).*

1. EVERYTHING IS CHANGING!

- » The following headline was feature in THE MOSCOW TIMES: **“RUSSIA TO HOST LANDMARK “BRICS” SUMMIT IN ONGOING BID TO RESHAPE WORLD ORDER”** (dated October 21, 2024).
 - » My first question is: “What is BRICS+?”
 - » BRICS+ is an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. It's an alternative to the European Union and other “western” intergovernmental organizations. Satan wants to continue his rule of this world (Ephesians 6:12).
 - » Just like the European Union has joined together to make a collective intergovernmental organization, Russia is doing the same thing but with an authoritarian twist. Revelation 13:7 talks about a dictator (Man of Sin/Antichrist) who will arise in the Last Days. We see that spirit at work in the world today (I John 4:3).
 - » Established in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India and China, the bloc was expanded a year later with the addition of South Africa. The alliance was further expanded into BRICS+ last year with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates joining as permanent members. Saudi Arabia and Argentina were also invited to join in the first major expansion, but neither proceeded with formalizing their membership.
 - » Despite the reluctance of some major players to join the alliance, BRICS+ in its current configuration accounts for more than 37% of the world GDP — more than twice that of the European Union — as well as over 41% of the global population. Read the words of Jesus found in Matthew 7:13,14.
 - » Mankind's greed comes at great cost! Read Revelation 18:3.
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2. DICTATORS ARE ON THE RISE.

- » Have you noticed how Russian President Putin has seemingly gone “unscathed” by the sanctions and collective punishments of the West (USA) and the European Union? The sanctions that were supposed to cripple Russia have been thwarted by Putin's renewed/strengthened ties with North Korea, China, and other authoritarian governments. Dictators are seemingly prospering even in hard times (Daniel 8:23,24).
 - » All of this is a precursor to a dictator who will arise in the Last Days whom we call the Antichrist or the Man of Sin. The Bible says that he will rule the world and all (who are not saved) will worship him (Revelation 13:5-8).
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3. WHAT'S GOING ON IN SYRIA?

- » Syria has just undergone a massive change. Syrian President Assad—a brutal dictator—has fled to Moscow, Russia. As of the writing of this lesson (12/16/24), the rebels in Syria are in the process of establishing a new government to rule Syria. This could be crucial to Last Days' Prophecy.
- » SUNNI OR SHIA? The population of Syria is estimated to be around 25 million with 74% of the constituents being Sunni Muslims. The outgoing Syrian President Bashar Assad, was a Shia Muslim and was ruling the country with a minority Shia government (also called Alawites). That has all changed (Daniel 2:21).
- » Worldwide, the majority of Muslims are Sunni—estimates suggest the figure is somewhere between 85% and 90%. The Middle Eastern countries with the greatest proportion of Sunnis are Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, with Sunnis making up 90% or more of the population. Shias make up roughly 10% of all Muslims, and globally their population is estimated between 154 to 200 million (concentrated in Iraq and Iran).
- » Sunnis believe that their Caliph or leader (potentially the forthcoming Man of Sin/Antichrist) should be elected, while Shias believe their leader should descend from the Prophet Muhammad's family.
- » The man we have been watching as a possible candidate to be the Antichrist is a Sunni Muslim. According to Daniel 11:37, the Antichrist will have no “regard” for the god of his fathers (Muhammad). He will exalt himself above the all the same way Satan/Lucifer did in heaven (Isaiah 14:12-15).

“WHAT ABOUT MY KIDS? – Part 1”

LESSON 7 • For week ending February 15, 2025

In our recent November 2024 School of Ministry, the Holy Spirit brought forth a message in tongues through Minister Gwen King. It was a message of encouragement, hope, and instruction concerning our young people—our children. In today’s lesson we will share this message of encouragement and restore hope to those whose children have perhaps wandered away.

– **Bishop David Kramer**

KEY TEXT: “*There is hope in your future, says the LORD, that your children shall come back to their own border*” (Jeremiah 31:17).

1. THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY ARE WRITTEN IN RED.

- » “*I have given you, not just in My Word, but the people I have given you.*”
 - » I think it’s fair to say that not everyone is called to the message that God has given The Church of God. The Scriptures tell us plainly that God places us in the body as He sees fit (I Corinthians 12:18; Ephesians 4:16).
 - » It’s also fair to say that God has chosen our children as well. What was one of the main reasons God chose Abraham? Read Genesis 18:17-19.
 - » One of the ways we “*command his children and his household,*” is by the way we live our lives in front of our children and extended family.
 - » What did Jesus say about you and I? Read Luke 6:43-45.
 - » Our example—the way we live our daily lives—is the greatest teacher to our children (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).
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2. YOUR CHILDREN ARE ALREADY CALLED!

- » “*The younger generation that I have given you – you must train them.*”
 - » “*I have already called them. They need to learn the Truth.*”
 - » You and I are witnessing an assault on our children by our modern-day society and aided by our government. Satan is working overtime to strip everything Godly from their family, entertainment, education, their society, and even their God-given identity (I Peter 5:8).
 - » Bible prophecy warned us that this would happen. Read II Timothy 4:3,4.
 - » As parents, grandparents, even care-givers, we must be aware.
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3. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR OUR CHILDREN.

- » In this Word from the Lord, God reminded us that He has already called our children. He specifically said, “*I have already called them.*” Read Matthew 19:14.
 - » As much as you and I love our children, God loves them even more.
 - » We must never give up on our children. We must pray, intervene, and always—yes, always—show them unconditional love (I Peter 4:8).
 - » The best thing you can do for your children is to teach them about God and the things of God.
 - » Our most effective form of teaching is by example: We live what we believe about God. Read II Timothy 3:14,15.
 - » We show them *how to trust God* because we *trust God in front of them* (Deuteronomy 11:19).
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4. ENTERTAINING THE CHILDREN.

- » Satan has been very adept at introducing a relatively new concept into our society. It goes something like this: CHILDREN MUST BE ENTERTAINED AT ALL TIMES. Read Ephesians 6:1-4. It started with children’s TV shows. Now it includes electronic games, Smartphones, social media, etc. Satan wants to monopolize our children’s attention with ungodly things (Psalm 101:2-4). Parents, be aware!

“WHAT ABOUT MY KIDS? – Part 2”

LESSON 8 • For week ending February 22, 2025

In our recent November 2024 School of Ministry, the Holy Spirit brought forth a message in tongues through Minister Gwen King. It was a message of encouragement, hope, and instruction concerning our young people—our children. Last week we discussed the first part of the message, today we will continue that discussion.

– **Bishop David Kramer**

KEY TEXT: *“But thus says the Lord...I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children”* (Isaiah 49:25 partial quote).

1. THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY ARE WRITTEN IN RED.

- » *“They need to be prepared, to not be afraid, prepared to know what to do: how to protect, how to stand in the breach. They are called. They need to be prepared.”*
- » Our children are like sponges: They pick up and absorb what is around them.
- » Even children in the womb can hear and discern what is happening (Luke 1:39-43).
- » In her recent memoir, Ina Garten (The Barefoot Contessa), wrote concerning her abusive childhood, “What goes in early, goes in deep.”
- » We are living in a society where things are changing at a rapid pace. Again, prophecy said this would happen (Isaiah 60:1,2).
- » The Holy Spirit told us that are children need to be prepared so they won't be afraid (Proverbs 22:6).
- » How can we do this? By sharing with our children the hope that we have in Christ! Read Jeremiah 29:11 and I Peter 1:3.

2. THE PROPHET JOEL PROPHESED ABOUT OUR CHILDREN.

- » *“They are already apostles. They are already evangelists. They are already prophets and teachers.”*
- » *“They are already being prepared to be priests in their own household.”*
- » I don't know about you, but this prophecy excites me! God has already called our children to be apostles, prophets and evangelists! We've been asking God for help—right? He's answered our prayers!
- » The Prophet Joel talked about this very thing in Joel 2:28,29.
- » As I listed the scripture reference we just read, I felt like God said, *read verses 25-27*. So, let's read Joel 2:25-27.
- » Before God talks about a great time of His Holy Spirit being poured out on our young people, He talks about **a time of restoration**. He promises to restore *“the years that the swarming locust has eaten...”* He also promises: *“My people shall never be put to shame.”*

