

The Presence Of The Lord

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Illus.: “The Boy Who Believes in the Holy Spirit Isn’t Here”

A children’s catechism class was learning the Apostles Creed. Each child had been assigned a sentence to repeat.

The first one said, “I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

The second child said, “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son...
” When he had completed his sentence, there was an embarrassing silence.

Finally, one child piped up, “Teacher, the boy who believes in the Holy Spirit isn’t here.”

(Where there is a presence, there is a person).

Gen 3:8

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord.

Have the courage to share all you do and think with him. And don't try to hide—it can't be done. Honesty will strengthen your relationship with God.

God's desire to have fellowship with us. Adam and Eve hid from God when they heard him approaching. God wanted to be with them, but because of their sin, they were afraid to show themselves.

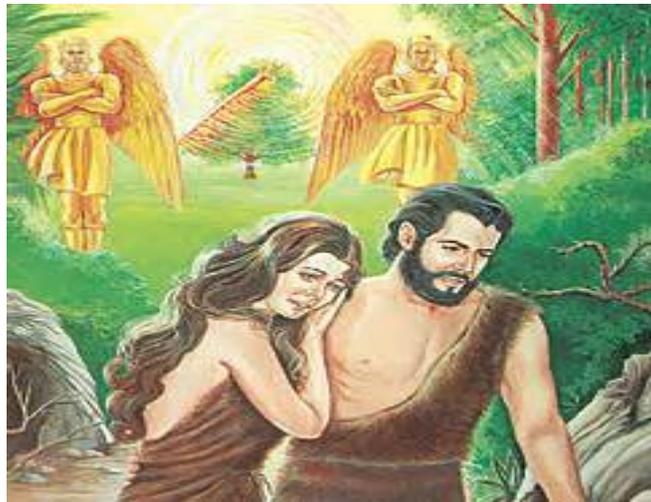
Sin had broken their close relationship with God, just as it has broken ours. But Jesus Christ, God's Son, opens the way for us to renew our fellowship with him.

God longs to be with us. He actively offers us his unconditional love. Our natural response is fear because we feel we can't live up to his standards. But understanding that he loves us, regardless of our faults, can help remove that dread.

Satan has a plan against us. He makes us question God's word and his goodness. He makes you look at the problems rather than at God.

He makes the wrong things seem attractive so that we will want them. He makes us feel like a failure so we won't even try.

He brings doubt, discouragement, diversion, defeat and delay. Adam and Eve failed to heed God's warning.



Adam and Eve had many children; they had been told to "fill the earth" (1:28). Cain's guilt and fear over killing his brother was heavy, and he probably feared repercussions from his family.

The wife Cain chose may have been one of his sisters or a niece. The human race was still genetically pure, and there was no fear of side effects from marrying relatives.

The expression "sevenfold punishment" means that the person's punishment would be complete, thorough, and much worse than that received by Cain for his sin.

Unfortunately, when left to themselves, people tend to get worse instead of better. The summary of Lamech's family shows us the variety of talent and ability God gives humans.

It also presents the continuous development of sin as time passes. Another killing occurred, presumably in self-defense. Violence was on the rise. Two distinct groups were emerging: (1) those who showed indifference to sin and evil, and (2) those who worshiped the Lord (the descendants of Seth, Seth would take Abel's place as leader of a line of God's faithful people.

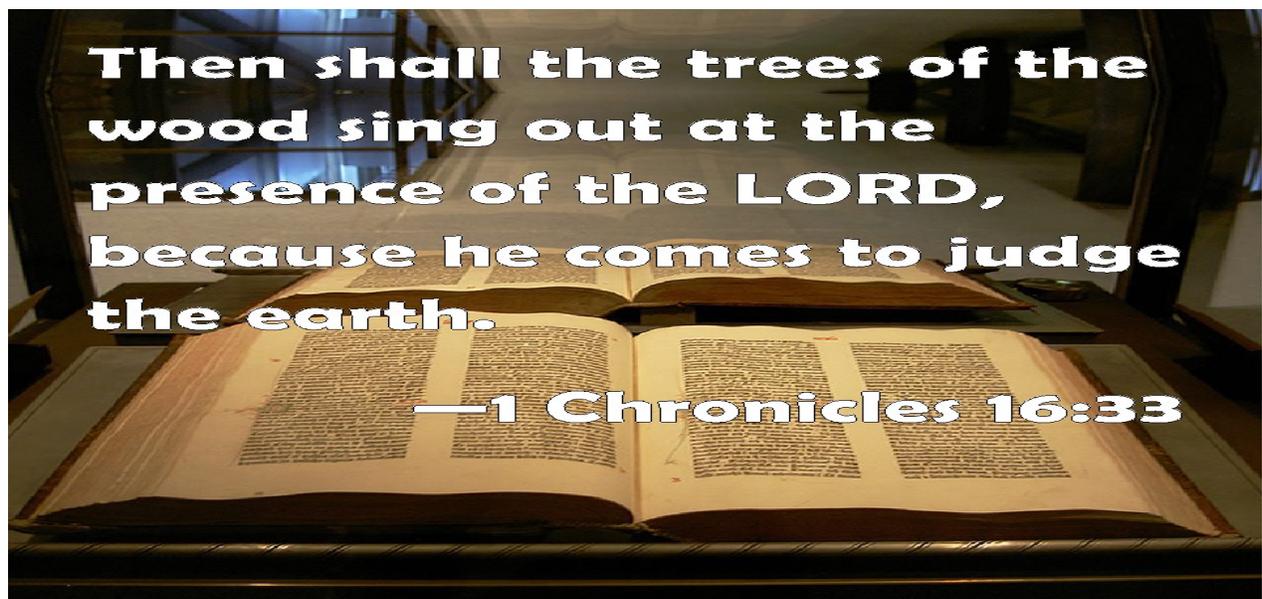
Cain went out from the presence of the Lord.

