

# A translated version of the International Christian periodical ARANATHA

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ay the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of our esteemed readers and our brethren in Christ who take of their valuable time to read the valuable teachings from the Word of God through this publication, "Revista Internacional Maranatha." This year on July 4th marked the twelfth year since my beloved grandfather, Efraim Valverde, Sr., founder and editor of this publication, parted from this earth. On that day, his body slept the sleep of death, but his inner man departed to be in the presence of the Lord. The messages he spoke and wrote about are alive and continue giving life to those who seek the Lord with spiritual hunger and sincerity. I thank the Lord that He has given us the spiritual desire and vision to continue with this publication. I thank God for all the supporting pastors, ministers and people of God who, moved by God, have supported this publication, both spiritually and financially. I thank the Lord we are now able to offer it in English. Pray that we may continue with this new endeavor.

About mid-September of last year, as I was seeking the Lord in prayer and fasting, the Lord through His Holy Spirit, placed in me a desire and a need to fast one more day per week, in addition to fasting on Monday, as we have been doing according to the convocation which the Lord moved my grandfather to make almost twenty years ago. And for the last three weeks of September a good group of the members of the local congregation joined me in fasting. Once again, in the month of October, the Lord moved me to fast again, this time from Monday through Friday and once again I provoked the congregation to join me. I know that it is only the Spirit of the Lord that can do this. Humanly speaking, we do not have the desire nor the strength to do this with the correct purpose and mindset.

While I was on a trip in the latter part of the month of October, I asked the Lord to continue working in me, "both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). Then, in the month of November, we were moved to fast three days a week and in December, two days a week. Also, the Lord moved us to fast twenty-one days at the beginning of this year. And



PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, III AND FAMILY

throughout this year the Lord has moved us to seek Him with all of our heart with fasting three days a week and daily prayer. We have experienced the negative spiritual attack which has attempted to discourage, distract and tire us. Nevertheless, we are determined with the Lord's help to continue forward, encouraged in Him and focused on our purpose. We have witnessed the Lord's mighty Hand working tremendous miracles during this time of prayer and fasting. It is a dynamic combination given by God to bring honor and glory to His Name!

In the month of March I understood that the Lord was moving us to exercise ourselves more in fasting. The purpose is not only for spiritual growth or because of the many needs present in our personal lives, in our families, in our congregations and in the world around us. The Lord helped me understand that He is preparing us for what He is going to do, both in us and through us, in the days of persecution that await us in the future. And not only that we be strong in the times of persecution, but that we can be a source of encouragement, strength and blessing for others who the Lord will moving to seek Him.

If in the beginning of the time of the Grace of God, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ glorified the Lord in the midst of persecution, then, in these latter days before the time of Grace ends, the Church will continue to glorify the Lord in the midst of worldwide persecution. And in this time of persecution the Lord is going to unleash His glory and is going to strengthen His true Church, which will be prepared and purified in fire to honor and glorify the Lord. That which precedes the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

in power and glory will be something glorious in the midst of persecution. Persecution matured the Church in the beginning and once again the Church of this generation needs to be purified and matured through persecution as our faith in the Lord Jesus our God is put to the test. Those who are not true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ will be manifested.

The Holy Spirit of God wants both you and I to be unconditionally surrendered to Him so that He may work in us (Heb. 13:20-21), and so that we may be able to overcome our wretched human condition (Rom. 7:24), the prince of darkness (Eph. 2:1-2, 6:12), and his influence throughout this world. God also wants to prepare our minds and our hearts for what awaits us in the future. Through this spiritual exercise of prayer of faith and fasting done with a humble heart, the Spirit of God fortifies our minds and hearts, giving us the power in our minds to walk with the Lord in power, love and with a sound mind. We must allow His Spirit to consecrate us to Him day by day.

The great majority of problems, if not all of them, among men, women, young people, marriages, families, pastors, ministers and congregations arise from lack of spirituality. When we are not spiritual, we will think, feel, speak and behave according to the flesh. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19-21). "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1).

I will now list some of the purposes for our prayer and fasting:

- -Consecration in humility and repentance (Joel 2:12-13, 2 Chron. 7:14, Dan. 9:3-19).
- -Drawing closer to God by seeking His face and desiring to know Him intimately (Jer. 29:13).
- -Seeking God's protection (Ezra 8:21, 31).
- -Exercising ourselves (in many fastings, 2 Cor. 11:27) and developing spiritual discipline so that we will have the power through His Spirit over our thoughts, feelings and lusts of the flesh (1 Cor. 9:27, 1 Tim. 4:7-9).
- -Seeking to make decisions according to God's will (Judges 20:26-28, Acts 13:1-3).
- -Spiritual warfare and spiritual deliverance (Matt. 7:21).
- -Deliverance from physical enemies (Esther 4:16).
- -Healing from physical sicknesses (Ps. 35:13).
- -To be fortified in our spirit (Luke 22:43).
- -To receive understanding of the Word of God (Dan. 10:12).

There is another reason for us to seek the Lord in prayer and fasting (Dan. 9:3-19). Just recently the United States Supreme Court approved marriage between persons of the same sex as the "law of the land." However, the "Heavenly Court," where the Righteous Judge presides, speaks to the contrary of what was approved on June 26, 2015. This nation is facing God's impending judgment! Before His Second Coming the Lord will pour out His wrath upon this nation! Oh, Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us! We must be prepared for what is ahead in the near future so that we might be strong in the Lord. The United States of America is a nation that has been "given up to reprobate minds" by the Almighty (Rom. 1:21-29).

