

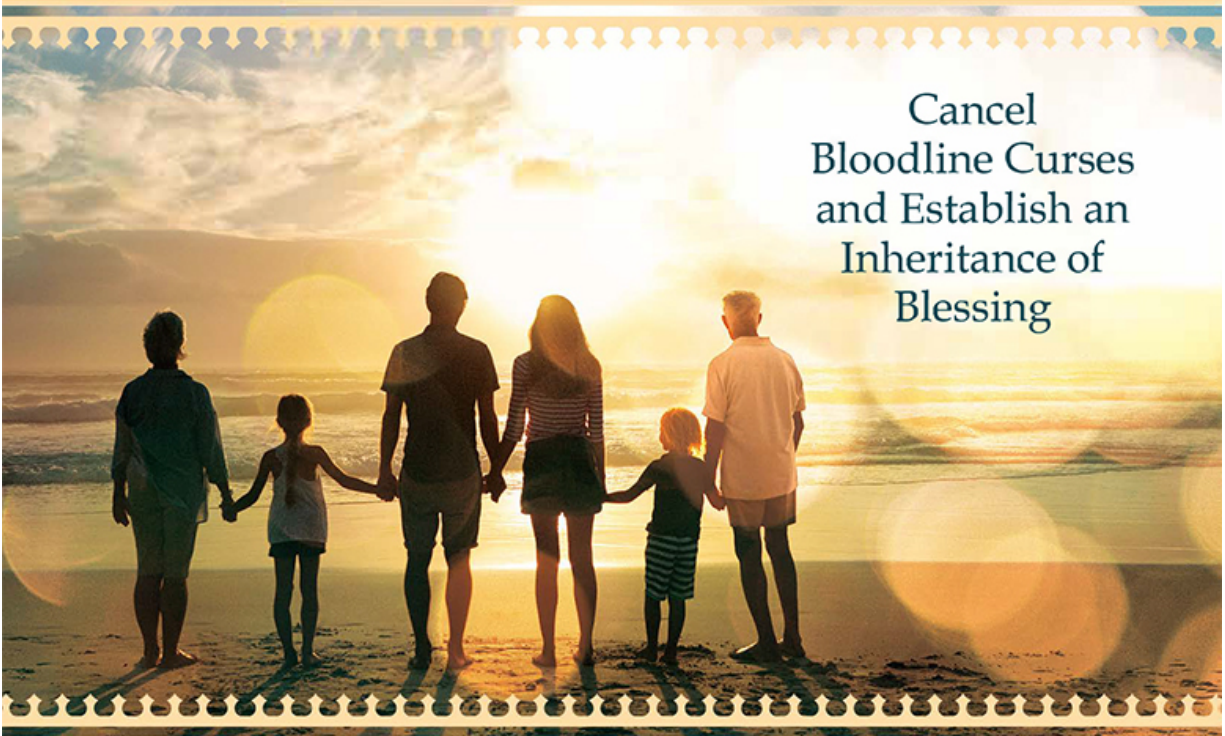
Receiving
**Generational
Blessings**
FROM THE
COURTS OF HEAVEN

Cancel
Bloodline Curses
and Establish an
Inheritance of
Blessing

ROBERT HENDERSON *with*
ADAM HENDERSON



Receiving
**Generational
Blessings**
FROM THE
COURTS OF HEAVEN



Cancel
Bloodline Curses
and Establish an
Inheritance of
Blessing

ROBERT HENDERSON *with*



ADAM HENDERSON

Receiving
Generational
Blessings
FROM THE
COURTS OF HEAVEN

Destiny Image Books by Robert Henderson

365 Prayers and Activations for Entering the Courts of Heaven

*Unlocking Wealth from the Courts of Heaven Resetting
Economies from the Courts of Heaven
(mini-book)*

*Breaking the Stronghold of Iniquity
(with Bill Dennington)*

*Petitioning the Courts of Heaven During Times of Crisis
(mini-book)*

Operating in the Courts of Heaven

Show Us Your Glory

*Praying for the Prophetic Destiny of the United States and the
Presidency of Donald J. Trump from the Courts of Heaven*

Father, Friend, and Judge

*Issuing Divine Restraining Orders from Courts of Heaven
(with Dr. Francis Myles)*

*Redeeming Your Bloodline
(with Hrvoje Sirovina)*

The Cloud of Witnesses in the Courts of Heaven

Prayers and Declarations that Open the Courts of Heaven

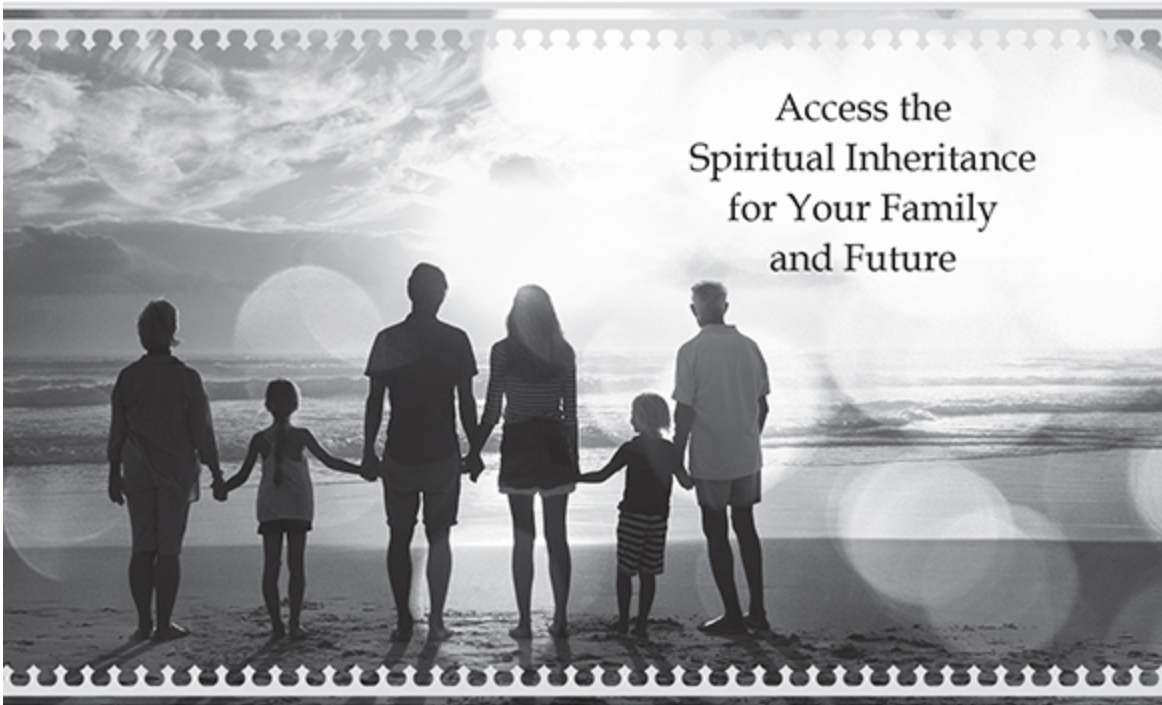
Receiving Healing from the Courts of Heaven, Curriculum

Accessing the Courts of Heaven

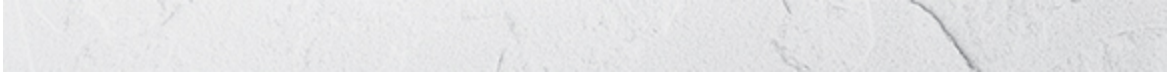
Unlocking Destinies from the Courts of Heaven, Curriculum

Receiving
**Generational
Blessings**
FROM THE
COURTS OF HEAVEN

Access the
Spiritual Inheritance
for Your Family
and Future



ROBERT HENDERSON *and*
ADAM HENDERSON



© Copyright 2022–Robert Henderson and Adam Henderson

All rights reserved. This book is protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America. This book may not be copied or reprinted for commercial gain or profit. The use of short quotations or occasional page copying for personal or group study is permitted and encouraged. Permission will be granted upon request. Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Please note that Destiny Image’s publishing style capitalizes certain pronouns in Scripture that refer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may differ from some publishers’ styles. Take note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized. We choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules.

DESTINY IMAGE® PUBLISHERS, INC.
P.O. Box 310, Shippensburg, PA 17257-0310
“*Promoting Inspired Lives.*”

This book and all other Destiny Image and Destiny Image Fiction books are available at Christian bookstores and distributors worldwide.

For more information on foreign distributors, call 717-532-3040.
Reach us on the Internet: www.destinyimage.com.

ISBN 13 TP: 978-0-7684-5870-1
ISBN 13 eBook: 978-0-7684-5871-8
ISBN 13 HC: 978-0-7684-5873-2
ISBN 13 LP: 978-0-7684-5872-5

For Worldwide Distribution, Printed in the U.S.A.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 / 26 25 24 23 22

CONTENTS

Part 1 **[Introduction by Adam Henderson](#)**

Chapter 1 [Hope Deferred](#)

Chapter 2 [A New Beginning](#)

Chapter 3 [Dreaming Again](#)

Chapter 4 [Persevere in the Pain](#)

Part 2 **[Introduction by Robert Henderson](#)**

Chapter 5 [My Story](#)

Chapter 6 [Our Covenant-Keeping God](#)

Chapter 7 [Generational Thinking](#)

Chapter 8 [Retrieving Books](#)

Chapter 9 [Opening Books, Discerning Blessings](#)

Chapter 10 [Natural Seed](#)

Chapter 11 [Spiritual Seed](#)

Chapter 12 [Possessing the Gates](#)

Chapter 13 [Retrieving Lost and Stolen Wealth](#)

Chapter 14 [A Better Name](#)

Chapter 15 [Prodigals Restored](#)

[About Robert Henderson](#)

[About Adam Henderson](#)

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Adam Henderson

The promise of generational blessings is a big topic. There's so much that can be said and we've only hit the surface, but I do want to make you aware of what God has done in and through my life. If you hang around me long enough, you're going to hear me talk a lot about basketball. I just think for whatever reason that basketball and life go hand in hand—kind of like chocolate chip cookies and milk, thunder and lightning, Adam and Eve. You get the picture. Think about this for a minute—during a basketball game you have highs and lows, ebbs and flows, good times and hard times. And when you find yourself at a tough time, you have to be willing to change in order to get out of that hard place. And it's the same way with life. Many times we find ourselves in places that we don't like, places that maybe even our own actions and decisions have brought us to. In order to get out of those ruts, we have to be willing to step into new places and really put into work and into action the new things that God wants to do.

God's ultimate goal is not for just *one* generation to be blessed but for *every* generation to find the blessing He has for their life. God is not interested in just blessing Grandad and Grandma, but His desire is to see every generation live and function from the place of His blessing. We see this in the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God's blessing wasn't just for Abraham, but it was actually meant and purposed for the generations after Abraham to walk in and discover. With that, we have to be willing to be open to the Holy Spirit and follow His lead. We have to learn how to surrender our own desires to His ultimate will. So in this book, I am going to share with you some of my journey and how God has used the generations before me, mainly my father and mother, to pour out the generational blessings upon me and my family's life. Truth is, many of the blessings I have are because of the faithfulness of the previous generations before me.

Now listen, it doesn't mean that everything is rainbows and unicorns all the time. Things happen. I think many times that's where we fail and give in. In our own minds sometimes we set a trap for ourselves that if things don't work out exactly the way that we hoped for or thought they would, something must be wrong. In reality, God is able to take even the lowly places of our lives and raise them back up to His God-ordained purpose and plan. He's able to take the crooked places and make them straight. That's what Luke 3:5 declares over our life: *"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth."*

It is our responsibility to move into those places—the places that God has for us. Just as a good coach in a basketball game makes adjustments during timeouts and halftime, and just as the players of that team implement the changes talked about, we have to have a spirit of faith to step out into the new spiritual realities God has for us and for the things we are connected to.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7)

When I was born, my dad received a word from the Lord over my life out of Isaiah 52:7, which declares, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." That word was then confirmed two weeks later by my dad's pastor, Brother James, at my baby dedication. As Brother James was praying over me in that service and dedicating me to the Lord, he repeated that same scripture over me, "How beautiful on the mountaintops are the feet of those who bring good news." When my dad tells this story, he says that later on that day, following the baby dedication service, he went to Brother James and asked, "What made you said that about Adam?" and Brother James looked at him and said, "Because that's what God says about him."

The Lord gave them both that verse for my life. Because of that verse, I've always carried a sense of the hope and the goodness of God for my life and for others around me. I believe in it so much I even have a tattoo of it

on my arm. Now, I don't know if that offends you or not, but guess what? It's there, and it's not just in marker. But it's there because that verse always speaks destiny into my heart. It's the verse I always go back to when I'm making decisions or trying to make sense of what to do next. That word is my anchor. It has given me purpose and direction many times in my life.

If you know me, I'm a very happy-go-lucky guy. I like to have fun. I like to laugh. I enjoy people. Plain and simple, I just like to have a good time and I love to do it with others. That's the way I've always been. That's the way God created me to be. If I'm going to do something, I want to do it with a lot of people. I'm a "group project" guy, if you will. Anything opposite of that is not my nature. It's not really who I am.

One of the things that I've learned along the way is that the enemy's number-one goal and plan is to take that which God has prophetically spoken and distort it into the opposite direction. This is what we see at the very beginning of creation. The enemy wanted to bring confusion into the clarity that God had already spoken over Adam and Eve. What he did then was question what God had already spoken and what God had declared for them to the point that Adam and Eve bit, quite literally, into the lie and into the confusion.

Think about this for a minute. If you have a verse that you feel like God has given to you for your life or maybe for your kid's life or your grandkid's life, then the thing that the enemy wants to do is try to bring about the *exact opposite* of that declared promise. So the word for your life may be, "God has called me blessed," "God has called me joyful," "God has called me _____." You fill in the blank. A lover. A fighter. God has called me those kinds of things. But now, what the enemy is going to try to do is instead of that word "blessed" over your life, he's going to try to replace it with whatever is opposite of that. Instead of blessed, he's going to replace it with a feeling of *lack*. He's going to put in *wanting* and *in need of*. Instead of fighter he's going to put in *coward*. He's going to put in "one who tucks his tail and runs." Instead of joyful he's going to put in depression. All of these kinds of things.

The enemy's goal is to try to get us to bite into the confusion and into the lie that God never once spoke. God actually spoke the exact opposite over our lives. This is what we see even from the very beginning of creation. We see that God spoke His truth and reality into Adam and Eve at

the dawn and very beginning of creation. He made the rules. He made them plain and simple. It was the truth of God's word, and we see how the enemy then came later and began to sow discord and began to try to get Adam and Eve to bite into the lie—the confusion that he is now saying. The same thing is still taking place thousands of years later in our lives. The enemy is trying to get us to bite into and even fall into the trap of confusion over what God has *never* said. Because if we fall into that trap and don't know how to get out, then we forfeit the generational blessings that God has designed for each one of us to obtain.

Please hear me today—*God has generational blessings* for you and your family. Just like we hear so often about generational curses that the enemy wants us to pass down to our kids, God wants us to pass down the blessings He has designed.

So when God says that you are blessed, the truth is that you are blessed. When God says, "I have called you to be one who brings good tidings," that is the reality of God's word. And now the enemy is going to come on the backside of that and try to get you to believe that that is not true and that somehow God has changed His mind about you. That you've blown it too much. That you've fallen into different and far-off places. And now the enemy is going to try to get you to believe the exact opposite of that. This is where many Christians find themselves. They find themselves in deep ruts and deep holes because they bit into the lie, not even knowing that they've done it, but they bit into the lie of thinking that they are something that God never said that they were. And this actually happened even in my life.

As I've described to you, Isaiah 52:7 is the verse that God prophesied and spoke over my life and even over my future and my destiny. He spoke these things over me as a person—even before I ever showed up here to earth, God had already spoken these things about Adam Henderson. As time journeys on, we find ourselves in different places that want to try to get us to believe that those things aren't true anymore. So in the next chapter I am going to really dive into my story, which you may have read before in my dad's previous books, about how the enemy tried to get me to believe something that was not true and actually give up, forfeit, and throw away the plans and the purposes that God had for me.

CHAPTER 1

HOPE DEFERRED

Growing up, I had big dreams just like every other kid. You know, some kids want to be an astronaut, others want to be doctors or lawyers. There are all sorts of dreams that kids have and want to achieve and become as they grow into adulthood, but *my* dream was to be an NBA player. Man, that was what I believed God put me on this great earth to accomplish. So I chased that dream.

As a little kid, my dad was a pastor and so every Sunday morning we were at church. There wasn't a Sunday that we weren't there. I think maybe we missed one or two services my whole life growing up. We did not miss church. But one of the things that I loved to do was come home directly after church to watch my basketball, especially during NBA season. After service, I would beg my parents to go straight home because normally the whole family would go out to eat right after church each week. By the time we would get home, I'd miss all the games. I was so tired of missing games because I loved basketball so much. As soon as I would get the chance, I would run home and dive straight for that television set.

I remember as a little kid sitting right in front of the TV, getting as close to the screen as possible, and watching Michael Jordan play back in the day. It was the best thing happening to me at that time in my life. I would dream of one day being "like Mike." Some of you remember that Gatorade commercial jingle. That was me. I wanted to be just like Michael Jordan. That was my goal. That was what I was shooting for.

I played basketball as soon as I was old enough to join a team. I played through high school, graduated, and then had the opportunity to go play at a Division Three school out here in the middle of East Texas called East Texas Baptist University. The story of me actually deciding to go to ETBU is pretty incredible. I had options to go play for a couple of different schools, but I was never any good at making big decisions like that. One day my dad finally came to the point where he told me that I had to make a

decision by the next day. So that night, before I went to bed, I prayed and I asked the Lord to give me a dream of where He wanted me to go.

That night I dreamed I was on the campus of ETBU and I was having a great time there. I had new friends. I really loved the environment in that place in my dream. When I woke up the next morning, I knew without a doubt that God was calling me to East Texas Baptist University. So I went out there to play and I loved it. I enjoyed the school, I enjoyed the people, and I got great playing time, but during that year God began to really work on my heart about ministry.

Now, you have to understand this about ministry. Growing up as a preacher's kid, a.k.a. a "PK," many people would often say to me, "You're going to be just like your dad when you grow up." Don't get me wrong, I love my dad, but at that time I wanted to be in the NBA, not the pulpit. So I would always think, "No, that's not me. That's for somebody else. That's not what I want to do. I want to make millions and play in the League." But God had a different desire and a different plan for me.

As I began to journey through my freshman year in college it became more and more clear that God was calling me from basketball and into the purpose and plans that He had for my life. It was then that I left ETBU and immediately went to Bible school. I got an education in biblical studies and was finally on the path to really achieving and running after everything that God had for me. The dream and calling of becoming a pastor was really starting to come alive in my heart.

During that time, I also got married. We got married right out of Bible school and things were great. We began to really function and move into what God had for us. He opened some doors and quickly moved us to Washington state to work in the ministry up there. I started off in kids' ministry at a church in Spokane, Washington, being the third through fifth grade director. I quickly found out that I wasn't necessarily called to kids' ministry, but this was my foot in the door to be on staff at a church so I took it.

After about eight months of being in the kids' department, I was approached about being the high school director and jumped at the opportunity. I always wanted to be a high school pastor and to relate with teenagers and disciple teenagers. When this opportunity came about, I took

it without even thinking about it. Those were some of the best times, being able to hang out and be around young people and help shape their faith.

Life was good. I was finally in a place where I felt God wanted me. I was running after the dream. I was a leader in ministry. I had a family. We had our problems, just like everybody else, but God was working and moving in and through our lives.

Unfortunately, all that began to change. Long story short, that marriage did not work out. Please understand this—I know people never go into marriage thinking that it's not going to work out or thinking that there is some sort of back door or anything like that. But especially for me, I never thought that I would be one who was going to walk through a divorce. That was *never* in my plans. That was never something that I even remotely thought was going to happen. It wasn't even on my radar. But as time passed, and with some bad decisions made, my then-wife filed for divorce and my world was completely shattered. We had a child at the time, as well, who was only one and a half years old. I was hopeful in the situation and I thought that everything was going to work out. We moved back to Texas and I thought everything was going to be okay and we would get back to normal sooner rather than later, returning back to our life of ministry together. But that never happened and we actually went through the divorce process and it became finalized. My entire world fell apart at the seams. At that point, my life spiraled into a deep depression. Now I was someone and somewhere that I thought I would never be.

During this time I began to bite into the lies and the falsehoods that the enemy was throwing my way. I didn't know how or if God was going to be able to bring me out of this place. My whole life, up until this point, was to be a minister, to be a preacher. It was to have a healthy, whole, nice, beautiful family and now, in one fell swoop, all that was gone. And that *hurt*. That *pain*—I didn't know what to do with it. Because of that, I began to spiral down into a deep depression. I began to fall into something that I had never experienced before in my life.

