

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white, flowing robe, stands on a dark, tiered platform. She is looking upwards with her arms slightly outstretched. The background is a dramatic, heavenly scene. In the center, a bright, glowing light emanates from a large, ornate, golden structure that resembles a cathedral or a temple, set against a backdrop of soft, white clouds. The scene is framed by a large, arched, golden structure, possibly a window or a doorway. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and divine presence.

**VISITATION  
OR  
HABITATION**

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# Visitation or Habitation

All scriptures quoted are New King James Version unless otherwise noted

## Introduction

A couple of weeks ago booklet number 5 was published and for the first time in nearly seven years, I had nothing to write about. So, I wondered what I would do with my time for I did not want life just to pass by then I remembered that previously I had been an avid reader so I took a couple of books from the cupboard to read. The first book was about the Holy Spirit and in one chapter the author posed this question, do we want a visitation from the Holy Spirit or do we want the Holy Spirit to have a habitation in our lives? When I first read this, I was so challenged by this idea but went on to read the next book by a different author and to my surprise, this author posed the same question. I have been around long enough to realise that in God there is no such a thing as coincidence so I began to ask Him what did He want me to learn? When I read this I was quite challenged because I have never considered the truth of this statement and since the Lord was beginning to rebuild the church, I was attending what was my expectation?

As I reflected on this truth, I was drawn to consider my life with my wife Barbara of 53 years. When I started to go out with Barbara, I was madly in love with her and would visit her as often as I could and would enjoy every moment with her. But there was one thing I remembered that happened despite seeing her often I was still a single person and acted like one. However, this all changed when we were married and lived together but I was slow to change. How Barbara put up with me for the first six months without saying something to me I do not know. I still acted like a single person, when we were married it was at the beginning of the cricket season so I practised two nights a week and slept- in on Saturday morning and played cricket in the afternoon. While Barbara cleaned the house and did the washing and ironing. That season was the last I played, not because I wanted to devote my time to Barbara, but because the club upset me so I never played cricket again. In hindsight, it was the Lord's direction on my path. The more time I spent with her the more I understood the greatness of her character. She was excellent at managing our finances and never wasted money. Barbara's parents own their home but my parents always rented so I was not used to having our own home after three months of renting Barbara found a house that we bought and I am so glad that we did.

The longer we were married the more I appreciated the greatness of her character (She certainly was God's gift to me!) she was so pleasant to live with and sadly most of the time I just took it for granted. Now I know it was the outworking of her relationship with the Lord. She was so good at buying marked-down items, especially clothing. As a side issue, people thought we had more money than we had because we were always well dressed because of the bargains that Barbara found. There is one instance that I can remember to demonstrate how God blessed her in her shopping, one shopping morning Barbara said that she wanted to go to Myers at Robina because wanted a nice top to wear to church. We went there and she looked at all the marked-down clothing racks and saw nothing. As she was looking, I saw a rack of dresses that had something that did not seem to fit so I went over to it and to my surprise it was a top marked down from \$99 to \$ 24 and it was Barbara's size. She tried it on and it fitted perfectly so she went to pay for it and sales assistance said that those tops were not on special so where did she get it, I showed her the rack and said because it was a mistake, she had to give it to Barbara at the marked-down price. So, Barbara came home with what she wanted, she was so blessed by God.

The final thing I want to say about our marriage is when I was approaching retirement age, I could not wait to

spend my time with her. Those ten years were the best years of my life as I continually fell in love and I am eternally grateful to God for bringing Barbara into my life. As I write this, I have been living by myself for 8 1/2 years and am living by the principles learned by living 53 years with Barbara. I have been able to adjust from a double pension to a single pension without compromising the way that I live.

In **1 Corinthians 15**, the Bible states first the natural and then the spiritual. We know that marriage is God's plan for a man and a woman to experience the fulfilment of life together. However, the god of this world (Satan) has set about to destroy the importance of marriage and its benefits. He teaches that it is all right to have a 'one-night stand', it is all right to live together and sometimes never get married, and it is acceptable for a woman to have different fathers for each child, and the list goes on. The sad thing is that many people who occasionally attend church use the world's standards to live by. This is why **Romans 12:2** is so important, it is not a suggestion but is a statement of fact to live by: *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove (Live by) what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"* **NLT** *"Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way*

*that you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is”.*

We live in a time where it is so easy to find entertainment for ourselves without other people knowing what we are doing, through the internet which is available 24 hours every day on many mobile devices. The ease with which this entertainment is available is such a trap because you can do it privately in your home so no one is aware of what you are doing except God, and if you do it long enough you cannot hear what God is saying to you. There is one area that we have to be very careful about and that is watching movies, I have not watched a movie for over 30 years because I found out that I could not take Jesus with me when I watched a movie, He stayed at the door and would not be part of the viewing. I am shocked by the number of people who call themselves believers and deliberately fill their minds with ungodly behaviour and language. The god of this world is so happy when we fill our minds with things that do not please God because it makes us ineffective in our Christian walk. He wants to create such hunger in people to be entertained by things that are not part of God, because the more we do it the more we want.

Now I want to look at the definitions of VISITATION and HABITATION so that we have a clear understanding of what God is saying to us.

VISITATION means “An event regarded as a special time from God “, in other words, something that occurs occasionally.

HABITATION means “A place for living” or “The act of living in “, this is something that is continual, not occasional.



