FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Builders November 28, 2017 Suzi Armstrong

1 John 5.19-20

¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and that **the whole world lies in** *the power of* **the evil one.** ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and **we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ.** This is the true God and eternal life.

- Nations and cities are operating in independence and self-reliance

 along with its apostate belief systems, values, ethics, attitudes
 and practices. They are only concerned with the present
 transitory dimension of life ignoring or denying eternity and
 gauging achievement in human terms.
- This is the present condition of the world because the systems and ways of the world are corrupted through the influence and work of the evil one.
- We, as ones born again, have been made partakers of a different source. Our source is not the world. Our source is God Almighty.
 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son. (Col. 1.13)



Romans 5.17 Weymouth Translation

For if by the transgression of one individual death [spiritual death] made use of the one individual, Adam, to seize the sovereignty [here in the earth], all the more shall those who receive God's overflowing grace and God's righteousness [in the new birth] reigns as kings in the realm of life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Adam was put in the Garden and given authority to cultivate and tend to the earth, to cause the earth to flourish under the blessing of God.
- In the darkness and evil of Satan's heart, he plotted to seize sovereign power over the earth through seducing Adam into sin.
 - Only God is truly sovereign. All power and authority are in Him. He is the Creator and the life giver. God created the heavens and the earth, and He is Lord over all.
 - o The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. (Psalm 24.1)
- We the body of Christ and the redeemed of the Lord have been set free from the law of sin and death. This is the law that grips our cities and nations and runs the world systems. It is powers and principalities that exalt themselves above Christ Jesus. But we live by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 8.2)

Satan was thrown from down from Heaven to the earth after he sinned against God. Satan is still trying to exalt himself above God. It is Satan's desire to use the earth as his powerbase; using the earth's resources, the nations and the peoples as his – releasing oppression, control, devastation and misery into all spheres. Satan wants to take over the heavens and be the sovereign power over all. However, sovereignty belongs to the Lord God Almighty and Him alone! He is SOVEREIGN and there is no other sovereign. We are not the path or puppet of Satan to accomplish his evil desires. NO! We are the vehicle of God – His sons – to bring Heaven into earth – releasing life and restoration to God's original purpose.



For us we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor. 2) The mind of Christ is the seat of emotions and affections, a way of thinking and feeling; an attitude and moral inclination. This is opposite of being under the control of the powers of the air. We access the mind of Christ through intimacy. His thinking becomes our thinking, His ways become our ways, His desires become our desires – for the cities and nations of the earth. The Father is calling us deeper and deeper still into intimacy, a place where our thinking is transformed and we will KNOW His desires

and His plans. We will be in His timing and moving with Him. We will bring restoration and hope to the cities and the nations and the people groups.

Ephesians 2.1-5

¹ And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which **you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air,** of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them **we too all <u>formerly</u> lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,** and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ <u>But God</u>, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).**

- Again...we are no longer part of the world and the world's systems.
- We are now part of God's kingdom. His kingdom has come in us. Christ the King lives in us! We are no longer slaves chained in bondage. We have been set free. We are now seated FAR ABOVE powers and principalities.
 - Ephesians 1.20-21, Ephesians 2.6 ...He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion... and God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.
 - We have a different perspective of the earth. We can SEE the nations and the cities through the eyes of our Father. We can hear His heart for the nations and the people of the earth.
 - We know through scripture that God's glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2.14)

Isaiah 60.1-3

¹ "Arise, shine; for your light has come,

And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² "For behold, darkness will cover the earth

And deep darkness the peoples;

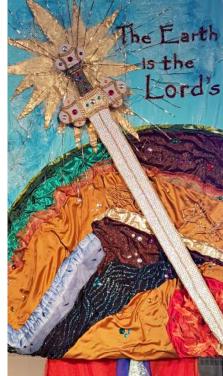
But the LORD will rise upon you

And His glory will appear upon you.

³ "Nations will come to your light,

And kings to the brightness of your rising."

• This continues to be a NOW word to us. To KNOW that the glory of the Lord is in us (Christ in us the hope of glory – Col 1.27).



- The LIGHT of His glory, the FIRE of His glory, the INTENSITY of His glory is here NOW in us, His body! God is building His body to once again steward the earth of which the cities and nations are a part of!
- God's purpose and plan is for us to bring His influence into our cities and the nations.
- Even though darkness is growing deeper we are not part of that darkness. We are carriers of God's light and life. We carry the hope that the cities and nations are looking for. This is reality!! Reality is found in Christ (Col. 2.13). We are part of Christ and the nations and cities belong to Christ.

Isaiah 61.4

They will **rebuild** the ancient ruins and **restore** the places long devastated; they will **renew** the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations

- Cities lie in ruin from the devastation of the powers and principalities of the air – the influence of evil that controls the world's systems.
- But God says that He has a company of builders who will bring His blessing, His purposes, His influence, His life and His light into the city and rebuild.
- We are God's builders. He calls us builders.

"BUILDERS"

- **B** Binding together as one.
- **U** Unusual ways to accomplish the task at hand.
- I Increased knowledge of the pattern and blueprint of God.
- L Life, Life! Decree, declare everywhere!
- **D** Dedicate, devote, being diligent to carry out the plan.
- **E** Encourage, embrace and endure to the end.
- **R** Reconcile, restore, renew, bring hope and healing.
- **S** Season of release: The Father's decree. The Son's dominion. The Spirit's demonstration. Christina Wilson

Isaiah 62.10

Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.

1 Corinthians 3.10

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as **a wise builder**, and someone else is building on it. But each one should **build with care**.

- After God builds us he will then use us to build.
- We must be wise builders building accurately as Holy Spirit leads. We build as bondservants having laid down our prejudices and agendas.
- We must build with care being pure of heart and having clean hands.
- We build with a renewed mind. A mind set on things above and not on the flesh.



1 Peter 2.9-10

⁹ But **you are a chosen people**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **God's special possession**, that you may **declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but **now you are the people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

• We are the people of God. And our God is a builder. He is saying to us that He is going to build through us.

To Detroit and to our nation, the United States of America, we DECLARE and DECREE the praises of God! We resound with the sound of LIFE that is coming from heaven. We speak to the peoples and declare, "Do not fear! God sees you and hears the cry of your heart. Hope is here! God's kingdom is here! The King of Glory is here! Open wide you ancient doors! Lift up your heads, O you gates – be restored city of Detroit! For God is rebuilding your foundations and restoring your devastation!"