Everything I thought I was going to do from that point forward and what I thought God had said for my life was now over and done with. At this point, I was just going to make the best of it—and I don't know if you could even say the word *best* during this time. I was just going to make do with what I got and try to be OK with everything. So with everything that

was going on in the divorce, it was time for me to make a different move. I wanted different scenery. So I moved from Waco, Texas (my hometown) to Colorado Springs where my family was living at the time. I went out and got your normal, ordinary job just to try to pay the bills and began to take care of responsibilities. But I didn't have any desire to be around anyone. I didn't have any desire to be at church. I didn't want anybody in my business. I didn't want anybody to tell me it was going to be OK. I didn't want anybody around me saying jack. I wanted to be left alone. I wanted to just hang out by myself and live a life that didn't bother with anyone—that didn't do anything. That was unnoticeable to everybody around me.

During that time, I actually got a job at a convenience store, working from 3 AM to 11 AM—the opposite work hours of almost 90 percent of the rest of the human population. This really put me in a place where I didn't need to have much interaction with anybody. I didn't have a lot going on and I just began to live my hermit life. My daily routine was I woke up and went to work every day at 3 AM and then I would come home, play video games, hang out in my room by myself, and then I would just repeat that over and over and over again. Every day. During this time I had people from all over the place—from past relationships, from past connections—who were reaching out to me. Who were trying to exhort me. Who were trying to encourage me. Who were trying to push me along and get me out of this dark place, but the reality was I could not be encouraged enough to get out of this place.

Now, I am a guy who believes in the power of encouragement. If you listen to any of my sermons or come to the church I pastor, you're going to know this. I believe encouragement is important and it's something that I do every Sunday for the congregation at Radiant Church Van Zandt. But at this time, I was in such a place in my life that simple encouragement, simple prodding and pushing, was not going to get me out of this place. My dad will tell you in Chapter 5 that he tried everything. He tried to yell me out of that place. He tried to encourage me out of that place. He tried everything that he knew to do, along with other people, to get me from this depressed state and back into living the life that God had for me. There is a verse that I think really speaks to the situation that I was walking through, and it's out of Proverbs 13:12. It talks about how hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when *a desire or dream fulfilled* comes, it is a tree of life. I was in the place of "hope deferred." I was in the place where I had once hoped for

something in my life—a dream that this was going to be the reality of my life—but the truth was it did not work out the way that I thought it was going to work out. Now I was sitting in this *hope deferred* or this depressed state, if you will, not knowing how to get out of it and honestly not even wanting to get out of it.

So many Christians live in this place of hope deferred. Now, when I first say that it doesn't sound too bad. It's like, "Oh man, you have had a hope in something, and it didn't materialize or work out the way that you thought it was going to work out, but it's OK. It's just a little bit of hope and you'll be alright." But the truth is that when your hope gets deferred, your whole life gets put on pause. When your hope gets deferred, you are now stuck in the reality that your dreams—what you wanted so badly, what you felt like God was going to do and where He was going to bring you—did not happen. It makes your heart sick.

Many Christians live in this place. It may be something small or something big that we once hoped for, or we had a destiny and a purpose that we were running after. We were on one path thinking it was going to work out a certain way, but it didn't. Now things have come and attacked that plan. What's happened to a lot of people and even to a lot of Christians is that their hope has been deferred. Their hope has been snuffed out. Their hope has now been put to sleep. It's hard to live in that place, because once you experience it, it's not easy to look forward to what's next.

When we have a faith in God as we run after our purpose and those things that God says are ours, and as His generational blessings begin to pour out into our lives, the enemy will try to defer you in those places. The enemy will try to remove your hope, because if he can remove your hope, he will take out your purpose. Let me say that again. If the enemy can remove your hope, he will take out your purpose.

The definition of *hope* that I like to work from is that hope isn't just wishful thinking—hope is a concrete knowing. The hope that I carry in my life is a concrete knowing that God has a good plan for my life. That God has good days for me to see. That God has a good destiny for me and my family to walk into. When that hope gets deferred, all of a sudden I begin to be stuck, and "hope deferred," the Bible declares, "makes the heart sick."

I wonder how many people walk around having a spiritual heart that is sick because their hope has been deferred. That which was once meant to be

something beautiful, which was once meant to be something that springboarded and launched them into the plans and the purpose of God, now has been deferred and their heart is sick. You see, this is exactly what happened to me. My hope was deferred away from the reality that I once thought was going to happen. As I walked through divorce and the pain and the hurt and the dysfunction in the mess that is divorce, all of a sudden my hope was deferred and my heart got sick.

It's easy to lie down and give up in that moment. I did. I did for almost two years. I just rolled around and thought it was all over. I thought, *How could God ever reclaim His purposes and His plans in and through my life?* The blessings, even the prophecies that people had spoken over my life—I thought they were all done. I thought there was no way that it could happen. It's been blown. It's been shot.

My hope was deferred and my heart got sick and depression sat on top of it all. Many people feel depression in so many different ways but for me this is what it felt like. It felt like there was no future. It felt like there was no future for me. It felt like I was just going through the motions without ever really getting anywhere. Depression came and sat on me because I thought that the plans and the purposes that God had for my life were completely null and void because of what I had been walking through.

Because of that, this depression came and sat on top of me and really ruled over me for about a year and a half to two years. As I said earlier, I worked a temporary job. I was just trying to pay the bills and make it from one day into the next and really just shifted into survival mode. I didn't care what happened from one day to the next. I was just trying to make it. I would go to my room after getting off work and I'd sit there playing video games, but inside there was always this destiny that I knew was still there but thought was over. I didn't think that God still loved me enough or wanted me to walk into these purposes and plans that He had for my life. I was in the midst of this depression, in this hard time, in this dark, dark season when I didn't know what to do or even how to shake myself free from it.

I've always been the kind of person who's like, "No, I can handle this myself. I can take care of this. I'm strong enough. I have enough faith. I have what it takes to get through from season to season." But what I realized in this season when hope deferred set in, when depression came

and sat on top of me, was that I needed help. I realized that it wasn't just going to be my power or my strength that was going to get me through this, but that I needed a supernatural touch from God to hit my life. I needed His touch to propel me out of this place of deep, dark depression.

And that's exactly what was about to take place in the middle of the mess. In the middle of the dysfunction. In the middle of depression. God had not given up. God was still working. God was still moving, and He was getting ready to launch me from this place of depression into the generational blessings that He had for my life. Those things that were once prophesied, those things that were once even foretold and spoken over my life—God had not given up on them even when I had. I'm thankful we serve a God who is faithful even when we are faithless. I'm thankful that we serve a God who is powerful even when we have no strength or power. That's the God we serve! He's the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He's the God of the generational blessing. He's the God who blesses one generation not just for them, but for the ones to follow.

There I was, sitting in a place of depression, not knowing what God was getting ready to do. Everybody had tried to help me the best that they knew how, but nothing had changed up until this point. But *God* was getting ready to move.

CHAPTER 2

A NEW BEGINNING

There's a story out of Mark 10 that brings into our lives the character of blind Bartimaeus. I've always loved this story of blind Bartimaeus because of the transaction that took place and what Jesus did in his life. What I mean by that is this. Blind Bartimaeus had a way of living for his whole life up until the point that he met Jesus.

The Bible records in Mark 10 that Jesus and His disciples were walking down the road on their way to the many places they were going, and there was a blind man by the name of Bartimaeus who began to shout and began to cry out to Jesus, begging Him to heal him of his blindness. Most of us know the story. Jesus' disciples were trying to get him to be quiet and to just chill out and go about his normal life, but the thing about blind Bartimaeus was that he was tired of living the way that he had always lived. He had been blind his whole life, and he was ready for something new to take place. He was ready for the blindness to come off of him and he was ready for the new life to be seen. So as Jesus walked by, he cried out and got Jesus' attention. Jesus asked him very plainly, "What do you want Me to do for you?" and blind Bartimaeus declared, "Lord, that I may see again." The Bible records that the blindness fell off of him in that very moment, and now Bartimaeus was no longer "blind" Bartimaeus but he was Bartimaeus. There was a new identity and a new reality that God had for him and for his life moving forward. I remember the day that this same type of healing happened to me.

In the previous chapter I just told you how I had been wrestling with depression—really just sitting underneath it and feeling like everything had come to an end. There was no point in moving forward, and I didn't know how to move forward even if I tried. I was in this hard place, but God was getting ready to move in my life. He was getting ready to take the depression off and release me into the life that He had for me. You have to understand that during this season of depression I had all sorts of people who were trying to help me, and I was even trying to get out of it myself,

but it seemed like nothing would give. But I remember the day that I woke up and it felt like I could finally breathe again.

It was a cold day in Colorado Springs and I had said yes to helping somebody move their furniture from a storage unit into their house. Now my moving days are over and my back and I have retired! But I told this person yes, I would help them, and I remember waking up that day and it was like I took a deep breath for the first time in two years. It was like I could breathe again and the depression that once had ruled over me was now gone. I remember journeying through the day and I thought, *Well, hopefully this lasts and this isn't just like a little pardon from the depression. But hopefully this is the real thing.* I remember the rest of the day going by, being in and out of the back of that U-Haul while thinking to myself, "Man! I'm going to call my dad and let him know what's going on." I knew that he'd been praying for me and trying to get me out of this place of depression. I wanted to share with him exactly what was going on.

I called him and told him, "Dad, you'll never guess what happened to me today." And he asked what and I said, "Man, I woke up this morning and it felt like I could breathe again. It felt like the depression that has been ruling over my life is now gone and I'm ready to move forward. I'm ready to move forward into the plans and the purposes that God has and wants me to do." We had this awesome moment of celebrating and talking with one another and it was beautiful. It was like the shine of the new had come.

I like new things because they're shiny, right? Every new thing that we have or receive, it shines in a particular way that maybe after a while you can no longer restore or get it back to. But the shine of the new had come back to my life. A fresh breath had been breathed. That which once was dead had now become alive, and I was ready to move forward into the purposes and plans that God had.

I later found out why that was, and it was simply because of the prayers of those around me, and because my dad had gone into the Courts of Heaven to see the depression broken off and life now returned.

CHAPTER 3

DREAMING AGAIN

I believe many times God places dreams in our hearts that He wants us to chase down and grab hold of. After coming out of depression, and from a sense of cloudiness and feeling overwhelmed, there was a dream that I was able to grab hold of that had been on my life since I was born. And now I was truly at the point to run after it. You see, the cool thing about God is He always takes ordinary people and does extraordinary things in and through their lives. Many times those big dreams that we have just require ordinary steps because God multiplies, expands, and enlarges all those things. You see, with God we're not trying to convince Him to do something great through our lives; we're actually just getting on board with what He's already trying to do.

Second Chronicles 16:9 says, *“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”* What's taking place here is that God is looking for people to dream through. When you walk out of a place of feeling almost emotionally dead with depression, as if the weight of the world is on you and you can't get over it, but you then overcome that thing and God breaks you free from it, there's this dreaming again that has to take place in order for us to get to the places that God has for us. And Second Chronicles reminds us that God is actually looking to do something in us.

Recently at the church that I pastor, I've been going through a series entitled “Heroes.” Its focus is on how God takes ordinary people and does extraordinary things in and through their lives. A few weeks ago, we looked at Genesis 12:1-3. It's the story of Abraham and how God speaks to Abraham and puts a dream into Abraham's heart. This is what God says to him:

Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and

you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

What's taking place here is God making a promise and a covenant with Abraham. There's a dream that is being spoken over Abraham's life, and it's actually a threefold promise. God says, "I'm going to bless you with land. I'm going to bless you with people. And then you're going to be a blessing." So there's three things that God is really speaking over Abraham. Three dreams. And the reality was that Abraham, at the time, had none of these things. None of the things that God was speaking over him and dreaming over him were actually going on or taking place in Abraham's life at this time. But one of the things about the dreams that God has for us is:

1. We have to be able to dream it *with* Him. And then:
2. We have to be able to grab hold of the dreams that God has and *not let go*.

We have to learn how to hold on to those dreams no matter what. As we look at stories like Abraham, many times we hear these stories and we automatically think, *Well, it just immediately happened. God said it, and so it happened. And then Abraham dreamed again, and it just happened again.* But the truth is, there was a process and a faith that was needed for Abraham to grab hold of that dream and not let go. Abraham said, "I'm grabbing hold of the promises and the dreams that God has for my life and I'm not going to let go, no matter how long it may take to see it."

What makes Abraham heroic isn't the fact that God blessed him; rather, it was because Abraham would not let go of that dream that God had for his life, even when it may have seemed impossible. Abraham was 75 years old when God told him he was going to be a great nation. The reality at that time was Abraham had no kids. So for 25 years, Abraham held on to this dream that God had for him, and when he hit 100 years old, Sarah, his wife, gave birth to their promised child, Isaac.

I wonder how many people are carrying around promises that you know God has spoken over your life that you haven't seen happen yet. Or maybe you're even carrying around promises that you feel have been derailed. You

feel like there's no way that God can use you anymore. Maybe you relate to my story. You're coming out of this place of depression where it almost seems like whatever could go wrong has gone wrong, and you have given up on your God-given dream. I wonder how many people carry around promises from God that they haven't seen happen yet. But God has spoken promises and dreams and destiny and a future over you. You can find those things in His word, but you can also find them in the still, small times when God speaks to our hearts and begins to release His dreams over us.

Some of you are even carrying promises that you haven't told anyone about. You know you heard God speak that promise into your heart. You know you didn't make it up yourself. You know that God spoke those dreams and that reality over your heart, but you haven't seen it happen yet. I want you to know this—right now, God is calling you on a journey to walk those things out. To see His dream become a reality. To see us hold on to the dream that He has spoken over our lives.

I had a dream that God was going to use me and I was going to pastor and lead local works and whatever else God wanted to do in and through my life. That was my dream. Coming out of depression, I had to learn how to dream and hold on again. I had to learn how to dream and hold on to the purposes that God had for my life. We miss it sometimes because we don't want to put in the work for it. We fall underneath the temptation that if it ain't easy, it ain't God. But whenever we have a dream again, what God actually does is invite us on a journey to agree and dream with Him and grab hold of that dream and not let go.

James 2:17 tells us that *"faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."* Faith without works is dead. So God wants to bring us into a place where we say yes to His dreams, and where we also hold on to them and passionately, relentlessly chase them down. God has promises and dreams for you, your business, your family, your kids, and your future, but we have to learn how to dream. Man, hold on to those things.

Let me give you a few tips to holding on to the promises of God. First one is this—you have to hear the promise. Abraham had to hear the promise for himself. It wasn't what somebody else heard for him. It wasn't what he "thought" God was going to do. No. Abraham had to hear the promise that God had for him many times. I think we are guilty of chasing other people's dreams, at times, because we haven't dreamed for ourselves before.

Because we haven't heard God's dream for us. There's nothing more frustrating than chasing someone else's dream, catching it, and then realizing it was always empty because it was never the dream that God had for you. God wants to speak those dreams over you, and the truth is you haven't messed up too bad. You haven't done too much wrong. But know that God is actually able to take and restore and redeem you back to those places He has called you to be. God doesn't want you living in uncertainty. God wants us to hear the dreams He speaks over our life.

I live in a small town called Canton, Texas, known for the world's biggest and best flea market. You may have heard of it. We're kind of a big deal. But one of the things about Canton is it doesn't have the best cell phone reception. And if it's a First Monday Trade Days weekend, you better say goodbye to any phone reception you did have, because now you can guarantee it's completely gone. The house that we live in seems to have the worst of the worst. There are places in our home where if you're on a call, you have to make sure you're standing in the right spot, otherwise the call will definitely drop. There's a lot of breakup and static, unfortunately. A lot of, "Hey, what did you say? What are you saying? Can you hear me?" So there are certain positions in the house that I have to be in to be able to hear the person on the other line.

This is so true for us spiritually as well. God can speak to us in any place He chooses, but there are those special, quiet places in our lives where we know we hear from God the clearest. For instance, I hear God in my early morning devotional readings when I sit down and I take the time to get into the word. Before anyone else is awake and it's just Him and me—that's when God really begins to speak to me. In those moments, I begin to hear the dreams that God speaks over my life. I begin to hear His voice loud and clear. But in order to hear His voice well and in order to hear those dreams being spoken over us, we have to quiet ourselves.

That is the first part of holding on. The second one is this—in order to hold on to the promises and the dreams that God has spoken over us, we have to learn how to wait patiently. Habakkuk 2:3 actually talks about that. It says, "*The vision [or the dream] is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it.*" This is what Abraham found true in his life. God spoke something to him at 75 years old that he did not see come to pass until he was 100 years old. It took

25 years for God to reveal and bring that dream to life. It took 25 years of waiting for the dream to become a reality in Abraham's life. I know I'm not the one who came up with this quote, but it is absolutely true: "Waiting time isn't wasted time with God."

Waiting time *is not* wasted time. In order to dream again, we have to learn how to hold on to the promise God has spoken over us. One of the biggest ways we hold on to the promise and the dream is we have to wait patiently. Don't allow discouragement to set in when it doesn't happen as quickly as you'd like it to.

Don't allow discouragement to knock you from the areas that God has placed you in right now. We have all felt the feeling of, "Well, I just thought it would happen by now. Maybe I missed what God was really saying. Maybe this wasn't Him after all. This isn't what I thought it was going to be." It's in those times when the enemy wants to come in and discourage us from what God is doing in our lives. Do not give up, and remember—waiting time is not wasted time with God. We need to learn how to wait well. And we wait well by faith.

When we don't wait well and we allow discouragement to set up shop in our hearts, there's an infection to the promise that begins to invade. We've all had cuts or scrapes growing up. This is especially true in my case, growing up with five siblings. Somebody was always getting hurt or getting into something, and most of the time that somebody was me. Falling off bicycles was one of my favorite pastimes. (I did, however, teach myself how to ride a bike at the age of *two*. I know this because my parents told me so. Kid genius.) But the thing is, if you didn't take care of the open wound after you fell, an infection would begin to set in. And once that infection sets in, all sorts of bad things begin to happen. From there, what was once just a little bitty thing now becomes a big ordeal because now there's something else at play. The infection tries to kill the affected area.

This is so true many times in our waiting time. When we're waiting on the dreams that God has for our lives, the discouragement of waiting sets in and the infection begins to take place in our heart and spirit. Guard yourself. Guard your mind. Guard your heart. Guard against discouragement settling in on the dreams God has for you. You see, in the waiting, God is developing you. In the waiting, God is developing your heart. He's working in you in the waiting. He's stretching you. He's molding you. He's shaping

you. Allow God to do His work during the waiting season. *Just like how a photo has to develop in a dark room.*

After that miraculous healing and encounter I had with the Lord in Colorado Springs, a new excitement and passion began stirring in my heart for ministry once again. During that season of my life, I had received a call from one of my very best friends in the entire world, Dan Bursch. He called me and asked me to come and be a part of his church staff on the West Coast. At the time, he was the senior pastor at a Foursquare church in Seattle, Washington, and he wanted me to come and be his youth minister and associate pastor.

This was the start of God beginning to redeem those promises and purposes and the generational blessings that He had for my life. So I said yes and moved to Seattle. I was hired to their staff at that church for four years. During that time, it was a place of healing. A place of ministry. A place of impact in my life. As I began my fourth year of ministry there, I began to feel and know that God was calling me back to Texas. At that time, I had no idea how this was going to work out because I didn't have a job lined up or anything. There was nothing to go to. You see, I believe that when God calls us from a place, He at the same time calls us to a place. He doesn't call you somewhere, bring you there, and then leave you high and dry. So I began to pray and ask God, "Lord, where are You calling me to in Texas?" I sat down with my friend Dan and told him what I felt the Lord was calling me to do.

In that conversation we cried and laughed with one another because we had so enjoyed this season of ministry that we had just gone through together. But as the good friend he is, he prayed over me and encouraged me to go after what the Lord was telling me to do, even if it meant leaving Seattle. This is where the Lord started to really move. When I left the meeting that day, I got a phone call from the Foursquare district supervisor here in the South, whom I had never spoken to up until this point. But he called me and asked, "Is this Adam Henderson?"

I said, "Yes sir, it is."

And he said "Your name has come up in different conversations I've had with other leaders that potentially you would enjoy or like to be a senior pastor? I know you're originally from Texas, is that true?"

I said, "Yes it is!"

He then continued to tell me that he had two churches that were available and needing a head pastor. He said, “One is in Oklahoma City...”

I very quickly but kindly said, “Sir, God definitely isn’t calling me to Oklahoma.”

We both laughed together with that one. No offense if you are from Oklahoma. I just love my Texas. “Well, the other church is in a small town called Canton, Texas. I’m sure you’ve never heard of it.” But the truth is I actually used to live in Canton because my dad pastored another church here in town when I was in kindergarten and the first grade.

All the things that God was doing in my life at the time began to line up and finally make sense. So I flew down to Texas and I came to Canton and to the church they were asking me to lead. I got to speak there for the very first time that Sunday, just to see if God might be in this thing, and He was all over it. I knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that this was the place where God was calling me to become a senior pastor. So I packed up and moved to Canton.

CHAPTER 4

PERSEVERE IN THE PAIN

After I came out of being divorced and was set free from that deep depression I was in, there was a time in my life when I so desired to fall in love and be married again. But it was a long time that I stayed single. I did hardly any dating for about eight years. I didn't want to go through that same horrible pain I had been through. I never wanted to feel that again. So I guarded my heart.

