

THE LORD IS COMING
1 Corinthians 16:22



A translated version of the International Christian periodical
MARANATHA

P.O. BOX 10271- SALINAS, CA 93912-7271-VOL. 02-NO.01-OCTUBRE-2015-TEL: 831-422-0647

THE "HIERON"
AND THE "NAOS"

.....PÁG.07

REPORTS
of ACTIVITIES

.....PAGE.10

YOUTH
Section
PSALMS 119:9

.....PAGE.13

Women
OF GOD

.....PAGE.13

GOD'S
PROPHETIC
Clock

.....PAGE.05



THE AGE
OF THE BRIDE
THE LAMB'S
WIFE



 *Revista Internacional*
MARANATHA

P.O. BOX 10271-SALINAS, CA 93912-7271

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE PAID AT
SALINAS, CA 93901

FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
VISIT
www.Evalverde.com

Maranatha (usps 452-370) Is published quarterly free of charge by the Church of Jesus Christ In the America, Inc. General Office: 160 Pajaro St., Salinas, CA 93901-3430 Periodical postage paid at Salinas, CA Postmaster + Please send change of address to; P.O. BOX 10271 Salinas, CA 93912-7271 /Maranatha 160 Pajaro St. Salinas, CA 93901-3430 evalverde@evalverde.com



EDITORIAL

"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema. Maranatha" (1 Cor. 16:22).

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to all of our esteemed readers, giving Him honor and glory for His goodness and His mercy that He has bestowed upon each and every one of us, and trusting that He will continue to strengthen us through the power of His Holy Spirit so that during our lifetime we can be faithful to Him, doing His will, and that we might be able to persevere until the end.

"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema. Maranatha" (1 Cor. 16:22). This is an emphatic warning given by the Lord Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, to the Church. It is a life or death warning which was needed to be heard during the time of the nascent Church, and with all the more reason is needed during these present times of passivity, lack of interest, indifference, conformity and lukewarmness which is common and accepted by many Christians, but continues to be a spiritual condition reproved by God. This warning demonstrates how seriously God views our love for Him. This is main or primary message the Lord imparts to us through this warning.

First of all, we must understand what it means to love the Lord, not according to what our opinion of what this implies, but according to what He states in His Word. Then, we must understand what He says about how to love Him. There are those that say: "I love God my own way." But the Word of God only speaks about one way to love the Lord, not "many different ways."

What does it mean, then, to love the Lord Jesus Christ? There are several Scriptures which provide us with a clear and simple answer. In the **Gospel of John, chapter 14, verses 21, 23 and 24**, the Lord declares: *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not*



PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, III AND FAMILY

keepeth not my sayings." In **2 John, verse 6**, the Scriptures state: *"And this is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."* Also, in **1 John 5:3**, we are told: *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous."*

The way that we demonstrate that we love the Lord is by obedience to His Word. Our love for God is not limited to a human emotion or feeling. Our love for God is demonstrated by our actions. When there is lack of obedience, no matter if we sing "love songs" to the Lord or if we tell Him that we love Him, we are not demonstrating a true love for Him. These become empty songs and words, without any substance to them. The Lord Jesus Christ, in **John 10:27** stated: *"My sheep hear My voice (my commandments), and I know them, and they follow (obey) Me"*. In order to be able to follow the Lord (obey Him), we must deny ourselves, just as the Lord said: *"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).*

The Lord asked and continues asking: *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say" (Luke 6:46).* This is how we can understand that the only true way to love the Lord Jesus Christ is to obey His Word. We can also now understand the declaration: *"If any man love (obey) not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema (accursed). Maranatha" (1 Cor. 16:22).* We do not want to bring that curse upon our own heads, nor do we want to be a curse to others. Deliver us, oh Lord!

Now that we understand what it means to love the Lord Jesus Christ, let us now focus our attention on how we should love Him. *"And thou shalt love (obey) the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul (mind), and with all thy might" (Dt. 6:5).* Here we are told how we must love (obey) the Lord our God. He does not want us to obey Him "as we see fit," but it also matters greatly to Him that we obey Him with a willing attitude and a correct spirit. The Lord Jesus does not want an obligatory, forced obedience. He wants it to be a voluntary obedience, stemming from a profound recognition of who He is, what He has already done for us, and what He has promised to do for us.

It brings delight to the heart of the Lord when we love (obey) Him with all our heart, and with all of our soul (mind), and with all of our might. He did not give us leftovers, although that is what we deserved. He gave us His best. He gave us Himself. He does not deserve leftovers. He deserves our best. The Lord desires and demands that we put all of our heart into obeying Him, not superficially and without effort. He wants us to use our mind, doing our best to obey Him, not allowing ourselves to be distracted or to lose focus on what we are doing. He desires that we obey Him by giving our best, utilizing all the resources at our disposition to do so. It is important to the Lord Jesus Christ that we love (obey) Him, but the attitude and the quality of our obedience are equally important to Him.

"If a man loveth not (obeyeth not, but obey in what manner? With all his heart, soul and might) the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema (a curse to himself and

to others as well). Maranatha (the Lord cometh)." At the end of this emphatic warning, we read another urgent warning directed to those who are not presently seeking to love (obey) the Lord Jesus with diligence, with focus and with their all. The warning given is *"Maranatha."* The Lord is soon coming to execute the judgments announced in His Word toward those who do not love Him! *"... what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?" (1 Pet. 4:17)* *"...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; when He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (those that truly believe in Him and in His Word, and obey Him)" (1 Thess. 1:7-10).*

This final warning is also directed to those who truly love the Lord, so that they might continue loving Him, striving to be alert, and so that they might be encouraged, knowing that the Lord is coming soon and that the promises He has made toward them that love Him are still in effect: *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9).*

We must give attention to His Word, so that we will love the Lord Jesus with diligence and with the mindset that pleases Him, remembering that we have been warned: *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father, which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).* Oh, Lord Jesus Christ, without you I can do nothing that is pleasing to You! Help me to obey You, and *"work in me both to will and to do of Your good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13)!*

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me...if a man love Me, he will keep my words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth Me not keepeth not my sayings" (John 14:21, 23-24).



Every student of the Bible knows that the symbolic “*bride, the Lamb’s wife*” that was shown to the apostle John (**Rev. 21:9**) is the Church of the Lord. It is the same “*City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem*” that the apostle Paul refers to when he says “*you have come to*” (**Heb. 12:22**), being that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is precisely “... *the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven*” (**Heb. 12:23**). It is “*the building...*” (which is) “*a holy temple... for a habitation of God through the Spirit*” (**Eph. 2:20-22**). It is also a “*spiritual house*” made “*not with corruptible things, (such) as silver and gold*” (**1 Pet. 1:18**), but with “*lively stones*” built upon the “*Living Stone*” (**1 Pet. 2:4-6**), who is “*the Chief Corner Stone*” (**Eph. 2:20**), which is how the Lord identified Himself (**Mat.16:18**).

I have given this brief explanation, being aware that it will be helpful to someone, but I want to make it clear to the reader that on this occasion the subject will not be the popular, but false, interpretation that teaches that the “*heavenly Jerusalem*” is a city made of gold and literal stones, located in the third heaven. (I have given an extended explanation about this false interpretation in another article I have written.) On this occasion I am using the initial Scripture to make a brief comment about a subject that is imperative for us to understand, that is, the age of the symbolic “*wife*” (**Rev. 21:9**), or in other words, the present age of the Church.

