

THEMES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE WORD OF GOD

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INTRODUCTION

Over a period of seven years, I have been searching the Word of God for patterns and principles that underlay its overall meaning. In doing so, I have noticed that, generally speaking, we find **Principles** contained in the Old Testament, and **Doctrines** in the New Testament.

It is also true, I think, that when we can not find any pattern established in the writings of the New Testament, it is valid to search for them within the Old Testament. As I did this, over the last few years, I began to write down these principles and themes, that were woven into the stories, lives and moves of God with His people.

This booklet is the result of that study.

I hope it will encourage you to seek after the treasures in the Word of God, and that the compilation of some of these principles and themes may enlighten you in your study, both of the Word, and of people and their motives.

Peter McArthur
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THEMES AND PRINCIPLES

1. RELIGION AND WITCHCRAFT

Religion fosters witchcraft and vice versa. Witchcraft is 'stolen power' and breeds in the darkness. Religion keeps people 'in the dark' concerning spiritual truths.

TEXTS:

Proverbs 9:17-18

2. ADULTERY - LITERAL AND SPIRITUAL

For a Christian to commit literal adultery increases the likelihood of them falling into spiritual adultery, i.e. wrong doctrine. Likewise, the teaching of false doctrine will inevitably lead to the person committing actual adultery. Actual physical adultery leads to lying (in the natural, to the other spouse) and deceit; so also spiritual adultery leads to the deceit of false doctrine and error (Jeremiah 9:2b-3a).

Just as wrong doctrine begins with itching ears so physical adultery begins with wandering feet (Proverbs 7:11). Note that spiritual adultery of a nation brings defilement to that land/nation (Jeremiah 3:1-3, 9; 2:7; 5:19).

Spiritual adultery is linked directly to the security of that nation (or its judgment), and its prosperity (Jeremiah 3:2-3, 9; 5:19). To fall into spiritual seduction and deception (as in the case of King Amaziah - Amos 7:10-13) has its outworking in the natural realm (verse 17). In this case, as punishment from the Lord. False god-seeking will lead to homosexuality; see Daniel 11:37.

TEXTS:

Compare in Scripture the link between False words and Seduction:
Proverbs 2:16; 5:3; 12-14, 23; 6:24, 32
Jeremiah 29:23

3. LUST AND SORCERY

Lust will lead to sorcery if indulged in by a 'spiritual' person (see also Adultery - Literal and Spiritual).

TEXTS

Proverbs 2:18
Hosea 4:10-13
Romans 1:24-25

4. FLATTERY AND SEDUCTION

Seduction and flattery are linked, both in the natural and spiritual realms. There are two results of dealing with a seductress who uses flattery to trap; that is, deceitful words leads to the inability to discern on part of the victim, both in the literal and spiritual sense. Note that the 'word gifts' of wisdom and understanding act as a shield to deceitful and spiritual flattery (Proverbs 6:32).

TEXTS

Proverbs 2:16b; 6:24, 32; 7:5

5. THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The six steps to understand the Fear of the Lord are:

- (1) inclination;
- (2) application;
- (3) seek for discernment;
- (4) lift up the voice;
- (5) seek as for silver;
- (6) search as for treasure.

To hate evil is to Fear the Lord. To despise the Fear of the Lord brings as a reward the fulfilment of the wicked's own thoughts (Proverbs 1:29-31; Jeremiah 6:19b).

TEXTS

Proverbs 2:2-5 (Note that verse 5 is the consequence of verses 2-4.)
Proverbs 8:13

6. POSSESSIONS

Blessings in the natural flow from what we do with the firstfruits of our possessions (finance, crops, and so forth).

TEXTS

Proverbs 3:9-10

7. JEZEBEL

This demonic spirit is foremost a spirit of Jealousy (Ezekiel 8:5); its secondary concern is to attack and seek the destruction of the prophets/prophetic movement. In 1 Kings 18:4ff, note that there seems to be no reason for Jezebel's persecution of the prophets of the Lord God, until it is realised that 'the prophetic' (Elijah) had found a WOMAN SUBMISSIVE; that he had miraculously PROVIDED SUSTENANCE for her, and RAISED HER DEAD SON: all of which the Jezebelic spirit would have hated (1 Kings 17:8-24). Note also that it is a WOMAN who confirms that the prophet Elijah is from God (1

Kings 17:24).

Jezebel has a progressive method of attack:

- (1) destruction of honour and reputation;
- (2) loss of finance;
- (3) loss of possessions;
- (4) sickness;
- (5) possible death.

Jezebel is also responsible for:

- (1) senility;
- (2) drug abuse;
- (3) occultism and witchcraft;
- (4) sexual sin;
- (5) fear;
- (6) astrology.

The Jezebel spirit brings competitive worship; King Solomon built the Lord's temple in the south, so now Ahab builds Baal's temple in the north (1 Kings 16:32).

Fear and despondency usually follow after an encounter with Jezebel (1 Kings 19:3-4). Along with this goes doubt and confusion (cf. John the Baptist who came in the spirit of Elijah, who after declaring Jesus to be the Lamb of God, then deals with Jezebel in the person of Herodias, but while in prison DOUBTS the messiahship of Jesus: Luke 7:19)

The spirits of Death and Hell are Jezebel's children and war against evangelism. Evangelism brings Life and Heaven, the very opposite to the spirits of Death and Hell.

It is fitting that EUNUCHS threw Jezebel to her death (2 Kings 9:32f); we need to understand that this has a spiritual parallel.

Jezebel has five 'works,' corresponding to five spiritual cords that need to be severed in deliverance ministry: (Revelation 2:20, 24) namely;

- (1) claims prophetic gifting;
- (2) beguiles God's people;
- (3) sexually immorality;
- (4) the eating of forbidden food;
- (5) has demonic knowledge.

TEXTS

1 Kings 18:4
Proverbs 5:7-11
Isaiah 47:6-13
Revelation 2:20, 24

8. INSTRUCTION AND DISCIPLINE

To fail to heed spiritual advice, and to not be disciplined, will bring poverty, shame and 'death.'

TEXTS

Proverbs 5:23; 6:32; 13:18; 29:1

9. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

The list of concerns about church order and discipline does not seem to list 'sex' as a high priority.

TEXTS

Proverbs 6:16-19
Matthew 18

10. BLESSING BY THE RIGHTEOUS

A community, city, people, fellowship are exalted when the upright/righteous begin to bless.

Alternately a fellowship, city, and so forth, can be pulled down by the use of our words (eg. gossip).

A righteous man is a mainstay for his community.

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 22:3; 24:15-18.
Proverbs 11:11; 12:18

11. GUARD YOURSELF OVER VENGEANCE

It is possible to take away from God His right to extract vengeance by delighting with pride and satisfaction in the punishment of another. This can actually halt the FULL recompense from being given.

TEXTS

Proverbs 24:17-18

12. VISIONS, FANTASY AND ENTERTAINMENT

Anything that creates fantasy will spoil and rob true visions coming from the Lord; drugs, movies, a weak mind, fantasising, TV, constant thinking of the past, and so forth.

The word 'entertainment' comes from two words meaning 'to stop from entering into.' This should be enough for believers to be wary of being entertained, both in the world and the church! We should be cautious about what we listen to in terms of 'Christian' music, and what we are offered on a Sunday from the stage and pulpit.

TEXTS

Isaiah 28:7

13. MURMURING

Murmuring and grumbling will cause a foundation of wrong doctrine to begin; or at least it will halt a person from understanding doctrine. The moaning of the brethren can have direct ramifications upon the leader. God's grace is able to reverse the effect of this type of murmuring (wrong doctrine or misunderstanding) and cause the murmurer to learn (Isaiah 29:24b).

TEXTS

Isaiah 29:24b
Psalm 106:33

14. VOICE OF THE PROPHET

The voice of the prophet or the prophetic will strengthen the Church. Where this voice is quenched and despised, the Church grows weak and insipid.

TEXTS

Isaiah 35:3

15. MIRACLES AND HOLINESS

Miracles flow out of holiness, not vice versa. The exception is, of course, in the occult where depravity is used by demons to increase their power-base and so bring forth false miracles.

TEXTS

Isaiah 35:5-7

16. THE WATCHMAN'S CALLING

Watchmen can become slack and their concerns then become insular and focus on immediate needs only.

TEXTS

Isaiah 56:10-12

17. COMPASSION

Blessings are the direct result of practical compassion.

