

His testimony within our heart

In this present season, we have been considering the need to receive a new heart. In the book of Ezekiel, the new heart is called a 'heart of flesh'. The Lord promises us, 'I will give you a *new heart* and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a *heart of flesh*'. Once we receive a new heart, the Lord is able to write His testimony upon this heart of flesh. This is the substance of the New Covenant. We recall the words of the Lord through the prophet Jeremiah, 'This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days ... I will put My law within them and *on their heart I will write it*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people'. The phrase, 'I will be their God and they shall be My people', is the most recurring statement in the Scripture concerning the covenant will and purpose of God.

Using this prophetic language from the books of Ezekiel and Jeremiah, the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, 'You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, deaconed by us, written not with ink but *with the Spirit of the living God*, not in tablets of stone but *in fleshly tablets of the heart*'. When the messenger inscribes the testimony of Yahweh upon our new heart, it is our name and work that is being written. The testimony of Yahweh *Elohim* is the Lamb's book of life proclaimed to us as a name, a time, a place and a work. It has appointed the place of our work, the time of our work, and the beginning and end of our days.

References:

Eze 36:26 Eze 11:20
2Co 3:3 Jer 13:10
Jer 24:7 Pro 7:1-3

Further Study

Jer 31

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 3

The finger of God

In the days of Moses, the testimony was inscribed upon the tablets of stone 'by the finger of God'. We read in the book of Exodus, 'When He had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, *written by the finger of God*'. Moses testified later, 'The Lord gave me the two tablets of stone *written by the finger of God*, and on them were all the words which the Lord had spoken with you at the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly'.

When the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of demons, He replied, 'If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? ... But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you'. What is the significance and meaning of 'the finger of God'? The record of this same discussion in the Gospel of Matthew interprets the meaning of 'the finger of God' for us. Interestingly, Matthew records Jesus response as, 'If I cast out demons by the *Spirit of God*, then the kingdom of God has come upon you'. Jesus evidently connected and associated the Spirit of God with the finger of God.

We can define 'the finger of God' as the power of the sevenfold Spirit of God, administered through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. This is the administration of the Spirit that has been committed to messengers. Messengers are sent by the finger of God. Their message is not in 'persuasive words of wisdom, but in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power'. Wherever there is an effective administration of messengers who are proclaiming the word of the covenant, the word of the testimony, then the kingdom of God is being established!

References:

Exo 31:18 Deu 9:10
Luk 11:18-20 1Co 2:4
Luk 4:14
Mat 12:25-26, 28

Further Study

Act 10

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 4

The Scriptures – the things inscribed

The testimony of Yahweh has been recorded in the Scriptures. The word ‘Scripture’ means ‘something inscribed’ or ‘something written’. This is the word recorded and settled in the heaven. The Scriptures are the full articulation of the covenant will and purpose of God. They include the word concerning every foreknown and predestined son of God in the Lamb’s book of life.

There is an interesting statement in the book of Daniel concerning the Scriptures. We read that the angel Gabriel came to speak with Daniel concerning the Greek empire and the kingdoms of the world in the end of the age. Gabriel strengthened him and then said, ‘I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth’. This is better translated the ‘Scripture of truth’. Everything that God is doing, and will do, as He fulfils His covenant purpose is already written in the ‘Scripture of truth’. This is the truth that must be inscribed in the heart of every son of God.

We know that the name of every son of God was foreknown in the Covenant of Yahweh. These names have been inscribed upon the heart of Yahweh the Son as the Lamb of God. This is the Lamb’s book of life. The word of truth in the Lamb’s book of life, concerning every individual, is then inscribed into the hearts of messengers. It is the work of messengers, by the foolishness of the message preached, to inscribe these words into the hearts of each individual son of God. This is the meaning of the words of the psalmist, ‘The Lord will count when he registers the people’. The word ‘registers’ is literally translated ‘writes’ or ‘inscribes’. It signifies that what has already been written in the Lamb’s book of life, before the foundation of the world, must be inscribed or written on the new heart of every son of God.

