



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 8:18-22
- I John 3:1-3
- II Peter 1:16-21
- Philippians 2:9-11
- Colossians 1:27-28

THE UNVEILING

- The Separation of Sons
- The Restoration of All Things
- The Passover
- Bar-Mitzvah
- From Bondage to Glory

SEED:

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.**" Romans 8:18 NKJV

"For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**" Romans 8:19 NKJV

FRUIT:

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, **that we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall**

be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” I John 3:1-3 NKJV II Colossians 1:27-28

”For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” II Peter 1:16-21 NKJV

”Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV

"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. Him **we preach, warning every man** and teaching every man in all wisdom, **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor**, striving according to His working which works in me mightily." Colossians 1:27-29 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

Last week in [Hand-Picked Orphans](#) (Romans 8:1-17)...

Following his very sobering and humiliating diary entry, chronicling the many difficulties on his path of discovery, which of course culminated with the ultimate solution and resolution, Paul then inserts the quintessential safety net. He knows how men think, and self-condemnation is a disease that can ruin a man. To guard us from falling into that trap, we learn that in Christ there is no condemnation. With repentance, our sins are separated from us as far as east is from west.

Yet still there remains this stipulation; you must choose to be animated by the Holy Spirit and not inspired by your fleshly desires. That does not mean you must live a mistake-free life, but instead that you are obligated to feel horrified by your sin. If you find yourself bathing in deliberate sin, and violation after violation of

God's ways yields no conviction, then you most assuredly are not even in the family of faith. Think of it this way, "God has no difficulty dealing with your sin, as long as you do. If you hate your sin, God will erase your sin. If you don't, He won't! And, if you love your sin long enough, God will eventually turn you over to your own lustful passions and the depravity of your mind will become permanent."

And here we are again with another way of describing the two sets of laws Paul elaborated on in chapter seven. The one to which we are now obligated Paul calls the law of the Spirit of life. His assertion is that this law has set us free from the other, what he now identifies as the law of sin and death.

Then he sets forth a beautiful theological premise. Clearly God's law, that which was codified on Mount Sinai, could never produce righteous subjects. In fact, it was never meant to. Rather, its strength was to define and expose sin. Once plausible deniability was removed, without excuse all of mankind became condemned for sin. God ultimately sent His son in the same type of human flesh as those who had been condemned, and He came as such not to condemn mankind, but to condemn sin itself. You see, in order to be righteous according to the law, there are stringent requirements for obedience. However, an old life exchanged for a life of "Christ in me," a life animated by the Holy Spirit, satisfies all the

requirements of the law because Y'shua fills in every crack with grace. Every shortcoming in the life of he who lives according to the Spirit and is not walking according to the flesh is erased instantly upon repentance.

It is not difficult to detect, so don't make this more complicated than it really is. The heart wants what the heart wants. And know this, in eastern cultures, like the Hebrew one in the Middle East, when the mind is mentioned, it is best understood by the western worldview as the heart. When a man's heart is determined to satisfy his lustful passions, his attitude, priorities, and actions—his entire life puts this on full display. Conversely, when a man is dedicated to a life animated by the Holy Spirit, that too is on full display—no one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket.

In God's economy, these choices are not without consequence. A heart hell-bent on satisfying every sinful passion is just that; destined for hell. Death is imminent and as such, maybe this is the mantra of such a man. "I am going to enjoy every ounce of my lewdness, depravity, and lust right now, because this little vapor of time is all I have. An eternity in the presence of the God of peace is off the table for me." Again the converse is true for the man heaven-bent. The heart filled with and happily submitted to the Holy Spirit enjoys a peace that supersedes logic.

There's one more thing that must be duly noted about the man fixated on his carnal desires. He literally hates God. He will not subject himself to God's rule of law because he literally can't! And as such it is impossible for him to ever be pleasing in God's sight.

Let's get personal. What about you? Are you the type who desires to enjoy every ounce of lewdness, depravity, and lust right now? Of course not. If the Spirit of God dwells in you that is simply not possible. When you were born again, the Holy Spirit took up residence in your heart, which means that if the Spirit is not present, then you are simply not a Christian. And if you are a Christian, then the old you who was infected with sin and death is dead, and the new you is filled with Christ's righteousness, a life empowered by grace, truth and the Holy Spirit!

Let's rewind for a moment and what is most notable here is that you already know the answer. Paul says "if," but you know the Holy Spirit is in you. What you may not realize is all the benefits that come along with it. It's like a new piece of technology or a new car with so many features you never quite learn to access—all the immense capabilities you have at your fingertips, and yet over the useful life of such an asset, you never tap its full potential.

The power of Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the grave is in you! Let's call this resurrection power. It is accessible to you via a supernatural feature called grace. And here's the kicker. It's not

meant simply to secure your eternity. Yes, that's the guarantee; you will literally die one day and resurrect into a permanent-glorified-incorruptible-eternal-immortal body. But wait! There's more! That same resurrection power that dwells in you right now, accessible via God's grace, is also animating your current temporary body, so you can live the most abundant, fruitful, effective and pleasing life in Christ at this very moment—and for every day until your dying breath!

Does this not make you realize the magnitude of debt you ought to feel toward Christ for what He sacrificed? He surrendered His human life for you. But wait! There's more! The greater sacrifice was much earlier, when He surrendered Himself from heaven and became a man—lowered Himself to become a bondservant to humanity. For such you should feel happily obligated to no longer seek to satisfy your past lustful desires.

The chasm is so wide and so deep that you can't see one edge from the other—and the pit is bottomless. Permanent death is imminent for those who have nothing other than this life. It's already been clearly established what that looks like—they live solely for the satisfaction of their carnal lusts and passions. But a life transformed by an encounter with the Holy Spirit murders that old life and embraces a new life, which is both permanent from an

eternal perspective, and becomes glorifying to God, via every thought and action in this life, from this moment forward!

And once again Paul makes a turn, each time seemingly to either introduce or reiterate a critical doctrinal premise. Might you be reminded that Paul is responsible for the majority of established Christian theological beliefs and practices. And although a pandemic of detachment from Paul's Hebrew Roots has propagated the uprising of thousands of denominations over the past twenty centuries, fueled by a combination of ignorance and antisemitism, this narrative aims to restore a connection.

The idea of sonship is not original to Christianity. The concept is paramount for God's chosen people, Israel, and the practice of their given faith. To understand this idea is not just beneficial but essential; on the already born-again side of the coin, understanding sonship is as critical as is how to get saved on the non-believer side of the coin. Only those who are animated by the Holy Spirit are true firstborn sons of God. And when we revisit what that meant for Israel, which is the root of your faith as a Christian, we can recognize that the entirety of God's plan for humanity is to separate sons from sons. God makes the life-defining distinction between three types of sons: firstborn sons of God, firstborn sons not of God, and non-firstborn sons!

Paul ties together what was already clearly elaborated—you gained access to a new Spirit when Christ came into your life, separate and distinct from the human spirit with which you were born. Here, he says that human spirit is actually a spirit of bondage because it has no allegiance to anything other than its sinful passions, nor has it the ability to choose God. It is an orphan spirit!

However, in this passage Paul shares another subtle nuance about the Holy Spirit's character, not formerly mentioned. It is the element of adoption; the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of adoption. That is mesmerizing for a few reasons. It negates the need to be born of a certain bloodline to be considered a firstborn son of God—what a relief! And utterly beautiful is this thought. Adoption is a choice which requires a selection process, and God searched the pool of orphans in which you were swimming and He chose you!

We can close out this section with an exclamatory remark affirming that both spirits are available in us as Christians. The Holy Spirit witnesses to the spirit of man that remains in us. But what it witnesses is yet another mind-altering doctrinal truth-bomb. They just keep coming, and at a pace that might make you feel you just can't catch your breath. Words can hardly express the scale of the spiritual explosion in Paul's premise. And may we not limit the magnitude of measurement to one analogy. It's the kilotons of a nuclear weapon; it's the Richter Scale an earthquake, it's the Saffir-

Simpson Wind Scale of a hurricane, it's the Enhanced Fujita Scale of a tornado, and it's the DART System of a tsunami, all wrapped up into one formula and multiplied to the power of infinity.

It's quite frankly an extinction level event because every human involved puts his old nature up for extinction! How do we measure such a spiritual extinction event? You were not just adopted by God as His son, which makes you an heir to His kingdom; you became a joint heir with Christ. And here is where the immeasurable scale comes in. Your inheritance in God is the exact same inheritance as God's only begotten Son! And that means God considers you exactly like Y'shua—a firstborn son. And that is who you really are! Your born-again encounter served as the legal paperwork for your adoption; human orphans are hand-picked and invited into the family of God. It is the perfect demonstration of God's furious and astonishing love. And, our capacity to love God comes only because He first loved us. Measure that if you can.

A final stipulation is reiterated and we saw the legal details of such earlier. You have to suffer and die with Christ, if you also want the inheritance. Paul has certainly made the case that when you do the cost benefit analysis, there is just no comparison. We will pick it up next time but the transition makes it obvious. "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

This week in Romans 8:18-22... As mind-blowing is the idea of sonship and our firstborn position with Christ that was just introduced, equally as daunting is the presentation that this inheritance comes with a price. To become a child of God was free, while it cost Christ everything. To become a joint-heir with Christ, a partaker in the magnitude of His glory, that is anything but free. Paul previously placed a mandatory stipulation on that level of bequest. He said, "If?" And then the qualifier, "If indeed you suffer with Him."