In the book of Esther we find the ideal symbolic figures to help me illustrate something of such great importance for us today: the present age of the Church of the Lord. In this book king Ahasuerus is a type of the Lord

THE AGE OF THE BRIDE THE LAMB'S WIFE

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

and queen Vashti typifies Israel, who God has blinded for her disobedience (**Jn. 1:11**), although this was done for the benefit of us Gentiles, and only for a certain time (read **Rom. 11:25-32**). Esther typifies the faithful and true Church and the “*many maidens*” represent the multitude of groups and organizations that exist today, who call themselves Christians, but who are not called to become the queen, or to become “*the bride, the Lamb’s wife*”.

Hegai, the eunuch, in this case represents the initial Christian ministry, who in its beginnings faithfully cared for the “*bride*”, but who in time, would fall into apostasy as foretold in the Scriptures (**1 Tim. 4:1**). Mordecai symbolizes the faithful ministry which in due time distinguishes itself as a true counselor and guide for the queen. On the other hand it is easy for us to understand that the evil Haman represents a world that “*lieth in wickedness*” (**1 Jn. 5:19**), who hates the people of God in its entirety, which is today Israel and the Church.

It is important to note that Esther did not become a bride and a queen from one day to the next. She was first chosen when she was still a “*maid*” and she had to be prepared in the “*house of the women*.” Furthermore, her distinction by the king as “*the chosen*” did not happen immediately, therefore she had to remain among the other maidens until the day of the wedding. It was on that day that the difference between her

and the others was declared (**Mal. 3:18**). It was necessary for sufficient time to elapse for that girl of the beginning to become sufficiently mature to be crowned as the queen. We see then, that presently, after almost two millennia, the symbolism in the aforementioned characters are today part of history and of the fulfilled prophesies.

THE CHURCH IS
ABOUT TO ENTER INTO
MARRIAGE

The Church of the Lord will soon turn two thousand years old. By this time it is impossible for her to be the “*young girl*” that she was in her beginnings, being that the Church has already been prepared for “*the marriage of the Lamb*” (**Rev. 19:7**) and to take her place as the “*the bride, the Lamb’s wife*.” Because of the present age of the Church, it is logical for us to understand that it is not possible for her to be treated and ministered to as if she was still “*a young girl*.” She presently needs to be ministered to in a serious fashion, appropriate for a mature woman, being that it would be absurd to continue viewing her as the “*young girl*” of her beginnings. As proof of this, I cite the following comparisons that will prove the undeniable truth of what I say:

1.-The preaching of salvation by Grace that was something new in the beginning has in time been devalued to the point of

The Church of the Lord will soon turn two thousand years old. By this time it is impossible for her to be the “young girl” that she was in her beginnings, being that the Church has already been prepared for “the marriage of the Lamb” (Rev. 19:7)

becoming a mockery. By this time the apostate Hegai has turned it into a disgrace.

2.-The Church that was in the beginning “*a body*” (**1 Cor. 12:12**), after two millennia has become “*a Babylon*,” where an innumerable number of politico-religious organizations of all doctrinal colors, fight over the monopoly of salvation, beginning with “*THE MOTHER*” (**Rev. 17:5**), and continuing with her many daughters.

3.-In the beginning, the apostles preached to a world distinctly pagan. Today we are certainly dealing with a pagan world, but in it exists a paganism disguised with a satanic mask of “*Christianity*” that has had millions of professing Christians in a state of deceit.



4.-*"The doctrine of the apostles"* (Acts 2:42), *"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 3), after two thousand years has been disfigured to the point that the "official" doctrines of so-called Christianity are but a gruesome parody of the initial truths. The apostasy has been conducted by *"seducing spirits and doctrines of devils"* (1 Tim. 4:1), beginning with dividing God in "Three Persons" and denying the supremacy of His Name which is JESUS CHRIST THE LORD.

5.-The different operations and manifestations of the Holy Spirit have been satanically distorted by the antichrist, particularly during the 20th century. Many today use them to their own convenience or according to their own understanding. Consequently, there is a tremendous confusion prevalent among Christianity concerning the manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Only the Lord Jesus in His Second Coming will be able to clear up this confusion commonly identified as the "Charismatic Movement."

6.-The number of faithful ministers that existed in the beginnings of the Church has diminished instead of increased. In contrast, the number of the *"grievous wolves"* (Acts 20:29) and of the *"Diotrephes who love to have the preeminence"* (3 Jn. 9-10) has multiplied in untold proportions. As the Lord's return nears, this number continues to grow as a threatening avalanche originated in hell. The result of this is in the world today: multitudes of confused Christians and many others who are just simply deceived.

It is impossible to describe all the happenings and operations (both positive and negative) that have revolved around "Esther" (the Church). She, in her preparations to soon become *"the bride, the Lamb's wife"* has had to endure the crucible of great trials during the past two thousand years. Today, by the Grace and love of the King, "Esther," having come of age, has acquired the level of maturity required by the Husband. She is certainly the same symbolic woman, faithful to and with a passion for the King, but she is no longer the "young girl" of her beginnings. "Esther" is now a mature woman.

The doctrines and fundamental messages of her beginnings should be and have invariably been the same, but it is impossible to state how much both the environment and the circumstances around her have changed. The powerful reasons I previously mentioned, together with many others that are impossible to point out here, have caused her to radically change the way she presents *"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 1:3). Hagai's method of ministering and that of Shaashgaz (Est. 2:8, 14) are a thing of the past. Even the way "Mordecai" currently ministers to "Esther" cannot be the same. Inevitably, it has to be different.

The method of ministry (referring particularly to present Christianity) that has been used to minister to the Church, ignoring her present age, and treating her as if she was still the same as in the beginning, instead of edifying her has brought destruction and has provoked radicalism and confusion in a great segment of the people of God.

LET US THANK GOD FOR HIS WORD

We give infinite thanks to the Lord for having the Holy Book, the Bible, in our hands, since it is only by His Word that we can be absolutely sure that what we are believing, doing and teaching is truly from God. It is by the Holy Book that we understand with certainty, in the midst of the prevailing confusion, that the Lord Jesus Christ is the same God of Israel who has now been *"manifested in the flesh"* (1 Tim. 3:16). That He is the Only *"true God, and eternal life"* (1 Jn. 5:20). That by believing in and being baptized in the marvelous Name of Jesus Christ the Lord, we receive forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). That only by the Grace of God we were able to receive the marvelous salvation that we enjoy, and that it is only by this Grace we are standing and are able to walk with the Lord Jesus Christ every day.

By the Holy Book we have come to know that Israel is the beloved firstborn of God (Exodus 4:22), and that our *"salvation is of the Jews"* (Jn. 4:22). Likewise we understand that the day is coming when Israel and the true Church will no longer be two peoples, but rather, we will soon be *"one fold"* (Jn. 10:16).

By the Holy Book we have become aware of the portentous prophecies which have already been fulfilled concerning Israel in the 20th century and of those that are being fulfilled at the time of the publication of this article.