References:

Psa 119:89 Dan 10:21
Psa 87:6 Amo 3:7
Luk 10:20 Rev 13:8

Further Study

Psa 119:137-160

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 5

The Word in the heart of Christ

The prophet Malachi declared that Jesus Christ would come as the 'Messenger of the Covenant'. In the covenant, before the foundation of the world, He emptied Himself to become the Son of God and received the body prepared for Him by the Father. The Father declared Him to be a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. We are reminded that the priests of old carried the names of the twelve tribes of Israel over their heart. The name of each tribe was 'engraved' in a precious stone on the breastpiece of the high priest. This signified that the name of every foreknown son of God has been inscribed in the heart of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest. The testimony of God has been inscribed in His heart, the heart of His flesh. This is the significance of the statement, 'the Word became flesh'.

Jesus Christ was appointed to carry the name of every foreknown and predestined son of God in the counsel of Yahweh *Elohim*. The name of every son of God has been written in His heart as an Everlasting Covenant. In this way, He is our great High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek and the Mediator of the New Covenant. He is our great High Priest and the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world. He is the Lamb's book of life and all our names are in Him. It is not as though there is a literal book in heaven called 'the book of life' which Jesus opens and scans the pages to look for our name. Our names are inscribed upon His heart! This is the true meaning of the Scriptures. The names contained within the Lamb's book of life are then written in the hearts of the messengers who Christ sends to proclaim His testimony.

References:

Joh 1:14 Heb 10:5
Psa 110:4 Heb 7:17
Exo 28:21, 29 Mal 3:1

Further Study

Heb 5

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 6

You are our letter

The word concerning our name is not coming to us directly from the Lord. In the first case, the testimony is written upon the heart of the messenger. Jesus said, 'Behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes'. He was not referring to the scribes of the Old Covenant. Jesus was speaking about scribes of the New Covenant; that is, messengers in the church age. The messenger is the scribe. The psalmist declared, 'My tongue is the pen of a ready writer'. The tongue of the messenger is to be as 'the pen of a ready writer', inscribing the words of the New Covenant upon the hearts of sons of God.

As a messenger, the apostle Paul testified concerning the Corinthians, 'You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men, being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts'. The testimony concerning the Corinthians was written in the heart of Paul. Hence he said, 'You are our letter, written in our hearts'. In the same way, he said to them, 'You are in our hearts to die together and to live together'. The testimony of Yahweh concerning the Corinthians, from *before* the foundation of the world, could be read in the heart of Paul. Paul carried the testimony in his heart and then proclaimed it to the Corinthians by the Spirit of God. A true messenger will be doing more than delivering people from their sin. They will be restoring them to their name and work. They will be restoring them to everything that is written about them in the Lamb's book of life before the foundation of the world.

References:

Mat 23:34 Psa 45:1
2Co 3:2-3 2Co 7:3
1Co 3:10 2Co 12:15

Further Study

1Co 9

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 7

Deaconed by us

Jesus said, 'I know that His commandment is eternal life, therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me'. Jesus proclaimed the *testimony* that He had received from the Father. In the same way, all messengers of Jesus Christ are not doing their own will. Rather, they are doing the will of the One who sent them. They are slaves of the word of the covenant written upon their hearts by the finger of God. The finger of God is the power of the Spirit of God in the words of a messenger. Consequently, a true messenger is able to inscribe the words of eternal life upon the hearts of disciples. This inscription is the content of the Scriptures concerning every individual. It is the Lamb's book of life inscribed upon the heart, making us a letter of Christ.

The apostle Paul said to the Corinthians, 'You are a letter of Christ, *deaconed* by us'. Some translations say 'cared for by us'; but the most accurate translation is 'deaconed by us'. The work of every messenger is twofold. In the first case, they are inscribing the testimony upon the heart of every son of God. Like the psalmist, the tongue of a messenger is like 'the pen of a ready writer'. In the second case, messengers are the 'deacons' of those who have the testimony inscribed upon their heart. They are helping every individual to be effective in the works prescribed for them according to the Lamb's book of life. As a messenger of Jesus Christ, this was Paul's continual work toward all the churches. Ultimately, the perfected church of Jesus Christ is depicted in the book of Revelation as the woman, the bride, standing in the ark of the testimony. She has come to the fullness of everything written. She is truly a letter of Christ.