## Chapter 1 The Purpose of Salvation

Before we look at the purpose of Salvation in detail, we must be very clear in our understanding of what the Bible means when it mentions 'Salvation'. We cannot rely on what opinion we have formed or what we have observed because what the Bible says is what we live must by. Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament words says Salvation is "The spiritual and eternal deliverance granted by God to those who accept His conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ". The importance of Salvation is declared in **Hebrews 2:1&3a** which declares: *"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things that we have heard, lest we drift away. How shall we escape if we neglect so great Salvation"*.

It is so important to recognise and understand that if God describes something as great then we must not take what God describes as great lightly. To understand the importance of salvation we need to look at how mankind was created. The Bible very clearly states that men and women were created in the image and likeness of God (**Genesis 1:27**), which means that man had the same characteristics as God so he was perfect in all of his ways. Because of this, he had a constant relationship with God.

The Bible does not say how long this relationship lasted before it was tested, when it was tested Eve was deceived by Satan and disobeyed God however, Adam chose to disobey God. This is why God calls disobedience the same as the sin of witchcraft. We must be very clear not to disobey God because it is something that separates man from God. Because of their sin, Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden, and then all the offspring of Adam and Eve were born with a sinful nature. David said in **Psalm 51:5 NLT** *“For I was born a sinner – yes, from the moment my mother conceived me”*.

Mankind could not free himself from the power of sin, but God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and rise again on the third day to defeat the power of sin in our lives. **1 John 3:8 NLT** says: *“When people keep on sinning it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning from the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy those works of the devil”*. **NKJV** *“For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil”*. This means when I choose to accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour then sin has no power over me except for what I give, which means I do not automatically sin as I used to before I was born again. The proof that I am born again is that I am a new changed person that wants to live God’s way and desires to have fellowship with Him as at the beginning before sin came

into the world. **2 Corinthians 5:17&18a** says: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new, now all things are of God”*. There will be parts of my life that will change straight away and there will be other parts that will change as I become closer to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ over time.

We are warned in **Matthew 7:21-23** which says: *“Not everyone that calls me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. ‘Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord’, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and done wonders in your name? ‘And then I will declare to them “I never knew you; depart from me you who practise lawlessness!”* It is important to understand the true meaning of the word ‘Knew’ because it has a special meaning; it refers to the intimate relationship that a married couple experiences when they give themselves to each other and no other person can experience that feeling. These verses very clearly declare that God expects us to have an intimate relationship with us that is not impacted by what we do!

As we continue to understand the purpose of Salvation it will be good to look at the Children of Israel when they escaped from Egypt. The Apostle Paul records a word of

warning in **1 Corinthians 10:1-12** about learning from the Children of Israel and in **Verse 11 NLT** he says: *“All these events happened to them as an example for us. They were written down to warn us, who live at the times when the age is drawing to a close”*, and surely that is us.

By the time the Children of Israel escaped from Egypt, they had lived there for over 400 years, during that time they learned and lived by the pagan customs of Egypt. And if they had never been made slaves, they would have been content to live that way. This is so important to understand because when they were delivered from Egypt they still worshipped and held dearly their idols. They cried out to God to be set free from slavery but had no intention of changing and stopping following their false gods. What is so staggering is that they observed the greatness of God through the miracles that were inflicted on the Egyptians but they were never affected by the plagues. God’s message to Pharaoh was “Let my people go that they might worship me”. But the children of Israel demonstrated no desire to change and worship God.

Before we look in detail at how the Children of Israel were delivered from Egypt, I want to look at how God raised a person to lead them out. At the time Moses was born, Pharaoh had issued a decree that all male babies

were to be killed at birth. However, when Moses was born his mother saw that he was a special child and hid at home for three months. When he could no longer be hidden at home, she made an ark of bulrushes and placed him among the reeds along the river bank. Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to wash and discovered the ark with Moses inside and realised it was a Hebrew baby. Moses' sister who was nearby asked Pharaoh's daughter if she wanted a Hebrew mother to nurse the baby. So, Moses' mother was paid to raise him and when he became a child he was given to Pharaoh's daughter and he was raised as her son in the palace. He was then raised in the Palace as Pharaoh's daughter's son Acts **7:22** says: *"And Moses was learned in the wisdom of Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds"*. For the Bible to record that he was mighty in deeds suggests that he was a very good soldier. By implication, it suggests that he kept in touch with his real family and when he was forty years old, he spent time with them and learned the uniqueness of his birth and what his future was meant to be. One day he saw one of his fellow Israelites being oppressed by an Egyptian so he killed the Egyptian and buried the body. The next day he saw two of the Israelites fighting, so he stepped in and tried to reconcile them, but one of them said "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you did to the Egyptian"? So, Moses

fled for his life and did not have time to bring anything with him and escaped to the land of Midian.

I believe that because Moses had to leave in such a hurry and did not have time to collect what he needed for the journey and fled in what he was wearing is so significant. I will discuss and compare this with how the Children of Israel left Egypt later on. Moses arrived at the land of Midian late in the afternoon and found a well to refresh himself. While he was there the shepherds came to water their flocks. Jethro the priest of Midian had seven daughters who looked after his flock, however, when they came to water their sheep the other shepherds drove them away so they watered their flock last. When Moses saw the women being mistreated, he stepped in and defeated the shepherds and he drew water for the women's flock. So, when they came home early Jethro asked them why they were home so early and they told him of the Egyptian who protected them and watered the sheep for them. So, Jethro invited Moses to live with them and he was content to do so later on Jethro gave Zipporah one of his daughters to be his wife. They had a son who was named Gershom. Moses was content to live in the land of Midian and became a shepherd for forty years so that all the influence of being raised as an Egyptian disappeared from his life.