TEXTS

Isaiah 58:6-11

18. MEETING WITH GOD

There are three necessary conditions in order to meet the Lord;

- (1) rejoicing;
- (2) works of righteousness;
- (3) remembering the Lord.

TEXTS

Isaiah 64:5

19. GOD'S VENGEANCE ON OUR ENEMIES

Note that God's vengeance on His/our enemies is directly related to the believer's restoration.

TEXTS

Isaiah 66:6

20. FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP

When the leaders go astray, it seeps down the ranks and causes church government and the prophetic to be tainted; note the order; Kings, Princes (rulers), Priests, Prophets. The reverse stands true however: when leadership is righteous the nation begins to change.

TEXTS

Jeremiah 4:9

21. FIRSTBORN OF THE SPIRIT

The firstborn of the flesh is not always chosen by God, who is more concerned with the firstborn by the Spirit.

TEXTS

Genesis 35:23-26; 49:22.

22. HARVEST

Harvest is to do with 'reigning'. For this very reason there shall be a great harvest at the End of the Age when the King comes to reign with all His Holy Ones!

TEXTS

Genesis 37:7-8

23. HIDDEN AMID THE PLACE OF TRIBULATION

Moses was hidden in the very place where the male children were to be drowned by Pharaoh's soldiers, the river.

God's intention is not always to deliver us OUT of tribulation but to KEEP us safe amidst it. This needs to be borne in mind when considering that period referred to as "the Great Tribulation" at the End of the Age.

TEXTS

Exodus 2:3

24. NON-ACCEPTANCE OF WHAT GOD OFFERS

Moses could have had the Lord Himself as his mouth, but his protestations brought about a rebuke and therefore a lessening of his anointing, i.e. through Aaron.

TEXTS

Exodus 4:12-16

25. GOD'S EXAMINATION TIME

A five day examination of the Passover Lamb was held to check for any blemish (five stands for 'grace'). Compare this with Jesus as the Lamb of God who was examined on 5 occasions (Matthew 21:23).

TEXTS

Exodus 12:3-6

26. OUR DELIVERANCE IS AT NIGHT

The Hebrews passed through the Red Sea at night.

TEXTS

Exodus 14:20-21, 24

27. WATER AS A TEST

Water (the Red Sea) was the mode of deliverance for the Hebrews; so water becomes their first test. This also accounts for one of the reasons why baptism (infant versus believer's immersion) is such a contentious issue - the correct stand over any 'truth' is in fact a time of 'testing.'

TEXTS

Exodus 15:22-25.

28. STICK TO YOUR CALLING

Jethro instructed Moses not to handle temporal affairs but to devote himself to God and the spiritual maturing of the people. Likewise, the Apostles called for seven men, filled with Spirit, to do menial tasks. We are to know our calling and not be diverted from it. Only do what you are called to do. Do not seek the "good" that will destroy God's "perfect" for you.

David had a DISTINCT calling on his life, to be King and Ruler, but he attempted to go beyond that and build a temple (1 Chronicles 17:1) when he was not released to do so.

TEXTS

Exodus 18:20
Acts 6:1-4

29. BAPTISM OF FIRE

The Lord invites us to draw close to Him by initially taking off our 'shoes'; Moses could not approach God without first removing his shoes, but later he is invited into the FIRE itself!

TEXTS

Exodus 19:18, 20

30. USE OF FINANCE

Money can actually taint our discernment and our witness and confession. The right dealing with finances can assist in establishing our righteousness.

Often the Lord will get us to use our own nest-eggs before He releases financially blessing from other sources.

The Old covenant demanded a tithe, but in the New Covenant there is none demanded. The standards of grace (in the New) are higher, not lower, than that of law (in the Old). "Duty" was the call in the former covenant, but "generosity" is the call in the new.

When the Lord purposes you to go on Outreach, and money is required, do not take out a loan, go into credit, and so forth, to finance the trip.

TEXTS

Exodus 23:8
Psalm 112:1, 3-6, 9
2 Corinthians 9:7

31. ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE FROM THE YOUNG

In the Old Covenant the youngest made the offer of sacrifice because it was; (1) peace and (2) sweetness.

This still applies to young believers, because they have not yet lost their first love.

TEXTS

Exodus 24:5

32. GOD PROCEEDS IN STAGES

Moses waited six days to be called, and then forty days before being instructed.

TEXTS

Exodus 24:16, 18

33. OCCULT WEAVERS

Weavers are the 'door-keepers.' This is one of the reasons why so many in the "arts and crafts" are also involved in the New Age movement; there is a 'drawing to' weaving because of its spiritual associations.

TEXTS

Exodus 26:31f, 36

34. ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE BY SOUND

Sound announces our entering in; compare Trumpets and Tongues.

TEXTS

Exodus 28:35

35. VINDICATION

The Lord vindicates pure, obedient hearts; note how only Caleb and Joshua enter into the Promised Land, WITH the children of the rebellious generation. That generation wanted to pass the curse onto their children when the latter were, in fact, innocent. The Lord reverses man's words. Nevertheless, the father's sins are passed onto the succeeding generation in some measure (Numbers 14:33).

TEXTS

Numbers 14:3, 30-33.

36. LEADERSHIP AND CARNALITY

Moses was to take vengeance on the five Midian kings. 'Midian' means strife and contention. The five kings also represent the five human carnal senses which often bring about strife and contention. The 12,000 Israelites stand for church government, and it is the Eldership who are to deal with strife and contention in the body.

When the Eldership is in control and order, the five carnal senses are held in check. Allow the Eldership to be slack and the five 'Midian princes' rise up. Notice also that Moses had the false word (the prophet Balaam) killed.

TEXTS

Numbers 31:1-8

37. EVIL CONVERSATION

There is a three-fold method of protection against gossip and slander, a safeguard to use when an 'evil' report is about.

They are;

(1) inquire = *seek and ask*

(2) search = *penetrate, examine intimately*

(3) ask diligently = ask = *demand, diligently = find favour, earnestly.*

If these can be verified, note that there are two more checks, 'if it is indeed true' and 'certain' (verse 14b) THEN act (verse 15a) and not before.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 13:14-15

38. UNGODLY PROPHECIES AND CURSING

Inappropriate cursing and false prophecy can be turned aside by God because of His love for us.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 23:5
Proverbs 26:2b

39. BLESSINGS AND CURSES

The characteristics of blessings and curses is that either will continue for many generations.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 30:19

40. HESITANCY

Barak's hesitancy causes him to forfeit blessing and glory, and it is transferred to two women, Deborah and Jael.

TEXTS

Judges 4:4-9; 5:24

41. FROM OPPRESSION TO LIBERATION

A 12-fold pattern can be found;

- (1) oppression (verse 2);
- (2) announcement of the sin-problem (verse 10);
- (3) God chooses a particular agent to work through (verse 11-12);
- (4) hunger and desire for signs and wonders (verse 13);
- (5) we are to utilise our own strengths (verse 14);
- (6) a confirming sign is given (verse 6);
- (7) holy fear needed (verse 22);
- (8) declaration of the stronghold (verse 25);
- (9) change of heart, fear of man likely to arise (verse 27);
- (10) the man of God will attract a curse (verse 31);
- (11) at the time of tribulation and persecution there comes an infilling of the Holy Spirit (verse 34);
- (12) signs and wonders will come as an ongoing encouragement (verse 37).

TEXTS

Judges 6:2-37

42. TESTING ACCORDING TO THE WORD

Testing time involves going to the source, the Word. Testing takes place at the WATER. The biblical symbol for the Word of God is often Water.

TEXTS

Judges 7:4-6

43. CITIES REQUIRE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Towns and cities need spiritual direction and government.

TEXTS

Judges 18:19

44. REBELLION AND DIVINATION LINKED

Saul's sin was to seek guidance from sources other than the Lord; this was rebellion. Divination is usually the outcome and the clear sign of inward rebellion.

TEXTS

1 Samuel 15:23
1 Chronicles 10:13-14

45. THE RIFF RAFF CROWD

The Lord often uses the riff raff, the remnant, and exalts them. What seems worthless in the eyes of men is great potential in the eyes of God. The remnant are actually precious treasure.

TEXTS

1 Samuel 22:2

46. DISCERNING GOD'S CALL IN ANOTHER'S LIFE

Abigail is quick to respond PROPHETICALLY in discerning David's calling; she speaks with faith, encouraging him.

