

## Blessed New Year 2023

To grow as disciples of Christ: that Christ be Lord of our life

that we love God

that we love people

Becoming mature in Christ

Encountering God in our daily life



#### **Encountering God**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Is 6:1

The year King Uzziah died – 739BC (52 years reign)
In the Temple – intentionally into His presence
Saw the Lord

Raah - Encounter the Lord

Have we encountered the Lord this morning?

### The Reality of the Unseen Spiritual

#### The Presence of God:

Real

The Experience of Isaiah

Unseen



For this we are created:

To live in the unseen spiritual reality

## Living in the Unseen Reality

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. Ps 91:1

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. Jn 15:4

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Cor 3:18

Disciples of Christ: live, dwell and abide in this reality

Becoming: changed and transformed

#### The Problem: Ignoring the Unseen

Just living in the physical – ignoring God (even the Israelites)

Our reality - what we see, hear, smell, taste and touch

Else, we ignore, neglect or find it hard to connect

Preoccupied with things of the world

Overwhelmed with the struggles of the physical



#### The Unseen Spiritual is More Real

Spiritual reality is more real than physical reality

Before the physical was the spiritual

In the beginning God created ... Gen 1:1

The seen is temporary, the unseen is eternal

It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body 1 C15:44

#### Christ's disciples:

are to be found in this unseen world connected and living in this unseen reality

#### **Entering into the Spiritual**

Isaiah entered into the temple where God was present.

What is involved in entering into God's presence?

- Believe in the spiritual world
- Be aware that we are spiritual beings
- Connect with the spiritual (God) by faith
- Relate and talk to God
- Abide, dwell and live in Him

Live as a spiritual being – every day, throughout the day

### Experiencing God

I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Is 6:1



When this is life, then physical problems not so big

We are created to live with God and to live in God

For in Him we live and have our being. Acts 17:28

#### More than Just Seeing God

<sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

# Angels Visions Voice Touch Healing Love Comfort

#### Seeing God is Seeing my Wretchedness

<sup>5</sup> "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

## Hearing from God & Responding to Him

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

When we encounter God, life becomes a respond to Him

#### Conclusion

#### As disciples encountering the spiritual, we need:

- To enter into His presence.
- To see Him and experience Him.
- To be cleansed by the blood of Christ.
- To hear His voice and respond to it.

