

Great Increase in the midst of Distress

The Right Vision that brings LIFE

How His **Presence** Releases Overflowing Blessings

Only one – mentioned – man after God's **heart**
– David - why? Heart – ark - Saul

David has a heart to bring ark to **center** of the Land – **manifest presence**

– political capital - **life, business, career**

Today – warfare, leadership, business, cell, market place min – make money

1 Corinthians 2:2

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified

Colossians 1:17

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Not against spiritual warfare – Christ centred – vict
– not fight for vict but from vict

Not against pros – Christ centred → pros

Peo say RLC - Pros ch – **compliment** – must have seen something – but need **correction** – **fact**:

We are a – **Christ centered ch** – will be prosperous
Say: No choice **loh** – we are Christ centred

Not prosperity ch – but prospering ch

When your focus – Christ – his presence – all things hold – overwhelming blessings

What were the problems with the **sons** of Abinadab?

1 Chronicles 15:13

13 It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us.

We did not **INQUIRE** of him about how to do it in the **PRESCRIBED** way."
Imitate way of the Philistines - not way of God – own strength - Uzza
– but - **Word** – ark to be carried on arms of priests

Stumble – steady - uzza
Wrong footing – wrong rxn – tragic consequences
Jer 6:16

The Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask for the eternal proven reliable ways, Ask which way leads to blessings, the best and beneficial way, then walk in it, and you will find rest and peace for your soul.

eg. Not unequally **voked**
Help reach out to him – risk – gamble – no just \$ (string attached)
Isaiah 50:11

Some of you want to light your own fires and make your own light. So, go, walk and trust your own light to guide you. But this is what you'll receive... a place of pain. NCV

2 Samuel 6:12-16
12 Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God."

2 years at Abinadab – nothing mention
3 months – blessed
One of ways – God teaches – sch of hard knock

Disappointments – our appointment
But some – bitter – not better – David

Angry with God – despite fact – his mistake
But when he saw the blessings on Obed-Edom – realize – only miss
Refused to learn – realize - only delay - miss blessing – as a country – may be billions of lost
Amazingly – what caught attn

and change David – blessings of Obed-Edom – **transformed** his heart

Why does God want to **bless you, ch – your pastor?**

To **catch** attn of peo of world
Isa 8:18 Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given me! We are for signs and wonders ... NKJV

Not we look at the world: **wah** – **imitate** world

But the world look at the ch: **wah** – immitate

They may not listen to your **message** – but they will **NOTICE** your blessings – **wonder**

Some my talk – NCC – but – many – **wonder**

Heard in one ch – left ch – son got a prophecy – should jump – pros

No perf ch – if find one – don't enter – you will spoil it

Like Judas – don't see the **PRESCRIBED purpose** of Mary pouring that expensive perfume for Jesus' burial

Don't have understanding of prescribed way – rxn wrong – hence all the criticism that rob them of blessings

But as a whole – peo of world will look at the church and – "wonder"

They realize the people that made up that church NCC – are peo who made it – entrepreneurs – not stupid

Something must be **right!** I want to foll what the ch is doing! The "wonders" will attract the peo to God

What are the blessings of Obed-Edom?

So the **blessing** of Obed-Edom – **make** David – **desire** for the ark – but – **how**

How did David found the right way – bring ark? – has the desire – what is the right way

Obed-Edom - Ser of red, blood of the grapes

2 Samuel 6:13

Every 6 pace – sacri burnt offering – Trail of blood, path of blood

Same instruments, singers – now different

God is **not against** skills, talents and latest technology but

1 – **Blood** cleansed – not strength
2 - pathway to Jeru – right vision – trail of blood – God's kingdom

Hence, **testimony** – focus on Christ – not self – otherwise, wont bring blessings

1 Samuel 6:19-20

19 But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had **looked into** the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them, 20 and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?"

Ark – wooden box – acacia (hardwood no insect can bore) – pict - gold

of humanity of Christ – perfect man – fully man

Lid – solid block of gold – pict of divinity of Christ – fully God

Manifest present wont kill – if shield by the mercy seat

Why is it so **deadly** to look inside. What are the things that bring death-sickness?

3 objects – 10c, Aaron's rod, Manna
Lack of fruit, barrenness, tendency to fall into sin

1. God does not want us to focus on the law (the Torah) but His grace

Romans 7:7

7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

8 But **sin**, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

Why does God not want us to put our focus on the Law?

The law is **perfect** and divine, but born with the nature of sin (**singular**)

Law – not just **ceremonial** laws – also 10 c

The Law is a mirror that shows us where we are.

But a mirror itself cannot give us power to change our looks or heart

Gal 3:23

23 But before faith came, we were kept under **guard** by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. NKJV

The Law guards and restrains evil.

Restrain sins – laws essential – **country** – but by itself cannot transform lives; **family**

CCTV security guards – deter snatch thieves – cannot change him

A country needs law – otherwise, we will not be secure walking in the street if there is no law against robbing but it cannot transform life.

Rules & discipline impt in family – keep youth from harm – otherwise, willing party to death- got to set rules and watch

Romans 7:5

5 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions **aroused** by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

The Law can arouse the sin nature

Mirror – guards – but not make it our central focus –

stir up sins – cannot transform life

1 Corinthians 15:56

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

What is the main purpose of the law?

The Law serves to lead us to Christ

Rom 7:4

4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married (belong) to another -- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. NKJV

Christ didn't come – give more laws or doct – already have perfect laws - Life – person

Holy SPIRIT didn't come to teach us more und of the law but Christ

How peo – stay away from sins?

