

Revelation 22:1-5
My Every Need Want and Desire Will Be Satisfied Forever
Pastor JD

KAPONO: Praise the Lord. Would you join me as we pray? Lord, we thank You. We thank You so much, Lord, that You've blessed us with such a beautiful place, Lord, a beautiful church, both the building, Lord and the people who are here.

Lord, would You bless our time together in Your word in Revelation, the last book, Lord, last chapter. Lord, thank You so much for this time. Give us clarity where we need clarity, Lord, understanding. And would You just speak to our heart this morning, Lord? We thank You so much, Lord.

Continue to give Pastor JD the strength that only You can give him, Lord, that he will continue, Lord, to preach Your word. So thank You for this time together. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and Amen. And good morning and welcome. You can be seated. So glad you're here. Trust that you'll be blessed that you came. Those of you joining us online, the same. We're blessed that you're joining us and trust that you'll be blessed as well.

We're going to get right to it. We're in the last chapter of the last book of the Bible. And today's text is going to be just the first five verses of the last chapter, Chapter 22. So I know you just sat down. I don't want you to have feelings like you're in a Catholic church, but would you stand back up again for the reading of God's Word? If not, no worries. It's cool. Where you're seated is fine. Only five verses.

John is going to continue now to write as he was commanded to by the Holy Spirit what he's shown. And he says, verse 1, **"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down [Verse 2] the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river [Use your God given imagination here.] stood the tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every cycle. [Now some of your translations might render it month.] [In the original language, it is better understood as a cycle.] And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.**

[Verse 3] No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on

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their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever."

Mic drop. Close in prayer. Let's pray. Father, this is just wow! It is just too marvelous for comprehension, too wonderful for words. Thank You for inspiring John to write this for us. Lord, there's so much here that I know You want us to see, hear, and take to heart. But unless the Holy Spirit is our teacher and our guide through the text that's before us, then our time together is going to be a waste of time. I don't think there's anybody here that wants that to happen. That's why we're here, to hear You speak in and through Your word. Would You do that for us, Lord? We're asking You for this, Lord. In Jesus' name. amen and amen.

You can be seated. Thank you so much. So what I want to talk with you about today is how that the day is coming very soon, not far off in the future. Please don't do that. Don't let the enemy try to get in your head and make you think that. This is sooner than you think. It is closer than you can imagine. This day is coming very, very, very soon when my every need, my every want, and yes, even my every desire will be satisfied forever and ever.

How's that sound? That doesn't sound real. Unreal, man. That's fantasy. No, it's not. It is reality. It is truth. It is factual. It is biblical.

Here in the first five verses of this last chapter, in this last book of the Bible, we get to go inside for a tour of the New Jerusalem. Remember last week and at the end of Chapter 21, we only got to see the outside. I mean, this is our new eternal home. When can I go inside? I'm not done showing you the outside. I gotta show you the gates, one pearl each, huge, all the precious stones. You've never seen such brilliant colors before, ever in your finiteness on Earth. So we got to see the outside. We even got to see it, not being built, but coming down from heaven.

By the way, somebody asked, and this is a good question. Oh, wait a minute. If we're going to be in Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem, for all eternity, does that mean we're not going to be able to — and it's suspended over the Earth, the new earth, between the new earth and the new heavens — are we going to be able to go to the new earth? Yes. You're going to — the

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travel — because see, in — our finite minds cannot comprehend the infinite. We're going to have glorified bodies. You know what that means? No need for a plane. I can go anywhere, anytime, anyhow, whenever I want. And I can be there instantly.

Sorry if I woke somebody up. I'm just kidding. It's too early to fall asleep. My goodness! Have I bored you that much already?

We're going to be traveling for all of eternity and get this, learning of Him for all eternity. We're gonna talk a little bit about it today, because now we are going to go inside the New Jerusalem to see what is inside, but infinitely more importantly, who is inside.

Now, I say this this way because what's inside comes from who's inside, and it's all for us. For me? Yeah. You. And for eternity. Unlimited. Uninterrupted. And that's not all. Hope that doesn't sound like an infomercial. Not only is this all for us, for all eternity, we are going to reign with Jesus forever and ever. That should give every single one of us chicken skin.

