

"12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind. 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"-- 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." 2Pe 1:12-21.

We have established the theme and purpose of this letter which in summary is grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ because there are also false prophets.

Last week we looked at how we can know that we are one of the elect and we concluded that there are evidences of our sanctification in what we display as virtues or the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are to pursue Christ and as we do we will demonstrate in our conduct that which is Christ like.

We are new creatures in Christ and part of the everlasting New Covenant and it is a Spirit Covenant that gives life because where the Spirit is there is life and liberty not only in living but also from sin and death. There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. All of these things prove to us that we are incurable lovers of Christ and move us to know Christ more and as we do we will be displaying more of the divine nature which in turn displays more of the glory and excellence of Christ.

Our escape from the corruptions in the world through lust is our knowledge and growing knowledge of Christ as we are partakers in the divine nature and live godly lives.

We seize hold of the promises of eternal life by God's grace and then we continue to seize hold of the promises of Christ as we partake in the divine nature that our salvation produces.

The false prophets have no hope to offer and no promises that are found in Christ.

The world holds out all kinds of false promises that only lead to corruption through lust, which is ungodliness. All kinds of false hopes are given in the promises of the world. It is tragic when that which says it is the church would rather cling to these promises than those of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Because we have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust we are to pursue the qualities in verses 5-7 that show us to be Christ's sanctified people. It is not enough to say 'I am a Christian'. There must be evidence of it by the way we live, by the way we reason and by the way we interact with the world around us.

So, if we are truly God's elect we have desire and motivations to pursue these qualities. At times can these be diminished? Yes. And the question is why? The answer is because we are not growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Verse 8 reminded us that if we do not progress in these qualities we are useless and unfruitful in the true knowledge of Christ. That is quite a warning and should get our attention. We are called to be fruitful and useful for the glory of God.

Remember the Sermon on the Mount. The radical call to discipleship, this is what my people will look like in action. This is the result of election and sanctification - a people that the world cannot understand.

The guarantee of the entrance into the eternal kingdom is making our calling and our election sure by practicing the qualities that prove we are Christ's. Everything we need to be assured our place in the eternal kingdom will be abundantly supplied to us. Everything we need to live godly in this present world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His divine power will be granted unto us.

Therefore Peter writes:

"12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any

There are fundamental truths and promises and then the experience that follows that we need to be constantly reminded of but we also need to grow by pursuing more of the knowledge of Christ and demonstrating more Christ likeness. The priority for the believer is Jesus Christ. Christ is the priority of redemptive history and His revelation in Scriptures is the Scriptures priority, but false prophets will attempt to distract you from the priority of Jesus Christ. Christ may be in the admixture but not as the primary ingredient.

Peter, as a Shepherd and Elder, desires that the knowledge of Christ will be second nature to those under his care at this time so that even once he has left this earth they will remember what they were taught. Until his end he will teach them about Christ. What a challenge to pastors today, many of whom who are teaching everything but Christ.

It is a biblical understanding that we need. Not philosophical ruminations or opinions or neatly packaged systems of theology first. We need a biblical theology and a biblical Christology. These hearers knew exactly what Peter was writing about.

They were established in the faith. And yet they and we need these reminders that we are to look to Christ and His promises above all things because these are granted to us to live godly in any age, otherwise we fall into spiritual lethargy as we mentioned last week.

And once again Peter tells us why we need to do this.

"16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty." 2Pe 1:16.

Everything that Peter and the other Apostles and those with him only spoke the truth of Scripture and the teachings of Christ. They, unlike others were not making up myths and stories about Christ or what it means to be redeemed.

Every age has its promoters of finding a way to God in the midst of those who do not

Here is an example of a horrible heresy from Benny Hinn and other word faith teachers, Jesus Took On Satan's Nature.

One of the popular word-faith teachings is that Jesus took on the nature of Satan and had to be born again. This doctrine is intrinsically linked to the "Jesus died spiritually" heresy which postulates that Jesus' shed blood was insufficient for the redemption of man; He had to suffer at Satan's hands in Hell and be born again as the first man to conquer death. Hinn also teaches this heresy:

"He [Jesus] who is righteous by choice said, 'The only way I can stop sin is by Me becoming it. I can't just stop it by letting it touch Me; I and it must become one.' Hear this! He who is the nature of God became the nature of Satan where He became sin!" (TBN, 12/1/90).

In this one statement, Hinn manages to convey three distinct errors concerning Jesus, to which we must answer the following:

- 1) Jesus is not righteous by choice, but by nature;
- 2) Jesus never said these words, either in Scripture or to Benny Hinn personally, because they are unbiblical; and
- 3) Jesus' nature is constant; even God cannot change His nature from God to something else.