Pastor Efraim Valverde III



"...and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (Dan. 12:10)

he people of God need to draw closer to Him in prayer and fasting! It is written that "the wise shall understand" (Dan.12:10), and if we understand what it is that the Lord is demanding from us and we do not do it, I assure you that we will not be considered innocent.

The time of the end has come and the Church of Jesus Christ is entering the final stage of her pilgrimage on earth. We are living in difficult times because satanic armies are using all the power available to them. Consequently, we, Christians, are living in an environment of relentless spiritual warfare, being constantly besieged by legions of demons who, knowing that their time is short, seek at all cost to destroy the only thing that has eternal value in this world, that is, the people that have received the salvation of the Lord.

A large percentage of the people of God, including many ministers, live not totally ignoring, but also not giving due importance to this great truth: We need to draw closer to our God in prayer and consecration. We need to confess that we have been occupying the majority of our time in many things that take away from the hours that we should be spending in prayer. We also need to confess that we have stolen days that we should have occupied in consecration to God in fasting, in prayer and in meditating on His Word. And what has been the result? Logical consequences: the spirit of willingness to sacrifice for Christ and for His work has been diminishing. There are few ministers who are willing to suffer unconditionally for the Lord. **→**○(//)○(**→** 

## THERE IS A GREAT NEED IN THE CHURCH!

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.



In proportion, the number of Christians who are willing to give themselves wholly to their God has decreased. In contrast, the soil is fertilized for the weeds of vanity, ego, intrigue, pride, strife, jealousy and other similar weeds to grow. Disguised as harmless vegetation, they mix in with the true plants and have entangled the hearts of many children of the Most High.

We are fully convinced that the work of God does not operate, nor does it progress, solely based on reunions, nor with the construction of temples, nor as a result of having a good financial standing. These are certainly indispensable and necessary to have, but when the foundation of this spiritual structure (the Church) is neglected, (consecration and people drawing closer to their God through prayer

God speaks to "the wise" (Dan. 12:10), telling us (and expecting us) to be wise. However, in the Church there are also those who are "weak and sickly..., and many who sleep" (1 Cor. 11:30), whom we cannot awaken with sermons or exhortations. These are Christians whose lives are tied up with "...the things that are in the world" (1 John. **2:15)**, such as the excessive comforts which result in entanglements and in spiritual slothfulness for the Christian. There are also the fashions and immodest apparel that careless women and young ladies participate in, serving as instruments to nourish the spirit of lasciviousness and concupiscence within the Church. In addition, television, the internet and other worldly distractions have harmed the lives of many Christians. For many others it has been the love of money and other crazy lusts that have plunged them into perdition and spiritual death. Considering all that I have mentioned, I now ask, how can we defeat the war against these and many other demons? We can only defeat them by drawing closer to the Lord in prayer and fasting.

work of God does not operate, nor does it progress, solely based on reunions, nor with the construction of temples, nor as a result of having a good financial standing. These are certainly indispensable and necessary to have, but when the foundation of this spiritual structure (the Church) is neglected, (consecration and people drawing closer to their God through prayer and fasting), everything else is in danger of becoming hollow, dry, and lifeless, and the Church runs the risk of falling into the abominable lukewarmness that the Lord speaks about in Revelation, saying that He will "spew thee out of his mouth." "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Rev. 3:16-19).

The souls of the sinners that surround us cry out, imprisoned and longing to be freed (Acts 26:16-18). What about us? How can we rescue them and bring them to the feet of Christ so they can be saved? Through our own strength? With our own intelligence? By our own virtues? No! Only through the power of God! God offers us that strength so we can do His

will, but there is a price attached: our consecration in prayer and in holy sacrifice (fasting). We need to pray more! We need to consecrate ourselves more! We need to cleave to God more!

As ministers, as faithful members of the Church of the Lord Jesus, whether we are elderly, adults in the strength of our life or young people, let us all heed the voice of our God who makes us responsible for our negligence: the lack of prayer and fasting.

As you read this message, it is easy to avoid responsibility simply by not giving it importance, but if you are one of "the wise" (Dan. 12:10), you will bow your head before your Lord, possibly with tears in your eyes, and will confess that there truly is a great need in the Church of Jesus Christ!

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I encourage my fellow brothers in ministry and the faithful among the people of God that we give all of our support and help to the pastors who are inciting and provoking prayer and fasting among the people of God. We must pray that the Lord will give them the strength and the inspiration to fulfill this commission.

May the Lord grant us that each life and each home be converted into an altar. May each congregation be converted into a torch that burns with the Divine Fire of the Holy Spirit. Only in this manner will we be able to walk in a way that pleases God and will we be able to faithfully fulfill the work that He has entrusted into our hands. It is only the power of the Lord that will be able to awaken them who sleep and only that blessed power can bring the lost to the feet of Christ so that they may be saved. God bless you.



# I know that many Christians do not take into serious consideration the admonitions from the Word of the Lord and from His

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.



of the Lord and from His servants, and that after skimming this article and discovering its subject matter, many will simply turn the page to read something else as they have done many times before. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that if God has given us the responsibility to speak to His people, we must do as the prophet Jeremiah did and speak God's Word even if the consequences of doing so are not favorable or if there be those who get upset when we speak or write truths which reprove their actions. On the other hand, I give thanks to the Lord for those Christians who love, appreciate and rejoice when they receive God's counsel.