References:

Joh 12:50 2Co 3:3
Psa 45:1 Rev 11:19
Rev 12:1 Eze 11:19

Further Study

1Pe 1

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 10

The word of the messenger – three elements

When the word of a messenger is coming to us, it is firstly coming as the waters of purification; that is, the washing of the water by the word. The purpose of this word is to remove uncleanness and idolatry from us. Unless these waters of purification are effective, we cannot receive a new heart from Christ. Further to this, the waters of purification are the 'waters of regeneration'. Paul declared, 'He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit'. As we join Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, His blood cleanses our conscience from dead works and we receive a new heart. The love of God is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

In the second case, the word of the messengers comes to us to inscribe the testimony upon the fleshly tablets of our heart. The tongue of the messenger is as 'the pen of a ready writer'. The messenger is the deacon of the word of the covenant towards us and, consequently, inscribes it into our hearts, making us a letter of Christ. If our heart is a tablet of stone, then the word inscribed upon us will be the ministry of death. For the word of the covenant to be effective, it must be written and inscribed upon a heart of flesh. In the third case, the messenger brings the word of the covenant as a 'seed'. This is the incorruptible seed of the word of God which needs to lodge in the fertile ground of an honest and good heart. This seed is the substance of the life of God. If the seed takes root, then it will bring forth the fruit of everything that has been written and inscribed upon our heart.

References:

Eph 5:26 2Co 3:7-8
Luk 8:15 Eze 36:25-26
Heb 10:22 Joh 15:8

Further Study

Tit 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 11

Tablets of stone

We have considered that the testimony is firstly written upon the heart of the messenger. This remains the same throughout every generation. In his day, Moses was the messenger of the testimony of Yahweh *Elohim*. The psalmist declared that the Lord made known His deeds to the sons of Israel, but He 'made known His ways to Moses'. It was not the Lord's desire to write His testimony on tablets of stone. He wanted to write it on the hearts of the nation of Israel. In the first case, the two tablets of stone did not represent the Law Covenant. They represented the hardness of the hearts of the people and, therefore, their incapacity to obey the covenant and the things written concerning them.

The children of Israel should have allowed the law to 'shut them up to faith'. They should have continued in the faith of Enoch and Abel who obtained testimony. They should have continued in the faith of Abraham who obtained testimony by faith when he believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Instead of this, Israel received the perfect law into hearts of stone. Zechariah proclaimed, 'They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets, therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts'. The heart 'like flint' is the heart that is hard like a stone or diamond. Let us say again. The tablets of stone given to Moses represented the hard hearts of the people. They signified that the Lord had written His testimony on their hearts of stone. Consequently, every letter and stroke, every jot and tittle, became their judge.

References:

Rom 4:3 Zec 7:12
Exo 32:16 Deu 9:10
2Co 3:3 Jer 17:1

Further Study

Hab 2

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 12

The letter kills

Jesus said that ‘until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the law until all is accomplished’. The old King James version says not ‘one jot or one tittle’. He meant that neither the largest or smallest element of the law would pass away until it is all fulfilled. The law has not been abolished; it has been fulfilled by Jesus Christ and we now participate in its fulfilment. In another place, Jesus said, ‘It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the law to fail’.

The ‘letter’ is the inscription written upon the tablet of stone or the fleshy tablet of the heart. It is the perfect law which is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. However, if the letter of the perfect law is written upon the tablet of the heart of stone, it is killing the one whose heart is hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hence Paul declared, ‘The letter kills’. And likewise he said, ‘This commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me’.