By the way, this was and is God's original plan for man coming full circle prophetically. This by way of the heavens and earth being made new now that the old has passed away. What do you mean by that? What I mean by that is the old ruined by the curse of sin, which man has lived under, is now gone, and we have been given a new earth, a new heaven, and a New Jerusalem. Not a remodeled one, renovated one. No. Brand-spanking new for all eternity. Wrap your mind around that. Go ahead. I'll just watch and wait for you to wrap your mind. No, I'm just kidding. I won't look at you. I'm trying to wrap my mind.

You know, I am so looking forward to teaching this. And here's why. We're going to see three wondrous and glorious glimpses of the eternal bliss that awaits us in the New Jerusalem with Jesus, who prepared it just for us, and how God provides this taste of heaven now on earth to us. Hang on to that. Think about that. Otherwise, why would — it would almost seem cruel, you know, to show somebody a travel brochure that is unfathomable, eternal, perfect. This is where your final destination is. Now have a nice day.

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Bye. No, no, no, no. That's not who God is. That's not how God is. Who God is and how God is, is that God wants us to taste and see that He is good. And once you taste and see that He is good, man, you're— there's no going back. There's no going back.

So three things, and then I have a little something at the end that I want to save time for. So let's get moving. First one, verses 1 and 2. I'll eat and drink health-giving life. Oh, this alone, stand alone. You know what this means? There's going to be food for all eternity. Come on, guys, can I get a witness here? Ho! I'm thinking buffet. No fat, no cholesterol, no sodium, no nothing. No. For real! Okay, you're looking at me with that look. I know that look.

John writes that he saw the river of the water of life as clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb. So the Father and the Son, two separate thrones. And it flows down the middle of the great street of the city, speaking of the New Jerusalem with, watch this, trees of health-giving life on each side, bearing, I would imagine delicious would be an understatement, fruit every cycle, forever and ever.

Okay. You mentioned something about having a taste of heaven now. How do you get there? Oh, I'm glad you asked. Actually, this is in our Bibles because God wants to give us a taste of heaven while here on earth, making it available to us. Why? For the pointing of us to heaven when this is fulfilled for us. In other words, when I read, hear, take to heart, understand that this is real and this is where I will dwell for all of eternity, I'm liking it. I'm liking it. You're teasing me. No, I'm not teasing you. I'm just giving you a taste of what I have in store for you. I mean, it's so grand and glorious, but I want you to taste it now on earth so that I can get you to focus and fix your mind on heaven, your final destination.

Look at John 4, verse 13 and 14 with me. This is Jesus now answering the woman at the well, a well-known well account of a well and a woman. And He's now going to respond to her. She's flabbergasted. I mean, here's a Jewish man speaking to a Samaritan woman. That never happens. This is unthinkable. And not only is this a Jewish man, this is no ordinary man.

It's almost humorous because God has a sense of humor. But when He starts prophetically speaking to her, she says, "**I perceive that you're a prophet.**" Ya think? He's not just a

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prophet. He's God the son, the Son of God right there talking to you. You talking to me? Yeah, I'm talking to you. I know everything about you. I'm sure she was stunned.

Well, she's come to the well, as was the custom to draw from it water. And after this encounter with the Savior of the world, who's I mean, seeing right through her, ministering to her, being a blessing beyond words to her He says to her, **"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again."** It will not satisfy. It will never satiate. **"But [Verse 14] whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst, but the water that I shall give him will become [Now listen very carefully] in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."**

Translated: You can taste this satiating water now. Notice Jesus didn't say it will become a fountain of water springing up when you're in everlasting life. No, you can have it now, man. You can taste from this water. You can have this satiation of your thirst spiritually right here and right now, and it will follow you up, springing up into everlasting life. That's a taste of heaven on earth. Whew!

There are some others. I was very tempted, but the Book of Acts, actually, even in the Gospels, there are powerful passages in God's Word, these promises that this life-giving water, thirst-quenching water is available to us now. And it comes by the filling of the Holy Spirit, like we talked about last week, that we become torrents of living water.

I did decide to include Psalm 1 just the first three verses, and you'll see why, beginning in verse one, Psalm 1. Man, right out of the chute, this is... **"Blessed is the man [I want to be blessed.] Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight [Verse 2] is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night. [Now watch the imagery here.] [Verse 3] He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season [Or cycle], [Sound familiar?] whose leaf also shall not wither. And whatever he does shall prosper."**

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Wait. So you're telling me that this is available to me now here on earth as a taste of heaven? No, I'm not telling you that. God's word is telling you that. Do you believe Him? Do you believe Him?