It is to these faithful Christians

that I direct my words.

On this occasion let us consider the words of the apostle Peter which headline this article: "that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Pet. 3:7). From the precise moment that we understand that our prayers are our means of communication with our Heavenly Father, it should worry us that they can be hindered! Just imagine a ship that is in the middle of the ocean engulfed in fog with its communication system broken or a plane which wants to land on a stormy night but without the ability to communicate with the control tower. What a terrible situation for the ship's captain who cannot identify his ship's location so that he can direct his ship

toward the port! And what a frightening sense of desperation for the plane's pilot who must fly blindly without knowing what is below the wings of his plane!

Our life can be compared to either of these two examples. Each Christian has a location which he is navigating towards, which is God, and his journey throughout this life is one filled with the darkness of night. Many times his journey is a turbulent one in the midst of a fog which impedes his vision. This fog is manifested through the sin and wickedness which surrounds us and the lusts of the flesh which constantly beset us. Immorality increases daily around us, and disobedience to and ignorance of the things of God cover the face of the earth. But in the midst of this ocean filled with fog and torments, each Christian has a way to communicate with "the Port" so that he will not lose his way. He has a means of communication with the "Control Tower" which orients him and guides him safely to his desired destination. This means of communication is "PRAYER" and if this communication is hindered, what consequences can this bring? What terrible danger can be enclosed in having our prayers hindered? Is it to

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our benefit to take this seriously? Yes! This communication is our life! We should therefore calmly and honestly reflect

about what things can hinder our communication with God. We must seriously ask ourselves: What can cause my "prayers to be hindered" (1 Pet. 3:7).

The apostle Peter in giving this advice makes a specific reference to the marital life of Christians, speaking about the mutual relationship that exists between the married couple. He speaks of the attention and care that the husband should give his wife and of the respect and subjection that the wife should give her husband. God does not take this particular relationship lightly, because just as the foundation for any nation resides in its families, the foundation for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is the Christian home. How often does it occur that we are faced with problems and difficulties among the ministry and among members of congregations which cannot be resolved, no matter how diligently those involved search for an answer, without us realizing that the reason a resolution cannot be found is that in many Christian families their "prayers are being hindered" (1 Pet. 3:7).

A father who does not ask God to give him understanding will not be able to control his family. Consequently, he will provoke his wife and his children to anger, because with his obstinate, rebellious behavior he sets a bad example and his "prayers are hindered." Likewise, a mother who has neglected her corresponding place as a Christian woman and wife, initiates conflict in



the relationship due to her stubbornness. As a result, she peace which exists in her home, bringing bitterness to the lives of her husband and children and causing her "prayers to be hindered". Who can enter the intimacy of the family environment to give assistance and counsel? Much less when this occurs behind closed doors and when the members of this family, outside the four walls of their home, present an appearance of satisfaction, peace and perfection which truly does not exist in their home. Furthermore, when they attend church, at times they stand to give thanks or to testify, but never to ask prayer for their marriages and families or to ask for help and guidance so that God will grant them peace in their family environment. Their communication with God is being "hindered," although they do not believe or accept that this is true. As a result, they lack the spiritual guidance that will prevent them from falling into other dangers. Without this guidance they cannot overcome the demonic attitude of pride. They become angered easily and cannot be humble. They cannot overcome the demon of hatred and consequently cannot stop hating others nor can they love their brethren in the Lord. The demon of negative criticism overpowers them and prevents them from withholding their tongues from judging others and from talking about their neighbor behind his back. Also, the "evil eye" (Matt. 6:23) takes control of them, causing them to

sin and to lie.

disrupts the atmosphere of We notice that on occasions the same married couple, who cannot come into an agreement on how to better serve the Lord or even to pray together, do come into agreement when it comes to pointing out defects or to complaining about others.

> The Christian wife who normally never accepts that her husband is correct when there is a disagreement between the two of them (because she does not know how to subject herself to his God given authority), suddenly is in total agreement with her husband in his negative comments about their pastor or about another of the members the congregation. This behavior causes their "prayers to be hindered". If either the husband or the wife possesses godly fear and wisdom, that person can help their husband or wife. However, if both of them lack understanding, what terrible anguish this brings when they are confronted with the storms of life! When the dense fog of the daily struggles in their family life begins to envelope them, their communication with God is cut off. Their prayers are "being hindered," and they do not have the spiritual guidance to continue advancing to their desired destination. As a result, the Christian husband suffers, his wife suffers and their children suffer. How often this brings sad and lamentable consequences! They can be receiving advice, weeping before the Lord and can even be being punished, but without results since their

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"prayers are being hindered." On occasions, it is the children in the family who, possessing the godly wisdom their parents lack, are able help their parents. But, in the majority of the cases, the negative spiritual condition in the parents will be reflected in the lives of their children.

I believe it is worthwhile for Christians give to serious consideration to this problem. Although very little is spoken about it from the pulpits, it is vital to address it since each congregation is made up of families and this situation will

inevitably affect the atmosphere of the congregation. The situation can even become so terrible that it can cause the prayers of the congregation to be hindered. Of course, we know that there are many other reasons why prayers can be hindered, but on this occasion, the apostle Peter focuses on this specific factor since it deals with marital and family relationships, which are the backbone of the Church. This is why the devil furiously attacks There is these relationships. much more that can be said about this problem because it has many facets and hidden areas, but on this occasion my prayer is that God bless all the marriages and families in His Church, and that He give us always the wisdom to avoid having our "prayers hindered." Thus, we can continually sustain our communication with God and can be assured that our ship will always be headed in the right direction. With His guidance we can be delivered from dangers and pitfalls and can one day joyfully arrive to our "Port."