By the Holy Book we also understand that there is only ONE Church, and that it is not

the property of any man or any group of men, but that it belongs solely to the Lord (Mat. 16:18). We understand also that the Church is *"a body"* (Eph. 4:4). It is not a suffocating conglomerate of a multitude of different groups and organizations of all sizes who call themselves Christians, each claiming to be the only true Church. By the Holy Book we can declare with great certainty that the Commander in Chief and *"High Priest"* (Heb. 3:1) of the Church, the *"Shepherd and Bishop of our souls"* (1 Pet. 2:25), has always been and is Jesus Christ the Lord.

Based on the Holy Book and being confirmed with things we are experiencing in these times, which are the last days, we can minister this and other essential truths to the Church, reproving the deceit fomented throughout the centuries by the usurping "Diotrephes." "Esther" has never ceased being faithful to the King, nor has she stopped being His chosen bride, because *"the Lord knoweth them that are His"* (1 Tim. 2:19). The fact that "Esther" has been surrounded by the other "young maidens" does not take away in the minimum her integrity and her place, and when she hears the counsel of "Mordecai," she is willing to accept it and put it into action. That is why it is stated that *"the wise shall understand"* (Dan. 12:10).

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Pet. 1:19).



“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (the Jews) and upon thy holy city (the old city of Jerusalem)” (Dan. 9:24).

On the 14th of July Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, declared that Israel's security had been threatened by the nuclear pact made between Iran and the powerful nations of the world, led by the United States. He called it a “historic mistake” and that he is ready to order military action if needed. He stated that in addition to threatening the security of Israel, through this pact Iran would receive a huge sum of cash, along with a relaxation of the economic sanctions against them and that their frozen assets would again be available to them. The estimated total of financial reward Iran would receive will exceed \$150 billion dollars, which is more than the \$124 billion dollars Israel has received in total from the United States since 1948.

On the 3rd of September the White House sealed this pact with Iran when it was assured of having the necessary votes to block any veto that might come from the Senate regarding the nuclear pact with Iran. Upon being informed of this, Iran immediately unleashed an attack on two fronts. First of all, they stated that they would not allow the inspectors access to certain sites. Then, they declared that they would continue with their plan to destroy Israel. The Supreme Commander of Iran, General Mohsen Kazzemini made the following statement to Iran's military units operating in Tehran, the capital of Iran: “They (the United States and the Zionist regime) should know that the Islamic revolution will continue to better its preparations until Israel is destroyed and Palestine is liberated.”

On the 17th of September, a high ranking official in the U.S. government announced that the formal adoption of the nuclear pact with Iran will occur on the 18th of October, but that it was not clear how long it would take Iran to comply with the conditions necessary for the sanctions to be relieved.

On the 25th of September the Pope gave a speech during the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations.

From the 28th of September to the 6th of October the general session took place in the 70th meeting of the General Assembly

of the United Nations in which one of the primary topics on the agenda was the peace negotiations between Israel and the Arabs. On the 30th of September the so called “Palestinian” flag was raised to wave beside the flags of the other nations of the world in compliance with the vote of a great majority of the nations of the world.

In less than two years it will be 120 years since the Lord awakened in the heart of Theodore Herzl the dream of a national home for the Jews, and as a result of this dream the Zionist movement began in 1897 as the first Zionist Congress took place in Basil, Switzerland, with all those present filled with an ardent desire and dream for a Jewish state. In November of 1917, twenty years after the first Zionist Congress, Walter Rothschild received a letter from Lord Arthur Balfour declaring England's support for the Jewish colonization of Palestine (Israel).

In two years it will be 100 years since the foretold “Aliyah” (the return) of the Jews to the land from which they had been scattered, *“...and they shall be led captive unto all nations” (Luke 21:24)*, officially began, thus fulfilling the promise declared by the Lord: *“Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the end of the earth” (Isa. 43:5-6)*. The Lord also promised: *“And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein you are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out” (Eze. 20:34)*. The Lord also announced: *“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isa. 11:11-12)*. Glory to the God of Israel, who by His marvelous Grace is now our God also!

GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde, III.

In two years it will be 70 years since November 29, 1947, the date the United Nations miraculously approved the establishment of the Modern State of Israel (this truly miraculous vote happened 50 years after the giving of the Balfour Declaration in November of 1917) and as part of that Partition Plan the deadline set for the British Mandate in Palestine to end was midnight of May 14, 1948. Precisely on that date, a few hours before the British Mandate was to expire, David Ben Gurion, Chief Executive of the Zionist Organization and president of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Israel (the Land of Israel) which was to be known as the State of Israel, which would begin operating immediately upon the expiration of the British Mandate.

In less than two years, fifty years will have passed since June 7, 1967, when the Jewish people regained control of the Old City of Jerusalem after nearly two thousand years. It is no coincidence that the Jewish people recaptured the Old City of Jerusalem 70 years after the first Zionist Congress!

In less than two years 120 jubilees will have passed (one jubilee equals 50 years), in other words 6000 years since Creation. We anxiously wait to enter into the millennial rest with Jesus Christ our Lord!

In summary, we note that in the year 2017 it will be 120 years since the first Zionist Congress met, which later led to the Balfour Declaration in 1917. And in 2017, it will be 100 years since the beginning of the return of the Jewish people to their land officially began.

The British Mandate in Palestine which began in 1917 opened the door so that the United Nations, influenced by God, would vote for the establishment of a Jewish state in 1947. This vote, in turn, paved the way for God to allow the Jewish people to recapture the Old City of Jerusalem during the miraculous Six

Day War of 1967.

Without the existence of the Modern State of Israel, the Six Day War, which allowed Israel to recapture the Old City of Jerusalem, would have never happened. Likewise, without the existence of the Modern State of Israel and without the entire city of Jerusalem being in the hands of the Jewish people as the capital of the Modern State (even though the whole world does not accept this fact), the prophecies recorded in **Zech. 12:2-4** and **14:1-2** could not be fulfilled. Consequently, if these prophecies are not fulfilled, the Second Coming of the Lord could not take place. However, because of the fulfillment of these prophecies we can say, Glory to God, the Lord is coming soon!

There is much to be said about the times in which we are living and about what is occurring with God's prophetic clock. The truth is that signs alone do not awaken people. It is only the Lord Jesus through His mercy who awakens our hearts and our minds to Him. If it was the signs concerning God's prophetic clock (the nation of Israel and the Jewish people) that awakened hearts and minds, then the present day Christianity would be on fire for God, calling upon Him and serving others. There would also be a great spiritual awakening that would move multitudes of Christians to live and grow in holiness and in the fear of the Lord. The truth is that God has always preserved a faithful remnant which is passionate about the Lord, about His presence, about His Word, about His work, and about His Second Coming. A remnant who is not seeking to walk with the Lord based upon signs, but whose faith is inspired and confirmed by the fulfillment of these prophetic signs.

As noted in this brief commentary, God's prophetic clock keeps on ticking. It waits for no one. The signs marked by this prophetic clock will not awaken anyone. What the signs will do is confirm those who, by the Grace of God, are spiritually awake, living for the Lord and anxiously anticipating His Second Coming in power and glory! May the Lord have mercy on us, so that we may be counted among this faithful remnant!

God bless you.



“... Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth ...” (Heb. 11:35-38).

What a picture! I have often asked myself and today I ask myself again: Who could, humanly speaking, want such a life, or at least be willing to live conformly and resignedly, in the way the above cited verses describe? What the apostle describes happened to men and women of faith who lived in pre-Christian times, and if we read the history of Christianity, we will with astonishment discover that the exact same thing has happened to men and women who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who have lived “choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt (the world), for they had respect unto the recompense of the reward” (Heb. 11:25-26).