But then, here came Jessi. One Sunday morning as I was preaching, I saw this girl walk in whom I had never seen before, and I thought to myself, *Ooh. She's cute.* She had just recently moved to Canton from Hawaii. (Why, you ask? It's the famous question.) After meeting her, I soon discovered that she could play guitar and sing. She was a worship leader. At the time, our church was still so small that our worship team consisted of my brother Micah leading from the keyboard, a bass player, and a drummer. That was it. This church I had taken over was pretty much a restart church, if you will, that only had about 10 to 12 members at the time.

So as soon as I heard that she had a heart for worship and could play and sing, I called her up and asked her if she would like to join the worship team. She said yes. We became good friends. We did fun things together. We hung out. We did the whole "friendship" thing. But after a couple of years, that friendship began to develop and progress into something more. Something deeper. Something real. We started dating, got engaged, and eventually she became my wife.

You see, for eight years I had to wait on that dream to develop. I had to wait patiently. It wasn't fun. No one ever said waiting is fun, but it can be productive. And there were things in my life that God was healing. Areas that God was fixing. Broken places that God was bringing to wholeness. Things that He needed to do before I was able to get into a relationship again. But when those things began to take place and that restoration and healing began to happen, Jessi walked into my life. I was told by a mentor of mine while I was single that I should run as hard as I could after God and

one day I'll look up and someone will be running just as hard after Him as me. Now we're so happily married, and we have two beautiful kids, with another on the way, and we're on our way to attaining and also currently running after all that God has for us, together. But there was a waiting season that had to take place during that time. Waiting time is not wasted time with God when you learn how to wait well.

Another thing about holding on to your dreams is that you have to keep the faith. You see, faith says, "While I'm dreaming, it's going to happen." Faith actually has a vocabulary attached to it. Faith thanks God as if it has already happened. Faith says, "It's going to happen because God said it was going to happen." Here's the truth. It's easy to thank God after the fact, but it's an act of faith to give Him thanks before He does it. It's easy to say, "Lord, thank You for what You've done." It's harder to say, "Lord, thank You for what You're going to do." You see? Faith has a powerful vocabulary attached to it, and as we as we hold on to the dreams that God has for us we have to learn how to keep faith. My dad says it like this, "Faith isn't a quiet sitting-back, but it's a violent pursuit of what God has for you."

Faith doesn't just sit back and wait for things to happen. Faith pushes in and passionately goes after it. We have to keep the faith. Unfortunately, many people will try to discourage you and talk you out of what you know the dream of God is for your life, but you have to be able to combat those things. Even in the story of Abraham, Sarah heard the promise and the Bible says in Genesis 18 that she actually laughed out loud. She laughed after hearing God's promise because it sounded so ridiculous to her. She was old and beyond childbearing age. So instead of believing in faith, she laughed at the promise. What do I mean by that? Many people will try to tell you how ridiculous your dreams are, which you're holding on to from God. They'll try to talk you out of it. But faith has a language, and it speaks out that God is faithful and that He'll do what He said He's going to do. I believe we aren't done yet. God is going to provide. And the opinions of others will never change God's mind about you and the dreams and purposes He has already declared over you and your life. In order to hold on to the dream that God has for you, you have to keep the faith.

The fourth thing is you have to look at it. Habakkuk 2:2 says, "*Write the vision* [or you can put "dream" or "promise" there] *and make it plain on*

tablets, that he may run who reads it.” The reality is, we’re prone to forget. I’m prone to forget what God says. You’re prone to forget what God says. We’re prone to forget the dreams that He has for our lives. We are simply prone to forget. Whether it’s because we get busy or because of other things that take place in our lives, we are just prone to forget. But there’s a truth and a reality to writing down the dreams that God has for you, your life, your family, your business, your health, and your kids. Write those things down and look at them over and over again. Write them down and look at them because God wants to dream again in your life.

I don’t know where you’ve been. I don’t know the discouragement, maybe even depression that has tried to set in on your life, but God wants to dream in and through *you*. He wants to bring you into the next places. He wants to take you from where you are and propel you into His purpose, but you have to be able to dream in order to see those things become reality. Without a dream, we are just existing. And we were never called to simply exist. God calls us to *live*.

One of the first and main things the enemy wants to steal from us is the ability to dream. As I walked out of that place of depression that I was in for those two years, I began to feel God’s dream again in me. It was like looking out onto a fresh sunrise. I know that sounds kind of cheesy, but it was absolutely true. There was a new day that was dawning and anything was now possible. God was dreaming in and through my life. I could feel it. I just had to learn how to grab hold of it and dream with Him.

Purpose Through Pain

I love that the Bible is full of ordinary people who walked through painful situations. The Bible actually talks a lot about how God took those ordinary, normal people and did extraordinary things in and through their lives. How God took painful situations and created purpose from them. I believe that’s God’s heart for each one of us. God’s desire is to bring us out of painful situations—to walk us through those painful situations in order that we might find the purpose that He has for our lives. God is wanting to do incredible things in and through your life. This isn’t something that we are begging God to do. I don’t have to beg God to fulfill the purpose that He has for my life because He’s already wanting to do that.

Second Chronicles 16:9 says, *“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”* So get this picture in your head with me. God is actually searching the earth. He’s looking high and low, to and fro, for ordinary people who may even be in painful places to show Himself strong. But the key is that God doesn’t want us to just stay in our pain; He wants to transition us into the purpose that He has for our life.

There’s a beautiful story in the Old Testament about a guy named Joseph, and let me tell you something. Joseph knew about pain. Man, did he know about it. A quick rundown on Joseph’s story: Joseph’s dad was Jacob. The Jacob from “Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Now Joseph had 11 brothers, but the Bible says that Jacob loved Joseph more than all the other brothers. Obviously, that made the other brothers pretty upset. I mean, if my dad came out and said that he liked one of my other brothers more than he liked me, we might have some problems. But not only does the Bible say that Jacob loved Joseph more than all the other ones, but he actually gave him this cherished handmade coat of many colors. Joseph knew he was loved. And Joseph told his brothers that his dad loved him more.

One day, Joseph’s brothers got so mad that they decided they were going to kill him. But as they were about to go through with the plan, one of the other brothers, Reuben, chimed in and said, “Let’s not kill him, but instead let’s just throw him into a pit.” And so they threw Joseph into the pit and contemplated what to do with him next. Then a caravan of people was coming by them on the road, and Joseph’s brothers actually sold him into slavery. After they sold him, they went back to the house and told their father that Joseph had died. His father mourned and wept, grieving the loss of his beloved son. And this starts the story and the process of how Joseph experienced extreme loss, betrayal, and pain in his life.

Think about this for a second. Joseph just experienced an inexpressible pain. He was sold out and sold by his brothers. His family. Those who were supposed to be closer than anyone else in his life. They had turned their backs on him. Really, they were giving him up for dead. Joseph experienced this tremendous pain in his life. He was right in the middle of it. Most of us, we know the story. Joseph went from the pit and was purchased as a slave into Potiphar’s house. There he was placed second in charge over Potiphar’s home and land. Once he was there, Potiphar’s wife made up lies about

Joseph, saying that he came on to her when in reality he actually rejected her, but she got upset about it and lied to Potiphar. So Potiphar got mad and threw him into prison. But as we read this story, we know that Joseph, even from that point of prison, still had a destiny. That God, even in that painful place, still had a purpose for Joseph's life. While Joseph was in prison, he ended up interpreting a dream for Pharaoh, and in return he received favor from Pharaoh. He was then promoted from prison, and Joseph ended up being second in charge in all of Egypt.

I want us to understand what's going on right now. Joseph was experiencing extreme pain, extreme discomfort, time and time and time again. But yet there was still a purpose that God had for him and his life. There was still a bigger plan. As we fast-forward in the story, we see that a famine hit the land. A great, big famine wiped everything out in Egypt. People were starving. But God, being the good God He is, forewarned Joseph about this famine in a dream before it ever even happened. And God not only forewarned him, but told him exactly what to do in order to save the people.

As time went on, there were seven years of plenty. During this time, God told Joseph to stock up on supplies. To save his harvest for the famine to come. Eventually, those seven years of plenty ran their course and they entered the seven years of famine. Everybody ran out of food, all over the land of Egypt. But Joseph, because of the Lord, was able to save the people from starvation.

But during the seven years of nothing, guess who showed up to Joseph to save them? His brothers. They had no clue it was their brother Joseph. So there they were, begging Joseph for food because famine had hit their homeland, and if they don't get the nutrition and the food that they needed, then they and their families were going to starve to death. But Joseph saw who they were. He knew these were his brothers, the ones who sold him into slavery all those years ago, yet they didn't recognize him.

Joseph decided to play with them a little bit. You can read the whole story for yourself in Genesis 42–44, but we're going to jump ahead for a moment to where his brothers finally recognized him. Joseph told them who he was and fear overcame the brothers, but instead of giving them what we would think they deserved, Joseph celebrated with them and forgave his brothers. Pretty crazy, huh? Long story short, Joseph was then reunited with

his father Jacob, his family all moved to Egypt, and Joseph took care of the family, but eventually Jacob, their father, passed away.

In this moment, the brothers thought for sure now Joseph was going to have them killed for all they did to him. But a beautiful moment unfolded. Genesis 50:19-21 says:

Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

So we see God taking this pain that Joseph had and creating purpose out of it. Let me ask you this. Have you ever been through painful situations? Where you really thought this was going to be the end? Where you couldn't see a way to the other side and you thought, *Is this where my story ends? Is this where the purposes of God end in my life? In this painful situation?* We've all been there, right? We've all had relational struggles. We've all had spiritual times of dryness. We've all experienced financial pressure. We've all seen dreams and even purposes come to a halt and we don't know how to move forward. But oftentimes in our lives, in these places of pain, God wants to bring purpose to us. This is not just unique for one person because we've all experienced pain in one way or another.

What if I told you today that God has a purpose for your pain? Some of you reading this might be like, “Yes! I agree with that. Thank you!” Others, when you read that, you get uncomfortable. It makes you feel uncomfortable because you're not exactly sure how God can take the pain you've experienced in your life and create or bring purpose out of it. Then there's a third group of you who, as soon as you read that, you got mad. Because we have those painful places in our hearts and in our lives that we have no clue how God could ever use. Some of you are thinking, *You don't know the pain that I've experienced.* No, I don't, but I promise you, God wants to bring a purpose from your pain. God wants to draw out the purpose from your pain.

It's like when people are panning for gold. I have always been interested in the early explorers. How they moved West with the big gold rush that was taking place during that time. It always intrigued me. But as they panned, they did it all by hand. They would scoop up the water and the dirt out of the riverbeds and they would have to shake and sort through the junk and the mud in order to find the gold. They would have to get rid of the mess. They would have to get rid of the mud. They would have to get rid of the rocks and all the other impurities that would try to cover up and not allow them to see the gold hidden beneath. They would have to get rid of those covering things in order to find the gold.

It's the same way in our lives. God wants to draw purpose from our pain, but we have to allow Him to get rid of some things before that takes place. We have to remove the mud. We have to remove the mess and all the impurities that surround our hearts, and then all of a sudden this purpose from our pain is revealed.

Let me tell you this. You may be in the middle of pain in your life right now, you may be walking through one of the most painful seasons you've ever been through. I want to prophetically declare this over you. This is not the end of your story. This is not the end of your story because just like Joseph, God is going to bring a purpose to your pain. He did this in my life. As I sat depressed. As I sat feeling unloved and unwanted, feeling undesired by God because of the things that I had walked through. Those painful things that had taken place in my life. As I sat in that painful and broken place, God began to bring purpose to the pain I was feeling.

I love what Romans 8:28 says: "*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" You see, God is working in the middle of your pain right now. He's not far off and distant. He's not just waiting for something else to take place in your life. God is working in the midst of your pain right now. And He's working to bring purpose to it. We serve such a good God that even when we think this pain is going to kill us, God is bringing purpose. God is bringing healing.

So how does God do that in our lives? I've often wondered, *But God, how do You take the painful spots and bring purpose to them?* In order for us to see the generational blessings that God has for us we have to learn how to walk through the pain into the purpose.

Bring It to God

We have to be able to bring our pain to God. Ultimately, He sees it anyway, but He needs us to bring it to Him in order to heal us. We can, many times, think in our head, “God’s not interested in my pain. God doesn’t care about what’s going on in my life. If He did He would have already done something. God is just not interested.” But in reality, yes He is. God is *very* interested in the pain that’s taking place in your life. Matthew 6:26 tells us that God even cares about the sparrows and that He takes care of and provides for the birds of the air. How much more does God care for you! How much more does God care for the pain that you walk through. But God doesn’t want us to get stuck there. He wants us to find purpose. God wants us to bring our pain to Him and not try to hide it from Him.

It’s the idea of not putting on the mask. Oftentimes, spiritually speaking, we put on a mask and we act like everything is OK. Like we don’t have a care in the world. That everything is rainbows and unicorns, when in reality our worlds may be crumbling around us. In reality, we’re hiding this deep pain because we think pain makes us weak. We think admitting to pain in our lives somehow makes us weak and disqualifies us from what God wants to do. I was in this place for a long time where I denied the pain. Where I didn’t want to admit to it because I didn’t want to seem weak, but also at the same time I didn’t know how God could ever use it.

What really needed to happen was for me to take off that fake mask, spiritually speaking, and bring my pain to God. Joseph didn’t hide his pain but instead he allowed God to use it. And God, in the same way, wants to heal the pains in our lives in order for us to find and receive the generational blessings that He has for each one of us. We have to learn how to keep living through the pain. What do I mean right there? We have to remain faithful.

Joseph went from the pit to Potiphar’s house to the prison and finally to the palace. There was a long process that was going on in Joseph’s life. He could have taken on the “woe is me” spirit, but he never did. So many Christians walk around with the “woe is me” spirit. You know them and I know them. There’s never anything good that happens in their life. Maybe they’ve walked through pain and they’ve decided that it is where they’re going to stay. But the truth of the Kingdom is this: God will use the pain for

your progression. God will use the current pain in your life to push you further into the plan and the purpose He has for you.

It reminds me a lot of the idea of working out. I enjoy going to the gym four to five times a week. I love working out. I like working hard and getting tired. I enjoy seeing how much I can lift, which by the way isn't a whole lot. But I enjoy the overall experience of the gym. What happens when we begin to lift weights is our muscles begin to tear down. Now, you would think that would be a bad thing because nobody wants to lose muscle, but as you're going through the pain of the workout here's the truth. When you give it a couple of days, your muscles begin to grow back and they come back even stronger. That which once was torn and ripped apart now is growing back even stronger. You see the similarities?

That pain from that workout wasn't meant to kill us, but the pain was for our progression. I believe God is not the author of our pain, but He does step into our pain and bring purpose from it. He brings progression from it, and just like in the gym physically, spiritually we are being torn down during the painful process. If we will remain faithful and keep living, we will come back even stronger than before. When we give our pain over to God, we come back even stronger.

James 1:4 says that the testing of our faith produces patience, and when all of the testing is completed in our life we are made complete and we are lacking nothing. As you're walking through difficult times, sometimes what's taking place is God perfectly completing His work in your life to where you are lacking nothing. Romans 5:3-5 says:

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

We have to learn how to keep living. We have to learn how to never give up and not stop. We will experience times when we get knocked down. We will experience times when we feel like it's completely over. But that's when we keep our faith in Jesus and we say to our hearts, "This is not the end of my story. God is not done with me yet, so I am going to keep living.

I am going to remain faithful when it would be easy to be faithless.” And as we do this, our pain begins to turn to purpose. Those tribulations are turned to perseverance. Don’t quit. Remain faithful.

This took place with me. I rolled over and I gave in to discouragement and depression for two years. When I walked through the painful place of divorce, I rolled over. I gave in for two whole years, until God supernaturally picked me up and He said, “Adam, keep living!” And I pray that over you. Even as you are reading this now, I pray that you would experience the powerful hand of God in this very moment. That you would feel Him come and pick you up off the floor and return you to the purpose He has for your life and for your family.

Don’t quit.

Remain faithful.

Joseph held on. Even through all the pain and disappointment, he didn’t give up. Throughout this whole process, we never once see where Joseph quit. Not in the pit. Not at Potiphar’s. Not in the prison. And because of his faithfulness, God brought him to the palace. Joseph remained faithful. He kept living.

And finally, our last point—God takes our pain and creates purpose out of it when we use it to bless others. Your pain will find its purpose when it begins to bless others. My pain found its purpose when I allowed God to use it to bless others. You see, now I’m a pastor at a thriving church here in Canton, Texas, and it’s because I have learned and allowed God to teach me how to take the painful places that I’ve walked through and use it to bless others. Your pain will find purpose when it begins to bless and encourage others. In Genesis 50:20, Joseph told his brothers, “What you meant for evil, God meant it for good.”

And God used it to save other people. You see, for Joseph, the purpose that God had for his life was not just for him, but it was for other people as well. The pain may have happened to you, but the purpose will be used to serve others. The bad thing, the thing that knocked you down may have happened to you, but the purpose ultimately is going to be able to serve and save others. Joseph didn’t just save himself. Joseph didn’t just save his family. Joseph saved the nation because he refused to get stuck in his pain and he allowed God to bring purpose out of it.

As God begins to draw you out of these painful places, you are going to have words to speak that others need to hear. You're going to have a testimony that God is going to want to use in big ways. Don't allow yourself to keep it just for you, but share it with others. Allow others to find victory and freedom through the painful places you've walked through. Your testimony isn't just meant for you; it's meant for everyone. The Bible declares that we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. God is going to use the painful places that you've walked through to bring healing, freedom, and purpose to other people's lives, because that's just how good God is. Don't allow the pain to steal the promise.

PART 2

INTRODUCTION

Robert Henderson

Many people know the story of my introduction to the Courts of Heaven. As I have traveled the world teaching the concepts of the Courts of Heaven, people in desperation have approached me. They have desired the same breakthrough that we had in our family to be secured in theirs. I do understand this longing. When the understanding of the Courts of Heaven first began to form in my spirit, our family was in upheaval. I often tell people that I would compare my horror story with anyone else. The reason I say this is to seek to communicate how bad things were with us. Plus, I am trying to help faith arise in their hearts. If God could bring redemption to us in our situation, then He can bring it to them in theirs.

Mary and I have six children. They are all biologically ours together. All six of these children grew up in a Christian environment and home. I pastored for 22 years. This means that these children were in a pastor's home. As far as I am concerned, these children were exposed to a God-honoring way of life both in private and in public. What we were before people is what we were behind closed doors. The reason I say this is because children will rebel against a double standard or hypocrisy. If they see their parents espousing one thing when others are around but having hidden secrets in the home, this will birth anger, bitterness, and rebellion. This was *not* the case in our home. In fact, in the midst of any struggle we had, our children always had immense honor for Mary and me. I accredit this to the fact that they knew the *real* us. They saw it lived out before their eyes every day. Even in the worst of times, when they had a problem they would call or come for prayer. They recognized and esteemed the relationship that we had with God and knew it was real.

In the midst of this, however, as our children grew into adulthood, they began to make wrong choices. Four of the six were adults with adult responsibilities of marriage, jobs, and children. Two of our children were

finishing high school and were in this age bracket. What I mean by wrong choices is substance abuse, wrong people as associates, broken relationships, divorces, and just outright disregard for the standards they had been raised with. This brought great sorrow of heart to Mary and me. We had no idea what to do about it. Secretly, I began to think that Mary and I must be the worst parents on the planet. How could our kids have turned out this way? I mean, *all* of them in some degree were making wrong decisions and running the risk of a lifetime of sorrow and despair.

We could see it coming. They were losing their destiny and purpose in spite of everything they had been taught and imparted. Mary and I were at our wits' end. Also during this time great hardship was going on with us. The ministry we had dedicated our lives to seemed in shambles. Finances were diminished. Futures we thought we had secured were stripped away. People were believing lies about us that we were powerless to refute. Life was not fun.

It was at this time that I began to get the revelation of the Courts of Heaven. I began to see that things were legal in the spirit world. Since 1980, I had been a man of prayer. When I yielded to the will of God for ministry, I also yielded to a life of prayer. Even though I didn't know anyone who prayed as I felt compelled to pray, I intuitively knew that if I was to be in ministry, I had to pray. My perspective of the spirit world that I was seeking to engage was that it was a battlefield. However, I began now to see that my contention was more in a courtroom than a battlefield. This changed everything. You don't use the same protocol in a courtroom that you use on a battlefield. On a battlefield it is about brute force. In a courtroom it is about arguments presented that allow the judge to make a desired ruling. You behave completely differently if you perceive you are in a judicial setting in the unseen world. I began to meditate, and the Holy Spirit began to bring me understanding. This precipitated a massive change in the way I prayed and petitioned the Lord.

Revelation 19:11 gives insight into this concept. It lets us know that there is both a legal dimension and a warfare dimension in the spirit world. However, the legal realm has to be dealt with first.

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in

righteousness He judges and makes war.

Jesus, who is Faithful and True, rides a white horse. He *judges* and *makes war*. *Judging* speaks of judicial activity, while *making war* speaks of the battlefield. The order is very important. We must *first* get things judicially in place before we go to the battlefield to make war. This is the piece I had missed all my life. I had warred, bound and loosed, opened and shut, and considered it was a matter of force. However, I began to realize that the real contention was in a heavenly courtroom. The real battle was getting things legally in place. If this was *first* done, then we could march to the battlefield and win every time. However, if demon powers could still claim legal rights to hold their place, no amount of *warring* would be successful.

