



**“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world” John 16:33b**

**Periodical Message
(September 2020)**

A Word from us,

On arrival at Erbil International Airport, it did not feel home; it seemed so strange with doctors and nurses with special protective wear and gear ‘waiting’ for us. ALL had to be tested and to pay fifty dollars; you cannot escape it!

I was glad we arrived around 11:30 am; at least I could have some orientation, knowing that our Mission House is ‘occupied’. I prayed, and prayed and the longer we waited for the Shuttle Bus, the more I prayed “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit” Psalm 51:10-12. I repeated these verses many times while waiting and facing the Unknown; the Cloud seemed to be THERE and His Presence too—though we had blue, clear sky. When I reached the Arrivals Hall, a friend was waiting for me there...God is faithful; it seems he DID receive my message after all and came in time!

**Yours in the Lord,
Salman**

**A Word according to the
Guidance of the Holy Spirit**

Holy Clouds,

While sitting in our NEW Mission House in Ainkawa, Iraq I was thrilled to look out of the window and see an endless blue sky. Yes, it is very hot, but I saw people walking around not bothered with the smoldering heat. My mind though drifted to something else, because I was reading in Exodus where the Israelite were wandering in the desert “And the LORD went before them by day in a **pillar of a cloud**, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night” Exodus 13:21.

Dear believer, you will never understand your trials and sufferings until you understand the meaning of holy clouds. The cloud, that misty covering that oft-times falls upon God's people, is not a blot in God's handwriting. With Jesus, clouds come as a part of His train of glory; just read in your Bible and see. I want you to understand clouds are really not our enemies; they do not hide His face; they are not warnings of an approaching storm. Once you understand that clouds are instruments of divine love, they should no longer be feared. Most of the time SOME are searching the sky, looking for some kind of cloud, but seeing nothing – maybe like me here in Ainkawa, Iraq. I see only blue sky. Others are frightened because of that ‘dark cloud’ hovering over the area and changing the day to night; they might be expecting torrential rain! I want you to imagine with me how God's people, day after day in that horrible wilderness, staring into a cloud? The enemies of Israel, I am so sure, went about saying ‘If their God is so powerful, why do they not have sunshine all the time; why do they suffer daily under that gloomy cloud? Everywhere they go, the cloud appears...’ Such people do NOT understand the ways of God, had not experienced the God of Abraham and know nothing about Him.

The good thing is, you don't need to worry, dear believer; THAT cloud others thought to be so unwelcome was in fact the daily scout of the Israelite and when the cloud moved, they moved; when it stalled, they stood still. Our loving God must have a good reason to stall our cloud too; we should not grumble just because the cloud over there is a bit dark! As He did with the Israelite, and He was proving His children making sure they would NOT run ahead of Him or forgetting to wait for His leading, God is doing the same thing with you and me every day. He will wait until we come to the end of our patience, forgetting our own agenda and are willing to cry out 'Lord, I'll wait in this wilderness forever, if that is YOUR will AND I'll do it YOUR way; I won't move until You give me the word' I know, it is not as easy as described here, but The Cloud HAD to be there; God intended it for a purpose. It might affect me differently than it affect you; trust me IF you knew the good that will come out of your cloud, you would not ask for its removal. The Israelite learnt their lesson, and the nations around them too; they were feared LONG before reaching the people. Everybody was talking about the God of Israel and how He was, literally, wandering with them everywhere they went...in the desert!

Scriptures confirm: "He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people" Exodus 13:22 – yes, our God was in control, and no matter what the Israelite did, oh yeah they DID grumble and murmur, and no matter what the nations did, He did NOT take away that cloud. Is it a challenge for you to have the cloud around?

The cloud meant a lot, if not everything to God, but I cannot tell WHAT it meant to the Israelite; through and with the cloud they probably learnt about fear, love, obedience...and other attributes of God. The Bible tells us "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" Proverbs 8:13 – did the Israelite learn their lesson from the cloud and hated evil? What about you; what was the effect of YOUR cloud on you? And what about loving God? Did your cloud bring you nearer to God that you are willing to 'love as He loves us'? The Lord Jesus said "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me..." John 14:21 When it comes to walking with God under the cloud, love, fear and obedience are inseparable because you cannot practice one without the other two. The Bible define obedience this way "And this is love, that we walk after His commandments" 2 John 1:6

You cannot love God without having the fear of God in you; you cannot love Him without obeying His Word. I read that some teach that only the fear of God provokes believers to flee sin, while others teach that the only proper motivation against sin is love. Loving Him means obeying His every command, but what produces a consistent, lasting obedience? Godly, loving obedience springs from one source: the fear of the living God, whether under the cloud or not. Obedience birthed by a true and pious fear of God is love perfected. If you truly have the fear of God in you, then you will obey His every word. You obtain the fear of God just as Israel did: you learn it, whether in the wilderness or in 'the land that flows with milk and honey'. The Lord is ready to teach His fear to all who desire it: "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD" Psalm 34:11.