3. IN THE MOUTH OF 2 OR 3 WITNESSES.

- » *Don't let my people be destroyed for lack of knowledge.”*
- » How many have been HEARTSICK over their children? Perhaps they have gone astray. Perhaps they are sowing some wild oats. Our children can be the source of great joy and great heartache as well.
- » It was during the same session at the School of Ministry that Bishop Timothy Miller told us that God told him to encourage us concerning our children. He read Zechariah 4:6,7 and Malachi 4:6.
- » Bishop Miller encouraged us to NOT GIVE UP on our children—NEVER STOP PRAYING AND BELIEVING.
- » Bishop Miller shared a message that God gave to him. God told him to tell us:
 - 1) WE have been anointed for this work. God told us that HE IS WITH US (Hebrew 13:5).
 - 2) God is not depending on our strength, He's depending on our OBEDIENCE (John 14:21-24).
 - 3) The Holy Spirit told us, “DO NOT BE AFRAID! I WILL BE WITH YOU. THINGS HAVE CHANGED!”
 - 4) God is drawing our attention to the need of instilling within this generation the truths of God's Word—the Revelation of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:25).

4. HOW CAN I REACH MY WAYWARD CHILDREN?

- » First, **STOP** preaching at them. Second, **SHOW** them unconditional love. Third, keep the door of communication **OPEN** to them. Fourth, **LIVE** a life that shows forth your commitment to God and His ways. Finally, when they ask, **SHARE** the truth of God's Word in **LOVE** (I Peter 3:15; I Corinthians 13:1,2).

“THE CHURCH IN TWO DISPENSATIONS – Part 1”

LESSON 9 • For week ending March 1, 2025

What kind of title is that? Why in the world should I care about *The Church in Two Dispensations*? First, this series will do two things for you: 1) It will show you God’s Plan for you and His Church, and 2) It will give you GREAT HOPE. Are things a mess in your life right now? It’s probably not the first time—right? When we understand the MASTERPLAN that God has for His Church—which includes you and I—we can’t help but be encouraged. Things might be a mess right now, but God has a plan! –Bishop David Kramer

KEY TEXT: “I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him” (Ecclesiastes 3:14).

1. YOU CAN’T MAKE THIS STUFF UP Y’ALL!

- » The Bible tells us emphatically “*That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun*” (Ecclesiastes 1:9).
- » In The Church of God, this governing principle of God is referred to as “Divine Law.”
- » Although it may seem at times that we, the modern-day Church of God, are perhaps drifting or even off-course, it is important to study what happened in the Old Testament to re-establish our mooring (the ropes, chains, or anchors by or to which a boat, ship, or buoy is moored). Read Isaiah 26:3.
- » When we examine the example that was established in the Old Testament regarding the natural Temple of Solomon—that was erected in Jerusalem and later destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar—we can better understand the process that we are a part of in these Last Days.
- » God promises to restore His Church in these Last Days amongst the Gentiles. You and I are privileged to participate in His prophetic program! Read Acts 3:21.

2. THE TWO TEMPLES.

- » In the Old Testament account of the building of the Temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon (King of Israel in approximately 960 BC), of its destruction by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar (approximately 586 BC), and of its restoration by Zerubbabel (a Jewish Prophet in 520 BC), is a great prophetic type that reveals the building of the Early Church in the days of Jesus, its destruction by the Roman Empire (by the Roman Emperor Constantine in 325 AD), and its restoration amongst the Gentiles in these Last Days (the Arise, Shine of the Last Days’ Church in 1903 AD led by A. J. Tomlinson).
- » The Temple which Solomon built was a prophetic type/example of the spiritual temple (the Early Church) which Jesus, the true Solomon, built during His Judaeen ministry some 2,000 years ago.
- » Peter declared the Early Church to be that Temple. Read I Peter 2:5. Paul confirmed this truth in Ephesians 2:20-22.