Here, Paul extols the virtues of such a monumental decision. There is no comparison when you do the cost-benefit analysis. No manner of suffering today could measure the exponential payoff. If mankind could reach the level of the glory of Christ, any level of distress, hardship and pain—even a Job-like measure of torture is worth it. If you place the numbers into a balance sheet, all you need to consider to make the right investment is to add the element of time. In this column, on this side of eternity, the suffering no matter how intense, is finite. In the other column the profit is calculated and that glorious endowment is infinite! When posed with the option, remain just a convert or pay the cost of discipleship, Y'shua also indicated that there was just no comparison. Sure one is free and the other has a price-tag that might include your very life. And yet the decision should be easy,

although dramatic, as if you are comparing your love for God to your love for your immediate family. In human terms, again, it is just not worthy to be compared; it should be as if you hated your family when your love for them is measured against your love for God. And that is what you are required to choose, if the way of the disciple is for you.

And then comes arguably the most prophetic verse in the entire Bible. Most would contend with such a claim, which also then makes this possibly the most misunderstood verse in the Bible. If one-thousand Christians were surveyed and asked to identify the next great event we are looking for on God's prophetic calendar, the vast majority would agree and offer the same answer. And maybe you would as well. "The return of Christ," would utterly dominate the landscape. And yet, it would be utterly incorrect. Here we are taught that all of creation is waiting for something and it is not the return of Christ. Sure, at some point that answer will be correct, Christ's second coming will be next on the calendar, but not yet. You might proffer the thought that creation was still waiting then, in the first century when it was written, but is no longer true now. However, the only way to prove that is if what it asserts has already happened. So, I ask, "If so, when? If so, what did it look like?"

To support the idea that it has not yet occurred, let's consider the state of creation itself. To do so, we must briefly fast-forward a few verses. The perfection of creation was damaged by the sin in the Garden and fell into decay at that moment. It became corrupt, as death and chaos entered. Now look around. Has that been corrected? Does creation seem restored to you? You have your answer. Creation remains in the bondage of corruption even now, and God promises that it will be restored someday, but it seems possible only when the sons of God are revealed. As such, precisely what that means should be of great interest to every child of God.

And let's go there for a moment. It logically follows that the revealing of sons must be a different event than the right to become sons, as the latter happens the moment one becomes a Christian. "As many as received Him and believe in His name, to them He gave the right to become children of God." That is why the return of Christ is not the next event on God's prophetic calendar, and the revealing of sons is! As such, we must know what that means, and define what that will look like. And that is the intention for rest of the narrative on this single verse, and why it just may be the single most prophetic verse in the entire Bible.

We have determined that creation is still eagerly waiting to be delivered from the bondage of corruption, and agree it is a future prophetic event. Now we must introduce three new ideas before

we can move on. In a prophetic sense, the revealing of the sons of God is related to: the restoration of all things, the Passover, and a Bar-Mitzvah.

The Restoration of All Things: The revealing of sons is a prerequisite to the restoration of all things. That is for what creation is eagerly waiting. It's currently in a state of corruption and a restoration would return creation to its garden-like condition, before sin and decay entered the world. Man caused it, and in a very real sense man is required to restore it, which means it must occur before the return of Christ. Probably the best way to introduce this idea is to visit the question asked of Y'shua when He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration, where Peter, James, and John witnessed Y'shua transform into a glorified being, and they were visited by Moses and Elijah. They recognized from their childhood training as Jewish men that there was a necessary prerequisite, before what they previewed up on the mountain could be fulfilled. So, they intelligently asked, "Why do the scribes say Elijah must come first?"

They knew that Elijah would come first, but they did not know why. How did they know? Prophecy said so! "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord—His second coming." But why? The prophecy indicates it is to remind mankind to obey God's laws and restore the

broken family; the restoration of the family is a microcosm and prophetic picture of the restoration of all things. The destruction of the human family depicts the single most egregious sign of a corrupted creation, as the family is the expressed image of God. As long as the restoration of the family remains pending, so too is the restoration of creation delayed because, as such, the curse levied in the Garden, on mankind and creation, is still in full effect.

Y'shua affirms their suspicion about Elijah; "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things." There's the answer; Elijah comes to restore creation before Christ can come again. Yes, you were shown the foreshadow of Elijah already, and they understood that to be John the Baptist because all the prophecy about the final ministry of the coming Elijah was prophesied about John, who would come first in the spirit and power of Elijah to prefigure the final return of Elijah, before Christ's second coming. In the man of John the Baptist, Elijah came first before Christ's first coming as a suffering servant, and Elijah will come first again before Christ returns as the Reigning King. Even today, an empty chair is preserved at every Passover table, awaiting the return of Elijah.

Finally, the need for the restoration to occur prior to the return of Christ is later affirmed by Peter, one of the first-hand witnesses of the events on the Mount of Transfiguration. He describes how Jesus Christ must remain in heaven until the times of the restoration of all

things, which God has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets—the very prophecy from Malachi that prompted the question at the base of the mountain, “Why do the scribes say Elijah must come first?” Now we know, and that is why all of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

The Passover: The revealing of sons is a main component of Passover. Jesus is our Passover Lamb—such is not in doubt by any Christian. It makes perfect sense if you think about it, but really only if you understand Passover completely will you fully appreciate the deepest revelation of that truth. The idea of sonship is not original to Christianity. It was paramount for God’s chosen people, Israel, and the practice of their given faith. When we revisit what it meant for Israel, which is the root of your faith as a Christian, we can recognize that the entirety of God’s plan for humanity is to separate true sons from false sons—firstborn sons, from non-firstborn sons, from those who are not true sons at all... illegitimate sons. So, God makes the life-defining distinction between three types of sons: firstborn sons of God, firstborn sons not of God, and non-firstborn sons! This separation of sons into three groups comes down to us from the depths of the Passover story, as we consider what transpired with the Angel of Death and the death of the firstborn, or might we say “the risk of firstborn.” Firstborns who applied the blood to the doorposts lived and were

separated from firstborns who did not, as they all died. All other sons in the historical event were, in fact, non-first borns, and they were never at risk of dying in the plague. Thus we distinguish three eternal people groups: firstborn sons of God, from firstborn sons not of God, from non-firstborn sons. Unfortunately, Christian tradition has only ever considered two eternal people groups, never identifying the elusive third group as revealed in the Passover story.

Passover is also indicative of the end of one era and the beginning of another. Originally it was the end of Egypt because of the death of every firstborn son. Firstborns are symbolic of propagation for the future—the survival of a nation. Passover was the end of Egypt and the beginning of Israel as a new nation of God's chosen people. Y'shua said it like this in His great dissertation about the end-of-the-age. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." It creates such a beautiful picture. In order for the end to come—the ultimate prophetic Passover, the gospel of the kingdom must have been presented to the whole world—as a witness. Don't be surprised if that witness includes similar events in the earth, the plagues that preceded the first Passover—and the mandate that God insists His people separate from the pagan world. "Let My people Go!" This should stimulate crucial questions; what is the gospel of the kingdom? What is the kingdom of heaven and

what ministry might be responsible for such a gospel message? It seems we have already laid the foundation for such answers. In the end, Elijah comes and sits at the Passover table first, to restore all things—and those who join him will preach the gospel of the kingdom to the whole world, to perfect God's ways and restore the family and thus all of creation—the restoration of all things is at hand. All of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

A Bar-Mitzvah: The revealing of sons is the image of a prophetic Bar-Mitzvah—a coming of age ceremony. It marks the moment of transition from childhood to adulthood. It is the age of accountability without accommodations. A mature son is now responsible for his own actions. Even consider the language used in Christianity to describe the moment of your salvation—you were born-again. It's a picture of infancy and childhood. Childhood is loaded with accommodations; the younger you are the more accommodations there are. No newborn is expected to care, in any way, for themselves and is accountable for zero personal responsibilities; every vulnerability is overlooked with an accommodation. It is perfectly natural for an infant to be one-hundred percent self-focused; "My needs are all that matter!" That is what you became spiritually at your born-again moment. Yet, you are not to remain as such. Just as a human infant grows up and at

each stage of development is expected to become more responsible, you too are instructed to grow up and become a mature adult in the faith—eventually not focusing on yourself at all; “Your needs are all that matter!”

Corporate Christianity must come of age, become a bonafide adult, accountable with no further accommodations—completely transformed away from self-centeredness to, instead, look outward in the service of others. That is what we are seeing here. God the Father is announcing, “May I present to you My mature son, who today is recognized as an adult. Sure when he was born (again), he instantly had all the rights and privileges as My son, but today I am unveiling, announcing publicly for the first time, the mature son for whom I’ve been waiting.” All of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

With all these details floating in your mind, now consider again what is the next major event for which we have eager expectation. In other words, what comes next? It’s one of mankind’s most anticipated events, three of which include: Christ’s first coming; the revealing of the Sons of God; and the return of Christ. Now you know what is next. And is this not the reality casting the shadow of your very walk of faith. What are the three most critical milestones in the life of a man of faith? His adoption into the family of God; his

development into a mature son of God; and then his transformation into the image of Christ.

Creation was not the cause of its own fall; it was not even a guilty accomplice. At worst it was an innocent bystander, which became collateral damage. And yet we learn that in God's economy nothing is wasted. God permitted the whole of creation to become liable for man's error, not because He is unjust, but because He had a plan, a way for mankind to remedy the problem, and that brings hope.