My perspective was going through a massive shift. I then became aware of Daniel's revelation of the spirit world in Daniel 7:9-10. In these verses, as a seer, Daniel began to see the Courts of Heaven.

*I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;
A fiery stream issued
And came forth from before Him.
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.
The court was seated,
And the books were opened.*

There is a very real court in the heavenly realm that God as the *Ancient of Days* rules over as Judge. This is where we come to stand by faith and

make cases in this court. This is the place where any legal argument that satan and his demonic powers make is dealt with and revoked.

I didn't know it, but my life was about to go through a massive reordering. God was going to bring me revelation and divine encounters. This not only was going to launch me into a place of great influence but also bring my children out of bondage and into the destiny of God for their lives. I was about to have unfolded for me a divine mystery. This secret was going to annul every legal right the devil was claiming against me and my family. It was going to be used by God to secure generational blessings over our family. The threat the devil was making against us and our lineage for destruction was going to be silenced. Our sorrow that we had suffered through, watching our children make wrong choices, was about to be turned into joy and excitement for their future.

As parents, the deep concern we had as we watched our children choose incorrectly and unwisely was going to evaporate. We were going to get the kids back whom we had raised to serve God. This was going to happen from the Courts of Heaven as the legal claims of the devil were revoked and God's passion was imparted.

CHAPTER 5

MY STORY

As I alluded to in the introduction, the whole concept of the Courts of Heaven came out of times of great difficulty that we walked through. It was in these places of desperation that the Lord unveiled these principles and truths that dramatically changed our lives. There were three very significant encounters early on that altered the course we were on. This change brought about great deliverance and freedom from the demonic harassment that was defining our lives at the time. We were able to step into the generational blessings that had been stored for us in our ancestry.

The first thing I did was legally deal with a covenant claim the devil had against me and my lineage. I had no idea that such a thing existed in my bloodline or ancestry. As I was in a session with a prophetic group, it was revealed that someone in my ancestry had made a *covenant* with a *demonic god or demon*. The result of this covenant was that it had given it a right to devour and consume me. Isaiah 28:15 grants some awareness to the fact that this is done by people at times. These covenants can be put into place ignorantly or on purpose.

Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death,

And with Sheol we are in agreement.

When the overflowing scourge passes through,

It will not come to us,

For we have made lies our refuge,

And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.”

God’s people were accused by the prophet of making a covenant with death and agreements with Sheol. In other words, they had turned toward demonic entities in the form of gods and had sworn allegiance to them for

their help. If this has been done in the bloodline, this gives the devil the legal right to claim the lineage of that bloodline for himself.

This is what had happened to me. The result was relationships being consumed, finances being destroyed, and our children making wrong and heartbreaking choices. When I, by faith, stood in the Courts of Heaven and repented and renounced every allegiance to this demonic god that my ancestors had made, things immediately began to change. That which had been consuming our lives seemed to come to a screeching halt. What we had been living under for years seemed to lift. We could breathe again without suffocating under the awful oppression of demonic influence.

The amazing thing was I saw the children we had raised in a godly home, who had started going in unwise and even ungodly directions, begin to turn. This was with no natural influence coming from Mary and me. It was like a switch had been turned off that was driving them toward harm and heartbreak. It was also like a switch was turned on that made them desire and long for the ways of God. I didn't know it then, but when I had repented and renounced any allegiance to demonic gods, it had set my lineage free as well. Their legal claim to my children was broken. The children were free to be influenced by the Holy Spirit and His power. The result was a turning completely to the Lord and going after what they were made for. I will get into how to do this for you and your family in a later chapter. Suffice it to say, when we deal with legalities with which satan is claiming the rights to our children, they are liberated from those forces. One of the curses mentioned Deuteronomy 28:32 in scripture is our children being taken captive.

*Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people,
and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day
long; and there shall be no strength in your hand.*

This is the experience of many families today. They watch as their precious children they have loved dearly are taken from them. They go into drugs, sexual perversion, wrong relationships, alcoholism, and other controlling elements. With grief and fear they watch them be taken captive and destroyed. They find no power or strength to be able to deliver them. These become different people than the ones who grew up in your home.

This happens because the devil finds a legal right somewhere in the heritage to confiscate and take captive your offspring. If we can deal with this, they can become free. So often the conduct and behavior of the children is a result of a legal claim the devil has to possess them. However, there is hope of seeing them freed and brought into the generational blessings designed by God.

After I had dealt with the covenant that someone in my bloodline had made with these devilish powers, we saw immediate change. However, there was more to be done. Because I had now become aware of the Courts of Heaven and its existence, I was about to learn how to function there. Our youngest son, Mark, had gotten into a terrible place of drug use and running with a very bad group of people. One of my daughters had had a dream that Mark was going to die. I too had this very strong prophetic sense that this was where it was headed. However, I felt powerless to stop it. I would get up early every morning and look at the local news to see if someone had been killed the night before. It was my fear that I would find my son's death in the news.

It was in this time that I became aware of the Courts of Heaven. I had prayed and prayed over Mark and this situation, trying to stop what seemed to be inevitable. I knew nothing was changing. I *knew* he was going to die. Later it would be disclosed that Mark was involved in such ungodliness that it was unimaginable to us. He was known by the police. They would stop him and in the police's information they were told that Mark was very violent and to approach with extreme caution. They would come to our house to find him and his friends if there was a burglary or other crime committed. They would investigate Mark and his accomplices because they were always on the radar screen of the police.

We know what it is to be awakened in the middle of the night with the police standing in our living room as Mark had run into our bedroom to hide from them. This was the horror story we were living! I had been doing everything naturally and spiritually that I knew to do. Nothing was working. Then the Courts of Heaven revelation came. Also about this time a prophetic ministry came to us. They said to me without knowing anything, "The devil is going to kill your youngest son."

I looked at them and said, "I know."

I'll never forget what was said in response; they said, "No, he's not."

The power of those words permeated my soul. It gave hope to me in a hopeless situation. We then went into the Courts of Heaven. I dealt with certain issues in my life and bloodline, Mark's life, etc. The prophetic person then saw and perceived that the grip of the devil on Mark had been revoked by God the Judge of all. Of course, in this process Mark was not there. He was wherever, doing what he was involved in. However, within a couple of weeks Mark showed up where I was ministering. After the meeting, he met me in the parking lot and threw his arms around me and wept profusely in repentance. He kept saying, "I'm so sorry, Dad. I'm so sorry, Dad."

This was the beginning of the change. He ended up in Bible school, got his degree, and is now on staff with our ministry in charge of prayer. He carries a very strong prophetic unction and is now married to a wonderful girl. God has done great things and has great purpose for Mark as a man of God. The generational blessings are his inheritance. This all began out of hopelessness when I discovered the Courts of Heaven and its place in the believer's life.

Another phenomenal experience we had as we sought to secure these generational blessings was with our son Adam, the co-author of this book. Adam had always had a heart for God. There was this touch of God on him as he was separated unto the call of God even from birth. Galatians 1:15-16 shows the apostle Paul speaking of this same idea.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood.

Paul claimed that from birth he was destined to preach the gospel from the revelation of Jesus that he had. This was true of Adam as well. On the day he was born, I heard the Lord say, "How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of those who bring good news." Of course this is from Isaiah 52:7 where the encouragement of God comes to His people.

*How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,*

*Who proclaims peace,
Who brings glad tidings of good things,
Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”*

Later the apostle Paul would connect this to the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Romans 10:15, Paul proclaims that those commissioned of God must be sent with this good news.

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,

Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

On the day Adam was born, the Lord clearly spoke this word to me. I now know this was what was written in Adam’s book in heaven. I watched throughout Adam’s growing up period as he exhibited a deep heart for God. I remember that when Adam was around four years old I was at the altar in a service, weeping before the Lord. When we got home, Adam came to me and said, “Daddy, why were you crying?”

I responded in a nonchalant way with, “I was just seeking the Lord.”

Mary, my wife, looked at me and told me, “You need to tell him; he wants to know.” I realized I was missing a moment when my son was demonstrating a hunger for God and I was dismissing it. I then sat down with him and explained that I was feeling the passion of the Lord in my heart and it made me weep. I told him that was a place of crying out to God that was a result of the Holy Spirit moving in me. He drank it all in because of the separation unto God even from his birth.

Adam grew, became a great athlete, went to college, and played some basketball, but he couldn’t get away from the call of God on his life. It wasn’t that he was trying to run from God; he just didn’t know what God wanted him to do. He then decided that he should go to our Bible school

instead of college during this time. He told me he felt like he was wasting time, not getting ready for the call he understood was on his life. So he went through the Bible school and then became the youth pastor at the church I had raised up and then led. Mary and I transitioned out of this church not too long after this. Then Adam and his wife went to the Pacific Northwest to take a position in a large church in that region.

It was here that the problems began. During their tenure there a baby girl was born. However, there began to be problems in the marriage. The end of the story is that a divorce occurred that Adam did not want. Even though he had joint custody with his ex-wife of the now two-year-old baby girl, the mother denied him any contact with her. Adam tried to overcome this, but to no avail. Through the loss of his family and the loss of ministry, Adam ended up in deep depression and despair. He was working at a convenience store on the evening shift. He would come home around midnight and sleep until it was time to go back to work around 4 PM. He seemed to have nothing to live for. This depression settled on him for a two-year period.

As his father, I was warring for him in prayer. I tell people I *bound, loosed, opened, and closed*. I whispered, shouted, cried, and did all sorts of other spiritual gyrations. Nothing changed. It only got worse. I tried to encourage Adam with my words. Nothing seemed to reach him. I was watching him slip further and further away from the destiny and purpose he was born for. There seemed to be nothing I could do spiritually or tell him naturally that could convince him God was still for him.

It was at this time that I went to prayer one morning, as was my routine. As I began to pray, the Lord suddenly said to me, "Bring Adam to My Courts." It was a clear message. The problem was, I had developed a measure of understanding of the legal/judicial realm of the spirit, but had no idea really of how to do this. Or I thought I didn't. The Holy Spirit was about to instruct me. All He wanted me to do was take a step of faith and come into His Courts. As I did this, the Lord began to lead me. I began by repenting on behalf of Adam. To be honest, I didn't really know if this was something I could or should do. However, I was to learn later that First John 5:16 actually gives us the right to do this.

If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

The sin leading to death could be speaking of something spiritual or natural. It can be a physical dying before the time or a spiritual death of separation from the Lord. This didn't apply to Adam. His sin was not to death. Therefore, I had the right to *represent* him before the Courts of Heaven. As I began to pray, I said, "*Lord, I bring Adam before You and repent on his behalf for any failure as a husband and/or father. I ask that Your blood would speak for him and silence all accusations against him. I also repent for him believing lies about You and himself that have allowed this spirit of depression to operate.*"

As I prayed this prayer, I could *feel* things shifting and moving in the spirit world. What I had not been able to do over two years seemed to be happening. With this encouragement, I moved on in my prayers. I then heard the Lord say, "Now you repent." I thought, *What have I done?* The Lord then began to speak to me about the negative and critical words I had spoken about Adam to his mother. In my frustration over the situation, I had definitely said things and found fault with decisions Adam had made that seemed to add to the present situation he was in. The Lord then again spoke to me. He said, "The enemy has taken your words, brought them before My court, and said, 'Even his own father says this about him.'" I was flabbergasted. I realized that I was a part of the problem that was allowing the devil to *legally* hold Adam in depression. Of course, I understood the exhortation of Proverbs 18:21.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

My words were being legally used by satan to build a case to hold Adam in a place of death, despair, and depression. I began to repent. I said, "Lord, I'm so sorry for my negativity. I repent for the words of my mouth against Adam. I love my son and I ask that these words would be annulled by Your blood. May the devil lose every legal right to use my words to build a case against Adam." When I finished this, I again could feel and

sense a divine shift taking place. I was definitely encouraged and believed that some things were changing. The Lord then clearly said to me, “Now, prophesy Adam’s destiny.”

I didn’t realize it then, but I was being led step by step in undoing cases against Adam and also presenting cases on his behalf. The repentance revoked the rights the enemy was claiming. As I began to prophesy, I was presenting a case for Adam in the Courts of Heaven. I began, “Lord, I declare and remind You that Adam is destined by You to carry the good news in high places. His feet are the feet of those who will bear the gospel of Jesus Christ in prominent and influential places. I declare Adam is ordained of You to have impact with many cultures and peoples.”

I continued prophesying different things that I felt impressed with. As I was doing this, again with great clarity I heard the Lord say, “Now, rebuke the spirit of depression.” I had done this many times in the last two to three years. Nothing had ever changed. This time, however, legal issues had been dealt with. God had rendered a divine judgment against the powers of darkness. With boldness and authority, I said, “You spirit of depression, I break you and remove you. I say you have no power or right to my son. You must let him go now!” A tremendous sense of God’s purpose and plan filled me. I felt that something had shifted in this thing with Adam.

A week and a half later, Adam called me. As I answered the phone, he said, “Dad, can I talk to you for a moment?” With this he said, “I don’t know what happened to me, but a week and a half ago all the depression left me. I am now ready to do God’s will and fulfill His purpose for my life.” This was an amazing statement.

Thus began a restoration process in Adam’s life. He now pastors an amazing church that has grown from 5 to 300 in a town of 3,500. There are no limits in sight. He also has been given oversight of another facility to launch another congregation in a nearby city. He is remarried and now has a baby girl with another child on the way. He has been restored to his oldest daughter from the previous marriage. It is an amazing thing to watch as God has restored and launched Adam into the generational blessings he is destined for.

I stand in awe of the goodness of God as I watch my children, who at one time seemed to be going in the wrong direction. They now are serving God and living out the destiny made for them. Everything changed as I

stepped into the Courts of Heaven, saw the legal rights of the devil revoked, and established the generational covenant of God. This is now allowing our family to partake of generational blessing. I expect it to continue for generations to come.

Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness to Your word. I come to request before Your Courts that every scheme and plan of the devil to keep me and my descendants out of generational blessing would be revoked. I ask that that which has been appointed to me and my family line would now become reality. I claim before Your Courts the portion of life and blessings for me and my heritage. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 6

OUR COVENANT-KEEPING GOD

If we are to secure generational blessings for our families, we must realize God has destiny and purpose not just for individuals but also families. We can see this in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This phrase is used consistently when referring to who God is. We find it in Exodus 3:6 and many other places.

Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

The Lord reveals Himself to Moses and informs him that He is a generational God with generational purposes. As a result of this, God will generationally keep His covenant. In fact, covenant is generational in nature. Psalm 105:8-10 shows that God fulfills His word for many, many generations.

*He remembers His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,
The covenant which He made with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac,
And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,
To Israel as an everlasting covenant.*

When the scripture says God remembers and keeps covenant for a thousand generations, this simply means forever. This is what this scripture declares. The covenant promises and purposes made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are still in force today. Israel still lives under the covenant-keeping eye of God. This means that everything God promised the patriarchs will be

done. He will see to it because He keeps covenant. In fact, the whole idea of generational blessings belonging to us is based off the idea of covenant. Therefore, we must understand covenant and the power associated with it.

Covenant defined is an agreement that binds parties together until all that is specified is fulfilled. This means no matter how many generations it may take, the promises of the covenant must be satisfied. One of the best places to see this is Genesis 15:7-18. In this portion of scripture, we see Abraham asking for assurance that what he is giving his life for isn't wasted. He had left everything to pursue God and His promise to him. Yet there was no sign of the promise coming to pass. He is requesting from God some evidence that would give him confidence. It seems that Abraham is in need of reassurance.

Then He said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning

torch that passed between those pieces. On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying:

“To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.”

Through the sacrifices, the forecasting of the future, and God Himself as a smoking oven and burning torch walking between the pieces of animals, covenant was made. Abraham now had a covenant with God. This was God’s answer to Abraham’s need for assurance. Covenant is always God’s answer for the absence or wavering of faith. God is not a man that He should lie. In fact, the scripture in Titus 1:2 says God is incapable of lying.

In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

This is why when we have a covenant with God, it is sure and steadfast. It is impossible for God to lie and not be true to what He has promised. This is so strongly understood that we are told in Hebrews 6:13-14 that God swears by Himself.

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”

This is, in essence, God saying to Abraham that it doesn’t matter what anyone else does, God will see to it that it is done. Here is the amazing truth—this means even us, ourselves. We think that our disobedience and faithlessness will invalidate God’s covenant. This isn’t true. God swore by Himself. There will be a fulfillment of what was spoken. When God says something and makes a promise, His nature and reputation are now at stake. The ones He made the promises to may not get the fulfillment of it, but others will. Not one word spoken by the Lord will fall to the ground if there is a people to believe and obey Him. The covenant will be fulfilled because God said *He* would do it. Second Timothy 2:11-13 makes an astounding statement concerning this idea.

*This is a faithful saying:
For if we died with Him,
We shall also live with Him.
If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him.
If we deny Him,
He also will deny us.
If we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself.*

Notice that precious promises are made to us concerning God's faithfulness. We are told in the latter sentence that if we deny Him He will deny us. The word *deny* is the Greek word *arneomai*. It means "to contradict, reject, and disavow." *Disavow* speaks of the annulling of covenant. So if I reject or disavow the covenant I have with God through the blood of Jesus, there is nothing left to speak for me. I would be denied and Jesus would not speak on my behalf before the Father. We see Jesus warning the disciples of this is Matthew 10:32-33.

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Out of the covenant I have with God through the blood of Jesus, I am empowered to be bold and not deny Him. I will give witness that I am His and He is mine. Notice, however, that Paul also stated that if I'm faithless, that does not cause faithlessness in God. He remains faithful to His word and covenant. Should He not be faithful to what He has said, He would deny or reject and disavow who He is. This cannot and will not happen. God will see to it that His word that has been promised is fulfilled. This is what happened with the children of Israel. The first generation that came out of Egypt rebelled and counted themselves unworthy of the promises of

God. God rejected or denied them. Numbers 14:11 tells us that Israel *rejected* God.

Then the Lord said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?”

The Lord is completely frustrated with this nation because they have not believed Him. They have willfully chosen over and over to not come to faith even though they have partaken of God’s faithfulness. Now God says they have rejected Him. As a result of this, God sentences them to living under His rejection. Numbers 14:34 makes this horrific statement concerning this people who have rejected the Lord.

According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.

I cannot imagine what it must be like to live under the rejection of God. However, this only happened because they rejected Him over and over in the midst of His faithfulness. We must live our lives in the fear of the Lord, knowing that if we confess Him and acknowledge Him, we will be blessed. However, if we deny and reject Him, we can know the rejection of the Lord.

God now has a problem. He is a covenant-keeping God. However, the people with whom He has this covenant have deemed themselves unworthy of the promises. God’s solution is to fulfill His covenant word with the children of those who rejected Him. Remember that covenant is always generational in nature. Numbers 14:31 shows God promising to fulfill His covenant through the children of those who denied Him.

But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.

This is exactly what was done. The Lord allowed this next generation who would obey Him so He could bring them in. Those who rejected Him

did not see the promised land. However, their children did. This is because God is a covenant-keeping God. What He has promised, He will fulfill.

If this is true of those who were faithless, then how much more of those who are faithful and obedient to the Lord. If there were generational blessings on the children of those who disobeyed, how much more on those who are seeking to obey? The covenant promises made to Abraham flowed down to Isaac, then Jacob, and ultimately to a whole nation. All that God had said to Abraham would be fulfilled and accomplished through his lineage. It can still be true today. God is faithful. All that He has promised He will fulfill. However, the devil will seek to deny these promises by legal maneuvering in the Courts of Heaven. Instead of us seeing the generational blessings flow to us and from us to our children, many times we see the opposite. The answer is to know how to contend in the Courts of Heaven for that which is rightfully ours through covenant. When we do, we can see our children and lineage after us be empowered by great blessings. It is our right and inheritance.

Lord, You are the covenant-keeping God. What You have said, You will fulfill. The promises You made to me are for me, my children, and as many as the Lord our God shall call. May we see the fulfillment of what was spoken over our family line come to pass. We ask that it would be recorded before Your Courts that we have requested and believed this of You. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 7

GENERATIONAL THINKING

When the Lord makes a promise, it almost always will take generations to accomplish it. We cannot accomplish generational purpose without the empowerment of generational blessings. This is why contending for generational blessings from the Courts of Heaven is so important. Hebrews 11:13 makes a statement concerning these fathers.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

They had vision and purpose beyond their natural years. What God had said would require generations to fulfill. Many times we need to interpret the word we have heard from the Lord in terms of generations. If we don't think this way, then we become disillusioned when it doesn't happen in our life span. We think that God has failed us, or that what we thought was God wasn't. This also causes us not to contend for the generations to come. We mustn't think everything will rise and fall with us. God's plan is generational. This means we must secure generational blessings over us and our lineage. Daniel 4:3 tells us that God's kingdom is forever. However, the dominion or enforcement of that kingdom is from generation to generation.

*How great are His signs,
And how mighty His wonders!
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And His dominion is from generation to generation.*

If we are to see the full demonstration of the intentions and desires of God, we must realize generations will be involved. There will be a handing off of the plans and purposes of God from one generation to another. We furthermore see this premise emphasized in the New Testament. Acts 16:30-31 shows Paul speaking to the Philippian jailer. After the earthquake has shaken the prison and opened the prison doors, through a process this jailer cries out to be saved.