When He became a man, the Word of God commingled his divine nature with the flesh of man, not angels; but that is the limit of His approaching anything like assuming Satan's nature. This idea is a first-rate heresy which, drawn to its conclusion in the supposed spiritual death of Jesus, denies the blood of Christ and damns those who teach and believe it unless they repent. It is a different gospel from that given through Scripture.

In spite of Hinn's professional rejection of the word-faith message, he hasn't given up on it entirely. The word-faith message encompasses far more than the "name it and

claim it" foolishness. It is intrinsically linked to the God-man-believer and Jesus-died-spiritually heresies, which Hinn continues to espouse. It exalts man and denigrates Christ, as most false teachings do.

The problem with these and other teachings of Hinn is that he exhibits the mindset of someone who "learned as he earned," strewing spiritual wreckage in his path. Whatever comes to mind must be God's voice; after all, Hinn believes himself a prophet of God. And woe to those who dare challenge him.

Other examples sound like this:

Once upon a time, long long ago, on a faraway planet,¹ there lived a good God. This God was very much like you and me—a Being who stands about 6'2" to 6'3", weighs a couple of hundred pounds, and has a handspan of about 9 inches.²

God's wisdom and power were so great that He could visualize beautiful images and then turn the images into reality³ by utilizing a special power called the force of faith.⁴

One day this God had a cosmic brainstorm. He decided to use the force of His faith to create something superb and special.⁵ He decided to bring a whole new world into existence.⁶ This was not going to be just any old world; it was going to be the most fantastic world imaginable. In fact, this world would become so wonderful that it would feature an exact duplicate of the Mother Planet where God lived.⁷

After carefully visualizing every detail of this wonderful world, God went into action. Releasing the force of His faith like a whirlwind, God spoke into existence the planet He saw in His mind's eye.⁸ And was God excited! Looking down with fondness on this classic new creation, He named it planet Earth.

But this was only the beginning. Suddenly a host of brilliant new ideas began to flood God's creative consciousness. He began to visualize vast oceans and springs abounding with water. He saw magnificent mountains and fertile fields. His mind produced flashes of thunder and lightning. Plants, flowers, and trees blazed in rapid succession through His thoughts. God began to visualize life replete with beautiful birds and creatures of

Yet there was much more to come, for after five days of vivid visualizations, God's mind moved into yet another dimension. On day six, in His mind's eye, God saw the crowning jewel of His creation. As the details coalesced in His mind, God suddenly found Himself focused on an exact duplicate of Himself.⁹

So God spoke, and suddenly out of the pristine soil of planet Earth there arose another god--a god spelled with a small "g," but a god nonetheless.¹⁰ As the image of this little god¹¹ took form, God saw that He had outdone Himself. For there, before His eyes, stood another god--with a body just like His own, including size and shape.¹²

God finally had done it! He had thought the unthinkable, and by His Word of faith God had created a creature that was not even subordinate to Himself.¹³

And then it happened! One day the image of this Savior coalesced in God's mind. Without hesitation, God began speaking into existence the picture of the Redeemer He had painted on the canvas of His consciousness.³⁰ Excitedly, God positively confessed, "The Messiah is coming, the Messiah is coming!"³¹

As God's Spirit hovered over a young woman named Mary, the confession began to take shape before His very eyes.³² The spoken Word became legs, arms, eyes, and hair. And then suddenly there emerged the body of the second Adam.³³

The second Adam was named Jesus. As Abraham's descendant, Jesus was wealthy and prosperous. He lived in a big house,³⁴ handled big money³⁵ and even wore designer clothes.³⁶ In fact, Jesus was so wealthy that He needed a treasurer to keep track of all His money.³⁷

Jesus, who was a whiz at speaking things into existence,³⁸ showed His disciples how to master the art of positive confession.³⁹ Thus they too enjoyed unlimited health and wealth. Some of His followers caught on so well that they became rich beyond comprehension. The apostle Paul, for example, had so much money that government officials would work feverishly to try to get a bribe out of him.⁴⁰

Jesus also overcame every trick and temptation that Satan could throw His way. Even though He never claimed to be God, Jesus succeeded in living a life of sinless perfection.⁴¹ When all was said and done, Jesus passed the test that the first Adam had failed. (all of the sources for these quotes are included in an appendix at the end of the printable sermon manuscript).

These are the kinds of cleverly devised tales that we are subject to today. There always has and always will be this kind of untruth about Christ and man will be taken in by it.