You see, creation will be restored from its fallen state when mankind steps into his glorious freedom. This speaks of human initiative. We were responsible for losing the title deed to the earth and the subsequent contamination of creation, and we are responsible to participate in its restoration. God needs us to do our part because He designed it that way. We cannot do God's part and He won't do our part. We are His human initiative partners. And our duties include the restoration of creation and active participation in establishing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Remember, our Savior and King does not return to establish His kingdom; He remains in heaven until He can return to His kingdom that is already established—and that's our part. All this and we must keep in mind what we already learned a few verses back;

we must be willing to suffer on our way to our glorious transformation.

Finally, we must end with the critical concept we established earlier. In the first century it was clear that creation was still waiting. Today, as you read this statement, it is still groaning and laboring, even at this very moment. And now you know for what it is waiting. All of creation is eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God! The question you should be asking yourself is simple. “Do I want to participate in the process?”

“Think in Bible.” DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:

Making a public presentation of something new or renovated is a common practice. We pull the veil from a new statue; drop the sheet from the rendering of a new building project; lift the cover from the model of a new mall; remove the canvas from a prized piece of art; uncover the blindfolded eyes of an unsuspecting beneficiary of a surprise room makeover; and move that truck hiding a complete home renovation. We celebrate when a project is complete, a job well done. We christen a ship, a public dedication before its maiden voyage. We cut ribbons as we celebrate the inauguration of big new projects, as Shakespeare would say, with

great pomp and circumstance. And yet, this is all about stuff, stuff which is here today and gone tomorrow.

What is of much greater value are the ceremonies that commemorate people and their milestones and accomplishments. Especially important are the rare occasions in life when we get to recognize a right of passage—the few in a lifetime moments when there is a change in status. One such milestone that ought to be immortalized is the transition from childhood to adulthood. It has great significance in the natural and far greater significance in personal matters concerning God. And beyond that, maybe that which is of greatest importance, are matters concerning all of Christendom—the Body of Christ as a whole.

Two significant events in the life of an individual believer best mirror these collective milestones in the Christian faith—one reflects what has already occurred, and the other the prophetic future of Christianity. The first is when one becomes a newborn child of God. That extreme moment is when one passes from death to life and is born-again as a child of God. All who believe and call on His name become adopted children into the family of God—instantly. They become newborn infants in the faith and their journey begins—the journey to adulthood. On a collective level, that was the birth of the Church. And the arrival at adulthood is the second milestone that requires attention. It's that extreme moment in the faith when one

passes from needing childlike accommodations to becoming personally responsible, accountable as a spiritually mature adult Christian. This is a shadow of God's prophetic plan for mankind. All of Christendom will one day leave childhood behind, with its many accommodations, and arrive at adulthood, and that moment is worthy of the greatest of unveilings.

Individually, the right to become a son of God is instant, but the work of preparing to be presented as a spiritually mature adult takes time. Corporately, the unveiling of God's sons is the next big thing on God's calendar—the next hour on His prophetic clock. It will be a moment worth demarcating, a right of passage, a coming of age of God's children, for which all of creation is eagerly waiting. Since the fall of man in the Garden, all of creation has been in steady decay—tainted as an innocent victim. But, when the sons of God are finally revealed, when God's children have finally matured into spiritual adults, the glory of God that will emanate from them will restore everything about creation that was broken and lost in the Garden. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. It's the next big thing on God's prophetic calendar—the next hour on His prophetic clock. Tick—tick—tick—tick...

THE SEPARATION OF SONS

1. Prophetic Dynamite (TNT): The Next Major Event

A. Coming of Age

(1) What will be revealed?

(a) Glory!

1. "For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time** are **not worthy to be compared** with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.**" Romans 8:18 NKJV

2. What will it cost?

a) As mind-blowing is the idea of sonship and our firstborn position with Christ that was just introduced, equally as daunting is the presentation that this inheritance comes with a price.

b) To become a child of God was free, while it cost Christ everything.

c) To become a joint-heir with Christ, a partaker in the magnitude of His glory, that is anything but free.

d) Paul previously placed a mandatory stipulation on that level of bequest. He said, "If?" And then the qualifier, "If indeed you suffer with Him."

1) *"and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer** with*

Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

Romans 8:17 NKJV

e) Here, Paul extols the virtues of such a monumental decision.

- 1) There is no comparison when you do the cost-benefit analysis.
- 2) No manner of suffering today could measure the exponential payoff.
- 3) If mankind could reach the level of the glory of Christ, any level of distress, hardship and pain—even a Job-like measure of torture is worth it.
- 4) *“**Though He slay me,** yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.”* Job 13:15 NKJV

f) If you place the numbers into a balance sheet, all you need to consider to make the right investment is to add the element of time.

- 1) In this column, on this side of eternity, the suffering no matter how intense, is finite.
- 2) In the other column the profit is calculated and that glorious endowment is infinite!

- g) When posed with the option, remain just a convert or pay the cost of discipleship, Y'shua also indicated that there was just no comparison.
- h) One is free and the other has a price-tag that might include your very life.
- i) And yet the decision should be easy, although dramatic, as if you are comparing your love for God to your love for your immediate family.
 - 1) *“If anyone comes to Me and **does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters**, yes, and **his own life** also, he cannot be My disciple.”* Luke 14:26 NKJV
 - 2) In human terms, again, it is just not worthy to be compared; it should be as if you hated your family when your love for them is measured against your love for God.
- j) And that is what you are required to choose, if the way of the disciple is for you.
 - 1) *“And whoever does not **bear his cross** and come after Me **cannot be My disciple**.”* Luke 14:27 NKJV
 - 2) *“So likewise, whoever of you does not **forsake all** that he has **cannot be My disciple**.”* Salt is

*good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? **It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!***”” Luke 14:33-35
NKJV

- 3) If you are not willing to despise your family when your love for them is measured against your love for God; if you are not willing to bear your cross and forsake all—even your own life, then discipleship is not for you!

(2) What Comes Next? Mankind's Most Anticipated Events

(a) Most Anticipated Events in Human History

1. The Birth of Christ (His First Coming)
2. The Revealing of the Sons of God (Passover/Bar Mitzvah)
3. The Return of Christ (His Second Coming)

(b) Most Critical Milestones in a Man's Life

1. His Adoption into the Family of God (Born-Again as a spiritual infant—Freed from Captivity)
2. His Development into a Mature Son of God (Grow-up/Coming of Age/Presented as an Adult—A Time in the Wilderness)

3. His Transformation into the Image of Christ
(Perfection/A Fully Mature Adult—Arrival in the Promised Land)

B. The Next Event on God's Prophetic Calendar

(1) Creation is Waiting

(a) Like Father Like Sons

1. "For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**" Romans 8:19 NKJV
2. Arguably the most prophetic verse in the entire Bible.
 - a) Most would contend with such a claim, which also then makes this possibly the most misunderstood verse in the Bible.
 - b) If one-thousand Christians were surveyed and asked to identify the next great event we are looking for on God's prophetic calendar, the vast majority would agree and offer the same answer. And maybe you would as well.
 - 1) "The return of Christ," would utterly dominate the landscape.
 - 2) And yet, it would be utterly incorrect.
 - c) Here we are taught that all of creation is waiting for something and it is not the return of Christ.

- 1) At some point that answer will be correct, Christ's second coming will be next on the calendar, but not yet.
- d) You might proffer the thought that creation was still waiting then, in the first century when it was written, but is no longer true now.
 - 1) The only way to prove that is if what it asserts has already happened.
 - 2) So, I ask, "If so, when? If so, what did it look like?"
- e) To support the idea that it has not yet occurred, let's consider the state of creation itself.
 - 1) To do so, we must briefly fast-forward a few verses.
 - 2) The perfection of creation was damaged by the sin in the Garden and fell into decay at that moment. It became corrupt, as death and chaos entered.
 - 3) Now look around. Has that been corrected? Does creation seem restored to you? You have your answer.
 - 4) Creation remains in the bondage of corruption even now, and God promises that it will be

restored someday, but it seems possible only when the sons of God are revealed.

- 5) As such, precisely what that means should be of great interest to every child of God.
- f) Let's go there for a moment. It logically follows that the revealing of sons must be a different event than the right to become sons, as the latter happens the moment one becomes a Christian.
 - 1) *"But as many as **received Him**, to them **He gave the right to become children of God**, to those who **believe in His name**: who were **born, not of blood** [birth in the natural], nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God** [the born-again moment]."* John 1:12-13
- g) That is why the return of Christ is not the next event on God's prophetic calendar, and the revealing of sons is!
 - 1) As such, we must know what that means, and define what that will look like.
 - 2) And that is the intention for rest of the narrative on this single verse, and why it just may be the single most prophetic verse in the entire Bible.

- 3) Established: creation is still eagerly waiting to be delivered from the bondage of corruption. It is a future prophetic event.
- h) Now we must introduce three new ideas before we can move on. In a prophetic sense, the revealing of the sons of God is related to:
 - 1) The restoration of all things
 - 2) The Passover
 - 3) A Bar-Mitzvah.

C. Three Critical Components of the Revealing of Sons

- (1) The Restoration of All Things
 - (a) This is for what creation is eagerly waiting.
 - 1. The revealing of sons is a prerequisite to the restoration of all things.
 - a) It's currently in a state of corruption and a restoration would return creation to its garden-like condition, before sin and decay entered the world.
 - b) Man caused it and man is required to restore it, which means it must occur before the return of Christ.
 - 2. Probably the best way to introduce this idea is to visit the question asked of Y'shua when He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration.

a) Peter, James, and John witnessed Y'shua transform into a glorified being, and they were visited by Moses and Elijah.

