

DANIEL FAST 2021

*A Vision
for the Future*

September 5th thru 26th

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The Daniel Fast at "Assemblée Chrétienne du Bon Berger"

With each new season, God wants to bring his people together on the same wavelength. This is one of the main reasons the Daniel Fast is organised in this church at the start of each school year. It all began in 2003 when France experienced a record heat wave in terms of its duration (two weeks), its intensity, and its fatality rate : more than 14,802 deaths were recorded during the first half of August. *(Compare that to 112 844 deaths related to Covid-19 since the beginning of the pandemic in January 2020, which comes to an average of 5,642 deaths per month, not to mention the long-term psychological and economic effects).* We understood that the country was in crisis. Fasting and praying for the nation was a divine mandate. *(By the way, we feel the same in this time of pandemic.)*

Having observed the fruit of this fast that first year, the elders realized that it was indeed a strategy from the heart of God. In the years that followed, members of the church repeatedly testified of the breakthroughs and victories they experienced through this time devoted to seeking the face of God. This year will be no different. At this point we have endured several months of crisis and confusion due to Covid-19 and its variants, and it is time for us to unite, align ourselves on the same page, and all move forward in the same direction. Proverbs 29:18 (ASV) tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint..." It can be understood that if we, individually and corporately, have no vision or revelation or objective in front of us, we have nothing to guide us and we won't know where to go.

Together, let us seek the face of the Lord... together, allow the Holy Spirit transform our mentalities and our habits... together, let us grasp the revelations that God wants to impart to us... together, let us respond to His call... together, let us pursue our destiny! The Lord wants to give us a vision for the future. Let every veil before our spiritual eyes be removed .

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*I will take my stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the tower,
and look out to see what he will say to me,
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.
And the LORD answered me:
"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it."*

(Habakuk 2:1-2, ESV)

PROLOGUE

Sometimes it's difficult to perceive the future, especially when the circumstances of life leave us in a fog. But our God is never lost or confused: He has foreseen what's ahead and has already provided everything we need for the journey. The more we connect to the heart of our Lord, the more we can distinguish what He sees for our future.

This short guide is designed to accompany you through 21 days of fasting and prayer. On each page is a verse, a meditation, and a target for prayer. This is meant to serve as the start of your daily personal worship. The goal is to trigger in your heart a sense of expectancy : of an encounter with the Lord, of a new revelation, and of a transformation of mentality and behavior. Each article is only a starting point for your own pursuit of God's presence. Each page is like a runway to help you take off into a new experience in God. Treat each entry as an inspiration for your communion with the Heavenly Father. Use each day's theme to catapult yourself into your own Bible study. And above all, expect these three weeks to be an unforgettable and unprecedented fast with great impact in your life!

PS : A Daniel fast is where you abstain from sugar, alcohol, special treats, and food that comes from an animal, as well as entertainment, and instead offer these things to the Lord during this time. It is not a fast of flagellation or deprivation but of consecration and purification.

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

GOD KNOWS

Jeremiah 29:11 - I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (ESV)

Jeremiah was a prophet in Israel in perilous times for God's people. Despite the many warnings of the Lord's messengers, the people continued in sin. Despite seeing the 10 northern tribes wiped out by the Assyrian Empire, the people continued in sin. Already, Babylon had attacked Israel and taken into captivity most of the upper class, as well as the treasures of the Temple. Yet the people, blinded and stubborn, continued in sin.

It is in this context that the Lord spoke one last time to His children through Jeremiah, to remind them of God's plans for His loved ones. God's plans are to bring his people into the fulness of His promises; to give them a secure future; and make them prosper. The Lord has already looked ahead and seen the time when He would bring His children back from the place of exile and redeem them for their destiny. God knows and God sees what is in front of you.

At the start of this time of prayer and fasting, it is so important to realize that no matter what you've gone through lately, whether successes, failures, or ups and

downs, God's plans for you are meant to produce His peace within you. Whether you are in a very good place right now, or in a very bad place, God is not here to judge and knock you down. He's here to embrace you, to remove the dust and dirt that have accumulated in your soul; and to reveal to you the precious thoughts in His heart concerning you.

Generally two things will be accomplished in our hearts during a time of fasting prayer. The first is the destruction of things in our lives which prevents the grace of God from having its full impact in us and through us. The second is the impartation of the tools and weaponry necessary to advance in his plan. You will experience both of these aspects during the next 21 days. Keep this in the back of your mind as you begin your pursuit of God. The first target is what must be demolished; the second is what must be built up. Use this model prayer below to begin your journey.



"Father, I believe with all my heart that Your plans are good, to give me hope, peace and a prosperous future. I entrust to You now these 21 days of fasting and prayer. Thank You for granting me a spirit of wisdom and revelation, for making my spiritual ears sensitive to everything You say to me. Reveal to me these days everything that prevents You from doing what you want to do, in me and through me. Please give me a glimpse of your thoughts and all that You have in store for me in the future. I ask you these things, believing, without a single doubt, in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen."

MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

WRITE WHAT YOU SEE

Revelation 1:10-11 - ...I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches..."

We are stewards of every vision the Lord gives us. The first way to take good care of a vision is to record it in some form, preferably written. John on the island of Patmos had set himself apart to seek the face of God, and God revealed to him what would happen in the years to come, specifying that it should be noted. We have a responsibility to properly record what He shows us as well. Why? Verse 3 of the same chapter gives us a clue: "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things written therein! Because the time is near." Sharing the vision is a source of encouragement for God's people. It serves to prepare hearts for what God wants to accomplish, no matter what is happening in the world.

