**Aflame Sunday Celebration Message – 11 March 2018**

**Minister : Pastor Jimmy S Goh**

**Theme : To Freely Receive, To Freely Give – To ENGAGE & BEAR FRUITS (7)**

# “Freely you have Received, Freely Give”- To Desire *Receiving Spiritually*, so as to *Give Spiritually*.

**~ We are to Be *SeedFull* to Be *FruitFull*, we are to Engage the Communities *Obedientwise* to GOD.**

**We learnt in OT Kings, that Saul was appointed as 1st King of Israel, then GOD Rejected him.**

**~ Kingship was not GOD’s Perfect Will, but GOD’s *Permissive Will*, as Israelites asked for It.**

**1 Samuel 8: 4 – 9, 19 – 22 (AMP)**

His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but *turned aside after dishonest gain*, took bribes, and perverted justice. Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "Look, you have grown old, and *your sons do not walk in your ways*. Now ***appoint us***

***a king to judge us*** [*and rule over us*] like all the other nations." But their demand displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge and rule over us." So Samuel *prayed to the* LORD.

The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for

they have not rejected you, but ***they have rejected*** **ME** from being King over them. Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day - in that they

*have abandoned* (rejected) ME and *served other god* - so they are doing to you also. So now listen to their voice; only solemnly warn them and tell them *the ways of the king who will reign over them*."

Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, "No, but there shall be a king over us, so that we too may be like all the nations [*around us*], that our king may judge [*and govern*] us and go out before us and fight our battles." Samuel had heard all the words of the people and repeated them to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to their request and ***appoint a king for them*.**" So Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Go, each man to his own city."

**So Saul was chosen from the Least, to lead Israel, then Rejected being Foolish & *Rebellious.***

**1 Samuel 13: 13 – 14 (AMP)**Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD
your GOD, which HE commanded you, for [*if you had obeyed*] the LORD would have *established
your kingdom over Israel forever*. But now *your kingdom shall not endure*. The LORD has sought out
for HIMself *a man* (David) after HIS Own Heart, and the LORD has appointed him as leader and ruler over HIS people, because *you have not kept* (obeyed) what the LORD commanded you." **1 Samuel 15: 10 – 11 (NLT)** Then the LORD said to Samuel, “I am sorry that I *ever made Saul king*, for he has not been loyal to ME and has ***refused to*** ***obey*** MY *Command*.” Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the LORD all night.

**1 Samuel 15: 23**

“For *Rebellion* *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and *Stubbornness* *is as* *Iniquity* and *Idolatry.*

Because you have rejected the Word of the LORD, HE also has rejected you from *being* king."

**Idolatry is the *Cause* of Disobedience to the Word of GOD, As Iniquity is the *Root* to Rebel.**

**~ 1 Samuel 15: 22 (NLT)**

 “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience

 to HIS Voice ? Listen ! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than

 offering the fat of rams.”

**Idolatry causes Adultery with the World, as Iniquity causes *Craving Lusts to Dominate* flesh.**

**- 1 John 2: 16 – 17 (NLT)**

**Obedience is the Key to be *Holy in Conduct*, which will be What Pleases the LORD GOD.**

**1 Peter 1: 14 – 16**

As obedient children, *not conforming yourselves to the former lusts*, *as in* your ignorance;

but as HE Who called you is Holy, you also be Holy in *all your conduct*, because it is written,

"BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

**As GOD’s People in CHRIST, Washed by HIS Blood to be HIS Own *Special Holy Possession*.**

**Revelations 1: 5 – 6**

And from JESUS CHRIST, the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler

over the kings of the earth. To HIM Who *loved us and washed us* from our sins in HIS Own Blood,

and *has made us* ***Kings and Priests*** to HIS GOD and FATHER, to HIM be Glory and Dominion

forever and ever. Amen.

**~ 1 Peter 2: 9 – 10**

 But you are a chosen generation, a *Royal Priesthood*, a *Holy Nation*, HIS Own special people,

 that you may proclaim the Praises of HIM Who *called you out* of darkness *into* HIS Marvellous

 Light; who once *were* not a people but are now the people of GOD, who had not obtained Mercy

 but now have obtained Mercy.