1) *"Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and **He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.** And behold, **Moses and Elijah appeared** to them, talking with Him. Then **Peter** answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly **a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"** And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. **Now as they came down from the***

mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”” Matthew 17:1-9 NKJV

b) Critical components of this event:

- 1) Y’shua’s transformation into a glorified being of light (a picture of His and our future glorified body).
- 2) The prophetic reason why both Moses and Elijah appear. (See Malachi 4; Hebrews 3:5)
- 3) The voice from heaven with the same affirmation as at Y’shua’s baptism. (See Matthew 3:17)
- 4) When they came down from the mountain, Y’shua commanded them to not mention the miraculous revelation they just witnessed until AFTER His death, burial, and resurrection. (Precisely what Peter did in II Peter)
- 5) *“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you **the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ [what they had witnessed is a preview of what He would look like at His SECOND COMING], but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received***

*from God the Father honor and glory when **such a voice came** to Him from the Excellent Glory:
“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.” II Peter 1:16-18*

- c) They recognized from their childhood training as Jewish men that there was a necessary prerequisite, before what they just previewed up on the mountain could be fulfilled. So, they intelligently sought clarification when they came down from the mountain...
 - 1) *“And His disciples asked Him, saying, “**Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**” Matthew 17:10 NKJV*
- d) They knew that Elijah would come first, but they did not know why? How did they know? Prophecy said so!
 - 1) *““**Remember the Law of Moses**, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet Before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And*

he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”” Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

2) ””***Moses*** *was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future.*” Hebrews 3:5 NIV

3) This is why both Moses and Elijah had appeared on the mountain. The disciples needed to recognize that this event was connected to the prophecy in Malachi. This is what promoted their question about Elijah.

e) He will send you Elijah the prophet before the second coming of the Lord. But why?

1) The prophecy reminds mankind to obey God’s laws and restore the broken family.

2) The restoration of the family is a microcosm and prophetic picture of the restoration of all things.

3) The destruction of the human family depicts the single most egregious sign of a corrupted creation, as the family is the expressed image of God, as we learned from the creation narrative.

4) *"Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion...**" So God created man in His own image; **in the image of God He created him**; **male and female He created them**. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion... on the earth.**"*" Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

- a. See: [In the Image of God](#) for a detailed exposition on this topic.
- b. Notice: Adam was created and called "them" as Eve was already inside of him.
- c. Later Eve is extracted from him and presented to him for marriage, so the two can remain as one, even though they appear now to be separate. (Genesis 2:20-25)
- d. Notice: Man was given dominion over the earth, and that is important to acknowledge because man is the one who caused the loss of dominion in the earth (lost the title deed to the earth to Satan), and man is the one that must regain it in the **Restoration of all Things**.

- e. Jesus never refutes that the Devil had possession (dominion) of the earth: *"Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and **showed Him all the kingdoms of the world** and their glory. And he said to Him, "All **these things I will give You** if You will fall down and worship me."* Matthew 4:8-9 NKJV
- 5) As long as the restoration of the family remains pending, so too is the restoration of creation delayed because, as such, the curse levied on mankind and creation in the Garden is still in full effect.
 - a. *"And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, ***Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**"* Malachi 4:6 NKJV
 - b. **Lest the curse from the fall in the Garden remain!*
- f) Y'shua affirms their suspicion about Elijah.
 - 1) *"Jesus answered and said to them, "**Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that **Elijah has come** already,*

*and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” **Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.***” Matthew 17:11-13 NKJV

- 2) “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.”
- 3) There’s the answer; Elijah comes to restore creation before Christ can come again.
- 4) It is mankind’s ministry that must claim back the title deed to the earth!
- 5) Y’shua remains in waiting until we do our job as Peter affirms with his reference to Malachi 4...
 - a. *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord [**His first coming**], and that He may send Jesus Christ [**His second coming**], who was preached to you before [**His first coming**], whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy*

prophets since the world began.” Acts
3:19-21 NKJV

6) If you ignore the prophecy—the curse over creation will remain in place!

a. *“For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. ***And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed** from among the people.’”* Acts 3:22-23 NKJV

b. **“And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, ***Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**”* Malachi 4:6

3. Elijah and the prophecy about John the Baptist

a) You were shown the foreshadow of Elijah already, and they understood that to be John the Baptist because all the prophecy about the final ministry of the coming Elijah was prophesied about John, who would come first in the spirit and power of Elijah to prefigure the final Elijah.

- 1) *"But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and **you shall call his name John.** And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.** He will also go before Him **in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**"* Luke 1:13-17 NKJV
- 2) *"So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. His mother answered and said, "No; **he shall be called John.**"* Luke 1:59-60 NKJV
- 3) *"In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; **For you will***

*go **before** the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,” Luke 1:75-76 NKJV*

4) *“So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and **was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.**” Luke 1:80 NKJV*

5) *“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying,
“*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah [Isaiah 40:3], saying: “**The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’**”
“ Matthew 3:1-3 NKJV*

6) *“The voice of one **crying in the wilderness:**
“**Prepare the way of the Lord;** Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.” Isaiah 40:3 NKJV*

7) **Special Notice! The Hebrew idea of repentance is to return to the Lord and as such you will have turned away from sin! To return to the Lord and away from sin (lawlessness, I John 3:4), you must remember God’s commands, which is precisely what the prophecy in Malachi says,*

and is why Moses appeared alongside Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. *“Remember the Law of Moses...”* (Malachi 4:4) *“Moses... bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future.”* (Hebrews 3:5)

- b) In the man of John the Baptist, Elijah came first before Christ’s first coming as a suffering servant, and Elijah will come first again before Christ returns as the Reigning King.
 - c) Even today, an empty chair is preserved at every Passover table, awaiting the return of Elijah.
4. As we just read, the need for the restoration to occur prior to the return of Christ was later affirmed by Peter in Acts 3, one of the first-hand witnesses of the events on the Mount of Transfiguration.
- a) He described how Jesus Christ must remain in heaven until the times of the restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets—the very prophecy from Malachi that prompted the question at the base of the mountain, “Why do the scribes say Elijah must come first?”

- b) Now we know why all of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.
- c) And Peter was faithful to the command... “Don’t say anything until My death, burial, and resurrection!”
 - 1) *“Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, **“Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”**”* Matthew 17:9 NKJV
- d) Peter tells all **AFTER...**
 - 1) *“For **we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, but were **eyewitnesses of His majesty**. For **He received from God the Father honor and glory** when such **a voice came** to Him from the Excellent Glory: **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”** And **we heard this voice** which came from heaven **when we were with Him on the holy mountain**. And so **we have the prophetic word confirmed**, which **you do well to heed** as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in*

*your hearts; **knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation**, for prophecy never came by the will of man, **but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***“ II Peter 1:16-21 NKJV

e) So much here!!!

- 1) Peter is speaking from an eyewitness experience and authority when he shares the message about Christ's second coming and what the glorified body looks like.
- 2) Peter connects the dots by relating what he heard, the same voice that affirmed John's ministry as he baptized Christ.
- 3) The prophetic word from Malachi is confirmed and we must heed the warning or the curse will remain!
- 4) A light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises: *"But to you who fear My name **The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings...**"*

Malachi 4:2 NKJV

- 5) This is not a private interpretation—it was specifically revealed on the mountain and there were three witness (Peter, James, John).

(2) The Passover

- (a) The revealing of sons is a main component of Passover.

1. Jesus is our Passover Lamb—such is not in doubt by any Christian.

- a) It makes perfect sense if you think about it, but really only if you understand Passover completely will you fully appreciate the deepest revelation of that truth.

- b) The idea of sonship is not original to Christianity. It was paramount for God's chosen people, Israel, and the practice of their given faith.

- 1) When we revisit what it meant for Israel, which is the root of your faith as a Christian, we can recognize that the entirety of God's plan for humanity is to separate true sons from false sons: firstborn sons, from non-firstborn sons, from those who are not true sons at all... illegitimate sons.

- c) God makes the life-defining distinction between three types of sons:

- 1) Firstborn sons of God
 - 2) Firstborn sons not of God
 - 3) Non-firstborn sons
- d) This separation of sons into three groups comes down to us from the depths of the Passover story, as we consider what transpired with the Angel of Death and the death of the firstborn, or might we say “the risk of firstborn.”
- 1) Firstborns who applied the blood to the doorposts lived. They were separated from...
 - 2) Firstborns who did not apply the blood to the doorpost—they all died.
 - 3) All other sons were, in fact, non-first borns. They were never at risk of dying in the plague.
- e) Thus we distinguish three eternal people groups:
- 1) Unfortunately, Christian tradition has only ever considered two eternal people groups, never identifying the elusive third group as revealed in the Passover story.
 - 2) See the full Passover Teaching for greater details: [Who are Legitimate Sons?](#)
 - 3) See **Section D** below for Scripture References and other important details regarding Firstborns.

- f) It's curious that it has been missed considering Paul seems to have made it perfectly clear—eternity is divided among three peoples groups, not two!
- 1) *"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of **those in heaven**, and of **those on earth**, and of **those under the earth**, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*
Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV
- 2) *"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. **But there shall by no means enter it anything that***

defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation 21:22-27 NKJV

3) *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was **the tree of life**, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**"* Revelation 22:1-2 NKJV

g) Three peoples groups, not two!

