

**June 20, 2021**  
***When God Comes Down***  
**Dr. Ed Hindson**

Well, welcome and on behalf of Pastor JD Farag, I want to thank you for joining us on this Sunday for the live service. This is our Second Service and again, we have a guest speaker here that is well known; a man of God, and we're so glad to have him here. And I can't wait to see what he's going to bless us with in his teaching this morning.

The Dean and professor from Liberty University is here, and please help me welcome Dr. Ed Hindson.

Well, God bless you all. It's an honor to be with you. Pastor Mac, congratulations on your retirement. He's going from yes, sir, to yes, ma'am. Okay, dear, whatever. What a thrill that God is using you here in the ministry and what a great church! It's always an honor to be with all of you and see what the Lord is doing. My wife Donna is with me. We been married 55 years this summer. And first came to Hawaii back in 1978 with three little kids.

We were in our early 30s and fell in love with the islands. But there wasn't a lot going on spiritually back then. And what a thrill it is to see all the great ministries and churches that are popping up all over the place and especially the Calvary Chapels. What I love about the Calvary Chapels is they don't know that they can't do it. So they just teach the word and do it and people come to Christ and get saved and lives are changed!

And you have the blessing of having a Pastor who's one of the most articulate pastors, most well-known, well-knowledgeable about the Word of God and Bible prophecy in particular and in so many areas. And JD's ministry has not only been a blessing here in Honolulu, but around the world.

I meet people everywhere that I go that ask me do you watch JD Farag on his website and on and on and man, he's really good. You should listen to him, etc. And thank you for sharing him with all the rest of us. And every time that happens, remind yourself you're all part of that. As you're part of his ministry, or part of God's ministry right here and it works because of all of you!

I love the fact that there such a wonderful diversity of people racially, ethnicity, background-wise, mainlanders, islanders, everybody in between, etc. And when they all know the Lord as their Savior, there's a bond, there's a love that's there automatically that binds our hearts and lives together.

I've had the privilege of preaching on every continent except Antarctica. Not much to talk to down there; penguins and a few scientists, that's about it. I've been everywhere else, and I can meet another believer anywhere in any culture and instantly Jesus in them and Jesus in me connects automatically. And I want to thank you. This is such a loving, affirming, wonderful church and we've had a great experience being with all of you this weekend! I will remind you again that yes, I teach at Liberty University in Virginia. It's now the world's largest Christian University.

We have 15,000 residential students on campus. And 100,000 online. So you can take most of our degrees; bachelor's masters, doctorates online, fully accredited, and never leave Hawaii. Now the law degree and the medical doctor's degree, you need to come to campus for that. You don't want to be operated on by a doctor who got an online degree, but nevertheless, everything else. And I've met guys in the first service in the military that have been taking our degrees and in our programs and is just exciting that God is using that all over the planet. And then our television program, The King is Coming, can be seen at 2:00 this afternoon on Dish and DirecTV, 6:00 on DayStar. And you go to our website [TheKingsComing.com](http://TheKingsComing.com) and pull up any of our materials.

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I have teaching materials on almost every Book of the Bible and a number of various topics of Scripture.

Now, in our first service today we talked about some issues of Bible prophecy and how to interpret those correctly and effectively. In this service, I want to talk to you about the power of divine intervention in our lives. And I call it *When God Comes Down*.

Have you ever been so frustrated with what's going on in the world around you that you think to yourself where is God in all of this? The world seems to be in chaos, in confusion. What in the world is happening and when is God going to come and fix it?

Well, that desire for God to come down is not new. The prophet Isaiah 2500 years ago said the same thing. In Isaiah 64:1, the prophet said, "If only You would tear open the heavens and come down. That the mountains would quake and tremble before You, that You would come down and make Your name known to Your enemies, cause the nations to quake, for You did awesome things in the past that we did not expect, You came down and the mountains trembled before You."

Three times in three verses Isaiah says come down, come down, come down. God, where are You when everything seems to be going wrong? Where are You when the world seems upside down, when things are moving in a direction of darkness instead of light? When will You come down?

Now, I have the privilege of teaching the Book of Isaiah at Liberty in a 16-week course. I also did it on our television program in eight weeks that you can get. Isaiah is organized in a series of thematic sermons.

The Book of Isaiah is like 60 years of Isaiah's sermons, a lifetime of messages. So for example, if you were listening to 60 years of Billy Graham's sermons, 60 years of Adrian Rogers or David Jeremiah or whoever and they were organized by topic, that's what you have in the Book of Isaiah. Prophecies about a divine child that's coming who's born to be a king; those Immanuel prophecies; prophecies about judgments against the nations of past history and then prophecies about the judgment of God in the future, etc.