Now we come to the event that changed Moses's life forever from that event he built a relationship with the Lord which was so special that God commented on it. Everyone needs to have an encounter with God, not as something to talk about but as a starting point to a life of closeness with the Lord. Mine was the night I was born again on Saturday night Australia Day holiday weekend 1954. Since that time, I have chosen to follow the Lord with all my heart, sadly some people have an encounter with God but never leave that place only to have no fresh experience to encourage other people.

The day of Moses's encounter with God started just like any other day, he was out leading his flock to a new pasture and he came near the mountain of God. Over the 40 years, he must have travelled that way hundreds of times. This time he saw a burning bush, again this was not something special in the desert because this happened all the time. However, as he looked, he saw something different, there was a flame in the bush but the bush was not being consumed so he came near to the bush to see what was happening. As he drew near God spoke to him out of the bush and called his name Moses to which he replied "Here I am". Then God told him not to come any closer and he was to take off his sandals for this was Holy ground. Then God said to him "I am the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,

and the God of Jacob. Then he hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Now we come to a strange part of Moses's encounter with God, Moses knew about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but the last time God spoke was over 400 years ago when He told Jacob to take his family to Egypt and there, he would make them a great nation. It is something to know about God it is another thing to have a fresh relationship with Him. I say all this because Moses wanted to know God's name to tell the children of Israel, God told Moses to tell them "I AM has sent me to you". God is the God of now not the God of the past. God also told him that He would deliver them from the hands of the Egyptians and bring them to a land that flowed with milk and honey. Also, when they came out of Egypt, they were to serve God on this mountain. Moses even though 40 years earlier believed he was called to deliver the children of Israel from the Egyptians when the time came to do so he was reluctant to do so. This is not unusual because I can remember the battle, I had to give up the security of permanent employment and go full-time into the ministry.

Moses although he knew he was called by God was reluctant to accept that this was true. Moses kept on making excuses as to why he was not suitable to be used



by God. He was very patient with Moses for He knew what kind of leader Moses would become. We should never forget that when God calls us He also equips us. God asked Moses “What is in your hand?” to which he replied, “A rod” (He had been using this rod for 40 years as a shepherd). God told him to throw it on the ground and it became a snake and when Moses picked it up by the tail it became a rod again. God used this rod to demonstrate His supernatural power, we should never limit God by what we see as ordinary. God got very angry with Moses because he would not accept God’s plan for his life. In the end, God allowed Moses’s brother Aaron to be the spokesman instead of Moses. This caused trouble later on because Aaron was full of Egyptian pagan habits.

Finally, Moses decided to be obedient to the Lord, he would hear from the Lord and he would tell Aaron what to say so Aaron would be his spokesman. Then Moses went to Jethro and asked permission to return to Egypt with his wife and family, so Jethro blessed him and he also took his rod with him. Moses and Aaron then went to Pharaoh and told him that he must send the Children of Israel out of his land but he refused. When Pharaoh was challenged to let the people go he commanded the task makers to make the tasks of the people so much harder. So Moses went to the Lord and asked Him “Why

have you brought trouble to the people?” The Lord then went on to tell him how He would punish the Egyptians and Pharaoh and that without a doubt He would bring His people out of Egypt. Moses and Aaron then went to Pharaoh and demonstrated God’s miracle by throwing down the rod and it became a serpent. However, Pharaoh’s wise men and sorcerers did the same but Moses's rod swallowed their rods. It is interesting that the Pharaoh’s magicians also copied the first two plagues. This is a reminder that Satan can seem to be an angel of light and if we are not close to the Lord we can be deceived.

While I will not comment on each plague it is important to understand that while the Egyptians were affected by each plague the Children of Israel were not affected, they saw the miracle-working power of God first-hand. After the ninth plague, Pharaoh said to Moses that he would kill Moses if he saw him again to which Moses replied that he would never see Pharaoh again. Then the lord told Moses of the last plague when the firstborn throughout Egypt would die. The Children of Israel were told each household to kill a lamb and sprinkle the blood of the lamb on the door posts and the lintel of their house and everyone who applied the blood would be saved from the death Angel that would pass through the land. God, also told them to ask their neighbours for articles of

gold and silver. At midnight the Angel of Death passed through the land and in every house where the blood had not been applied the firstborn died. There was such a cry throughout the land so Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to take all the people with their flocks out of the land of Egypt. There were 600,000 men plus women and children who escaped from Egypt and the time they spent in Egypt was 430 years.

Now as we come to the next part where the Children of Israel have left Egypt never to return. It would be a good idea to pause and think about the greatness and provision of God for them. There were about 1.5 million adults plus children plus a great number of livestock, this is like the population of Brisbane going for a walk together. The area of land they must have covered would have been many square kilometres. Try and imagine how much water and food would be required each to feed and satisfy the thirst of these people, as you consider this you will be amazed at the greatness of God's provision for His people. Also, how did they communicate with each other so they all went in the same direction? There is so much that could be said, all of which points to the greatness of our God. The Bible says that the Children of Israel left Egypt in an orderly way. The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud and by night by a pillar of fire to show them God's way. It is so important not to forget

that God went before them so there was no doubt about the correct way to go. The Children of Israel had seen the miracle-working power of God through the ten plagues and now His greatness was going before them day and night.

Before we look in detail at the escape of the Children of Israel after they came out of Egypt God said that two things were to take place. Firstly, they were to serve God at Mount Horeb (Sinai) after they served the Lord they were to go and live in the promised land. It is important to understand the first thing must be serving God. The children of Israel had learned to follow the way of the Egyptians who had many gods (Idols) which they worshipped. Now the Children of Israel had to learn the way of the Lord God Almighty because if you do not worship the Lord freely then cannot receive the rewards of being a true worshipper. Also, it is important to recognise that the Children of Israel did not cry out to God because they wanted to know Him but they cried out to be set free from being a slave.