- 1) Those in Heaven: Firstborns who applied the blood (Faith + Blood)
- 2) Those on earth: Non-firstborn sons. They were never at risk of dying, but did have faith to leave Egypt. (Faith + No Blood)
- 3) Those under the earth: Firstborns who did not apply the blood to the doorpost—they all died. (No Faith + No Blood)
- 4) If you track the narrative in revelation you will see that there are people outside the gates of the city who cannot enter. Only those written **the**

Lamb's Book of Life (immortal glorified humans) can enter (Rev. 21:27). That would be you (Christians—those in Heaven who received a glorified body like Y'shua's in the resurrection). Those outside the city (mortal humans) cannot enter (non Christians—those on earth). But, they must eat from tree of life to stay alive (presumably the leaves are delivered to them as a ministry by those who can enter the city). And yet, at least those on earth (mortal humans) have not been cast into the lake of fire in the second death (those under the earth; Rev. 21:8).

- 5) Again, can you recognize three eternal people groups—not two?
2. Passover is also indicative of the end of one era and the beginning of another.
 - a) Originally it was the end of Egypt because of the death of every firstborn son.
 - 1) Firstborns are symbolic of propagation for the future—the survival of a nation.
 - 2) Passover was the end of Egypt and the beginning of Israel as a new nation of God's chosen people.

b) Y'shua said it like this in His great dissertation about the end-of-the-age.

- 1) “And ***this gospel of the kingdom will be preached*** in all the world as a witness to all the nations, ***and then the end*** will come.” Matthew 24:14 NKJV
- 2) In order for the end to come—the ultimate prophetic Passover, the gospel of the kingdom must have been presented to the whole world—as a witness.
- 3) Don't be surprised if that witness includes similar events in the earth, the plagues that preceded the first Passover—and the mandate that God insists His people separate from the pagan world. “Let My people Go!”
- 4) The gospel of the kingdom serves as the distinguishing testimony of the true, mature, and prepared Church.

c) This should stimulate crucial questions:

- 1) What is the gospel of the kingdom?
- 2) What is the end?
- 3) What ministry might be responsible for such a gospel message?

- d) It seems we have already laid the foundation for such answers.
 - 1) In the end, Elijah comes and sits at the Passover table first, to restore all things—and those who join him will preach the gospel of the kingdom to the whole world, to perfect God’s ways and restore the family and thus all of creation—the restoration of all things is at hand.
 - 2) All of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.
 - 3) Again See: [Who are Legitimate Sons?](#)
- 3. What is the gospel of the kingdom?
 - a) It is not the gospel of salvation—the born-again gospel.
 - 1) *“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ and Him crucified.**”* 1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJV
 - 2) *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but **have everlasting life.**”* John 3:16 NKJV
 - 3) *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has*

*raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved.***

*[13] For “**whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**”” Romans 10:9, 13 NKJV*

b) It is what comes after the gospel of salvation—the gospel of discipleship.

1) *“But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory**,” I Corinthians 2:7 NKJV*

2) *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.** [21]*

*because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into **the glorious liberty of the children of God.**”*

Romans 8:18, 21 NKJV

3) Is it the adult mystery solving gospel that follows the new-born gospel and it's focus is on the kingdom of heaven!

4) It's the gospel of becoming like Christ!

a. *“Him **we preach, warning** every man and **teaching** every man in all wisdom, that we may **present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**” Colossians 1:28 NKJV*

c) What is the Kingdom?

- 1) The kingdom is the full manifestation of God in man—Y'shua had the kingdom within.
- 2) *"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"* Matthew 4:17 NKJV
- 3) This was also this message of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:1 as he connected the events of Y'shua's baptism (as he served in the Spirit of Elijah; Luke 1:13-17) to the prophecy in Malachi 4 (remember the laws of Moses; behold I send you Elijah), to the events on the Mount of Transfiguration (still to come in Matthew 17).

d) The kingdom is supposed to manifest in you!

- 1) *"...**The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.**"* Luke 17:20-21 NKJV
- 2) *"...But we have **the mind of Christ.**"* I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV
- 3) *"...Christ in you, **the hope of glory.**"* Colossians 1:27 NKJV

4. What is the end?

- a) It is not the second coming of Christ—when the Master returns—that comes later.
- b) It's not the Rapture—that happens when the master returns.
- c) It is the end of childhood and the beginning of adulthood. It's when a child of God becomes an adult of God—recognized as a son!
- d) In Judaism it's the Bar Mitzvah, when the “son” becomes a “man.” (See the next section)
- e) It requires a Passover because Passover is what identifies God's true Firstborn sons.
- f) Passover separates true Firstborns from false Firstborns from Non-firstborns.
- g) So, when the mature gospel of becoming like Christ is preached (by witness not just words) to the whole world, then the final Passover can come!

(3) The Mature Gospel

- (a) Him we preach... “...Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
Colossians 1:27 NKJV

- 1. “Him **we preach**, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may **present every man perfect** in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:28 NKJV

- a) We preach Christ in you—the born again experience (Evangelism: the Gospel of Salvation)
 - b) We preach the hope of glory—becoming like Christ (Discipleship: the Gospel of the Kingdom)
- (b) The hope of glory...What about the hope of glory do we preach?
1. We warn every man... you cannot stay the same. You cannot say you are a Christian and live like a Gentile!
 2. We teach every man... you must move past your born again experience and move on in discipleship, inching ever closer to the image of Christ!
 - a) *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. **For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**"*
Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV
 - b) *"Therefore, **leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to***

perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.”

Hebrews 6:1-3 NKJV

- c) “But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are **being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II

Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

3. To what end? That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus! We can’t stop at redemption—we must move on to perfection.

- a) “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, **that we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that ***when He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is. **And everyone who has this**

hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” I

John 3:1-3 NKJV

1) We all become children of God through Christ —instantly at our born again moment. *“as many as received Him, to them **He gave the right to become children of God**, to those who believe in His name:”* John 1:12 NKJV

2) But that is not the same as **“**we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him.**”*

4. Connect the dots!

1) *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared **with the glory which shall be revealed in us**. For the earnest expectation of the creation **eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**”* Romans 8:18-19 NKJV

2) This revealing of the Sons is a future prophetic moment, a Bar-Mitzvah, at the final Passover, when the full glory of God is revealed in mankind.

3) Then the Kingdom of Heaven, the fullness of God will manifest in man!

(4) A Bar-Mitzvah

- (a) The Unveiling of Sons: announced publicly for the first time
 - 1. Coming of Age—The son's we've all been waiting for
 - a) The revealing of sons is the image of a prophetic Bar-Mitzvah—a coming of age ceremony.
 - 1) It marks the moment of transition from childhood to adulthood.
 - 2) It is the age of accountability without accommodations.
 - 3) A mature son is now responsible for his own actions.
 - b) Even consider the language used in Christianity to describe the moment of your salvation—you were born-again.
 - 1) It's a picture of infancy and childhood.
 - 2) Childhood is loaded with accommodations; the younger you are the more accommodations there are.
 - 3) No newborn is expected to care in any way for themselves and is accountable for zero personal responsibilities—every vulnerability is overlooked with an accommodation.

- 4) It is perfectly natural for an infant to be one-hundred percent self-focused; “My needs are all that matter!” That is what you became spiritually at your born-again moment.
- c) Yet, you are not to remain as such. Just as a human infant grows up and at each stage of development is expected to become more responsible, you too are instructed to grow up and become a mature adult in the faith—eventually not focusing on yourself at all; “Your needs are all that matter!”
- 1) *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith** and of the **knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**; that we should **no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in*

love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-15 NKJV

2) *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself.** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, **but also for the interests of others.**” Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV*

3) Corporate Christianity must come of age, become a bonafide adult, accountable with no further accommodations—completely transformed away from self-centeredness to, instead, look outward in the service of others.

d) That is what we are seeing here with the “revealing of the sons of God.”

1) God the Father is announcing, “May I present to you My mature son, who today is recognized as an adult.

2) Sure when he was born (again), he instantly had all the rights and privileges as My son, but today I am unveiling, announcing publicly for the first time, the mature son for whom I’ve been waiting.”

e) All of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

(5) With all these details floating in your mind, now consider again what is the next major event for which we have eager expectation.

(a) In other words, what comes next?

1. It's one of mankind's three most anticipated events which include:

a) Christ's first coming! **Done!**

b) The revealing of the Sons of God! **Next!**

c) The return of Christ! **After!**

d) Now you know what is next. This is the reality that casts the shadow over your very walk of faith.

2. What are the three most critical milestones in the life of a man of faith?

a) His **adoption** into the **family** of God!

b) His **development** into a **mature** son of God!

c) His **transformation** into the **image** of Christ!

D. Revealing Legitimate Sons (scripture references)

(1) Distinguishing Firstborns (The Separation of Firstborns)

(a) Firstborn warning! The LAST warning! True firstborns are revealed with a death (Sons of God revealed, Romans 8)

1. *“And the LORD said to Moses, **“I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt.** Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether. Exodus 11:1 NKJV*
2. *Then Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and **all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die,** from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals.’” Exodus 11:4-5 NKJV*
3. *“But **against none of the children of Israel** shall a dog move its tongue [**as long as they apply the blood**], against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.’” Exodus 11:7 NKJV*
4. *“For the LORD will pass through to **strike the Egyptians;** and **when He sees the blood on the lintel** and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and **not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.**” Exodus 12:23 NKJV*

- a. Israel will not be affected (but later we see there is a stipulation for this— you must do something!