My brethren, I mentioned at the beginning that my words are directed to those who respect God's counsel. Are you one of these people? If so, I invite you to make a vow before the Lord. Make this vow without saying too much, without thinking about anyone in particular, without blaming anyone and without avoiding responsibility. Let us make a vow to pray more, to fast more and to humble ourselves more before the Lord. You know very well that there is a great need for us to do this!

Your brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.



## the Introductory Narrative at the beginning of this book is directly related THE TEMPLE OF GOD

"Establishment of the Temple in Jerusalem"

PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.



book is directly related to what I will explain in this chapter. In it I recount the statement made by an elderly Jew who had an official position within the Israeli government. This position allowed him to speak with authority concerning the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The prevalent theories concerning this subject are sufficiently well known by most of Christianity, particularly among the Evangelical and Pentecostal environments. Futurists have taken it upon themselves to promulgate the false idea that "after the mysterious rapture the antichrist will appear," and after deceiving the Jews, he will build the Temple. Then he will sit in that Temple "as God, making himself to be God." Naturally, if the Temple is not built according to the way the Futurists say it will be built, then all of their theories would be torn down, and would be disqualified as being truth.

Biblical history tells us that God never has allowed two Temples or two centers of worship of the same value to exist simultaneously. First, there was the Tabernacle, which by God's command and under His direction, Moses built at the beginning of Israel's pilgrimage through the desert. Tabernacle, undergoing adaptations according to the fluctuations of the climate in Israel, remained as the Divine Oracle until the reign of Solomon. In due time Solomon, also under God's command and direction, built the First Temple on Mount Moriah. The Temple replaced the portable Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant was permanently installed in the Holy of Holies in the new Temple. When the first Temple was destroyed by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, God ordered a Second Temple to be built under the direction of Zerubabel. This Temple, enlarged and embellished by King Herod, was the one standing during our Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry.

#### BUILDING OF THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE OF GOD

When the spiritual temple, which is the Church (Eph. 2:20-22), was built, no longer through the instrumentality of men, but by the Lord Himself (Matt. 16:18), then the physical temple was destroyed, just as the Lord had foretold that there would "be no stone left upon another" (Matt. 24:1-2). The time came when the Lord's words to the Samaritan woman became reality: "Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain (Mt. Ebal), nor yet in Jerusalem (on Mt. Moriah), worship the Father...God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit (with our mind), and in truth (without religious appearance only)"(John 4:21-24).

The worship on Mt. Ebal was established by Jeroboam and

perpetuated by the dynasty of the Northern Kingdom from the time in which Israel was divided into two kingdoms, during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son. Jeroboam's reason for establishing "a new religion" on Mt. Ebal was to assure that the division among the Hebrew people would remain, so that he would retain his power over the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom. Therefore, he established a new worship on Mt. Ebal to prevent the Israelites in the Northern Kingdom form travelling to the South to worship in Jerusalem in the Temple on Mount Moriah.

Jeroboam's behavior, by the way, is an exact figure of the antichrist's operation in the false ministry of which Diotrephes is the perfect example. This behavior has operated among Christianity for more than nineteen centuries, and much more intensely in these last days. Each "Jeroboam" has his "Mount Ebal" (his group, organization or religion), and those that are with him (or them) are taught that God is only on "their mountain," and therefore, salvation can be found there only. Therefore, in order to keep them in their "kingdom" they prohibit them from going to "Zion," which is the symbol and figure of the universal fellowship which by God's command should exist in the people of God (John. 13:34). Unfortunately, this communion has been lost for centuries but the Lord has purposed to reestablish it, and He will do it soon, because "the will of God has to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven," even against the will of all the "Jeroboams" and their religions which today control the people of God.

It is necessary to take into careful consideration the fact that God Himself is the one who commanded that He be worshipped on Mt. Moriah, that is, in Jerusalem, which together with the redemptive work of our God, is described symbolically in the Scriptures as "Zion." (Literally, Zion and Moriah are two mountains which are together and are part of the various mountains upon which Jerusalem is built; Moriah is north of Zion.) This fact began with God's command to Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on Mt. Moriah (Gen. 22:2). The city of Jebus, which was originally built on Mt. Moriah by the Jebusites, when captured by the Israelites was renamed JERUSALEM. In time it was established as the capital of Israel by King David. This fact remained as such in the minds of the Jewish People during all the centuries of the Diaspora (the Scattering), and today Jerusalem is once again the capital of the modern State of Israel.

Jerusalem, by the way, since the historic time I mentioned previously until the present has been considered to be the heart of Judaism, and of the Israelite nation. Since the Temple was built on Mt. Moriah according



to Divine instructions (2 Chron. 3:1), it was to Jerusalem (the old walled city, inside which was located the Temple Mount, which is to this day on Mt. Moriah) that all the tribes of Israel had to ascend to worship God. It was to Jerusalem that the queen of Sheba came to worship God and to admire the glory of the kingdom and wisdom of Solomon. It was to Jerusalem that the Ethiopian eunuch came to worship God. It is to Jerusalem that many Jews had come from all the nations to worship the Lord and to celebrate the feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them according to the prophecy given by Joel (2:28) when the Lord established the Church according to His words (Matt. 16:18, and Acts. 2:18-18).

