

# Flames of Faith Ascending Prayers



January 1, 2015

Happy New Year to my Brothers and Sisters. I pray that each of us will continue to reach toward the upward call of Christ Jesus during this year. I pray also that we will experience the joy of walking in the Light as He is in the Light. We are told in the pages of I Timothy to hold up holy hands without wrath and doubting (I Timothy 2:8).

I think we can all agree that God was the object of David's worship. Look through the eyes of the Lord at the beautiful heart of this Psalm. Read it out loud and let it be the sound of your heart also:

**O God, thou art my God; earnestly will I seek Thee; my soul seeks for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see Thy power and glory, so as I have seen in the sanctuary.**

**Because Thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee.**

**Thus will I bless Thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in Thy Name.**

**My soul shall be satisfied with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips: When I remember Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the night watches.**

**Because Thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul follows hard after Thee: Thy right hand upholds me (Psalm 63:1-8).**

As always there is a story to tell. Job 36 tells us that with God nothing is trivial. Even the smallest jot or tittle is important in God's Word. Originally a tittle was the tiny dot over a character such as an "i." The story the Lord wants to talk about is found in II Kings 22 and 23. It is the story of Josiah who was king in Jerusalem.

**He began to reign when he was eight years old and he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand nor to the left (II Kings 22:1-2).**

Now, time passed and Josiah had become a young man of eighteen. It was on his heart to send a messenger to the House of the Lord to count the silver that had been gathered by the keepers of the door from offerings made by the people. It was also ordered that the sum of it was to be handed over to the workers who would use it for repairs to the House of the Lord.

But when Hilkiah the high priest went to count the silver, he found something more precious and he ran to tell Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the House of the Lord!"

So, Shaphan read the Book and went to the king. He reported that they had completed the task the king had ordered them to do but that they also found the Book of the Law and so Shaphan read the book to King Josiah.

**And it came to pass that when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law that he rent his clothes (II Kings 22:11).**

Then, King Josiah commanded Hilkiah, Shaphan, and Asahiah his servant to go and inquire of the Lord for him and for the people, and for all of Judah concerning the words of the book that is found: **"For," he said, "great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that is written concerning us." (II Kings 22:13).**

The word of the Lord came forth... **" Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the Book which the King of Judah hath read; because they have forsaken Me, and have burned incense unto other gods that they may provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands: therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched." (II Kings 22:16-17).**

I noticed that the Lord God was provoked to anger by **"all the works of their hands."** This was where I paused to consider the hands that we raise to the Lord. The Apostle Paul calls them holy hands. I could see the hands of our Lord nailed to the cross because of my sins and yours and for all the world. Then I wondered, and pondered, and considered what David said in Psalm 63. **"My soul follows hard after Thee: Thy right hand upholds me."**



Going back to the story of King Josiah we find that he gathers the elders, the priests, the prophets and all the people both small and great: and they went up to the House of the Lord and he read to them out of the book of the covenant that was found in the House of the Lord.

That day, King Josiah and all the people renewed their pledge to the covenant between them and the Lord.

**And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Ba-al, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them without (outside of) Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them to Bethel.**

**And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense to Ba-al, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven (II Kings 23:4-5).**

What Josiah did has been recorded in the Word of God forever. What do you think? Shall I stop the story here? Okay, there is more so I will go on a little further.

He brought out the grove from the House of the Lord and burned it. He broke down the houses of the Sodomites that were by the House of the Lord and where the women wove hangings for the grove. He brought all the priests out from the cities of Judah and defiled the high places with the bones of men from Geba to Beersheba.

**He defiled Topheth in the valley of Hinnon so that no man might make his son or daughter pass through the fire to Molech. He took away the horses that were given to the sun and burned the chariots of the sun with fire (II King 23:10).**

The alters on top of the upper chamber of Ahaz and the alters that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the House of the Lord were beaten down and broken into dust.

Oh, and then there was the high places of Jerusalem. These were built on the right hand of the Mount of Corruption. Ever hear of that? This is what Solomon built for his wives.

**And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king (Josiah) defile.**

**And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled the places with the bones of men (II Kings 23:13-14).**

Then as he turned and looked, he noticed the sepulchers that were there on that mount and he took all the bones out of the sepulchers and burned them on the alter and polluted it. Now as it turned out that is exactly what the prophet known as the Man of God had prophesied. You can read about that in I Kings 13:2. When Josiah discovered the sepulcher of that Man of God in that place he ordered that his bones be not disturbed.