The practice of writing down the word of God has produced the Bible for us. On several occasions, God instructed his people to take note of what He revealed. For example, the Lord told Moses: "Write this as a memorial in book, and

recite it ..." (Exodus 17:14). The prophetic words were also supposed to be written: "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you." (Jeremiah 30:2) Then at the end of the immense revelation which constitutes the last book of the Bible, God said to John: "He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:5) If you want God to reveal more to you, be faithful to systematically record what He shows you.

Begin this Daniel Fast by creating some sort of a journal if you don't have one yet. Develop the habit of regularly recording what God shows you. Start by first noting the areas of your life where you need a vision: family, your vocation, the call of God, etc. Then each day, faithfully write down every verse that speaks to you, every revelation that inspires you, every impression you receive from the Holy Spirit. As you do, you will discover not only how much He speaks to you but also how complementary your revelations are to those of your brothers and sisters, elders, and church leaders. As one does with a well-tuned instrument, God will adjust each string to produce a harmonious sound!



Pray that you would become a good steward today: for patience and perseverance to seek God, to receive from Him, and to take note of all that He reveals to you. Also pray for church members to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying.

TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

NEW BEGINNINGS

2 Chronicles 15:14 - They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns...

Today is the beginning of the autumn festivals which Jesus faithfully observed, as did all the apostles of the early church. The Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh Hashanah, is a time when God allows His people to "reset" the clock, turn the page, start the page, begin afresh, or in a sense get a second chance. The Jews call these the "High Holy Days."

There was a time in Israel's history when the nation was divided between north and south. For years there was not a single priest teaching the Word of God, the Temple was completely dilapidated, and no one was seeking the Lord. It was at this time that God allowed all kinds of trouble to befall His people. Asa, Solomon's great-grandson, met an old prophet named Obed who prophesied over him: "The Lord is with you when you are with him; if you seek him you will find him; but if you forsake him, he will forsake you." (v. 2) Touched, Asa repented of idolatry in the land and a revival broke out in the southern kingdom. "But in the midst of their distress they returned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him, and they found him." (v. 4) Repentance always brings you into a new season.

So they renewed their covenant with God. These things took place at the Feast of Trumpets. The people of God celebrated the Lord and His covenant, with loud voices and with the sound of the shofars... a new beginning for them.

For those living in the New Covenant: Jesus is our Rosh Hashanah 365 days a year. The people of Israel had to wait for a specific day to enter into this grace. We have access to this grace at all times because it is part of the covenant that God established through the cross of Christ. Why do we keep the feasts then, if Christ is our "perpetual feast?" The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. However, we set specific times for prayer and fasting, which does not negate the fact of praying without ceasing. The Bible tells us to honor one another all the time. However, we reserve special days to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Also, although Jesus is our perpetual feast, we recognize those divine appointments on God's calendar. The latter in no way negates the former.

Rosh Hashanah gives God's people the opportunity to start all over again, just like the people in Asa's day. They had to restore the place of the presence of God, get rid of their idols, and sever toxic relationships. This is exactly what God is asking of us today. Enter a new season by repentance.



Renounce every form of idolatry in your heart and rejoice in the new beginnings! 2 Chronicles 15:15 - "All Judah rejoiced at this oath, ... and the Lord gave them rest everywhere."

WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

GO UP AND SEE

1 Rois 18:43-44 - *Elijah said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." He went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." Elijah said, "Go again," seven times. At the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising..."*

During a prolonged drought, Elijah had told King Ahab that the rain would finally return. The prophet finds himself at the top of Mount Carmel with the promise of rain in his heart. Carmel was where he'd experienced the radical victory over the prophets of Baal, the fire of the Lord had fallen, and the people finally made the decision to follow the one true God. The word "Carmel" means "fruitful garden or fields." It is that elevated place where God reveals Himself, and where He transforms consecration into conviction, frustrations into fruit, and challenges into chances ... to see His glory, to see His hand in the future.

It was to this very location that Elijah brought his servant, just as God brings us to the mountaintop at times to show us what's ahead. We all have His promises engraved in our

hearts, but to perceive their fulfillment, we must climb higher. It is from the top that we see further than ever. We will not be able to be satisfied with remaining on the plain, which means our comfort zone, where everything is easy, habitual, routine. We will not be content to camp in the valley if God wants to place us on the heights.

Often our vision depends on our positioning. In the valley of discouragement, we will not be able to see very far. On the plain of indifference or apathy, our sight can be blocked by obstacles. But if we take our seats with Christ in heavenly places, our "field of vision" becomes fruitful. Do you hear the call of God today to come up and see? John heard it well on the island of Patmos: "And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." (Revelation 4: 1) Even if you have to look seven times in a row before you see the cloud the size of man's hand, you will eventually see God's promise come true. Like the servant of Elijah who promptly obeyed the voice of his master, let us keep a servant's heart and remain humbly submitted to the voice of our Lord and Master. He demands our responsiveness not because He is a tyrant but because He knows that we will be rewarded. Remember that slow obedience is the equivalent of disobedience.



What's keeping you from going higher, from reaching the summit: Selfishness? Concerns? Disappointment? Deal with these things in prayer today. Go up; you'll see more.

THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

PRAYER FIRST OF ALL

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men...

Any church that wants to see the apostolic and prophetic graces fully restored and released must grasp the singular truth that prayer is the foundation. There is never a transforming movement of the Holy Spirit without dedication to prayer and intercession. There are two fundamental dimensions in which our devotion to prayer manifests itself: the first is in our personal lives, and the second in the corporate life.

There is no instance in the scriptures, or in Church history, where God rebuked one of His children for praying too much! Yet dozens of amazing people spend hours a day in deep intercession. Their constant desire is to set aside even more time to earnestly seek the face of God. What examples for us to follow!