We are living in a time and in a part of the world where it cannot be said that we have suffered and experienced such things because “ye have not yet resisted (suffered) unto blood, striving against sin” (Heb. 12:4).

I do not think you need to be a profound observer to realize, as we look at our own life and the lives of many of those around us, that some of us walk so complacently and

WHAT PORTION DO YOU AND I CHOOSE?

PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.

We are living in a time and in a part of the world where it cannot be said that we have suffered and experienced such things because “ye have not yet resisted (suffered) unto blood, striving against sin” (Heb. 12:4).

distracted that we think that what is written are very touchy stories indeed, but that they have nothing to do with us.

Oh, my beloved brethren! This is precisely one of the most powerful weapons of our enemy: to induce us to occasionally indulge in the prevalent comfort, taking away from us the desire and determination to suffer, as we “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

Many whose lives have become cold and who have turned their

steps from “that Way” (Acts. 24:14), have not done so due to experiencing the suffering described in the above texts, but to the contrary, their human condition has overcome them since it has gained strength, precisely due to experiencing comfort and complacency.

Often the enemy deceives us by speaking to our ears, telling us that we have suffered a lot. Because we believe what he tells us we feel even more pity for our troublesome humanity, probably taking as a basis for our self-pity what the apostle Paul says, “For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it” (Eph. 5:29). The truth is that the more we indulge our flesh, the more it wants and demands from us, to the degree that we see with great sadness that there are many Christians who ask God for many things, but they never ask for even the smallest opportunity to suffer a little for the work and the reproach of Christ. They have forgotten the expression of that servant of God who spoke for each of us Christians, saying: “But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (1 Cor. 9:27).

I thank God that there have always been and there still are, men and women to whom God’s Word says: “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Phil. 1:29). And on the other

I thank God that there have always been and there still are, men and women to whom God’s Word says: “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Phil. 1:29).

hand it is the Holy Spirit saying: “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my 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” (Revelation 3:15-19).

And you and I, which portion do we choose, my brother?

“... If we suffer (here), we shall also reign (there) with Him” (2 Tim. 2:12).



Chapter 25 of the book entitled
*“Worshippers of the Image
of God or Worshippers of the
Image of the Beast”*
Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

A MISTAKEN TRANSLATION

The facts and commentaries mentioned in the article “The Temple of God” published in the August 2015 edition of the “International Magazine Maranatha” prove the impossibility of Israel building a third temple before the coming of the Messiah. Lastly, let us consider yet another important detail about the Temple. It involves a grammatical error with the word “temple.” The error occurs when the New Testament is translated from the original Greek into other languages, including English. The originators and sponsors of futurism’s teachings have used this mistake for their own ends.

In the last thousand years, the majority of Bible translators have generally accepted that the New Testament was originally written in Greek. When referring to the Jewish Temple, the original Greek uses the term: “hieron.” When referring to the spiritual temple or the spiritual habitation of God, which is the Church, a completely different term is used: “naos.”

THE HABITATION OF GOD

The following are declarations made by the apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: *“Know ye not that ye are*

THE “HIERON” AND THE “NAOS”

PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.

the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19).

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the Living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall by my people” (2 Corinthians 6:16).

“And are 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 builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:20-22).

Not all of Christianity acknowledges that in the aforementioned Scriptures Paul is referring to the spiritual temple of God, which is His Church. In all of these Scriptures

the word “temple” is translated from the Greek term, “naos,” as a depiction of the “habitation of God.” This spiritual habitation is translated to the word “house” in the following two Scriptures: *“And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; but Christ as a Son over His own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end” (Heb. 3:5-6).* *“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 Peter 2:5).*

A MYSTICAL PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION

In the Scripture that has been used as the basis of our present study, we discover that the term “naos” is used in the original Greek when referring to the temple. *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [of the Lord] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple [naos] of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:3-4).*

The originators and promoters of futurism’s theories deliberately ignore this grammatical error. Beginning with the Jesuit Ribera and continuing with Dr. Scofield, all agree that in each of the aforementioned Scriptures, including **2 Thessalonians 2:4**, the word “temple” is translated from Greek word naos, which means the spiritual temple, the Church. However, in these Scriptures, *“the unlearned and unstable” (2 Pet. 3:16)*—whether intentionally or unintentionally—arbitrarily substitute the meaning of the word “naos” (the spiritual temple) for that of the word “hieron,” which is the physical Temple. It is not necessary to be a scholar in theology or semantics to identify the discrepancy in this grammatical interpretation.

The futurists overlook this discrepancy in order to substantiate and sustain their prophetic interpretation of an imaginary futuristic antichrist. To believe this biblically unfounded theory is to deliberately ignore the fact that the temple to which Paul refers to in **2 Thessalonians 2:4** is not a physical building made of stone. It is not a physical temple, “hieron,” made of marble, fine wood, and precious stones in the manner of the structures built by Solomon, Zerubbabel, and Herod. It is the “naos,” the spiritual temple, which is the Church. The Lord Jesus Christ founded this temple (“naos”) on the Day of Pentecost in 30 A.D., in an “upper room” situated atop Mount Zion, within the city of Jerusalem.



The apostle Paul directed his epistle to the believers in Thessalonica, a congregation comprised of Gentiles. God used Paul as an instrument of His Holy Spirit to establish this church. These Christians were taught by Paul to worship God in the manner that the Lord Himself established for the Time of Grace (**John 4:23-24**).

Based on the narratives in the Acts of the Apostles and the rest of the apostolic letters, the early Gentile Christians were not in any way connected or acquainted with the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, the “hieron.” However, they were directly connected to the spiritual temple, the “naos.” They were aware of the words of the Lord Jesus, who, concerning the physical Temple (“hieron”) on Mount Moriah, had said: *“There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down”* (**Matt. 24:1-2**). Furthermore, it was approximately during the same time that Titus and the Roman legions destroyed the Temple (“hieron”) in Jerusalem, after a three year siege (from 67 A.D.-70 A.D.), that Paul wrote his second epistle to the Thessalonians.

Once the grammatical mistake is detected, any sincere Christian can seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand the true interpretation of the prophetic Scripture. The truth is that this prophecy already had its fulfillment many years ago, when the Christian Church fell into apostasy over 16 centuries ago.

The manifestation of the apostasy

is not waiting to occur, as futurism teaches; it is presently nearing the end of its manifestation. Throughout all these years, the antichrist, Satan, the *“god of this world”* (**2 Cor. 4:4**), has been seated *“in the temple* (“naos”) *of God, shewing himself that he is God”* (**2 Thess. 2:4**), and has subtly deceived multitudes of professing Christians. In these the last days, the opposite function of the antichrist has operated openly. On the extreme right he has used false religion to “make himself appear as God,” and on the extreme left he has used atheism to “oppose” the existence of God.

CONCLUSION

In 1973 I was inspired by the Lord Jesus Christ to begin writing and collecting information about the various topics that are included in the chapters of this book: “Worshippers of the Image of God or Worshippers of the Image of the Beast.” During the years that it took me to complete this work, on many occasions I would begin writing about a certain subject but would be unable to finish due to the numerous responsibilities of my ministry. Therefore, I would repeatedly lose the continuity of the text, which consequently produced the repetitions and fissures that I am sure the critical reader will discover.