He tore down the houses and slew all the priests of the high places and burned the men's bones on the alters there and defiled them: **Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the Book that Hilkiah the priest found in the House of the Lord.**

**And like unto him there was no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him (II Kings 23:24-25).**



So, how did I end up studying about Josiah? It came by a word from the Lord.

It happened like this: I was praying to the Lord and my heart was so burdened for the atrocities that are taking place around the world. I was crying to the Lord to help our brothers and sisters and the little ones that are being abused and slaughtered. Afterward, I resumed my studying and while I was trying to sort out all the scriptures that I was being shown, someone came to me and said, “The Lord wants you to read Acts chapter 7. He has a message for you.”

I couldn't wait to read it. As it turns out, the seventh chapter of Acts is pretty long but I was diligently reading and looking for the message. This chapter is the account of the disciple Stephen who was **“a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost...” (Acts 6:5).**

**And the word of God increased; and the numbers of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great number of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people (Acts 6:7-8).**

Well, of course those of the synagogue rose up against him but they could not resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke. So, they employed certain men to accuse Stephen of blasphemous words against Moses until the people were stirred up and Stephen was brought before the council.

And when they questioned him, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit began to speak. The words he spoke are recorded starting in verse one of Acts 7. He gives the history of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He reminds them of the tribes of Israel and of Joseph being sold into slavery. But, the message that the Lord had for me to discover was in the words of Stephen as the Holy Spirit moved on him and were contained in **the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses.**

**“I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them...” (Acts 7:34).**

Now, while I was praising the Lord for His gracious response to the tears of my prayers that day, my eyes fell upon another verse in the same chapter. It makes me smile because only the Lord could have made it happen this way. Here is what I saw...

**And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.**

**Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel have you offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?**

**Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Molech, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which you made to worship them (Acts 7:41-43).**

It is at this point that I began to search a little deeper. To be honest it bothered me that in Acts 7:42 it said that **“God turned and gave them up to the worship of the host of heaven.”**

And there it was again in verse 41 that God’s people **“rejoiced in the works of their own hands.”**

I was hearing the little bell going off in my head. Where had I seen that before? It was recently. Oh yeah, it is in the Book of Revelation. I found the scripture that came to mind at the end portion of Chapter 9 in verse 20. The 6th Trumpet has sounded and the disastrous effects have been released. And, after all that has taken place verse 20 says:

**And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold and silver, and brass and stone, and of wood: which neither can see nor hear nor walk (Revelation 9:20).**



Now, I have to say that these words were meant for the time we currently live in. This is the time of the return of our Lord and the fulfillment of the prophecies of Revelation and of course Matthew 24 and all other prophecies related to this time. They are coming to pass as I write this. So with this in mind, what **works of their hands** is the Lord speaking of? What devils are being worshipped? What idols of gold and silver, and brass and stone, and of wood? The Lord knows that most of you do not have little Elvis statues that you are bowing to so what does He mean?

I can say from experience and by observation that many if not most have in the past and many even now, are spending a great deal of their time, planning improvements to their belongings or trying to make the substance of their lives on this earth bigger, better, or more. Some equate earthly prosperity to mean they are blessed when in reality seeking after earthly prosperity is an abomination to the Lord. If this is you, then you have been deceived by the devil himself. I speak the truth. I will go forward and show you even though you might not like it. Can you bear with me a little longer? Can you say, **My heart follows hard after Thee?** It is for our common good that I speak as I am bidden by the Lord to write.

The Lord God Himself stood before the people and spoke these words:

**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth !!**

**Where moth, and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.**

**But, lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal:**

**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:19-21).**

The word of the Lord is Spirit and Life. These words are not discerned by the flesh, they are discerned by the spirit. In other words you must spiritually discern this. He tells us not to lay up treasures for ourselves. Not on the earthy, not in the earthly realm. If you lay up treasures in this realm in other words, if you are seeking the treasures of this earthly realm, you will suffer the effects of the moth, the rust, and the corruption. It is the place where the thieves break in. It is the place where the thieves break through into your spiritual prosperity and steal.

Jesus, the True and Living God say to us, that we are to **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal:**

You see, there is protection over our spiritual lives when we are not seeking for the earthly prosperity. This is why Jesus went on to say, **“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** This also was the heart of David when he said, **My soul follows hard after Thee: Thy right hand upholds me.**

The Lord did not stop there. No, He continued to explain to us.