Man, I'm gonna get me some of that water. Is that bottled water with all the — what's that chemical — BMP, or you know, 666? No, that's a different one. You know, all the plastics and the chemicals and the toxins. And so we buy, you know, \$150,000 water purifiers, and then we try to buy organic food because that's got all kinds of chemicals. And when you look at the back and the ingredients, if you can't pronounce it, don't buy it. I mean — and they disguise it. Oh, they're so crafty and clever. P (Speaking chemical-sounding gibberish) light. Okay. What's that? I'm not telling you. I'm putting that in my body? That doesn't sound like life. That sounds like death. This is life.

Remember the Tree of Life? This is not the Garden of Eden. This is the New Jerusalem. but the Tree of Life, When Adam and Eve sinned and sin with the curse of death entered the world, after they had eaten from the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they were evicted from the garden. You know what happened afterwards? Go back to Genesis. You might be interested to know some details about this. There were angels put on guard, shutting access to the Garden. Why? Because had God not done that in love, by the way, they would have still had access to the Tree of Life. But now they've sinned, and they would remain in that fallen state for as long as they ate from that Tree of Life.

Now — remember last week — the gates never shut. No need. The 12 angels at the gates. They're not there to shut them and open them. They're there to greet us when we go in and out of them. That was another question we were asked. Are we just going to be stuck in, you know? No. The gates are still open. Do I have a curfew? There's no night. There's no curse. We're going to see that next. And this is going to be a biggie, by the way.

But I wanted to, before we move on, stress this. That this is available now. We just had this description of the one who delights in the word of God, meditates on the word of God, and what's his life going to be like? A tree fruitful by the rivers of water. Satiated.

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Listen, when Jesus, who, by the way, is the only One who will satisfy any longing, any need, any want, any desire. By the way, our desires in glory are going to be holy, glorified desires. Now on earth, they're not necessarily. See, God promised He would provide all of our needs, but He didn't include wants or desires.

Well, wait a minute, Pastor. What about in Psalm 34 where it says, "**Delight yourself in the Lord, and He'll give you the desires of your heart.**" Cool. So all I got to do is delight myself in the Lord, and He will give me the desire of my heart, which is a brand-new Mercedes Benz. No. Check this out. God first puts the desire in your heart, and then you begin to delight in that desire that He put in your heart and when you delight yourself in Him, He gives you the desire that He put there of your heart. Does that makes sense? Please tell me you got that, because that's the best I got. So....

All right, let's move on. The second one: This is very, very important. I didn't say that about the first one, right? Okay. That was not very convincing. So if I did, scratch it; I'm saying it about this one. It's in verse 3. I'll serve Him without any curse.

Now, please, I implore you; stay with me on this. This verse, starting out with they're no longer being a curse, provides us with important details that will come into clearer focus for our lives now here on earth. Let me explain.

Because the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb are in the city we'll be working for Him in our service to Him. Don't walk out yet. Wait a minute. I still have to work? There's work in heaven? I have a job description? Are you kidding me now? You're killing me now. No, you're — that's what I mean by this is so important to understand. There's no more curse.

You see, work was blessed before the sin of curse entered the world. Did you know that? Work and serving Him were blessed before sin and its curse entered the world in the beginning. We're actually even given what work they were given to do, Speaking of Adam and Eve, Genesis 1:28 This is before the whole serpent thing.

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"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply.' [Man, I'm checking that box.] [That's an easy, fun do.] [I'm in. I'm all in on that one.] fill the earth. [I will, man.] and subdue it.'"

Wait. Not so fast. What does that mean? Well, you see, the devil, who will appear as a serpent, is already on the earth. And I'm giving in your job description the work of subduing the earth. You're going to have dominion over the earth. Dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Okay. So that's work, but it's blessed. It's not a got-to. It's a get-to.

Okay, Genesis 2:15. We still haven't got to the fall of man and the curse of sin. We're told, Genesis 2:15, **"And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it."**

That sounds like a lot of work. And what am I going to do? Pull weeds now? No, the weeds come later. After sin enters, your work, your toil, Adam, will be by the sweat of your brow. See, work was blessed before it was cursed. And now God is bringing it back full circle when work is blessed yet again for all eternity.

