## **Predestined to Glory**

Almighty God, our Father in heaven we come before your throne to give you thanks that we can all come together in fellowship with one another, to worship you and study your word—commandments, statutes and judgments and the prophecies that are being fulfilled today. We want to serve you better by being aware of the great plan and purpose that you are working out here below on this earth. Please open our eyes, hearts and minds. Provide us with enthusiasm to be diligent in serving you with love and joy with great awareness of your mercy. Pour out your Spirit upon each and every one of us that we might serve, glorify, praise and honor you by growing into your likeness in every way. In Yeshua's name we pray and thank you, O Eternal God. Amen.

We are getting ready for the Festival of Tabernacles just four days away—Wednesday, September 30. We will be building a Sukah, sitting in it, praising God, singing, waving lulavs and studying about His word and what God has in store for us (His plan, purpose and the world to come) — the new heavens and the new earth — Olam Haba. The last chapter in my new book, The Mystery of the Holy Days, is about "Why Were You Born?" This is to bring the whole picture together as to why God gave us the Holy Days. It all has to do with His purpose for human life and intentions for the human race, and why each one of us initially were created and born. You were not an accident. You do not exist just because some love-sick amoeba got together and decided to reproduce and make more amoebas and they would gradually evolve into various forms of plant and animal life, and finally eventually become human beings. This is the fairy tale nonsense told by evolutionists full of sound and fury signifying nothing, as Shakespeare would say. There is a purpose why you were born and why you were created. You are not an accident—an "oops" that just happened! Everything about you was designed by God when he designed your DNA and caused you to be born. He took a particular egg cell from your mother's ovary and out of millions of possible sperm he took just one to unite with that egg cell that had just the right characteristics to make you who you are — the basic fundamentals of your attributes.

The emotional, mental, and physical characteristics were designed so you would have a place in God's kingdom as one of his begotten unborn sons of God for celestial glory to fulfill a vital roll in the universe as one of the God family to come. We know it is going to be glorious. **Philippians 3:20-21**—Paul says our citizenship is in heaven of which we eagerly await our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior, the Messiah "who will transform our lowly physical human bodies into his glorious body according to the working by which He is able to subdue all things to himself." The apostle Paul also tells us in **1 Corinthians 15:35-38** about our spiritual body existence. Someone will say: "How are the dead raised up and with what body do they come?" "Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive until it dies." The casing on that seed put into the ground has to die before what is inside it can live and grow. "The seed you sow, is not the body that is

going to be, but mere grain, but God gives it a body as he pleases—each seed its own body."

**1 Corinthians 15:40-41**—"There are celestial and terrestrial bodies, but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory." Verse 44—"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly."

**Verses 50-54**—"And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' We shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man." We will receive our divine purpose finally and ultimately. We will be like Christ.

**1 John 3:1 2**—"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 <u>we know</u> that when He is revealed, <u>we shall be like Him</u>, for we shall see Him as He is."

We are going to be like Christ as he really is. You might call it the mystery of human life, the *mystery of God's purpose* with humankind, why he created us, the human race and why he created each one of us in particular. Why he created you, with your own DNA and your own identity. We are special in his sight. David said in **Psalm 144:3** — "Lord, what is man, that you take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that you are mindful of him?"

**Isaiah 40:21-29**—"Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the circle (sphere) of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, and scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He will also blow on them, and they will wither

and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble." "To whom then will you liken me, or to whom shall I be equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things and who brings out their host by number. He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power. Not one is missing."

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength."

**Hebrews 2:6-8**—Paul quotes David. "He (God) has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: 'What is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you take care of him?' You have made him a *little lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, and* <u>set him over the works of your hands</u>. You have put <u>all things in subjection under his</u> feet.' For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him."

The scriptures show that God does care and He hears our prayers, laments, observes out actions, deeds and He cares what happens. What are the works of God's hands? Turn to **Genesis 1:1**—"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." These are the works of God's hands—the universe (all things): The stars, planets, solar system, the sun, moon and the stars. Paul says: "God <u>left nothing that was not put under man</u>." How can that be? We are limited to this earth.