The largest congregation that has ever existed in the history of the Church is Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, Korea. Before the pandemic, this church had more than a million members. Founding pastor Paul Yonggi Cho believes the

church's initial success was based on two things: cell groups and prayer. The church actually bought a mountain outside of Seoul and built small caves on the sides of the mountain. It has been nicknamed Prayer Mountain. Church members spend their week of vacation praying and fasting on Prayer Mountain each year. They have understood that a Christian lifestyle makes prayer and intercession the highest priority, in every season.

Compare this model with that of most Western churches. Even if only 10% of the members are present for a prayer meeting lasting 1 or 2 hours, it's considered a victory. In truth, if the children of God do not cultivate a personal prayer life, meeting with others for prayer will not be a priority for them. It all starts with the individual. Target your own level of prayer today, both in quantity and in quality. You will never fully enter into the will of God without developing extended moments of concentrated prayer and focused intercession on a regular basis... first and foremost.



Today, repent of the distractions, laziness, and apathy that may be present in your personal commitment to prayer, worship, and intercession. Ask God to rekindle the fires that once burned in your soul. Commit to establishing a strong morning routine where you spend a focused period of time in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Pray that God will restore in you that ardent desire for His presence, as well as grant you the grace to build a solid discipline, in order to taste of the pleasure of knowing Him, even more than ever before.

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

SEEING GOD IN ACTION

Amos 7:8 - The LORD said, "Amos, what do you see?" I said, "A plumb line." He said, "I'm setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel ..."

Amos was a farmer and a shepherd. He came from a village called Tekoa in Judah. He became a prophet during the reign of King Uzziah and Jeroboam II. God called him through a vision. He responded to God's call in faith and obedience. God spoke to him through visions at least 5 times, often to reveal what He was doing among the people. Your personal vision is likely to include a glimpse of what the Lord wants to accomplish in His church as well.

In the case of Amos, God was addressing the serious problems of the time, such as: the social injustices and the need for God's people to take responsibility for them; the idolatry and hypocrisy present in the religious world; the manner in which God was preparing to bring judgment and chastisement against Israel and other nations. If the Lord reveals the vast extent of the evils of society to His people, it is with the purpose of creating a partnership with the Holy Spirit in order to make a difference! Your vision may be part of the solution! His ultimate plan is still in progress and He is looking for co-laborers in the work of transformation.

This collaboration begins with dialogue. A healthy prayer life is not just about presenting your petitions to God, without listening to His reply. Notice how many times the Lord dialogued with His people. Sometimes he asks questions like : "What do you see?" Jesus himself said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27). The vision that God wants to unveil to you may in fact be the result of an extended time of intimate exchanges with Him, where He progressively unveils His plan as well as your particular part in it.

A period of fasting can make you more sensitive to His voice, as you will be more focused in your listening. Develop the habit of letting the Lord speak to your spirit. You can always bring up your talking points, but allow Him to address His as well. Your exchanges with Him can trigger the revelation of innovations and creativity and show you your place in His sovereign action on earth. Renounce all those lies that say you don't hear His voice, because the Bible says otherwise. Set yourself apart and cultivate the art of dialogue with God. You will be edified, challenged and fulfilled; He will be honored by the attention you give Him.



How do you show the Lord that you are serious about listening to His voice? By writing down in the journal you started exactly what He says. Also note your questions, and His answers. Make better listening your main topic of prayer today, and commit to daily times of exchanging with God.

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Jeremiah 1:11-12 - The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

Jeremiah lived and prophesied during a very dark time in Judah. He saw the nation go from prosperous conditions in Josiah's time to a state of utter corruption under the last 4 kings of the Southern Kingdom (Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiakin and Zedekiah). His mission was to witness to a sinful, stubborn, misled, and often indifferent people, in order to incite them to return to the ways of God.

The Hebrew word for "almond" is very similar to the word "to watch." One of the reasons why God gives a vision to his people is to reveal His nature or His action. In this case the almond branch reveals his faithfulness to oversee every one of His promises until they are accomplished. This passage underlines for us the urgency of receiving a vision for our future. God asks each of us today "What do you see?" In other words, "What are you looking at?"

If you answer this question before the Lord, expect Him to say, "You have seen well." Or maybe he'll say, "No, that's not exactly it. Let me add some precision to what you see." Jesus Himself had that experience: "he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly." (Mark 8: 23-25). Sometimes we need to experience an inner healing before we can see the vision that God has placed before our eyes in "high definition."

Our outlook on things can be colored or distorted by our past, especially our deficiencies, disappointments and hurts. For a clear and precise vision, continue in this fasting period by letting the Holy Spirit search your heart and indicate anything that may prevent you from seeing. Then ask God to enlighten the eyes of your heart to see clearly.



What are the words that God has spoken over you? Personally or through prophecy? For each one that comes to mind, write down in your journal a Bible verse or vision that confirms it. Then pray over this promise in order to fulfill the conditions necessary to see its accomplishment. Ask God to show you the next step to take for Him to be able perform His will and realise His plan in your life.

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

PLANS FOR WELFARE

Jeremiah 29:11 - I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (ESV)

This declaration from heaven came at a time when what was left of Israel, Judah, had been devastated by the Babylonian Empire, and many of the wealthy and educated people of the land had been taken captive. We could ask ourselves : How is this welfare and not evil?

Judah would experience even more brutality from the Babylonians before the third and final exile. At one point, the prophet Jeremiah was thrown into a well, where he thought he was going to die. Eventually he escaped the Babylonians, and ended up going down to Egypt where he spent the last years of his life. Again we could ask ourselves : How is this welfare and not evil?