Gen 4:16

And Cain went out from the Presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

Cain's family followed after the ways of the flesh.

The trees will sing at the presence of the Lord.



1 Chronicles 16:33

Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the Lord because he cometh to judge the earth.

Genuine praise also involves ascribing glory to God. This means that we give credit where credit is due. Remember this in your worship and give God all the glory.

The hills melt at the presence of the Lord.

Psalm 139:7-10

**Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.**



"THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT, THAT YE LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU"

Psalm 97:5

The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The Bible makes it clear that these people are idol worshipers because they give their highest loyalty to something other than God. One day we will

stand before God in all his glory and power. Then we will see all our goals and accomplishments for what they really are. How foolish our earthly pursuits will seem then!

The earth trembles at the presence of the Lord.

Psalms 114:7

Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;

When God gave the law at Mount Sinai, the mountain trembled in God's presence. Even with our great technology, the seas, rivers, and mountains still present us with formidable challenges. But to God, who controls nature, they are as nothing. When observing the power of an ocean wave or the majesty of a mountain peak, think of God's greatness and glory, which are far more awesome than the natural wonders you can see. To tremble at God's presence means to recognize God's complete power and authority and our frailty by comparison.

All the cities were broken down at the anger of God's presence.

Jeremiah 4:26

I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger.

God warned that destruction was certain, but he promised that the faithful remnant would be spared. God is committed to preserving those who are faithful to him.

Jonah walked away from the presence of the Lord.

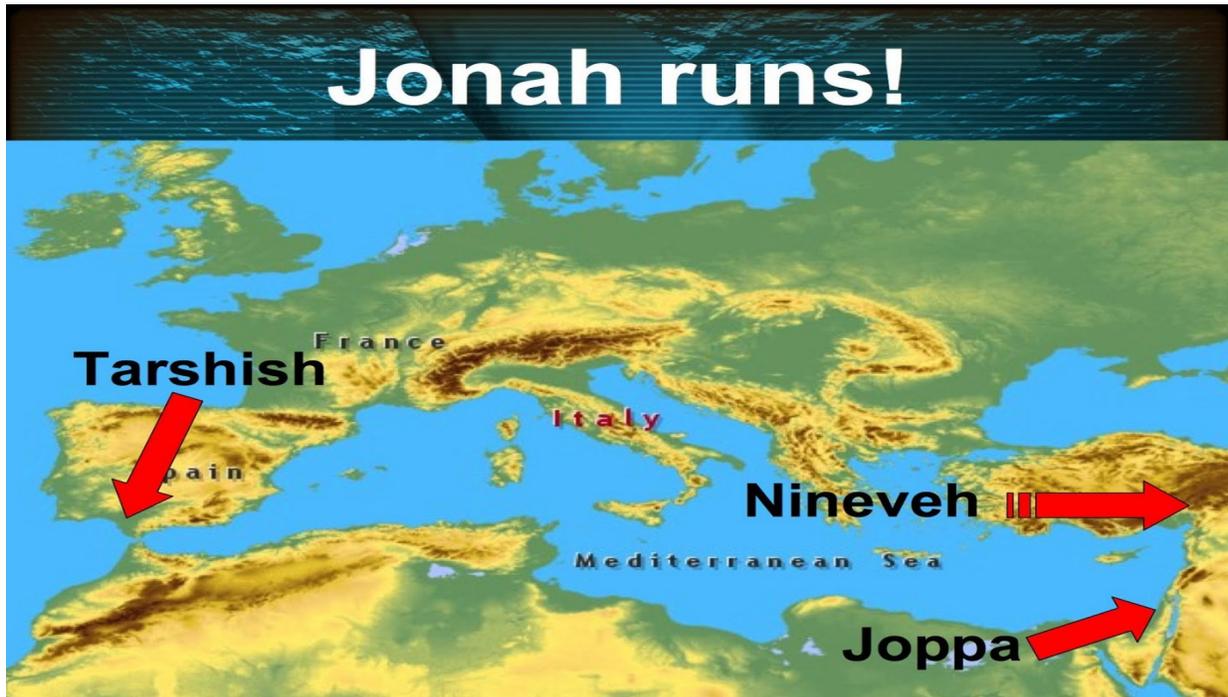
Jonah 1:3

But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord

Jonah knew that God had a specific job for him, but he didn't want to do it.