We have learned that light travels at 186,282,379 miles per second and see the stars with the nearest stars being light years away from us. How many miles does light travel in one year? The exact answer is 5,874,589,152,000 so 5.87 trillion miles to be simple. That is a long way. The nearest galaxy (Andromeda) is 2 million light years away.

The answer to the enigma is found in **Hebrews 2:9** — "But now we do not yet see all things put under him (in the future). But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that he (Jesus), by the grace of God (the Father), might taste death for everyone." The future is when we are born of God at the resurrection, when we become sons of God.

**Verse 10** explains further. "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in **bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings**. For both He (God the Father) who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified <u>are all of one</u>, for which reason He (Christ) is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: 'I (Christ) will declare your name (God the Father) to my brethren.' "**Verse 13**—"In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to you." And again: "I will put my trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

We belong to Christ. We are his younger brothers in the resurrection. He intends to bring us to glory. What kind of glory? **Romans 8:1-4**—"There is therefore now no

condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Christ has made us free from death and sin. The carnal mind is enmity (hostile) toward God.

**Verses 5-8**—"Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh. But those who live according to the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For, to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity (hostility) against God; for it (the carnal mind) is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (It is rebellious by nature). So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." But, if we have the Spirit of God living in us, then we overcome our fleshly carnal fleshly mind and become submissive to God's will and His purpose.

What is God planning for us? **Romans 8:14** — "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you <u>received the Spirit of adoption</u> by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' [God is literally our Father]. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that <u>we are children of God</u>, (made in his image) and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, <u>if indeed we suffer with Him</u>, that we may also be glorified together." We are on the same level as Christ and joint heirs with him. We are heirs of what? We are joint heirs with Christ in ruler-ship over the universe if we follow in his footsteps, faithful to him to the end that we may be glorified together.

Paul says, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." **2 Corinthians 5:1-5**—"For we know that if our earthly house (human tabernacle/body), this tent, is destroyed, we have a **building from God, a house not made with hands**, *eternal* **in the heavens**. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now <u>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God</u>, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."

We are growing and beginning to fulfill our destiny written down in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible in the very first chapter. This was sixth day of Creation, the original *Rosh Hoshana*, and the Jewish New Year day of Creation when years began to be counted. Today we are physical, but we are made in the likeness of God. We have creative minds today. We are going to be in his likeness spiritually when we are given these new spiritual bodies and spiritual minds from heaven. **Genesis 1:26-27**— "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the

earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' 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'"—learn how to rule. We are in training to be rulers of the universe as kings and priests for all eternity, ruling all the works under God's hand.

What are we going to look like at that time? I like to turn to **Revelation 1** to get a picture of what we are going to be like. It gives a picture of our elder brother, Christ, who is now in the God kingdom and who is now very God. **Verse 8** –"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**Revelation 1:13**—"I saw seven golden lamp-stands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man (Jesus Christ), clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.' "

God has called us for a purpose and he has not left us alone. God has not forgotten us, the works of His hands. He wants to finish the work and complete us. We are like the clay on the potter's wheel, and God is working on us to complete us. But there is still a lot of completing and perfecting for us to go through in order for us to be done completely and finished. Job knew the plan God was working on. **Job 19:25**—"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns."

**Job 13:1, 5**—"Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away. He flees like a shadow and does not continue." Is that your life—full of trouble? Disease, friends die, you get jobs and lose jobs and become unemployed. All kinds of troubles come—houses foreclose and people lose homes, ISIS slays Christians in the Middle East, and now hundreds of thousands of Muslims are being imported into America with 80,000 this year and 100,000 more scheduled to arrive in 2016 in addition to the thousands that have been taken in by the Obama Administration during the past eight years.

**Job 13:5, 13**—"Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with you. <u>You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.</u> Look away from him that he may rest, till like a hired man he finishes his day." God knows how long we are going to live on this earth in this mortal flesh. "O, that you would hide me in the grave, that you would conceal me until your wrath is past that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!" Job's days were full of trouble and misery. He had lost all his children, all his great wealth and possessions were gone. His camels, oxen and donkeys were stolen, sheep burned up, servants killed by the sword and he was sick—covered with boils and sitting in dust and ashes. Job was ready to die, and said, "I'm ready to die Lord." God allowed Satan to test Job for a purpose. Job was being afflicted and tried in order to perfect pure righteous character in him and prove whether he loved God enough to trust him no matter what the appearance and circumstances in his life were. No matter how much Job suffered he knew it was temporary, and that God had a purpose and a reason. He had to learn by the trials and tests that he suffered. **Hebrews 5:8** speaks of Christ saying, "though he was a Son, yet he learned obedience by the things which He suffered."