I know this might be a harder one to deal with but what do you think you're going to be doing in heaven forever and ever? You're going to be playing a harp? Well — by the way, I'm out of a job in heaven, so I'm going to be reassigned. I mean, you don't need pastors in heaven. You got the Preacher of preachers, the King of kings, the Lord of lords right here, man. What am I going to do? What am I going to add? I'd be fired before I was ever hired. So I got to get reassigned.

I was thinking about this. I don't see Dr. Christopher here today, but I think I've already told him he's out of a job in heaven because there's no sickness, no disease, no need for a doctor because everybody will be perfectly healthy for eternity.

So I wonder what my job's going to be. Well, I don't know what it's going to be. I don't know what my job's going to be. I have some thoughts. You know, I love doing certain things, and God knows what they are. And I think some of you know what they are, too,

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because I include them in my teachings from time to time. But I just like to organize a chart and graph and you know, list.

And you know, my kids are just — they've had it with me. You know, I print it out. Okay, I got — here's the list. You know, they got their devices — they're like... You're such a dad. I got to print it out. What? You're embarrassing me, Dad. Why? I need it. And so then I just — I just stand by and watch them using their non-list or whatever it is. And they go to the store, and apparently, they don't have the right measurements, so they end up buying the wrong thing, and they have to return it. And that's a lot of — that's a lot of work. Well, I could have if you would have just — but no, that's okay. That's okay. You know more than me. What do I know? I'm just an old crusty — I'll leave it there.

No, your job, I can assure you, on the authority of God's word, God's nature, and God's love, that you will absolutely love it. There's no punching in or punching out, no time clock, no need. There's no, you know, uniform or, you know, anything. There's no, you know, payment because everything is given freely. We saw that last week. So we're going to — and there's no night, so we don't wake up in the morning going, oh, the alarm clock goes off, the alarm clock from HE double toothpicks. No alarm clocks in heaven. Thank you, Jesus. That alarm clock goes off, and you don't like alarm clocks. You hate alarm clocks, but you need alarm clocks; otherwise, you wouldn't get up and get to work on time. But if there's no night there, I don't — and there's no time there because we're outside of time now. We're in eternity. I'm just going to be doing what I love to do whenever I want to do it for Him, serving Him.

Even now, I think it's Ephesians. I can't recall chapter and verse. Whatever you find to do, do it with all your might as unto the Lord.

You know you have an employer. You think he's the Antichrist. He's not. But he's a slave driver. You're underpaid, overworked; I get it. You're not working for him. You're working as unto the Lord. That changes the complexion of everything. And then watch what happens too, by the way.

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You know that in the early church, when it was illegal to be a Christian, they would sell Christians on the auction block as slaves along with the non-Christians. And do you know that the Christians were the ones that sold for the highest price on those auction blocks? Do you know why? Because their service in slavery was not as unto men but was as unto God, and they shamed the other workers.

You've ever had this? I've heard this. Stop working so hard. You're making me look bad. No, how about you. First of all, you need the Lord. Secondly, I'm not going to stop because I'm doing this as unto the Lord.

You know, if you're a Christian employee, you should be the best employee in that organization. You should stand and out and shine so bright that your boss looks at you and goes (Stunned look) Probably not like that. But are you for real? Yeah. I mean, all your other coworkers are stealing me blind, taking home supplies. Oh, come on. Come on, be real. And you're going the extra mile, beyond the call of duty. Why? Because I do it as unto my Jesus. I see a promotion in your future. I see promotion in your future.

Okay, well, I hope I didn't guilt anybody. I didn't intend to. But, you know, guilt is the gift that keeps on giving. So if it's a sanctified guilt, then as long as it doesn't condemn, let it convict.

The third one, last one. This is the one I want to spend the remainder of our time on. There's so much here. Verses 4 and 5. I'll see His face, and His name will be on me. Now, to us in the West, Your name's gonna be on me? Okay, I guess. I'm in with seeing You face to face. I can't wait. But what's up with the name thing? Well, we'll get there.

This is more important details concerning seeing the face of Jesus, who has His name on us. Example. My wife, who's not here, thankfully, doesn't appreciate this illustration, but you know when the husband marries the wife, the custom is that the wife takes the name of the husband. So her maiden name was Linn. It's Irish. You know a lot of the Irish dropped the O. It used to be all in O'Linn. O'Rilly. No, they dropped the O. Rilly. Linn. So it was Linn, L-I-N-N.