3. THE EARLY CHURCH.

- » The Early Church—as the spiritual temple of God—was manifested in all of its prophetic glory as the residence of the Holy Spirit and power of God in the First Century.
- » The Early Church was built by Jesus when He established the foundation of 12 Apostles and 72 Elders/Prophets in Matthew 10:1 and Luke 10:1. This truth is confirmed in Ephesians 2:19,20.
- » The Church of God believes that the Early Church was established by Jesus Christ Himself prior to the Day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that is recorded in Acts 2:1-4. (NOTE: Most churches recognize the events of Acts 2:1-4 as the beginning of the Early Church.)
- » The 7 Business Overseers were added by the Apostles in Acts 6:1-7 to help administrate the affairs of the Early Church.
- » In subsequent generations, however, there was a gradual deterioration of the Early Church, a problem which Jude (Jude 3,4) and Paul (Acts 20:28,29) foretold. Eventually the Early Church was swallowed up in death by the Roman Empire (325 AD) and lay in the grave of the Dark Ages until 1903.
- » Constantine, the pagan Roman Emperor, was the primary agent in the destruction of the Church just as Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian King, had been in the destruction of Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem in 586 AD.

“THE CHURCH IN TWO DISPENSATIONS – Part 2”

LESSON 10 • For week ending March 8, 2025

I'm sorry for leaving you *hanging* last week. You know how it is when you are watching a *limited series* on TV. They get you hooked, then they take a break. Well, we're back! Last week we ended with the Early Church that Jesus built being destroyed. Remember we talked about going through hard, messy times? Well, God knows all about it. His Church has been through the ringer—even death—yet it's back! Push the PLAY button to start Episode Two....

–Bishop David Kramer

KEY TEXT: “*The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands shall also finish it...*” (Zechariah 4:9 *partial quote*).

1. ALL IS LOST—OR IS IT?

- » Episode One left off with the Early Church being destroyed by Constantine, a Roman Emperor.
- » It was the same idolatrous, Babylonian, polytheistic (belief/worship of many gods) system of religion which Constantine—who had arrogated himself as head of the church in 325 AD—forced upon the Early Church in the form of pagan holidays and practices that brought about its destruction.
- » Constantine worked diligently to remove all traces of Judaism from the “reformed” Catholic Church.
- » Constantine and subsequent leaders/popes even made it against the law to observe holy days, festivals, or practices that had Jewish roots (Daniel 7:25). The word “Catholic” simply means, “universal.”
- » Thus began the journey of replacing the 7-Day Sabbath, Saturday, with Sunday, the 1st day of the week.
- » When Constantine, the high priest of the Roman religion, assumed the leadership of the Church, the Early Church ceased to exist (325 AD) just as surely as the Temple in Jerusalem ceased to exist when Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian army destroyed it (586 BC).
- » This event was prophesied by Isaiah 1:21 and Revelation 17,18 in terminology which declared that the Faithful City (the Early Church) would become an harlot by compromising its virtue and truth.

2. CAN YOU SAY: ZERUBBABEL?

- » The rebuilding of the Temple by Zerubbabel (Zechariah 4:9) was prophetic of the rebuilding of the Church in the Last Days amongst—and with the help of—the Gentiles (Isaiah 44:28).
- » It was Cyrus and Darius, both Kings of Persia (Gentiles), who permitted and facilitated Zerubbabel to begin restoration of Solomon’s Temple which lay in ruins in Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1,2).
- » This was a “foreshadow/type” of the Gentiles that would restore God’s Church in the Last Days.
- » James, the Chief Bishop of the Early Church, had used the prophecy of Amos 9:11,12 to confirm the fact that the Gentiles would be a part of the Last Days’ Church.
- » The prophecy of Amos further declared that there would be a restoration of the Tabernacle of David that had fallen down and that this would take place among the Gentiles.
- » The Tabernacle of David was the Temple of Solomon. Its spiritual counterpart was the Early Church.
- » That it had fallen down is a fact of history (325 AD). That it is to be restored among the Gentiles is a fact of prophecy (Arise, Shine on Saturday, June 13, 1903).