**As CHRIST’ Chosen People Made *Kings & Priests* for GOD’s Kingdom, our *Spiritual Calling*.
~ In the Jewish Kingdom, *Call Capacity* were either Kings or Priests to worship & serve GOD.**

**Drawing the Line in our Daily *Living & Walking* about this World, as the Kingdom is Within us.**

**- Romans 12: 1 – 2a (MSG)**

**World’s Culture in *Hypocrisy of Lies* is of *Spiritual Source* of the Devil, Deceitful & Seductive.**

**1 Timothy 4: 1 – 2 (AMP)**

But the [Holy] SPIRIT explicitly and unmistakably declares that in later times some will turn

*away from the faith*, paying attention instead to ***deceitful*and *seductive spirits*** *and* ***doctrines***

***of demons***, [misled] by the ***hypocrisy of liars*** whose consciences are seared as with

a branding iron [leaving them incapable of ethical functioning].

**More Critical Lessons of the Jewish Kings’ Down-lines – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.**

**~ Amaziah - A Lesson of Not having Hirelings of another Camp in your Battles vs Enemy.**

**2 Chronicles 25: 2 – 3, 6 – 8, 20 – 25**

Amaziah did ***What was Pleasing in*** the LORD’s Sight, but ***Not Wholeheartedly***. When Amaziah

was well established as king, he executed the officials who had assassinated his father.

He also paid about 7,500 pounds of silver to hire 100,000 experienced fighting men from Israel.

But a man of GOD came to him and said, “Your Majesty, do not hire troops from Israel, for the LORD is not with Israel. HE will not help those people of Ephraim ! If you let them go with your troops into battle, you will be defeated by the enemy no matter how well you fight. GOD will overthrow you, for HE has the Power ***to help you or to trip you up***.”

But Amaziah *Refused to listen*, for GOD was determined to destroy him for turning to the gods of Edom. So King Jehoash of Israel mobilized his army against King Amaziah of Judah. The two armies drew up their battle lines at Beth-shemesh in Judah. Judah *was routed by the army of Israel*, and its army scattered and fled for home. King Jehoash of Israel captured Judah’s king, Amaziah son of Joash and grandson of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh. Then he brought him to Jerusalem, where he demolished

600 feet of Jerusalem’s wall, from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate. He carried off all the gold and silver and all the articles from the Temple of God that had been in the care of Obed-edom.

He also seized the treasures of the royal palace, along with hostages, and then returned to Samaria. King Amaziah of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of King Jehoash of Israel.

**Uzziah - Very Successful King, in Battles, Building Fortification, Organiser of his Army.**

**2 Chronicles 26: 3 – 9 (NLT)**

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem *fifty-two years*.

His mother was Jecoliah from Jerusalem. He did what was pleasing in the LORD’s Sight, just as

his father, Amaziah, had done. Uzziah sought GOD during the days of Zechariah, who taught him

to fear God. *And as long as the king sought guidance from the LORD, GOD gave him* ***Success*.**

Uzziah declared war on the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod.

Then he built new towns in the Ashdod area and in other parts of Philistia.

GOD helped him in his wars against the Philistines, his battles with the Arabs of Gur, and his wars with the Meunites. The Meunites paid annual tribute to him, and his fame spread even to Egypt,

for *he had become* *very powerful*. Uzziah *built fortified towers* in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate,

at the Valley Gate, and at the angle in the wall.

**Uzziah built up Well Trained Army, Organised them under Leadership with 2,600 Clan Leaders**

**Ref - 2 Chronicles 26: 11 – 14 (NLT).**

**Uzziah’s Issue of Pride when was Successful & Powerful, Disobedience to the LORD’s Rules.**

**2 Chronicles 26: 16 – 21 (NLT)**

But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall.

He sinned against the LORD his GOD by entering the sanctuary of the LORD’s Temple and personally burning incense on the incense altar. Azariah the high priest went in after him with eighty other priests

of the LORD, all brave men. They confronted King Uzziah and said, “It is ***Not for you,*** Uzziah,

*to burn incense to the LORD*. That is the work of the priests alone, the descendants of Aaron who are ***Set Apart for this work*.** Get out of the Sanctuary, for you have sinned. The LORD GOD will not honor you for this !” Uzziah, who was holding an incense burner, *became furious*.

But as he was standing there *Raging at the priests* before the Incense Altar in the LORD’s Temple, *leprosy suddenly broke out on his forehead*. When Azariah the High Priest and all the other priests

*saw the leprosy, they rushed him out*. And the king himself was eager to get out because

the LORD had struck him. So King Uzziah *had leprosy until the day he died*. He lived in isolation

in a separate house, for he was excluded from the Temple of the LORD. His son Jotham was put

in charge of the royal palace, and he governed the people of the land.