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I come along. Sweep her off her feet. Suave and debonair. How am I doing? Not good? I don't see that I'm doing good. And I just, I mean, I knew when I met her — we met at church 39 years ago. And she was going forward and you know, being a godly, single young man that I am worshiping the Lord with one eye open. (Chuckling) Oh, Lord. Wow. Ooh! Is she the one? I even took it further. Lord, if she is, then make a way for us to be introduced. And that's exactly what happened. And the rest of history as they say. I'll spare you the gory details because...

But her maiden name was Linn. It is no longer Linn. Because she took my name on her. Farag. Listen, I didn't choose that. She's not bitter or anything, at least I don't think so. But you see where I'm going with this? The wife takes on the name of the husband. Jesus is our newlywed husband, and we have His name on us as such.

Now here's where it gets very important. What if I told you that His seal is already on us? His name is already on us. We're already sealed here and now by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee for our eternity all to the praise and glory of Jesus. Ephesians 1. It's in Ephesians 3:2 But let's look at verses 13 and 14 of Ephesians 1.

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also having believed *[Listen]* you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, *[That's a promise ring.]* who was the guarantee *[Sealing the deal.]* *[What deal?]* *[The deal]* of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession to the praise of His glory."
Here and now.

All right! That's what I'm talking about. I got the seal of God. I got the name of God. Don't mess with me, man. Don't come off like that. That's kind of snarky, but it's a sanctified, snarky.

Can I draw your attention to Revelation 3 and verse 12? Just one verse. Let me get to the back story and the context here, the backdrop. This is one of seven letters to seven literal physical churches in Asia Minor at that time, now, modern-day Turkey. And Jesus dictates seven letters for John to write and send to these literal seven churches. And they would represent prophetically, the church age throughout church history.

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You get to the sixth of the seventh churches, and it's the Church of Philadelphia, one of only two churches, the other one being Smyrna, that were not on the receiving end of a rebuke from Jesus. They were, in fact, commended and encouraged and strengthened. So listen to what He writes just in one verse, in verse 12 to the church in Philadelphia. **"He who overcomes..."** Who's that? We talked about that. The overcomer is the one who believes in Jesus. You're an overcomer. Now watch this.

"I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God, the name of My city, of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My [My] new name."

I can't wait because I don't like my name. I don't even like my first name. Wahid. What did you just call me? That's why I came up, in 1982, with the initials JD as kind of a nickname, a.k.a., which, by the way, doesn't stand for Jack Daniels. That was often asked, you know, when I'm in a business transaction. How do you get JD out of Wahid Farag?

Well, I chose JD for a reason because it was an open door to an opportunity to share Jesus with the one asking. And it made it a little bit harder when they would chuckle, Ha-ha-ha. What's that stand for? Jack Daniels? Ha-ha-ha. And I'm trying to do a courtesy laugh, ha-ha. You know, there's different kinds of laughs. Machine gun laugh. Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha. Courtesy laugh. Heh-heh-heh-heh. I'll stop there. That's enough. That's too much.

So I'm going to have His name. What's in a name? The nature as the owner. The name is written on the title deed representing who's the true owner. **"We are not our own but have been purchased with a price."** And it cost the One who purchased us everything, even His life. **"Because no greater love hath any man than he would lay down his life for another."** So His name is on me. You know, again, in the West, we just don't get this. This is just foreign to us.

Here's another example. We affectionately refer to this as the Aaronic blessing. Numbers 6:22. Don't stop at 26. Go through to verse 27. That's the best part. I want to spend just a

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little bit of time, not too much. Let me have this. You'll see why. And you'll be glad and be blessed as I explain this.

In the Middle Eastern culture, the name represented the nature. In fact, so much so that they would not even name the child until they started to see the nature and personality of the child. And they would name that child accordingly, which if we would have done that, my wife and I would have named our first two sons, not Elias and Levi, but search and destroy. So that's a good thing we didn't follow that custom.

But if they already knew the nature of the birth of that child, like in Isaac's case, the name literally represents the nature. Now stay with me. So Isaac, we pronounce in English is pronounced Yitzhak in Hebrew. And in my native tongue of Arabic, it's pronounced Yitzhak. You know what Yitzhak, Isaac, Yitzhak literally means? Laughter. You remember why? Because when the angel of the Lord appeared to Abraham one year to the day before she would give birth to a biological son at 90 years of age, she laughed.