There is a great theological debate about the creation of evil. However, there is no indication in the scriptures that evil was actually created. Rather, evil is an empty space where the values of the Kingdom should be present, but are absent. The devil fills this void with destruction. The evil of the world comes from the decision of human beings to live

without God. That is what makes them vulnerable to the influence of the devil. There are times when God declares over you that He only has thoughts of welfare and not of evil, but looking at your life, you only see the effects of evil. How can you reconcile this disparity?

God does not make this promise by looking at your present circumstances, but rather by seeing the ultimate outcome that He has planned for your life. As the Lord weaves your destiny, He anticipates that all pain, disappointment, and failure will work together to make you stronger and more determined. He sees the power of His grace working in you to redeem you from your mistakes and your poor character. He sees the power of His Spirit and His Word developing His character in you. Ultimately in the process, there's no evil, but only the peace of heaven and the welfare of your soul.



Exercise: On one page of your journal, write down on the left side the aspects of your life that you want God to change during this fast. On the right side, write down all the trials, difficulties and challenges you are currently facing. Then, with a red pen, connect with an arrow the point in the left column that corresponds to the test in the right column. You will find that these difficulties are very specifically preparing you for God's ultimate plan. That's most likely why you need to go through them. Decide today to trust God's perspective on your future. He sees far more than your current situation. He sees the end result : plans for welfare.

MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

AWAKE TO SEE

Zechariah 4:1-2 - The angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand..."

Certain people are very attached to their sleep and find it difficult to move in the morning. Others wake up instantly when the alarm goes off. But for both types of people, it takes a few seconds to focus the eyes and see clearly. Sleep means the eyes are closed. In the same way, sometimes spiritual sleepiness causes our spiritual eyes to be closed as well. We lack vision, revelation, or understanding because our hearts are asleep. In Genesis 28:16, it is only when Jacob awakes that he says, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it!"

According to the principle of the Sabbath, there is a time for rest or sleep. It is essential for health. But woe to those who sleep when they have to be awake! Samson lost his strength in his sleep (Judges 16:20). Saul could have lost his life in his sleep, but David dared not raise his hand against the king (1 Samuel 26:12). Solomon warns the

sluggard about drowsiness (Proverbs 6: 9-11) A young man in the Bible fell out of a window and died because he fell asleep during the preaching! (Acts 20:9...thankfully the power of God brings resurrection!) In contrast, Peter and his companions woke up from sleep to see the glory of Jesus. (Luke 9:32) You have to be awake to see. In other words, your heart has to experience a revival to receive a vision.

As Paul said to the Romans: "Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." (Romans 13:11) The 10 virgins in the parable succumbed to fatigue, and half of them missed the arrival of the bridegroom because they were not ready! (Matthew 25:5) Sleep is not a sin, but sleeping at the wrong time is a cause of sorrow for the Lord. A key to receiving a vision is to stay awake spiritually. A period of fasting is designed to tame the flesh and awaken the spirit. Interestingly, God rarely says "I will come and wake you up" but rather tells us "Wake up!" It is up to us to be as determined as the Psalmist who wrote: "Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn!"(Psalm 57:8, NIV)



Make your personal awakening the target of your prayer today. Shake yourself, if you have to. Speak to your soul. But above all, put aside any habit and any object that puts you to sleep. Make sure there's oil in your lamp! "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps..." (Matthew 25:7)

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

SEE ... AND ARISE

Jérémie 1:13,17 - "The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north." Then the LORD said to me : "Out of the north disaster shall be let loose ... But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you."

Jeremiah is again in a position to receive a vision from God. This time it is a revelation of calamity. Sometimes a vision can serve as a warning. God's goal is not to scare us about the future; on the contrary, he wants to prepare us. Even more, he wants to use us when disasters occur to communicate his message to our generation.

In the midst of confusion and panic, it is those who carry God's revelation that bring divine consolation and wisdom from heaven. Unfortunately fear can paralyze us or silence us. Today the Holy Spirit wants to unveil every fear that prevents you from acting, and cast out those fears buried in your heart. This time of fasting can serve as a magnifying glass that magnifies the "little things" deep in your soul that you would otherwise ignore. According to 1 John 4:18,

perfect love casts out fear, and according to 2 Timothy 2: 7, God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of strength, love, power and a sound mind. The Lord is going to expose the lies that you have believed, maybe even from a young age, that have been fuelling those fears. Perhaps He will spark a childhood memory in you that contributed to a fear of rejection... or a wound from your teen years that was not healed and created in you the fear of failure. Your spirit is able to receive the truth that sets you free, but your soul may have a twisted view of yourself, your loved ones, or God. The truth of God will therefore become your reality... for you will see things as He sees them.

Fear is not an emotion; it is a spirit that intimidates and manipulates. If you treat fear like an emotion, it becomes easy to justify or to excuse. But if you treat fear like a demon, it is forced to leave you because of your authority in Christ. A demon lingers only because you have granted it access and allowed it the right to remain. If sin is cleansed by the blood of the Lamb through your repentance, and if you renounce lies and unbelief, nothing can deprive you of the true freedom that makes you triumph in Christ!



Today's target in prayer is your soul, much like a garden where weeds (lies) have been sown and have been able to grow. Take time to cooperate with the Gardener as He points out and uproots these undesirable things. You will hear the voice of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life.

WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF?

Leviticus 3:27-28 - ...there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation to you; and you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. You shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Between the Feast of Trumpets and the Feast of Tabernacles there is a day of prayer and fasting, considered the culmination of the ten "days of awe." In Hebrew we say Yom haKuppourim, or Yom Kippur, the feast of atonement, the only feast in God's calendar where fasting is compulsory. It was on that day that the high priest would go into the Holy of holies and pour blood on the mercy seat, and thus "cover" the sins of Israel.