**Jotham was a Good King, despite his Father’s Success brought Downfall with Pride not dealt.**

**2 Chronicles 27: 2 – 6 (NLT)**

Jotham did what was pleasing in the LORD’s Sight. He did everything his father, Uzziah, had done, except that Jotham *did not sin* by entering the Temple of the LORD. But the people continued in their corrupt ways. Jotham rebuilt the upper gate of the Temple of the LORD. He also did *extensive rebuilding* on the wall at the hill of Ophel. He built towns in the hill country of Judah and constructed fortresses and towers in the wooded areas. Jotham went to war against the Ammonites and conquered them.

Over the next three years he received from them an annual tribute of 7,500 pounds of silver, 50,000 bushels of wheat, and 50,000 bushels of barley.

King Jotham *became powerful because he was careful to live in obedience to* the LORD his GOD.

**Kings - Few Good Kings, Many Bad Kings, But an Ugly King, Before Some Very Good Kings.**

**King Ahaz, Unfaithfulness at End, to Seek Enemy’s help, Worst was he Closed the Temple.**

**2 Chronicles 28: 16 – 25 (NLT)**

At that time King Ahaz of Judah asked the king of Assyria for help. The armies of Edom had again invaded Judah and *taken captives*. And the Philistines had raided towns located in the foothills of Judah and in the Negev of Judah. They had *already captured and occupied* Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages.

The LORD was humbling Judah because of King Ahaz of Judah, for he *had encouraged* *his people to sin and had been utterly unfaithful to* the LORD. So when King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria arrived, he attacked Ahaz instead of helping him. Ahaz took valuable items from the LORD’s Temple, the royal palace, and from the homes of his officials and *gave them* to the king of Assyria *as Tribute*. But this did not help him.

Even during *this time of trouble*, King Ahaz *continued to Reject* the LORD. He *offered sacrifices to the gods of* Damascus who had defeated him, for he said, “Since these gods helped the kings of Aram,

they will help me, too, if I sacrifice to them.” But instead, *they led to his ruin and the ruin of all Judah*. The king *took the various articles from* the Temple of GOD and *broke them into pieces*.

He shut the doors of the LORD’s Temple so that no one could worship there, and he set up altars to pagan gods in every corner of Jerusalem. He made pagan shrines in all the towns of Judah for offering sacrifices to other gods. In this way, *he aroused* the Anger of the LORD, the GOD of his ancestors.

**People of Israel & even Judah, Refuse to Obey, Reject the LORD GOD > 2 Kings 17: 14 – 21.**

**King Hezekiah, the Son of the Ugly King Ahaz, was A Good King - *Not Effected* by Bad Daddy.**

**2 Chronicles 29: 1 – 11 (NLT)**

Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became the king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem *twenty-nine years*. His mother was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

He did ***What was*** ***Pleasing in*** the LORD’s Sight, just as his ancestor David had done. In the very

first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah ***Reopened the doors of*** *the* Temple of the LORD

and ***Repaired*** *them*. He summoned the priests and Levites to meet him at the courtyard east of the Temple. He said to them, “Listen to me, you Levites ! ***Purify yourselves***, and ***Purify the Temple***

of the LORD, the GOD of your ancestors. ***Remove All*** *the defiled things* from the Sanctuary.

Our *ancestors were unfaithful and did what was evil in* the Sight of the LORD our GOD.

They *abandoned* the LORD and HIS Dwelling Place; they turned their backs on HIM.

They also shut the doors to the Temple’s Entry room, and they *Snuffed out the lamps*.

They *stopped Burnin*g *incense* and *Presenting* burnt offerings at the Sanctuary of the GOD of Israel.

“That is why the LORD’s Anger has fallen upon Judah and Jerusalem. HE has made them

an object of dread, horror, and ridicule, as you can see with your own eyes. Because of this,

our fathers *have been killed in battle*, and *our sons and daughters and wives have been captured*.

But now I will make a Covenant with the LORD, the GOD of Israel, so that HIS fierce Anger *will*

Turn *Away* from us. My sons, do *Not Neglect* your duties any longer ! The LORD has *Chosen*

you to stand in HIS Presence, to Minister to HIM, and to *Lead the people in Worship and*

*Present Offerings* to HIM.”

**Place of Worship was Holy Ground for the LORD’s Presence, *Work of Cleansing* the Temple.**

**2 Chronicles 29: 15b – 19 (NLT)**

Then they began ***to Cleanse* the Temple** of the LORD, just as the king had commanded. They were careful to *Follow All* the LORD’s Instructions in their work. The priests went into the Sanctuary of the Temple of the LORD *to Cleanse It*, and they took out to the Temple courtyard *All the defile*d *things they found*. From there the Levites carted it all out to the Kidron Valley. They began the work in early spring, on the first day of the new year, and in *eight days they had reached* the *Entry Room* of the LORD’s Temple. Then they *Purified* the Temple of the LORD itself, which took *another eight* *days*. So the entire task was completed *in sixteen days*. Then the Levites went to King Hezekiah and gave him this Report:

“We *have Cleansed* the entire Temple of the LORD, the Altar of Burnt Offering with All its Utensils, and the table of the Bread of the Presence with all its Utensils.