TEXTS

1 Samuel 25:28

47. THE WISE CAN SAVE A CITY

Wise people can save cities and even alter their future.

TEXTS

2 Samuel 20:16, 22

Ecclesiastes 9:14
2 Chronicles 24:15-18
Proverbs 11:11

48. WAITING FOR GOD'S TIMING

Elijah did not jump the gun but waited for God's timing, the time of the evening sacrifice.

TEXTS

1 Kings 18:36

49. AVOID SUPPORTING APOSTATE MINISTRIES

Instead of offering the firstfruits to the apostate priesthood at Bethel and Dan (even though it was the commandment of God), the righteous man gives to the prophet or the prophetic.

TEXTS

2 Kings 4:42

50. REVELATION RECEIVED NEEDS ACTION TO FOLLOW

When revelation is received, there is a period of basking in it, but in the long term ACTION is required to see it in.

TEXTS

1 Chronicles 12:32

51. ANOINTED DANCING AS A PRIEST

Dancing for the Lord requires the symbolic wearing of the priestly Ephod.

TEXTS

1 Chronicles 15:27-29

52. LINK BETWEEN MUSIC AND WARFARE

David, together with his military leaders, chose the musicians.

TEXTS

1 Chronicles 25:1
Isaiah 30:32

53. SINGERS ARE PROPHETIC

Singers have a prophetic role, but need to be in submission first.

TEXTS

1 Chronicles 25:3, 6

54. OBEDIENCE TO TRUTH BRINGS DEEPER REVELATION

Despite all Josiah's reforms, he now receives deeper revelation (in the form of the Book of Law), and from then on moves into deeper revelation and commitment.

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 34:19

55. LEADERSHIP MUST PIONEER HOLINESS

Josiah leads the way and so has the right to demand that from those who are loyal to him.

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 34:31-32

56. BUILDING THE KINGDOM

We can not compromise or taint the building of God's kingdom; when we stand fast, accusation and persecution follow.

TEXTS

Ezra 4:1-6

57. WORSHIP RESTORED, AND BUILDING THE BODY FOLLOWS

Note that once worship is restored and the Body is being built, a mixture surfaces to counter it. The 'enjoyment' of the New often clouds the possibility of a counter-attack from religious demons who work to halt the new truth.

Babylon always resists the true worship of God and even tries to replace it. In rejecting the Old ways we will become open to subtle attacks on the New.

TEXTS

Ezra 3:6, 10; 4:1-5

58. WORSHIP MUST COME FIRST

Note that the foundation was not laid until Worship had been restored.

TEXTS

Ezra 3:6

59. ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE PROPHETIC

The Lord raises up the prophetic to encourage the continuation of His kingdom building. The increase in the prophetic is often a sign given by the Lord just prior to restoration or revival.

TEXTS

Ezra 5:1-5a

Isaiah 35:3-4

Ezekiel 37:4-12

60. THE NATURAL SPEAKS OF THE SPIRITUAL

Note how the spiritual senses are linked to their physical counterpart; the natural declares the state of the spiritual.

TEXTS

Psalm 34:8; 99:1

Isaiah 29:10-12

1 Corinthians 15:46

61. COME IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT

When we see how the opposite spirit is at work, or making us feel spiritually 'feeling down,' then Yadah the Lord. In other words, if you are 'bowed down' then 'extend' into praise and worship.

TEXTS

Psalm 42:5

62. POWER AND MERCY

Those who minister in the power of anointing, need to evidence much mercy to balance it.

TEXTS

Psalm 62:11-12

63. ATTACK FROM SLANDERERS

Slanderers will hold their peace for a season and then suddenly erupt without any concern for the retaliation it could bring.

TEXTS

Psalm 64:4

64. TEMPTATION LIMITS GOD'S BLESSINGS

When we continue in sin, and thereby tempt God, we actually limit the flow of His blessings toward us.

TEXTS

Psalm 78:41

65. RESULTS OF DISOBEDIENCE

Disobedience to God's will results in a corruption of the Seed line; the Seed Line is halted as a sign of God's judgment.

TEXTS

Psalm 106:34-39; 109:13

66. FIRSTFRUITS OF MERCY

The beginnings of mercies from God are encouragements to us to pray for the completion of them.

TEXTS

Psalm 126:4-6

67. OUR FOCUS AMID PERSECUTION

We might long for the cessation of tribulation, but this should not be our priority. Rather we are to seek for a release of God's mercy, His grace and Word. The true focus amid persecution should always be for God's purposes to be fulfilled, not merely for our predicament to cease.

TEXTS

Psalm 130:5-8
Acts 4:23-31

68. THE FRUIT OF OBEDIENCE

The heart condition is 'willingness' and the result is 'provision'; willingness precedes obedience.

TEXTS

Isaiah 1:19

69. MOVING BY THE SPIRIT

To fear the Lord and delight in it brings the ability to act out of spiritual revelation, wisdom and understanding.

TEXTS

Isaiah 11:3

70. WISDOM AS A FOUNDATION

To seek and practise wisdom, knowledge and understanding, will cause a right foundation to be established.

TEXTS

Proverbs 19:8
Isaiah 33:6

71. LIFTED HANDS

Lifted hands brings victory, but only when there is no wrath and doubt (1 Timothy 2:8).

TEXTS

Exodus 17:11
Psalm 47:1
Isaiah 35:3-4

72. LONG LIFE

This has a condition attached; obedience, holiness, and faithfulness on both a personal and a national level.

TEXTS

Isaiah 65:20

73. BITTERNESS

Bitterness is unfulfilled vengeance.

TEXTS

Hebrews 12:15

74. TERRITORIAL DEMON POWERS

False gods have allotted regions. There is also a spiritual or psychic relationship between the mountains (demons) and the people, in Ezekiel 6:3b.

TEXTS

1 Kings 20:23
Jeremiah 2:28; 11:13
Daniel 10:13, 20
Zechariah 13:2b
Mark 5:10

75. FALSE PROPHETS

False prophets reap a judgment, and as they enter into it, so too do those who accept their false word. This is why we are to discern and test, so that we also do not partake of their judgment. 'Peace' is usually the message of false prophets (Jeremiah 6:4; 28:9; Ezekiel 13:10; Micah 3:5).

TEXTS

Jeremiah 14:13-16
1 John 4:1

76. STAND FAST AND BE SEEN AS GOD'S MAN

When we have something so precious from God, we must not compromise over it; others must link in with this, not to waste time with the 'old' and be drawn backward.

TEXTS

Jeremiah 15:19b

77. HALF-HEARTEDNESS

Backsliding and half-heartedness will bring a halt to being in the 'good purposes of God'; spiritual dryness will be the result.

TEXTS

Jeremiah 17:5-6

78. REMAINING 'IN' THE LORD

Remaining and abiding in the Lord and His purposes brings life, continued growth, no fear, and obvious signs to others that we are being blessed.

TEXTS

Jeremiah 17:7-8

79. RELEASING THE PROPHETIC

'Seeing' the vision or doing an appropriate action will often release the prophetic word.

TEXTS

Jeremiah 13:1-3; 18:1-3; 19:1-3; 24:2-5

80. BEING ACKNOWLEDGED BY GOD

Note that the condition for being acknowledged by God, and therefore preserved, is for those who;

(1) listen to the prophet ;

(2) see the hand of God in the judgment (Jeremiah 21:8-9).

TEXTS

Jeremiah 24:5

81. GOD'S STRICTNESS TOWARD HIS PEOPLE

The Lord is likely to be stricter with His own rebellious people (whether Israel or the Church) than with the rebellious unsaved. Compare God' s willingness of mercy in Sodom' s instance (Genesis 18:32; i.e. where he looks for ten righteous compared to the three in Ezekiel 14:14).

TEXTS

Ezekiel 14:14

82. THE SIN OF SODOM

The sin of Sodom was NOT, foremost, one of gross sexuality, but of 'pride, fullness of food, abundance of idleness,' neglect of the poor, and haughtiness - THEN sexual abomination.

TEXTS

Ezekiel 16:49-50

83. TESTING BY THE ROD

Some in the Church will not enter into God's End Time blessings, but some, however, will yield and bend to His purging Rod.

TEXTS

Ezekiel 20:37-38

84. BUILDING A WALL

Intercessory praying requires one to 'stand in the gap', but 'making a wall' is just as important as 'standing in the gap'.