Jesus established a higher covenant by shedding His own blood on the cross for our sin, which is far more powerful than the blood of animals, which are incapable of sinning. So, Jesus is our perpetual kippur. But He is also more than that. By the precious blood of Jesus our sins are not only

covered; they are carried away. The judgment against us because of our sin has been nailed to the cross, and we no longer bear it. The power of sin, while still present in the flesh, has been crippled by the power of the cross, and we can truly overcome the domination of sin in our lives.

The law of Moses ordered the priest to bathe in water before putting on white clothes. Only then could he come before the presence of God and offer the blood on the mercy seat. This speaks prophetically of water baptism which is the burial of the sinful nature; thus purified, we enter the presence of the Lord our God without fear. Yom Kippur, for Christians, is therefore a time of reflection on the cross of Calvary, instrument of torture for Jesus, instrument of salvation for us. Meditate on the power of God's forgiveness towards us who believe in Yeshua. It is always healthy to be grateful for what we have left behind. Jesus said: He who is forgiven much loves very much. We are not forgiven because of our remorse, but because of God's faithfulness to Jesus' sacrifice. Therefore, although we remember where we came from, we no longer need to carry regrets. It is finished: there is nothing more to do for your redemption, your justification. Jesus is our atonement.



Today, thank God for the finished work of the cross, for writing your name in the Lamb's Book of Life, and for clothing you in white robes, soaked in the blood of the Lamb. Once you repent, see yourself as redeemed, and purified. (Note: Yom Kippur begins at sunset this evening.)

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

CORPORATE PRAYER

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

It's trendy in many churches to speak of becoming "apostolic." Here in Paul's letter to Timothy is a real model of an apostolic house. The first obvious thing is the commitment to intercession. An apostolic house without prayer is like a fire station without water. You can have the most beautiful fire trucks and equipment in the world, but without water you won't be able to fulfill your mandate. Likewise, too many churches seek cool "apostolic tools," "apostolic training," or "an apostolic budget". But the prayer necessary to support the apostolic mission is missing.

In order for a local congregation to become an apostolic house, there must be a commitment to corporate prayer. All members must share this burden. If a congregation has an apostolic calling, but the members do not commit to corporate prayer, God will usually guide the leaders into an

expression of apostolic ministry outside the local church. Leaders become “apostolic” without the local congregation, and enter into a new grace, but then the congregation will be left behind. This, however, is not God's plan.

The apostle Paul saw the power of the church in Jerusalem, able to send many missionaries around the world, each able to plant new churches. He also witnessed the power of the Antioch congregation, which became apostolic and began sending missionaries, establishing churches and training leaders. Paul believed that Ephesus would also arise to become an apostolic community with a vision to reach out to Europe and Asia. That's why he left Timothy there with this blueprint.

When members of an apostolic church come together to pray, however, they are not praying about their personal needs, difficulties, burdens and problems but rather two things: the harvest and the authorities. Prayer for the harvest is the first priority of the Church, not just an accessory to the church calendar, but the main mission of every person born of the Spirit. Prayer for authorities stems from the belief that they hold the key to the freedom we need to freely preach the Word of God. Pursue both points.



If you desire to be part of an apostolic community, then find a group of Christians who are devoted to corporate prayer and intercession. If you are not in such a group, maybe you should start one yourself. This may be part of your vision!

FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

CREATED TO SEE

Exodus 4:11-12 - The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

These words, addressed to Moses as God sent him to speak to Pharaoh, reveal an important principle to us: we can have the confidence to see because we are created to see. Vision comes from God. This ability to visualize what He is telling us and what He is doing is part of who we are. It is not just a mysterious gift that is given only to those who are called "seers". One could even say that if we have two eyes and only one mouth, we are supposed to see twice as much as we speak!

Sometimes we hesitate to ask God for vision, being unsure about our ability to see it. Do this experiment : At the table with your children, when it comes time to give thanks for the meal, invite them to close their eyes if they want to see Jesus. You will be pleasantly surprised at how many can describe the man they see. This is how we were created. Our five senses are both natural and spiritual. When you ask God to give you vision, He does so because He made you to receive vision. He has in fact equipped you to see in the natural realm and in the spiritual realm.

The New Testament testifies to us of Moses in a very encouraging way. He presumably learned that God gives not only the ability to speak before the king, but also to see beyond the threats of that tyrant, with his spiritual eyes: "It was by faith that Moses, grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, preferring better to be mistreated with the people of God than to have the enjoyment of sin for a time, seeing the reproach of Christ as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he had his eyes fixed on recompense. It was by faith that he forsook Egypt, not being afraid of the king's anger: for he stood firm, as seeing him who is invisible. " (Hebrews 11: 24-27) When our natural eyes see the difficulty, our spiritual eyes see the reward. You have the ability to see the invisible.

Our spiritual eyes allow us to see the faith present in someone ready to receive. An example is found in the book of Acts: "In Lystra sat a man helpless, lame from birth, and never walked. He listened to Paul speak. And Paul, staring at him and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice: Rise up straight on your feet. And he jumped up and walked. " (Acts 14:8-10) To see the invisible means to be able to discern or anticipate the supernatural work of God, to detect where and when He is operating.



Today's prayer target is the ability to see the invisible. This is how God created you. Train yourself to close your natural eyes in order to see with your spiritual ones.

SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

SEEING IN THE SPIRIT

Colossians 2:5 - Though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

The apostle Paul was clearly a visionary. Though working "remotely" (without internet!) he saw the condition of the Colossian church. Isn't it interesting that in his first encounter with the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, when he was still called Saul, he spent some time totally blind? Is it possible that he had to endure this inability to see in order to sharpen his spiritual eyesight? He chose to devote 3 days to do a total fast: "Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank." (Acts 9:8-9)

During that time of fasting, he received a vision. The following verses indicate what happened next : "Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called

Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." (Acts 9:10-12) Saul had to be blinded, but only in order to receive a vision of his healing. And even Ananias, according to verses 13 and 14, was not particularly fond of the idea of going to pray for the man who persecuting the believers. But God had given him a vision for this notorious persecutor to be changed.

What do you need to be blinded to ... in order to receive your heavenly calling? What people or places or situations around you could be impacted by you receiving a vision from God about them? Will you be like Ananias and protest, or will you yield to God's will and see the fruit of your obedience? "But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight." (verses 15 through 18)



Ask God today to make the scales fall from your eyes so that you can receive a vision for those people with whom you live and work. Respond to that vision without hesitation.

SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

SEE WITH HOPE

Jeremiah 29:11 - I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace, not of evil, to give you an expected end. (KJV)

God said he would give the people of Israel " a future and a hope" (ESV) or more specifically "an expected end" (KJV). The Hebrew word here is *tiqvah*, a word not only found in Old Testament texts, but also in modern Hebrew. The national anthem of Israel is called the "*Tiqvah*." When the state of Israel was born, the people realised that their centuries-old hope of a homeland was finally coming to pass. God Himself orchestrated the realisation of this hope.

The word is also used in another context. In Joshua 2:18, the Israelite spies told a woman in Jericho to tie a scarlet rope (*tiqvah*) to the window. The original meaning of the word comes from the notion of taking two or more strings, tying them together into a single strong and secure cord. Thus, *tiqvah* communicates more the sense of a sure or certain outcome, than the rather ethereal notion of "hope."

The psalmist sang: For you, O Lord, are my hope my trust, O LORD, from my youth (71:5). God is sure, strong, unmoving, and unchanging, no matter what our circumstances are.

Life can change, but God remains the same. Our situation, our work, our health, or even the people around us can change. But one thing never changes - the Lord our God!

God reminded His people that despite the impending exile in a foreign and hostile land, the complete loss of freedom, the destruction of the Temple, and the end of all sacrifices, "the expected end" (some translations say the "hope") that God was preparing was just like Him: sure, strong, unmoving and unchanging. Although our lives may not be as drastic as they were for Jews in Jeremiah's day, we have gone through an unprecedented 18 months due to a virus. We have been affected by the government's decisions to curb the negative effects of the virus on the health care system. We feel like the life as we knew it before is gone forever.

But God is telling us today: "I know the "certain result" (the *tiqvah*) that I have planned for you." In the midst of our hardships, tragedies, trials and uncertainties, God speaks a word about us, reminding us that He's still on the throne; that He's still in control; that He remains the source of hope.



Today, entrust the uncertainties of your life to God. Make a list in your journal. Then listen to the Israeli national anthem. The second stanza reads: "Hope born two thousand years ago / To be a free people in our land / In the land of Zion and Jerusalem." God remains certain of your future, too.

MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

SEEING PROPHETICALLY

John 7:1-2 - After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.

The feast of Tabernacles is the final feast on the Lord's calendar, which the Bible refers to as "the great feast." It commemorates the wandering of Israel in the desert for 40 years because the people lived in tents or tabernacles (Hebrew: succat) as they went from place to place. They abandoned the tents when they entered the promised land. God commanded His people to never forget these 40 years, and established this 8-day feast during which the people were to construct tents and live in them as a reminder.

Of the three major feasts, Pessa'h, Shavuot, and Sukkot, only the last of these is yet to be fulfilled by Jesus, when he returns. At Passover and Pentecost we look back to see how Jesus fulfilled them with his first coming; Tabernacles calls us to look ahead to His return for its fulfillment.

The 40 years in the wilderness were brought on by Israel's sin of unbelief; it was not God's perfect plan. God had promised them a land, rich and beautiful, where milk and

honey flowed freely. God's intention was to bring them out of Egypt directly into the new land. In the same way, those of us who believe in Yeshua have received a promise of an eternity with God, everlasting life. And though we are already attached to our heavenly country, we wander about on this earth, as though it were a wilderness.

For the 40 years that Israel was in the desert, a cloud protected them by day, and a fire by night. Every time the Israelites went to bed at the end of a long, hot day, they would peer between the branches of the roof of their tent and they would see the glory of the Lord. In the same way, while we are on this earth, God allows us to see glimpses of His glory: a miracle, an answered prayer, a healing, a restored relationship, etc ... equivalent to the fire by night. They remind us that He who promised eternal life is faithful. Though life on earth is hard at times, we press on because we believe we will see His goodness in the land of the living.

Tabernacles carries a specific promise for the non-Jewish people of the world. The prophet Zechariah ended his book with a vision of nations attacking Israel and being defeated. After this battle the non-Jewish nations would come up to Jerusalem yearly to worship the Lord during Tabernacles. Those who came up were blessed and those who did not were cursed. (Zechariah 14:16-17). Today, you choose.



Receive the blessing that Jesus declared during Tabernacles in John 7:37-38 : "Whoever believes in me as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

THE JOY OF SEEING

John 20:20 - (some might call this 20/20 vision!) *When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.*

Here we are in the last week of the fast. Your journal is undoubtedly already well-filled with the results of your seeking God's heart and your study of His word. But maybe you've also encountered difficulties. This is what happened to the disciples, who sincerely believed that the kingdom of God would be established... only to find themselves facing the death of the King who was supposed to reign. With or without fasting, life can present us with unexpected turns or disappointing events. At that time, in the midst of despair, we can discover the joy of seeing Jesus Himself, risen, alive and well, in the midst of trial with us.