And then there are prophecies about the suffering servant who dies for our sins, and then there's a section at the end where Isaiah is looking forward to the fact that this one who is coming is going to come as a triumphant warrior who will trample on the enemy, bring the kingdom of Heaven to Earth and bring in the power of the kingdom of God. And as he comes toward the end of the book, he then expresses this cry in Chapter 64. He's two chapters from the end of the book. God, where are You? When are You going to come down?

And the reminder of Scripture is God has always been in the process of coming down. Yes, God is the Creator of the universe. God is the divine power, the cause behind the effect of the creation that we participate in. God is an eternal Spirit, that God exists in such infinite qualities that He's omnipresent everywhere in the world at every time at once.

But there are times that God has personally come down to intervene on planet Earth, to intervene in human history to make a difference in our lives. And I'd like to suggest to you several of those today.

First of all, God came down in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve had sinned against God and disobeyed.

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Now most of you know that story. God creates man and woman in the image and likeness of God. They are not glorified animals. They are created to have a relationship with God and with each other and sets them in this beautiful paradise that I'm sure looked a lot like Hawaii and told them you can have anything you want except that one tree. Don't take of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now, there's something about human nature. You tell people they can't do something, that's the very thing they want to do.

If I had a table out here and had 100 candy bars on the table, and I said at the end of the service you can have any candy bar you want except the Milky Way. Some of you'll go right straight to the Milky Way. Why can't we have the Milky Way candy bar? That looks pretty good to me. Smells good, I bet it taste good.

Well, that's human nature. You can have all that you want here in the garden except that. And you know the story. She finally decides it looks good. It taste good I think and it will make me smart. It proves Eve was a blonde. No, my daughters are blondes; I better not do that. And it will make me smart. The pride of life.

So the lust of flesh, taste good. Lust of the eyes, looks good. Pride of life, it will make me more important, etc. She takes it and takes a bite and pretty soon hands it off to Adam and he gobbled the whole thing down. And in they realized something went wrong.

All of a sudden they sense their sinfulness, their disobedience, their sense of guilt. And so they run and hide in the trees, in the very place they were to be blessed with the fruit of the trees, they're hiding there. And God came down into that fallen place. God came down into the darkness of the garden where sin had entered the world, calling like a father.

It's Father's Day today.

Adam, earth man, dirt ball, where are you? We're over here in the trees. Why? What have you done? God did not make any accusations. He just asked questions. You've done that as a parent. Your kids come rolling in at 2:00 in the morning and you're like where have you been? Nowhere. That's a lie. What have you been doing? Nothing. That's another lie. Whatever.

God as a parent seeking His fallen children comes down into the garden in provision for their lostness, provision for their failure. God comes down and calls them out of the hiding place, out of His grace. Eve, what have you done? And she said, the serpent made me do it. The devil made me do it. Adam, what have you done? He said, it's the wife You gave me. He blamed Eve, blamed God.

I've been in the ministry for over 50 years and I've heard every excuse in the book. When people sin and make a mess out of things, it's, well God made me this way. Yeah, sure. The devil made me do it. I had a lady tell me one time I know I have a problem with constantly yelling at my husband but you don't understand. The devil just gets in my mouth and yells at him. And her husband looked at her and said yeah it's a big mouth. She's got a lot of room in there for the devil. Whatever.

Or we blame each other. That's human nature. It's God's fault, is the devil's fault, it's my friend's fault, my brother's fault, my roommate's fault, whatever, whatever, whatever.

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God swept past all of the excuses and said come here. I can fix this. And in Genesis 3, He made the first sacrifice, shed the first blood, covered their inadequacy, and gave them the first messianic prophecy of the Bible in Genesis 3:15; that ultimately the seed of the woman, a human being would crush the head of the serpent. That somebody would come into the human race that would defeat the power of Satan. He doesn't tell her when it will be or who it will be, but it's a human being. So in one sense he could be anybody out of the human race, somebody who is the descendant of Adam and Eve will be able to bring about this victory.

Now, in a sense, all of us here this morning are genetically the descendants of Adam and Eve. We're all the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve. We're all part of the same human family. And as we believe the story of the flood is true, we're all descendants of Noah's family as well. So it doesn't matter where our ancestors migrated to across the planet. It doesn't matter what our ethnic diversity is. We are all cousins in the same human family.

So I want you to help me with the sermon this morning. Turn to the person on your right and on your left, one of them you may be related to, one of them may be a total stranger. Look them right in the face and say hey, "You're my cousin. We're all part of the same human family."

Now, take that a step further. As a born-again Christian believer, if you know Jesus and He lives within you and the Holy Spirit is in you, then we're not only part of the physical family of God genetically, but we're part of the spiritual family of God. We're brothers and sisters in the same family.

So you can say to another believer, "You're my brother in Christ, my sister in Christ. You're not just my cousin in the human race." We're all part of the same family because God came down to say to fallen human beings, I can fix this. Come to Me, don't run away from Me, run to Me. Adam and Eve, trust Me. I will give some person into the human race, the seed of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent.