TEXTS

Ezekiel 22:30

85. REVELATION & KNOWLEDGE INDICATES SAFETY

Revelation and knowledge are linked to safety in times of persecution; so too in the End Times.

TEXTS

Daniel 2:18

86. CHILDREN ARE OUR GLORY

God equates a people's 'glory' with their children; children are therefore a blessing, and barrenness is a curse.

TEXTS

Hosea 9:11-12, 16

87. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PROPHECY

Prophecy is the direct result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This will characterise the Last Days. Note that, at least once, the Biblical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit was (1) speaking in tongues, and (2) prophecy.

TEXTS

Joel 2:28

Acts 19:6

88. INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OR BAPTISED IN HIM

There is a distinction between the fore-runners of Jesus, who were INSPIRED BY the Holy Spirit, and the New Testament believers, who were BAPTISED IN the Holy Spirit.

TEXTS

Luke 7:28
Acts 1:5

89. MOUNT ZION IS FOR HABITATION

Other mountains are known by their grandeur and beauty, but Mount Zion is for habitation.

TEXTS

Joel 3:17

90. WIDOWS NEED A COVERING

Because the husband is dead, the widow needs the covering of the Eldership; this is one of the reasons for the Biblical insistence in caring for the widows and fatherless - both are without the husband/father headship covering.

TEXTS

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91. CONTENTION OVER BAPTISM, THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ISRAEL

In the End Times these three issues will cause increasing tension and division within the church.

TEXTS

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92. END TIME SAINTS WILL MATURE RAPIDLY

In the Last days many will mature fuller and faster than others - and they are likely to outpace older believers.

Therefore, holiness and stability of character will be vital as training now.

TEXTS

Amos 9:13

93. RESISTING THE PROPHETIC MESSAGE

The warning, and the blessing, of the prophetic shall be withheld from those who set themselves against God's move; they suffer the choice they choose!

TEXTS

Micah 2:6-7

94. SPIRITUAL SEPARATION

There are three outworkings to being spiritually separate for God;

- (1) act justly;
- (2) love mercy;
- (3) humility before God.

TEXTS

Micah 6:8

95. UNRESTRAINED VENGEANCE

The Lord uses the anger and violence of some nations as a correcting rod, but when they go too far, the Lord will break out against them also, because of their lack of restraint.

TEXTS

Habakkuk 1:11

96. AVOIDING JUDGMENT

Two things are needed to avoid judgment;

- (1) choosing to hear from the Lord;
- (2) taking the word of God to heart.

TEXTS

Malachi 2:2

97. ATTACK ON THE CHILDREN

When God determines a great move, Satan lashes out at the children, especially at the young males. This happened at the birth of both Moses and Jesus.

TEXTS

Exodus 1:22
Matthew 2:16

98. FASTING

Jesus' first statement on fasting in the New Testament deals with our MOTIVE for fasting.

TEXTS

Isaiah 58:3
Zechariah 7:5
Matthew 6:16

99. SEEING CLEARLY

The way we help others is not by judging but by seeing clearly, i.e. having the ability to discern clearly.

TEXTS

Matthew 7:5

100. AN OFFENDED HEART ACCUSES

The Pharisees had an offended heart and sought to accuse. The Holy Spirit can reveal truth but not to an accusing mind.

TEXTS

Matthew 12:1-4

101. WHAT DEFILES

The words that come from the mouth defile a man, hence the need for Tongues; because when the heart is inspired by the Holy Spirit we will speak forth that very inspiration without defilement.

TEXTS

Matthew 15:11, 18

102. FEAR ROBBS THE BLESSING

Fear of an outcome will cause us to be robbed of the potential blessing.

TEXTS

Matthew 25:25

103. TAKE HEED WHAT ADVICE YOU HEAR

We should be discerning in what we receive in; do not listen to many voices. Select your advisers.

TEXTS

Mark 4:24

Luke 8:18

104. REPENTANCE

This is always the PRIME message!

TEXTS

Mark 1:4, 14; 6:12

105. THE BARRIER OF A HARDENED HEART

A hardening of the heart stops us from accepting the miraculous. Note the warnings in Hebrews 3:8, 13, 15; 4:7.

Unbelief, doubt and hardness of the heart are all linked.

TEXTS

Mark 3:5; 6:52; 16:14

106. PRAISE RESULTS IN A STIRRED SPIRIT

When believers fellowship, they are drawn into praise (verse 42) and the result is the stirring of life (verse 44 - the leaping!).

TEXTS

Luke 1:39-44

107. NEED OF THE TRUE GROOM

The woman at the well had six husbands (= flesh / sin); likewise the Church has had too many affairs and she now needs the seventh husband, Jesus.

TEXTS

John 4:18

108. RIGHT HEARING PRODUCES RIGHT JUDGMENT

Jesus made right and discerning judgments because he listened to the Father and not human, carnal voices.

TEXTS

John 5:30

109. THE SPIRIT OF LEVI

The spirit of Levi was at work in the Pharisees, which demanded anger to be unleashed (Genesis 34:26); but just as Jacob refused to condone it (Genesis 49:6), so also with Jesus.

TEXTS

John 8:1-11

110. PRAYER

Our main prayer target is to be the Church, not the world.

TEXTS

John 17:9

111. KNOWLEDGE OF THE TIMES

'Time' is one of God' s secrets rarely shared - His concern for us is more one of preparation.

Those who try to constantly set dates and times fail to understand the importance of this principle.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 29:29

Acts 1:7-8

112. CHURCH GOVERNMENT PRIORITY

Note that the Holy Spirit moves Peter, during the prayer vigil, to settle the eldership issue BEFORE the revival starts on the Day of Pentecost.

TEXTS

Acts 1:14, 21-25

113. THE PROPHETS AND ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

The details of God's restoration programme for Israel can be found in the prophets.

TEXTS

Acts 3:21

114. THE WORD OF GOD'S GRACE

Our message is to be about His grace. Note the regularity of it.

TEXTS

Acts 13:43-44, 46, 48-49; 14:3

115. ARISE AND BE BAPTISED

'Be baptised' means literally 'get yourself baptised.' Others do it for us, but WE decide on it as an act of the will. It needs Holy Spirit conviction.

TEXTS

Acts 22:16

116. CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

Both the cross and the empty tomb were necessary; one for Sin and the other for Justification.

TEXTS

Romans 4:25

117. PUBLIC PROCLAMATION OF FAITH

An initial public proclamation of our faith is vital because it was by speech that Adam and Eve forfeited their authority, so by our word of faith in Christ we re-instate it.

TEXTS

Romans 10:7

118. PERCEIVING GOD'S WILL

There are three stages in perceiving God's will; namely,

- (1) we see His will as initially GOOD;
- (2) then as we grow in maturity we see it as pleasing & ACCEPTABLE;
- (3) and finally as PERFECT.

TEXTS

Romans 12:2

119. DO NOT COME EMPTY-HANDED

We are not to appear before the Lord empty-handed.

TEXTS

Exodus 23:15b
1 Corinthians 3:13

120. JUDGING

God judges those outside the Body; believers are to judge those IN the Body. We are also to judge our own values and lives in the light of the Word, so that we may not enter into judgment.

TEXTS

1 Corinthians 5:12-13; 11:31-32

121. KINGDOM VALUES ONLY

We are to set our hearts, hands and efforts only on things pertaining to the Kingdom. Learn to see things in the light of eternity. Have 'kingdom values.'

TEXTS

1 Corinthians 10:31
Colossians 3:17

122. CURSE OF THE LAW

The results of the 'curse of the Law' as found in Deuteronomy 28, are;

- (1) humiliation,
- (2) barrenness,
- (3) unfruitfulness,
- (4) mental and physical sickness,
- (5) family breakdown,

- (6) poverty,
- (7) defeat,
- (8) oppression,
- (9) failure,
- (10) God's disfavour.

Christ has set us free through the Cross.

TEXTS

Galatians 3:13

123. THE INNER MAN

We are to live from the inner man which has been strengthened by our Sanctification, and not from the anointing of giftings. Our giftings and anointing must be based on the character of the sanctified inner man, rather than our character resting on our anointing. Have the right foundation first.

TEXTS

Ephesians 3:16

Colossians 1:11

124. THE ASPECTS OF AGAPE LOVE

Sacrificial love has three aspects associated with it;

- (1) purity of heart;
- (2) good conscience;
- (3) faith that is sincere.