We must, like Peter, preach the truth of who Christ is unto the glory of God.

Whether people believe us or not we must, like Peter, say that Jesus is the only one of whom the Father said, "17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"--" 2Pe 1:17.

The message of the apostles is the continuance of the message of Christ. As believers we cannot deny the truth of the apostles as it is recorded in Scripture.

Peter was a witness to the transfiguration and we must believe in the authenticity of his account and the words preserved for us by them. "18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain." 2 pet 1:18.

"19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts." 2 pet 1:19.

Wherever the true church is assembled there is a lamp in a dark place because Christ is the way the truth and the life and the light of men. The world lives in darkness, the hearts of men are in darkness, spiritually. And in that darkness there are men and women that preach a false Christ and a false gospel that only feeds the darkened minds of men.

The prophetic word came directly from God to Peter, Andrew and John on the Mount of Transfiguration and directly from Jesus, before and after that event. It surpassed that of the prophets, whose words were also the sure word of God. The prophets spoke

the word - Jesus was and is the Word and in light of this,

"20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." 2Pe 1:20-21.

This part of Peter's letter can very easily be misunderstood. We must be careful to understand what Peter is saying.

Prophecy of Scripture is distinct from the false prophecies he will write about in 2:1

The first point here may not be the specific interpretation of Scripture but the origin of the prophecy. Is it Scriptural or man-made? It is dealing with the historic settings of truth through the ages in a proper context. Prophecy always had a historical context whether it was immediately fulfilled or a future event. No prophet can use his own interpretation of events past, present or future to give meaning to Scripture. How often is this done when the Pope or President Reagan or a Spanish President gets recognized as the anti-christ.

Secondly, pertaining to specific Scripture, Peter does say that false prophets will look to Scripture, not necessarily that they believed it, (then it was the OT) but to rely on its recognized authority, and twist the Scriptures for their own purposes and to their destruction in 3:16. It is incredible as to how true this is today. Just listen to the word Faith teachers particularly. They continually refer to OT Scripture for their teaching and make them say the most ridiculous things and find types of Jesus in just about everything and over spiritualize and make applications that cannot be made outside of the Old Covenant.

Proper understanding will come from knowing the biblical context historically and comparing Scripture to Scripture.

Some believe that one or the other of these views in understanding verse 20-21 is correct. I see validity for both points of view. The first in a general sense and the second fits Peter's specific concerns as they are stated in this letter concerning false prophets. It may not be either/or but rather and/or both.

Let me give a specifically wrong understanding. There are those who say this passage

means that only when the church is Spirit filled or guided by the Spirit who guided the writers can you properly interpret Scripture. Well, what do they mean by Spirit filled. Usually only if you speak in tongues and are engaged in healing ministries.

A false Christ is a false Gospel. A false Gospel saves no one. One must hear the Gospel preached accurately.

"21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." 2Pe 1:21.

One recent book by (LaSor, Hubbard, and Bush, Old Testament Survey, p. 15) puts it like this,

"To assure verbal precision God, in communicating his revelation, must be verbally precise, and inspiration must extend to the very words. This does not mean that God dictated every word. Rather his Spirit so pervaded the mind of the human writer that he chose out of his own vocabulary and experience, precisely those words, thoughts and expressions that conveyed God's message with precision. In this sense the words of the human authors of Scripture can be viewed as the word of God."

It is essential that we remain true to what Scripture teaches by comparing Scripture to Scripture. If we are reminded of the essentials of the faith and continue to look to Christ above all other things and grow in the knowledge and grace Christ we can be spared from falling into grave error and being subject to the deceits and lies of false prophets.

Appendix of quotes: as found in Christianity in Crisis by Hank Hanegraff.

1. Kenneth Copeland: "Heaven has a north and a south and an east and a west. Consequently, it must be a planet." ("Spirit, Soul and Body I" [Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries. 1985] audiotape #01-0601, side 1.)
2. Kenneth Copeland: See chapter 10, page 121.
3. Charles Capps: "God filled His words with faith to cause the things He said to come into manifestation. There was an image inside Him. He expressed it in words." (The Substance of Things [Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1990], 19.)
4. Kenneth Copeland: "Faith is a power force. It is a tangible force. It is a conductive force." (The Force of Faith [Fort Worth, TX: KCP Publications, 1989], 10.)
5. Charles Capps: "Faith is the substance, the raw material...Faith is the substance that God used to create the universe, and He transported that Faith with His words...Faith is the substance of things, but you can't see faith. Faith is a spiritual force." (Changing the Seen & Shaping the Unseen [Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1980], 14-15.)