(b) Death of the Firstborns

1. *“For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will **strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt**, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.*
Exodus 12:12 NKJV
2. *“And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD **struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt**, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for **there was not a house where there was not one dead.**”* Exodus 12:29-30 NKJV

(c) Survival of the Firstborns

1. *Now the **blood shall be a sign for you** on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and **the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.**”* Exodus 12:13 NKJV

2. *"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
"Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens
the womb among the children of Israel, both of man
and beast; it is Mine.""* Exodus 13:1-2 NKJV

(d) Y'shua as the Firstborn

1. *"For God so loved the world that He gave **His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."*
John 3:16-17 NKJV
2. *"He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn over all creation**. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."* Colossians 1:15-16 NKJV
3. *"And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**, that in all things He may have the preeminence."* Colossians 1:18 NKJV
4. *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be*

the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:29
NKJV

5. *“He shall cry to Me, ‘You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.’ Also I will make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.”*
Psalms 89:26-27 NKJV

6. *“and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, **the firstborn from the dead**, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,”* Revelation 1:5
NKJV

(e) The Church of the Firstborn: all Christian become firstborns with their inheritance!

1. *“For you have not **come to the mountain** that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) **But***

you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” Hebrews 12:18-24 NKJV

2. *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren.**” Romans 8:29 NKJV*
3. *JOINT HEIRS: “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,** if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” Romans 8:16-17 NKJV*
4. *“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**” Ephesians 4:13 NKJV*

E. Firstborns vs. Non-firstborns

(1) A mixed multitude left Egypt with Israel.

(a) The Story of Two Firstborns

1. **True Firstborns who applied the blood**—Had faith to believe and applied the blood of the lamb:

a) faith + blood = temporal salvation with eternal redemption

2. **False Firstborns who did not apply the blood died**—had no faith to believe and did not apply the blood of the lamb:

a) no faith + no blood = neither temporal nor eternal redemption

(b) I was never at immediate risk in Egypt because I am not a firstborn; what about me?

1. **Non-firstborns who came out of Egypt with Israel**—they had the faith to believe whose side had the real God, but they did not require the blood of the lamb to avoid immediate death:

a) faith + no blood = temporal salvation without eternal redemption

2. **Non-firstborns who stayed in Egypt**—they did not have the faith to believe whose side had the real God, and they also did not require the blood of the

lamb to avoid immediate death, but they would eventually die in Egypt:

- a) no faith + no blood = neither temporal nor eternal redemption

F. Separating Sons from Sons

(1) The Revealing of Sons: Do you now recognize that the separating of sons (revealing true sons) is Passover Language?

- (a) *“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits **for the revealing of the sons of God.**”* Romans 8:19 NKJV
- (b) **The plague shall not be on you...** *Now the **blood shall be a sign for you** on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and **the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.**”* Exodus 12:13 NKJV
- (c) **Consecrate to Me all the firstborn...** *“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **“Consecrate to Me all the firstborn,** whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine.””* Exodus 13:1-2 NKJV
- (d) *“If you endure chastening, **God deals with you as with sons;** for what son is there whom a father does not*

*chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, **then you are illegitimate and not sons.***" Hebrews 12:7-8 NKJV

FROM BONDAGE TO GLORY

2. Glorious Liberty

A. The Innocent Victim

- (1) Creation was not the cause of its own fall!
 - (a) Creation was not even a guilty accomplice.
 1. "For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;" Romans 8:20 NKJV
 2. Creation an innocent bystander which became collateral damage.
 - a) And yet, in God's economy nothing is wasted.
 - b) God permitted the whole of creation to become liable for man's error, not because He is unjust, but because He had a plan, a way for mankind to remedy the problem and that brings hope.
 - c) How? The Revealing of the Sons of God!

B. Delivered from Bondage

- (1) Human Initiative

- (a) Creation will be restored from its fallen state when mankind steps into his glorious freedom.
 - 1. "because the **creation** itself **also** will be **delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**" Romans 8:21 NKJV
 - 2. We are God's human initiative partners.
 - a) We were responsible for losing the title deed to the earth and the subsequent contamination of creation, and we are responsible to participate in its restoration.
 - 1) God needs us to do our part because He designed it that way.
 - 2) We cannot do God's part and He won't do our part.
 - b) Human Initiative Partner Duties include:
 - 1) The restoration of creation.
 - 2) Active participation in establishing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.
 - 3) How? The Revealing of the Sons of God!
 - c) Our Savior and King does not return to establish His kingdom; He remains in heaven until He can return to His kingdom that is already established—

and that's our part. How? The Revealing of the Sons of God!

- 1) *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and** that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, **whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."*

Acts 3:19-21 NKJV

- 2) First we have our encounter with the Lord (anytime after His first coming).
- 3) He died, was buried, resurrected, and ascended!
- 4) Then it's time for the Lord to return, but He will wait until... the times of the restoration of all things.
- 5) How? The Revealing of the Sons of God!
- d) All this and we must be willing to suffer on our way to our glorious transformation.

C. Still Waiting

- (1) Creation is not yet restored!

- (a) At this present moment....
 - 1. "For we know that **the whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together **until now.**" Romans 8:22 NKJV
 - 2. A critical concept we established earlier.
 - a) In the first century it was clear that creation was still waiting.
 - b) Today, as you read this statement, it is still groaning and laboring even now.
 - c) And now you know for what it is waiting.
 - d) All of creation is eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God!
 - e) The question you should be asking yourself is simple. Do you want to participate in the process?

Summary: THE SEPARATION OF SONS

1. Prophetic Dynamite (TNT): The Next Major Event

A. Coming of Age

- (1) What will be revealed?
 - (a) Glory!
 - 1. What will it cost?
 - a) As mind-blowing is the idea of sonship and our firstborn position with Christ that was just

introduced, equally as daunting is the presentation that this inheritance comes with a price.

- b) To become a child of God was free, while it cost Christ everything.
- c) To become a joint-heir with Christ, a partaker in the magnitude of His glory, that is anything but free.
- d) Paul previously placed a mandatory stipulation on that level of bequest. He said, "If?" And then the qualifier, "If indeed you suffer with Him."
- e) Here, Paul extols the virtues of such a monumental decision.
 - 1) There is no comparison when you do the cost-benefit analysis.
 - 2) No manner of suffering today could measure the exponential payoff.
 - 3) If mankind could reach the level of the glory of Christ, any level of distress, hardship and pain—even a Job-like measure of torture is worth it.
- f) If you place the numbers into a balance sheet, all you need to consider to make the right investment is to add the element of time.

- 1) In this column, on this side of eternity, the suffering no matter how intense, is finite.
 - 2) In the other column the profit is calculated and that glorious endowment is infinite!
- g) When posed with the option, remain just a convert or pay the cost of discipleship, Y'shua also indicated that there was just no comparison.
- h) One is free and the other has a price-tag that might include your very life.
- i) And yet the decision should be easy, although dramatic, as if you are comparing your love for God to your love for your immediate family.
- 1) In human terms, again, it is just not worthy to be compared; it should be as if you hated your family when your love for them is measured against your love for God.
- j) And that is what you are required to choose, if the way of the disciple is for you.
- 1) If you are not willing to despise you family when your love for them is measured against your love for God; if you are not willing to bear your cross and forsake all—even your own life, then discipleship is not for you!

(2) What Comes Next? Mankind's Most Anticipated Events

(a) Most Anticipated Events in Human History

1. The Birth of Christ (His First Coming)
2. The Revealing of the Sons of God (Passover/Bar Mitzvah)
3. The Return of Christ (His Second Coming)

(b) Most Critical Milestones in a Man's Life

1. His Adoption into the Family of God (Born-Again as a spiritual infant—Freed from Captivity)
2. His Development into a Mature Son of God (Grow-up/Coming of Age/Presented as an Adult—A Time in the Wilderness)
3. His Transformation into the Image of Christ (Perfection/A Fully Mature Adult—Arrival in the Promised Land)

B. The Next Event on God's Prophetic Calendar

(1) Creation is Waiting

(a) Like Father Like Sons

1. Arguably the most prophetic verse in the entire Bible.
 - a) Most would contend with such a claim, which also then makes this possibly the most misunderstood verse in the Bible.

- b) If one-thousand Christians were surveyed and asked to identify the next great event we are looking for on God's prophetic calendar, the vast majority would agree and offer the same answer. And maybe you would as well.
 - 1) "The return of Christ," would utterly dominate the landscape.
 - 2) And yet, it would be utterly incorrect.
- c) Here we are taught that all of creation is waiting for something and it is not the return of Christ.
 - 1) At some point that answer will be correct, Christ's second coming will be next on the calendar, but not yet.
- d) You might proffer the thought that creation was still waiting then, in the first century when it was written, but is no longer true now.
 - 1) The only way to prove that is if what it asserts has already happened.
 - 2) So, I ask, "If so, when? If so, what did it look like?"
- e) To support the idea that it has not yet occurred, let's consider the state of creation itself.

- 1) To do so, we must briefly fast-forward a few verses.
- 2) The perfection of creation was damaged by the sin in the Garden and fell into decay at that moment. It became corrupt, as death and chaos entered.
- 3) Now look around. Has that been corrected? Does creation seem restored to you? You have your answer.
- 4) Creation remains in the bondage of corruption even now, and God promises that it will be restored someday, but it seems possible only when the sons of God are revealed.
- 5) As such, precisely what that means should be of great interest to every child of God.
- f) Let's go there for a moment. It logically follows that the revealing of sons must be a different event than the right to become sons, as the latter happens the moment one becomes a Christian.
- g) That is why the return of Christ is not the next event on God's prophetic calendar, and the revealing of sons is!

- 1) As such, we must know what that means, and define what that will look like.
 - 2) And that is the intention for rest of the narrative on this single verse, and why it just may be the single most prophetic verse in the entire Bible.
 - 3) Established: creation is still eagerly waiting to be delivered from the bondage of corruption. It is a future prophetic event.
- h) Now we must introduce three new ideas before we can move on. In a prophetic sense, the revealing of the sons of God is related to:
- 1) The restoration of all things
 - 2) The Passover
 - 3) A Bar-Mitzvah.