3. THE FAITHFUL CITY.

- » Isaiah 1:26 confirmed the fact that there would be a complete restoration of the Faithful City (the Church) following its judgment for becoming a harlot.
- » This restoration work was predicted by Peter in Acts 3:20,21 as taking place immediately prior to the return of Jesus.
- » This prophetic restoration was to encompass the complete rebuilding of the spiritual temple which Jesus had constructed, with all the practices, teachings, offices, and gifts that made up that temple.
- » This work is now being accomplished among the Gentiles, with The Church of God Jerusalem Acres being a focal point of activity in that behalf (Isaiah 58:12; Zechariah 4:9).
- » The Two Temples, one built by Solomon and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, the other built by Zerubbabel with the help of Cyrus, king of Persia, are typical of the Church that was built by Jesus, later destroyed by Constantine and the Roman empire, and rebuilt in the Last Days amongst the Gentiles.

“THE CHURCH IN TWO DISPENSATIONS – Part 3”

LESSON 11 • For week ending March 15, 2025

We're back! Today we will watch Episode 3 of this series. When we left off last week we started talking about RESTORATION. I have to admit that I love watching/reading stories about restoration. I enjoy seeing a good BEFORE-AND-AFTER. I love seeing a house that has been damaged after its been restored to its original condition. That's what God is doing today. He's restoring His original house—the one destroyed by Satan—and it's gonna be better than ever! Get yourself a snack—the REVEAL is coming up! –Bishop David Kramer

KEY TEXT: “Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?” (Haggai 2:3).

1. REFORMATION.

- » Reformation is a continuing principle of God that is manifest in every generation in which His work is being accomplished in the earth. God is a reformer. He never simply discards what He is doing and begins anew with different material.
- » This truth is revealed in Jeremiah 18:1-6 in the story of the Potter and the work on the pottery wheel. God declared Himself to be like the Potter. When the vessel that the Potter was making became marred, He made that same clay again into another vessel. He did not take a new lump of clay to make another vessel.
- » From the most ancient of times, the work of God with mankind has been a work of reformation. The reforming work of Jesus is of particular note. God did not discard the Jewish religion or people when they became marred in His hand (Romans 11:11,12). He simply sent Jesus to be a reformer of Judaism and of the hearts of the people to bring them to conformity to His will (Hebrews 9:9,10).
- » The same principle applies to you and I. God does not cast us away because we have a failure in our lives. He simply helps us stand up and continue on our journey. Read Proverbs 24:16.

2. THE EARLY CHURCH.

- » After a time, the Early Church which Jesus established as a reformation in Judaism, became marred and polluted through the introduction of false doctrines and traditions borrowed from the heathen nations and their religious systems (325 AD). Read Acts 20:29,30).
- » Again, God did not simply discard that clay on which He had been working and start over with something totally different. He began a reformation by placing in the hearts of the Protestant reformers (PROTESTANT REFORMATION – 1517 AD beginning with Martin Luther) the need to restore New Testament truth to Christianity.
- » In each succeeding generation since the Protestant Reformation began, men have become crystallized and marred by their refusal to continue to be molded by the potter. In each case God has taken a part of the same lump of clay that had become marred and has begun to work with it on His prophetic wheel of restoration to reform it according to His will (Matthew 16:18).

3. HERE'S WHERE YOU AND I COME IN.

- » In one of these reformations, The Church of God arose in 1903. It began when A. J. Tomlinson met with a group of believers known as the Holiness Church at Camp Creek near Murphy, North Carolina at a location now called Fields of the Wood (Psalm 132:6; I Corinthians 3:9).
- » After praying all night long, A. J. Tomlinson met with the small group on a Saturday Morning, June 13, 1903, and together they agreed to establish a church that would be based on God's Word: the Holy Bible. They adopted a motto: “No lawbook but the Bible.” Read Colossians 1:18 and Ephesians 2:21,22.
- » They agreed that they would be called THE CHURCH OF GOD. Brother Tomlinson was later appointed as Pastor. The church grew and became recognized as the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee (Elders). It is now a worldwide organization with over 8 million members.
- » This, however, is not the end of the story. Just like with you and I, trials and tribulations continued which brought more reformations. There's only one more episode left...