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Paul boldly declares that as this man believed on Jesus as Lord and Savior, that he and *his household* would be saved. Paul promised generational blessings flowing to the man and through this man to his house. The house always speaks of the lineage. The gospel has a generational component that we should lay hold of. When we come to faith, we should also claim our *houses* for generations to come to be saved as well. We can also see this promise in Acts 2:38-39. The promise of the Holy Spirit is for those who repent and their generations after them.

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

What a powerful promise. Not only should we believe for the salvation of our lineage and generations, we must also believe for their empowering by the Spirit of God. This is a promise that is generational in nature. As a repentant believer in Jesus, I receive the power of the Holy Spirit, but I also expect it on my generations to come!

In my travels, I have gone to many places. One of these places is York, England. There is a very impressive minster in this city. This is a church facility that houses a regional oversight for the Church of England. As I

have visited this place several times, I was informed it took 400 years to build. I was amazed. This means that the plans, passion, and purpose for this facility were passed down for several generations. They knew when they began that one generation would not be long enough to complete it. It would take perhaps five to six generations to start to fulfill what was originally envisioned. Wow! This meant that those involved would have to not only fulfill their piece but empower the next generation to complete theirs as well.

My thought then and now was how non-generational we tend to think in today's culture. We consider only what we can accomplish during our lifetimes. However, it is clear from scripture that we are to think and work from a generational perspective. All of us desire to see our children live a good life. This is something we all want. Most want our children to have more than we had and live a better life. This is fine. However, the purposes of God go further than this. Our children, grandchildren, and beyond are to continue the mission the Lord committed to our families. Just like an individual has a destiny in the books of heaven, so families also have books in heaven. Psalm 139:16 unveils this idea to us.

*Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.*

David had an awareness that his time on earth was to be spent living out what had previously been written in a book in heaven. In fact, this is what we are all here to do. If you are alive in the planet, there is a book in heaven about you. Your purpose, destiny, and reason of existence is in that book. Second Timothy 1:9 tells us clearly that before we ever came to be in the earth realm, purpose and grace were already apportioned to us.

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

The purpose that was given us *before time began* is what is in the book. The grace is the empowerment to fully know it and fulfill it. This is imperative if we are going to deal with issues in the Courts of Heaven. Daniel 7:10 lets us know that cases are presented in the Courts of Heaven from these books we are speaking of that are *opened*.

A fiery stream issued

And came forth from before Him.

A thousand thousands ministered to Him;

Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.

The court was seated,

And the books were opened.

The reason the *court* is seated is because it is ready to hear cases and receive petitions. The books are *open* because the cases are coming out of these books. Our purpose and intent must be to prophetically discern what is in these heavenly books. As this is done, we can effectively present cases in the Courts of Heaven.

There has been much talk and teaching from many, including me, on generational curses. These are legal places that the devil discovers to sabotage and to seek to destroy destinies. We have taught much in previous books on the Courts of Heaven about seeing these revoked and removed. However, we must also understand that just like there are generational curses, there are also generational blessings to be secured and apprehended. In other words, from the books of heaven there is destiny, purpose, and intent that is for family lines.

God chooses families, not just individuals, to perform and fulfill certain parts of His plan. For instance, God originally chose Saul to be the king of Israel. However, Saul did not fulfill the plan of God in destroying the Amalekites when he was sent on that mission. The result was that God revoked His original intent for First Samuel 13:13-14 shows Samuel prophesying to Saul that which no one would want to hear.

And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

The Lord’s purpose was that Saul’s kingdom would be established *forever*. This would have required that those who were of Saul’s lineage would have ruled Israel for generations to come. However, Saul lost this for his family line through his disobedience and not fulfilling the word of the Lord. When Samuel declared that *your kingdom shall not continue*, this was a statement that didn’t necessarily impact Saul personally. He did continue to reign. It is understood that he reigned as king for 20 to 22 years. The effect of the word was against his family after him. There was not a continuation of the family rule. The Lord said, through Samuel, it was because God had sought for one who was *after His own heart*. Of course, this was found in David. David and his house became the fulfillment of what God intended originally through Saul.

We must make it our aspiration to not forfeit anything that is committed to our family line. Not only should we fulfill personal destiny, we should crave to see our family purpose satisfied as well. This will require embracing and grasping generational blessings, anointing, and empowerment. In other words, that which God has committed to our family and His divine will that is written in the books of heaven.

As I have ministered in different settings, I have done activations where I have helped people prophetically recover their books and see them opened. This is always an interesting time as people *see and perceive* different things in the spirit concerning them and their destinies. What has astounded me is that many times people will see several books coming to them from the heavenly realm, rather than just one. I tell them that we only have *one* book as individuals that our prophetic destinies are written in. However, there are times when people perceive these additional books. These books are usually their family books and also books of people in their

family line who died prematurely and were unable to fulfill their destiny. These books are still committed to this family.

The family book will usually be seen as a much bigger book. This is because in it is the purpose and destiny God intended for the family line. The personal book of any who died prematurely is of lesser size. This is because our individual book is a smaller part of the family function and purpose. I believe that the books of those who died before their time will somehow be fulfilled by others within the family. This is just what I have sensed and seen. The main thought I am communicating is that we all have a personal book that is connected and joined to our family book that is in heaven. Remember that anything that has a kingdom purpose has a book about it in heaven. It is our job to fulfill that which is written in the book of heaven about us and our family. This reality is why the Bible is so adamant in recording the families people were born into and from. A casual reading of scripture always lets us know the family line someone came from. Quite often a person was identified by whose *son* they were. For instance, in Isaiah 22:20 we see God speaking of one He would set in a prominent place.

Then it shall be in that day,

That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah.

The Lord identifies the one He has chosen not just by his individual name, but by who his father was. This would seem to strongly imply that Eliakim is who he is because of who his father is. The nature of the father was within the son.

The truth is that all of us are a result of that which we have come from. We have a right to set aside legal claims of the devil to harass us with curses caused by iniquity in the bloodlines. We also have the right and responsibility to claim and contend before the Lord the heritage and inheritance that belongs to us as well. Eliakim was chosen not just because of who he was, but also because of who his father was and the inheritance he had from that bloodline. Eliakim's name means in Hebrew "God of raising." This speaks to us that this man was one raised of God to occupy a significant place and function. Hilkiyah, his father's name, means "portion of Jah." Of course, *Jah* is the name of God, Jehovah. Eliakim came from a

bloodline where there was a great sense of destiny and purpose. Hilkiah understood he was a portion of God. He was God's inheritance. From this deep sense and identity, his son Eliakim became one raised of God to occupy a great place of influence in the kingdom of God. Eliakim's identity was no accident. It came out of his bloodline.

Some might think that there is no good in their bloodline to draw from. There are two significant answers to this. One is that *every family* has a book in heaven. Regardless of how bad your family might seem, there is divine purpose attached to it. Also, we must know that the devil can only use iniquity for four generations to land curses. However, God keeps covenant for a thousand generations. We have seen that means forever. Exodus 20:5-6 shows that the mercy of God flows for thousands of generations.

You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Read in context, this declares that the devil can go back three to four generations to find legal claims against us. Remember that the devil must operate within the standards of God's word. He cannot go past it unless we let him. We must call into place God's statute of limitations and deal with anything up to four generations that satan would claim as a legal right. Notice, however, that God shows mercy to thousands. This means that whatever good there is in our history, we have a right to claim it now into our lives. We can reach back for thousands of generations and discover anointing, blessing, and empowerments that we can contend for. This is on the basis of God's rule and law. This means that *all families* have good that they can lay claim to.

Perhaps in the recent history of your family there might seem to be nothing good. However, when you begin to search out your family in the spirit, you will find those who served God and honored Him. You will discover the blessing of the Lord that you and your lineage have legal rights to. We can take these into the Courts of Heaven and begin the judicial

process in the spirit world of claiming the generational blessings that are rightfully ours. I think you're going to be surprised at what belongs to you and what God has been waiting for you to claim! Let's approach His Courts and make our case!

My God, as I stand in Your Courts, I ask that all that You have promised would be seen. I desire all that You have for me; let what is in my generational lines be reclaimed. Anything that was lost or stolen, would You allow what belongs to me and my family to begin to flow into my life and my generations? I desire all that is rightfully mine, in Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 8

RETRIEVING BOOKS

If we are to make a case in the Courts of Heaven concerning the generational blessings that are ours, we must prophetically discern them. You can't claim what you aren't aware of. We have established that there is among the books of heaven a book about our family. Once this is understood, we should begin the process of coming to this awareness of what is ours. I mentioned in an earlier chapter about an activation I have done in possessing our books. This should be done; otherwise, we will not be able to recognize what has been committed to us and our families.

There are two different yet related things that we must do to realize what is in our family book. We must retrieve the book and we must open the book. Otherwise, what is in the book will be an ongoing mystery. Isaiah 29:10-12 gives us insight into what happens when we don't have possession of our opened book.

For the Lord has poured out on you

The spirit of deep sleep,

And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets;

And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.

The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please."

And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please."

And he says, "I am not literate."

These are amazing verses in that they reveal that prophets and seers can only perceive from *open books*. Very clearly we are told that when books are not possessed and/or opened, prophets and seers have closed eyes and covered heads. This means there is no prophetic revelation. Prophetic revelation is what is in the books. This is what we must discern before we can present a case in the Courts of Heaven. Again, Daniel 7:10 says opened books are connected to heavenly Court operation.

A fiery stream issued

And came forth from before Him.

A thousand thousands ministered to Him;

Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.

The court was seated,

And the books were opened.

It is impossible to present a case in the Courts without having a prophetic understanding of what is in your family's book. These verses in Isaiah 29 speak of two groups of people trying to discern what is in the book. One group is *literate*. This means they have learned to read. It speaks of the gifted ones. They have prophetic abilities. However, they cannot see or read from the books because they are closed! It doesn't matter how strong a person's prophetic abilities are. If the book is shut, they will not be able to read from it. There will be no discerning of the destiny, purpose, or intent of the Lord for that family until the book is opened.

The other group mentioned is the *illiterate*. These are those who can't read. They are the ungifted. It doesn't matter whether the book is opened or not. They don't seem to have the prophetic abilities necessary to perceive what is in the book. This is remedied by having impartation and/or activation of prophetic gifting. We will give some insight to this later in this chapter.

There is one other thing at times that we need to deal with before we can get our family book opened. Sometimes the book of a family has been taken captive because of activities in our ancestral history. It is possible that the sin, iniquity, or covenant made with demons can have empowered these

devilish forces to take possession of a family's books. Let me give a couple of illustrations. Through his lack of appreciation and value of his birthright and the blessing associated with it, Esau sold it to Jacob. Genesis 25:30-34 shows the discourse between Jacob and Esau that led to this future-altering transaction.

And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom.

But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day."

And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"

Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day."

So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

This swearing by Esau obviously was registered in heaven. Jacob secured from Esau the rights of the firstborn. This meant that he was now entitled to receive double what anyone else in the bloodline received. Deuteronomy 21:15-17 gives us understanding of what belonged to anyone who was firstborn in a family line. It is spoken of from the perspective of a man with two wives. He was not allowed to bestow firstborn status on the child of the wife he loved the most.

If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and they have borne him children, both the loved and the unloved, and if the firstborn son is of her who is unloved, then it shall be, on the day he bequeaths his possessions to his sons, that he must not bestow firstborn status on the son of the loved wife in preference to the son of the unloved, the true firstborn. But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

Notice that the firstborn had *rights* by virtue of his position in the family. This was a very important issue. When Esau sold his birthright to Jacob we are told that he despised it. The word *despise* is the Hebrew word *bazah*. It means “to disdain or consider contemptible.” Esau, through the lack of control of his flesh, gave away that which was very precious. However, he didn’t just give away his blessing and promise; he gave away his lineage’s blessing as well. What became Jacob’s and his lineage’s would have belonged to Esau and his offspring.

What a sad commentary. How often has our future been given away by those in our bloodline who swore oaths and/or made decisions in a moment that have lasted not just a lifetime but many lifetimes. The devil uses these kinds of activities in the spirit world to take possession of books. Remember, within the books are the original destinies and futures God has purposed. We have to go into the realms of the spirit and into the Courts of Heaven to claim again that which was originally intended by God.

Even though there are several examples in scripture where people made agreements in moments that have altered generations, we will look at only one more. Cain is a prime example of this. Remember that Cain brought an unacceptable offering to God because it wasn’t the best. On the other hand, his brother Abel brought something that blessed the heart of God because it was the first and best of what he had. The result was that God sought to correct Cain. He brought discipline to him and wanted to see Cain repent and be corrected. However, Cain got angry at his offering not being accepted and God’s effort to chasten him. The result was Cain killed his brother Abel. Genesis 4:9-12 shows the Lord passing sentence on Cain for what he had done.

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?”

He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

On the basis of the voice of Abel's blood, God from the Courts of Heaven determined Cain guilty. He was sentenced to be a fugitive and a vagabond. He was brought under a judgment of the earth not producing for him as he sought to make a living. However, this did not just affect Cain but his lineage as well.

The effects of Cain's actions were felt for generations to come. Lamech, one of Cain's descendants, seems filled with a need to be justified in Genesis 4:23-24. This was the spirit in Cain that allowed him to kill Abel. When God confronted Cain about his unacceptable offering, he became mad. This spirit seems to have escalated until it manifested in Lamech five generations later.

*Then Lamech said to his wives:
"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!
For I have killed a man for wounding me,
Even a young man for hurting me.
If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."*

It appears that Lamech killed a man because he hurt him, offended him, and/or insulted him. He then says he should be avenged or justified many times over. There was something in the generations that made the people of this lineage prone to this. Great depths of insecurity and rejection seem to have been in this generational line. This all started with Cain's rejection of God's correction and his murder of Abel. Cain obviously lived his life after God's rejection with a need to be avenged or justified and vindicated. This had mushroomed by the time of Lamech into a deadly and murderous compelling. This was a result of the original book for Cain having been lost, affecting the generations to come.

If there has been activity in the bloodline that has caused the family book in heaven to be lost, it must be retrieved. As I have prayed with many people concerning this, it is amazing some of the encounters that people have. For instance, as I was leading people through the retrieving of their

family book, suddenly I was aware of an angel going into Europe. I understood that there were those present whose ancestors from generations back had lost their book while living in Europe. I knew the angels were being dispatched to recover these books. Others have seen two books being returned to them as we have prayed. They will see a large book and a smaller one. I tell them this is most likely their individual book and the family book they are witnessing. God is committing to them both books. One is their own they are responsible to fulfill; the other is for the family and they also have responsibilities with it as well.

If we are to retrieve these books, we should address several things. First, we must repent for any sin in the bloodline that allowed the books to be lost or stolen. We should repent for any decisions that were made that granted the devil the legal right to possess these books. This allows a legal thing to be set in place so books can be recovered. When we repent for iniquity/ sin in the bloodline, we are not altering the eternal destiny of any person. Their own life determines their eternity. However, we are giving God the legal right to revoke any claim the devil has been using to hold our books captive.

The second thing we should do is to declare that as for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord. This statement before the Courts of Heaven lets it be recorded that any agreement with demon powers is now annulled. We have chosen to be purchased by the blood of Jesus and we are His. Every other claim is illegal and unrighteous. The third thing we should do is ask for angels to be dispatched to search out the lost/stolen books. We then ask that the angels would retrieve them and return them to us. We should position ourselves in expectation and *watch* in the spirit realm for this to occur. We can get back anything that was lost in our bloodline so the original generational blessings might flow.

As we come before Your Courts, Lord, we would request the retrieval and return of any of our family books that have been lost or stolen. We ask that any activity in our bloodline that would have allowed the removal of these books from us would now be silenced.

I now repent for any and all activity in my bloodline where sins were committed and/or covenants were made with demon powers that have allowed them to take my books captive. I repent of and renounce all such activities and ask that the blood of Jesus might speak on my behalf right now. I ask that any demon power holding my family's book would now be forced to let it go.

I also declare before Your Courts that, according to Joshua 24:15, as for me and my house we shall serve the Lord. Let it be recorded before You that this is our heart and decree. Let any other voice claiming us now be silenced. We say we belong to the Lord by the blood of Jesus.

I also ask now that angels might be dispatched to search out and retrieve this book. Would You allow them to recover these from every demonic power that has held them? I also ask that the angels would now deliver these books to me, that my awareness of family blessings might now begin to flow. I say I am free from any and all activity that would deny me this. The generational blessings assigned to me from the Lord are now free to come over me and my lineage as I receive and recover my family book. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 9

OPENING BOOKS, DISCERNING BLESSINGS

If we are to see generational blessings become a reality, we must not only retrieve the books containing this in the spirit realm, we also must get the books open. Once the books are retrieved, there will be a sense of a divine destiny that begins to overtake us. In addition, when the books are opened, there will be an awareness of details of that destiny that will begin to be made apparent. Again, the scripture in Isaiah 29:10-12 gives us clear insight that books must be opened. Otherwise we can be in possession of the books and yet not really know the specifics of what is in them.

For the Lord has poured out on you

The spirit of deep sleep,

And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets;

And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.

The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please."

And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please."

And he says, "I am not literate."

There was no prophetic revelation because the books weren't opened. It is our job to open these books so we can perceive what has been committed to our family lines. The main thing that *opens* books of heaven is hunger. When people hunger for the Lord and His will, God opens these books for

them. John 14:21 actually says that those who love the Lord will *have* His commands and *keep* them.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

When we love God and hunger for Him, it is a blessing when He shows us His commands. To be told and led into obedience to Him is a blessing from Him. Not just keeping His commands but first *having* them is a sign that books have opened in the spirit world. He is granting us an opportunity to know His will that we might embrace it and be blessed. Without knowing it, it is impossible to do it and reap the benefits. To those who hunger for Him, God grants the privilege to know His ways and walk in them.

Remember that to each family is dedicated a divine purpose from God. For instance, God promised David that he and his family line would always be blessed. In First Chronicles 17:9-15, we see God promising David that his lineage would be blessed. This is after David has expressed a deep desire to build God a house. The principle of God is always that *if we build God a house, He will build our house*. A *house* speaks of our lineage and heritage after us.

“Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. Also I will subdue all your enemies. Furthermore I tell you that the Lord will build you a house. And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.”

According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

In the books of heaven concerning David and his family, these things were undoubtedly written. The prophet Nathan was able to perceive them and proclaim them before David. What a massive promise God made to him. Its ultimate fulfillment is found in Jesus. Jesus came from the line of David and will forever sit upon the throne of David and rule and reign. The bottom line is that God promised to David a generational blessing that would run down his family in times to come. The fact is that we also are promised the same thing that David was. Isaiah 55:3 makes this statement that promises the same blessing to us. We will not be the lineage of which the Messiah comes; however, we can have generational blessings just like David did.

Incline your ear, and come to Me.

Hear, and your soul shall live;

And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—

The sure mercies of David.

The Lord promises the *sure mercies of David*. This is speaking of the promise that God would bless his generations because of the covenant He had with him. We have the sure mercies of David. This means what God promised us and our coming generations He will fulfill. As a result of this promise to show David and his lineage mercy, God allowed even those who weren't obedient to be blessed. For David's sake, he would not remove them, though they deserved it. First Kings 15:1-5 is only one of several places where God shows mercy to kings who should have been destroyed. They were permitted to continue, but only because of God's promise to David. Truly the sure mercies were over the family line of David.

In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom. And he walked in all the sins of

his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. Nevertheless for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem; because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

Even though the hearts of David's descendants were not loyal to the Lord, God permitted them to remain. This was God keeping His covenant blessings and generational promises. Notice also that even though David wasn't perfect, this promise was still intact and God honored it. We must know how to claim the generational blessings for ourselves and our lineage to come. All that is written in the books of heaven—we need to present this in the Courts and Heaven and request the fulfillment of the word of God.

As I said earlier, Nathan saw into the open books what God was saying about David's house. In the verses we cited from First Chronicles 17:9-14, there are several promises God made to David about the generations to come.

- All enemies subdued
- Build him a house (his lineage to come)
- Establish the kingdom of his son
- The son would build God's house
- The throne of the son would be established
- God would be his Father
- The anointing and mercy of God would not depart

These all came out of the book of heaven that Nathan read from as he prophesied. This needed to be taken into the Courts of Heaven and claimed before the Lord. There needed to be a response to the prophetic word. Remember that Daniel 7:10 says that when the Court is seated, the books are opened. In other words, as the prophetic comes from these open books,

it should be presented as a case in the Courts of Heaven. This will allow the Lord the privilege of rendering rulings based on this word. This is exactly what David did in First Chronicles 17:16-27.

Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O God; and You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree, O Lord God. What more can David say to You for the honor of Your servant? For You know Your servant. O Lord, for Your servant’s sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things. O Lord, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people—to make for Yourself a name by great and awesome deeds, by driving out nations from before Your people whom You redeemed from Egypt? For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.

“And now, O Lord, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, let it be established forever, and do as You have said. So let it be established, that Your name may be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel’s God.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a house. Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray before You. And now, Lord, You are God, and have promised this goodness to Your servant. Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O Lord, and it shall be blessed forever.”