Could you imagine? Roll call in school. You know, present, absent. Okay. Laughter? Right here. Every time your name was pronounced, you were saying laughter. Let me give you an example illustration. I'm going to say to you this in Arabic. This is okay. Ana yitzhak ma'akum. What did I just say? I said I'm going to laugh along with you. Yitzhak. Yitzhak. Isaac. The name is the nature.

Let's take Abraham and Sarah just real quick. This will be worth it. It wasn't always Abraham or Sarah. It was Abram and Sarai until God came and changed their names by adding the fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet in the fifth place of their name. Abraham. Sarah. Five: the number of grace, changing their names, representing their nature.

One more. This is probably the most pronounced of them all. Yacob in Hebrew. Jacob. Heel snatcher. Fraternal twin? Esau. You know what I'm talking about. He wrestles with God all night. How he did that I do not know. And he's demanding that God bless him. The problem is God can't bless him until God breaks him and changes him. So what does He do? You will no longer be Jacob. You will be Israel, which means "ruled by God." The name is the

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nature. So Israel a.k.a Yacob/Jacob would go on to have 12 sons who would become the 12 tribes of Israel. He changed the name and the nature.

So to the question of what's in the name? A lot. A lot. It's not just a name. My name, my given name, Wahid; it's the nature. Wahid in Arabic is actually kind of cool. "Number one." Wahid, ithnane, thalatha, arba'a, khamisa are the letters in Arabic one through five. So when you say my name, my Arabic name Wahid, you're saying "number one," baby. (Chuckling) I better be careful. I'm going to get struck by a bolt of lightning.

So why was I named Wahid? Because I was the only first begotten son. You read the New Testament in the Bible in Arabic and it says El Wahid, describing the first begotten son. That's even cooler. My name's there because that's what my name means. And then we had, my parents had a girl, and now I had a sister. I wasn't Wahid anymore because it meant only child, only begotten. Anyway, I think you've had enough. Have you? I'm setting the stage.

So you guys know this Aaronic blessing, right? God commands Moses to command Aaron to pronounce this blessing on the children of Israel every time they went to the tabernacle and subsequently the temple. In other words, every time they went to church, this was to be pronounced upon them. So if you went to church like two times a day, you heard this two times a day.

"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless [Hang on] the children of Israel.'"

Did you know that God wants to bless you? He doesn't want to spank you. He's not angry with you. God is looking for every way to bless you.

When our boys were young before our daughter was born, man, oh, it was brutal. We threw and burned up all our parenting books, man. We had it all figured out until they were born. We're like, none of this works. And so we've got to discipline them.

And so it got so bad that it was like they started thinking we would get up in the morning, mom and dad, and be like, man, I can't wait to figure out a way to spank them and discipline

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them and teach them a lesson. No, we would do the opposite. And we're fallen. We were looking for a way to surprise them. What's the surprise? I can't tell you; it won't be a surprise. We were planning a trip to the water park. We want to bless you. We love you. What's the matter with you?

I want you to know this. I want you to hear this. And I want you to hear it every day, all day, every time you go to the temple. Okay? What do You want? What do You want us to know about the way You want to bless us? Well, say to them, verse 24, **"The Lord bless you and keep you."** Stop.

Please, I beg you. Do not insert the word "may." It's not "may the Lord bless you." That's kind of like maybe. I don't know, Maybe the Lord is going to bless you. We'll see. No, it's not "may" nothing. It's **"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."**

Okay, I got to share this. It's been a while. Let me have it. When the boys were little, I came up with a rap song to pronounce this blessing. And I went like this. 🎵 The Lord bless you and keep you. Make His face to shine upon you and give you peace. And give you peace. 🎵 I think this explains their neurotic conditions, the twitching. I don't know, I'm changing their diaper. They're not even cognitive, but I want to bless them and I want to do it in a way, you know, and then as they got older, they said, stop. Just please stop. Just stop. Stop. We got it. We got it. You ask them to this day, 27-whatever years later, 25 years later, they can recite it. They know it.

But let's not stop there, okay? And by the way, can I just say parenthetically, **"make His face shine upon you?"** What does that mean? He's going a smile upon you. Okay, wait a minute. Come on. The Lord is going to smile, have a smile on His face upon me?