6. Jerry Savelle: See chapter 5, page 68.

7. Kenneth Copeland: "You don't think earth was first, do you? Huh? Well, you don't think that God made man in His image, and then made earth in some other image? There is not anything under this whole sun that's new. Are you hearing what I'm saying? This is all a copy. It's a copy of home. It's a copy of the Mother Planet. Where God lives, He made a little one just like His and put us on it." ("Following the Faith of Abraham I" [Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1989], audiotape #01-3001, side 1.)

8. Charles Capps: "He framed the world with His words. You can't build without substance. He took words--faith-filled words were God's substance. Here, essentially, is what God did. God filled His words with faith. He used His words as containers to hold His faith and contain that spiritual force and transport it out there into the vast darkness by saying 'Light be!' That's the way God transported His faith causing creation and transformation." (Dynamics of Faith & Confession [Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1987], 28-29, emphasis in original.)

9. Charles Capps: "God said, Let us make man in our image after our likeness. The word likeness in the original Hebrew means "an exact duplication in kind." . . . Adam was an exact duplication of God's kind!" (Authority in Three Worlds [Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1982], 15-16, emphasis in original.)

10. Paul Crouch, speaking to Kenneth Copeland, said: "Somebody said--I don't know who said it--but they claim that you Faith teachers declare that we are gods. You're a god. I'm a god. Small 'g' now, but we are the gods of this world. . . . Well, are you a god--small 'g'?" To this, Jan Crouch, referring to Copeland, enthusiastically exclaimed: "He's gonna say, 'Yes.' I love it." ("Praise the Lord" program on TBN [5 February 1986].)

11. Paul Crouch: "He [God] doesn't even draw a distinction between Himself and us. . . . You know what else that's settled, then, tonight? This hue and cry and controversy that has been spawned by the Devil to try and bring dissension within the body of Christ that we are gods. I am a little god! . . . I have His name. I'm one with Him. I'm in covenant relation. I am a little god! Critics, be gone!" ("Praise the Lord" program on TBN [7 July 1986].)

12. Kenneth Copeland: "God spoke Adam into existence in authority with words (Gen. 1:26,28). These words struck Adam's body in the face. His body and God were exactly the same size." (Holy Bible, Kenneth Copeland Reference Edition [Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1991], 45, emphasis in original.)

13. Kenneth Copeland: "God's reason for creating Adam was His desire to reproduce Himself. I mean a reproduction of Himself, and in the Garden of Eden He did just that. He was not a little like God. He was not almost like God. He was not subordinate to God even. . . . Adam is as much like God as you could get, just the same as Jesus. . . . Adam, in the Garden of Eden, was God manifested in the flesh." ("Following the Faith of Abraham I," side 1.)

14. Kenneth E. Hagin: "Originally, God made the earth and the fullness thereof, giving Adam dominion over all the works of His hands. In other words, Adam was the god of this world." (The Believer's Authority, 2d ed. [Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, 1991], 19.)

15. Frederick K.C. Price: "God can't do anything in this earth realm except what we, the body of Christ, allow Him to do. Now that statement is so--that's so--that's so foreign and so contrary to tradition that, like I said, if they could get their hands on me right now most evangelicals would burn me at the stake and dismember me and feed me to the crocodiles, because they'll consider that statement to be just heresy." ("Ever Increasing Faith" program on TBN [1 May 1992], audiotape #PR11.) Cf. chapter 6, 85.

16. Benny Hinn: "Adam was a super-being when God created him. I don't know whether people know this, but he was the first superman that really ever lived. First of all, the Scriptures declare clearly that he had dominion over the fowls of the air, the fish of the sea--which means he used to fly. Of course, how can he have dominion over the birds and not be able to do what they do? The word 'dominion' in the Hebrew clearly declares that if you have dominion over a subject, that you do everything that subject does. In other words, that subject, if it does something you cannot do, you don't have dominion over it. I'll prove it further. Adam not only flew, he flew to space. He was--with one thought he would be on the moon." ("Praise the Lord" program on TBN [26 December 1991].)

17. Kenneth Copeland: "Adam was made in the image of God. He was as much female as he was male. He was exactly like God. Then God separated him and removed the female part. Woman means 'man with the womb.' Eve had as much authority as Adam did as long as they stayed together." (Sensitivity of Heart [Fort Worth, TX: KCP Publications, 1984], 23.)