It is so important to recognise that God was in control and He led them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night – His presence was always visible to them. However, I suspect that it would have taken a little time to fully understand that God was leading them. It is

recorded that the Lord did not lead them the shortest way which was through the land of the Philistines but He led them by the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. After Pharaoh got over the shock of losing his firstborn he decided to chase and capture the Children of Israel and bring them back to Egypt. He took his best chariots with their captains and set out to pursue the Children of Israel. The Children of Israel were frightened when they saw Pharaoh and his chariots coming. However, God stepped in and caused the Egyptians to stop because of the darkness that God had provided. Then God told Moses to lift his rod and stretch out his hand over the sea. The sea parted and the Children of Israel were able to walk through the sea on dry land when the Egyptians saw what was happening, they tried to follow but God caused the wheels of the Chariots to fall off so they could not move. When the Children of Israel were safe across the sea Moses lifted his rod and the sea returned and all the Egyptians with their horses drowned. So, the Children of Israel the great work that the Lord had done and at that moment believed the Lord and Moses.

Then Moses led the Children of Israel with a song of thanksgiving to the Lord. They declared the greatness of God and said that there was no one like their God and declared “The Lord shall reign forever and ever”. Then Miriam took her timbrel in her hand together with all the

women who went with their timbrels and danced before the Lord and said “Sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and rider He has thrown into the sea”. After this Israel was led into the wilderness of Shur for 3 days and found no water. The Bible does not say how they survived the three days. After this, they came to Marah and discovered they could not drink the water because it was bitter. So, the people cried out to Moses “What shall we drink?” And the Lord showed Moses a tree which he cut down and cast into the water and the water was sweet. Then the Lord tested the people saying *“If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes. I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.”* **(Exodus 15:26)** It is important to realise that the Lord spoke to them before He had given His commandments.

From Marah, they journeyed to Elim where there were 12 wells of water and 70 Palm trees from there they travelled to the Wilderness of Sin. They arrived there 6 weeks after leaving Egypt, and while the Bible does not say it is obvious that God not only had shown them the way to travel but had provided them with food and water to drink for these 6 weeks. Then they showed their true nature because they declared that they would have been

better off back in Egypt. They forgot that they were slaves and cried out to God for deliverance from slavery.

It is interesting to note that it took the people 6 weeks to fully understand what had happened to them. The excitement of leaving Egypt and being led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, walking on dry land through the Red Sea and seeing Pharaoh and chariots drown in the sea. How they celebrated when they saw the greatness of God. However, now they realised that they could not go back to their old way of living and had to trust in a God they did not know. While they wanted to be free from being slaves, they did not want to live God's way, they wanted to be able to please themselves. From that moment they were in conflict with God and His ways.

God was so gracious to them because He provided Manna for them each morning 6 days a week and provided quail for them in the evening. The Manna did not stop until they entered the Promised Land. Next, they journeyed to Rephidim where there was no water to drink. Then the people contended with Moses about having no water, God told Moses to strike the rock with his rod and when he obeyed water flowed from the rock and the people's thirst was satisfied. As we continue with the story of the Children of Israel I am overwhelmed by

the longsuffering and greatness of God. The God who keeps the covenant for a thousand generations even though the people complained He persevered with His promise to Abraham that there would be a great nation from him. Also, I am so encouraged by the love of God in my life and how He has sustained me over my lifetime.

Next, we find the people being attacked by Amalek, so Moses commanded Joshua to take some men and go out and fight them. Moses said that he would stand on the top of the hill with the rod in his hand. When he raised his hands, Israel prevailed and when he lowered his hands Amalek would prevail. So, Aaron and Hur stood on each side of Moses and supported his raised hands and Amalek was defeated by the edge of the sword. Here we have a situation where God leaves out so much detail, such as where the swords come from and when the men learn to use them. This shows the greatness of our God, He provides without any fanfare, and He continually demonstrates His love for His people.

After three months the people came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped near the mountain to the place where God wanted to reveal Himself to them. In **Exodus 19:4-6** we read how God said to Moses to tell them: *“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I have born you on eagle’s wings and brought you to Myself. Now,*



*therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people; for all the earth is mine. And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation".* So, Moses told the people all that God had said and the people replied, "All that God has spoken we will do". From now on we see if the people were truthful in what they said. It is interesting to note that when the Lord reminded the people of what He had done for them, then in the emotion of the moment the people said that they would obey all that the Lord had said to them (**Exodus 19:8**). The sad reality is that never happened, they did not obey the Lord and always complained and said that they were better off back in Egypt.

When God was about to appear to Moses on the mountaintop and give all the laws for Godly living the people were told to sanctify themselves and wait at the foot of the mountain and Aaron was asked to accompany Moses on the mountain but refused and stayed with the people and that decision had disastrous consequences. Here was God about to show His people how to live a way of life that would please Him, not the pagan way they used to live in Egypt. God then would use them as an example to the then-known world of how to live a God-pleasing life. He asked them through Moses to come near to His presence so that they could understand what His

presence felt like. So, they let Moses go up the mountain all by himself and the people returned to their daily living.