I love to make people smile. I love to make people laugh. Because laughter's the best medicine. Totally plagiarized from Scripture in the Proverbs. It's actually medicinal, physiologically, psychologically, etc.

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But this just goes contrary to everything we've been told, which is all false. We picture God as this old, gray haired, long beard, cane. You know that might be your God. That ain't my God. First of all, my God got a big smile on His face. You want to know why? Me. He has made His face shine upon me and think about this. He wants them to know this. He wants them to hear this. He wants you here today online to know this and to hear this. He's a blessing God. He wants to bless you. He's not through with you. He's going to keep you. He's got plans for you. He's going to be gracious to you. He's going to smile upon you, and he's going to give peace to you. Did I miss one? I probably did.

But then verse 27. Whoa! Sorry if I hurt anybody's ear drums. If I blew your speakers, send us the invoice. We'll reimburse you online. Verse 27; please, again, don't stop at verse 26. **"So [That's a - notice that word, how it connects it.] So you pronounce this blessing on them. "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel. And I will bless them."**

In the Middle Eastern culture, the highest honor you can give a man is to call him by the name of his first begotten son. You know how we esteem in our culture Dr. So-and-So, Pastor So-and-So, which is, by the way, something I've never been comfortable with because it just creates this chasm between the clergy and the laity. So it's not been something I've worn comfortably, but you can call me pastor. I get it, out of honor and respect. I'm very respectful. I call the doctors "doctor." But you know what's a higher honor, showing more respect? It's when you call them by the name of their first begotten son. So in my case, Abu, father of Elias. Elias, Abu Elias. You can call me pastor. They just call me Abu Elias. We see it in the Gospels. Jesus, son of Joseph. You were identified. That was your identity. And that would honor the family. And it would be the male that would carry on the family name.

Okay. God put His name not just on the children of Israel and on us as well, He has literally, literally put His name on Jerusalem, the only true capital of Israel now, and will in the New Jerusalem then. His name of ownership is on literally. I'll go through these quickly.

2 Chronicles, Chapter 6, first part of verse 6, **"But I have chosen Jerusalem that My name might be there."** *[My name of ownership.]* And you want to divide it? I'll meet you in the Valley of Jehoshaphat very soon.

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2 Chronicles 12, second part of verse 13, **"He [*Speaking of Rehoboam*] reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, [*Notice the detail*] the city which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel [*Why?*] to put His name there."**

2 Chronicles 33, second part of verse 7, **"...in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, [*Watch this.*] I will put My name forever."**

2 Kings., lastly, 21 second part of verse 4, **"In Jerusalem will I put My name."** Period.

All right. What's God's name? Because, I mean, when Moses had asked Him, who should I say sent me. Just tell them "I am." I'm picturing Moses. I'm just — let me have this. You know, this is the way I imagine it. I am. I am. The great I am. I am whatever you need. You fill in that blank.

Well, also, the Hebrew letter shin, pictured here. It looks like our English letter W. You'll see why in a moment. The Jews use this shin as the abbreviation for God's name, El Shaddai, which is why Orthodox Jews have the shin on the phylactery of their forehead or forearm. Are we — is this sounding familiar? The name of God on their forehead and their forearm. This is why in Revelation, Satan perverts it with the mark of the beast on the forehead or the forearm. He's a creator of nothing, a counterfeiter of everything.

So you know, for those of you that went to Jerusalem with us, you know, when you would see the Orthodox Jews at the Western Wall, they would wear these boxes on their foreheads and tied around their forearms. It would have the letter shin on it, the name of God. You went to your hotel room, right? Without exception, there was the shin on the doorpost. Sometimes you see it in movies where you know, the Jew will, you know, kiss the shin before they enter the door. That's the name of God is on the door. The name of God is on the place, on the house. So the shin, as the abbreviation for God's name, El Shaddai, is in fact on Jerusalem, literally, exactly as God said it would be.

So here's how we're going to close. I'm going to show you some images of the Old City of Jerusalem, as outlined by the biblical walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, with the shin

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superimposed on top of it. Now, the New Jerusalem? Oh, I can't wait to see. This is the old Jerusalem. This is the current Jerusalem. The name of God is on Jerusalem. You ready?

Here's the first one. It's a wood carving with the shin superimposed on the city of Jerusalem.