18. Kenneth Copeland: "He [Lucifer or Satan] tried to use the power of words against God. . . .At that point, their words clashed and God's Word--the Word of a free Spirit, a Spirit with authority--reigned in victory over the word of an angelic power." (The Power of the Tongue [Fort Worth, TX: KCP Publications, 1980], 6-7.)

19. Kenneth E. Hagin: "Adam committed high treason and sold out to Satan, and Satan, through Adam, became the god of this world. Adam didn't have the moral right to commit treason, but he had the legal right to do so." (The Believer's Authority, 19.)

20. Kenneth E. Hagin: "God came down in the cool of the day in the Garden of Eden to commune and fellowship with him [Adam]. as he had in the past. And he couldn't find him. He called out to him, 'Adam, where art thou?' And he said, 'I hid myself.' Why? Because of sin. Because, first, sin separates you from God. Secondly, by sinning, by listening to the Devil, he took upon himself the nature of the Devil into his spirit being." ("How Jesus Obtained His Name" [Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, n.d.], audiotope #44H01, side 2.)

21. E.W. Kenyon: "Man [i.e., Adam] was actually Born Again when he sinned. That is, he was born of the Devil. He became a partaker of Satanic Nature." (The Father and His Family, 17th ed. [Lynnwood, WA: Kenyon's Gospel Publishing Society, 1964], 48.)

22. Benny Hinn: "He [the Holy Spirit] says. 'God's original plan is that the woman was to bring forth children out of her side.' . . .Adam gave birth to his wife out of his side. It was sin that turned the thing around. . . . And it was sin that transformed her flesh and her body. When God took the woman out of man, He closed up his rib. But she was created identically as him. In other words, she was created with an opening in her side, and children were supposed to be born. And I get that from the very fact that you'll never see birth spiritually, except from the side." ("Our Position In Christ #5--An Heir of God" [Orlando, FL: Orlando Christian Center, 1990], audiotope #A031190-5, side 2.)

23. E.W. Kenyon: "Adam evidently had a legal right to transfer this dominion and authority into the hands of the enemy. God has been obliged through the long period of human history to recognize Satan's legal standing, and legal right and authority, and on this ground, and this only, can we understand the legal side of the Plan of Redemption. . . . Adam had legally transferred to him [Satan] the Authority with which God had invested him." (The Father and His Family, 38-39.)

24. Kenneth Copeland: "God had no avenue of lasting faith or moving in the earth. He had to have covenant with somebody. . . . He had to be invited in, in other words, or He couldn't come. God is on the outside looking in. In order to have any say so in the earth, He's gonna have to be in agreement with a man here." ("God's Covenants With Man II" [Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1985], audiotope #01-4404, side 1.)

25. Kenneth Copeland: "I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the Bible actually is....The biggest one is God....I mean, He lost His top-ranking, most anointed angel; the first man He ever created; the first woman He ever created; the whole earth and all the Fullness therein; a third of the angels, at least--that's a big loss, man. . . . Now, the reason you don't think of God as a failure is He never said He's a failure. And you're not a failure till you say you're one." ("Praise-a-Thon" program on TBN [April 1988].)

26. Frederick K.C. Price: "Adam, as I said, gave it [the earth] away to the serpent, to the Devil. As a result of it, he got his behind kicked out of the garden. He went out of Eden, out of the garden. He began to wander around, and he has troubles from day one. Now God was out of the business. God was out of the earth realm. God had no more stock in this earth realm. No more. None at all. Nothing He could do. Not a thing in the world He could do. . . .The only way God could get back into this earth realm, He had to have an invitation. Ha-hah! He had to have an invitation. And so, God looked around--saw different men, saw Noah, saw different ones. He gave them a few instructions. They did what He said. So and so and so and so. But, finally, He got to a point where He had His plan

ready for operation. And He saw a man named Abraham." ("Ever Increasing Faith" program on TBN [1 May 1992], audiotape #PR11.)

27. Kenneth Copeland: See chapter 19, 212.

28. E.W. Kenyon: "[A]s soon as they [the parties of the covenant] cut the covenant, they are recognized as blood brothers by others, and they are called the blood brothers....God and Abraham had entered the Covenant....God cut the Covenant with Abraham." (The Blood Covenant [Lynnwood, WA: Kenyon's Gospel Publishing Society, 1969], 14, 16.)

29. Charles Capps: "in this [the Abrahamic Covenant], God is establishing some legal entry into the earth, and He is giving Abraham access to Himself. . . . This Covenant gave God legal entry into the earth through Abraham....Until that time God was, to a certain extent, still on the outside looking in. He needed a legal entry through man so that He could destroy the works of the Devil who was running rampant on earth. . . . Abraham was God's avenue of entry into the earth." (Authority in Three Worlds, 60-61.)