Before we continue with the story of the Children of Israel there is one issue about God's instruction to His people that I want to comment on. There are about two books in the Bible devoted to this. I know that all scripture is inspired by God but could not understand the necessity of such detail. Now as I have studied them, I have realised that they were a pagan people who worshipped many gods and idols in Egypt. How much history they knew is not recorded except they knew about Joseph because they took his bones with them when they left Egypt. I understand if you want to teach something, they do not know then you must go to every minute detail for them to learn. This is exactly what God did for His people, He went into great detail about how to build the Tabernacle because of its special requirements, also, He explained His requirements of how to live a righteous life acceptable to Him when they obeyed His law.

Because the people including Aaron refused to stay at the mountain where God's presence was being manifested, they just went back to their everyday living. It wasn't long before they decided that Moses was taking

too long on the mountain in God's presence and began to wonder if he would ever return. Then they made such a bad choice, they declared that it was Moses who brought them out of Egypt not God, despite all the miracles they had experienced. So, they came to Aaron and asked him to make an idol to represent the god who would lead them. So, Aaron got the people to give him their golden earrings and with the gold, he made a Golden Calf. Then he told the people that the Golden Calf was their god who had brought them out of Egypt. So, the next day the people brought a burnt offering and a peace offering to the Golden Calf and prepared a feast to celebrate their new god. All this happened because the people and Aaron chose not to be near the presence of God as requested by Him.

God told Moses to return to the people and when he saw what they were doing he broke the two tablets of stone on which God had engraved on. He took the Golden Calf burned it in the fire and ground it to powder and put it into the drinking water and made everyone drink the contaminated water. When Moses asked Aaron, what happened he lied to him he said that all he did was throw the gold into the fire and out came the Golden Calf. God was so angry with the Children of Israel that He told Moses He would not lead them to the promised land but send an angel to lead the people. But Moses told God

that he would not move unless His presence went with them. Moses intervened and asked God to forgive the people for their sins, and if God did not then he asked God to blot out his name, but God responded with the people who had sinned had to receive the punishment for their sin. After this separated his tent from the camp and pitched it outside the camp and all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the door of the tent.

Moses took two new tablets of stone and returned to meet God on Mount Sinai where He renewed His covenant with Moses and gave all the laws for the Children of Israel to live by. When he returned, he instructed the people in the laws of God, and also, he asked the people for a free-will offering to build the Tabernacle. So, the Tabernacle was built with the material the people provided by the gifted artisans provided by the Lord. After the Tabernacle was built the cloud lifted so the people packed up the Tabernacle as commanded by God and set themselves in order and followed the cloud for three days there, they set up camp in the wilderness of Paran. Then they complained about only having manna to eat so God sent quail to them to eat also because of the complaining God sent fire amongst them. Moses cried out to God and the fire was quenched.

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, they questioned his Godly authority. Because of their rebellion, Miriam became a leper so Moses cried out to God on their behalf and Miriam was healed. Then God told Moses to send 12 people, one from each tribe to spy out the land to see if it was just what God had said it would be. When the spies returned, they agreed that the land was as God had said but 10 of the spies declared they were not strong enough to defeat the inhabitants. Joshua and Caleb disagreed and said that would defeat the inhabitants.

Because the people would not believe that God would fight for them, they decided to go back to Egypt. God stepped in and the Children of Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness until all the adults that had left Egypt died. How sad all the people who left Egypt died in the wilderness except Joshua and Caleb. During their time in the wilderness, the sons of Korah whose duty it was to look after the Tabernacle rebelled against Moses' leadership with two other people. The people who rebelled were Korah, Dathan and Abiram and they declared they should be leaders just like Moses. Moses then warned the people to stay away from the tents of these people because God was going to punish them. Moses declared that God would punish them in a new way. So God opened up the ground and all the people

with their tents were swallowed by the earth. Over the forty years, the people who travelled in the wilderness continually complained about their situation. One time they came to a place that had no water and God told Moses to speak to the rock and water would appear however Moses was angry with the people and in anger struck the rock with his rod and water appeared. However, God told Moses because he disobeyed God, he would only see the promised land not enter it before he died and make Joshua the new Leader.

After 40 years in the wilderness where all the adults who came out of Egypt died, Joshua led the Children of Israel into the promised land. God told Joshua if he obeyed His commandments, he would have good success, however, Joshua disobeyed God and the enemy was not completely destroyed. So, the land was divided for the tribes of Israel to live in with some of the enemies still there. God's plan was for all the enemies to be defeated. So, when Joshua was about to die, he challenged the Children of Israel to obey the Lord and while they said yes to Joshua, they did not live that way.

In the book of Judges, we read that the Children of Israel spent more time in captivity because they disobeyed the Lord. Then they demanded a king to be like other nations, so God gave them Saul to be king but he disobeyed God

and was replaced by David to be king. The Bible records that David was “A man after God’s own heart” - he never disobeyed God so during his reign for the first time all the enemies were defeated and he was able to give his son Solomon a peaceful country to rule over. Despite being the wisest man, he did not use his wisdom to follow God, so in his later years, he disobeyed God the kingdom was divided when he died and has been that way since. 1 Corinthians 10:11 NLT says: *“All these events happened (In the Old Testament) to them as examples to us. They were written down to warn us, who live at that time when the age is drawing to a close”.*

God is so gracious because He warns us of the danger of living a life that is pleasing to ourselves, not God. The title of this chapter is “The Purpose of Salvation”, God saw that mankind in their strength could not live a Godly life. Because He loved us so much, He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross and rise again on the third day to break the power of sin. God has given us a way to live free from the power of sin in our lives. However, this is a choice that we make and continue to make, we decide to make Jesus Lord of our lives. When we do this, we become born again – a Child of God belonging to His Kingdom. The reward of being Born Again is so great, however, from years of experience there is part of me that still wants to be in control and if I start to live that way, I start living a

disobedient Life. May we always turn back and submit to God and live His Way.