The letter of the word, which is the perfect law of liberty, is instinct with life when the finger of God writes upon a heart of flesh. However, the same word is bringing death to the one whose heart is a tablet of stone. This is the ministry of condemnation, because the will of God and the word inscribed has not been done from a true heart. This is the meaning of ‘the letter kills’. We are judged according to the word written upon our heart. As we have already said, the fault is not with the law and the letter of its inscription, but with the heart of stone.

References:

Luk 16:17 Mat 5:17-18
Rom 7:10-12 2Co 3:6-9
Jer 17:1 Isa 8:20-22

Further Study

Jas 1

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 13

A more glorious ministry

When the finger of God wrote the testimony on the tablets of stone, the face of Moses shone with the glory of that writing. However, it was a fading glory. Moses wore a veil over his face so that the people would not see the glory which was fading away. The glory on the tablets of our heart of stone will fade away. This is the lesson of the stony ground in the parable of the sower. The person who receives the word into the stony ground of their heart is illuminated and they will rejoice in the word for a brief season. However, as soon as tribulation arises because of the word, they fall away. This is the outcome of what Paul calls, 'The ministry of condemnation'. The word received becomes the judge of the person who received it.

In stark contrast to this, the apostle Paul spoke of the 'ministry of the Spirit' and the 'ministry of righteousness' which abounds in glory. This is the ministry of the Spirit, which inscribes the testimony upon the new heart of a son of God so that they are equipped and made adequate to do the righteous works of their sonship. It is the strength that we receive by the sevenfold Spirit of God, according to the inscription upon our heart, which makes us adequate deacons of the New Covenant. This is the confidence that we have before God. We are not adequate in ourselves, but our adequacy is from God according to the testimony written upon our heart. With this goal in view, the apostle Paul declared that 'having such hope, we use great boldness in our speech'. Paul evidently understood the work and mandate of messengers to write the testimony of Yahweh upon the hearts of disciples so that they are adequate to fulfil the will of God.

References:

Mar 4:16-17 2Ti 3:16-17
2Co 2:16 Joh 15:5
2Co 12:9 1Co 15:10

Further Study

2Co 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 14

The Lord is the Spirit

Paul concluded his discussion on the testimony written in our hearts, by saying that ‘the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty’. It is important to understand the unique ‘lordship’ of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is the ‘Lord’ over the identity and predestination of every son. Throughout the course of our life, it is the particular work of the Father to join us to the circumcision of Christ and conform us to the image of His Son. The Son is the ‘Lord’ over His many-membered body. It is the particular work of the Son to make us ‘king priests’ to His God and Father. The Holy Spirit is the Lord over ‘the things written’. It is the particular work of the Holy Spirit to inscribe the testimony of Yahweh upon the fleshly tablets of our heart and then sanctify us according to the things written.

Here is the sobering thought. Any sin against the Father can be forgiven. And likewise, any sin against the Son can be forgiven. However, Jesus said that any offence against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or the age to come. We will offend the Holy Spirit if we perpetually rebel against the word of truth that has been inscribed upon our own heart. The testimony inscribed on the fleshly tablets of our heart is the non-negotiable covenant word that governs the course of our life’s direction and work. This is not a threatening reality for the person who is committed to walking according to their name in the Lamb’s book of life. When we become slaves of the testimony written in our heart, we apprehend the glorious liberty of a son of God. With this hope in view, the apostle Paul used ‘great boldness of speech’.

References:

2Co 3:12, 17 Mat 12:32
Luk 12:10 Heb 10:29
Joh 8:31-32 Joh 16:13

Further Study

Heb 6

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 17

The robe of our priesthood

When we join Jesus Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, we receive a new heart so that the testimony of Yahweh can be inscribed upon the fleshly tablets of our heart. Having received the word inscribed in our *heart*, the word concerning our work is then 'laid down' to us by the same messenger administration. The word concerning our work is laid down to us as the robe of our priesthood. The robe of our priesthood is the mandate and authority to do the 'priestly works' that belong to our name. In this regard, the robe of our priesthood will be commensurate with the name written on our heart, because we cannot have authority to do anything other than the works prescribed for us in the Lamb's book of life.