We can see some critical issues to petitioning the Courts of Heaven for the promised generational blessing perceived from the open books. David went in and sat before the Lord and, based off the prophetic word of Nathan, began speaking to the Lord. The word *sat* in these verses is the Hebrew word *yashab*. It means “to sit as a judge.” David recognized that he needed to judicially respond to what God had just told him. He took his place in the Courts of Heaven and began his case based on what had been revealed to him from the books through the prophetic. Let me give you this progression by steps that David took as he functioned in the Courts.

Step 1

David came in humility, acknowledging his smallness in light of God’s promises, yet his position that God had granted him.

And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O God; and You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree, O Lord God. What more can David say to You for the honor of Your servant?

This is a fine balance that we must grasp. We must at the same time recognize our smallness in the light of who God is, yet also see the high position that He has given us. From a position of humility we can petition the Lord for the promises spoken.

Step 2

David acknowledged that God *knew* him.

For You know Your servant.

This would mean that the Lord was aware of who David was in his strength and also in his weakness. In spite of this, the Lord had still chosen David and his lineage for the promise proclaimed. By declaring this, David was acknowledging all the good and the bad in him. He was also asserting

that in spite of everything, God still warranted him as qualified for this promise and position.

Step 3

David then begins to point out that ultimately this is about the purposes of God and God's interest in these matters.

O Lord, for Your servant's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things. O Lord, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people—to make for Yourself a name by great and awesome deeds, by driving out nations from before Your people whom You redeemed from Egypt? For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.

I have found that when we make something about the purpose of God, this is paid special attention to in the Courts of Heaven. David admits that this is a continuation of all that God has done in choosing Israel as His people. He is reminding God of all His great acts on their behalf. David proclaims that the Lord has *become their God*.

Step 4

On the basis of who God is and what He has said, David now requests that the promise might be fulfilled.

And now, O Lord, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, let it be established forever, and do as You have said. So let it be established, that Your name may be magnified forever, saying, "The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel's God." And let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

Notice that David's requests in the Courts are based on what God had spoken and that He is the God of this nation. David petitions the Court on more than his personal issues but on the issues of God's will in Israel.

Step 5

David now declares that what God has promised has empowered him to ask for it. This is the way we present cases in the Courts on anything, but definitely in regard to securing generational blessings. We see the plan and desire of God from the books of heaven, then present it before Him.

For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a house. Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray before You. And now, Lord, You are God, and have promised this goodness to Your servant. Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O Lord, and it shall be blessed forever.

David understood what had been revealed had to be prayed into reality. This is absolutely necessary to securing these generational blessings and the sure mercies of David. Let me give you a prayer you can pray based on these ideas and concepts:

Based on Step 1

Lord, we humbly come before You and acknowledge Your greatness. Lord, what and who are we before such an awesome God? Yet Lord, You have acknowledged us and granted us precious promises from Your word and our book in heaven. With humility and yet boldness we access Your presence and Your Courts.

Based on Step 2

Lord, You know us. You are aware of all our shortcomings and failures. According to Your word, You know our lying down and our rising up. Yet in the midst of this, You do not reject us. We are accepted before You, for we have found favor in Your sight.

Based on Step 3

Lord, thank You for the promises You have made to me prophetically from my open book. May these words that have been spoken come to pass that Your will might be done in the earth. Would You use my family and generations as a part of Your plan for the ages? I do not ask this for my sake, Lord, but for the sake of Your will being performed.

Based on Step 4

Lord, would You now allow that which has been spoken to come to pass. Let the word of the Lord from my open book in heaven now be manifest and shown. Let my family and heritage after me be blessed, increased, and enlarged. Would You allow all that has been spoken to be done.

Based on Step 5

Lord, on the basis of what You have spoken and promised, I now find it in my heart to request this of You. May it be remembered that You, Lord, have announced this to Your servant. I request that my generations to come might live in and enjoy the sure mercies of David. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 10

NATURAL SEED

When we consider generational blessings, we must look at Abraham and the promises made by God to him. As the Lord commanded Abraham to take Isaac his son and offer him up, the result was going to be a proclamation of generational blessings over his life and family. As Abraham fully obeyed God, in Genesis 22:15-18 we see the angel of the Lord proclaiming generational blessings to Abraham and his coming lineage.

Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

The Lord promised that *blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants*. He swears to Abraham in an oath that there will be an abundance of descendants from him and Sarah. He guarantees that they will be a blessing to the whole earth and that they will possess and control the gates of their enemies. This would mean that new territory and boundaries would be enlarged. This is not something that Abraham himself will see, but it is the promise of God for his descendants. The reason God says He will do this is because Abraham has completely obeyed Him in a given moment.

We will look at these things in-depth. The generational blessing of God upon Abraham is still affecting us today. Because of his obedience, we as believers but also even unbelievers are touched by these results. Not only

this, but we can learn principles from Abraham on how to secure the generational blessings of God for our own family. God was faithful to Abraham and still is because of His covenant. However, this can be our experience as well. Let's believe God to see the reality of this in us and our generations to come.

Let's see the three generational blessings God promised Abraham and his lineage from this scripture. First of all, God promises great increase of descendants in his family line. He promises they will be so many, they will be like grains of sand on the seashore, but also the multitude of stars in the sky. One is earthly while the other is heavenly. One speaks of natural Israel while the other speaks of spiritual Israel. There are many theological things that could be discussed from these ideas. However, for the purpose of this book, let's zero in on us and our generations living in the blessings assigned to us. As God promised Abraham two different seeds, one natural and the other spiritual, let's look at both.

First, the seed of Abraham or his descendants would be as plentiful as the sand on the seashore. In this day and age, big families are sometime laughed at, scrutinized, and criticized. However, this is not the perspective of God. Mary and I have six children. When we were in the years of child birthing and rearing, we were constantly asked if we "*knew what was causing this.*" This might seem like a cute little saying, but at its core is an implication of irresponsibility and perhaps even stupidity. Underneath this question was the idea that we were giving birth to a group of people who would require the sustenance of food, clothing, housing, and other necessities. It was laced with the concept that we were doing ourselves and society a disservice by having this many children! Those who would espouse this philosophy had bought into the spirit of this age.

I do realize that with children comes great accountability. However, the fact is that we did realize it and did not consider they were other people's responsibility. They were ours! The subtle little slap of disapproval of those who had adopted an approach that was more demonic than godly was not allowed to determine what we did or didn't do. Mary and I were determined to allow God to have His way in our family. We knew that Psalm 127:3-5 declared the opposite concerning children.

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.
Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;
They shall not be ashamed,
But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.*

Whereas in today's society children quite often are seen as nuisances at the very least, God claims them as His heritage. The worldview that would look at children in the way I have described is part of the very spirit that drives abortion. Children are not valued; they are despised and seen as inconveniences. However, God says they are His reward. What? God claims that a child born is His inheritance. If we got this, we would quit seeing children as something to push to the side and instead something to invest in.

God sees the little ones as those He will change the world through. If we don't get this, then our perspective is wrong to expect generational blessings. This verse also says that children are God's reward to us. This word *reward* in the Hebrew is *sakar*. It means "a payment of contract, compensation, salary." Children are God's *pay* to us. We are to love them, nurture them, train them, and equip them. This would mean that they are to be stewarded in such a way that their lives bring benefit. Through them the purposes of God are advanced.

Notice that God likens these children to *arrows* in the hand of a warrior. Arrows are meant to be launched and shot at a target. This means that those who hold the bow must have an awareness of the target each child was meant for. We must have an influence to direct them in the way that is written in their book for them. One of the reasons why so many children flounder without direction is because of parents who have no prophetic awareness of their destiny. This should be esteemed as one of the responsibilities of parenting. We should discern and encourage children in the God-ordained purpose for their life. We shouldn't push them to be a *success* as much as we should push them to fulfill the *call* of God for their life.

We are also responsible to place within them the characteristics for effectiveness and fruitfulness in life. If we don't do this for our children, they will never apprehend generational blessings. Abraham was admired by God because God knew he would train his children. Long before he ever had children, the qualities that would allow God to bless him were seen. In Genesis 18:17-19, we see God making the decision to tell Abraham what He is about to do in Sodom and Gomorrah.

And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

God shared secrets with Abraham, not because of who he was, but because of what he would become. The Lord knew that Abraham had qualities that would allow the promises and purposes of God to be fulfilled in him. This quality was that he would command his children and household after him. Abraham would value and appreciate the generations to come. Therefore, God saw this as a reason to share secrets with him. The Lord knew that He would be able to perform His word because Abraham would instruct the coming generations. Sometimes God's word is unfulfilled because God can find no one with a generational heart. May this not be said of us.

The Lord wants natural children carrying His heart in the earth. Remember, they are His heritage and our reward from God. We are told in Psalm 127:4 that these *arrows* are the *children of one's youth*. As a result of our perspective on children, we have not raised our children to produce children. I've always thought it unique that this scripture pointed out the youth becoming parents. Mary and I began having children around 21 years old. There is 12 years' difference in age between the first one and the last one. We were married at 18. Again, the common thought would be that we were way too young to have children. However, the results have proven otherwise. Did we struggle? Yes! Were there challenges? Yes! Did we make mistakes? Yes! However, the end result has been a family that is serving the

Lord together. I am carrying prophetic words that not only will my children labor in ministry with me, but also my grandchildren.

Before I discovered the Court of Heaven concept that broke everything free for generational blessings, one morning I woke up and the clock by my bed said 6:16. Immediately, the Holy Spirit said to me, "Exodus 6:16." I did not know what it said, so I immediately looked it up. It says:

These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. And the years of the life of Levi were one hundred and thirty-seven.

These three were the sons of Levi that the Levitical priesthood came from. Their responsibility was to care for the tabernacle/house of God and all its activities. As I read this scripture I knew God was saying to me that my children would labor with me in ministry. This has actually happened. My children work in ministry with me as a fulfillment of the word of the Lord. I'm also claiming the 137 years of life for me too! In all seriousness, I do believe there is long life apportioned to me as my children and I labor together in the kingdom of God. It has been amazing to watch how this has happened as God changed their hearts from the Courts of Heaven and also released finances for these things to happen.

As I was in Nigeria for a ministry trip, I was praying in the hotel before the services. As I prayed, the Lord suddenly inspired me to ask Him that my house might be as the house of Cornelius. In Acts 10:44-45, we see the Holy Spirit falling on the house of Cornelius. Cornelius was a centurion of the Roman army. He was seeking God, and an angel was sent to his house. He was told to contact Peter. As Peter came, he began to preach and the power of God manifested in Cornelius' house.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

Cornelius' house became a *gate or portal* that the Holy Spirit could enter the Gentile world through. The Holy Spirit had touched the Jewish nation on the Day of Pentecost; now, He was coming into the other nations of the earth. The Lord had me pray and petition Him that *my house* would be a gate/portal through which the Holy Spirit could touch the nations of the world. I have continued to pray this and deal with issues in the history of my family that might hinder this. however, I understand that Mary and I, our six children, their spouses, our grandchildren, and their spouses for generations to come will touch and impact the nations of the earth. I am watching as this unfolds even now through our family. I am certain that God intends to use our house through which His power and glory might be manifest. I contend for this in the Courts of Heaven on a consistent basis. My belief is that for many decades and generations to come the blessing of God will flow through our house to the world. The legal right of the enemy to stop this has been defused. He will fail and God will win by making our house a demonstration of His glory and grace.

Lord, as we come and stand before Your Courts, I ask that even as you promised Abraham abundant natural seed, so you would do for us. Break any barrenness and give us the right spirit concerning natural children. Any spirit of the age that we have connected with, let it be revoked. We repent for agreeing with this spirit and not valuing children as we should. We declare in agreement with Your word that they are Your heritage and a reward from You to us. May we steward them with great care as we pursue generational blessing for us and the lineage to come.

We ask that You might make our house a gate through which you might touch the world. Let us and our generations be consecrated to You that You might move through us for this purpose. Redeem all things concerning us and allow the promise apportioned to us to be known and manifest now and for generations to come. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 11

SPIRITUAL SEED

The Lord's promise to Abraham was not just that his descendants would be like sand, but also like stars. As we have seen that the sand on the seashore speaks of natural children, the stars of the sky speak of spiritual ones. For Abraham, the natural seed is the nation of Israel. God fulfilled His word to Abraham by raising up this nation and the people of it. The spiritual seed is the church that has believed in Jesus. The Bible proclaims that each one of us who has placed our faith in Jesus, we are the *seed of Abraham*. Galatians 3:28-29 concludes that if we are Christ's, regardless of our race or natural birth or affiliation, we are Abraham's seed.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

As a result of legally being Abraham's seed by virtue of faith in Jesus, we are heirs. This means we have an inheritance just like the natural children of Abraham had an inheritance. This too is connected to generational blessings. We can petition the Courts of Heaven on the basis of our claim as the seed of Abraham. This means that what God promised Abraham is our promise too. It doesn't matter that we aren't Jews or that millennia have passed since Abraham lived naturally; God is a covenant-keeping God. As the seed of Abraham, we have the right to claim what God promised Abraham for us and our generations to come!

Genesis 12:1-3 is where we see God beginning to make promises to Abraham. Again, as his seed we have a right to petition the Courts of Heaven for the effects of the promises to be ours.

*Now the Lord had said to Abram:
“Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.
I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

Even though some of the promises to Abraham were specific to him, the principles associated with them have promise to us. Obviously, God calling on Abraham to make him a great nation is a particular thing to him. However, God would want to raise up a people from us through whom to perform His purposes. The nation that came from Abraham was used by God to bring forth the Messiah. So much of what God told Abraham He would do was fulfilled in Jesus. However, from these promises we can claim certain things, because we are the seed of Abraham. We have a right to make cases in the Courts of Heaven to obtain blessings, benefits, and promises as those joined to Abraham.

There are seven promises that God gave to Abraham. We as His seed should claim them. The first thing God said was *I will make you a great nation*. We know God formed Israel as the descendants of Abraham. However, God also has formed the church. Peter in First Peter 2:9-10 declares we are a holy nation.

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the

people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

As a result of the mercy we have received, we have been made a holy nation before the Lord. The church is also a fulfillment of God's word to Abraham. Remember, there would be a natural nation as the sand by the seashore. However, there would also be a spiritual or holy nation as the stars of the sky. This is us, the church. We are here to proclaim the praises of the One who called us from darkness to light. We have a right to petition the Courts of Heaven that the church would fulfill its purpose as the seed of Abraham. This should be a passion for us as God's people.

The second promise God gave Abraham was *He would bless him*. When we talk of someone being *blessed*, it speaks of *empowerment*. When the blessing of the Lord is on someone, things work. What seems to hinder other people doesn't hinder us. There is favor, goodness, and kindness that seems to follow us. For instance, in Psalm 23:6 we are told that goodness and mercy would follow us.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

I have heard this word in my spirit for decades concerning me and my family. I have meditated on it and thought perhaps, in that God's goodness would *follow* me, it might mean my descendants after me would be blessed because of my life. However, I recently looked up the word *follow* in the Hebrew and discovered it is the word *radaph*. It means "to run after or chase." I understood that God said His mercy and kindness would chase me down. I wouldn't have to go looking for it; it would find me.

This is what happens when we are blessed. Everything we need to succeed we have as a result of the blessing of God. We can petition the Courts and request for this to be ours because we are Abraham's seed. The third thing mentioned is God promised to *make my name great*. This doesn't necessarily mean fame. It does, however, speak of influence and impact. In other words, we will not be ignored but will have the influence we have

been promised. Influence is huge. *Influence* is defined as “the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself.” In other words, we are granted the privilege of determining what something might become. My parents had a tremendous influence on me and shaped my character. Coaches had influence on me and helped shape my tenacity. Pastors, apostles, and other spiritual leaders have influenced my spiritual perspective and hunger for God. We all have people who influence us because we respect them. This is what it means to *make your name great*. It is to grant influence as a result of the way one might respect you. This is part of the Abrahamic promise to us as his seed. We are to be those who carry influence wherever we go.

Years ago, around 1994, I was in a leaders’ gathering when the presence of the Lord strongly was among us. As I was in His presence, worshipping Him, adoring Him, and enjoying Him in brokenness, I suddenly heard Him speak. The Lord said to me, “I will make your name as one of the great men of the earth.” I was shocked. First of all, this comes from a scripture I didn’t even know I knew. It is in Second Samuel 7:9, where God is speaking to David and reminded him of all the He had done for him.

And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.

Second, I wasn’t asking the Lord for this. He just spoke it out of my heart of worship to Him. I realize now that the Lord was promising to grant me influence. I labored for many years in absolute obscurity. However, I always carried this word in my heart. I didn’t say anything about it for years, because I was afraid someone would think I was arrogant and/or proud. However, as I began to understand the Courts of Heaven, I began to remind the Lord of that which He had said to me. The Lord at this point has in some measure done this. He has granted me a place of influence that allows me to be a part of expanding His kingdom. I am very mindful that the reason for this is so Jesus can be glorified and His government increased. This is a part of the promise of being Abraham’s seed.

The fourth promise God spoke to Abraham was that *he would be a blessing*. It is one thing to be blessed and another thing to be a blessing. In other words, the empowerment we receive because we are blessed is not just so we can live nice lives. It is so we can help empower others. This was the cry of Jabez in First Chronicles 4:9-10. He began his life with a stigma attached to him. As a result of what happened in the birthing of him, his mother labelled him with a name that would haunt most people.

Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

The name *Jabez* in the Hebrew means "to grieve or be sorrowful." Perhaps the labor and travail Jabez's mother went through was terrible. Whatever the reason, she defined her son as one who would always cause pain and trouble to others. Notice, however, that Jabez fought against this stigma placed on him. He did this by living an honorable life that empowered his prayers. He was more honorable than any of his brothers.

The word *honorable* in the verses is *kabad* in the Hebrew. This is the word used for the *weighty glory of God*. Jabez lived his life in such a way that he could carry the glory of the Lord. From this glory, God answered his fivefold prayer. He asked that he might be *blessed indeed, his territory or realms of influence be enlarged, the hand of God's favor might be on him, to be kept from all evil, and that he wouldn't cause pain*. He asked for the blessing of God, that he might be a blessing. He didn't want his life to be a source of pain, as his mother had proclaimed. He diligently pressed against what had been pressed on him. He would not allow this to define him. His passion to be blessed and be a blessing was honored by God. The Lord placed on him a glory that allowed this to be a reality. We have a right to claim as Abraham's seed that we might be a blessing. We are to enjoy the blessings, but also to bless others from the position of strength these blessings grant us. To not live this way is to not be a good steward of the blessings of the Lord.

After about 13 years of being away from Waco, Texas, which is where some of our most significant ministry happened and our children were raised, I felt we were to return to that place. Mary agreed with me and we began the process of planning and arranging for this move. As I was praying one morning, I felt I heard the Lord say that when we went back to Waco, we would eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing was prepared. This came from Nehemiah 8:10. It is declared during the restoration period of Jerusalem and Israel as a nation after their Babylonian captivity.

Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

God was promising them abundance, prosperity, and blessings. This is what eating the fat and drinking the sweet speak of. They were to enjoy the goodness of the Lord and the abundance of who He is. However, they were told to *send portions to those for whom nothing was granted*. I knew when I heard these words as I prayed that God was going to bless us as we returned to Waco, Texas. He was assuring us that the goodness of God would be our portion. However, we were supposed to take portions of this blessing to bless and empower others as well.

The phrase that really stood out to me was *for whom nothing is prepared*. I knew the Lord wanted me to specifically care for the needs of others who would otherwise not have what they needed. I waited to do this because I really had no idea of what this completely meant. About two months after I heard these words, I had a dream. In the dream I was seeing an Arab girl whom I knew was not allowed schooling or education because of her gender within her culture. As I was awakening from the dream, I heard these words, "*Send portions for whom nothing is prepared.*" I knew the Lord was giving me specific directions based on the word I had heard from Him in principle.

It took me a little while, but I finally made connection with a ministry which took young girls from the *brickyard* in Pakistan and gave them an education. Without this education these girls would be destined to live a life

of hardship, poverty, and sex-trafficking. However, with the schooling that was provided them, they could break free from the life of making bricks and step into a new and better life. I was thrilled to be able to bless, because I have been blessed. The purpose for blessings is to enjoy, but also to empower others as well. Through our blessing, we can change the life and future of another person. This should be our heart as the seed of Abraham, as we claim generational blessings from this source!

The fifth blessing as a part of this seed is *those who bless us will be blessed*. What a powerful thing this is. First of all, we must know that as we bless those who are of the lineage of Israel naturally, there is a blessing. Remember that when the centurion was reported to have *loved the nation of Israel*, Jesus was motivated to go heal the sickness in his house. We find this in Luke 7:2-6.

And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof."

There are many powerful lessons from this man's faith. One of the main ones is that Jesus *agreed* to go to a Gentile before it was the time of the Gentiles and bring healing to his house. Remember that Jesus was sent *only to the lost sheep of Israel*. In dealing with another Gentile, Jesus let it be known in Matthew 15:24 that it was improper and not time for the Gentiles to be included.