30. Kenneth Copeland: "Once that [Abrahamic] covenant was established, God began to release His Word into the earth. He began to paint a picture of a Redeemer, a man who would be the manifestation of His Word in the earth." (The Power of the Tongue, 9.)

31. Kenneth Copeland: "So before Jesus came to the earth, God spoke His Word and then spoke His Word again. How many times did He say the Messiah was coming? It was prophesied over hundreds, even thousands, of years. He kept saying, 'He is coming. He is coming.' The circumstances in the earth made it look as if there was no way He could accomplish it; but He just kept saying it. He would not be moved by what He saw. . . .God would not relent." (Ibid., 9-10.)

32. Kenneth Copeland: "The angels spoke the words of the covenant to her [Mary]. She pondered them in her heart, and those words became the seed. And the Spirit of God hovered over her and generated that seed, which was the Word that the angel spoke to her. And there was conceived in her, the Bible says, a holy thing. The Word literally became flesh." ("The Abrahamic Covenant" [Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1985], audiotape #01-4405, side 2.)

33. Benny Hinn: "The Bible says the prophets spoke the Word not knowing what they were saying. But 4000 years passed when the Word became a human being and walked and talked and moved. The spoken Word became a human being. The spoken Word became flesh. The spoken Word got legs on, arms, eyes, hair, a body. And He was no longer saying, 'Thus sayeth the Lord.' He was saying, 'I say unto you.' The Word that was spoken through the lip [sic] of prophets was now walking on the seashore of Galilee. ("Benny Hinn" program on TBN [15 December 1990, emphasis in original]. This message, titled "The Person of Jesus" [delivered during Orlando Christian Center's Sunday morning service on 2 December 1991], comprises Part Four of Hinn's six-part series on "The Revelation of Jesus" [Orlando Christian Center, 1991], videotape #TV-292.)

34. John Avanzini: "Jesus had a nice house, a big house--big enough to have company stay the night with Him at the house. Let me show you His house. Go over to John the first chapter and I'll show you His house. . . . Now, child of God, that's a house big enough to have company stay the night in. There's His house." ("Believer's Voice of Victory" program on TBN [20 January 1991].)

35. John Avanzini: "Jesus was handling big money because that treasurer He had was a thief. Now you can't tell me that a ministry with a treasurer that's a thief can operate on a few pennies. It took big money to operate that ministry because Judas was stealing out of that bag." ("Praise the Lord" program on TBN [15 September 1988].)

36. John Avanzini: "John 19 tells us that Jesus wore designer clothes. Well, what else you gonna call it? Designer clothes--that's blasphemy. No, that's what we call them today. I mean, you didn't get the stuff He wore off the rack. It wasn't a one-size-fits-all deal. No, this was custom stuff. It was the kind of a garment that kings and rich merchants wore. Kings and rich merchants wore that garment." "Believer's Voice of Victory" program on TBN [20 January 1991].)

37. Frederick K C. Price: "The Bible says that He [Jesus] had a treasurer--a treasury (they called it "the bag"); that they had one man who was the treasurer, named Judas Iscariot; and the rascal was stealing out of the bag for three-and-a-half years and nobody knew that he was stealing. You know why? Because there was so much in it, He couldn't tell. Nobody could tell that anything was missing. If He had three oranges in the bottom of the bag and he stole two of them, don't tell me He wouldn't know that some was missing. Beside that, if Jesus didn't have anything, what do you need a treasury for? A treasury is for surplus. It's not for that which you're spending. It's only for surplus--to hold it until you need to spend it. Therefore, He must have had a whole lot that needed to be held in advance that He wasn't spending. So He must have had more than He was living on." ("Ever Increasing Faith" program on TBN [23 November 1990].)

38. Charles Capps: "Notice that when Jesus said, 'I have finished the work' [John 17:4], we know that He had not finished the work. But I want you to catch something in the way He prayed and the way He talked--He spoke the end results. He never spoke what was. He never admitted death or defeat. . . . Jesus was speaking the end results in His prayer to the Father." (Authority in Three Worlds, 258-59, emphasis in original.)

39. Kenneth Hagin: "Jesus used the fig tree to demonstrate that He had that God-kind of faith, then He said to the disciples--and to us--'You have that kind of faith.'...Jesus said He had the God-kind of faith; He encouraged His disciples to exercise that kind of faith; and He said that 'whosoever' could do it. . . . That is why Jesus said, 'whosoever shall say . . . and shall not doubt IN HIS HEART.' " (Having Faith in Your Faith [Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, 1988], 3, emphasis in original.)

