**2021 01 03 LIGHT ENVELOPED THRESHOLDS**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**Light Enveloped Thresholds**

“Thresholds” something we step over into something – the classic picture of the newly married couple and the husband carrying the wife over the threshold of the new house or in todays world visa versa.

Obviously today a new year starting – so what? No point talking about last year’s resolutions and plans – We had a trip booked to travel to China in March!!!! Didn’t happen.

Old saying “Man proposes, God disposes”

“DV: God willing we will live and do this or that.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

What happened to last year – fire, disease, floods, lockdowns and …

I see some hopeful things that maybe will come out of last year – and greater awareness of family and community, a realignment of what we see is important – a greater awareness of ourselves – life not just going on as one day after another.

Maybe a sense in the general population that God is real?

Personally - I feel– more centred.

***? what hopefully good do you see as coming out of 2020? And us taking into 2021***

***In the community? And as part of ourselves?***

The people recorded in Jeremiah’s’ writings were on the threshold of a return from captivity – a return after much damage done to themselves because of their own choices, in leaving Gods covering and safety and being arrogant enough to live in a superficial relationship with God. The joy of returning to God can be heard in “the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands to strong for him”[[2]](#footnote-2) the response “they shall come and sing aloud on the heights of Zion; they shall be radiant, over by the goodness of the Lord … they shall languish no more.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Maybe in 2020 we have walked with the Lord as close as we have been able – maybe grown in faith and trust, maybe we have been dulled or not know the Lord Jesus at all, or have come through sadness and abuse or aloneness – maybe Jeremiah’s words are for us as are the words of Isaiah[[4]](#footnote-4)**

**These are words that are for all of us- as I read them let them wrap themselves around our emotions and our minds and feel Gods Spirit bringing ‘LIGHT” into our souls and spirits.**

**0**“Comfort, comfort My people,” says your God.
**2**“Speak [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2040%3A1-11&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18423a)]kindly to them:
And call out to them, that her [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2040%3A1-11&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18423b)]warfare has ended,
That her [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2040%3A1-11&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18423c)]guilt has been removed,

**3**A voice is calling,
“Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;
Make [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2040%3A1-11&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18424d)]straight in the desert a highway for our God.
**4**Let every valley be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;
And let the uneven ground become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;
**5**[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2040%3A1-11&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18426e)]Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
And all flesh will see *it* together;
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”[[5]](#footnote-5)

*Can we see this as personal, the uneven places in our characters, the highs and the lows, the Spirit of God will bring these to be straight pathways for Gods love to flow in our daily lives.*

**11”**Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,
In His arm He will gather the lambs
And carry *them* in the fold of His robe.”

We still walk in a war zone in this world, in our lives, God says:

“be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armour of God, (bought by our Lord Jesus, given to us freely by God and brought to us by Gods Spirit)

So that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Because our struggle is not against flesh and blood – (other humans) but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies.”

“**because of this, take up the full armour of God**, so that you will be able to resist – *(when temptations resurface or new ones come) -*  and having done everything to stand firm.”[[6]](#footnote-6) STAND FIRM, STATE WHO WE ARE IN JESUS.

God has given us all we need to walk the road with Himself:[[7]](#footnote-7)

1. We know that we are saved, this assurance brings us growth and protects our thoughts – keep the thought, the knowledge that in Jesus our Lord we are saved. “Whatever things are pure whatever things are lovely – think on those things – a choice for us to individually make.”[[8]](#footnote-8)
2. We are given bullet proof vests with the cross of Jesus emblazed on them ‘the breastplate of righteousness’ when our emotions stir us, say, and know, I am right with God in Jesus my Lord and Saviour.
3. We know the truth – it is in the gift of Gods Spirit, of a new heart of flesh[[9]](#footnote-9) in us, and, because we are slow to learn, it is written down for us, in what we call the Bible.
4. We have peace with God and we are sent out to spread the peace of God through Jesus to others – do we have an attitude of peace in all our thoughts and actions, trust in God brings this!
5. Maybe we do not know what to say - the ‘sword of the Spirit’ – is the words that God Spirit puts in our mouths’.
6. We have the ‘force field’ of trusting in God’s presence and reality and of our inner being open to God at all times.

As we start the journey of 2021 we are protected and ready and equipped to walk in peace - into the battle in whatever comes at us or is in us – if we stay in Jesus’ ways.

Looking ahead we see “Light Enveloped Thresholds” to step into – not dungeons of gloom and loneliness, but living in the Lords and each other’s company.

**Look at what Ephesians 1:3-14 God** tells us about who is with us in this year that we have already stepped into,

we are  **Enveloped in Light**:

1. Gods favour smiles on us – is it ours[[10]](#footnote-10) – can we live in this smile – **yes!** because we have come in repentance to the cross of Jesus, confessed to God who we are on our own – that there was a ritual to our lives that no longer – if it ever did – brings us life. “Jesus became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”[[11]](#footnote-11) We are loved by God.[[12]](#footnote-12)
2. Gods Presence brings us into harmony with Gods love -God and us can make beautiful music together.
3. God’s grace – if we join ourselves to it, it brings an undisturbedness in our walk in Gods Light in God’s creation – no matter how disturbed the day.
4. When we bless God, thank God, acknowledge God and choose Gods way – to love God and other people, we bring pleasure to God.

How did we come to be in this love of God?

Left to ourselves none would come but God for whatever reason chose to draw us to Himself. How can we take the chance of messing it up – let us renew our minds every day[[13]](#footnote-13) and draw our ears and feelings and eyes to know and feel that the Comforter, the One who stays close to us, who teaches us and takes our unspoken prayers to God[[14]](#footnote-14) is in us. This is Gods Spirit Who lives in us and brings Jesus to us and who will not leave us – however we are told “NOT TO CAUSE OFFENCE TO THE SPIRIT.”[[15]](#footnote-15)

We must always be quietly, actively aware that the Spirit is with us and maybe the Spirit does not want to go were we do or to hear what we hear – it is a reality every moment of the day, and to walk in the Light of Gods love the choices that we make that effect the reality, the clearness of the light of our walk with God.

Who are we, you and I individually, personally in Gods opinion? We are Holy, consecrated, set apart for Himself, blameless in His opinion, above reproach – before Him in His love !

Is God a liar?

Well, this is who we are in Gods reality,

This is the **threshold, the doorway enveloped in Gods light that we live in.**

Pray

1. James 4:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jeremiah 31:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Jeremiah 31:11,12. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Isaiah 40:1-11 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Isaiah 40:1-5,11 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ephesians 6:10-13 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Ephesians 6:13-18 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Psalm 149:4. Luke 15:7. Psalm 22:8. etc [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 2 Corinthians 5:21 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. John 3:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Romans 12:2. Ephesians 4:23 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. John 14-16 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Ephesians 4:30 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)