This reminds us of another incident in Babylonian times when Daniel's three friends refused to bend their knee before the idol installed by Nebuchadnezzar. Therefore, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were bound and cast into the extraordinarily heated furnace (Daniel 3: 22-23).

They had no hope of life. Their future was abruptly ended... or so it seemed.

If you feel caught up in the fire of tribulation, if your hope for the future is all but erased, if your beliefs and convictions are constantly being challenged, start seeking Jesus where you are. Ask God in all sincerity, "Lord, open my eyes and show me where You are in this situation. I want to rediscover the joy of seeing You, You alone."

We have no indication that Daniel's three friends prayed in this way. Nevertheless, "King Nebuchadnezzar was terrified, and rose up hastily. He spoke, and said to his counselors, Did we not throw three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered the king, Surely, O king! He continued and said, Well, I see four unrelated men, who walk in the midst of the fire, and who have no harm; and the figure of the fourth is like that of a son of the gods. " (Daniel 3: 24-25) We can only imagine the joy experienced by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Jesus is present in all circumstances of your life. He wants you to see Him. He wants you to perceive His presence in the present ... as well as in the future. He wants to make Himself visible to you in the valley, in the storm, in the desert, in the fog, or even in the furnace. The vision of Jesus is our joy.



When we talk about having a vision, never hesitate to ask the Father to reveal it to you. But more importantly, ask Him to open your eyes and to show you Jesus in the matter.

WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

HEALED TO SEE

Mark 10:51-52 - *Jesus said, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." Jesus said to him, "Go on then; your faith has made you well."*

Can you hear Jesus asking you today, "What do you want me to do for you?" Healing blind eyes seems to be one of His specialties. In addition to named individuals, there are two instances where an unknown number of blind people were given sight by Jesus (Matthew 15:29-31 and 21:14). Besides Bartimaeus in the above passage, there are 7 specific people in the gospels who were given their sight... or we could say they recovered their vision.

For example, there were two blind men who followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us!" (Matthew 9:27-31). Then there was the blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26). In this case, people brought him to Jesus and begged the Lord to touch him. (Maybe there is someone you know that needs a vision, and you can bring that person to Jesus, too!) In Matthew 12:22-23, Jesus gave sight to a man who was demon-possessed, blind and mute. All of these examples and more confirm once again how eager the Lord is to open up blind eyes. The same is true for spiritual blind eyes.

What is particularly fascinating is that while a number of men performed healing miracles in the Old and New Testaments, ONLY Jesus healed the "blind!" This may signify that only Jesus can turn darkness into light from a spiritual standpoint. The Lord told Saul at his conversion : "I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God." (Acts 26:15-18). When darkness seems to be clouding your vision, remember that "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5-9).

When we are healed from spiritual blindness we can heal others. The prophet said: "Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened..." (Isaiah 35:3-6) This is God's promise to us, for ourselves and the world around us. When His light shines, our vision for the future will become clearer and more detailed. He wants bring you and your loved ones out of darkness today, so include your family when you pray for healing.



Ask the Lord to reveal to you the areas in your life where you've been spiritually blinded and present them to the Lord for healing today. Once you've received, freely give.

THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

AN APOSTOLIC HOUSE

1 Timothy 2:1-2,8 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all... I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands...

We've already spoken of the importance of the daily seeking of God, as well as the significance of an apostolic community equally as devoted to corporate prayer as to individual prayer. In these last days of the fast, we will see the importance of men who pray.

Often the participants in prayer meetings are predominantly women. This is not a bad thing. However, this contrasts sharply with the apostle Paul's exhortation regarding men. Why is this such an important issue? Primarily because an apostolic house is built on a revelation that all spiritual authority follows the basic "flow of life": "from Father to Christ, from Christ to man, from man to woman. (1 Corinthians 11: 3) If you haven't heard this teaching you will be able to listen to podcasts in French on the subject, which can be found on our YouTube channel. (*Plongée Profonde, season 2, starting with episode 7.*)

Every river has a source and a mouth, or a starting point and an ending point. It is the same with God. In his divine order, there is always a source and a mouth. Life flows here on earth like water in a river, which we refer to as the “flow of life” from the Heavenly Father. (The word "Abba" means not only "father" but can also be translated "source".)

Therefore, if men do not pray, the “flow of life” is interrupted and the house does not become apostolic! If men pray, but do not treat women with honor, considering them worth more than themselves, their prayers are hindered, the "flow of life" is interrupted, and the world is not impacted. (1 Peter 3: 7) The impact of a "pastoral house" does not depend on men, since the need for divine authority is not the same. A “pastoral house” has the grace to help each believer overcome their personal challenges. However, an "apostolic house" is intended to defeat the principalities of a region. It manifests a dimension of power at the corporate level, and not just at the individual level. Every church must decide whether it will pay the price to become apostolic or not.



Brothers, where are you? How much do you pray? This challenge is for you : If you believe you are called to become apostolic in the way you live your faith, find other like-minded men and begin to pray together regularly. Thus, you will be able to build a true community of prayer and intercession. Ladies, pray for the men in your family and in church to rise up and take their place in prayer.

FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

SEEING HIS LOVE

1 John 3:1 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

All too often when we talk about a vision for the future, we are looking for a mandate, a mission, something to do. But the basis of everything that is done in our lives is actually our identity. This is why John insisted that believers have a vision of the immense love of the Father, above all else. We would be remiss if we did not consider the importance of having this vision of God Himself : His heart, His love, His acceptance and His adoption of us. What a remarkable revelation that can truly catapult us into our destiny and confirm the direction of our lives. All that He does in us and for us and through us is because of His love.