As you read on in the Book of Genesis, that seed issue then becomes very, very important because God will call Abraham to say I will bless your seed in Isaac and make My covenant with him, and then through Isaac to Jacob, and through Jacob to his 12 sons, etc. God is promising through the line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's son Judah that He will send the Messiah, the Savior.

But again, in their lifetime, that person never came. They had to wait. Time moved on. And in the biblical story you come to the next book, to Exodus, and the children of Israel are where? In bondage in Egypt. They are there for nearly 400 years wondering God, where are You? When are You going to come down to deliver us and take us to freedom, to that land that You promised to our ancestors? And I would suggest that God came down at Mount Sinai in deliverance.

If you have your Bible, turn to Exodus, the third chapter. Exodus Chapter 3, that familiar story about Moses and the burning bush. Remember, how the story begins? Moses is raised in Egypt, adopted by Pharaoh's daughter to be a prince in the palace and realizes that he is really the son of slaves and has a heart for the slaves in bondage, and he wants them to be delivered. And finally gets so upset he kills an Egyptian who's tormenting one of the Israelite slaves and has to run for his life into the desert.

After 40 years in the desert he thinks I am forgotten. God can't use me. It is over. And in reality God was preparing him for what He really had for him. And in Exodus 3, the passage begins by saying,

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"Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law. And he led the flock to the backside of the desert and he came to Horeb [or Sinai] the mountain of God. And there the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush." Now, if you like to mark things in your Bible, you might in verse 2 underline angel of the Lord. The phrase "the angel of the Lord" is not just an angel, but it is the angel of the presence of God himself. And when the angel of the Lord appears, God appears.

When the angel of the Lord speaks, the Lord speaks. These are appearances of the divine in a temporary human form. We call that in theology a theophany, an appearance of God in the Old Testament. And if the New Testament is correct as we believe, then no man at any time has really seen God the Father then it has to be who? God the Son. These are Christophanies, appearances of Christ himself.

The angel of the Lord appeared to him, and Moses sees this bush on fire but it does not burn up, and he thinks, well, that's strange. I will turn aside and go see what in the world this is all about.

Now, look at verse 4. "Then the Lord saw that he had gone over to look. And God called him from within the bush." And you might underline Lord and God. So you have three terms used in these verses.

The angel of the Lord is obviously the Lord. And the Lord is God, all three are referring to the same person. And He called him by name, Moses, Moses. In the Bible, God was always calling people by name. It was Noah, Samuel, Moses. It was never hey, you. God knows your name. And Moses said, "Here I am."

And in verse 5, He said, "Don't come any closer. Take off your shoes because you're standing on holy ground." Now, it's not the dirt that's holy. God is holy. So wherever God appears, when God comes down, He sanctifies the place.

It is holy ground because God is there. It is not like if I go to Mount Sinai, I will necessarily have a spiritual experience there. You may or may not, but it is not the dirt that gives you the experience. It's the Spirit of God. It's the presence of God himself. And then He says, "I'm the God of your Father, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

And then the Lord said, notice verse 7, "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying because of the slave masters, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to deliver them." God said I'm coming down to bring deliverance to the children of Israel in bondage. I've seen their suffering. I've heard their cries. I am concerned.

That tells us that the God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament. People get this all mixed up and they say, oh, the God of the Old Testament is so mean and hostile, etc. No. God said I saw your suffering. I heard your cries. I am concerned. A God who sees, a God who hears, a God with a heart, a God who cares. If that is true of the children of Israel, that is true of you and me. That whatever problem you're going through in life, whatever difficulty, whatever struggle, God is saying, I see that. I hear your cry. I am concerned.

In My timing, I will come down to do something about it. Moses, I've seen it, I've heard it, I'm concerned. Therefore I have come down to deliver them. And Moses is thinking great, it's about time You got here. And God said and I want you to go to Pharaoh and you tell him let My people go.

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And if you know that story, he makes every excuse in the book. I'm not a good speaker. I am a wanted man. This might not work really well. No, you're exactly what I want, broken and humble. You'll realize I have to do it. You can't. You tried to deliver them and failed. I can bring about the deliverance because I am God and I am concerned, therefore I have come down in deliverance.

Fast-forward a little further in the Old Testament. They get out of Egypt in the Exodus. They are set free. They go to the Promised Land and they conquer the land. They establish their own nation. They are there under the blessing of God. But as the centuries go by, they get further and further away from God and further and further into idolatry and sin and evil and finally things are pretty bad.

And the king himself is worshiping Baal, a Canaanite storm god that sends the lightning bolt, that sends the rain to bless the crops, etc. And his wife Jezebel is feeding and funding and promoting 450 prophets of Baal to preach a false message.