Concerning the literary editing of this book, it would be senseless for me to claim to possess the necessary academic education to produce a flawless publication. The only thing I can say in this respect is that what I have done in

Based on the narratives in the Acts of the Apostles and the rest of the apostolic letters, the early Gentile Christians were not in any way connected or acquainted with the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, the “hieron.” However, they were directly connected to the spiritual temple, the “naos.” They were aware of the words of the Lord Jesus, who, concerning the physical Temple (“hieron”) on Mount Moriah, had said: “There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matt. 24:1-2).

this book is exactly what I have done in all the other publications that the Lord has inspired me to write. I have poured out my heart, trusting that despite all my literary mistakes God will work to accomplish His Word so that *“the wise shall understand”* (**Dan. 12:10**).

During the 25 years that transpired in the completion of this project, I encountered many positive and negative experiences. On one

occasion, about 10 years into the undertaking, I spread all my texts and notes atop my bed and attempted to organize the earlier writings with the most recent ones. After laboring for more than an hour, my efforts were unsuccessful. At that moment I felt extremely desperate as I realized that I could not finish this task on my own. I then cried out to the Lord and entreated Him to provide me the necessary assistance to accomplish this project.

In due time, God answered my prayer through different means, according to His will. At the end of this long journey, I bless the Eternal One for allowing me to complete this book and for granting me the means to offer it to those whom God has purposed to read and understand it.

How many will benefit from the contents of this book? Only the Lord Jesus Christ knows. What I do know—and of this I am absolutely certain—is that what I present in the pages of this humble literary work are the undeniable truths that God has revealed to me. These truths are based on God’s Holy Word, on historical facts, and on the reality of the present situation in the world.

I conclude by asking the Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior and my God with whom I have walked for over 50 years, to bless His people Israel and to bless His Church. I ask the Lord to continue working through His children so that, by WORSHIPPING HIS IMAGE, we may accomplish the work that He has entrusted to us here on earth.



Without fear of being wrong, I can confidently state that there does not exist any other vocation under the heavens which is greater, or more holy, or higher than the calling to a MINISTER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

It is the calling that even the angels with a holy covetousness long for and desire. It is the calling which is conferred upon relatively few men. It is a calling which differs from any other in that it does not begin and end here in this life, having only an earthly recompense, but it is one which has a reward not only during this lifetime, but also throughout eternity. The Holy Spirit, speaking through the prophet Daniel, declares: *“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever”* (Dan. 12:3).

One of the most eminent men among those who have this calling, the apostle Paul, tells us: *“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God”* (1 Cor. 4:1). I could cite many other Scriptures which prove the greatness of the holy calling of the ministry, but I would rather focus our attention on the price and the condition required in order for us to be partakers of this honorable calling: *“Moreover it is required in stewards, THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL”* (1 Cor. 4:2).

THE HOLY CALLING OF THE MINISTRY

PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.

My question is: Found faithful in what aspect? In being punctual to the services? In taking care of our personal presentation before men? In giving attention to how we present our sermons? In fulfilling our financial responsibilities? In having a zeal to protect and defend the causes which we consider to be righteous? Or, in striving to complete bigger and better projects? Most certainly we should be faithful in all these aspects. But I ask: “Don’t other men who practice many other different professions here on earth also worry about these and other similar questions?”

As I previously mentioned, the calling of the ministry is different than any other vocation. What, then, is the difference? Oh, beloved. With an acknowledgement that is filled with reverence, I declare that, just as there exists an immense abyss which separates this earth and the third heaven, likewise, there also exists an immense difference which separates the holy calling of the ministry from all the earthly vocations or professions. This enormous difference can be summed up with the following mystical expression: *“For, let this mind be in you, that is also in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 2:5).

As I previously mentioned, the calling of the ministry is different than any other vocation. What, then, is the difference? Oh, beloved. With an acknowledgement that is filled with reverence, I declare that, just as there exists an immense abyss which separates this earth and the third heaven, likewise, there also exists an immense difference which separates the holy calling of the ministry from all the earthly vocations or professions

We must ask ourselves. Do we truly have the mind of Christ? Have we denied ourselves? Are we holy as He is holy? Are we meek and humble of heart? Do we truly love one another? Do we have clean hands and a pure heart? Do we seek to serve or to be served? Do we take lordship over God’s heritage?

Do we do nothing through strife or vainglory? Are we looking not on our own things, but on the things of others? Have we surrendered ourselves to our Master to the point of sacrificing not only our ego, but also our lives out of love for Him and His cause?

My beloved brother and fellow laborer, just as I am here before my Master writing these words in the intimacy of my soul, you also are before your Master reading these words in the intimacy of your soul. I invite you to join me in lifting up this prayer in secret: “Lord, you who knows all things and who searches our hearts, search me. I am your minister. You have called me and have honored me. Weigh my life and try me. Teach me and help me to be always aware of my mistakes. Remove from me all impurities and help me, because I acknowledge that without You I am nothing. It is your blessing which assists me in my ministry every day. You know that my greatest desire is TO BE FOUND FAITHFUL. Amen.”

Postscript: An English missionary of noble blood once counseled his son, who had been called by God to the ministry: “My son, never lower yourself from the calling of being a minister, not even to become the King of England.”

God bless you.



Sugar Pine Camp Report 2015
Dear brethren and readers of this Christian publication, greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We inform you that this year the Lord spoke strongly and directly to the hearts of young and old through our pastor, Efraim Valverde III.

God willed to send direct messages to His people in general. These messages put us against the wall, forcing us to examine our personal lives and our family responsibilities. The Lord Jesus used our pastor to give the young people quite clear instruction, all backed by the Word of God, about the difference between what is of the world and what is of God. Throughout Friday and Saturday, well explained and

clearly understandable messages were transmitted to all who were present.

Our pastor was moved to declare to the people assembled, clearly and concisely, that it is time to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (**2 Cor. 7: 1**). He pointed to the practice of mixing the sacred with the profane which is prevalent in many churches. We experienced a refreshing and uplifting spiritual move of God as he clearly identified the spiritual anomalies in the Church in the light of the Word.

Sugar Pine Camp Report 2015

BRO. PHILLIP M. NAVA

Our brother and friend of many years, Shimon Menachem from Jerusalem, also shared with us messages about the meaning of the sound of the trumpet and its relation to the end of time. The second night that he spoke, Saturday, after ascending to the platform to share what was in his heart, he went into a deep meditation for a good while before starting his speech. After the rabbi's message, our pastor took the pulpit and concluded that night with a prayer that lasted almost two hours. The brokenness among the people assembled that night was

strong. Our cry to the Lord could be heard throughout the chapel area and in the overflow crowd as well.

On Sunday the camp came to a close with a good number of young people and adults being baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus in accordance to the Word of God. We all returned home with our hearts full of God's blessing and with the tasks of putting into practice what we heard and being vigilant over our lives and our homes.

May God grant us the supreme privilege of continuing to hear His voice on a daily basis.

Your brother in the Lord,
Phillip M. Nava.

Service in Zacapa, Guatemala, Report

PASTOR MYNOR E. GARCIA A.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with everyone, with the pastors in general and with all the congregations of the Lord Jesus in every nation.