## Chapter 2 Visitation.

VISITATION means “An event regarded as a special time from God “, in other words, something that occurs occasionally. A word that we understand more clearly is ‘Encounter’ This word can be interchanged with the word visitation; however, it does not change the fact that visitation/encounter is instigated by God, not man. God used these events to declare His plan and purpose for the lives of His people and then the world also would be impacted. This is how God explained His ways to the people in the Old Testament times. In contrast, this is the way God speaks to us today, we are led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in **John 14:26** *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all things that I have said to you “*, and also in **John 16:13** *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak of his own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you of things to come”*.

The first visitation of significance is found in **Genesis 6,7, and 8&9** in **Genesis 6:5,6&8** *“Then the Lord saw the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent and thoughts of his heart were only evil*

*continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord*". Despite the wickedness of the people God found a Godly man, Noah, the bible does not indicate why he was Godly except to say that he was, he also was obedient to God although he was asked to do something that he had never heard of before. He then allowed God's ability to flow through him to build the Ark even though he had never seen one before. This encourages me because I do not have to be influenced by the evil world system in which I live and I can do anything that God asks me to do because I can use His ability to achieve His plans.

The next person is Abraham (although he started with the name Abram God later changed it to Abraham so that is the name I will use), and we could write pages about the many visitations he had from God. While in the case of Noah God found a righteous man in an ungodly world that was not the case with Abraham. Abraham came from a pagan called Ur of the Chaldeans where God told him to leave his country and his father's house. However, Abraham only partially obeyed for he left his country but took his family with him to Haran where he lived until his father died. He then departed with his wife and his possessions and he also took his brother's son Lot. When he arrived in Canaan the Lord appeared to him and told

him that He would give the land to his descendants, so he built an altar to the Lord who had appeared to him. The Bible does not say when Abraham changed his pagan beliefs but it is reasonable to believe it happened when he obeyed the Lord and went to where the Lord was leading him to.

It is very interesting that not long after Abraham came to Canaan there was a very severe famine in the land so he decided to go and live in Egypt. On the way, because Sarah was very beautiful, he was afraid that the Egyptians would kill him to get his wife. So, he told her to say that she was his sister (which was a half-truth). Sarah was taken to Pharaoh's house and Abraham was treated well because of her. Then God stepped in before any wrong could be committed and plagued Pharaoh so Pharaoh told his men not to touch her and sent him back to Canaan with all that he had for he was very rich. The land was not able to support Abraham and Lot together so he told Lot to choose where to go and he would go in the opposite direction. After Lot left the Lord again appeared to him and told him that he had given to him all the land and his descendants and they would be like the dust of the earth which could not be numbered. So, Abraham built an altar to the Lord at Hebron.

God kept saying to Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation on many occasions, however, when Sarah became too old to become a mother, she and Abraham decided to replace Sarah with another woman. So, Sarah gave Abraham her maidservant and Ishmael was born, Abraham decided to fix a spiritual problem with a natural solution and while it looked at first to be successful it was a total failure because the descendant of Ishmael is today's Arabs who continually confront the Children of Israel today. Trying to work out a spiritual problem by natural means can never work out and only makes the situation worse. Unfortunately, I have been guilty of the same actions and they never worked out for good. Again, God visited Abraham and told him that this time next year Sarah would be holding a baby in her arms this is even though Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah 90 years God's declaration became true so Isaac was born.

There is one final visitation that Abraham experienced, God told Abraham to take Isaac to Mount Moriah and offer him as a burnt sacrifice. On the way, Isaac said to his father we have the wood for the sacrifice but where is the lamb, and Abraham said to him that God himself would provide the lamb for the sacrifice. However, when they arrived on the mountain Abraham built the altar bound Isaac and placed him on the altar to sacrifice him

as he raises his hand with the knife to kill him God intervened and said to Abraham “For now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your son, your only son from me”. **Genesis 15:6** says: “And he (Abraham) believed in the Lord and He accounted to him for righteousness”.

Isaac had only a few visitations from the Lord that are recorded, there was a famine in the land where he was living and the Lord appeared to him and told him to stay where he was and not to go to Egypt. The Bible records that Isaac sowed in the famine and reaped a harvest of a hundredfold. The Bible goes on to say ‘Isaac began to prosper, and continued to prosper until he was very prosperous’ (**Genesis 26:12-13**). When Rebekah had no children, Isaac pleaded with the Lord and Rebekah gave birth to twin boys, Esau and Jacob and the Lord told her that Esau would serve Jacob.

There is so much that could be written about the people of the Old Testament who were visited by the Lord and were changed so I have decided just to name certain people but not go into any details of the visitation. The Lord visited Jacob several times and on the second time changed his name from Jacob to Israel. God spoke to Joseph through prophetic dreams of how He would be used by the Lord to save the nations. The Lord visited

Moses many times, the most significant time was when the Lord appeared in the burning bush and called him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt into the Promised Land. Joshua was given the plan of how Jericho would be defeated. God appeared to Gideon and the Midianites were defeated. God spoke to Samuel as a boy and God used him all his life. King David was a man after God's heart and when he was confronted by the enemy, he sought the Lord for a way to defeat the enemy.