Elijah the prophet feels like I am the only one left. Now, it wasn't true, but he felt like it was true. And you may feel that way sometimes at your house or family or work or job or in society, I'm the only one left that really believes the truth and trusts the Lord, etc. I think I will become a secret agent Christian and I will take my Jesus buttons and hide them under my shirt, and when I see another Christian, I will flash the button and say don't tell anybody; we're secret agents. There's too many secret agent Christians. We don't need any more. We need some more warriors willing to step up for the truth.

So God said to Elijah, all right here's what I want you to do. Go to the king. Yeah? And confront the king. He could kill me. Right. And tell him to invite those of 450 prophets of Baal to come to Mount Carmel, a high promontory point where they built altars to their God thinking if we get the altar high enough up on the mountain it's closer to Heaven. Go to the high places. And build a special altar to Baal, put your sacrifice on it, but do not put any fire under it.

And Elijah, you build an altar to the Lord. And you put a sacrifice on it, but do not put any fire under it. And you pray and let them pray, and how does that story go? Let the God who answers by fire be God. He's challenging Baal at the center of his supposed strength.

In ancient monuments, Baal was always depicted holding a lightning bolt in his hand. Let him throw down the lightning bolt. Now because the people had sinned against God, Elijah had prayed that it would not rain. That was an offense to the god Baal. He's supposed to send the rain; I'm going to pray it won't rain, and it did not rain for three-and-a-half years.

This is not that mount whatever it is over in Kauai, Waialeale, whatever it's called, where it rains every day. It's not that. No rain. And as a result, they desperately need rain. And so he says pray that God answers by fire and sends the lightning bolt. How are you going to get a lightning bolt out of the clear sky? And at Mount Carmel, God came down in power. You know that story. The prophets of Baal prayed all day long, yelling, screaming, hollering in an ecstatic frenzy, leaping and jumping on the altar, cutting themselves even, and nothing happened, total silence.

The end of the day Elijah took 12 stones for the 12 tribes of Israel, rebuilt the altar of the Lord, put the sacrifice on the altar, and stepped back and prayed a pretty simple prayer. But before he did, he said, "Throw water on the altar, soak the sacrifice. Do it again a second time, do it again a third time. Take the most valuable commodity you have, fresh water, and throw it on the sacrifice.

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And then his prayer was pretty much, "Dear God let them know that You're God, let them know that I am your man, and that I did what You told me to do. Send the fire." And boom, the fire of God fell out of the clear sky, consumed the sacrifice, burned up the stones, and fried the entire top of the mountain and scared everybody to death.

And the people fell on their faces and cried, "Jehovah is God, Jehovah is God, Jehovah is God." I guess so. God came down in power. Now, He doesn't do that often, but when He does, it's unmistakable, that only God could have done this.

And Elijah then calls on the people to turn back to the Lord, and He gives Israel another 100 years of opportunity to serve the Lord. Judgment will come in the future, yes, in the Babylonian captivity, but they are going to get more time right then because of a revival that came because of Elijah's willingness to believe God could come down in power and make a difference.

Then we go to the New Testament where God came down in person at Bethlehem as a baby born in a box, the manger; in a barn in Bethlehem, that God comes down into a human body, the seed of the woman. He comes down in this obscure family, in this unusual place in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy that Immanuel "God with us" would be born of a virgin, in fulfillment of Micah's prophecy that He would be born in Bethlehem. And you know the Christmas story. It's all part of the big story of God.

There, God came down in person, a God who would grow up to be a young man, a God in sandals, a God in a robe, a God who would walk among people but live above people. A God who would speak to people the very words of God. A God who in human form would live a sinless life so that He could ultimately atone for our sins.

And in Jesus, you see God in action on planet Earth. People say what do you think God is really like? Well, what did Jesus say? "If you have seen Me, you have seen God, the Father. That I and the Father are one." If you want to know what God is like, God is like Me. God the Father is like Me. God has compassion. So when Jesus walks among hurting people, what does He do? Heals them. When He walks among struggling people who have failed in life, forgives them and offers them salvation and transformation and redemption and regeneration by which they can be born-again by the Spirit of God.

He has a message, yes, of love, but also a message of warning. Because He will say broad is the road that leads to death and destruction. Many there be that go that way. Narrow is the road that leads to life everlasting and few there be that find it. He told the people repent or you'll all likewise perish.

No, the God of the Old Testament and the New Testament is the same message. It's a message of blessing for believers and a message of judgment for unbelievers, a message of warning for the unbelievers. It's a message of hope to the believer that God loves you, that God has come down on your behalf. God already came down and lived among us and walked among us for at least 33 years. But the God who came down in person, the sinless Son of God also came down to Golgotha in atonement on the Cross.

Because He came not just to teach us great things, though He did that. Not just to do great miracles, though He did that. Not just to show us a better way or better truth, but He came down to say I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life. My life must come into your life in salvation and change you and

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give you the ability to live for God and to be prepared to meet Him one day. How does He do that? He goes to the Cross and bears the sin of the entire world.