May God bless you. We thank the Lord for allowing us to celebrate this fellowship service on August 2nd of this year. Our beloved brother, Pastor Jaime Vidal from Oxnard, California, was with us for this special service. We began the spiritual celebration at noon, which is the hottest time of day in our city, but even so, the brethren willingly attended. Pastor Jaime spoke about several important topics and he finalized his teaching by emphasizing the importance of water baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus. Afterward, at about 5:00PM, we traveled to the nearby river, Rio Hondo, which is located about 16km from Zacapa, where we baptized thirteen young people in the Name of

our Lord Jesus Christ. The baptisms ended around 6:30PM. It has always been and continues to be a blessing to see how the Lord adds more of His children to His Church. God bless Pastor Jaime Vidal for sharing the Word of God with us, and for confirming those of us who believe in the Lord Jesus.

Pastor Jaime was accompanied on this occasion by his wife and part of his family that live here in Guatemala. We are also thankful that brother Calixto and his son, Dann Quelex from San Juan Zacatepequez, and Pastor Juan de Maria from Uzumatlany could be with us in this activity. We thank the Lord for the local congregation and for their prayers and support. May the Lord abundantly bless all of you.

From Zacapa, located on the eastern part of Guatemala
Greetings from you servant,
Pastor Mynor E. Garcia A.

Service in Vicente Gro. BC, Mexico. Report

PASTOR ELADIO LOPEZ

First of all I want to thank the Lord for allowing us to host this fellowship service once again. All the honor and glory go to the Lord Jesus and we thank Him for all our brethren who were able to attend from many different congregations and places. It fills our heart to be able to experience the presence of our God together with our brethren, and for the instruction in the Word of God by way of the vessels He chooses to use.

The primary topic of instruction we received this year was the great need for those of us who claim to be children of God to dedicate a special time daily to seek the face of the Lord through prayer. We were also confirmed through the instruction of God's Word about the Oneness of God, and were reminded that the core of our faith is: "GOD IS ONE." We also received instruction concerning our family relationships, based on examples given in the Word of God. *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of*



the Scriptures might have hope" (**Rom. 15:4**).

We give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ and to all of our brethren for their support and assistance so that this activity can take place. May God bless each and every one. To all those who might read this publication, we ask you to please remember this region of Mexico. Keep us in your prayers so that we may continue seeking the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in Him, together with our brethren.

Attentively,
Pastor Eladio Lopez Martinez



First of all, I give many thanks to my Lord Jesus for the privilege of being able to contribute these few words to the “Revista Internacional Maranatha” and to be able greet all my brethren who might read this publication. *“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen” (1 Tim. 1:17).*

I bless the Lord for allowing me to share my experiences during this seminar for pastors and ministers, which has been held for many years now in Guadalajara, Jalisco, and for the glorious truth that the presence of our God has been evident in all the activities. And on this occasion the Lord used Pastor Efraim Valverde III to provoke us to seek more of the Lord. May God continue to bless and strengthen our brother, together with his family, so that he may continue to go forward with the great responsibility the Lord has commended to him.

He shared with us the importance of our personal relationship with God, warning us not to neglect this relationship. He stated that many men of God had neglected this relationship to the point that they were so occupied in the “work of the Lord”, that they neglected their personal relationship with Him. Consequently the Lord had to call their attention by declaring: *“I know thy works, and thy labor, ...but I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love” (Rev. 2:2-4).* Thank the Lord for this insistent, urgent convocation to seek the Lord more and to better our intimate relationship with Him. Our pastor mentioned: “If we neglect this aspect in our walk with the Lord, we neglect everything.” The Lord also used our pastor to admonish us to take care that our thoughts be

Seminar for Pastors and Ministers held in Guadalajara, Mx. Report

PASTOR ALFREDO CORCOLES



aligned with what is written in the Word of God, and that if we truly believed that all of God’s Word is divinely inspired, we will accept God’s correction and instruction.

On Saturday, the Lord used Pastor Efraim III to speak to us about “the key to walking in the system of God,” and that without this key it is impossible to live according to God’s system. This key is humility. Humility is a mental state which consists in recognizing that without God’s help, we cannot be what God wants us to be. The Lord Jesus, God manifest in flesh, stated: *“For without Me ye can do nothing” (Jn. 15:5).* The pastor explained that we must do all things in humility, as it is written: *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Phil. 2:3).* Only by being in that mindset can we live in the system of God and only in that way can we be spiritual. He explained that if we are not humble, we cannot be spiritual, and if we are not spiritual, then we will be carnal. Even though we may possess certain spiritual

gifts, if we are not spiritual, we are carnal. As it is written: *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ” (1 Cor. 3:1).* What does it mean to carnal? *“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” (1 Cor. 3:3).* How tremendous this thought is, that we can be in Christ, but be walking according to the flesh: *“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).*

Throughout the day, as our pastor was sharing these truths with us, the Lord was confirming these words with His presence. The Lord moved us to seek Him with intensity many times throughout the day as we heard His counsel, something so tremendously marvelous that I cannot explain with mere words. Another thing the pastor told us was: “if we learn anything from this meeting, let it be this one thing, that we feel the urgent need to seek more of the

Lord.” What a beautiful family atmosphere the Lord desires that may be among us. It is this type of family atmosphere that the Lord used our beloved Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., to cultivate among us throughout the years of his ministry. And now we can see his grandson having the same mindset and we are witnesses of how the Lord confirmed what was being said with His presence. As I am writing this I am overwhelmed with emotion and I bless the Lord for making me part of His family. Hallelujah!

My brethren, it would be impossible for me to share all the details concerning this great weekend that the Lord had planned for us. I close by giving the Lord thanks for this vessel, our Pastor Efraim Valverde III, who on this occasion was accompanied by his family and by several members of the congregation in Salinas. I also thank the Lord for the various pastors and ministers who came from the United States. There efforts to support the pastor and his ministry are a support and encouragement to us here in Mexico. I also thank the Lord for all the pastors and ministers here in Mexico who were able to attend. And I also thank the Lord for the pastors and congregations here in Guadalajara who always serve us excellently. May God bless and multiply their efforts.

My brethren who might read this publication, let us continue praying one for another and may the Lord continue to place in us the desire to seek more of Him.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Alfredo Corcoles (pastor in Purepero, Michoacan)
May God bless you. Amen.



I greet all of our brethren in the faith located in the different places where this publication might reach in the marvelous Name of the Almighty God, our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank the Eternal God for allowing us to fulfill our desire to host this spiritual celebration.

The celebration began on Friday afternoon and those of us present, with hunger and thirst for righteousness, received the Word of God. *“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” (Rev. 1:3).* We gathered to praise and glorify the Lord Jesus with that joy that is produced deep within every child of God. The Lord Jesus manifested His presence in this service through the

“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment” (1 Chron. 12:32).