40. John Avanzini: "You don't think these Apostles didn't walk around with money? I mean, they had money. I just thank God that I saw this and gave up the denominational line and got on God's line before I starved me and all my family to death. Go to Acts 24. I mean, you don't think there wasn't money in this Paul's life! . . . Paul had the kind of money that people, that government officials, would, would block up justice to try to get a bribe out of old Paul." ("Believer's Voice of Victory" program on TBN [20 January 1991].)

41. Kenneth Copeland (through whom Jesus allegedly delivered the following prophecy): "They crucified Me [Jesus] for claiming that I was God. But I didn't claim I was God; I just claimed I walked with Him [the Father] and that He was in Me." ("Take Time to Pray," Believer's Voice of Victory 15, 2 [February 1987]:9.)

42. E.W. Kenyon: "Jesus was conceived without sin. His body was not mortal. His body did not become mortal until the Father laid our sin nature upon Him when He hung on the cross. The moment that He became sin, His body became mortal, only then could He die. When this happened, spiritual death, the nature of Satan, took possession of His Spirit....He was to partake of Spiritual Death, the nature of the Adversary. . . .Jesus knew that the moment had come, and He was to be made Sin. He must partake of that dread nature of the Adversary. His body would become mortal. Satan would become His master. . . . He [Jesus] had been lifted up as a serpent. Serpent is Satan. Jesus knew He was going to be lifted up, united with the Adversary." (What Happened from the Cross to the Throne [Lynnwood, WA: Kenyon's Gospel Publishing Society, 1969], 20, 33, 44-45.)

43. Benny Hinn: "I'm going to be led by the Holy Ghost today Is that all right with you?...God came from heaven, became a man, made man into little gods, went back to heaven as a man. He faces the Father as a man. I face devils as the son of God. Do you see what I'm talking about! You say, 'Benny, am I a little God?' You're a son of God, aren't you? You're a child of God, aren't you? You're a daughter of God, aren't you? What else are you? Quit your nonsense! What else are you? If you say, 'I am' you're saying I'm a part of Him, right? Is He God? Are you His offspring? Are you His children? You can't be human! You can't! You can't! God didn't give birth to flesh. He gave birth to a new creation. And the new creation is not flesh and blood and bone, for no flesh and blood would inherit heaven. Did you hear what I said? Some of you didn't really hear what I said. You said, 'Well, that's heresy. No, that's your crazy brain saying that.'" ("Our Position in Christ #2--The Word Made Flesh" [Orlando, FL: Orlando Christian Center, 1991], audiotope #A031190-2, side 2.)

44. Benny Hinn: "When you were born again the Word was made flesh in you. And you became flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. Don't tell me you have Jesus. You are everything He was and everything He is and ever He shall be. . . . It [the new man] says, 'I am as He is.' That's what it says. As He is, so are we in this world. Jesus said, 'Go in my name, go in my stead.' Don't say, 'I have.' Say, 'I am, I am, I am, I am, I am.' That's why you never ever, ever, ever ought to say, 'I'm sick.' How can you be sick if you're the new creation? Say, 'I'm healed!' Don't say, 'I'm a

sinner.' The new creature is no sinner. I'm the righteousness of God in Christ." (Ibid.)

45. Frederick K.C. Price: "Do you think that the punishment for our sin was to die on a cross? If that were the case, the two thieves could have paid your price. No, the punishment was to go into hell itself and to serve time in hell separated from God. . . . Satan and all the demons of hell thought that they had Him bound. And they threw a net over Jesus and they dragged Him down to the very pit of hell itself to serve our sentence." (Ever Increasing Faith Messenger [June 1980], 7; quoted in D.R. McConnell, A Different Gospel [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1988], 120.)

46. Charles Capps: "The sinless son of God became as a serpent that He might swallow up all evil....If you will behold what happened when the sin offering was made and the fact that Jesus became a serpent upon the pole, it will change your life. . . . Jesus died spiritually, not for any of His own sin! He became the serpent on the pole, the snake on the ground, in the Old Testament type." (Authority in Three Worlds, 177, 166-67.)

47. Paul E. Billheimer: "The Father turned Him over, not only to the agony and death of Calvary, but to the satanic torturers of His pure spirit as part of the just dessert of the sin of all the race. As long as Christ was 'the essence of sin' he was at Satan's mercy in that place of torment. . . .While Christ identified with sin, Satan and the hosts of hell ruled over Him as over any lost sinner. During that seemingly endless age in the nether abyss of death, Satan did with Him as he would, and all hell was 'in carnival.' " (Destined for the Throne, special edition for TBN [Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade, 1988(orig. 1975)]. 84.)