Note that purity, goodness and sincerity each parallel heart, conscience and faith.

TEXTS

1 Timothy 1:5

125. GRACE AT MEALS

Food that is set before us is sanctified by two things;

- (1) declaring the logos Word (a Scripture verse), and
- (2) prayer.

Grace at meals should include both.

TEXTS

1 Timothy 4:5

126. IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT TEACHING

The teaching of sound doctrine is directly linked to warfare and endurance.

TEXTS

2 Timothy 2:2-4

127. WORD TO BE RECEIVED IN FAITH

Faith is required in order for the preaching of the Word to be effectively received.

TEXTS

Hebrews 4:2

128. OBEDIENCE AND PERFECTION LINKED

Jesus learned obedience through being incarnated as man. Note that obedience and perfection are closely connected.

TEXTS

Hebrews 5:8-9

129. THE ANOINTED MUST SERVE

A ministry that might be legitimately 'better,' due to a divine unction, must serve other 'lesser' ministries in humility - or fall in pride!

TEXTS

Mark 9:35
Hebrews 7:7

130. LEADERSHIP

Eldership must:

- (1) be responsible;
- (2) be accountable;
- (3) use authority wisely;
- (4) themselves be judged.

TEXTS

Hebrews 13:17

131. TEACHERS AND THEIR WORDS

A teacher must watch all his words. We need Holy Spirit grace to control the tongue, as well as discipline, using shields like Psalm 19:14 and 141:3.

Note that in the warning given in James 3:1, the context is the correct use of the tongue!

TEXTS

James 3:1-12

132. EARTHLY WISDOM

One of the patterns of the Spirit of Jezebel is the three-fold pattern of carnal, sensual, and demonic advice.

TEXTS

James 3:15

133. A BARRIER TO INTERCESSION

The public or private neglect and dishonouring of your spouse will cause prayer to be hindered.

TEXTS

1 Peter 3:7

134. GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH

Just as God was manifest in the flesh in the person of Jesus, so the world still can not tolerate God manifest in the flesh, i.e. His church.

TEXTS

1 John 4:3

135. ZEAL AND REPENTANCE

Both zealousness and repentance are primarily an act of the will.

TEXTS

Revelation 3:19

136. THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Note that receiving either the mark, or name or number, is ALWAYS linked to worshipping the Beast. This should give us an indication of under what conditions it will appear.

TEXTS

Revelation 13:15-17; 14:9, 11

137. WISDOM

Wisdom is always linked directly to spiritual understanding and knowledge. It is also an End Time attribute. Wisdom is APPLIED knowledge, distinct from 'head' knowledge, no matter how doctrinally right the latter might be!

TEXTS

Colossians 1:9; 2:3
Revelation 13:18

138. THE FALSE BRIDE AND THE TRUE BRIDE

Note that the marriage supper of the true Bride takes place AFTER the defeat of Babylon, who is the false bride, the Harlot.

TEXTS

Revelation chapters 18-19

139. GENESIS THROUGH TO REVELATION

In Genesis chapter 1, man has a unique relationship to God, in chapter 3 he loses that position. The remainder of the Bible is taken up with Restoring man to that relationship - with the exception of the final three chapters of Revelation (20-22) where that Restoration is completed.

TEXTS

Genesis chapters 1, 3
Revelation chapters 20-22

140. GENESIS AS A FOUNDATION

Genesis is a seed-bed for every other doctrine found in Scripture. For example, the tower of Babel, the dispersion and the location of the Nations, depend entirely on the truths found in Genesis chapters 6 to 8.

TEXTS

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141. THE TWO CITIES

In Scripture there are always two cities vying for attention and supremacy, Babylon and Jerusalem; these represent man / sin, and God / grace.

Likewise God brings 'Jerusalem' (Abram) out of Babylon, and Satan now attempts to bring Babylon into 'Jerusalem' (the Church).

TEXTS

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142. FORGIVENESS BRINGS DOUBLE-BLESSING

What has to be 'born' in us first is forgiveness of all the bitterness of past hurts - then can be 'birthed' the second (spiritual) child, which is the 'double-blessing.' The place of suffering can bring about blessing; this 'birthing' and its accompanying double-blessing requires our patience, sacrifice and obedience.

TEXTS

Genesis 41:51-52

143. WATER AND WINE

Moses turns water into blood, which represents judgment. Jesus turns water into wine, which represents blessing.

TEXTS

Exodus 7:14

John 2:1-11

144. THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

The blood of the Passover lamb corresponds to the blood of Jesus, which only 'saves' and protects when APPLIED and USED. The blood of the first Passover lamb had to be caught in a basin, yet it did no good till it was put on the door - likewise with Jesus' blood; it is to be applied.

TEXTS

Exodus 12:12, 22-23

145. WHAT WORSHIP BRINGS

The consequences of worshipping God are four fold:

- (1) blessing on food and drink;
- (2) healing of all sickness;
- (3) barrenness removed and blessing of children abounds;
- (4) fully productive life.

TEXTS

Exodus 23:25-26

146. THE THREE FEASTS

The three feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles are a picture of God's plan from chaos through to the Millennium age.

TEXTS

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147. REBELLION AND AFTER-THOUGHT

Trying to catch up with a move of God after it has passed by only results in disappointment and further spiritual death.

TEXTS

Numbers 14:40-45

148. IS SPIRITUAL DEFEAT THE RESULT OF A CURSE?

When there seems to be no explanation for spiritual defeat, a curse may be the reason.

TEXTS

Numbers 22:6

149. REVELATORY REGRESSION

God walks with Adam personally; meets with Moses face to face (in a cloud); and speaks to Joshua through the Urim.

TEXTS

Genesis 3:8
Exodus 33:8-11
Numbers 27:18-21

150. STRATEGY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

There are four elements to this warfare;

- (1) drive out the enemy;
- (2) destroy;
- (3) demolish;
- (4) possess.

TEXTS

Numbers 33:50-53

151. DIVINATION BRINGS A NATION DOWN

God will allow His people the supremacy over nations which practise sorcery, and so forth.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 18:14

152. CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

A new change in God-ordained leadership does not give room for reflection. God expects an immediate thrust forward.

TEXTS

Joshua 1:1-2

153. THE NEW MANNA

When we have eaten of the old order and a new move has begun, God will still provide 'manna' even though it be of a new type. This signifies the new move.

TEXTS

Joshua 5:11-12

154. FEAR OF THE ENEMY

Disobedience and lack of trust in God will bring destruction.

TEXTS

Joshua 7:12

155. UNLAWFUL MINISTRIES

A ministry can be impressive, but if it does not stand before the Lord in righteousness then it becomes an offence.

TEXTS

Joshua 22:10, 19, 29

156. BOOK OF JUDGES

This shows us seven apostasies, seven servitudes to seven heathen nations, and seven deliverances.

TEXTS

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157. PRINCIPLES IN THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL

There are three points:

- (1) God does not give up with his plan to bring us to spiritual fullness;
- (2) If his people disobey, He raises up his own vessels and ministries;
- (3) Those same vessels and ministries have a special and unique role, and are governed by the purpose for which they were raised up.

In the Old Testament, these latter ministries were answerable only to God - not man.

TEXTS

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158. CHASTISEMENT

In chastising us, the Lord always reveals the blessing and hope he had for us, but which we spurned - this only heightens our sin of rejecting it.

TEXTS

1 Samuel 2:28-32

159. LIMITATIONS OF MINISTRIES

Even a ministry that God uses, as a vehicle to bring about his purposes, is limited in its use, and comes to a timely end.

TEXTS

1 Samuel 6:14

160. THE POWER OF PROPHETS

Their position with God is honoured amongst God-fearing people

TEXTS

1 Samuel 16:4

161. A SECRET ANOINTING

Both Saul and David were anointed in secret, and only later were they revealed publicly. Many anointed ministries now await their revealing, having been in long preparation.

TEXTS

1 Samuel 16:13

162. CELEBRATING

There are four principles in keeping a Biblically-based celebration:

- (1) remembering;
- (2) rejoicing;
- (3) feasting;
- (4) giving.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 16:3; 12:11; 14:3, 7; 8:10, 17

163. TWIN SINS

There are twin sins of Lust and Murder; these are often associated, and in this case, carry down in the same family line - David, Bathsheba and Uriah - Amnon, Tamar and Absalom.