“THE CHURCH IN TWO DISPENSATIONS – Part 4”

LESSON 12 • For week ending March 22, 2025

Have you ever been called STUBBORN? My father, former Presiding Bishop Samuel Kramer, used to call himself, “a stubborn German!” (and I can attest that he was at times!). I’m gonna challenge you this morning to harness your “stubbornness” and use it as an asset. Make your mind up to obey and follow God—no matter the cost. That’s what my father did. He channeled his stubborn streak and used it to help restore The Church of God in December, 1996. He lead the Council of Apostles and Elders to reaffirm the mission that God has placed on The Church of God to restore His Early Church in these Last Days amongst the Gentiles. **WANTED: STUBBORN PEOPLE** (apply within)!
–*Bishop David Kramer*



KEY TEXT: “But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).

1. REFORMATION CONTINUES.

- » On Saturday (the Sabbath), June 13, 1903, after God’s Early Church had served over 1,500 years in the grave, something changed. Read Isaiah 43:19. Jesus Christ, Himself, is the Resurrection—right? Read John 11:25,26.
- » What changed? A man, named A. J. Tomlinson prayed to God and was subsequently used of God to begin the process of restoring God’s system of praise, worship and service (New Testament Judaism) to God’s Last Days’ Church (Hebrews 7:18,19,22-28).
- » The Church of God, which arose from the darkness in 1903, has not been spared the pain of reformation. In 1922, the Church of God (Elders) and the Church of God of Prophecy (with Bishop A. J. Tomlinson as leader) decided to split apart from each other.
- » Again in 1957, the Church of God of Prophecy and The Church of God Jerusalem Acres (with Bishop Grady R. Kent as leader) decided to split. It was necessary for the prophets of God to initiate a reformation to restore the Last Days’ Church to proper Biblical order (Matthew 24:45; Ephesians 2:20; I Corinthians 13:28).

2. GOD CONTINUES TO SHAPE AND MOLD US.

- » The first time that I ever went to see my Inner Healing Counselor (Bishop Lavell Craig), he told me that the process of inner healing takes time. He told me, “*You didn’t become the way you are overnight—it took years. You have to allow that the healing and restoration process will take time as well.*”
- » The same is true with God’s Church. It’s a living organism. It is continually growing, maturing, restoring and subsequently changing. Who is God’s Church (I Peter 2:1-10)? Peter tells us that we have been “*called out of darkness into His marvelous light.*”

3. KEEP ON KEEPING ON.

- » Zechariah recorded an ancient prophecy in Zechariah 13:7–9 regarding God’s people. Zechariah prophesied that God’s people/sheep “*will be scattered.*” He goes on to say, “*But one-third shall be left in it.*” The Church of God at Jerusalem Acres has identified itself as part of that “*one-third.*”
- » While we used to shout and be excited about that, we forgot to read what happens to the “*one-third*” in verse 9 (LOL)! That group goes through the fire—which will refine them as silver and gold is refined.
- » Since 1957, The Church of God Jerusalem Acres has continued in a work of reformation, constantly examining its teaching and practice to see where areas of refinement and restoration can take place.
- » The church believes that it always has the chance of reaching the goal of Bible perfection if it is prepared to admit that it has not yet reached that goal and if it is prepared to make whatever changes that God may require of it to maintain its course toward that goal (Ephesians 5:26,27).
- » NOTE: Both the Church of God of Prophecy and The Church of God Jerusalem Acres have undergone additional splits within their church organizations since 1957.
- » Reformation is a divine principle through which God continues to mold those who will be flexible and pliable in His hand until He has completed the work of making them a vessel of honor in His house (II Timothy 2:20,21).

“CAN YOU WALK ON WATER?”

LESSON 13 • For week ending March 29, 2025

The title asks a very interesting question: “Can you walk on water?” My first response—in my flesh—would be, “Only if it’s frozen!” It’s amazing how our flesh will always defy what God’s Word says we can and cannot do. You and I are made in the image of God. We are made in His likeness. If God says we can *walk on water*, we can do it! How? With the power of the Holy Spirit’s help!