I thank the Lord that He allowed my family and I to attend the annual memorial service held in Salinas on July 4th and 5th to commemorate the parting of our beloved Pastor Efraim Valverde Sr., of blessed memory. This year marks the twelfth year since Pastor Efraim Sr. parted to be with the Lord. Without a doubt I can say that the life and ministry of this man of God are reflected in the verse which headlines this report. During his lifetime God bestowed upon him great spiritual vision which allowed him to be well aware of the times we are living in and how we should walk before the Lord Jesus if we want to be counted among the “wise” (**Dan. 12:10**). I thank the Lord that the spiritual vision which was in Pastor Efraim Valverde Sr., continues now with his grandson, Pastor Efraim Valverde III. Throughout this activity the Lord

Service in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Report

PASTOR LAZARO PASCUAL

worship and prayer, through the songs and praised to our Almighty God, preparing our hearts to hear the Word of God. The Lord placed His words in the lips of our Pastor Efraim Valverde III through the message: Reasons for fighting against spiritual fatigue.

Saturday morning, Pastor Efraim III spoke about the changes in laws and the perilous times we are living in. In the evening service, Pastor Efraim III shared with us about the two aspects of the Son of God marvelously fused in One body.

These teachings are for our spiritual growth and to increase our understanding, something that is fundamental for us to be able to walk with God.

On Sunday he spoke to us about the subject: Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. The powerful Word of God can change and transform our lives if we receive it, so that it can perfect our lives. On this day one brother and two sisters who

had traveled from New York were baptized in the Name of our Lord Jesus.

We concluded this spiritual celebration with joy and gladness in our hearts, having been fed spiritually, and thus we refreshed our spirits and strengthened the bonds of companionship with our brothers from different places. Being in harmony before the Lord we were able to experience God’s presence, feed our inner man, and enjoy brotherly love. God blessed us with many spiritual blessings. May God bless you, and may brotherly love continue in our hearts. Shalom!

Pastor Lazaro Pascual and the congregation

4th of July Service in Salinas, CA, Report

BRO. GILBERT TIENDA

used our pastor to warn of the great need we have of drawing closer to the Lord in prayer and fasting, because the Second Coming of the Lord is at the doors.

The activity began on Thursday with a special meeting for pastors and ministers in which Pastor Efraim III shared with us about the 24 hour radio internet program, which is already available to all interested congregations. He also spoke about the vision of publishing the “Revista Maranatha” in English, a vision which has come to fruition since this is now the second English edition of “Maranatha” to be published. Thank the Lord that this vision which was in the mind and heart of Pastor Efraim Sr. for many years is now a reality. He also shared with the pastors the urgent need to remove our children from the public school system due to

the degradation of this system and to seek other methods of educating our children. He gave the option of home schooling or of opening Christian academies sponsored by the local congregations. This meeting continued Friday morning and afternoon. During this time the pastor shared about the importance of cultivating true companionship among the pastors and ministers of each congregation and also among different congregations, so that together we can fulfill our calling as children of God.

On Saturday, July 4th, the detailed study Pastor Efraim III imparted concerning the biblical expression “the Son of God,” and the importance of truly understanding that this expression refers to the visible Image of God, who is invisible in His eternal Spirit. Later that night he shared with

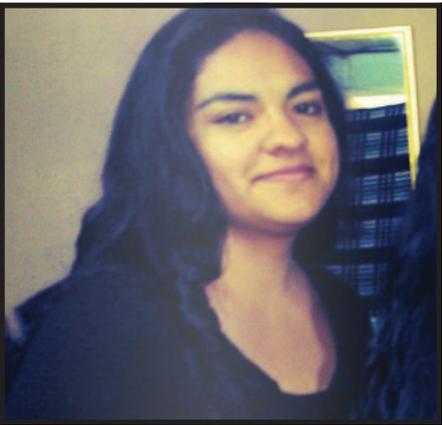
us information about the recent law passed by the United States Supreme Court in which same sex marriage was legalized in all the fifty states of our nation. He explained about the many long term negative effects this law will have on the nation and especially among Christianity. He emphasized the urgent need for us to fight for our families, for our marriages, for our children and for our brethren, using the Scripture found in **Nehemiah 4:7-23** as a basis and applying this passage to our present situation.

On Sunday the Lord used Pastor Efraim III to encourage and remind us that we are anxiously awaiting the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus, using the passage found in **1 John 3:1-3**, which explains about this great hope that we have as children of God. Glory to the Lord for this blessed hope!

It was a blessing to hear the voice of the Lord during this activity and to strengthen the ties among our beloved brethren as we wept, rejoiced, and shared meals together in harmony and singleness of heart. God bless you.



Youth Section



My young brothers and sisters in the Lord, it is a privilege to greet you through this publication which God has provided to bring spiritual food, life, and blessings to many.

I would like to take advantage of this section dedicated to the youth to encourage you that we continue forward. We are living in dangerous times and if you are counted among those who love the Lord and who want to serve Him with all your heart, I am sure that you have sensed the same tremendous opposition that I have felt. But I also know that you have felt the strength of the Almighty in your life, giving you the power to continue walking with Him.

In **1 Chronicles 28:9** we read the counsel King David gives to his son, Solomon: *“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek Him, He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off for ever”*. David knew how important it was for Solomon to know God and to have a personal relationship with Him. But King David also gives his

son a warning when he says: *“if thou seek Him, He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off for ever”*. The Word of God bears witness of the beginning and of the end of Solomon’s life. But now it is our turn. What are we going to do with this advice? If we do not want God to cast us off forever, let us seek the Lord because He is the only one who can protect our minds from all the deviations that exist in the world today, even among those who call themselves Christians.

We are seeing how the devil is ravaging the youth of today, not only outside the Church, but also within. Many times we might think: “That can never happen to me.” We might even feel offended, just like Hazeel was when he declared: *“But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing”* (**2 Kings 8:11-15**).

But the truth is that if the Lord does not deliver us, we will be as *“the dog who returns to his vomit or as the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire”* (**2 Pet. 2:22**). Therefore, let us seek God’s protection by seeking the Lord with all of our heart and by fighting against anything that wants to separate us from Him.

As I write this I am sensing a great responsibility, and I ask your prayers for my family, for the youth of the congregation in Purepero, and for me, so that God will keep us faithful until the end, together with each and every one of you.

Your sister and companion on the journey to Zion,
Ruth Corcoles (daughter of Pastor Alfredo Corcoles, Purepero, Michoacan, Mexico)

Women of God

Shalom, my dear sisters! I greet all of you with joy and with the love of God. I would like to share some verses which can help us pray for our children. I pray that these verses will be a blessing and a help to you.

There comes the moment in our lives that we as parents realize that we cannot control everything that happens in the lives of our children. And it is at that moment we must fall to our knees and seek God’s wisdom, and above all, His help in prayer and fasting. God created your children and He loves them more than you can ever imagine. I would like to share a few thoughts on how we can pray for our children.

1.-We must pray for their salvation (**Luke 2:52, John 10:27**). Our greatest objective as mothers is to help our children form and develop a personal relationship with God.

2.-Pray for their health (**Psa. 103:2-3**). Mothers with healthy children often take this wellbeing for granted, but that is not the case with mothers who have children who are ill, or who receive special medical treatment, particularly for a serious medical condition.

3.-Pray for their friends (**Prov. 12:26**). Having good friends is important for the social and emotional development of our children, since friends can play an important role in influencing the lives of our children. Pray so that influence will always be positive.

4.-Pray for their future (**Jer. 29:11**). Our children grow more rapidly than we think. One day they are in diapers, the next day they are already adolescents, and before we know it they are leaving our home to work, to go to college, or to begin their own family. Begin praying for them now while they are young so that they might be spiritually prepared to face each stage in their lives.