TEXTS

2 Samuel 13:14, 28

164. WATCH AND REIGN

'Watching how we live' (heeding our way) as Christians is imperative for 'reigning' with Christ; our character and life style influence our authority.

TEXTS

1 Kings 2:4

165. HONOURING THE LORD'S NAME

Being known for reverencing the Lord's Name will draw others to seek advice and revelation from us.

TEXTS

1 Kings 10:1

166. FAITH AND VICTORY

Victory over sin and Satan is in exact proportion to the obedience of our faith.

TEXTS

2 Kings 13:15-19, 25

167. PRESSING IN

Jabez was not content and so sought more from God, and was honoured because of it. So, spiritually, we are to press onward and therefore be seen as different, like Jabez.

TEXTS

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

168. SPEAKING DIRECTLY AGAINST DEMON POWERS

To announce, rebuke and proclaim directly to the powers of darkness can be important in spiritual warfare. This is not to be seen as license for conversing with demons.

TEXTS

1 Chronicles 10:9

169. ISSACHAR'S DISCERNMENT

In the numbering of the twelve tribes, all tribes were mentioned in relation to their military prowess, except Issachar, who was seen as being different. We need to have the 'Issachar spirit' in understanding the times and following through in action.

TEXTS

1 Chronicles 12:32

170. GIVING A BLESSING

This is spiritually important to do at fellowship meetings and in the home environment.

TEXTS

1 Chronicles 16:2, 43

171. CORRECT DISCERNING OF ADVICE

We need discernment in matters of guidance, because the Lord can allow wise advice to go unheeded in order to fulfil His purposes.

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 10:1-15
See Mark 4:24 and Luke 8:18

172. HUMILITY IS POWER

Humility is the heart-condition in spiritual warfare; it is the heart-condition of a king who went against the high places.

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 14:11

173. LETTER WRITING

Prayer and anointings will often lead to letter writing; letters are often God's strategies.

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 21:12
Esther 9:23-26

174. THE POWER OF WORDS

The proclamation of Spirit-inspired words will always come to fruition; treat the use of such declarations with great trembling, because they have God-backed power.

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 24:22, 24
Matthew 10:14-15

175. DO WHAT YOU MUST DO QUICKLY

Once we 'will' ourselves into spiritual action, the Lord honours our intention and assists us - note that King Hezekiah decided to begin reformation on the first day of his reign (2 Chronicles 29:3, 17).

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 29:36

176. REVIVAL BEGINS IN SECLUSION

Revival starts in the place furthest from the eyes of men, and nearest to the eyes of God.

TEXTS

2 Chronicles 29:16

177. BREACHES IN THE WALL

To plug the breaches in the wall (spiritually), we need weapons (sword of the Spirit, fasting, and so forth), as well as practical strategies (repentance, holiness).

TEXTS

Nehemiah 4:16-18

178. HEDGE OF PROTECTION

Building a hedge around ourselves, families, or fellowships is not an act guaranteeing safety - Job had a hedge around him because he was blameless, upright and shunned evil. Many who use this as a type of spiritual technique still have sin at work.

TEXTS

Job 1:1, 10

179. JOY

Joy is given only to the selfless of heart, to bring about the ability to witness for repentance. Note that it's not use praying for joy to be restored to a person unless it focuses on the joy of 'God's salvation' - not human joy, but God's.

TEXTS

Psalms 51:12-13

180. AT TIMES OF DISMAL PRAISE & WORSHIP

When praise and worship time is disastrous, stop and then:

- (1) remain steadfast and determined (do not allow any soul-searching) verse 7;
- (2) speak to the souls of the congregation and awaken them; verse 8;
- (3) exalt and lift up God; verses 5, 9 and 11;
- (4) focus on His faithfulness; verse 10.

TEXTS

Psalm 57:7-11

181. DECLARING OUR SALVATION AND SECURITY

We should actually declare we are saved, protected and secure. Satan hates testimony.

TEXTS

Psalm 91:2; 96:3a, 10a

182. TELLING OF GOD'S WORTH

Two topics, only, are mentioned as worthy of proclamation:

- (1) the GLORY of God, and
- (2) His MIGHTY ACTS.

TEXTS

Psalm 145:5, 11-12
Isaiah 12:5; 66:19b

183. PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

Speaking too soon of in-depth revelations, or to those who do not understand, can bring about an aborting of some special ministry or principle - be wary of the timing to impart truth and revelation.

TEXTS

Ecclesiastes 10:1b

184. JUDGMENT COMES BEFORE GLORY FALLS

The spirit of judgment comes before the Spirit of God reveals glory and pours out revival.

TEXTS

Isaiah 4:4-5

185. SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Once spiritual blindness sets in, nothing will shatter it - except the mercy of God. The blind get more blind. When Jesus healed the blind man at Bethsaida, he took him OUTSIDE the town, and ordered him not to go back afterwards - the people there were spiritually blind (Matthew 11:21) and the man's condition was symptomatic of the town's spiritual state.

TEXTS

Isaiah 29:11-12
Mark 8:22-26

186. CAUTION OVER UN-ANOINTED PRAYER

Prayer without the expressed leading of the Lord will prove futile, although the soul of the person praying will feel something's been accomplished - it will be no more than a soulish prayer.

TEXTS

Lamentations 3:37

187. WATCHMAN'S DUTIES

- (1) To guard the king's interests;
- (2) Needs the ability to see clearly;
- (3) To warn and sound the alarm;
- (4) He is responsible and accountable;
- (5) While others sleep, he must be awake (a costly ministry).

TEXTS

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188. PROPHETIC ACTION

When under the anointing of God, as we do, so God does - this is in contrast to those who act from their soul in vain imaginings as they prophesy.

TEXTS

Ezekiel 21:14, 17

189. KINGS REPRESENT THEIR GODS

Ancient kings actually represented the god of their city. So to defeat the king and take the city's gates represented taking control over the demon authority of that city.

TEXTS

Ezekiel 28:2, 11-15
2 Chronicles 28:23
Jeremiah 46:25

190. ANCESTRAL OCCULTISM

Due to ancestral occult involvement, sexual indulgence is likely to come forth and follow in succeeding generations.

TEXTS

Hosea 4:10b, 13b
Proverbs 2:18
Nahum 3:4
Romans 1:22-24

191. CLARITY IN REPENTING

Have a clear idea of what we are repenting of.

TEXTS

Hosea 14:2a

192. ISRAEL AND CHURCH RESTORED

The restoration of Israel and the Church are linked and their prospering goes hand in hand.

TEXTS

Joel 2:22b

193. THE GATES

Gates without bars are useless. Note the spiritual applications.

TEXTS

Nahum 3:13

194. BLESSING AND CURSING

There are three basic crops associated with either blessing or cursing:

- (1) Grain = March / April = Passover
- (2) Wine = June = Pentecost
- (3) Oil = August / September = Tabernacles

These are symbolic of God in blessing or holding back.

TEXTS

Haggai 1:11; 2:19

195. ACCESS TO GOD

In the Old Testament there were two standards required for access to God's presence:

- (1) 'walk in my ways', which was moral responsibility;
- (2) 'keep my requirements', which was positional responsibility.

In the New Testament it is solely Jesus who is our access.

TEXTS

Zechariah 3:7

196. WITHHOLDING TITHES

To withhold anything from the Lord that is rightly His, will result in a curse.

TEXTS

Malachi 3:9

197. ASTROLOGY

In astrology, the position of the stars is said to determine one's birth, but in the Bible it is the position of the Baby (i.e. Jesus at Bethlehem) that determines the position of the star!

TEXTS

Matthew 2:2

198. JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

There are four principles here:

- (1) cleansing, holiness and purification;
- (2) prayer;
- (3) healing and power;
- (4) praise.

TEXTS

Matthew 21:12-16

199. ESTABLISHING THE GATE

Setting the foundations of the gate and thereby 'establishing' it in its place, is a sign of work completed.

TEXTS

Exodus 40:33

200. BURNING A GATE

To fire and burn a gate is a sign of reproach, shame and desolation. So too in spiritual warfare when we speak 'destruction of fire' against a demonic gate or stronghold.

TEXTS

Nehemiah 1:3; 2:17

201. WALLS BROUGHT DOWN

The walls of Jericho were brought down by a combination of Faith and Obedient works (marching around).

