

*DAY 2*

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There are many things competing for our attention: personal events (past and present), politics, economy, ethics, wars and rumors of wars, anti-biblical worldviews and church doctrines, and antichrist principalities and powers, just to name a few. However, when our thoughts are on these and not on who we are as sons and daughters of the Most High God, it's time to pause and remember that we are the temple of God and His Spirit dwells in us. During this time of fasting let us purposely lay hold of knowing we are a living sanctuary.

Through the years, a Greek mindset that operates through intellectual reasoning with the purpose of separating the physical from the spiritual has weaved its way into the very fabric of society – and possibly, quite unknowingly, in your and my thinking. What we may think a word, or a scripture, means has been influenced by cultures and philosophies over the ages in ways that may conflict with how Biblical writers thought and wrote about the seen and unseen realms.

For this devotional, the Lord compelled me to share scriptures as written through the lens of ancient and 'premodern' worldview Biblical authors and ancient readers, so that you may ponder on them afresh and as originally intended. The words that were written in such a time as that are, in reality, for such a time as this for us in this age.

In Daniel 7, Daniel wrote down the substance of dreams and visions that he had of the four winds of heaven, of four great beasts, and of ten horns. Daniel 7:9-22 says,

9 “AS I LOOKED, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of His head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. 10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before Him. Thousands upon thousands attended Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. THE COURT WAS SEATED, and THE BOOKS WERE OPENED. 11 Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. 12 (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) 13 IN MY VISION at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. 15 I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and THE VISIONS that passed through my mind disturbed me. 16 I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this. So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: 17 “The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. 18 But THE HOLY PEOPLE OF THE MOST HIGH will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.” 21 AS I WATCHED, this horn was waging war against THE HOLY PEOPLE and defeating them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of THE HOLY PEOPLE OF THE MOST HIGH, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.” (NIV)

Ancient readers understood that the kingdoms Daniel was seeing were real and not only divine but also earthly. It was (is) a glimpse of the divine blueprint of God’s kingdoms. The phrase “holy people” (Qedoshim), in original Hebrew understanding, refers to both God’s divine council in heaven and to God’s creation of humankind on earth. Both were created by the Most High to rule their realms, with the Most High as the head of the councils.

Know that ‘you’ are one of the holy people in the divine blueprint! You are a meeting place for God – His sanctuary, His temple. You are a structure that is set apart for Him; a structure indwelled with His presence. We think it’s hard to be a living sanctuary, but the truth is we were created “IN” the image of God, according to His likeness (Genesis 1:26). Therefore, being a living sanctuary is our true nature.

You may view the word “IN” as a simple preposition, but “simple” was not the intent of the Biblical author’s word choice as they wrote what God breathed, nor would ancient readers discount it as simple. This small word possesses a profound meaning.

“IN” (en), Strong’s Concordance G1722, Thayer’s Greek Lexicon for Strong’s G1722:

- denotes fixed position (in place, time, or state); to give self wholly to; in the interior of some whole; within the limits of some space;
- applies to things not perceived by the senses; within oneself; in the person, nature, soul;
- of the person or thing on whom or on which some power is operative or manifest;
- in the presence of; permeated as if dyed;
- of that in which any person or thing is inherently fixed, implanted, intimately connected; wholly joined;
- ingrafted as it were in Christ, in union with Christ;
- to exchange one thing for another.

Now, when I ponder Biblical phrases such as “IN the sanctuary,” “IN God’s image,” “praying IN the Spirit,” “worshipping IN Spirit and IN Truth,” or “IN the Name of Jesus,” I understand that I am not simply prepositionally in these states – I am wholly encompassed within them. I am wholly absorbed into them and permeated by them.

1 Corinthians 3:16 says, “Do you not all know that all of you are God’s inner sanctuary and that the Spirit of God is making His home in you?” (The New Testament: An Expanded Translation, Kenneth S. Wuest)

There is a place in you that only belongs to God. It is a sacred space, the inner sanctuary where you were created to fellowship with your King and live. It is the place where you exchange who the world has made you with who the Most High originally made you. I appeal to you, remove all that keeps you 'in' the outer court and take your rightful posture 'in' the inner sacred place where you will not be shaken by the trials of the world when they come.

You are your Beloved's, and your Beloved is yours. He keeps His promises. He restores, and He redeems that which is His. Every word He speaks is true.

John the Revelator wrote down what he was shown in heaven of things that would come, saying, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea did not exist any longer. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with humanity, and he will take up residence with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them." (Revelation 21:1-3, LEB)

In Matthew 16, Jesus declared that you, as His ecclesia, are His legislative body in His Kingdom on earth – you are His hands, you are His feet, you are His voice. You are divinely created as the earthly blueprint of the heavenly counsel, that is, you are "as it is in heaven." You are God's once and future family; God's once and future divine council on earth; God's once and future rulers with Jesus; God's restoration of His original Edenic vision.

Now is the time to prepare your sanctuary. Prepare fresh bread, fill your lamp stands with fresh oil, lay fresh incense on the altar, and burn continuously. For as surely as the sun rises and sets so shall the Son of God return for His bride. Until that day may you be found in the temple being about the Father's work and praising His Holy Name.

Be strong and courageous. The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.