**The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body will be full of light.**

**But, if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! (Matthew 6:22-23).**

So what does the eye do? It sees! So the question here is do you see the light? Do you see the truth of what Jesus is speaking? Because, if you (we) are not seeing the light of this, He is telling you (us) that you (we) are in the dark and how great is that darkness! **He says:**

**No man can serve two masters: either he will hate the one, and love the other; else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Matthew 6:24).** This is the Word of God Himself. **You cannot. You cannot.**

In Acts Chapter 7, when the Holy Spirit said that the people rejoiced in the works of their hands and that God turned and gave them over to the worship of the heavenly host, it really bothered me. But the Lord gave me understanding regarding this.

The Lord reminded me that **once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared (I Peter 3:20).**

He reminded me also that as we like to say, **“As the days of Noah!”** He points out as we focus on those that are not paying attention as it was in the days of Noah (**Matthew 24:39-42**), that we need to also realize that God was longsuffering in those days not wanting any to perish. So He sent me to **II Chronicles 36.**



I was surprised at what I found there because it was a continuation of the story of Josiah from II Kings 22 and 23.

Because of the fervency of Josiah when he learned what was in the Book that was found in the House of the Lord and because...well, let me type it here for you so you can read it for yourself. We are going back to II Kings 22 just for a minute. Do you remember that Josiah sent his servants to inquire of the Lord? I told you part of it but here is the rest.

**Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, tell the man that sent you to me, Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will send evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read:**

**Because they have forsaken Me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they have provoked me to anger with all the works of their hands;**

**Therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.**

**But to the king of Judah which sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, As touching the words which thou has heard:**

**Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord,**

**when thou heard what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they shall become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord.**

**Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered unto thy grave in peace; and thy eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they (Josiah's men) brought him word again (II Kings 22:15-20).**

So, by this we see that the Word of the Lord is still going to be fulfilled against the inhabitants of that place. But, Josiah will be protected from seeing it happen because his heart was tender and humble before the Lord. Now we go to **II Chronicles 35 and 36** to see what happened and just how longsuffering the Lord our God was toward the people, not wanting any to perish.

**And the children of Israel that were present kept the Passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.**

**And there was no Passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a Passover as Josiah kept, and the priests and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.**

**In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this Passover kept.**

**After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Charchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.**

**But he (Necho) sent ambassadors to him saying, What have I to do with thee king of Judah? I come not against thee this day but against the house wherewith I have war; for God commanded me to make haste: Forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.**

**Nevertheless, Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, and hearkened not to the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.**

**And the archers shot at King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away for I am sore wounded.**

**His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had: and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchers of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.**

**And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and behold, they are written in the Lamentations.**

**Now, the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to that which was written in the Law of the Lord, and his deeds, first and last, behold, they are written in the Book of the kings of Israel and Judah (II Chronicles 35:17-27).**

So, Josiah was gathered to his fathers as the Word of the Lord was spoken to him. All the people mourned and it was especially important to know that the prophet Jeremiah lamented over Josiah with a great lamentation that has been recorded in God's Word.

Josiah's son was eventually named king and he did evil in the sight of the Lord and through a series of events the kingship passed from one to another until the time that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded and carried away the king and the vessels of the House of the Lord. Finally, Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah to be king of Judah and Jerusalem.

But there was a major problem with Zedekiah and this is where we pick up our story once again.

**Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.**

**And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God, and he humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the Lord.**

**And he also rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he (Zedekiah) stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the Lord God of Israel.**

**Moreover, all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.**

**And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by His messengers, rising up betimes (early) and sending: Because He had compassion on His people, and on His dwelling place:**

**But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words, and misused the prophets until the wrath of God arose against the people, *till there was no remedy:* (2 Chronicles 36:11-16).**

Please read the rest of II Chronicles 36 because it has more to reveal than space allows here.



The king would not humble himself before the prophet Jeremiah who carried and spoke the word of the Lord. The Lord sent the prophets many times, having them rise early to go and give warning. But they would not listen. It was bad enough that the king refused Jeremiah but he made it worse by adding rebellion. There was the stiffening of the neck and the hardening of the heart.

**Moreover, all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen: and polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:14).**

This is following the way of the world. This is the polluting of the House of the Lord. The message that it is God's will that we seek Him for the wealth and prosperity of this world is the polluting of the truth of the church of our Lord Jesus. It is the following of the abominations of the ways of the world and the systemic attack of the lie of Satan which has infiltrated the churches. The wealth of this world will deceive you. Jesus made it clear when He said, **"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).**

But the Lord IS longsuffering. Yes He is...to a point.