In the book of Revelation, the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed with a robe dipped in blood and His name is called the Word of God. And further to this, John records that 'on His robe and on His thigh *He has a name written*, "King of kings and Lord of lords".' Every son of God who has the testimony inscribed upon their heart will receive a clean priestly robe from Jesus Christ. This robe will have our name written upon it; meaning, that we have authority to do the works of our name. Our name will also be written upon our thigh, signifying that we have received strength and capacity to walk according to the mandate of our robe. As we walk in our priestly robe, it is incumbent upon us to keep it clean. We are to hate the garment which has been polluted or stained by the flesh. When the apostle John beheld a great multitude gathering for the fulfilment of the Day of Atonement, he saw that they had washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

References:

Rev 19:13 Jud 1:23
Rev 7:14 Rev 22:14
Rev 6:11 Isa 61:10

Further Study

Rev 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 18

The testimony bound upon disciples

We lay hold of the glorious liberty of a son of God, when the testimony has been *bound* upon us as disciples of Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah draws our attention to this fact. 'Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.' A true disciple is the one who has the testimony of Yahweh *Elohim* bound and sealed upon them. In the first case, the finger of God is writing the testimony of Yahweh *Elohim* upon our hearts. However, further to this, the testimony is being 'bound upon us' as a disciple of Christ when we receive the robe of our priesthood. The robe is our mandate and authority to do the works of our sonship. It is this robe which defines our accountability and obedience within the body of Christ.

Jesus said to His disciples, 'You did not choose Me but I chose you, and *laid it down to you* so that you would go and bear fruit and that your fruit would remain'. The word which is sometimes translated 'appointed' or 'ordained' is better translated as 'laid down'. We receive the robe of our priesthood when the word is laid down to us by the messengers of Christ. This robe is our mandate to go and bring forth the fruit of our sonship. If our fruit is to remain as sons of God, we will need to embrace the trial of faith. The book of Acts accounts that Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Derby and Iconium on their first missionary journey, strengthening the souls of the disciples, and instructing them that through many afflictions we enter the kingdom of God. We can be encouraged that if we have the testimony bound upon us as disciples, then we will experience the sufferings of Christ as we proceed to bring forth the fruit of our sonship.

References:

Isa 8:16
Col 1:24
Heb 3:5

Joh 15:16
1Pe 4:12
Mar 4:10-11

Further Study

Act 14

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 19

A disciple is more than a follower

We are not disciples because we are followers of Jesus Christ. A disciple is more than a follower. Followers are spectators; they are an audience. Followers are looking to find the benefits of association with a messenger, but disciples are walking in the way of their teacher. There are many people who have followed the word for years, but they avoid the trial of the word at all costs. We can be rich with the word of the messenger, while in our homes, we are wretched and miserable. This is a sobering thought. The Laodicean church thought they were rich and in need of nothing. In reality, they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

A follower can think they are rich, but eventually, the finger of God will bring the testimony of Yahweh *Elohim* to them and they will hit a crisis. Either, the finger of God will bind the testimony to them, cast out demons and heal them; or, like many disciples in the time of Jesus, they will 'follow Him no longer'. If we are followers and not disciples then we will eventually be offended by the word. Jesus said, 'Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves'. Many were offended by this and walked with Him no longer.

What is the heart of a disciple? A disciple is hearing the word of present truth coming to them and they are not offended by it. Jesus said, 'Blessed is he who is not offended in Me'. The offence will come from the mouth of a messenger who will say something to us that is not compatible with us. We recall the words of Jesus to Peter, 'When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go'.

References:

Rev 3:17 Joh 6:53
Luk 7:23 Joh 21:18
Mar 4:10, 34

Further Study

Mat 15

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 20

Fellow slaves and fellow prisoners

If we are disciples then we are becoming fellow slaves of Jesus Christ. A slave has no rights. Remember the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although He was Yahweh the Son, He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. He emptied Himself and took upon Himself the form of a slave. Paul unashamedly called himself 'a slave of Jesus Christ' and referred to all of his brethren as 'fellow slaves'.