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

The protocol of God required that the Jews reject the gospel and grace of the Lord before it could go to the Gentile world. So for Jesus to agree to go to a Gentile's house and release healing into it is quite phenomenal. What would have caused and moved the Lord to do such a thing? It was this man's love for Israel, the people of God. It was not only his love for the nation, but also his sacrifice in building them a synagogue and place of worship. The heart and activity in this man caused Jesus to release healing into his house.

When we bless the right people, we get blessed. This is a demonstration of what was promised Abraham. "I will bless those who bless you" is seen in the healing life of God flowing to this man's house. Perhaps if we need God's healing in any form or fashion in our house, blessing Israel could be a means to securing it. It's not that Israel is any more special than others who are God's; it's just that God made covenant with Abraham and He will not deny it. For the Lord to break covenant and not honor it would make Him less than God. With this said, we too are the seed of Abraham, just like the natural seed is. As a result, we too can claim that those who bless us will be blessed. This places us in a very powerful position. Those who do us good will discover that when they bless us, they are blessing the apple of His eye. Psalm 17:8 declares that when we are the apple of His eye, we are kept under the shadow of His wings. This means His divine protection is upon us.

Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

Hide me under the shadow of Your wings.

David uses the phrase "apple of His [God's] eye" in his prayer: "Just as light is reflected on the shiny skin of an apple, and images are reflected in the eyes of a human beholder, God always and constantly lets my image be before Him and uses His power to protect me." When people bless us, they too can be esteemed and respected by God.

Abimelech in Abraham's day discovered this reality. When he blessed Abraham, even in the midst of being deceived by Abraham, he was blessed. Genesis 20:17-18 shows Abraham praying and blessing Abimelech's house. Remember that Abraham had told him that Sarah was his sister, because he

was afraid they would kill him and take her as wife. This placed Sarah in a very precarious position, but also almost caused Abimelech to sin. When it was found out, Abimelech changed course and sent Sarah back to Abraham. The verses I have cited make a powerful statement.

So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children; for the Lord had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Abimelech was healed from an undisclosed sickness. The wombs of all the women in the house were closed up because Abimelech even innocently entertained the idea of taking Sarah as one of his wives. These wombs were opened as Abraham prayed. This means that God protected and cared for Abraham and Sarah even while they propagated a deceitful thing. This is because God is a covenant-keeping God. He promised to bless and protect them. Even when they were unfaithful, God stayed true. So it is with us as His seed. God will bless us and keep us and use others to bless us. They will be blessed when they do this. The house of Abimelech ended up blessed because instead of hurting Abraham, he honored him. Abraham then blessed them and they were healed.

We are also told that the sixth thing God promised Abraham was that He would curse those who cursed him. This is a means of protection. If someone sees and understands that God fights for you, they will be reluctant to go to war against you. As the seed of Abraham, we can expect the Lord to fight for us. This places us in a significantly powerful place. When we are aware of this, we will find it easier to not defend ourselves. Romans 12:19-21 tells us that vengeance belongs to the Lord.

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This can be a really hard word to live out sometimes. It can be very difficult to not take vengeance or *payback* into our own hands. Notice what we are exhorted to do instead. We are to treat our enemies with kindness. We are to heap coals of fire on their heads. It is thought that the phrase *heap burning coals on the head* refers to burning shame and conviction coming on a person. We are told not to be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

I remember hearing years ago of David Wilkerson encountering Nicky Cruz as a gang member in New York. My understanding is that Nicky Cruz told this country preacher that he would *cut him up into little pieces* if he didn't leave them alone. David Wilkerson's response was, "*And every little piece will declare I love you.*" Nicky Cruz, as a hardened, drug-empowered gang leader, did not know what to do with this. The end result was he came to the Lord and his life was redeemed to the purposes of God. This was because coals of fire were heaped on his head.

I believe that when people curse us, our hearts must be to see them redeemed. We must forgive and release them. However, should they persist in their attempts to hurt, wound, and harm us, the legal word of God can produce hardships in their lives. The Lord will defend those who are His by covenant. As the seed of Abraham, this is our position and place.

The last promise that Abraham received from God was that *all the families of the earth will be blessed in you*. This is fulfilled in Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. God's covenant with Abraham created a people through whom Jesus came into the earth. The Jewish race was used by God to give birth to Jesus. They should be honored for this if nothing else. As the natural seed, they have this wonderful heritage. As a result of this that produced the coming of Jesus, our faith in Jesus makes us the spiritual seed, or the stars of the sky. God wants to use us to fulfill the promise He made to Abraham. Through us as Abraham's seed, all the nations and families of the earth will be blessed. They will find the glories of who Jesus is. Galatians 3:14 tells us just one piece of this blessing can come upon all the families of the earth.

That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The promise of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is what we receive and minister to all the families of the earth. This is connected to us being the seed of Abraham. When this empowerment comes to whosoever will, lives are changed, bondages are broken, and eternities are sealed. This is all because of the generational blessing of being the seed of Abraham. We have a right to petition the Courts of Heaven from the place we have been given. All that God promised Abraham is ours in some form or fashion, because we are his seed regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender. The blood of Jesus makes me an heir of these promises. Let us make our case in the Courts of Heaven and receive the inheritance that is ours.

Lord, as I come before Your Courts, I would remind You that I am the seed of Abraham by the blood of Jesus. Your word says that if I am in Christ, then I am of this seed. I am asking that all You promised Abraham to now be mine.

I ask that even as You promised Abraham to make him a great nation, that You might raise up the church to be the holy nation You have promised. May we step into new levels of grace and power and be the great nation You have spoken of.

I also ask, Lord, that You might bless me. May Your empowerment come to me that I might enter into all that You have said. Let every hindrance be removed and allow me to have what others might not get. I am of the seed of Abraham. May this be known before You, and may the Courts allow this which I request.

I thank You, Lord, that You also give me a great name for influence. May the revelation of who You are be known through me. May I be one who can be trusted with influence and that which it brings. May I steward it properly that Your kingdom might be advanced, increased, and enlarged.

Thank You, Lord, that You make me a blessing. May all stigma attached to me be removed as You did Jabez. Instead of causing pain, Lord, would You allow me to bring great blessing to people.

Lord, may the blessing of God be on those who bless me. May I hold this place with You. Let others who do good to me have good done to them.

I also ask that You, Lord, might fight for and defend me. Even as You said people would be cursed who cursed me, let You, Lord, be my defender, even as I keep my heart right and in tune with You. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to You. May I love, forgive, and not hate and let You be my avenger.

I also ask, Lord, that You let me be a part of seeing the families of the earth be blessed. As a part of the Abrahamic seed, allow me, I pray, to declare Your gospel and see the blessing of Abraham come to the masses, even the empowerment and blessing of the Spirit of God.

Thank You, Lord, for hearing my petition. May the generational blessings be mine that flow to me as the seed of Abraham. May I and my lineage be blessed as a result. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 12

POSSESSING THE GATES

As Abraham offered Isaac on the altar, the Lord promised him that his descendants would possess the gates of their enemies. This is a reference to taking new territory and enlarging the boundaries. Of course, we see this same idea in Mat-thew 16:18 where we are told that the gates of hell or hades will not prevail.

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The verbiage used here is not so much about hell or the demonic structure pushing against the church, the seed of Abraham. It rather is the church pushing back what hell has possessed and taking it for the kingdom of God. This is part of the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. His seed/descendants would possess the gates of their enemies. We are here as the seed of Abraham to take back what belongs to God. We are to be a gate-possessing people. So what is meant by "possessing the gates"? Gates are places of entrance and exit. They are where things enter and where things leave. There can be "gates" of the demonic, but also gates of heaven. For instance, when he had his encounter at Bethel, Jacob prophetically declared that God's house, His church, would be a gate for heaven to enter through. Genesis 28:17-19 shows Jacob's awareness of the significance of where he was in Bethel.

And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on

top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

Notice that Jacob did not call this the gate to heaven but rather the gate of heaven. Jesus is the gate to heaven. We can only enter these realms through Him. He proclaimed this in John 10:7-9.

Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Jesus boldly declared Himself to be the door/gate through whom people enter to be saved. This is the way we get into the heavenly realm. However, heaven wants to enter earth. This is done through the church. The church is the house of God that is the gate of heaven. One of the main purposes of the church is to be the gate through which heaven can come into earth. Through the church, the supernatural of heaven is to flow. Through the church, the love of God is to be known. Through the church, the culture of heaven is to be manifested. Everything that is heavenly is to flow through the church into the earth, because we are heaven's gate!

Just like the church is God's gate into the earth, the devil also has gates. These are the ones we are to be possessing. As we take gates, we possess territory for the kingdom of God. There are many demonic gates. Freemasonry is a demonic gate. Drugs are demonic gates. Alcohol can be a demonic gate. Sexually oriented businesses are demonic gates. Governments can be massive gates of the demonic. These physical places and activities and many others are the gates that let hell and its influence into earth. We as the seed of Abraham are to be possessing these gates. The promise of God to us as the seed and descendants of Abraham is to possess these gates. We are to shut the gates through our activity in the spirit world but also, as reformers, to physically take territory so these places can be gates of heaven. All of us, our families, businesses, and other aspects are to be a gate of heaven into earth. We are to possess the gates of the devil and turn them into gates of heaven!

This is what God promised Abraham his descendants would do. We should contend for this in the Courts of Heaven as Abraham' seed, but also to see this happen in our own natural generational lines. This is our heritage. We are promised in Daniel 4:3 that the exercising of dominion is from generation to generation.

*How great are His signs,
And how mighty His wonders!
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And His dominion is from generation to generation.*

As we have discussed previously, through the progression of generations, God extends His kingdom rule in the earth. He never meant for one generation to do it all. There is to be an increasing of authority and power from generation to generation. Every succeeding generation should more and more possess gates that the enemy controlled in previous times. As we do, the kingdom of God is expanded. This means that life on the planet should be getting better and better rather than worse.

Contrary to popular belief, this is true. Life is better on the planet today than it has ever been. There is less slavery, poverty, crime, and other issues. The news media would like us to believe differently because that sells. They are fearmongers that depend on people believing the worst. However, the truth is that things are getting progressively better in the midst of the challenges. This is because, as we declared earlier, the kingdom of God is expanding. The church is possessing the gates of the enemy as the seed/descendants of Abraham. There is the taking of new ground and the enlarging of boundaries. Isaiah 54:2-3 encourages us to expand and be enlarged.

*Enlarge the place of your tent,
And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings;
Do not spare;
Lengthen your cords,*

*And strengthen your stakes.
For you shall expand to the right and to the left,
And your descendants will inherit the nations,
And make the desolate cities inhabited.*

This speaks to us about an expansion that will result in cities and nations being influenced. Notice that as we stretch ourselves in faith and believe God, nations will be inherited as possessions and desolate cities will be recovered. This is the call and commission we have been given of the Lord. Through the generational blessings of God, that which has been destroyed by the devil will be redeemed through the people of God. This is a generational mandate that is empowered through generational blessings! Notice, however, that this requires *stretching out, lengthening, and strengthening*. This would mean that we must believe God and be willing to take risks through faith. We can never see the expansion of the Lord take place through us while staying in our comfort zones. There must be a different spirit in us that was in Abraham, Caleb, Phinehas, and Timothy. I want to mention these four as the ones who exhibited a faith that was able to advance the purposes of God.

In Genesis 14:12-14, Abraham is called the *Hebrew*. This is the first place this term/title is used to describe a people.

They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram. Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Of course, this term became associated with the Jewish race. The term searched out to its root means "to cross over." So when Abraham was called the *Hebrew* it implied and meant that he was one who *crossed over*. He was

one who had faith to not stay where it was comfortable but go after the promises of God. This is what he did by leaving his homeland, father's house, and all natural connections to go after the word of the Lord. This spirit that was in Abraham is what motivated him to go after his nephew Lot who had been taken captive. He was willing to combat four kings and their armies with 318 men because of this spirit and faith in him. This is the spirit that God loves! It is a spirit of faith. Hebrews 11:15-16 tells us that the Lord loves to be associated and known to be among this kind of people.

And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Those who will forsake all to go after the promises of God, these the Lord readily associates with. They cannot be satisfied with the normal. They want and desire that which the Lord has spoken of to them. They are willing to cross over and leave behind whatever is required to obtain that which the Lord has said. This is a people of faith.

Caleb also had this spirit. He is the second one I want to highlight with this spirit of faith. In Numbers 14:24 we see the Lord promising to bring Caleb and *his descendants* into the land of promise. This declaration was made because of the spirit of faith in Caleb that desired to move forward and possess the land in spite of the giants and adversity that was present.

But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

This spirit and heart in Caleb so impressed God that God made a promise to him and his lineage. The Lord proclaimed that Caleb would come into the land, and his descendants would finish the job of possessing it. This was because the spirit that propelled Caleb forward would also be imparted and inherited by his descendants. They would have the same drive and motivation that would allow the complete taking and possessing of the promise that had been made. This is a generational blessing. God loves

those who have this spirit and the kind of generations after them that allow the promises of God to come to pass.

The third person I would pinpoint who exhibited this spirit and to whom God also promised generational blessings is Phinehas in Numbers 25:7-13. This man, through a zeal for God, stopped a plague that was consuming the nation. God made a powerful promise to him and his descendants.

Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’”

The children of Israel had fallen prey to committing fornication with the Moabite women. This had released a plague killing thousands. When this man Phinehas saw a Jewish man flaunting his sin while others were weeping in repentance, he rose and thrust him and the woman through with a javelin. To be clear, we are talking about the *killing* of someone naturally. This is wrong in the era in which we live. However, we are speaking of the zeal that so consumed Phinehas that God gave him and his descendants a covenant of peace. This was a generational blessing set in place as a result of the zeal of this man of God. Our zeal for God can secure a covenant of peace for us and our generations. This would mean that we are entitled to safety, health, provision, prosperity, and every other thing we could need and even want. This was because of a zeal for God. If this has

been in our family line, we must claim it for ourselves and our lineage. We should also be this kind of people, with this spirit that will set in motion these generational blessings for our generations to come. God loves this spirit of faith and the zeal for God it produces!

Through generational blessings, we should see a progressive acceleration of our families being used to see this kingdom advanced. That spirit of faith that I am speaking of was in Timothy because of a generational blessing and impartation. He also exemplifies this spirit received by impartation as a result of generational blessings. Second Timothy 1:5 shows Paul revealing *where* Timothy got his faith from.

When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Paul was crediting the genuine and real faith in Timothy to the heritage he had from his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. I'm sure that Timothy was *taught* faith; however, it would seem that he also *caught* faith because of an inheritance in the bloodline. His grandmother and his mother were women of unbending faith and belief in God. They knew how to grab hold of the promise of the Lord and see it manifest. This is what faith does. Hebrews 11:1 clearly tells us that we possess and bring into reality what we first possess in our hearts through faith.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

When real faith is in operation, we are securing in the spirit realm something that will manifest in the natural. Through faith we have the evidence of something in the unseen realm before it is seen in the physical world. We also have the substance of what we have been hoping for. In other words, we have moved from hope, which is an anticipation of something to come, to faith, which is that which we have presently. Timothy had the ability to use his faith because he had inherited it from the generations before him. In fact, we are told in Second Timothy 3:15 that from his earliest existence, he had known the scriptures.

*And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith
which is in Christ Jesus.*

Some might say, “See, his faith was a result of being taught.” However, the word *childhood* in the Greek is *brephos*. It means “properly, one unborn.” Paul is declaring to Timothy that even before he was born, while yet in the womb, there was something imparted to him. Some make a case that even babies in the womb should have the word of God spoken to them. They believe that these unborn children have the capacity to perceive the outside world before they are in it. I too believe this. However, could it also be that because of the faith in Timothy’s mother and grandmother, there was something inherent in him from his bloodline? He received and had imparted to him this ability to believe God on a supernatural level because of generational blessings. This resulted in a faith he didn’t have to fight for. It was an impartation into his life that he simply enjoyed, and it made him one with gifting and abilities that others might not have enjoyed.

This is the power of generational blessings. Through this faith, Timothy was able to help extend the kingdom of God. He could be a part of possessing the gates of our enemies. Hebrews 11:33 tells us that kingdoms are subdued through faith. This means that which has been controlled by the adversary is brought under the possession of God’s people.

*Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness,
obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.*

This was the kind of faith that was in Timothy. He was part of a generation of believers who saw the gospel of the kingdom of God advance into territories because of an inherited faith. This doesn’t mean that Timothy didn’t have to develop his own faith; however, it does mean that there was a propensity in him to believing. It fashioned a nature in him that made him congruent with the capacity for radical faith. What a heritage to have because of a generational blessing flowing into his life. The result was the privilege of being a part of possessing the gates of our enemies as the seed of Abraham.

We should be aggressive in embracing and receiving what past generations have carried. These things are legally ours. However, we should also be living in such a way that the coming generations will have certain godly propensities and powers because of our lives. Our aspiration should be that there would be a power to cross over as a *Hebrew*. We should desire that our coming generations would have the power to possess territory God appointed and rewarded to our forefathers. This is what happened with Caleb. We must also have the zeal born of faith that was in Phinehas. His descendants had a covenant of peace for generations to come. My desire is also that my descendants might have a faith they didn't have to contend for, but which was imparted through inheritance. May we possess the gates of the enemies of God through these principles as we receive and operate in generational blessings from the Courts of Heaven.

Thank You, Lord, for the power associated with generational blessings. I desire that all that is in my bloodline that would empower me to possess the gate of my enemies would be enacted in my life. I declare before Your Courts that my passion is to see Your kingdom advanced, and that I might walk in the power to advance this through the possessing of that which the enemy has claimed.

As I stand before Your Courts, I also ask that this would be an empowering force into my generations to come. May they receive from my generational line the power to succeed and expand. May they break forth to the left hand and to the right. Allow them, I pray, O God, to stretch out their curtains, lengthen their cords, and strengthen their stakes. May there be an increase to Your governmental rule through my house and Your blessing upon it.

Let it be recorded before Your Courts that this is my passion. I receive all blessings from my bloodline apportioned to me. I also ask that they would be released and established in my lineage for generations to come. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 13

RETRIEVING LOST AND STOLEN WEALTH

Many families, and I think I could even say most families, have seen wealth lost in their generational history. So many find when they search their genealogies that within their family history was great wealth and prosperity. Yet now they seem to be living hand to mouth in their present existence. This can be because the devil found a legal right to steal away the wealth from the family line. However, the reality is that if there was wealth committed by God to your family in times gone by, you can bring this before the Courts of Heaven and can see decisions rendered for restoration. James 5:1-4 gives us great insight into this principle.

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

These scriptures show the Lord promising judgment upon any who would use their wealth to oppress others rather than to bless and serve them. It obviously is not wrong to be wealthy. God even promises in His word in Deuteronomy 8:18 to bless with wealth.

And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

The purposes of God being fulfilled require a wealthy and blessed people. Through this people we are told God will fulfill His covenant intent and purposes. This is why the devil likes nothing more than to steal away wealth from families who have been intended by God to steward it. If this has happened to anyone reading this, and I can assure you that it has, you have a recourse. You can bring into the Courts of Heaven anything that once belonged to your family and begin to require it to be returned. Proverbs 6:30-31 tells us that a thief who steals must repay.

People do not despise a thief

If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving.

Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold;

He may have to give up all the substance of his house.

If there has been thievery against our family in the realm of finances, we can come before the Courts of Heaven and request a restoration up to sevenfold. If it has been written in the books of heaven that your family was commissioned by God to handle riches and they were lost, then you must present a case in the Courts of Heaven to see this rectified. In the scripture of James 5:4, we see that “*the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out.*” Please notice that the wages, money, wealth, and riches that rightfully belong to another are *crying out*. They are demanding that they be placed in the *right hands*. So much present wealth is in the *wrong hands*. It was illegally stolen in the spirit world and many times even in the natural world. We must learn how to come into agreement with that which is crying out to come into our hands.

This particular scripture continues on and says, “*and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.*” Notice that the cries of the reapers, or those who have a rightful claim to the wealth, mix with the cries of the money itself. The result is a judgment of God from the Courts that revokes the right of oppressive economic systems and restores wealth to the right people. This is how we can recover the wealth assigned to our family lines. We can stand before the Courts of Heaven and request judgments in our favor. This will take the wealth that has been stolen away and see it brought into our hands as those purposed to steward it.

Micah 2:1-3 is a scripture that promises righteous judgment against those who stole from a family line. We can take this scripture and present a case for the restoration of what was intended for our family and house.

*Woe to those who devise iniquity,
And work out evil on their beds!
At morning light they practice it,
Because it is in the power of their hand.
They covet fields and take them by violence,
Also houses, and seize them.
So they oppress a man and his house,
A man and his inheritance.
Therefore thus says the Lord:
“Behold, against this family I am devising disaster,
From which you cannot remove your necks;
Nor shall you walk haughtily,
For this is an evil time.”*

This scripture speaks of those who have obtained a place of authority and used it to steal away an inheritance from a family. They used it to take away a family’s inheritance and to oppress them. The Lord promises to judge this. He declares that disaster will come on the ones who do such a thing. The implied result is a restoration of what was taken away through evil and unrighteous means.