Here's the shin shown with an aerial photo.

Here's another aerial photo. And notice, and this is important. Please don't miss this. I'm almost done. The triune nature because the name is the nature, shin, three persons, God in three persons. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Well, I count three there.

And notice the second one, the second person of the Trinity. The Son of God, God the Son. Notice where it's positioned. Where the Temple Mount is and the temple once stood. I love it when God does stuff like this. It is perfectly situated and located in the second position where the temple was located. Because He's the second person of the Trinity. The name, the name above all names, the name of Jesus.

Here's where it gets even more fascinating. Not only is the name of God on the city of Jerusalem, it's also on the three valleys around Jerusalem. Listen, God, when He does things, you heard that expression 'go big or go home.' You don't have to say that to God. He's a big God. There's nothing too hard for the Lord. This is not a coincidence. The three valleys are the Hinnom Valley, the Tyropoeon Valley, and the Kidron Valley. Now watch this. This is the valleys. You can see the outline. I circled in the middle the temple area. But the shin is superimposed as the name of God on the three valleys of Jerusalem.

This one is an artist's sketch showing the topographical features of Jerusalem. But you can see more clearly the three valleys and the shin, the name of God literally on it.

Lastly, here's another view clearly showing the shin as the name of God on the three valleys around Jerusalem.

You know what this means? God owns that piece of real estate. It's not for sale. And there is no — it's not for lease. And you can't subdivide it. I know you're trying. That was already prophesied. It will not end well for you. We'll see that in Zachariah Chapter 12. It's in, Joel, Chapter 2, verse 3. I mean, basically when we get to Zechariah 12 — you know this well.

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You're trying to divide My Jerusalem with My name, of My ownership on it? That's mine. You can't do that. I gave it to the Jews. That's mine. It belongs to Me. You can't touch it. You're trying to cut it up? I'm gonna cut you up. How about that? That's a little strong, but that's basically what Zachariah 12:1-3 says.

Here's where I'm going. Here's how I'll end. I did say I would end. Don't look at your watches. So if God's that protective, ferociously so, over what He has His name on, then wouldn't it stand to reason that God is going to be as ferociously protective of me because His name is on me?

Last story. Did I say "last" yet? This'll be last. When my daughter, Sabia, was young and she came home from school one day just crying, oh, my goodness. I went... I won't tell you what I went because I don't want you to look at me differently. But I mean, you're the same way. Your daughter comes home crying. What happened? Oh, this boy was mean to me. He was saying things to me, was bullying me. That's all I need to hear. She's young. This is my baby girl. Daddy's little girl. What is his name? Where does he live? He is in grave danger. Because that's my daughter. She's got my name on her. I know she doesn't like it either. But she's mine.

You're His. You're His. And this is just a taste. This is to whet your appetite. Not even an appetizer. Not even close to an appetizer. This is — you're just getting a little taste of a little appetizer, if that. And with just that, wow! This is why I couldn't wait to teach this text today.

I don't know what your needs are. God does. I don't know what you want for. God does. I don't know what desires you have. God does. But there is coming a day, and believe you me, with the way things are looking right now in the world, it will be sooner than you could ever even began to possibly imagine. This is not far off. This is going to happen, man.

Okay. I'm done. You've had enough, haven't you? Kaponi, come on up. Stand up. We'll close in prayer and song.

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Can't wait. Lord, I can't wait for that which awaits us as You have described it through the Apostle John. This is — what a glorious, just glimpse. What a wonderful, just taste of heaven with You even though we're still here on earth.

Lord, I pray You'll take this and now, by the Holy Spirit, begin that process of just making it real as we apply it to our lives in this ever-increasing, stressful and pressure-filled world we're in getting worse by the day. It's getting pretty scary out there. So thank You for what awaits us up there.

So Lord, I pray that this glimpse, this taste will give us a much-needed change of perspective on this life, the things of this life in this world, the things of this world which are all passing away. So Lord, we can't wait. Thank You for the brochure of our final destination. You've just completely ruined us now because all we can think about is this, having our minds set on things above, which is exactly what You want us to do, so that You can keep us in perfect peace until we arrive there with You. Thank You, Jesus.

I pray for anyone that's struggling today going through it, man. They're just going through it. The bottom fell out. And they don't see any way out of what they're going through. Please God, as only You can, rush in and do that which only You can, all for Your glory. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.