C. Three Critical Components of the Revealing of Sons

- (1) The Restoration of All Things
 - (a) This is for what creation is eagerly waiting.
 1. The revealing of sons is a prerequisite to the restoration of all things.
 - a) It's currently in a state of corruption and a restoration would return creation to its garden-like condition, before sin and decay entered the world.

- b) Man caused it and man is required to restore it, which means it must occur before the return of Christ.
2. Probably the best way to introduce this idea is to visit the question asked of Y'shua when He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration.
- a) Peter, James, and John witnessed Y'shua transform into a glorified being, and they were visited by Moses and Elijah.
 - b) Critical components of this event:
 - 1) Y'shua's transformation into a glorified being of light (a picture of His and our future glorified body).
 - 2) The prophetic reason why both Moses and Elijah appear. (See Malachi 4; Hebrews 3:5)
 - 3) The voice from heaven with the same affirmation as at Y'shua's baptism. (See Matthew 3:17)
 - 4) When they came down from the mountain, Y'shua commanded them to not mention the miraculous revelation they just witnessed until AFTER His death, burial, and resurrection. (Precisely what Peter did in II Peter)

- c) They recognized from their childhood training as Jewish men that there was a necessary prerequisite, before what they just previewed up on the mountain could be fulfilled. So, they intelligently sought clarification when they came down from the mountain...
- d) They knew that Elijah would come first, but they did not know why? How did they know? Prophecy said so!
 - 1) This is why both Moses and Elijah had appeared on the mountain. The disciples needed to recognize that this event was connected to the prophecy in Malachi. This is what promoted their question about Elijah.
- e) He will send you Elijah the prophet before the second coming of the Lord. But why?
 - 1) The prophecy reminds mankind to obey God's laws and restore the broken family.
 - 2) The restoration of the family is a microcosm and prophetic picture of the restoration of all things.
 - 3) The destruction of the human family depicts the single most egregious sign of a corrupted

creation, as the family is the expressed image of God, as we learned from the creation narrative.

- a. See: [In the Image of God](#) for a detailed exposition on this topic.
 - b. Notice: Adam was created and called “them” as Eve was already inside of him.
 - c. Later Eve is extracted from him and presented to him for marriage, so the two can remain as one, even though they appear now to be separate. (Genesis 2:20-25)
 - d. Notice: Man was given dominion over the earth, and that is important to acknowledge because man is the one who caused the loss of dominion in the earth (lost the title deed to the earth to Satan), and man is the one that must regain it in the **Restoration of all Things**.
 - e. Jesus never refutes that the Devil had possession (dominion) of the earth.
- 4) As long as the restoration of the family remains pending, so too is the restoration of creation delayed because, as such, the curse levied on mankind and creation in the Garden is still in full effect.

- a. *Lest the curse from the fall in the Garden remain!
- f) Y'shua affirms their suspicion about Elijah.
 - 1) "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things."
 - 2) There's the answer; Elijah comes to restore creation before Christ can come again.
 - 3) It is mankind's ministry that must claim back the title deed to the earth!
 - 4) Y'shua remains in waiting until we do our job as Peter affirms with his reference to Malachi 4...
 - 5) If you ignore the prophecy—the curse over creation will remain in place!
- 3. Elijah and the prophesy about John the Baptist
 - a) You were shown the foreshadow of Elijah already, and they understood that to be John the Baptist because all the prophecy about the final ministry of the coming Elijah was prophesied about John, who would come first in the spirit and power of Elijah to prefigure the final Elijah.
 - 1) *Special Notice! The Hebrew idea of repentance is to return to the Lord and as such you will have turned away from sin! To return to the Lord

and away from sin (lawlessness, 1 John 3:4), you must remember God's commands, which is precisely what the prophecy in Malachi says, and is why Moses appeared alongside Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. *"Remember the Law of Moses..."* (Malachi 4:4) *"Moses... bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future."* (Hebrews 3:5)

- b) In the man of John the Baptist, Elijah came first before Christ's first coming as a suffering servant, and Elijah will come first again before Christ returns as the Reigning King.
 - c) Even today, an empty chair is preserved at every Passover table, awaiting the return of Elijah.
4. As we just read, the need for the restoration to occur prior to the return of Christ was later affirmed by Peter in Acts 3, one of the first-hand witnesses of the events on the Mount of Transfiguration.
- a) He described how Jesus Christ must remain in heaven until the times of the restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets—the very prophecy from Malachi that prompted the question at the base of the

mountain, “Why do the scribes say Elijah must come first?”

- b) Now we know why all of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.
- c) And Peter was faithful to the command... “Don’t say anything until My death, burial, and resurrection!”
- d) Peter tells all **AFTER**...So much here!!!
 - 1) Peter is speaking from an eyewitness experience and authority when he shares the message about Christ’s second coming and what the glorified body looks like.
 - 2) Peter connects the dots by relating what he heard, the same voice that affirmed John’s ministry as he baptized Christ.
 - 3) The prophetic word from Malachi is confirmed and we must heed the warning or the curse will remain!
 - 4) A light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises: ***The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings...***

- 5) This is not a private interpretation—it was specifically revealed on the mountain and there were three witness (Peter, James, John).

(2) The Passover

- (a) The revealing of sons is a main component of Passover.

1. Jesus is our Passover Lamb—such is not in doubt by any Christian.

- a) It makes perfect sense if you think about it, but really only if you understand Passover completely will you fully appreciate the deepest revelation of that truth.

- b) The idea of sonship is not original to Christianity. It was paramount for God's chosen people, Israel, and the practice of their given faith.

- 1) When we revisit what it meant for Israel, which is the root of your faith as a Christian, we can recognize that the entirety of God's plan for humanity is to separate true sons from false sons: firstborn sons, from non-firstborn sons, from those who are not true sons at all... illegitimate sons.

- c) God makes the life-defining distinction between three types of sons:

- 1) Firstborn sons of God
 - 2) Firstborn sons not of God
 - 3) Non-firstborn sons
- d) This separation of sons into three groups comes down to us from the depths of the Passover story, as we consider what transpired with the Angel of Death and the death of the firstborn, or might we say “the risk of firstborn.”
- 1) Firstborns who applied the blood to the doorposts lived. They were separated from...
 - 2) Firstborns who did not apply the blood to the doorpost—they all died.
 - 3) All other sons were, in fact, non-first borns. They were never at risk of dying in the plague.
- e) Thus we distinguish three eternal people groups:
- 1) Unfortunately, Christian tradition has only ever considered two eternal people groups, never identifying the elusive third group as revealed in the Passover story.
 - 2) See the full Passover Teaching for greater details: [Who are Legitimate Sons?](#)
 - 3) See **Section D** below for Scripture References and other important details regarding Firstborns.

- f) It's curious that it has been missed considering Paul seems to have made it perfectly clear—eternity is divided among three peoples groups, not two!
- 1) Those in Heaven: Firstborns who applied the blood (Faith + Blood)
 - 2) Those on earth: Non-firstborn sons. They were never at risk of dying, but did have faith to leave Egypt. (Faith + No Blood)
 - 3) Those under the earth: Firstborns who did not apply the blood to the doorpost—they all died. (No Faith + No Blood)
 - 4) If you track the narrative in revelation you will see that there are people outside the gates of the city who cannot enter. Only those written ***the Lamb's Book of Life*** (immortal glorified humans) can enter (Rev. 21:27). That would be you (Christians—those in Heaven who received a glorified body like Y'shua's in the resurrection). Those outside the city (mortal humans) cannot enter (non Christians—those on earth). But, they must eat from tree of life to stay alive (presumably the leaves are delivered to them as

a ministry by those who can enter the city). And yet, at least those on earth (mortal humans) have not been cast into the lake of fire in the second death (those under the earth; Rev. 21:8).

5) Again, can you recognize three eternal people groups—not two?

2. Passover is also indicative of the end of one era and the beginning of another.

a) Originally it was the end of Egypt because of the death of every firstborn son.

1) Firstborns are symbolic of propagation for the future—the survival of a nation.

2) Passover was the end of Egypt and the beginning of Israel as a new nation of God's chosen people.

b) Y'shua said it like this in His great dissertation about the end-of-the-age.

1) In order for the end to come—the ultimate prophetic Passover, the gospel of the kingdom must have been presented to the whole world—as a witness.

2) Don't be surprised if that witness includes similar events in the earth, the plagues that

preceded the first Passover—and the mandate that God insists His people separate from the pagan world. “Let My people Go!”

3) The gospel of the kingdom serves as the distinguishing testimony of the true, mature, and prepared Church.

c) This should stimulate crucial questions:

1) What is the gospel of the kingdom?

2) What is the end?

3) What ministry might be responsible for such a gospel message?

d) It seems we have already laid the foundation for such answers.

1) In the end, Elijah comes and sits at the Passover table first, to restore all things—and those who join him will preach the gospel of the kingdom to the whole world, to perfect God’s ways and restore the family and thus all of creation—the restoration of all things is at hand.