Now think of that for a moment. That the sinless Son of God who did no sin the Bible says was made sin for us. And that God collectively took our sin and judicially placed it on Jesus on the Cross. So that when He dies on the Cross, the wrath of God is poured out on Him on the Cross as He dies in our place. He doesn't just die as a martyr to a cause. He doesn't die as a good example of how to deal with tough things. No, it is much more than that. He who knew no sin is made sin for us and dies for our sin.

That's why in salvation, it is not a question of I am doing the best I can. The best you and I can will never get it done. God did the best He could when He sent the sinless Savior to be the savior of the world to die for our sin. Think of that in those terrible moments on the Cross when He stands up on his spikes, pulls Himself up on the nails, and shouts, "My God why have You forsaken me?" He is actually quoting a prophecy, Psalm 22:1. That's how it begins. "My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?" And that same Psalm 22 goes on to say, "They gambled for My robe, they pierced My hands and My feet."

You cannot miss Jesus in that prophecy. He knows exactly what's going on, on the Cross. Yes, in His humanity He will say, "I thirst." And in humanity He will say, "John, my mother is your responsibility," [etc.] But in His deity, He will say, "Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing." In His deity He will say triumphantly, "It is finished," [paid in full].

I am not just dying as a victim. I am not just dying as a martyr. I am dying as a substitute. Therefore His symbolic picture is what? Jesus dies as the Lamb of God. So when He first appeared in his ministry, John the Baptist saw Him and pointed to Him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

The Book of Revelation, 28 times will call Him symbolically "the Lamb, the Lamb, the Lamb." It is not a literal lamb, it's a symbol of His atonement for us as a Lamb died and its blood was shed in the Old Testament, so the Lamb of God, this sinless Savior dies and His blood is shed once for all, forever and secures our salvation. He came down to Golgotha deliberately to do that.

And when they were on their way back to Jerusalem the last time, and His own disciples said, I don't think we should go there. Jesus said what? Get behind me, Satan. Don't you realize I must suffer first and then reign? "For this reason I have come into the world." To do what? Become the fulfillment of the seed of the woman, yes. Of the divine child, yes. But also of the suffering servant who will atone for the sins of mankind. And Jesus went down to the Cross. But interestingly, He would not come down from the Cross. Have you thought of that?

You read the story of the crucifixion. The Pharisees walk by and taunt him, "If you're really the Son of God, come down from the Cross and we'll believe in You." And the Sadducees are yelling at him, "If you're really the Messiah, the Christ, come down from the Cross and we'll believe in You." And He would not come down from the Cross because He had deliberately come down to the Cross for that very purpose. To come down in spite of the fact that He could call legions of angels to release Him, the atonement would not be accomplished.

He stays there deliberately suffering on our behalf. And because He suffered and died, you and I escape the wrath of God. You and I escape the judgment of hell and the lake of fire. Jesus loves you



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like nobody loves you. Nobody else ever died for your sins. Nobody else ever rose from the dead, and nobody else is coming again to take you home to Heaven to be with Him forever. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, He is the Savior who comes on behalf of the Father to announce to the world, God loves you and God is willing to provide for your sin, for your salvation, for your redemption, for your atonement.

The death of Christ on the Cross is an atoning death for our sins. And then I would suggest that at Pentecost, God came down in permanence in the person and power of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus' death on the Cross, they take down the dead body, put it in the tomb, rolled a stone over it, and leave.

Three days later the stone is rolled away by an angel, not to let Jesus out, but to let us in to see He is not here. He has risen as He said. He's gone. And later that day He would appear to the disciples. In fact, He appears to them in the Gospels 10 different times and says things like, "Touch me and see that I'm real." "Thomas, put your finger in the nail print, be not faithless, but believing. It's really Me."

On three occasions after the resurrection, He ate food with the disciples. I like those verses. That implies in a resurrected, glorified body, you could still eat food and probably not gain weight. That would be good, that would be great, etc. And He appeared enough times to convince them yes, it's really Me. A glorified body that can appear through the wall and disappear, but once I'm there, touch Me and see that I'm real. It's really Me.

And finally, He leads them out to the hill in Acts Chapter 2:1 and says, I'm going back to Heaven. But you wait here for the fulfillment of the promise of the Father.

Now the disciples are a little confused and they ask him in Acts 1, "Are You going to restore the kingdom, [the theocracy, literally] to Israel right now?" "No, it's not for you to know the times and seasons." He did not say Israel does not get the kingdom, not now, later.

Right now, I want you to go into all the world and be My what? Witnesses. Take the message of the Gospel, the death, burial, and resurrection of the Son of God. Take that message to the whole world. They have no clue how big the whole world is, how long this is going to take, and how large the planet really is.

And for nearly 2000 years, now Christian disciples have taken the message of Jesus all over the planet. 200 years ago in 1820, missionaries came here to Hawaii because they wanted to see palm trees? No.