Tarshish could be one of any number of Phoenicia's western ports. Nineveh was toward the east. Jonah decided to go as far west as he could

When God gives us direction through his word.



It may have been fear or anger at the wideness of God's mercy that made Jonah run. But running got him into worse trouble. In the end, Jonah understood that it is best to do what God asks in the first place. But by then he had paid a costly price for running. It is far better to obey from the start.

The sailors knew that Johan had fled the presence of the Lord.

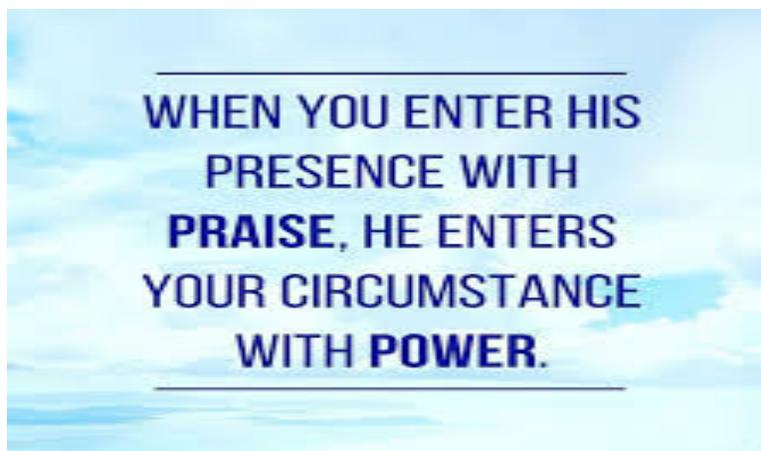
Jonah 1:10

Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

You cannot seek God's love and run from him at the same time. Jonah soon realized that no matter where he went, he couldn't get away from God.

But before Jonah could return to God, he first had to stop going in the opposite direction. What has God told you to do? If you want more of God's love and power, you must be willing to carry out the responsibilities he gives you. You cannot say that you truly believe in God if you don't do what he says (1 John 2:3-6).

Jonah knew that he had disobeyed and that the storm was his fault, but he didn't say anything until the crew cast lots and he lost the toss (1:7). Then Jonah was willing to give his life to save the sailors, although he had refused to do the same for the people of Nineveh. Jonah's hatred for the Assyrians had affected his perspective.



The Lord has bid you into his presence.

Zeph 1:7

Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

Repent and a time of refreshing will come the presence of the Lord.

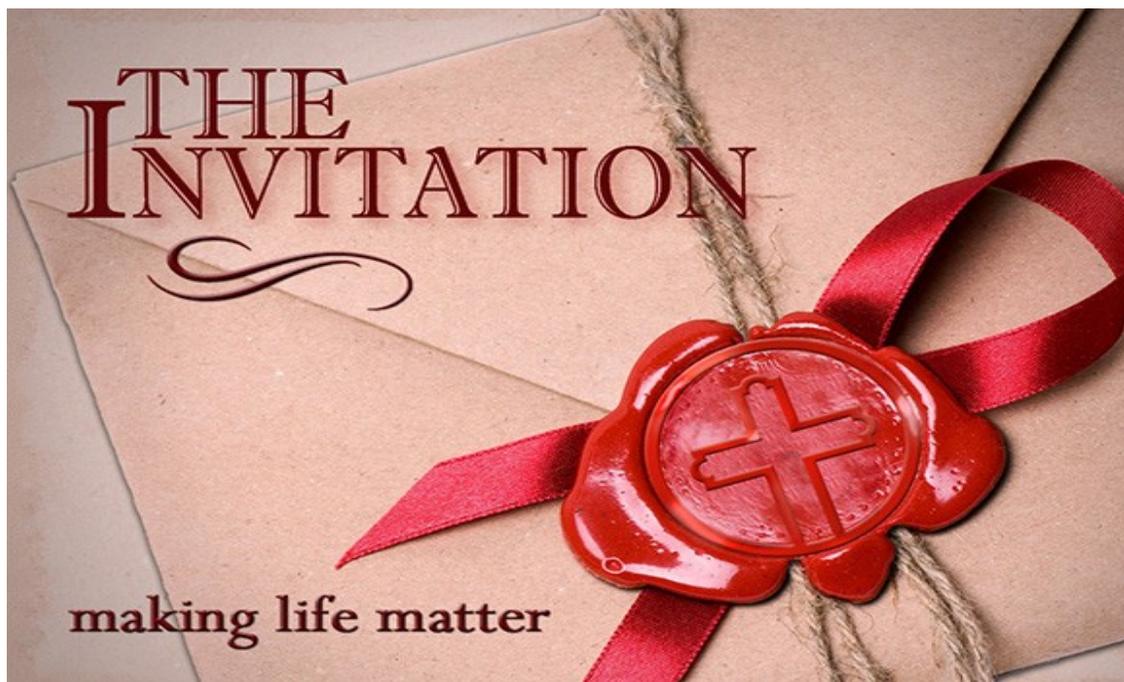
Act 3:19

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Who will be punished from the presence of the Lord?

2 Thess 1:9

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power;



An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

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Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print