Today God is simply saying, "See." When you feel helpless or abandoned, see. When you're under that demonic pressure that insists you be "perfect" before you are accepted by God, see. When you see, you remember that "God proved his love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5: 8) When you feel alone, see how much He has given you everything just to have you near Him for all eternity! When the Lord says, "See," His power over you is released by a single word. He speaks, and it happens!

See that you were pursued and selected: "It was not you who chose me; but I chose you, and I established you, that you may go, and bear fruit, and that your fruit remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you. (John 15:16) See what love the Father has poured out on you when he filled you with His Holy Spirit. See what affection the Father imparted to you when he raised you up from the dust of your sin and guilt, as he did for the woman seized in adultery in John 8: 3-11.

Perhaps the most precious vision you will receive from God before this fast is over is His vision for your place in His family. He wants to give you a vision of your freedom in His house, for "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs." (Romans 8:15-16) His vision for the future is to work with you, His beloved child, to expand the kingdom of God in your nation, and to impact those around you. His vision for the future is to see His Son marry His beloved bride, "to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5:27) The closer you draw to God your loving Father, the more visible what He sees in you and around you will become for you.



Face to face with the Father today, ask Him for His vision.

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

IF YOU BELIEVE

John 11:40 - Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

John is the only one of the apostles who recorded in the gospels this famous event in Bethany. Lazarus has been dead for 4 days and Martha (as well as her sister Mary) is clearly upset. Jesus had nonetheless said to her "Your brother will rise again." But her outlook was influenced by doctrine and not by faith. This actually made Jesus weep. Sometimes limited understanding can prevent a vision. The most important ingredient in receiving a vision is walking in authentic, deep, unwavering faith. The just shall live by faith. We don't want to grieve the Lord by our lack of faith.

God wants to reveal to each of us a vision of His glory. For some, it will be after the death of a relationship, or a hope, or a project. The Lord may want to revive the thing that you have placed on the altar, just like Abraham, who was ready to offer his son Isaac to the Lord. Doubt opens the door to discouragement and resignation, but faith allows you to see beyond the circumstances. Every situation is an occasion for the revelation of the glory of God, a truth confirmed in Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose." Your vision can either be influenced by your

experiences, or else by the promise of God; it can either be defined by your circumstances, or else by revelation. Knowing the heart of God enables you to overthrow the stronghold of unbelief and walk in the power of faith.

What does it take to nourish and strengthen your faith? Do you need to study the Word of God more deeply, not to learn doctrine but to receive "rhema words" from God? Perhaps a school of discipleship will help you solidify the foundations of your faith. Remember that, according to Hebrews 11: 1-2, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation." That is, the word of God becomes more real than your circumstances or your feelings. Where your life lacks confidence, it lacks faith. Where the unshakeable conviction of things not seen is missing, faith is weak. We are all growing in faith. Jesus said: "If you believe, you will see ..." It is time to believe!



In what area(s) has your faith taken a hit? Make these experiences the main subject of your prayer today: Where you sincerely believed, but the results were not what you expected ... where you were disappointed with people ... where a project did not come to pass as you intended. Place all of these disappointments in His hands and expect the Lord to heal your heart and resurrect your faith and make it dynamic and unwavering. Be intentional about nourishing your faith with God's word daily.

SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

GOD GIVES

Jeremiah 29:11 - I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Congratulations for completing the 21 days of prayer and fasting. You have no doubt heard the voice of God, received truth from His heart, and seen Him make some profound adjustments in your life during those three weeks. Thank Him for this grace, and for His faithfulness to you.

We end this time of fasting with the scripture we considered at the very beginning. God told His people that He would give them hope, or an expected end. The word "give" is the Hebrew word *nathan*. It is a very common word, often translated as "to give" but also as: "to name, appoint, assign, perform, restore, thrust and yield, carry out, restore, push, transmit, or impart. "

It would be wrong to end this fast thinking that the "expected end" will just fall on us like Christmas presents did at the age of 8. You probably remember : like magic, all kinds of gifts arrived under the tree one day! You hadn't worked for them or tried to earn them. They appeared, in gift wrapping, with your name on them.

The “expected end” and “hope” that God had prepared for Israel included returning to a desolate land after building successful businesses in Babylon. It meant leaving the benevolent protection of King Cyrus and living in a land surrounded by marauders and political opponents. For those who had married non-Jews, it meant divorce. It meant giving up prosperous merchant lifestyles and learning to cultivate the land in an extremely hostile climate. In other words, when God said He would “give” Israel a future and hope, it did not come as a Christmas present. God’s “blessing” consisted of hard work, personal sacrifice, privation, physical difficulty, and emotional hardship.

Once a woman with very severe cancer, to whom the doctors gave only a 2% chance of survival, said in an interview, “You can’t wait until life isn’t tough to decide to be happy.” Often, God’s blessings, the promised “future and hope,” take us straight through the hardest and most challenging parts of living. We’re put to the test, and proven to be more than our circumstances. God makes heroes out of normal people who dare to accept challenges, leave their comfort zones, go through hard times, and pay the price.



Before ending this time of fasting, make a commitment for the next 344 days to remain determined and focused on hope and the desired outcome. Decide now that no matter what difficulties you may face this year, you will live for the glory of God, for the sake of the Kingdom, and to win souls.

Robert & Kathryn Baxter

MINISTRIES



If this booklet, written by Pastors Robert and Kathryn Baxter, has helped you, do not hesitate to consult their personal website for other tools to inspire you and equip you for your Christian walk : <https://www.rkbaxter.com>