I do believe that people suffer consequences when they steal away something that God gave to someone else. We see this every day. It’s just not so often recognized as a result of robbing the wealth intended for a family line. However, when dealing with the restoration of this wealth to families and their generations, we should ask for judgments more on the spiritual realm than against a natural person or people. The Bible is clear in

Ephesians 6:12 that our contending is with powers of darkness and not flesh and blood.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, when we come before the Courts of Heaven, we are placing on trial that which is really responsible for the theft. It is the unseen world of the demonic and not necessarily the human element. As a result of this, we should highlight before the Courts of Heaven that which God said He would judge. Let's look at a possible way to present a case to recover what demon powers have stolen from family lines.

The first thing is to present before the Courts of Heaven our claim that wealth was taken from our family. If we have an understanding of how this happened, we can present that. For instance, if the Great Depression removed wealth, we can make this statement before the Lord. Any place we need to repent for unwise decisions, ungodly partnership, or other aspects that might have led to the loss of wealth, we should acknowledge and ask for forgiveness. Any place we are aware of what was stolen, we should remind the Lord of this. Second, we can ask that anything devised against us to take away the wealth would be judged as unrighteous. Remember that Micah 2:1 says:

*Woe to those who devise iniquity,
And work out evil on their beds!
At morning light they practice it,
Because it is in the power of their hand.*

We can request before the Courts that based on the promise of God's word that woe would come to any and all that used their authority unrighteously to steal wealth away. Ask that these spirits would be brought under judgment. We can ask that all covetousness be judged that motivated the stealing and oppressing of our family. Micah 2:2 declares, "They covet

fields and take them by violence, also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.” We should ask that the oppression against the family be revoked and that what was lost would now be restored.

The third thing that can be done is ask that anything allowing them to hold back wealth that is meant for our hands would be judged with disaster. Micah 2:3 says, *“Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks; nor shall you walk haughtily, for this is an evil time.”* We are asking that the family that has the wealth that was meant for us would not be able to have it, and it would be brought back into our hands. This is not done out of a vengeful spirit, but it is done out of a cry for justice.

I have had things stolen from me. I have forgiven those who did it. However, that does not prohibit me from standing before the Lord and pointing out that it is an unrighteous thing for them to have what was meant for me. I am not necessarily asking for them to lose what they possess. I am asking for justice to be served. It would not be justice before the Lord that I not have what was meant for me, while they had it through theft. I use this as a case before the Lord to request that the inheritance for me and my family be restored. I ask that a decision from the Courts of Heaven would be rendered. That the generational blessings of wealth and prosperity would come into my hands. I then begin to pray for an accumulation of wealth that would occur. I ask that the Lord would bless me and make me rich and that I would have the wisdom of stewardship to see this wealth increase and retention to occur.

I also remind the Lord that according to Deuteronomy 8:18, wealth is for the purpose of fulfilling the covenant made with the fathers. This means that wealth is a generational blessing that is meant for families. May we all experience the breaking of poverty and the establishing of this covenant that allows us to prosper exponentially. It is a huge part of generational blessings.

As I stand in Your Courts, Lord, I ask that anything that has stolen away wealth appointed and assigned to my family line may be judged. I repent for any and all places where unwise stewardship, decisions, or partnerships were operated in. May

Your blood speak for me. I also ask that any spirit that was assigned against my family would be judged. I ask that the scheme devised to take away wealth meant for us would be judged. I ask that all power and authority to operate in this activity would be revoked. I pray the spirit of covetousness that produced oppression would be revoked. I ask for a judgment in these matters.

I would point out that it would be unjust for those who stole this away to have what I don't have. You are a God of equity and truth. May my wealth be restored to me, I pray. I ask that I might steward it appropriately as the wealth meant for my family is restored. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 14

A BETTER NAME

As we consider the idea of generational blessings, we must always realize that we should be the recipient of them, but also the propagator of them as well. As we become aware through natural research and knowledge, but also prophetic insight of what might have been in our history, we should claim that before the Courts of Heaven. This is our right and our inheritance. So many folks would seem to be missing out on that which is theirs. We should take these truths before the Lord and ask that they become realities in our life. In Isaiah 56:4-7 we see God making a promise to eunuchs who have joined the Lord.

For thus says the Lord:

“To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths,

And choose what pleases Me,

And hold fast My covenant,

Even to them I will give in My house

And within My walls a place and a name

Better than that of sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name

That shall not be cut off.

Also the sons of the foreigner

Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him,

And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants—

Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath,

And holds fast My covenant—

*Even them I will bring to My holy mountain,
And make them joyful in My house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
Will be accepted on My altar;
For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all
nations.”*

The Lord speaks in these verses of eunuchs and sons of foreigners. My purpose is to zero in on eunuchs, because of the generational blessing God promised them. God said He would give them a name better than that of sons and daughters. Within the house of God, these would be granted an everlasting name that would not be cut off. This is a phenomenal promise in that eunuchs, because of their situation, have no power to impregnate or cause conception. This would mean their name would not be carried on and would die with them. Yet the Lord is promising these that they would have a name better than what a generation of sons and daughters would produce for them. God is promising a generational legacy to those who would not seem capable of having one. This promise is connected to these being a part of a *house of prayer*. The Lord promised to make these eunuchs a part of His *house of prayer*.

When we speak of eunuchs, this is not just those who would naturally not be able to reproduce. It speaks of the many people who spiritually feel frustrated and fruitless in their lives. They seem to have never been able to produce anything on the level that they desired. To these people, God says, if you become a part of a *house of prayer*, it will produce a generational blessing that will result in a legacy of godliness and power. These will have a *better name*. These who feel left out, forsaken, under-appreciated, and even mistreated will be elevated with a legacy of influence and significance. This is a significant promise for those God will join to His *house of prayer*.

We must understand the passion of the Lord for a *house of prayer*. When we speak of a *house of prayer*, I am not talking about the model of IHOP, International House of Prayer, led by Mike Bickel. As great and powerful as this ministry is, I am not advocating a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year place of soaking. This is fine, but what I see a house of prayer being in this

scripture is fourfold. This is important, because when we are a part of a house of prayer with God's agenda, it will allow a generational blessing to be on those who are joined with it.

The first thing we must know as a house of prayer is that we are called and set by God to represent nations before Him in the Courts of Heaven. This is why we are told in Isaiah 56:7: "*for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.*" This means that our job as a house of prayer is to stand and grant God the legal right to fulfill His passion and mercies toward nations. This is what God was looking for in Sodom and Gomorrah when He agreed with Abraham that if there were ten righteous He would spare it (see Gen. 18:32). The sad fact is that ten could not be found. This means that it wasn't the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah that destroyed it; it was the absence of a house of prayer. If we are to see nations redeemed and cultures brought into their full place of restoration, there must be a house of prayer to represent them to the Lord.

The second thing to realize about this house of prayer is there is a *holy of mountain of God associated with it*. Again, we see this in Isaiah 56:7. We are told, "*Even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer.*" When the Bible speaks of a *mountain*, it is not talking about a geographical location. It is rather speaking of a *dimension* in the spirit realm. This *mountain* speaks of a governmental place in the heavenly realm. This means that our spiritual activity here as a house of prayer doesn't just shift things over individual lives, but rather over cultures, nations, and governmental realms. This is a high place in the spirit realm that we are allowed access into as a house of prayer.

The third thing to recognize is that in this place as a house of prayer we judge and do not just petition. The word *prayer* is the word *palal*. It means "to judge." When we function as a house of prayer, we are not just requesting things from the Lord. We are allowed the right to render judgments with Him. This allows divine order to come that His will might be done in the earth.

The fourth thing that constitutes a house of prayer before the Lord is the offering it brings. Again, in Isaiah 56:7 God says, "*Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar.*" This means that our financial giving becomes a part of our intercession. This is what happened

with Cornelius in Acts 10:4. His prayers mixed with his giving created that which caused God to remember him:

And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?”

So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.”

The memorial created by Cornelius’ prayers and giving spoke before the Lord and caused God to choose his house for the Holy Spirit to enter the Gentile world through. When we mix our offerings with our prayers as a house of prayer, it speaks on behalf of the cultures we represent.

These four things are basic to a house of prayer. When we become a part of this, God promises to release to us a generational blessing that will give us a divine legacy. It will be a name that will not be cut off. Not only will we benefit from this, but our generations will as well. This is because we have joined ourselves and become a part of this kind of house.

This is what the Lord has commissioned me to build. We have Global Prayer and Empowerment Center (GPEC), which is a Global House of Prayer for the Nations. We are diligently seeking to build and establish this so that nations might be represented before the Lord. This will grant the Lord the right to spare nations into their divine destiny. It also allows us as individuals and families to secure generational blessings that we would not otherwise have been able to have. My encouragement to any and all who want generational blessings to be on their life and future would be to join and be a vital part of a house of prayer for the nations. This allows God’s divine intent to be accomplished.

There are generational blessings from the Courts of Heaven to be apprehended. As we step into these places of the spirit realm, we can make our case and claim for that which is rightfully ours. Please do not forfeit what belongs to you and your family line. Whatever case the devil would say he has that might have allowed him to steal something away, the blood of Jesus will answer. Simply come into His presence, present your case, and allow the Lord as Judge the privilege of bringing great blessings to you and your generations to come. Your life and the lives of your generations will never be the same.

As I come Lord before You, I ask that I might become a part of a house of prayer. May I be joined and connected to that which represents cultures before You, stands in governmental places of the spirit with You, renders Your judgments into place, and brings offerings that become a part of my intercession. May it be recorded and speak on my behalf that I am a part of a house of prayer.

Lord, I request, what You promised would now come. Grant me a name better than that of sons and daughters. Would You give me a legacy of generational blessings that will fall upon me and all my lineage to come. May the glory of who You are be seen. Thank You, Lord, for providing this and allowing me the privilege to be Your servant as a part of a house of prayer. In Jesus' Name, amen.

CHAPTER 15

PRODIGALS RESTORED

Among the struggles people face in their families are loved ones who have known the Lord, then got pulled away. Perhaps there are some who never knew the Lord and need to encounter Him as Lord and Savior. Regardless of which scenario is being faced, this can be laced with great sorrow, frustration, and even fear. The fear comes with the awareness and conviction that without a relationship with the Lord, there is no hope in the afterlife or eternity. Our understanding, as believers in Jesus, is that heaven awaits those who are serving the Lord. However, if we choose to walk away from this, we can end up “lost” and suffering the torments of hell.

I realize this is an unpopular idea in our day and age. Some no longer believe in a literal hell. I would beg to differ with them—hell is real and we must seek to avoid it at all costs. I have heard the arguments that people make with regard to there being no place of eternal torment and suffering. The idea that a *loving God* could never send someone to hell simply doesn't hold water. Our God *is* a loving Father and God. However, if we reject His gracious offer to be born again and serve Him, that journey we place ourselves on will take us into a destination of utter destruction.

My purpose here is not to get into a theological debate on the reality of hell. It is just to emphasize that when we are contending for the salvation of loved ones, we all know how important these decisions are. In addition to this reality, if someone is not walking with the Lord, then the whole idea of generational blessings becomes a moot point. Generational blessings and empowerments are a result of the blessing of God resting on those who know Jesus and serve Him. Therefore, seeing these who are away from the Lord brought into reconciliation with Him is imperative.

In teaching the parable of the *prodigal son*, Jesus spoke of one who grew up in a loving father's home. Yet in spite of the care and concern of this father, the younger son took the inheritance of the father and wasted it in lustful and sinful living. We see this story told in Luke 15:11-24. Let's

take time to read this account so we can get an appreciation for the end of the story!

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'"

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry."

What a wonderful story of redemption. This son left the father, yet found his way home to find not rejection but rather complete acceptance. This is what real prodigals always encounter when they find their way back to the Lord. We cannot underestimate the unconditional love of God. The father didn't care where the son had been. He only rejoiced and celebrated

that he had come home. To the son's amazement, he wasn't relegated to servitude but was rather exalted to a place of great honor and authority in the home. This is what any who have prodigals in their family long to see. The truth is that for generational blessings to be seen in families, these prodigals must be recovered. It is the passion of the Lord to redeem these who are lost and dead in trespasses and sin. What is the secret to this occurring?

I believe there are two very important things that we can do from the Courts of Heaven to see prodigals reclaimed. We must deal with generational issues that are claiming a legal right to hold them in places of lostness and destruction. There are two issues that are legally used by satan to hold people in these bondages. One is *iniquity* in the bloodline and the other is *covenant* with devilish powers. *Iniquity* is the *history of sin* that ancestors have walked in. This history of sin grants the devil the right to tempt our loved ones into leaving the Lord. The result is usually captivity of some kind. I have noticed that almost all addictions, bondages, and enslavement people find themselves in have their roots in iniquity. It is interesting that when Daniel was seeking to see Israel brought out of Babylonian captivity that had endured for 70 years, he repented not just for his sin but also the iniquity of his forefathers. Daniel 9:16 refers to this:

O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.

Many times the reason our loved ones are seemingly unable to break free and serve God is because of sin in their life, empowered by iniquity. We must know how to go before the Courts of Heaven and see revoked the legal right satan is claiming based on iniquity. We do this by applying First John 5:16:

If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

As we have seen before, we repent on their behalf. This is to revoke the rights Satan is claiming based on the iniquity in their bloodline. This will then free them to come to repentance. These iniquities are empowering devilish influences to blind those who are lost. This is according to Second Corinthians 4:3-4:

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

We are told that minds are blinded so that they cannot perceive and appreciate the glorious offer of salvation. There can be iniquity operating in the bloodline that is empowering this deception and blindness. This can be addiction related, sexual issues, emotional struggles, and/or any other thing holding them in bondage. Our repentance for them in the Courts of Heaven can be the key that lets them make righteous choices for the Lord. The influence of the devil is revoked and they are freed to make a break and serve God instead!

The other issue we mentioned is covenants with the devilish powers. The truth is that most of us have these in our lives. Isaiah 28:14-15 shows the people of God making covenants with these demonic forces.

*Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scornful men,
Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem,
Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death,
And with Sheol we are in agreement.
When the overflowing scourge passes through,
It will not come to us,
For we have made lies our refuge,
And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves."*

When there has been a covenant established with devils for whatever reason, these are in force until they are annulled. This is because God's standard for covenant is forever. Psalm 105:8 tells us that God keeps covenant for a thousand generations, which is just another way of saying it is forever.

He remembers His covenant forever,

The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations.

The devil takes this standard and uses it to claim the legal right to possess generations based on covenants made with him by our forefathers. Whereas there is a four-generation stipulation and limit placed on the use of iniquity against us, covenants are forever. We see the four-generation idea in Numbers 14:18:

The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.

As we repent on behalf of bloodlines for iniquity, we should call into place God's statute of limitations. Satan does not have a legal right to use iniquity past four generations. This is God's standard. However, when it comes to covenants, they can be forever. Therefore, their effect can be perpetual. We must repent and renounce these and ask that they be annulled before the Lord and His Courts. Also, as we undo covenants with satan that are allowing him to claim ownership of a lineage, we should *give back* anything he claims we gained as a result of this covenant. This would have been the reason why our ancestors entered a covenant with the devil. They, in a misguided way, believed they would receive something from these powers. Therefore, to undo the claim, our repentance must involve a *giving back* of that which they say benefited us. We should establish that we only want what was given to us by Jesus.

These covenants are a big reason why our loved ones can't seem to get free to serve Jesus. As we stand before the Lord on their behalf, we can deal with these covenants in the bloodline that are being used to hold them.

When this is done, the legal rights are revoked, hearts are freed, blinders come off, and people can surrender themselves to Jesus and His claims on their life.

So often people have felt frustration about not being able to *reach* their loved ones. They have talked, pleaded, and yearned to see them come to know the Lord. They no longer know what to do. Their talking now only seems to alienate those they so desperately want to see saved. What I have sought to describe and explain in these few short words could hold the answer. I would encourage anyone to go before the Courts of Heaven and plead the cases of these people. Take your place and stand on behalf of them. God's word is true. He will give those who are sinning life because you asked. Your prayers can be absolutely essential to this occurring. They can be brought back into relationship with Jesus, or maybe for the first time come to know Him, because the legal claims the devil is making based on iniquities and covenants have now been answered and revoked. Your loved ones are freed and they start seeing with a freshness who Jesus is and how much He loves them. They can and will be freed, born again, and delivered into glorious life. All because *you* asked, and they embraced what Jesus did for them!

As I come before Your Courts, Lord, I bring this prodigal before you. (Add their name.) It is Your heart that none should perish, but that all might come to repentance. I am asking that they might be saved according to the promise of Your word in Acts 16:31. You promised the Philippian jailer that he and his house would be saved. May this be true for me as well.

As I stand before You, I repent for any and all iniquity in my bloodline that is being used to blind this prodigal to Your goodness. I call into effect Your stated statute of limitations, that only four generations of iniquity are allowed to speak against us. Let nothing beyond this standard be used. I ask, therefore, that Your blood on behalf of me and my house would now answer any and all accusations against us. You promise in Your word, according to Colossians 2:14, that any claim against me was taken out of the way, having been nailed to Your cross. Let these voices against us now be silenced in

Jesus' Name. I repent on behalf of my loved one and ask that anything coming from our bloodline is now revoked and no longer allowed to empower demons and their blindness. Let this end now! Let this prodigal go free from demonic captivity and make choices to serve the Lord.

I also ask that any covenant with demons be annulled. Any claim they are making against this prodigal based on covenants with demons in the bloodline, which is allowing ownership assertion, let it be now removed. I repent for any and all activity in this bloodline that is empowering these claims of ownership by demons. I ask for the blood of Jesus to speak and silence these claims. I would remind this Court that the blood of Jesus has purchased us. Therefore, let all these other claims be silenced. I say that I and my bloodline are owned by Jesus. We also give back anything that is said to have come from these demons. We want nothing from them or to do with them. We only want what has come from Jesus. Therefore, let these covenants made by our ancestors now be null and void and without effect. Let the heart of this prodigal go free and desire the Lord and His ways. Let new life flow into their being that they might serve You now and in eternity to come. I declare that as for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord. In Jesus' Name, amen!

ABOUT ROBERT HENDERSON

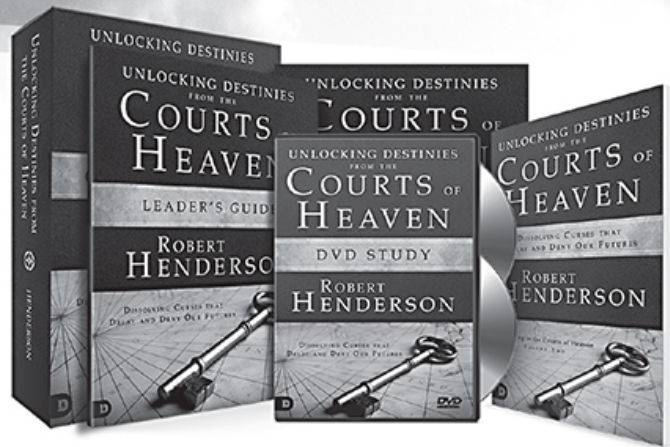
Robert Henderson is a global apostolic leader who operates in revelation and impartation. His teaching empowers the body of Christ to see the hidden truths of Scripture clearly and apply them for breakthrough results. Driven by a mandate to disciple nations through writing and speaking, Robert travels extensively around the globe, teaching on the apostolic, the Kingdom of God, the “Seven Mountains,” and most notably the Courts of Heaven. He has been married to Mary for 40 years. They have six children and five grandchildren. Together they are enjoying life in beautiful Waco, Texas.

ABOUT ADAM HENDERSON

Adam Henderson is the lead pastor for Radiant Church in Canton, Texas. His love for God, people, and community led him to this area in 2015. With help from his wife Jessi, they have built Radiant Church and continue to see the Kingdom expanded in Texas. Adam has a huge heart for people to know and experience God's purpose and best for their lives. He is also a fan of basketball, Crossfit, grilling out, and hanging out with friends and family. He and Jessi have three amazing children, Kennedy, Adessi, and Walker.

INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR PRAYERS.

*Learn how to release your
destiny from Heaven's Courts!*



Unlocking Destinies from the Courts of Heaven

Curriculum Box Set Includes:

*9 Video Teaching Sessions (2 DVD Disks), Unlocking Destinies book,
Interactive Manual, Leader's Guide*

There are books in Heaven that record your destiny and purpose. Their pages describe the very reason you were placed on the Earth.

And yet, there is a war against your destiny being fulfilled. Your archenemy, the devil, knows that as you occupy your divine assignment, by default, the powers of darkness are demolished. Heaven comes to Earth as God's people fulfill their Kingdom callings!

In the *Unlocking Destinies from the Courts of Heaven* book and curriculum, Robert Henderson takes you step by step through a prophetic prayer strategy. By watching the powerful video sessions and going through the Courts of Heaven process using the interactive manual, you will learn how to dissolve the delays and hindrances to your destiny being fulfilled.

YOUR Prophetic COMMUNITY

Are you passionate about hearing
God's voice, walking with Jesus, and
experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit?



Destiny Image is a community of believers with a passion for equipping and encouraging you to live the prophetic, supernatural life you were created for!

We offer a fresh helping of practical articles, dynamic podcasts, and powerful videos from respected, Spirit-empowered, Christian leaders to fuel the holy fire within you.

**Sign up now to get awesome content
delivered to your inbox**
destinyimage.com/sign-up

