THE MASTERCRAFT: "YOU ARE A BED OF ROSES"

JULY 5TH, 2020

YOU ARE A BED OF ROSES

Text: Isaiah 55 (NRSV)

Message Background:

Brethren, we are created in the image of God; have the authority to subdue and have dominion over the earth.

Gen1sis 1: ²⁷ God created man in his own image ... ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over ... "every living thing that moves upon the earth."

We have this great authority and cannot afford to live like the "sleeping elephant." Thus, God is reminding us that "we are a bed of roses."

Opportunity is available for us to live life and live it more abundantly. **John 10:10**, Jesus said "I came that they may have life; and have it abundantly."

This opportunity is created for ALL but not everyone is diligent enough to leverage it.

Reason Proverbs 12:24 says the "Diligent hands will rule."

Isaiah 55, God clearly articulates His plan for us to live abundant life:

Title: "An Invitation to Abundant Life"

v1-4: 1"everyone who thirsts, come to the waters."

³"Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David." ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

(Inserted: Everyone wants to be successful but the "how" is critical.

Bible says, "seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and every other thing will be added onto you." (Matthew 6:33) And "the people who know their God will do exploit" (Daniel 11:32)

God says, "everyone who thirsts (want to be successful), come to the waters." first.). David sort after God's heart first and God gave him abundant life.

He, blossomed as a bed of roses & called "man after God's heart" 1Samuel 13:14

v5

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, <u>because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel</u>, for He has glorified you."

Inserted "only God causes one to blossom.

Bible says, "it is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," (Zachariah 4:6). When you believe and call on the power of the Holy spirit, you accomplish what your mind cannot comprehend and what no man can comprehend.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him." 10But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Brethren, we are a bed of roses. Only in God can we blossom to our fullest.

V6-8 Where Are You As A Christian?

- a. Those who are not seeking God enough (studying the bible, praying, believing, asking etc.):
 - ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- b. Those who are living wicked lives
 - ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
- c. Those not living ungodly lives
 - and the unrighteous forsake their thoughts;
- ...let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

V10-11

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

(Inserted: God says, "You Are a Bed of Roses."

11I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope. 12You will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. (Jeremiah 29:11-12).

V12-

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Brethren, "we are a bed of roses"; our success will be a sign to many that God is faithful to His covenant.

This covenant only accrues to those who are prepared to work with God and keep his precepts.

CONCLUSION:

Brethren,

- may we NEVER be SLEEPING ELEPHANT, who is endowed with so much, and yet unable to bring them to physical manifestation because of <u>unbelieve</u> of God's word or not being diligent enough to follow through.
- may we always lean of the Holy Spirit and always pray for God's mercy and grace to blossom as "a bed of roses." GOD BLESS YOU!