According to His own declaration: "neither on this mountain nor yet in Jerusalem shall you worship the Father," the Lord radically changed the method of worship, even removing the old command which limited worship to only one site. He did not only disregard such a prerogative for the Mt. Ebal where an apostate man had falsely and arbitrarily established a false worship, but He also removed the worship on Mt. Moriah, which He personally had commanded that He be worshipped. In fact it was the mountain where God had commanded David and directed Solomon to build the First Temple. "The hour cometh, and the hour is now" saith the Lord, and thus He changed the command that He had given previously. When this "hour" arrived, through it he radically changed not only the method of worship, but also the system of worshipping the Father.

God was no longer going to be worshipped in one fixed point on Earth, in a Tabernacle made with gold and special materials, or in a beautiful temple of marble adorned with very fine metals and woods. Now, He established that the true worship should be made in the spiritual Temple which would be of universal proportions and which in time would cover all of the Earth: His Church, "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit'(Eph. 2:20-22). This temple is not makeup of stones made from brick, but from living stones. Peter tells us: "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 2:5).

The temple of marble was destroyed according prophecy made by Daniel (9:27 and 11:31), forty years after the Lord Jesus repeated the same prophecy (Matt. 24:15). In the year 70 A.D. the city fell, after undergoing a siege of three years at the hands of the Roman army under the command of the general, Titus. Her walls were torn down and her buildings "The Sanctuary" were razed. was destroyed, but before it was destroyed it was violated in an abominable way (Matt. 24:15-25). On the altar of the Holy of Holies where the Ark of God was situated, the Romans sacrificed pigs and even humans. Josephus,

the Jewish historian, writes that

the people were massacred in such a horrendous fashion that the blood ran through the streets as water. What had occurred during the three years of siege, in which mothers ate their own babies, was not to be compared with what now occurred. With good reason the Lord had wept over Jerusalem forty years earlier (Luke. 19:41). The total destruction of the Temple caused "the ceasing of the sacrifices and offering." From that time on the Jewish people have not sacrificed bloody victims since the only place where they were authorized by God to offer these sacrifices was the Temple.

Certainly, this was in part permitted by God to chastise that segment among His people which had rebelled against Him. However, on the other hand, He did it so that His Church, which is that group called by the Lord to "worship Him in spirit and in truth," would not once again materialize the method of worship. Thus, when the temple made of marble stones was destroyed on Mt. Moriah, the new Temple, the spiritual one, had already been built in Zion according to prophecy (Isa. 28:16, Rom. 9:33 and 1 Pet. 2:6). It was on Mount Zion where that "upper room" was located where the Church was established when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the first Christians.

This is the temple of God which after having its foundation established grew covering "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and even the uttermost parts of the Earth." This is the temple of the living God which remains even today and of which each

professing Christian should be a part. This is the temple in which, according to the prophecy which occupies us (2 Thess. 2:3), more than sixteen centuries ago the true antichrist "has seated himself making himself appear as God." It is important to understand that "the apostasy" that Paul speaks about is not a falling away or erring from the truth of the Jewish People, nor does it have anything to do with Israel, as many teach today. However, it does deal directly with the Church which, except for the first few years of her existence, has been almost totally integrated by Gentiles.

Therefore, the one who has been promoting such a fall of the Jewish people, Satan the antichrist, is not deceiving the Jewish people, but the Gentile Christians. He is not going to build them a temple in the future as the Futurists teach. On the other hand, He has for many centuries deceived multitudes of those who integrate the spiritual Temple, and he will continue doing so until that day arrives in which "the Lord will destroy him with the Spirit of his mouth, and will destroy him with the brightness of His Coming (2 Thess. 2:8). The Futurists need a literal temple in order for their theories to be true. For a good number of years the Futurists among Christianity have made plans for the temple. They have gathered stones, and have even gone to the point of announcing that construction has begun. Yet, as many of the other Futurist theories, these prophetic biblical interpretations have turned out only to be fantasies.

On the other hand we can ask: What would have happened if



would have remained standing during the nineteen centuries of the Age of Grace? How different everything would have been. There is much speculation that can be made about this topic. I will limit myself to saying that if that temple had existed until today, I am more than sure that Christianity's worship would have been concentrated there. Multitudes of Christians who had never gone to Jerusalem, because of the temple would search for one way or another to make the trip. In fact, a grotesque mockery, fruit of the apostasy, has been made and continues being made by the multitudes of professing Christians who travel to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to see the "prince of the apostles"(?). We can also ask ourselves: "If the temple in Jerusalem still existed, who would be presiding over it."

Let us return to reality. This is that the temple has not existed for nineteen centuries. God's plan had to be fulfilled and in the year 70 of our era "the offering and oblation ceased," and "the desolate people"(the Jewish People) were scattered according to what the Lord foretold (Luke 21:24). By the Eternal One's determination, the worship was transferred to the spiritual Temple in which our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, "with one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" This spiritual (Heb. 10:14). Temple (the Church) is the one which will remain standing *"until* the fullness of Gentiles is come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: As it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

the material temple in Jerusalem *for this is my covenant unto them*, would have remained standing *when I shall take away their sins*" during the nineteen centuries of **(Rom. 11:25-27)**.