–*Presiding Bishop H. David Lam*

KEY TEXT: “*Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23).*”

1. WE SERVE A GOD WHO CAN DO MIRACLES.

- » In Matthew 14, we read a very interesting account concerning Jesus and His Disciples.
- » In the first part of the chapter, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, was beheaded by King Herod (Matthew 14:3-10). Later, the Disciples told Jesus what happened (verse 14).
- » When Jesus heard the news, the Bible says He went off by Himself to a deserted place (Matthew 14:13). However, when the multitudes ended up following Him, Jesus began to minister to them even though He was sad and hurting (verse 14).

2. WE’RE STARVING! IS THERE ANYTHING TO EAT?

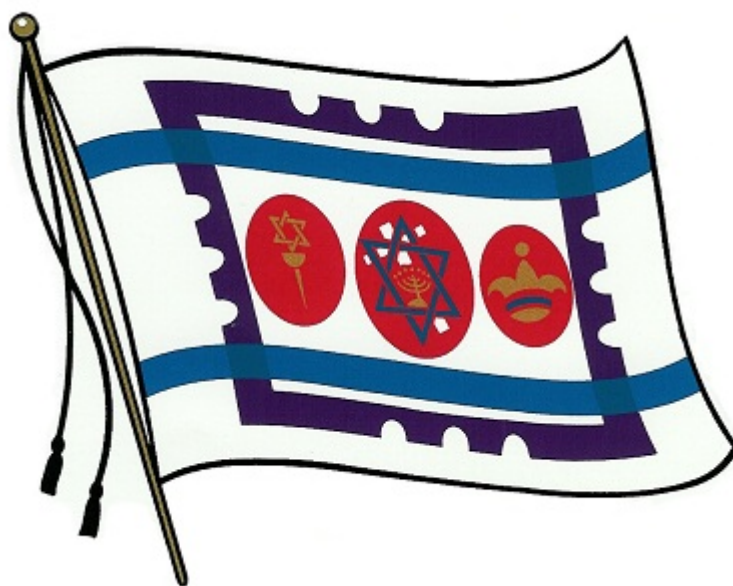
- » Our flesh never takes a break—does it? We constantly have to think about what our flesh needs/wants to survive.
- » The Disciples wanted to send the people away, but Jesus, being moved with compassion, knew they were hungry (Matthew 6:25).
- » It was then that Jesus used what they had on hand to perform a miracle. Jesus took 5 loaves and 2 fish and fed 5,000 men plus women and children. Read Matthew 14:16-21.
- » After He fed the multitudes, Jesus wanted some alone time (Matthew 14:22,23). He sent the Disciples on a boat and they made their way out to the middle of the sea. While they were there, a storm arose (Matthew 14:23). What does Jesus say about the storms of life? Read Matthew 7:24-27.

3. GIVE PETER A BREAK!

- » Now, in the middle of the night, the Disciples are being tossed to and fro on the sea. Suddenly, they see a man walking towards them on the water. At first, they thought they were seeing a ghost and began to cry out. Jesus immediately spoke to them saying, “*Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid*” (Matthew 14:25-27).
- » A lot of people give Peter a hard time, but Peter was the only one to actually step out of the boat onto the turbulent sea. Read Matthew 14:28,29.
- » It wasn’t until Peter began to look around at his circumstances that he became afraid and began to sink. When he did, Peter cried out, “*Lord, save me!*”
- » I love this next part. Matthew 14:31 says, “*And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him...*” God is always paying attention to you and your situation—even as you are walking by faith!

4. CAN WE WALK ON WATER?

- » The answer is YES! This same Peter—who denied even knowing Jesus before His crucifixion—became a different man. Why? Because He obeyed the command of Jesus found in Acts 1:8. Peter found that boldness and the power to go and perform miracles once he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4. In fact, Peter immediately began boldly preaching to the multitudes (Acts 2:14,38-47).
- » You and I can do whatever needs done with Jesus on our side. My instruction to you today is to do what Peter did: Receive the power! You are not the source—God is! He works through you and I by the power of His Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:6,7).
- » The only thing that can hinder you is unbelief (Matthew 13:58). Our prayer should be “*Lord, help my unbelief!*” (Mark 9:24).



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