They came here because they believed the people living here were a living soul that needed the Savior and needed to go to Heaven. They came here with a message of salvation, etc. That message has been going around the planet for 2000 years.

Now today, the message of the Gospel is available in almost every nation in the world. At 9/11 after it was over Billy Graham, still alive then, was invited to preach in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC and the telecast was carried to all but seven nations on planet Earth.

Seven extremist nations blocked it out. Everybody else got it. So there is a sense in which the Gospel has already gone all over the planet exponentially in the last 100 years. It is just exploded and now

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through technology through the Internet, through satellite transmission in real time, today's sermon can be seen all over the world right now. We're very, very close to seeing that mandate fulfilled.

I realize they're still some obscure tribes in various places. We have a nephew working in one of those jungle tribes in Indonesia that does not have a written language, has never had the Gospel presented to them before. This is a first-time breakthrough with the tribe in that region. That's still happening again because Christians take seriously the evangelistic mandate, go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.

How are we going to do that? Jesus said, stay here in Jerusalem, to those original disciples, and it will become very, very obvious to you how you're going to do that. And on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and preached the word with what? Great boldness.

Now Christian believers have all kinds of views of how they think this works, etc. I personally believe that when you get converted, the Holy Spirit has to come into your life, you're baptized by the Spirit of God into the body of Christ. You become part of the bride of Christ. You receive the power of the Holy Spirit in regeneration. You're born-again by the Spirit.

Now the degree to which you need to be filled, controlled, blessed, used, empowered, Christians may disagree on the details of that, but we all understand one thing: We don't go out in our own power to change the world. We go on a mission in the power of God, and Jesus said, "I will be with you." How? In the power of My Holy Spirit. The Comforter will come and will remain with you.

In the Old Testament, He came on people temporarily and left, but in the New Testament, He comes permanently to empower them to proclaim the Gospel. You're permanently sealed, the Bible says, by the Holy Spirit. Your life has been sealed to the life of God. You don't have to die and go to Heaven to get eternal life. If you're saved you already have it. You've already begun living it. The Bible says he who has the Son has everlasting life already. It's the gift of God already given to you.

And the power of the Holy Spirit then activates the spiritual reality of our life and experience in our walk with God. The Holy Spirit is like the engagement ring that God is going to keep His promise to the bride to one day take us home to the marriage in Heaven.

If you have been saved and the Spirit of God regenerated your life, you're born-again, not because you're so smart, so great, so powerful. In fact, we're so inadequate and so sinful, we fall at His feet and say, Lord Jesus, without You, I'm nothing, but in You, I can be everything You want me to be. I can accomplish anything You want me to do. I can do all things through Christ who does what? Strengthen me.

It's Father's Day. As a dad, I would encourage you. You need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit especially in this day and age to be a good dad, a good husband, to resist sin and temptation, to stand up for what's right, not just to tell your kids what's right, but to show them by the example of your life. They need to see Jesus alive in you. That's what really matters. And when they struggle and there are problems, and there will be.

We have three grown children, seven grandchildren. Our two older ones were daughters. They were like angels; they were easy. They did what they were told. Then we had a boy. That was a wild ride

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for a while. You need to do this. Why? I don't want to. Well, you need to. Well, I'm not gonna. Pow. Whatever, I'm old school.

My dad was a truck driver and 8th grade dropout . There was no negotiation with him. And he wasn't saved till later in life. But he was a good man, who meant well. But he just didn't know Jesus at all. And when he got saved, God changed his life, like He changed our lives.

I grew up in this low, low middle class family in Detroit. We didn't starve to death, but success was what other people had, not us. You can get a new bike some year, but not this year. Whatever. Delayed gratification for everything. There were no credit cards. Nothing was instant, etc. No God, no Jesus, no Bible in our home.

Now, my wife had the blessing of coming from a long line of Christians. I came from a long line of pagans that fought with each other, yelled and screamed at each other, half-killed each other sometimes. It was a wild ride until Jesus enters in and changes everything because He has to change the heart.

I was saved in Vacation Bible School. My mother didn't even take me. She sent me. This was the 1950s. Kids were tough. Parents were even tougher. She read this flyer advertising Vacation Bible School, five days, Monday through Friday. Here, take this, go down the street to the church, and make sure the light is green, don't get hit by a car, you'll be fine. Whatever. Go there.

I went there and heard that Jesus loved me, that He died for my sins, that He rose from the dead, that He was coming again, and I could have a home in Heaven forever, and it was free? I raised my hand in the invitation. I'm like yes, I'm for that. That is a good deal.

Well, if you're saved, let me remind you it's the best deal you'll ever have. And don't forget it. If you been a believer like me for more than 50 years or five years or five minutes, don't get used to it. It's the greatest experience that can ever happen in life. God changes your life and gives you meaning and purpose in life.