Enoch walked w God – no law – walk with God

Abraham - no law but he gave tithe, friend of God

Joseph, able to resist Portipher

Law – mirror, guards, but arouse if focus

Serves to bring us to Christ

Peter **BOASTED of law – Judas – sacri**

John – rest – fulfilled law

See the mercy seat!

Mal 1:6-13

6 "A son honors his father, a servant honors his master. I am your Father and Master, yet you don't honor me, O priests, but you despise my name."

"Who? Us?" you say. "When did we ever despise your name?"

7 "When you offer polluted sacrifices on my altar."

"Polluted sacrifices? When have we ever done a thing like that?"

"Every time you say, 'Don't bother bringing anything very valuable to offer to God!' 8 You tell the people, 'Lame animals are all right to offer on the altar of the Lord-yes, even the sick and the blind ones.' And you

claim this isn't evil? Try it on your governor sometime-give him gifts like that-and see how pleased he is!

9 "'God have mercy on us,' you recite; 'God be gracious to us!' But when you bring that kind of gift, why should he show you any favor at all?"

10 "Oh, to find one priest among you who would shut the doors and refuse this kind of sacrifice! I have no pleasure in you," says the Lord Almighty, "and I will not accept your offerings."

11 "But my name will be honored by the Gentiles from morning till night. All around the world they will offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name shall be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty.

12 "But you dishonor it, saying that my altar is not important and encouraging people to bring cheap, sick animals to offer to me on it. TLB

Key to give best? Rel – know him personally

2. God does not want us to focus on our sins but His righteousness

Numbers 17:1-5

1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff. 3 On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name, for there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral tribe. 4 Place them in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Testimony, where I meet with you. 5 The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites."

20 years ago – Miriam and Aaron – spoke against – wife – Ethiopian – first race problem – perhaps harvesting
Now – key leaders roused up – Korah Dathan Abiram – key to test – **fruit**

They can talk like Judas – spiritual – look at life – every area – fruit?

Rod – pict of peo's rebellion

Why did God put the rod inside the ark and cover it with the mercy seat?

God don't want – keep our focus on our past sins – He put it inside the ark and cover it with the mercy seat
Heb 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. NKJV

More conscious of your sins – more you sin - fact

May be speaking the fact – you may still be struggling in that area

But **speak** the truth – life to overcome

Let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich – Joel 3 10

Romans 5:17

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

How to deal with troubling evil thoughts?

Worship – colleague – sis – HM - mum-law - sick and die

*Worship – think business colleague that cheated you, mo in law that irritate you – anger rises up – wish them **sick** and die – suddenly realise worship hall – can't worship – not worthy – sit down – what are you doing – d whisper: go home – don't be a hypo*

D put evil thots – make think – yours

The devil will put bad thoughts in you and make you think that those thoughts are yours

Realise **not yours** – if don't dwell - **vulgar**

Same way: If someone say **vulgar** word in your presence – you didn't say but just heard it – why should you be guilty and feel condemned - Set you **free**

EVERYDAY – morn - nite
- thank you for Jesus – he is my righteousness

Open mouth – I am the r of God in Christ

Sick – I am r of God

See the mercy seat!

The **holiest** ...

3. God does not want us to focus on our needs but His provision

Manna – occasion – **if only**

Exo 15 – water → sweet

Miracles alone cannot

change us!

Exodus 16:3

3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

Why does God put the manna, a picture of our anxieties over our provision, inside the ark?

One of the greatest hindrances to our blessings is **worries**

Matthew 6:27

27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

Rubber host

Pas – no **concern** – only concern:

– concern – focus – **making kids target** – knows what hurt you most

– just made kid target

Vision **frozen**, can't see big things-rob creativity

Worried: **FUT – what if**

– retrench – cancer – met O – girl

friend left me for my best friend

PAST – if only I done this that

SAVE – PLAN

Fail to plan - plan to fail

All these prins – good – like the

law – right thing to do – no power

To save – impt – ideal - **most** of us

- struggling to make ends meet how

to save

Good news – God loves to bail us

out

Adam made a dumb – mistake –

from the beginning – plan – Christ

Matthew 6:33-34

33 But seek first his kingdom and

his righteousness, and all these

things will be given to you as well.

34 Therefore do not worry about

tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry

about itself. Each day has enough

trouble of its own.

If only – what if

Dramatic? Pathetic – greatest life – project – dead – greatest unreality

Jesus – portrayed – sisi or blank joyless face (yet say my joy I leave w

you –who will receive?)– wall of

museum – how could he charge at

the money changers – peddlers –

court?

If only – **ans** – MANNA - what's this

What can we learn from how

God supplies the manna?

Only collect for the day – worried

about tomorrow – manna – rod

6th – day – double – enough for day

of rest

key to exp – double portion - rest

Manna **ceased** – Gilgal (wheel

– rolling) – sins rolled away

Joshua 5:9-12

9 Then the LORD said to Joshua,

"Today I have rolled away the reproach

of Egypt from you." So the place has

been called Gilgal to this day.

With Jesus – even **more** reason – not to worry – HIM – not just provision – **PROVIDER**

10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. 11 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

Celebrated Passover, ate prod of land

Manna stopped

John 6:35

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

See the mercy seat!

Ps 85

You showed favor to your land, O LORD; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. 3 You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

4 Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

7 Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

8 I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints--but let them not return to folly. 9 Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. 12 The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will

yield its harvest. 13 Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.