Job was ready to die just like Jonah when Nineveh was spared from God's wrath. Jonah said, "Alright, God, I've served you and given Nineveh your message and I'm miserable, just go ahead and take my life. This gourd has died over night and I'm scorching from the sun."

Elijah prophesied a drought for three and one-half years without rain and king Ahab hated Elijah. God said, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." But then the brook dried up. God said, "Go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon and dwell there. I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So Elijah went and when he cane to the city gate he saw a widow there gathering sticks, and asked her for water and a morsel of bread. She had only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar and was going to prepare it for herself and her son to eat it and die. But Elijah said, "Don't fear, make me a small cake from it first and bring it to me. Then make some for yourself and your son. The Lord God of Israel says: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'" She agreed to do it, and God blessed that bin of flour and the jar of oil was not used up according to the word of the Lord for years.

After three and one-half years the Lord said to Elijah, "Tell Ahab the drought will be over. Gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, plus the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table" and we will have a test. Elijah would prepare a bull sacrifice on an altar with wood under the bull but no fire under it and the 400 prophets of Baal would prepare their bull sacrifice but put no fire under it and call upon God. The God who answered by fire is the true God. Baal's prophets danced around their altar all day long until the time of the evening sacrifice and cried aloud, cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them, but no one answered.

At the time of the evening sacrifice Elijah, drenched his sacrifice with water three times and filled the trench around the altar with water and prayed. Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He *is* God! The LORD, He *is* God!" And Elijah said

to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

**1 Kings 19:2**— Elijah received a message from Jezebel saying she was going to kill him the next day. He ran for his life a day's journey into the wilderness. He sat down under a broom tree and he prayed that he might die. "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" He fell asleep, and was awakened by an angel which gave him food and drink. Then he fasted 40 days and nights and hiked to a cave at Mt. Sinai. When he was there he spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the angel came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

God said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." The Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, not in the earthquake nor the fire, but in a still small voice God spoke to him, "What are you doing here Elijah?" Why are you here? What is the purpose of your life? Why did I create you?

Have we ever come to a place in our own life where we think to ourselves that we have heard a still small voice ask, "Why are you here? Why are you alive? Why do you exist? What is your purpose? Do you know that I created you, called you, and chose you and am working with you perfecting that which concerns you?" We need to know God's plan for our life. March forward in faith like Job did, even in the midst of trials, testing, fire and flood. We need to put God first in our life. He is working out a wonderful purpose in our life.

Remember in the Garden of Eden God created Adam and he created Eve from a rib from Adam to be a helpmate and they dwelt in the Garden. God gave them rules to follow. They were told not to eat of the Tree of Good and Evil in the midst of the Garden. Mixing good and evil yields poison. According to the book of Jubilees, seven years to the day after Adam and Eve were in the Garden, the serpent appeared to Eve in the guise of a snake and said,"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" Eve said, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.""

The serpent who was more cunning than any beast of the field said, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be wise like God, knowing good and evil." She ate it. It didn't do anything for her, but now she was disobedient to God. Where was Adam? The scenario may have gone something like this. Adam shows up saying, "I've been searching for you Eve, why did you go off by yourself? I'm glad I found you." Eve, replies, "I'm glad you found me too, Adam. This fruit tastes really good! Won't you have some, too?" He knew that fruit was forbidden fruit from a forbidden tree, but he loved his wife. She was a part of him. So he

took some, too. Now, both of them had sinned and felt guilty, and Eve was not alone in the transgression. God called, "Where are you?" He knew where they were, but he said this for Adam and Eve's sake.