I looked around even as a kid later and thought, everybody is living a meaningless life. They are going to live, eat food, and die and what difference is it going to make? Well, when God steps in and you're living for God, it makes all the difference in the world, because you're living for Him and serving Him.

So dads, we want to thank you. We want to bless you, we want to encourage you. But we also want to remind you. If you have never come to know Jesus as your Savior, you could be a good man, hard-working man, mean well, my dad did. But until he got saved, nothing really changed. If you need to come to Christ, now would be a good time to say yes to Him even on Father's Day.

And one last thing. Ultimately, there are about 25 things I found in the Bible and eventually I will write a book on all of this, but the last one is He comes down at Armageddon in triumph in the end. Now, take your Bible and go to Revelation, the 19th chapter. You're almost to the end of the book. Revelation Chapter 19. When are you going to open the heavens, God? When are you going to come down, Isaiah said? And God had to remind him I have been coming down for centuries, but I will ultimately come down in triumph at Armageddon. Revelation 19 is the climax of the whole book. It is the crescendo of the book.

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There is more to come, but this is when you reach the climax where Jesus comes back. In chapter 19:7 the voice speaks and says, "Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding [or marriage] of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

Now, who is the bride of Christ in the New Testament? We are, the church. "Fine linen, bright and clean [verse 8] was given to her to wear."

Now the bride is a symbol of all of us, male and female. We're part of the bride of Christ. Our salvation relationship is like a spiritual marriage to Christ. And this passage says we're eventually going up to Heaven to a marriage.

So you have to go up in the rapture first to go to the judgment seat of Christ to receive your rewards, to receive the white robe. Then you go to the marriage.

So why do brides in the Western world usually wear a white dress? The symbolism comes right out of Revelation 19 because that is how the bride of Christ is depicted. The white robe is a symbol of righteousness, the gift of God's righteousness to us.

See when you get saved, God did not just forgive your sins. That would leave you blank. He also gave you the righteousness of Christ. Jesus forgives us and gives to us.

Now, I'm a professor in a fully accredited university. And as I've gotten older, I've gotten more merciful in my grading. Let's say I start the fall semester in a few weeks and the students come in brand-new. They are academically innocent. They have no grades to start with. They don't have As. They don't have Fs. They're innocent.

But they take a few quizzes, they take an exam or two, and pretty soon they have grades and they're no longer innocent. And some of them have really bad grades. Now, let's say I have a student that has all Fs. I could get real merciful and say, look I understand. Times are tough. I forgive you. All your Fs are removed.

That still doesn't help them because they don't have any grades. They are back to zero again. You still have an incomplete. You still haven't accomplished anything. But if I said I would not only forgive all of your Fs, I will give you an A+. That's mercy, that's grace, that's what God does.

Now, I'm not God. And the Accrediting Association will not allow me to do that. So you better get real close to a D so I can bump you up. But I cannot give you an A if all you got was a F, etc., etc., etc. But remember that in salvation, the blood of Christ not only removes our sin and leaves us blank but gives us the righteousness of Christ as a free gift. We're robed in that righteousness.

Now, think about that again. The bride of Christ at the marriage, verse 8, has the linen bright and clean. Then go to verse 11, the climax. "I saw Heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse whose rider was called Faithful and True.

With justice He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire. His head had many crowns. And He had a name written that no one knew, but He himself." I would suggest the secret unspoken name of God. "And He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and His name is called the Word of God."

Well, that was John's favorite term for whom? Jesus. John wrote the Book of Revelation and he also wrote the Gospel of John. How does the Gospel of John begin? First Chapter, first verse, "In the

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beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." So he says here the rider on the horse is called the Word of God. He wants the reader to know it is Jesus.

Then look at verse 14. This is you. The Armies of Heaven were following Him, riding on white horses, dressed in what? Fine linen, white and clean. Where did they get that? Verse 8, at the marriage. So yes, Angels will attend the Lord in His return, but so will we. The raptured church goes up to Heaven. The dead are raised, the living are caught up, and we meet the Lord in the air, we go to the judgment seat of Christ. We go to the marriage, and we returned with Him triumph. We're part of the Army.

Are we coming back to help Jesus fight? No. He doesn't need our help. He is not going to win the Battle of Armageddon with wars, guns and tanks and bombs. He who spoke the world into existence will speak, and it's all over. Jesus speaks with the sword of His mouth and rules with the iron scepter. And He is then called King of kings and Lord of lords. Hallelujah! The Lamb has become the King. The chapter ends in triumph.

The beast and the false prophet are cast alive into the lake of fire. Satan is bound in the abyss in the bottomless pit for a thousand years. And you and I reign and rule with Christ on earth for a thousand years. And you say we will come back to earth for 1000 years?

What are we going to do for 1000 years? We can start by straightening out the traffic in Honolulu. That be a real help. There are all kinds of good things you can do.