We have also recovered *All the Items* discarded by King Ahaz *when he was unfaithful and*

*closed the Temple*. They are now in front of the Altar of the LORD, *Purified and Ready for use*.”

**After Cleansing & Purifying of All the Entry Room, Sanctuary, Altars & Utensils - Worship !**

**2 Chronicles 29: 21, 25 – 33, 36 (NLT)**

They brought seven bulls, seven rams, and seven male lambs as a burnt offering, together

with seven male goats as a Sin Offering for the kingdom, for the Temple, and for Judah.

The king commanded the priests, who were descendants of Aaron, to sacrifice the animals

on the Altar of the LORD.

King Hezekiah then stationed the Levites at the Temple of the LORD with cymbals, lyres, and harps.

He obeyed *All the Commands* that the LORD had given to King David through Gad, the king’s seer, and the prophet Nathan. The Levites then took their positions around the Temple with the instruments of David, and the *priests took their positions with the trumpets*. Then Hezekiah ordered *that the Burnt Offering be placed on the Altar*. As the *Burnt Offering was presented*, ***Songs of Praise*** to the LORD were begun, accompanied by the trumpets and other instruments of David, the former king of Israel.

The entire ***Assembly Worshiped*** the LORD as the singers sang and the trumpets blew, until All the Burnt Offerings were finished. Then the king and everyone with him ***Bowed Down* *in Worship***.

King Hezekiah and the officials ordered the Levites ***to Praise***the LORD with the ***Psalms written*** by David and by Asaph the seer. So they ***Offered Joyous Prais***e and ***Bowed Down in Worship***.

Then Hezekiah declared, “Now that you have *Consecrated* yourselves to the LORD, *Bring your Sacrifices and Thanksgiving Offerings* to the Temple of the LORD.” So the people brought their Sacrifices and Thanksgiving Offerings, and ***All Whose Hearts were willing*** brought Burnt Offerings, too.

The people brought to the LORD 70 bulls, 100 rams, and 200 male lambs for Burnt Offerings.

They also brought 600 cattle and 3,000 sheep and goats as Sacred Offerings.

And Hezekiah and All the people Rejoiced because of What GOD had done for the people,

***for everything had been accomplished so quickly***.

**King Hezekiah invited Judah & All Israel (10 Tribes) to Come Back to the Temple in Jerusalem**

**- To Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Passover Lamb.**

**2 Chronicles 30: 6 - 13, 15, 18 – 20, 23 – 24 (NLT)**

At the king’s command, runners were sent throughout Israel and Judah. They carried letters that said:

“O people of Israel, return to the LORD, the GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that

HE *will return to the few of us who have survived the conquest of the Assyrian kings*.

Do not *be like* *your ancestors and relatives who abandoned* the LORD, the GOD of their ancestors, and became an object of derision, as you yourselves can see.  ***Do Not be Stubborn***, as they were, but ***Submit* yourselves to the LORD.**  Come to HIS Temple, which he has ***Set Apart as Holy Forever*.**

Worship the LORD your GOD so that HIS fierce Anger will turn away from you.

“For if you return to the LORD, your relatives and your children will be treated Mercifully by their captors, and they will be able to Return to this land. For the LORD your GOD is Gracious and Merciful.

If you return to HIM, HE will *not continue to tur*n HIS Face from you.”

The runners went from town to town throughout Ephraim and Manasseh and as far as the territory of Zebulun. But most of the people just laughed at the runners and made fun of them. However,

some people from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem.

At the same time, GOD’s Hand was on the people in the land of Judah, giving them All *One Heart*

*to* *Obey* the orders of the king and his officials, who *were following the* Word of the LORD.

So a huge crowd assembled at Jerusalem in midspring to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

On the fourteenth day of the second month, one month later than usual, the people slaughtered

the Passover lamb. This shamed the priests and Levites, so they *Purified themselves* and brought

Burnt Offerings to the Temple of the LORD.

Most of those who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun *had Not Purified* *themselves*. But King Hezekiah *Prayed for them*, and they were *Allowed to eat the Passover Meal* anyway,

even though this *was contrary* to the requirements of the Law. For Hezekiah said,

“May the LORD, Who is Good, *pardon those who decide to follow* the LORD, the GOD of their ancestors, even though *they are not properly cleansed for the Ceremony*.” And the LORD *listened* to Hezekiah’s prayer and *healed the people*.