48. Charles Capps: " If there's any part of hell Jesus did not suffer, you'll have to suffer it. But, thank God, Jesus suffered it all, for you! In the place of the wicked dead, all the demons of hell and Satan rejoiced over the prize. The corridors of hell were filled with joy. 'We've done it! We've captured the Son of God! We'll no longer be in the pit of the damned! The earth and all that is therein is ours! Forever it will be ours!' Rejoicing in hell had never been so great as it was that day. But it was short-lived." (Authority in Three Worlds, 143, emphasis in original.)

49. Kenneth Copeland: "Satan didn't realize He [Jesus] is in there [hell] illegally. . . . This man had not sinned. This man has not fallen out of the covenant of God, and He had the promise of God for deliverance. And Satan fell into the trap. He took Him into hell illegally. He carried Him in there [when] He did not sin." ("What Happened from the Cross to the Throne" [Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1990], audiotape #02-0017, side 2.)

50. Charles Capps: "When Jesus was in the pit of hell. in that terrible torment, no doubt the Devil and his emissaries gathered around to see the annihilation of God's Son. But in the corridors of hell, there came a great voice from heaven: 'Turn Him Loose! He's there illegally!' And all of hell became paralyzed." (Authority in Three Worlds, 143, emphasis in original.)

51. Kenneth Copeland: "He [Jesus] is suffering all that there is to suffer. There is no suffering left apart from Him. His emaciated, poured out, little, wormy spirit is down in the bottom of that thing [hell]. And the Devil thinks he's got Him destroyed." ("Believer's Voice of Victory" program [21 April 1991]. This message was originally delivered at the Full Gospel Motorcycle Rally Association 1990 Rally at Eagle Mountain Lake, Texas.)

52. Kenneth Copeland: "That Word of the living God went down into that pit of destruction and charged the spirit of Jesus with resurrection power! Suddenly His twisted, death-wracked spirit began to fill out and come back to life. He began to look like something the devil had never seen before." ("The Price of it All," Believer's Voice of Victory 19, 9 [September 1991]:4.)

53. Kenneth Copeland: "He [Jesus] was literally being reborn before the devil's very eyes. He began to flex His spiritual muscles. . . .Jesus was born again--the firstborn from the dead the Word calls Him--and He whipped the devil in his own backyard. He took everything he had away from him. He took his keys and his authority away from him." (Ibid., 4-6.)

54. Kenneth E. Hagin: "Every man who has been born again is an incarnation and Christianity is a miracle. The believer is as much an incarnation as was Jesus of Nazareth." ("The Incarnation," The Word of Faith 13, 12 [December 1980]:14; cf. E.W. Kenyon, The Father and His Family, 100.)

55. Frederick K.C. Price: "The whole point is I'm trying to get you to see--to get you out of this malaise of thinking that Jesus and the disciples were poor and then relating that to you- thinking that you, as a child of God, have to follow Jesus. The Bible says that He has left us an example that we should follow His steps. That's the reason why I drive a Rolls Royce. I'm following Jesus' steps." ("Ever Increasing Faith" program on TBN (9 December 1990).)

56. Benny Hinn: "When you say, 'I am a Christian, you are saying, 'I am mashiach' in the Hebrew. I am a little messiah walking on earth, in other words That is a shocking revelation.... May I say it like this? You are a little god on earth running around." ("Praise-a-Thon" program on TBN [6 November 1990].)

57. Frederick K.C. Price: "When I first got saved they didn't tell me I could do anything. What they told me to do was that whenever I prayed I should always say, 'The will of the Lord be done.' Now, doesn't that sound humble? It does. Sounds like humility, it's really stupidity. I mean, you know, really, we insult God. I mean, we really do insult our Heavenly Father. We do; we really insult Him without even realizing it. If you have to say, 'If it be thy will' or 'Thy will be done'--if you have to say that, then you're calling God a fool because He's the One that told us to ask. . . . If God's gonna give me what He wants me to have, then it doesn't matter what I ask. I'm only gonna get what God wants me to have. So that's an insult to God's intelligence." ("Ever Increasing Faith" program on TBN [16 November 1990].)

58. Kenneth Copeland: "As a believer, you have a right to make commands in the name of Jesus. Each time you stand on the Word, you are commanding God to a certain extent because it is His Word." (Our Covenant with God [Fort Worth, TX: KCP Publications, 1987], 32.)

59. Jerry Savelle: See chapter 5, 68.