Isaiah saw the Lord and he was changed and served the Lord as His prophet. There are three more people from the Bible that I want to highlight, firstly, Zacharias who was serving the Lord in the Temple when he had a visitation and was told that he would have a son even though his wife was well past childbearing age and his son was to be called John. When John grew up, he made the way for the launch of the ministry of Jesus. Secondly, a teenage girl named Mary had a visitation by the angel of the Lord and was told that she would give birth to our Saviour Jesus. Even though She did not understand what the angel had said. She replied in **Luke 1:58** *"Then Mary said 'Behold the maiden-servant of the Lord! Let it be according to your word'"*. The final person is the Apostle Paul who was on the road to Damascus to persecute the Christians when he saw the Lord and he changed and was mightily used by the Lord. We read in **Acts 26: 19** we read

what Paul said: *“Therefore King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision”*.

Finally, about eight years ago one Saturday morning as I was worshipping the Lord, I had an encounter with the Lord which was life-changing. I was told to pass on my spiritual heritage before I finish my life journey, in obedience to that encounter I have written 5 books and 7 booklets and these are available on my web page [IanPike.com .au](http://IanPike.com.au). God is still visiting His people but it is not the normal way we experience our Lord and Saviour; we experience Him as we daily walk with Him.

## Chapter 3 Habitation

As we start this new chapter it is important to understand the correct meaning of habitation. It is a place to continuously live in, and it is the act of living in. Because of our choice, it is something that continually happens, not occasionally. I have always referred to my Christian walk as 'Living with Jesus'. A verse that describes the way that I live is **Psalm 92 13&14** which says *"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of the Lord. They shall bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing"*. I look forward to each week being at church and worshipping with all the other people. As often as I can and always come away fresh and flourishing.

The significance of **Psalm 92 13& 14** cannot be overstated, in Old Testament times the only place you could experience the presence of the Lord was at the Temple also known as the House of the Lord. To have a life-changing was to expose yourself to His presence by being in the Temple and offering to Him what God's Law demanded. We know David had a special relationship with the Lord because the Bible describes him as a man after God's own heart. David used this phrase many times in the songs (Psalms) that he wrote to exalt his



God, “the Lord dwells in the praises of His people”. The place where these words were used was in the Temple.

The psalm says “Those who are planted in the house of the Lord” This could only be experienced when exposed to the presence of the Lord and this way of being impacted and this has not changed. In Old Testament times this could only happen when people modified the way that they lived. The Apostle Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians Chapter 10** that what happened to the Children of Israel was an example for us to learn by. With this in mind, David said in **Psalm 27:4** *“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and enquire in His temple”*. David had such a passion for His Lord. The children of Israel were restricted by the Law of Moses to how they could relate to their God. Today we are not limited by those restrictions, we are blessed to have a better way by being born again. Jesus died on the cross in our place so that the burden of sin could be broken in our lives and when He rose again on the third day, a new way to experience God and His presence was established. Let us now look at how God expects us to relate to Him now that we are born into His kingdom.

Next, I want to look at how Jesus related to His disciples, after He called them, He took them apart and taught them. **Matthew 5:1&2** says: *“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain and when He was seated His disciples came to Him, then He opened His mouth and taught them”*. What Jesus taught them is known as the ‘Sermon on the Mount’. The disciples were with Jesus for 3 1/2 years and even though Jesus told them on many occasions that He was going to die and rise again, they did not believe Him because they had their opinion which did not change despite what Jesus said and because of this except for John all the other disciples deserted Him when He was crucified such was the strength of their beliefs. Jesus appeared to His disciples twice after He rose again from the dead but that did not change their disappointment that Jesus did not defeat the Roman soldiers and set Israel free. This is something that we must guard against ‘Having strong beliefs’ that are not following God’s word and living by them and still calling themselves Christians. I have been born again over 69 years and I call my Christian experience ‘Living with Jesus’ and that is what I do. I try to make certain that the way that I live always pleases Jesus and does not follow any other opinions. This is what Jesus did with the very little time He had before He returned to heaven. However, in **John Chapter 16** Jesus made it very clear that He had to

return to His Father so that the person of the Holy Spirit would come and guide them into all truth.

We read in **Acts chapter 1** that the disciples asked Jesus just before He returned to heaven *“Lord, will you at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?”* (**Acts 1:6**) Jesus did not answer that question but told them not to depart from Jerusalem but wait for the Holy Spirit (Who the Father had promised) to come. The final words that Jesus spoke to His disciples were found in **Acts 1:8** which says: *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”*. The disciples obeyed the command of Jesus and stayed in the upper room where they prayed continually until the Holy Spirit came. We read in **Acts 2:4** that all those present in the upper room were filled with the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples heard that many people were being born again in Samaria, they sent Peter and John to lay hands on the people to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also told the disciples what to do, in **Acts 13:2** we read *“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said ‘Now separate for me Barnabas and Saul for the work which I have for them’”*. The then-known world

was evangelised through the power and direction of the Holy Spirit.

We do not say much about the role the Holy Spirit played in preparing Jesus for his time of ministry on earth. John the Baptist said in **John 1: 32-34** *“And John bore witness, saying ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and remained on Him, I did not know Him but He who sent me to baptise with water, said to me ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and remained on Him this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and testified that this the Son of God’.* Then we read in **Luke 4:1** *“Then Jesus being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness “.* We then read in **Luke 4:14** *“Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out throughout all the surrounding Region “.* The fact that the Holy Spirit remained on Jesus and led Him to the people is rarely mentioned. But this was the reason Jesus returned to heaven so His disciples would be filled with the Holy Spirit like He was.