TEXTS

Hebrews 11:30

202. EGYPT

This signifies a place, system or doctrine that binds and then holds in bondage. The chiefs of Egypt, the Pharaoh's, attempt to kill the ministry that is being birthed (Moses). But God raises up faithful spiritual mid-wives to withstand the enemy and bring the embryonic ministry to deliverance. When the time of maturity draws near, we must flee the hatred of Egypt, and find revelation in the wilderness of the desert, where our calling comes. 'Egypt' stands for more than the usual interpretation of 'flesh / world'.

TEXTS

Exodus 1:15-22

203. DECEPTION OF THE ELECT

Jesus said that there would be three areas of Last Days deception:

- (1) Concerning Christ and His coming;
- (2) False prophets and teaching;
- (3) False signs and wonders.

TEXTS

Matthew 24:24

204. FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

It is not that the five foolish virgins DISBELIEVED in the coming of the Bridegroom - they missed out because they were not PREPARED! 'Their lamps' (verse 7) indicates PERSONAL preparation. Note also that they did not perceive that they were foolish until the last moment!

TEXTS

Matthew 25:1-13

205. TAKE AND EAT

Satan used this phrase to bring about death - Jesus takes this same phrase and it brings about life.

TEXTS

Genesis 3:1, 5-6
Matthew 26:26

206. JOHN BAPTIST AND CHRISTIAN INITIATION

John the Baptist' s message covers all four parts of what should be the normal Christian initiation:

- (1) Repentance (Luke 3:8);
- (2) Believing (John 1:7);
- (3) Water baptism (Mark 3:11);
- (4) Predicts Holy Spirit baptism (John 1:33).

TEXTS

Mark 1:4-8

207. DOCTRINE IS NOT A SAFEGUARD

Knowing the doctrine of Jesus' coming (both the first and second) is not enough;

you can know all about the doctrine and still miss the blessing and fullness of His visitation.

TEXTS

Luke 19:44b
Matthew 25:1-12

208. FIG TREE AS THE SIGN

The fig tree is one of the last trees to break into leaf in Israel, so it heralds SUMMER, not spring; meaning, it is VERY near.

Hence the fig tree is THE sign of the beginning of the End. As Israel begins to bud we are to keep our attention on the approach of Summer, not on what spring symbolises. Too many Christians have their eye on the Fig Tree, and not on what it heralds.

TEXTS

Luke 21:29-31

209. DEITY OF JESUS

The very first act of Christian devotion after the resurrection is to worship Jesus; the deity of the Son is established in the disciple's hearts from the very beginning of the Church's life!

TEXTS

Luke 24:52

210. THE CREATION

Evolution says that mind comes from matter; the Bible says that matter comes from (God's) Mind.

TEXTS

Genesis 1:3ff

211. EXPERIENCE WITHOUT CORRECT DOCTRINE

Spiritual experience without correct doctrine will deceive; this is the great deception of the New Age who have many 'lovely, affirming experiences' but lack the right foundation of doctrinal Truth (because they reject Jesus Christ as Lord). Also a likelihood for Pentecostals and Charismatics who 'experience' a lot, but are therefore also most likely to move into areas of doctrinal error. Evangelicals, on the other hand, often have great purity of doctrine, but almost never move out of that field into the area of experiences - they fear the latter

and seek refuge in the doctrine.

TEXTS

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212. HEIRS OF A MINISTRY

There are ministries today that seem to be 'valid' heirs to some spiritual movement, but who have in fact been passed over by the Lord in favour of His own "present hour" choice.

TEXTS

2 Samuel 2:8-10

213. FEAST OF THE FATHER

The Feast of Tabernacles honours the Father.

TEXTS

John 6:25; 7:18, 28-29

214. DECEITFULNESS FOLLOWED BY VIOLENCE

The thief will attempt to gain by craftiness, but if unsuccessful, will use violence. Satan uses this method.

TEXTS

John 10:1b

215. JESUS' FIRST AND LAST MESSAGE

His first was 'Repent'; His last was to 'Wait and receive power.'

TEXTS

Matthew 4:17

Acts 1:8

216. FALLING OF FIRE

The falling of fire upon a 'sacrifice' shows that the offering is acceptable to the Lord.

TEXTS

1 Kings 18:36-38
Acts 2:1-3

217. ISRAEL'S LAST OPPORTUNITY

Stephen's speech to Israel, just before his death, is the last time the Lord speaks to Israel as a nation - He will not speak to them again until the End Times.

TEXTS

Acts 7:2-53

218. WHAT THE WISE SAINT IS TO BE LIKE

Jesus declares a three-fold sequence that is needed for a wise believer;

- (1) to COME to the Lord;
- (2) to HEAR His words;
- (3) then to DO the works.

Come; Hear; Do. Some want to Hear and Do before they even Come to the Lord.

TEXTS

Luke 6:47

219. GATES ARE FOR GOING THROUGH

The gates of the city of New Jerusalem are meant for 'going through', i.e. each gate is an experience we are meant to enter into during our Christian life. Our "progress" in the things of the Spirit depends on our obedience to enter through the twelve gates and experience the meaning of each individual entrance point.

TEXTS

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220. OUR CORPORATE ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD

When the Church gathers, we are to Fear the Lord. And as the Angels surround the Lord, they are to Reverence Him.

TEXTS

Psalms 89:7

221. THREE STAGES OF ENTERING MATURITY

In Exodus, the Lord redeems His people, He then leads them through the wilderness, and prepares them for their entry into the Promised Land. This is the parallel of Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification (cf. the Three Feasts).

TEXTS

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222. DELIVERING AND PROTECTING THE NEW-BORN

The Lord raises up 'spiritual midwives' (actual people, or even fellowships) who defy the orders and doctrines of man and his system. The midwives preserve the newborn generation, Manchild. Each time a new season is about to open up, spiritual midwives are prepared for the moment of that season's birth.

TEXTS

Exodus 1:15-22
Revelation 12:1-6

223. GOD WILL TARRY WITH US IF WE TARRY FOR HIM

When we put ourselves out to meet with God, and to seek His face, then He will respond. He is searching for such a relationship, but will bypass us if we are not in position.

TEXTS

Exodus 3:3-4
Isaiah 59:16a
Acts 10:9-11ff

224. AUTHORITY OF THE ROD

Jesus is the BRANCH, and His Body is a corporate unity (the Church) that extends His kingdom through the use of God-given authority, the Rod.

We are 'Branch-like', wielding the Rod, i.e. governmental authority. The only God-given object Moses and Aaron had between them was a stick = the Rod of God!

TEXTS

Exodus 4:1-2, 20
Revelation 2:26-27; 12:5

225. PROGRESS IN THE SPIRIT REQUIRES ORDER FIRST

The Lord would not release Moses into ministry until he had put his own household in order. The Israelites could not move camp until Moses had brought order into his household (Numbers 12:15).

TEXTS

Exodus 4:24-29
Numbers 12:1-16
1 Timothy 3:2-4, 12

226. HARDER AND HARDER, SOFTER AND SOFTER

When we witness the Gospel to one who is hard-hearted, their refusal to yield causes them to become harder every time they hear the Gospel.

Correspondingly, those who are pre-disposed toward the Gospel, become softer and softer each time they hear it.

TEXTS

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227. BEGINNING-AND-END PRINCIPLE

That which at the beginning was last, shall at the end, be first. Compare Benjamin, the last jewel on the breastplate, but the first jewel in the foundation of the New Jerusalem.

TEXTS

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228. THE PROGRESSION OF JUDGMENT

The Lord deals with us in chastisement or judgment in a progressive way:

- (1) First, He touches that which is a comfort to us;
- (2) Second, He deals with our possessions;
- (3) Third, He brings sickness and death to those close to us, and even directly upon us.

TEXTS

Exodus 7:19-11:5

229. THE THREE-DAYS PRINCIPLE

The period between death/darkness and life/light is always symbolically 'three.'

TEXTS

Exodus 3:18; 10:21-23; 15:22-27
Hosea 6:2
Jonah 1:17
Matthew 12:40

230. SATAN'S SIX COMPROMISES

The enemy will attempt to delay or divert us/our ministry/vision, by offering what seems to be a 'good, acceptable' compromise; we, however, must push through and hold to the purity of our call/vision.