When the Lord returns in glory

to be recognized by Israel as the Messiah which they have anxiously awaited for almost four thousand years, then the redemption promised to them will be consummated. When the Lord is glorified in His people, both in Israel and in the Church, who will then be One flock (John. 10:16), He will execute the foretold judgments upon the wicked. Then, He Himself will build the third Temple according to the literal fulfillment of the prophecy which says: "And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is the BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall between them both" (Zech. 6:12-13). The prophecies also say: "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old" (Amos. 9:11).

It is in the literal fulfillment of these Scriptures that Israel is trusting in today. In these and in many other prophecies found in the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) God speaks of the promises He made to Jacob. It is on these promises that the spiritual leaders among the Jewish people have their eyes set. The old rabbis among them have been being moved by the Lord to

speak more insistently each day, telling the People of the Book that the coming of the Messiah is imminent, that the Messianic Age will begin very soon, and that Israel's redemption is at the doors. I can say, without fear of being wrong, that during the latter part of the 20th century there has been relatively more expectation concerning this aspect in Israel and in the Jewish people of the Diaspora than among Christianity.

It is certainly true that Israel's Messiah, who is the Christ of the Church, Jesus our Lord and our God, will soon come to reign here on Earth. On that day the Lord will literally reign upon His Throne in His glorious Temple, which He will build according to the pattern He revealed to Ezekiel the prophet. He will no longer build the Temple on Mount Moriah, but will build it on Mt. Zion since it is written: "Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously" (Isa. 24:33). Also: "And I will make her that halted a remnant; and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in Mount Zion from henceforth, even forever" (Micah. 4:7). It is then when the following Scripture will be fulfilled: "And the Lord shall be King over all the Earth: in that day shall there be One Lord and His Name One" (Zech. 14:9).

The first two temples were built on Mt. Moriah in the location which is now occupied by the Muslim mosques. The spiritual Temple, which is the Church, was

spiritually "built" in the "upper room" located on Mount Zion as mentioned by the Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded" (1 Pet. 2:6). The third literal Temple, which the Messiah, the Lord of both Israel and the Church, will build will be on Mt. Zion. It will be on the mountain that it has pleased the Creator to choose for His glory. It is in this new Temple where the Lord's Throne for His Millennial kingdom will be located. will sit on that throne to reign, together with His People, over the nations of the Earth for one thousand years, according to what He showed His servant John (**Rev. 5:10 and 20:6**) It is during this time that the Lord and His saints will rule the nations with "a *rod of iron*" (Rev. 2:26-27). It is also then when: "He shall subdue the people under us and the nations under our feet" (Psalm. 47).

The Holy Scriptures do not speak of a third Temple in Jerusalem which is intended to be temporal, designed to exist only for a brief period of time of less than seven years, only to be destroyed, as Futurism teaches. What it does say is that the surface of the Earth where the mountains Moriah, Zion and Olives are currently situated will undergo a radical topographical change. This will be caused by a cataclysm which will occur when the Lord sets His feet on the Mount of Olives (**Zech. 14:4**) in the exact location where He was standing before ascending to heaven, when the angels announced His return (Acts 1:11-12). In addition, I don't believe that any Christian



in his right mind would agree to having the King of kings and Lord of lords come to sit on a throne in Jerusalem which has previously been violated and made abominable by the famous antichrist of Futurist teachings. On the other hand, we have already understood that that violation was already done centuries ago in the spiritual Temple, the Church, by the antichrist (Satan).

I close this chapter repeating that in order for Futurists to give substance to their illusory theories, they have encouraged Israel to take concrete measures toward the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. After more than forty years in the life of the Modern State of Israel, the Israeli government continues repeating the official declaration previously mentioned: "Israel will not build the Temple; when the Messiah comes, He will build it."

#### COMMENTS FROM CONTEMPORARY HISTORIANS

Mr. Malcom Couch, Mr. George Cornell and Dr. Maurice A. Jaffee

I consider it beneficial to add to what I have already explained the following opinions of contemporary resources considered worthy and reliable sources concerning the impossibility of the construction of a Jewish temple today. The first opinion is expressed in a monthly magazine published by the prestigious religious, educational institute, Moody Bible Institute located in The following Chicago, IL. commentary appeared in an article entitled: "WHEN WILL THE JEWS BUILD THEIR TEMPLE?" The author of the article, Mr. Malcom Couch, first discussed the various prophecies which have been fulfilled in Israel. He then comments about the various opinions existing today concerning the building of the Temple in Jerusalem, going into detail concerning the point of view held by the Futurists concerning this subject.

Mr. Couch concludes his article with this pessimistic observation: "The visible, unsolvable obstacle which impedes the construction of the Temple is the Dome of the Rock. This building, sacred to the Muslims, was built in 687 A.D. and is today standing on the exact site where the ruins of the Old Temple are located." Mr. Couch adds that he and those who believe like him know: "If there is one thing that the Arab nations are not willing to permit is that the Jews build their Temple. The Arabs know that to do such a thing would be as accepting the definite establishment of Israel as a State in Palestine. And the entire world is aware that that is precisely what the Arab nations oppose the most and, in fact, is the principal cause of the present Arab-Israeli conflict."