The Apostle Paul says in **1 Corinthians 6:19&20** *“Do you not know that your body is the temple (Dwelling Place) of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God. And you are not your own? For you were bought at a*

*price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which is God's* “NLT “*Don't you know your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So, you must honour God with your body*”. Highway church has a motto “Just say yes and the journey begins “, however, unless we continue to say yes, the journey stops. It is very clear when we are born again, we become a new person and this new person is only satisfied with Godly things. Paul reminds us of the price that Jesus paid by being crucified on the cross and rising from the dead on the third day so that sin has no power over us and the Holy Spirit lives within us. When we become close to the Lord the Holy Spirit becomes evident in the way that we live. This is something that we have to learn and one of the functions of the Holy Spirit is the teacher. As we continually commit our lives to live God's way the Holy Spirit leads and guides us into all truth (**John 16:13**). The fact that we were created for the Holy Spirit to live in us is so important for Paul to say “Don't you know” suggests that we can tend to forget that this how God wants us to live. In the Old Testament, the Temple was the dwelling place of the presence of God so when Paul said the Temple the people of that day understood the significance of the statement, however, today we have a new

understanding that God wants to live with us continually. The only thing that stops this from happening is when we want to live our way not God's way.

The Apostle Paul concludes his second letter to the church at Corinth with this statement found in **2 Corinthians 13:14** which says *“May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion/fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen”*. We are very familiar with and enjoy the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God our Heavenly Father, but we do not emphasise or talk about the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The dictionary defines Fellowship as *“having a sympathetic companion with you”*. At first glance, this is not how we understand the person of the Holy Spirit. To help our understanding of the Holy Spirit one of the Greek names that describe Him is ‘Parakletos’ which means ‘The one who stands alongside you to defend you’. This aspect of the Holy Spirit is rarely talked about but I find it very comforting, knowing I have a person of the God-head with me all the time. This helps me understand that the Holy Spirit lives in me and has given me a language that makes me Spiritually strong and declares the plans of God.

It is good to remind ourselves of **Psalms 22:7** which says: *“But you are Holy, who inhabit the praise of Israel (His*

*people*). Praising God is so important to us because praising God is not just words but a place where God dwells. This verse exposes the reason why we do not praise the Lord continually, it declares that God is Holy and because of this fact He only inhabits that which is Holy. This is why when other things become more important than the Lord, we find it difficult to praise the Lord, but when we are close to Him it is so easy to continually praise Him.

Finally, we need to be reminded that we are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit. **Ephesians 2:19-22** says: *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit “*. The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that the main reason for being born-again is to be part of God’s family which becomes a holy temple in the Lord. This tells us why we are so loved by God and that Jesus was prepared to suffer and die on the cross and rose again on the third day victorious over Satan, the power of sin was broken forever and now we can live in freedom with our Saviour.

These verses remind us that God wants to dwell in us and that being a Christian is a life-changing experience. That is why I call my Christian life “Living with Jesus”. May we never forget that we are God’s habitation and live a life that demonstrates that fact.



## Chapter 4 Summary

As we come to this summary of Visitation and Habitation, we must understand God's plan for His creation. The Bible says that when God created mankind, He created them in His image and likeness, in other words, mankind was part of God's family and it is recorded that He spent time with His family every day. God places great value on being part of His family. However, Adam disobeyed God and sin entered His creation and we know that sin separates us from God. It is important to highlight that God hates disobedience because He equates disobedience to the sin of witchcraft.

Sadly, as the population grew so did sin and ungodly behaviour to the extent that God was sorry, he made mankind and decided to destroy mankind. However, He found one righteous person (Noah) who used to build the Ark and so His creation escaped when the whole world was flooded. From Noah and His family, the earth was once again populated and God decided to show His plan for His creation to worship Him.

It is so encouraging to understand that God knows the beginning from the end and understands how people will react with the right encouragement and opportunity so

that they will make the correct decision. We read how God visited a pagan man who worshipped idols and asked him to leave his old ways behind and go to a country that he did not know. That man was Abraham who lived a life believing in God and God visited him on many occasions, God told him that he would be a father when he and his wife were too old to have a baby. That baby was Isaac who followed and was visited by the Lord. He had two sons Esau who was not Godly and despised Godly things, and Jacob who had a passion for Godly ways but went about his life the wrong way. Jacob had several visitations from God and through these visitations, he was a changed man. God gave him a new name Israel and he had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel.

Jacob and his family of 70 people went to live in Egypt to escape the severe famine. 430 years later God came and visited His people using Moses to lead His people who had become a nation of about 2 million people out of Egypt. They were led by God to Mount Sinai where He instructed them in the way that they should live and worship Him. Sadly, the Children of Israel refused to live God's way and despite of this God still led them to the land that He had promised to Abraham. When in the land they continually disobeyed God to the extent that eventually they were taken captive and never started to

return until 1948 when Israel was given the land to live in. Despite being visited by God so many times they did not want to live God's way.

Because God loved us, He had another plan, He would send His only son to suffer death on the cross and rise again on the third day so that the power of sin would be conquered forever and Satan had no power over those people who were born-again, who no longer live to please themselves. The apostle Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** *“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were brought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which is God's ”*. These verses tell us that when we are born-again, we choose to submit to God and allow Him to dwell in us and we follow His ways. This is the exact opposite of what the god of this world (Satan) teaches, I am important and can do whatever I choose to do if it pleases me. There is a danger that when we are born-again that we try to keep control of part of our life, this never works and we never experience the satisfaction of being committed to Jesus. The apostle Paul repeats this truth in **Ephesians 2:19-20** where he only phrases it differently for, he said: “You are being built together for a habitation of God in the spirit”. It is

very clear today that God wants to dwell in us because when this happens living with Jesus is so good.