2) All of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

3) Again See: [Who are Legitimate Sons?](#)

3. What is the gospel of the kingdom?

- a) It is not the gospel of salvation—the born-again gospel.
 - b) It is what comes after the gospel of salvation—the gospel of discipleship.
 - 1) Is it the adult mystery solving gospel that follows the new-born gospel and it's focus is on the kingdom of heaven!
 - 2) It's the gospel of becoming like Christ!
 - c) What is the Kingdom?
 - 1) The kingdom is the full manifestation of God in man—Y'shua had the kingdom within.
 - 2) This was also this message of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:1 as he connected the events of Y'shua's baptism (as he served in the Spirit of Elijah; Luke 1:13-17) to the prophecy in Malachi 4 (remember the laws of Moses; behold I send you Elijah), to the events on the Mount of Transfiguration (still to come in Matthew 17).
 - d) The kingdom is supposed to manifest in you!
4. What is the end?
- a) It is not the second coming of Christ—when the Master returns—that comes later.

- b) It's not the Rapture—that happens when the master returns.
- c) It is the end of childhood and the beginning of adulthood. It's when a child of God becomes an adult of God—recognized as a son!
- d) In Judaism it's the Bar Mitzvah, when the “son” becomes a “man.” (See the next section)
- e) It requires a Passover because Passover is what identifies God's true Firstborn sons.
- f) Passover separates true Firstborns from false Firstborns from Non-firstborns.
- g) So, when the mature gospel of becoming like Christ is preached (by witness not just words) to the whole world, then the final Passover can come!

(3) The Mature Gospel

- (a) Him we preach... “...Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Colossians 1:27 NKJV

- a) We preach Christ in you—the born again experience (Evangelism: the Gospel of Salvation)
- b) We preach the hope of glory—becoming like Christ (Discipleship: the Gospel of the Kingdom)
- (b) The hope of glory...What about the hope of glory do we preach?

1. We warn every man... you cannot stay the same. You cannot say you are a Christian and live like a Gentile!
2. We teach every man... you must move past your born again experience and move on in discipleship, inching ever closer to the image of Christ!
3. To what end? That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus! We can't stop at redemption—we must move on to perfection.
 - a) We all become children of God through Christ— instantly at our born again moment.
 - b) But that is not the same as ***“We shall be like Him.”***
4. Connect the dots!
 - a) This revealing of the Sons is a future prophetic moment, a Bar-Mitzvah, at the final Passover, when the full glory of God is revealed in mankind.
 - b) Then the Kingdom of Heaven, the fullness of God will manifest in man!

(4) A Bar-Mitzvah

- (a) The Unveiling of Sons: announced publicly for the first time
 1. Coming of Age—The son's we've all been waiting for
 - a) The revealing of sons is the image of a prophetic Bar-Mitzvah—a coming of age ceremony.

- 1) It marks the moment of transition from childhood to adulthood.
 - 2) It is the age of accountability without accommodations.
 - 3) A mature son is now responsible for his own actions.
- b) Even consider the language used in Christianity to describe the moment of your salvation—you were born-again.
- 1) It's a picture of infancy and childhood.
 - 2) Childhood is loaded with accommodations; the younger you are the more accommodations there are.
 - 3) No newborn is expected to care in any way for themselves and is accountable for zero personal responsibilities—every vulnerability is overlooked with an accommodation.
 - 4) It is perfectly natural for an infant to be one-hundred percent self-focused; “My needs are all that matter!” That is what you became spiritually at your born-again moment.
- c) Yet, you are not to remain as such. Just as a human infant grows up and at each stage of development

is expected to become more responsible, you too are instructed to grow up and become a mature adult in the faith—eventually not focusing on yourself at all; “Your needs are all that matter!”

- 1) Corporate Christianity must come of age, become a bonafide adult, accountable with no further accommodations—completely transformed away from self-centeredness to, instead, look outward in the service of others.
- d) That is what we are seeing here with the “revealing of the sons of God.”
 - 1) God the Father is announcing, “May I present to you My mature son, who today is recognized as an adult.
 - 2) Sure when he was born (again), he instantly had all the rights and privileges as My son, but today I am unveiling, announcing publicly for the first time, the mature son for whom I’ve been waiting.”
- e) All of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

(5) With all these details floating in your mind, now consider again what is the next major event for which we have eager expectation.

(a) In other words, what comes next?

1. It's one of mankind's three most anticipated events which include:

a) Christ's first coming! **Done!**

b) The revealing of the Sons of God! **Next!**

c) The return of Christ! **After!**

d) Now you know what is next. This is the reality that casts the shadow over your very walk of faith.

2. What are the three most critical milestones in the life of a man of faith?

a) His **adoption** into the **family** of God!

b) His **development** into a **mature** son of God!

c) His **transformation** into the **image** of Christ!

D. Revealing Legitimate Sons (scripture references)

(1) Distinguishing Firstborns (The Separation of Firstborns)

(a) Firstborn warning! The LAST warning! True firstborns are revealed with a death (Sons of God revealed, Romans 8)

1) Israel will not be affected (but later we see there is a stipulation for this— you must do something!

(b) Death of the Firstborns

- (c) Survival of the Firstborns
- (d) Y'shua as the Firstborn
- (e) The Church of the Firstborn: all Christian become firstborns with their inheritance!

E. Firstborns vs. Non-firstborns

(1) A mixed multitude left Egypt with Israel.

(a) The Story of Two Firstborns

1) **True Firstborns who applied the blood**—Had faith to believe and applied the blood of the lamb:

a. faith + blood = temporal salvation with eternal redemption

2) **False Firstborns who did not apply the blood died**—had no faith to believe and did not apply the blood of the lamb:

a. no faith + no blood = neither temporal nor eternal redemption

(b) I was never at immediate risk in Egypt because I am not a firstborn; what about me?

1) **Non-firstborns who came out of Egypt with Israel**—they had the faith to believe whose side had the real God, but they did not require the blood of the lamb to avoid immediate death:

- a. faith + no blood = temporal salvation without eternal redemption
- 2) **Non-firstborns who stayed in Egypt**—they did not have the faith to believe whose side had the real God, and they also did not require the blood of the lamb to avoid immediate death, but they would eventually die in Egypt:
 - a. no faith + no blood = neither temporal nor eternal redemption

F. Separating Sons from Sons

- (1) The Revealing of Sons: Do you now recognize that the separating of sons (revealing true sons) is Passover Language?
 - (a) **The plague shall not be on you...**
 - (b) **Consecrate to Me all the firstborn...**
 - (c) **You are illegitimate and not sons...**

Summary: FROM BONDAGE TO GLORY

2. Glorious Liberty

A. The Innocent Victim

- (1) Creation was not the cause of its own fall!
 - (a) Creation was not even a guilty accomplice.

1. Creation an innocent bystander which became collateral damage.
 - a) And yet, in God's economy nothing is wasted.
 - b) God permitted the whole of creation to become liable for man's error, not because He is unjust, but because He had a plan, a way for mankind to remedy the problem and that brings hope.
 - c) How? The Revealing of the Sons of God!

B. Delivered from Bondage

(1) Human Initiative

- (a) Creation will be restored from its fallen state when mankind steps into his glorious freedom.
 - a) We were responsible for losing the title deed to the earth and the subsequent contamination of creation, and we are responsible to participate in its restoration.
 - 1) God needs us to do our part because He designed it that way.
 - 2) We cannot do God's part and He won't do our part.
 - b) Human Initiative Partner Duties include:
 - 1) The restoration of creation.

- 2) Active participation in establishing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.
 - 3) How? The Revealing of the Sons of God!
- c) Our Savior and King does not return to establish His kingdom; He remains in heaven until He can return to His kingdom that is already established—and that's our part. How? The Revealing of the Sons of God!
- 1) First we have our encounter with the Lord (anytime after His first coming).
 - 2) He died, was buried, resurrected, and ascended!
 - 3) Then it's time for the Lord to return, but He will wait until... the times of the restoration of all things.
 - 4) How? The Revealing of the Sons of God!
- d) All this and we must be willing to suffer on our way to our glorious transformation.

C. Still Waiting

- (1) Creation is not yet restored!
 - (a) At this present moment....
 1. A critical concept we established earlier.

- a) In the first century it was clear that creation was still waiting.
- b) Today, as you read this statement, it is still groaning and laboring even now.
- c) And now you know for what it is waiting.
- d) All of creation is eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God!
- e) The question you should be asking yourself is simple. Do you want to participate in the process?

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION (REFER TO THE SERMON NOTES & VIDEO)

1. Mankind's Most Anticipated Events

- A. Name the three most anticipated events in human history
- B. Name the three most critical milestones in the life of a Christian.

2. What is the next event on God's prophetic calendar?

- A. What is the difference between the right to be a son of God and the revealing of the the sons of God?

3. Describe the relationship between the revealing of the sons of God and...

- A. The restoration of all things.
- B. The Passover.

C. A Bar-Mitzvah.

4. How does the revealing of the sons of God relate to...

- A. Moses?
- B. Elijah?
- C. John the Baptist?
- D. The Mount of Transfiguration?
- E. The creation of man in God's image?
- F. Christ's first coming and second coming?
- G. The Gospel of the Kingdom?
- H. The end?

5. How are Elijah and John the Baptist connected?

- A. How do they relate to Christ's first coming and second coming?

6. Describe the separation of mankind into three eternal groups with each of their distinguishing identifiers.

- A. Why can we be confident it is three and not two?
- B. How is this separation related to Passover?
- C. How does it play out in the Book of Revelation?

7. What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

- A. Distinguish the Gospel of Salvation from the Gospel of the Kingdom.
- B. Which is the adult gospel and which is the childhood gospel?

8. Described what it will ultimately look like to go from bondage to glory.

- A. For mankind.
- B. For creation.
- C. How do we know it has not happened yet?
- D. Why can we say that creation was an innocent bystander to Man's sin in the Garden?