5.-Pray for their character (**Gal. 5:22-23**). Pray (and use all the tools available) that your children will possess integrity, that they will be hardworking, that they will have a good character, that they will be respectful, and that they will demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit.

6.-Pray for their safety (**Prov. 18:10**). Our children are exposed daily to all types of physical, emotional and spiritual risks. Pray

for God’s protection over the lives of your children.

7.-Pray that they might have joy and peace (**Phil. 4:11, 1 Tim. 6:6**). No amount of money or of success can bring happiness to your children if they have not learned to be content in whatever situation they might find themselves in. True joy comes from the perspective we have, more than from the circumstances that surround us.

8.-Pray for their desires concerning eternity (**Jn. 6:27**). It is difficult to make a young child understand that the things of this world are temporal and that we must place our affections and our strength on what is eternal. Pray that the Lord will help you model this way of thinking in your daily life, so that they will understand the concept and live it in their own lives.

9.-Pray for their purity (**Phil. 4:8**). The battle to maintain purity is a battle fought and won in the mind. Pray for God’s guidance and help as you shield your children from influences that they are exposed to daily. Pray that they maintain themselves pure among a world in which purity is “out of style.”

10.-Pray for the person that will become your child’s spouse (**James 5:16**). If you have young children this might sound as something foolish to do, but it is never too soon to pray for the person with whom our child is going to share their life. Pray that God provide the right person in due time and that they might enjoy a healthy marriage, which is based on faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

My prayer is that someday I will see all of my children in the house of the Lord, serving God together with us. I also ask the Lord for all the young people, so that they might remain strong in His ways, providing a positive example to the young children who are following after them.

I love you all in the love of the Lord Jesus, and my desire is that together we may use the Scriptures to pray and fast for our children, so that the Lord will keep them and that they might continue faithfully walking with the Lord. I ask prayers for my family and me. God bless you and keep you.

Sister Anita Garcia
Forest Grove, Oregon



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 baptized 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**).

In conclusion: My beloved 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.”

www.evalverde.com

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**).

I 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**),

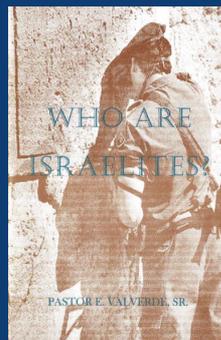
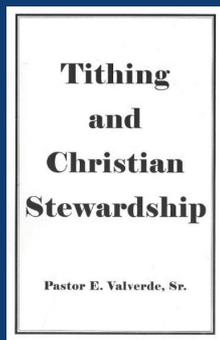
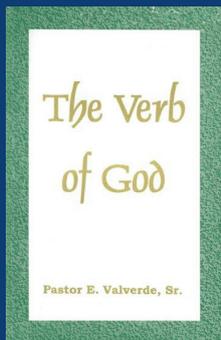
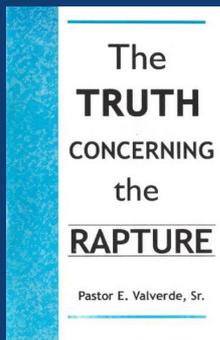
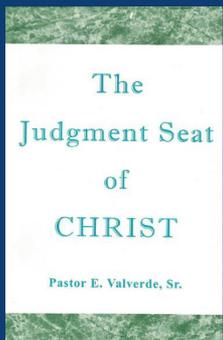
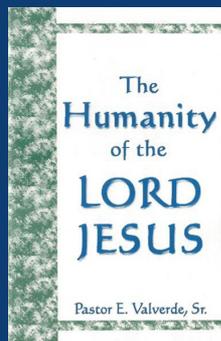
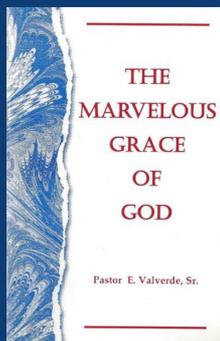
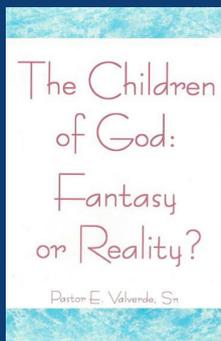
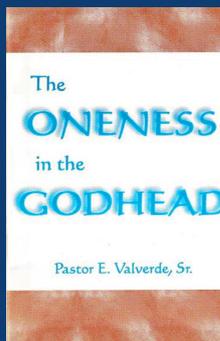
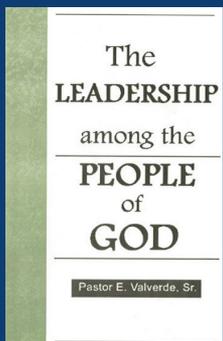
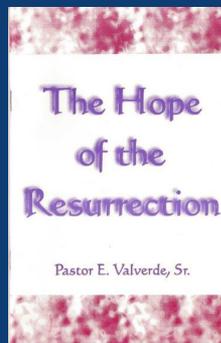
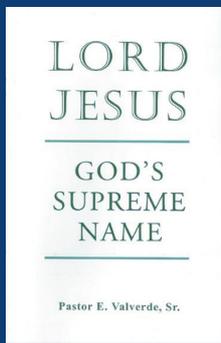
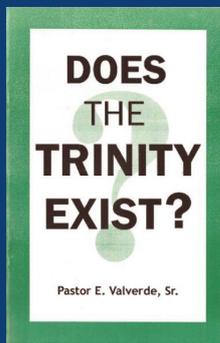
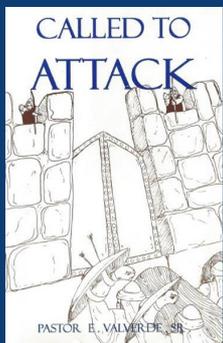
allow the Lord—who now lives within you—to direct you in how you must live, what you must do and what things are not beneficial to you.

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.



FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

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 tongues.

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)

The Church of the LORD is not a religious organization, It is the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27, 2 Tim. 2:19)

TUNE IN TO OUR



Sunday 9:30 am to 11:00 am
12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

www.Evalverde.com



Donations

Radio Vision Proyect & TV Programs Offerings and Tithes
Union Bank
0103142147
Church of Jesus Christ

Please indicate the purpose of Your donation (TV, Radio, Tithes & Offering)

TV Chanel 6

In the City of Ventura, CA
Schedule:
Thursday at 7:30pm
Friday at 4:00pm
Sunday 8:00am
And other days throughout the week

TV Alfa y Omega TV Chanel 44-4

Schedule:
Monday through Friday
9:30am and 8:30pm
Saturday 2:30 to 3:00pm
It covers the following counties:
Los Angeles, South Ventura, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside and Oceanside
www.alfaYomegatv.com

TV Azteca

Schedule:
Monday through Friday 8:00am to 8:30am
It covers King City, CA, Salinas, CA, up to San Jose, CA.

World Radio by Internet

24 Hours

WWW.VDEE.ORG

In this radio station you can hear the preaching of Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. at 12:00am, 3:00am, 6:00am, 9:00am, 12:00noon, 3:00pm, 6:00pm and 9:00pm Pacific Time. You can also hear latest news from Israel and selected music all 7 days of every week. Based in Salinas, California and sponsored by Pastor Efraim Valverde, III and the congregation of Temple Philadelphia in Salinas, CA.