Analyze your self and see where you have put yourself. Did you do something wrong? Adam said it was Eve's fault, but he took it didn't he? That was his fault. Eve said the serpent deceived her and said it would make her wise. He lied. God cursed the serpent so that it now has to crawl on its belly. The point that we all have to answer is: Where are we in life? Where are we, as opposed to where we are going and where we came from?

Job remembered, knowing that God would appoint him a set time to remember him and judge him. Job 14:5-6—a man's "days are determined, the number of his months is with you. You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass. Look away from him that he may rest until like a hired man he finishes his day." Verses 14-16—"If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service (toil and trouble on this earth) I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer you. You shall desire the work of your hands." When that time comes when we will be resurrected and changed and glorified with a new spiritual eternal body with eternal power, and everlasting glory. We will radiate with the fullness of the brightness of the sun. The change we look forward to is the last trumpet call, at the coming of Messiah when we will rise up from the grave and meet him. God is going to finish the work he has begun with you and me, and all of us at the resurrection and we are encapsulated in our new, glorious heavenly bodies. He is the potter and we are the clay.

**Psalms 139:1**—"O Lord, You have searched me and known me.' You know my sitting down and my rising up. You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue. But behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me."

**Verses 11-16** — 'If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall fall on me, even the night shall be light about me. Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from you, but the night shines as the day. The darkness and the light are both alike to you, for you formed my inward parts. You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from you. When I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed and in your book they all were written. The days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." God knew what that egg and sperm cell were going to turn out to be. He put them together. Out of all the billions of sperm cells, he picked just the right one to form you. All the DNA abilities and attributes. God has a master plan that is all written down. God planned and plotted your life out—the days that you would live, what you would

accomplish, the people that you would come into contact with, inspire and help and witness to letting your light shine.

From studying the letter sequences in the Bible Codes from the original scriptures they have found out what has happened in the world was fore-ordained and actually written in the Bible Codes including the names of rabbis, famous scientists like Einstein and Newton. In recent years since the invention and development of the computer where computer science can correlate sequence settings between the letters of the Bible going through the scriptures, long after the Bible was written. The names of some of these major rabbis are encoded in the scriptures.

**Verses 17-24** — "How precious also are your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand. When I awake, I am still with You. Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do I not hate them, O Lord who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my anxieties and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting." We are in the maturation cycle of growing into God's kingdom.

**Ephesians 1:3**—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him <u>before the foundation of the world</u>, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having **predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."** We are predestined to be in Christ and be called of God to be his first fruits. This all happened before the foundation of the world. God had a plan that he mapped out and now he is following through on that plan.

**Romans 8:28**—"And we know that *all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.* 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. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified (forgave their sins); and whom He justified, these He also glorified." He is going to share his own eternal glory with us as his sons, as He expands his family. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

Why were you born? You were born to serve and glorify God. Where are you, whatever your name is? Are you accomplishing your purpose? Are you learning to serve God, and how to surrender your will to Him and His will, and how to have faith in God whatever happens? Remember the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Negro in Daniel 3 and King Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace? Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits and commanded, all peoples, nations, and languages, to fall down and worship the gold image that he set up at the time they heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and decreed whoever does not fall down and worship the image shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. These men said: "let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

The king was furious. The furnace was made seven times hotter and the flames of the fire killed those valiant men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fully dressed and bound, threw them into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. The king looked and saw four men freely walking around in the fire unhurt, and the form of the fourth one was like the Son of God. They were alive and Nebuchadnezzar called them to come out of the fire. The king and rulers were so amazed when they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed, nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

**Romans 8:31-39**—"What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**" No one can. God is over the entire universe. Satan can do nothing except what God permits or allows. "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" We are His children. What does a father or mother love to do more, than to give gifts to their children and see their children to grow, prosper and be successful? God wants us to grow, prosper and be successful spiritually—to be close to him that we might fulfill our Divine destiny in the kingdom with the glory of God.

"Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? What about tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Yet **in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us**. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." We are called by God to love Him and be a part of his wonderful kingdom.

**Ephesians 3:8 -12** — 'To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ (the Word/the Logos); to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which God accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him." "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the <u>whole family</u> in heaven and earth is named." We bear the name Yehovah because he has passed the name on to us.

**Ephesians 3:16-21**—"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in the love of God, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in the love of faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." Amen.