Our loving Father teaches us the fear of Him through His Word, and also there we have many examples and our Lord Jesus promised incredible blessings to all who obey Him "...and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" John 14:21. This is one of the most powerful promises in the Word of God –Jesus would manifest Himself to you, as He did in the cloud to the Israelite. The Father has a special love in His heart for those who walk in obedience to his Son. Begin to walk fully in obedience to all you know of His commands and you will be perfected in your love for Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit!

I am so convinced that every true Christian would choose the very course God has chosen for him, if he knew all that God knows. Life is like a beautiful tapestry, but the Master Weaver only shows you one strand at a time. If you could see the wonderful plan He is working out, you would rejoice rather than recoil. May we keep on loving Jesus, enjoying and NOT fearing the Cloud, looking to the Big Pattern and not only the one strand we see and get to know Him better.

Prayer Ideas

1. You can join us and pray; dear Father in heaven, I don't know what ails me that I always try to find the things in my life that are dysfunctional and broken, while almost everything is healthy and functional. Please, dear God, open my eyes to see all the treasures You've poured into my life, let me see the blessings all around me. Train me to hunt for the good and to give You thanks in every situation .Amen

2. The current situation of our Ministry seems difficult, dear Lord, but we are glad to thank you that YOU are in control and have already prepared a place for us to stay and serve. We thank you that we are safe, provided for AND able to serve those Christians in need, despite everything. Please, oh, God, continue guiding us according to your will, give us wisdom to use the little we have, and multiply oh Lord what we have. We have faith that abundance is waiting for us and we will SEE it in time. Amen.
3. You surprised us and everybody around us by keeping your people in the Christian territory safe without infection, that the so-called COVID-19 had NO effect on your people and that we became a SIGN to the world around us. Continue, dear God, to protect us, our 7-MembersTeam and their families and the people we serve. Keep your mighty hand upon your people, but also give them wisdom to keep away from those Red Zones around them. Sometimes ignorance causes great damage; we pray in Jesus holy name that wisdom would prevail.
4. Faithful Father, the battle for the TRUTH and for justice concerning the Mission House in Erbil is taking much longer than we expected, and though we know 'The Battle is the Lord's' we are asking in Jesus holy name for a final blow to all lies, deceits and injustice. Let's us, dear Jesus, enjoy the great victory that you've prepared for us and help us to send a Message of Victory to all your servants who've been standing with and interceding for us. We thank you, Lord, in advance and wish that those Prayer Warriors would continue praying even AFTER the final revelation and victory. "Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all" 1 Chr 29:11
5. The news are coming from all directions, we have wars and rumours of wars; we have pestilence and all kind of diseases and we see there is no love in the world, still dear God, we have faith in you. We know you are in control and that things happen in YOUR time; strengthen us in our faith, don't let us waver because of what we see happening around us and help us to always look up to Jesus. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" 1 John 5:4.
6. Please join our 24/7 Prayer Team Jesus Highland Prayer House-JHPH and pray for the persecuted Christians in Iraq and the Middle East. Many might not see it connected, but the onslaught against the Armenian people is part of a Pattern. The illegal conversion of Hagia Sophia to a mosque was the culmination of attacks against Christianity not only in the Middle East but the whole world. Be UNITED with us when we rebuke the spirit of Islam and violence against Christians. Pray in Jesus holy name for MORE believers to come together and to pray; we will start a week-long prayer for Armenia starting on coming Sunday October, 11th.
7. Four years ago the Lord burdened us to pray for America and its people; since then we saw the Word of God lifted higher, more people became aware of what is going on in America...and the President did a great job in three years in office. Then unexpected 'attack' took place and evil gripped America; since February the United States of America as we know it 'vanished'. AGAIN we have a burden to pray; so please join us and proclaim the Will of God upon America. Rebuke every effort to spread lies, confuse people or claim false things; may the Spirit of Truth open people's eyes and guide them according to God's will. We believe that believers should stand for the TRUTH and America needs our prayers. We do NOT pray for a person, but a nation and the truth.

Finally we encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep the Word, live the Calling and continue serving in a humble heart WITHOUT fear. Don't ever forget your joy in the Lord no matter what might happen---He will never fail you.

We also ask you, dear Saints, to forward our Messages to as many people as you can, whether believers or else with many thanks. We would love to visit you, if invited to your Church, Prayer Group or else and share our testimony with all the Saints or hear from you. Please let's know through an E-mail containing a phone number to send a message to or even call you back. We will be waiting for your Feedback or commentaries too. What did the Message tell you and what did the Holy Spirit teach you through it? If you want us to pray for you, or for somebody else, please let us know and we will pass the name/s over to our 24/7 Prayer Team-Jesus Highland Prayer House- JHPH.

Have a \^^I^/// Blessed Day

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Built on the Rock: JESUS CHRIST THE LORD

“Choose this day whom you will serve, As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”
 Joshua 24.15

“...I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me”
 Micah 7:7

Thank you for supporting International Christian Outreach Ministry and standing with us and the persecuted Christians in Iraq.