Further to this, Paul wrote to Timothy, 'For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and discipline. Therefore do not be ashamed of *the testimony* of our Lord or of me *His prisoner*, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.' The 'testimony of our Lord' is the testimony of Yahweh *Elohim*. This testimony is true. Paul was evidently a slave and a prisoner of the testimony. Likewise, the messenger in the book of Revelation said to the apostle John, 'I am a fellow slave of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus'.

As a prisoner of the testimony, our only freedom as a disciple is to fulfil the will of God because we are bound to the word of the testimony which is written on the fleshy tablets of our heart. As a true disciple, we have been bound to the testimony and the law of Christ. We have become a witness of Christ. A witness is much more than a person who is telling other people about Jesus. A witness has the testimony of Yahweh bound upon them. Speaking of Enoch and Abel, the writer to the Hebrews refers to obtaining testimony. To 'obtain testimony' means to fulfil all the words of the testimony which have been inscribed and written upon the fleshy tablets of our heart by the finger of God.

References:

Php 2:6-7
2Ti 1:7-8
Act 13:22

Further Study

Ijn 5

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 21

A disciple is being taught

The Scripture speaks of a slave and their master and a disciple and their teacher. Jesus said, 'A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master'. And further to this, 'It is enough for the disciple to become like his teacher, and the slave like his master'. A disciple is one who is taught and one who is trained. They trust and obey those who have bound the testimony of the Lord upon them. In this way, a disciple is one who is joined to messengers. Paul said, 'The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him'. We cannot receive the word of messengers, as if it is nothing more than a resource, without being joined to those messengers. We are reminded of the words of John, 'What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have *fellowship with us*'.

When the Lord binds the testimony upon us, we are accountable to receive and obey that testimony. The testimony is the true knowledge of Yahweh *Elohim*. Then it is the true knowledge of our name and our work. The psalmist declared, 'The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul, the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple'. When the testimony of Yahweh is written upon our heart, we will be sure and the understanding of Yahweh-*Elohim* will become simple.

It is amazing that many families consider education to be more important than discipleship. We cannot send our children to another city simply because it will further their education, career and wealth. Jesus likened this mindset to the thorny ground. It is a preoccupation with the riches of this world. We have to know the will of God on all of these matters so that worldly education does not war against discipleship.

References:

Mat 10:24-25 Gal 6:6
Psa 19:7 IJn 1:3
Act 20:31 Pro 8:34

Further Study

Act 19

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 24

Ear and tongue of a disciple

The prophet Isaiah declared, 'All your sons will be taught of the Lord'. The word 'taught' is better translated as 'discipled'. In the first case, 'discipled' doesn't mean going to Bible School or doing devotions every day. It means that our ear is open so that we are listening as a disciple and the testimony is being bound upon us. Jesus said to the disciples, 'Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see'. Why did they see? It was because they were disciples. They had been trained.

We read elsewhere in the prophecies of Isaiah, 'The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning; He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. The Lord God has opened My ear, and I was not disobedient nor did I turn back.' We are disciples when we have been trained, and He gives us the ear of a disciple. And if we are obedient to the word of the testimony, then He will give us the tongue of a disciple. A disciple has the testimony bound to them, and every disciple should become a messenger of that very same word and be able to bind the testimony to others.

Every hearer must become a follower of the messenger and his word. If we are disciples then we are disciples of the word. It is the way of a messenger to bind the testimony to the hearts of the hearers so that they become disciples, and disciples will become messengers. As we are a disciple to the testimony, we will become a disciple-messenger. We become part of the fellowship of the word in the place in which we have been appointed, according to the Lamb's book of life.