The entire assembly then decided to continue the Festival *another seven days,* so they *celebrated joyfully for another week.* King Hezekiah ***Gave the people*** 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep and goats

***for Offerings***, and the officials donated 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep and goats.

Meanwhile, *many more priests purified themselves*.

**King Hezekiah was Generous to Provide the People to Offer Sacrifices, Abundance *Left Over*.**

**2 Chronicles 31: 9 – 12a, 20 – 21 ; 30: 23 – 26 (NLT)**

“Where did All this come from ?” Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites. And Azariah the High Priest, from the family of Zadok, replied, “Since the people began bringing their gifts to the LORD’s Temple,

we have *had enough to eat and plenty to spare*. The LORD has blessed his people, and

***All this is left over***.” Hezekiah ordered that storerooms be prepared in the Temple of the LORD.

When this was done, the people *faithfully brought all the Gifts*, *Tithes,* and other items *Dedicated*

*for use in the Temple.*

In this way, King Hezekiah handled the distribution throughout all Judah, *doing What was pleasing and Good in* the Sight of the LORD his GOD. In all that he did in the service of the Temple of GOD and

in his efforts to follow GOD’s Laws and Commands, Hezekiah sought his GOD *Wholeheartedly*.

As a result, *he was Very Successful*.

The *entire assembly* of Judah rejoiced, including the priests, the Levites, all who came from the

land of Israel, the foreigners who came to the Festival, and all those who lived in Judah.

There was Great Joy in the city, for Jerusalem had *not seen a* *celebration like this one since the*

*days of Solomon*, King David’s son.

**After Celebrations, Praise & Worship, Work to Demolish Enemy’s Strongholds - Idolatry.**

**~ To Institute Daily, Weekly & Annual Sacrifices - Devotions to GOD, to Obey HIS Word.**

**2 Chronicles 31: 1 – 4 (NLT)**

When the festival ended, the Israelites who attended went to all the towns of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh, and they *smashed all the sacred pillars*, *cut down the Asherah poles*,

and *removed the pagan shrines and altars*. After this, the Israelites returned to their own towns and homes.

Hezekiah then organized the priests and Levites into divisions to offer the Burnt Offerings and Peace Offerings, and to worship and give thanks and praise to the LORD at the gates of the Temple.

The king also ***made a personal contribution*** of animals for the ***daily morning*** and ***evening***

Burnt Offerings, ***the weekly*** Sabbath Festivals, ***the monthly*** new moon Festivals, and

***the annual Festivals*** as prescribed in the Law of the LORD. In addition, he required the people in Jerusalem *to bring a portion of their goods to the priests and Levites*, so they could devote themselves fully to the Law of the LORD.

**People Blessed & Rejoicing, Began Bringing First Fruits, Tithes & Offering to the Store House**

**~ Reference - 2 Chronicles 31: 5 – 13**

**2 Chronicles 31: 20 – 21 (NLT)**

In this way, King Hezekiah handled the distribution throughout all Judah, doing *What was*

*Pleasing* *and Good in the Sight of* the LORD his GOD.

In all that he Did in the service of the Temple of GOD and in his efforts to *Follow* GOD’s Laws

and Commands, Hezekiah sought his GOD *Wholeheartedly*. As a result, he was *Very Successful*.

**Our Success *IS IN* Our Walk with the LORD - When we Sought & follow HIM Wholeheartedly ?**

**~ Enemy do threaten, Intimidate & Attack, when Successful in following GOD Wholeheartedly**

**~ Deadly Sicknesses do come upon one who is Successful in following GOD Wholeheartedly**

**The LORD our GOD is the Highest, so *Nothing in this World is to Take* HIS *No 1 in our Heart.***

**- *Drawn Away* by Any Wrong Spiritual Deception & Seduction - Ref : Revelations 2: 19 – 21.**

**Hebrews 10: 35 – 39 (NLT)**

So do not throw away this *Confident Trust* in the LORD. Remember the great Reward it brings you ! *Patient Endurance* is what you need now, so that you will continue to do GOD’s Will. Then you will receive all that HE *has Promised*. “For in just a little while, the Coming ONE will come and not delay. And my Righteous ones will live by faith. But I *will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away*.”

But we are *not like those who turn away* from GOD to their own destruction.

We are the *faithful ones, whose souls will be saved*.

**IF Anyone *Draws Back* with Shrinking Fear, MY SOUL has *NO Delight in him -* Hebrews 10: 38.**

**~ How does Anyone *Draw* or *Back Away* from the LORD, by Abandoning HIM in *Any situation*.**