The second commentary comes from no less a source than the internationally popular new service, the Associated Press. In an article entitled "THE SECOND COMING CONNECTED TO A NEW JEWISH TEMPLE," by Mr. George Cornell cites: "The aura of mystery that surrounds the idea of the construction or building of a Jewish Tempe in Jerusalem is lamentably only a golden dream."

Mr. Cornell then describes the construction project for a special building in Jerusalem. According to the information given by the Rabbi, Dr. Maurice A. Jaffee, President of the Union of Synagogues in Israel, it is desired that the building mentioned should serve as a large central synagogue where all the Jews making a pilgrimage from nations around the world could gather to pray as they did in the old Temple. This great synagogue has some similarities to the Temple Solomon built and to the Herodian Temple as well.

Yet, Dr. Jaffee says: "But in no way can this building be considered to be a replacement for the genuine one, since even the idea or suggestion of such a thing would put us in hot water."

He also explains: "According to the Jewish Law of the Jalacha? There does not exist a definite obstacle for the construction of the Temple. Yet, living in reality, we do find many practical obstacles, the first and greatest of all being the fact that the site where the Temple should be built is presently occupied. That site is Mount Moriah, where our forefather, Abraham, built on altar to sacrifice his son, Isaac. There are currently two Muslim mosques on this location. For this reason, the site which is sacred to the Jews is also considered to be sacred by the Muslims. Now, for our part, we have the determination to impartially protect all the sacred sites and buildings, whether they by Jewish, Christian or Muslim. Therefore, the last thing Israel would want to do would be to destroy the mosques."

Dr. Jaffee concludes, saying: "Also, the complete restoration of the Temple would require the reestablishment of the Sanhedrin, of the priestly order, and of the Levites. All this involves too many complications which we are neither spiritually, nor politically, nor morally prepared to confront."

The illusion of the building of the temple is intimately tied to the illusory theories of Futurism. This is why I have occupied much space in this study to explain about the Temple of God. I have previously explained it, but I repeat once more, that in understanding that the ephemeral temple of the Futurists does not exist, the believer can realize that all of the other Futurists theories are torn down as well. What is so ironic about this entire situation is that the group most interested in building the Temple in Jerusalem is not the Ultraorthodox Jews, but the Gentile Christians, confused by erroneous teachings. The reason for this is that the Jews know the truth. The confused Christians, on the other hand, ignore the reality of the life and history of Israel, live creating and basing their prophetic interpretations only on clouds of illusions and imaginations. One Jew in Jerusalem made this comment to us: "Do you think that we are so ignorant, that we would build a Temple in Jerusalem so that the antichrist that you Christians are waiting for can come to sit in it?"





# BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

### PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.



The doctrine of baptism is a subject of supreme importance, and has been considered to be so throughout the centuries which have passed since the Church was founded by our Lord Jesus Christ. He himself demonstrated the prominence of this sacrament when he issued the following command: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark. 16:16). He also commanded His apostles to: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19). He also emphasized the importance of being baptized, when He traveled to the Jordan River where John was baptizing, and asked John to be baptize Him, saying: "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15).

Many present-day religious leaders teach that baptism is not truly important; thereby contradicting the same Lord they claim to obey and serve. They are following the example of the Pharisees and lawyers who "rejected the counsel of God against themselves" by refusing to be baptized by John (Luke. 7:30). Nevertheless, this tract is not directed to those who oppose the Word of God, but to the sincere Christians, who, having a pure and sincere heart, want

to obey the Word of God. These Christians are willing to obey God's commandments, whether they come directly from the Lord or through His apostles, since the Lord bestowed upon them His authority when He declared: "He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me" (Matt. 10:40). I must clarify here, that I am not discussing the subject of water baptism with the purpose of obtaining members for a certain religious denomination or organization. Rather, my goal is that the obedient Christian, whoever and wherever he is, will receive from God the fullness of His salvation. Now that we are aware of these basic truths, let us now continue in our discussion by considering the following questions.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM?

The Lord stated that the "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark .16:16). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, through Peter's lips, declared: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you...for the remission of your sins..." (Acts. 2:38). Paul, referring to the Lord's sacrifice, declares that the Lord gave Himself for His Church "that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water (baptism) by the Word" (Eph. 5:26). Peter, referencing the fact that Noah was

saved by water in the ark, states: "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..." (1 Peter. 3:21).

### HOW SHOULD WATER BAPTISM BE ADMINISTERED?

Paul explains to us that baptism is a symbol of the burial of one who has died. For this reason he poses the following question: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death" (Rom. 6:3). On another occasion he explains to us that we are "BURIED with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him" (Col. 2:12). According to these Scriptures, baptism is a symbolic burial through which the believer, now dead to the world (repented) is buried in the waters of baptism and emerges from them, ready to live a new life in Christ. For this reason, baptism should be administered through immersion, submerging the body of the penitent completely in water, according to the example given by the Lord Himself when He entered into the Jordan River to be baptized: "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water" (Matt. 3:16). Likewise, when Phillip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, the Scriptures tell us that "they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water..." (Acts 8:38-39).