References:

Isa 54:13 Luk 10:23
Isa 50:4-5 Exo 4:11-12
Pro 15:23 Joh 7:16-17

Further Study

Psa 40

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 25

Jesus sent the seventy

The work of writing the testimony upon the hearts of men is not the exclusive province of ascension-gift messengers. Jesus sent the seventy disciples to be messengers, proclaiming the testimony of Yahweh to every house. We recall that there were seventy parts in the lampstand. The 'seventy' represents the corporate group of disciple-messengers as a lampstand church. Ascension-gift messengers write the testimony in the hearts of disciples, and then those disciples go from house to house, writing the testimony on the hearts of all those who are in a worthy house. They are messengers who are shining the light of seven Spirits upon every name written in the Lamb's book of life. A disciple-messenger is finding and making disciples. We recall the words of Christ, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few'.

As Jesus sent seventy disciple-messengers, He bound the testimony to them. Consequently, they were to carry His testimony and be His witnesses. The apostle John writes that 'the one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself'. True messengers of God must carry the testimony within themselves. Teachers have written upon the hearts of disciples by the finger of God. And those disciples become messengers when they are sent by their teachers. They do not go forth with their own message. The message has firstly been written in the heart of apostolic messengers. The disciple is the letter of the teacher, revealing the one who sent them. The message does not belong to the disciple, but to the teacher. When the disciple-messenger is faithful to the one who sent them, then the message of the testimony of Yahweh can spread to the ends of the earth. This is the fulfilment of the command, 'Go therefore and make disciples'.

References:

Luk 10:2 1Jn 5:10
Mat 28:19 1Pe 4:10
1Co 4:1-2, 7

Further Study

1Co 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 26

Casting out demons

When Jesus Christ sends messengers by the Holy Spirit, they go forth with the power of the finger of God. They are clothed with power from on high. However, this power is not firstly revealed by the gifts of the Spirit. The power of the messenger is in the foolishness of the message preached. The word of the messenger is divinely powerful for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. When the seventy returned with joy, they said to Jesus, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name'. Jesus replied, 'Do not rejoice that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven'. Authority to cast out demons is not an end in itself. Demonic strongholds are removed so that the testimony of Yahweh can be inscribed upon the heart of a son of God, and they are free to fulfil the works prescribed for them in the Lamb's book of life.

The finger of God is the power of God that caused Satan to be cast from the heavens and it is the same power that casts out demons. Jesus declared, 'If I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you'. There are many believers who seek to gain power over demons, but it is nothing more than divination or witchcraft. It is the use of the power of Beelzebub. Only disciples have authority to cast out demons by the finger of God. A person cannot presume to use the power of the finger of God, without firstly having the testimony written upon their own heart by the same finger of God. We recall again the words of Jesus, 'Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven'.

References:

Luk 10:17, 20 Luk 11:20
Luk 24:49 1Co 1:21
2Co 13:4
1Sa 17:45-47

Further Study

2Co 10

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 27

Judging world kingdoms

We first observe the finger of God judging the kingdoms of this world in the land of Egypt. When we consider the plagues that the Lord brought upon the land of Egypt through Moses and Aaron, it is interesting that Pharaoh's magicians were able to replicate the first three wonders. However, this was not the case with the fourth plague. Moses instructed Aaron to stretch out his staff and strike the dust of the earth. The dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats. The magicians tried to replicate this creative miracle with secret arts, but they could not. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God'. In this way, the finger of God judged the first world kingdom.

In the same way, the finger of God judged Babylon. We recall that Belshazzar held a great feast and ordered all the gold vessels from the temple in Jerusalem to be brought to him. All of a sudden, the finger of God appeared and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall. The king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him. His hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together. No one could interpret the words that the finger of God had written upon the wall. It was the prophet Daniel who interpreted the message to Belshazzar. He explained that God had numbered his kingdom and put an end to it. The king had been weighed on the scales and found to be deficient. His kingdom had been divided and would be given to the Medes and Persians. When the word was interpreted by Daniel the messenger, the kingdom of Babylon was brought to an end by the finger of God. This is significant for us. In the end of the age, the lampstand church will proclaim the judgement of the finger of God upon Satan, Babylon, and the kingdoms of this world.

References:

2Co 10:4 Exo 8:19
Dan 5:25-28 Pro 29:1
Deu 9:10 Luk 11:20

Further Study

Rev 20

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 28