**And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by His messengers, rising up betimes (early) and sending: Because He had compassion on His people, and on His dwelling place: (2 Chronicles 36:15).**

He sent warnings early and many times because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. I guess the question here is...are we so confident that we can go against the Lord and expect that He will overlook it. I remember there is a place where the Lord says to the ones calling to Him **Lord, Lord, open to us! He answers, Verily, (of a truth) I know you not. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh (Matthew 25:11-13).** Sorry, but, the fact that you do not know the day or hour is not your excuse to continue walking in the abominations of the ways of the world.

**But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words, and misused the prophets until the wrath of God arose against the people, *till there was no remedy:***

The Lord was longsuffering **until there was NO REMEDY** ( 2 Chronicles 36:16).

**Matthew 24:37-39** says,

**But as the days of Noah were, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.**

**For as in the days that WERE BEFORE the flood, they (the ones He was trying to save), were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, (UNTIL THERE WAS NO REMEDY), until the day when Noah entered into the ark, and (BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO LISTEN,) they knew not (BELIEVED NOT) until the flood came, and took them all away: so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.**

All capitals and parenthesis' added for emphasis of the truth. And, it is the truth.

The Book of Zephaniah is almost entirely prophetic. It begins by pointing out that the Word of the Lord came to him during the time of Josiah. It is worth reading with your highlighter in your hand.

**The great day of the Lord is near, it is near and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty men shall cry there bitterly.**

**That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness (devastation) and desolation, a day of clouds and thick darkness.**

**A day of the Trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.**

**And I will bring distress upon men, that they walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as dung.**

**Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy: for He shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land (Zephaniah 1:14-18).**

**Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment (justice); seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger (Zephaniah 2:3).**

He tells us once again in His own words: **But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33).**

Please listen all of you that read this. I write this because the Lord has told me to. It is not for any recognition or self-adulation that I am writing. I write as I was told. Please listen to what our loving Lord, King, and God of all creation is saying by His Holy Spirit in a time such as this.

## **Jeremiah 25**

**The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: and Jeremiah spoke to all the people:**

**From the thirteen year of **Josiah**, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the lord has come unto me, and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but ye have not hearkened.**

**And the Lord sent unto you all His servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.**

**They said, Turn ye again now, every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord has given unto you and to your fathers forever and ever;**

**And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and **provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands**, and I will do you no hurt.**

**Yet, you have not hearkened unto me, saith the Lord; **that you might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt** (Jeremiah 25:1-9).**

There is so much more to say. So much more is in the Word of the Lord. **And Jesus said unto them, “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesses (Luke 12:15).**

To covet does not simply mean to desire something that belongs to another. That is true, we are not to desire what belongs to another but coveting is far more than that.

To covet is to see something with the eyes that is desirable and to crave that thing whatever it might be. It is offered in our sales papers, our television commercials, and is often something we see that someone else has and we want to have one too. The desire for that thing is oftentimes the motivation of the works of our hands. It is the lust of the eyes. It is that thing which brought also the fall of mankind.

**And when the woman SAW that the tree WAS good for food, and that it WAS PLEASANT to the EYES, and a tree TO BE DESIRED to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband WITH HER; and he DID eat. (Genesis 3:6).**

**Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven (Acts 7:42).**

What did God do? He gave them up to worship the host of heaven. What host of heaven? Good question. If I were you and if you haven't done this already...I would be throwing out all those idols. I would get a trash can for all those so called "Christian" Big Name Self-help books and books published by "Christian" motivational speakers and start reading the Word of God.

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

**For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:16-18).**



**Beloved, when I give all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints - Jude**

*~ Jewells ~*

## SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

I Timothy 2:8

Psalm 63

II Kings Chapters 22 & 23

I Kings Chapter 13

Acts Chapters 6 & 7

Revelation 9 - 6th Trumpet

Matthew 6:19-24

I Peter 3:20

Matthew Chapters 24 & 25

II Chronicles Chapters 35 & 36

Zephaniah Chapters 1, 2, & 3

Jeremiah Chapter 25

Luke 12:15

Genesis 3:6

Romans 1:16-18

Jude

See also the Lamentations of Jeremiah\*