There are **six stages to this compromising**:

- (1) Do not divert others' attention from what they are doing/work [keep the status-quo];
- (2) Perform signs and wonders to validate your ministry [put the attention on YOURSELF, not on God];
- (3) Worship in MY territory, says Satan; you can do what you want, but remain within my 'land' (sphere of influence);
- (4) You can leave my immediate control, my land, but do not venture too far [complete LIBERTY is not wise or required, be 'balanced'];
- (5) Worship how you will, where you will, but do not drag your family and children in with you [Satan still holds dominion over our loved ones in this compromise];
- (6) Take your children and family with you to worship, but leave your belongings behind [For many possessions are a bondage].

TEXTS

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231. SINGING ERUPTS AT A TIME OF SALVATION

A song of the Lord comes forth whenever there is a deliverance, or the prophesying of a deliverer.

TEXTS

Exodus 15:1, 21
Luke 1:46-55; 2:14
Revelation 5:9-10

232. LACK OF FEAR OF GOD, & WEARINESS, BRINGS ATTACK

Amalek, a type of 'flesh,' is a warlike spirit that dwells in a 'valley,' awaiting an opportunity to attack a believer; this spirit attacks from the rear, 'out of the valley' where it hides. It launches its attack when the Christian is:

- (1) coming out of 'Egypt' leaving the flesh;

- (2) a straggler;
- (3) when tiredness and weariness abound;
- (4) when lack of Fear of God is evident.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 25:17-18

233. LACK OF OBEDIENCE BRINGS A DRAWN-OUT VICTORY

The Lord sees the perfect timing for us; therefore our failure to obey immediately brings about a long term war that causes us and our descendants to wait before the full blessing is released.

TEXTS

Exodus 23:27-30
Numbers 14:8-9, 31-34

234. THE NINE MONTHS OF CONCEPTION

As in the natural womb of a human mother, so too there is a spiritual conception, symbolised by the nine months it took to complete the Tabernacle Tent.

This has spiritual ramifications.

TEXTS

Luke 1:56; 2:6

235. DOCTRINES OF THE ANTI-CHRIST SPIRIT

These eight doctrines are those regularly held by all cults and sects which are controlled by the spirit of Antichrist:

- (1) denial of the deity of Jesus Christ;
- (2) denial of the sufficiency of Christ's blood;
- (3) adding to, or subtracting from, the Word of God;
- (4) show allegiance to their founder above Christ;
- (5) spawned out of some other religion/denomination;
- (6) is 'lawless' at heart, despite being strict;
- (7) opposes the moving of the Holy Spirit;
- (8) deny or attempt to diffuse eternal punishment.

TEXTS

1 John 2:18-22; 4:3
2 John 7

236. WATER AS A WITNESS IN THE PLANS OF GOD

Water at the Flood; water at the Red Sea deliverance; waters of the Jordan as Israel entered the Promised Land; the waters of Christian baptism; water as a type of the pure Word of God; the waters of the river in the New Jerusalem.

TEXTS

Genesis 7:1-24
Exodus 14:21-30
Joshua 3:14-17
Acts 8:38
Revelation 22:1-2

237. THE THREE FOLD WITNESS

The Lord has placed a continuous witness in each dispensations, that always has a three-fold manifestation.

- (1) The Spirit, Water, and Blood;
- (2) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- (3) The three Great Feasts;
- (4) Three coverings of the Tabernacle tent.

TEXTS

1 John 5:7-8

238. SLEEPINESS IS AN END-TIME WORK OF SATAN

Note how often Scripture warns us of being asleep with the possibility of missing out on God's revealing. Being asleep in the spirit, as well as being overcome with natural sleep, is a warning sign of the End.

239. THE WAYWARD PROPHET

The prophet who moves from serving God to serving his own needs, falls into a three-fold sin:

- (1) money becomes a major drive;
- (2) causes other believers to stumble;
- (3) finds that unrighteousness pays and delights in it.

TEXTS

Numbers 22:5-24:25
Jude 11
2 Peter 2:15
Revelation 2:14

240. SPEAKING CREATURES

The Bible records that only two creatures ever spoke; one was the voice of Satan (serpent), the other the voice of God (ass).

TEXTS

Genesis 3:1-5
Numbers 22:28

241. THE PROPHET'S BLIND SPOT

Those moving in the prophetic realm can sometimes be blind to 'seeing' well in the Spirit. There is an area, a blind spot, that the prophet can not always discern. Because they are used to seeing in the Spirit, they overlook this blind spot and move on in the soul realm, or by experience, rather than by the Spirit of God. This might only be momentarily, but it can cause misdirection.

TEXTS

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242. KILLING THE FIRST TEMPTATION

The enemy tempts, and if we do not resist this first dart, but hesitate or even dismiss its power, we will open a doorway to the next more penetrating temptation.

TEXTS

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243. THE RELUCTANT ARE REMOVED FIRST

Those who, through reluctance, unbelief or rebellion, disobey the Lord, are removed by Him. They are often the first to go, or are the first taken captive by the enemy.

TEXTS

Numbers 14:26-29; 32:6-23
Joshua 1:18

244. NEW MANNA FOR A NEW MOVE

Whenever there is a moving-on in the Lord, there is often new food/meal introduced as a sign of new blessing and spiritual provision. Compare the wedding banquet of Lamb too!

TEXTS

Exodus 12:17
Joshua 5:12
Matthew 26:26-29

245. IN THE WILDERNESS

The Lord led Moses, Israel and Jesus, into the wilderness. We are to enter into a wilderness experience, but we are not expected to wander there! By obedience we can keep short the experience of the desert.

TEXTS

Exodus 3:1; 13:20; 16:2
Luke 4:1

246. THE INITIAL SIN MULTIPLIES

What sin we sow in small measure, will be added to us through increase.

TEXTS

Proverbs 22:8
Hosea 8:7a

247. TO OBEY SHOWS FEAR FOR GOD

A clear sign that we fear the Lord is seen in the measure of our obedience to Him.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 6:1-2; 13:4

248. BEWARE OF THE THREE FALSE INFLUENCES

The Lord pronounces judgment and punishment on the three most common seductions the Church shall encounter;

- (1) false prophets;
- (2) peer group pressure - family or church;
- (3) gatherings, fellowships, that lead people astray.

These three influences can be seen as:

- (1) false prophets - religion, tradition, focus on power & control, false teaching;
- (2) false friends - pressure from friends, family or fellowship, that subtly seduces;
- (3) false fellowships - local assemblies, fellowships or churches that draw

people into denominational doctrine and sectarian side-issues.

In each case the Lord pronounced a punishment to be inflicted upon the apostasy:

- (1) put away, death, exterminate;
- (2) stoning until death;
- (3) inquire and search for the truth of the matter before acting, and if it be true, smite and burn.

These, of course, need to be seen spiritually. Note that the method of punishment is to:

- (1) distance oneself;
- (2) stone = the Word shall vindicate;
- (3) sword = the Word shall strike, fire = the Holy Spirit will purge.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 13:1-5, 6-11, 12-18
Jeremiah 23:29

249. CONSEQUENCES OF BACKSLIDING

God pronounced that curses would overtake those who once walked in His way, but have rebelled. Among such curses are; illness and disease; lack of provision of food; restlessness; confusion; fear; success over you of your enemy; insecurity; disillusionments; continuing disappointments; child-bearing maladies; hostility from others; despair; and so on.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 28:15-68

250. GREED AND LUST BACKFIRE

To indulge in desire for gain and greed, will result in the loss of soul, and even life.

TEXTS

Proverbs 1:19
1 Timothy 6:10

251. WISDOM - A NATIONAL SAFEGUARD

When discernment and understanding prevail in the minds of the wise of a country, the people are secure; remove the wisdom, and the nation suffers.

TEXTS

Obadiah 8-9

252. SIN OF THE LIPS

The slander, gossip and cursing from the lips set in motion the actual activity of the sin.

TEXTS

Job 2:10b

253. HEART AND ACTIONS LINKED

Our actions display the attitude of our heart; likewise the heart will 'bend' to where our actions and thoughts are orientated.

TEXTS

Nehemiah 6:10-13

Proverbs 4:23

Luke 12:34

254. MUMBLING AGAINST LEADERSHIP

To mumble against the Leadership will actually cause the leader(s) to stumble and sin.

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 1:37ff

255. NO INTER-FAITH SERVICES

The latest ecumenical 'thing' is to share worship with members of other religious faiths. The Word of God disallows us to 'name other gods'.

TEXTS

Exodus 23:13