#### WHAT NAME SHOULD BE INVOKED DURING BAPTISM?

The Lord commanded His disciples to baptize the Gentiles "in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19), and when the apostles carried out the Master's commandment, they baptized thousands upon thousands of believers in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They did not disobey the Lord, as some have had the audacity to say. On the contrary, they faithfully executed His commandment, because they had understood that the "Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" is JESUS the Lord, and that He is ONE. They understood when the Lord told them: "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father" (John. 14:9). They understood that "God was manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16). They understood that the Lord Jesus was Israel's Messiah, and that He could be none other than God Himself, because there is only one God (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 44:6). They understood that only the God, YHWH, can save, and they were given revelation to understand that the Lord Jesus is that same God, because the Name of God given to men that they might be saved is JESUS the Lord (Acts 4:12). This is the Name "which is above every other name" that Joel mentioned when he prophesied: "That whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered (saved)' (Phil. 2:9, Joel. 2:32).

The following Scripture verses bear witness that the original believers in the Church were all baptized



calling upon the Name of Jesus Christ, and never with the titles Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Acts. 2:38, Acts. 8:16, Acts. 10:48, Acts. 19:5, Acts. 22:16, Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, 1 Pet. 3:21. The baptism invoking the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was not utilized in the apostolic era or in the first centuries of the Church. It was an interpretation which came later as part of the package of many other false doctrines, fruit of the apostasy, which were accepted and confirmed by the Council of Nicea in the year 325 A.D.

TO WHOM DOES THE BAPTISM BY IMMERSION, INVOKING THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, APPLY?

You, the reader, can find the answer in the Word of God. It is for the Jews (Acts. 2:36-38). It is for the Samaritans (Acts. 8:14-16). It is for the Gentiles (Acts. 10:45-48). It is for believers who have already been baptized with other baptisms (Acts. 19:1-5). "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts. 2:39).

My beloved conclusion: brethren and friends, if you love the Lord and are one of those who are interested in being sure of the salvation of your soul, we sincerely invite you in the love of Christ to meditate on this important doctrinal subject. The message contained within this tract is not merely a denominational point of view, but is a very specific commandment given by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who declared: "He who believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

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# WHAT MUST I DO

### TO BE SAVED?

PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.



"Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts. 16:29-31).

must inform you that this message is not for everyone. It is only for those who are convinced of the fact that none of the many things that this world has to offer can give the peace that their soul desires.

Neither is it written with the intent of obtaining followers by attempting to convince someone to leave their religion to accept a different one. On the contrary, it is for those who have already experienced the fact that no religion can change their lives. This message is intended to help those who, because of the miserable circumstances in which they presently live, whether it is a sickness, marital or family problems, addictions, traumas, prisons or similar situations, have arrived at the conclusion that only God can deliver them.

It is for those who have come to the point in their lives in which they are compelled to ask the same question that the jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas: "What must I do to be saved?" If you find yourself in this category, through the love of Christ the Lord, I will explain to you God's plan of salvation precisely as it is described in the Holy Bible.

First Step: You must acknowledge and confess your misery and need before God, and you must sincerely repent from your sins. Without this fundamental step, everything else you do will be in vain (Acts 3:19).

Second Step: You must now accept the Lord Jesus as the Savior of your soul. You must believe that by His Grace and His Blood that He shed on the cross, He is able to cleanse all your sins, no matter how filthy they might be (Isa. 1:18).

Third Step: You must believe that by doing the previous step, this is proof that you have become a partaker of the miracle of having been "born again" (John. 3:3), which is the same miracle as having been "born of God" or "begotten of God" (1 John. 5:18).

Fourth Step: It is now imperative for you to be immersed in the waters of baptism just as the Lord was, making certain that when you do so, the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ is invoked upon you (Acts. 2:28 and 4:12).

Fifth Step: Being now a "child of God" (1 John. 1:12), a "new creature in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:17),

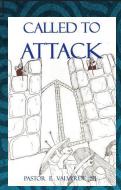
allow the Lord—who now lives within you—to direct you in how you must live, what you must do and what things are not beneficial to you.

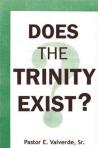
Sixth Step: The Lord has promised to give each of His children the power of His Holy Spirit to help us to overcome and to give forth the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22). Ask the Lord to give you this gift together with the evidence of "speaking with other tongues" (Acts. 2:4).

Seventh Step: Exercise yourself in reading the Word of God so that you might grow spiritually and become grounded in your faith. Occupy yourself as much as possible in serving others, thereby doing God's work.

Final Step: now try to live the rest of your life in peace and in holiness, loving everyone, and being in communion with those who love the Lord as you love Him now. Seek out as much as you can the fellowship of those who live "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Tit. 2:13).

CONCLUSION: Even though we may not know you, the Lord knows who you are, and our prayer is that He will bless you. We also ask our Lord Jesus that He will work in your life, praying that the plan described in this tract will bring the change in your life that you greatly desire. If the Lord places in your heart the desire to receive help from us in any way that we can, please contact us. We are here to serve you.







**SUPREME** NAME

### 666 Literal or Symbolic? Pastor E. Valverde, Sr.



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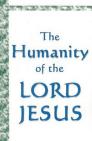
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The LORD our God is one LORD (Dt.6:4)

> God is not a Trinity (John 1:1, Col. 1:15)

The Supreme Name of our God Is the LORD Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:9)

Baptism is by immersion (Rom. 6:4) In the name of the LORD Jesus Christ (Act. 2:38)

The Holy Spirit of God manifests itself by means of the fruits (Gal. 5:22-26) The gift of the Holy Ghost by the evidence of speaking in tonques.

To seek to live a sanctified life is an imperative requirement (Heb. 12:14)

The Church is ONE and it belongs to the LORD (Mathew 16:18, Acts 20:28)

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