The King is coming and when He comes, then you have the literal theocratic kingdom on earth. When the King is here and he is ruling, it is not a question of which political party is in charge. Jesus is in charge and He is the Prince of Peace, the King of kings, the Lord of lords. He comes down in triumph.

Now, think of those seven things again. He came down in the Garden of Eden in provision for their fallenness. He came down at Mount Sinai to bring deliverance. He came down at Mount Carmel in power. He came down in Bethlehem in person. He came down to Golgotha to atone for our sins. He comes down in the person of the Holy Spirit to permanently anchor our lives to the life of God. And He will come down in triumph ultimately at Armageddon.

So as we study the Bible, as you in this ministry especially focus often on Bible prophecy, remember the prophetic message is not just about what is going to happen. That is part of it. But it is ultimately about who is coming. Jesus is coming. The question is: Is he coming for you? And the answer needs to be a very confident what? Yes. Hallelujah! God bless you! Let's pray.

Our Heavenly Father, King of the universe, Lord of life, we bow before You and we thank You this morning that You have made provision for our deepest needs. That You come down in the very times and moments and places where we need you to so desperately intervene on our behalf. And so we ask you to do it again and do it again as we trust You on the journey of life, knowing that we're headed to the heavenly city, to the Millennial Kingdom, and eventually beyond that to the new Heaven and the new earth.

And so encourage us this morning where we need to be encouraged. Challenge us where we need to be challenged. Convict us where we need to be convicted. And give us a renewed sense of hope that You're the God who comes down again, and again and again.

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As we wait in prayer for a moment, let the Spirit of God speak to your heart. Just kind of close everything else out and lock in alone with God for moment. Think back to the day you trusted Him as your personal Savior and take a moment to thank Him, to worship Him, to praise Him and bless Him, thank You for stepping into my life, amen.

And so, so many folks responded. And maybe you're visiting this morning and you attended many times, but you've never really come to a point of real faith yourself, where you surrendered your life to Jesus and said I am Yours. I believe that what You did when You died on the Cross, You did for me and You died for my sins and You rose from the dead to give me eternal life. I want to accept that gift today by faith.

If you do, the Bible invitation is pretty clear. Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. But you have to call. Preachers can't pray you into Heaven. You have to pray. You have to call. It has to be personal where you personally say Lord Jesus, I'm ready to trust You completely for my eternal salvation. Thank You that You died in my place. Repent of your sin, put your faith in Him, call on Him, and pray it in His name, pray it with the confidence of an amen. God will hear you. God will answer.

Maybe today is that day of faith for you to say I'm ready to do that. I'm ready to say yes. I remember the first time I heard the Gospel. I responded. Not everybody responds the first time. But for me, it was the real deal. And I remember putting my hand up saying yeah, I'm for this. I agree. I'm in.

And I wonder this morning even though I am a guest, how many of you would say Ed, God's speaking to my heart this morning and I never really personally called on Jesus to be my Savior, put my faith in Him personally. But today God's prompting my heart to do that. And I'm going to say yes to Him right now. Would you just slip your hand up and share that with me? Just put it up and then down. That's me. That's what I need to do. If it is, you share that with somebody else today.

But then I want to go a step further and I want to talk to believers for moment. Several of you have been through a tough year, a lot of challenges in the last 18 months for all of us. And maybe you're here this morning thinking Ed, I know that God came down powerfully in the past and He's coming down again in the future. But I really need God to come down in my life right now as a believer.

I know that I'm on my way to Heaven, but I'm facing some tough stuff right now and I really need God to hear my prayer, hear my call, and I'd like you to pray for me this morning. If you have a special need like that, would you raise your hand? God bless you, several, several folks. Got a special need in your life like that? God bless you.

Here's what I'd like to do. I want to take a moment and I want to ask you if you have a need like that, would you just get out of your seat, come down front, line up. All I'm going to do is pray over you and pray for God to meet your need and answer your prayer. Just feel free to come and come on down and I'm going to come down with you.

1070 01:04:37,495 --> 01:04:42,395 Come on down. No better place than right here in the house of God with the family of God. We can pray together.

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Now, there's no way that I can hear all of these prayers, but God can. I am going to pray for all of you. But before I do, I'm going to ask you to turn to somebody beside you and just say hey, whatever your need is, God is going to meet it. God is going to help you. God is going to hear you.

Now, my God what a joy it is to be able to bring our needs before You. Lord, I want to thank You for every individual represented here and every prayer concern represented here. For some it's personal needs. For some it could be needs of their family. But I pray that whatever it is, You would be the God who sees their needs, hears their prayer, and is concerned. Give us a sense of Your compassion and concern today.

And I pray that you would leave them with a blessing on their lives and assurance that we are walking with the God of Heaven that comes down again, and again, and again. God please come down on their behalf. Do something that relates to them. Let them know You've heard their prayer, You've met their need, and we pray collectively right now, do what only You can do. Do it for Your glory and for Your honor. And we pray in Jesus' name, and we all say amen. God bless you.