

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 264 December 22, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The 2024 December Semiannual Video Training Registration**

Registration for the 2024 December Semiannual Video Training remains open. Please submit your registration for the video training by filling out the online form: <http://bit.ly/nycregistration>.

- **2024 December Semi-Annual Training**

The 2024 December Semi-Annual Video Training will be held online via Zoom. The subject of this training is: ***Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (2)***.

Schedule for Training Session:

Message 1, 7:00 PM, Monday, Dec. 23
(Live Webcast, Open Meeting)
Message 2, 7:00 PM, Wednesday, Dec. 25
Message 3, 7:30 PM, Thursday, Dec. 26
Message 4, 7:30 PM, Friday, Dec. 27
Message 5, 4:00 PM, Saturday, Dec. 28
Message 6, 7:00 PM, Saturday, Dec. 28

LORD'S TABLE, 10:00 AM, Sunday, Dec. 29

Message 7, 11:00 AM, Sunday, Dec. 29
(Open Meeting)

Message 8, 4:00 PM, Wednesday, Jan. 1
Message 9, 7:00 PM, Wednesday, Jan. 1
Message 10, 7:30 PM, Thursday, Jan. 2
Message 11, 4:00 PM, Saturday, Jan. 4
Message 12, 7:00 PM, Saturday, Jan. 4

Schedule for Review/Study Session (open to all the saints):

Messages 1&2, 7:30 PM, Friday, Jan. 3
Messages 3&4, 7:30 PM, Monday, Jan. 6
Messages 5&6, 7:30 PM, Wednesday, Jan. 8
Messages 7&8, 7:30 PM, Thursday, Jan. 9
Messages 9&10, 7:30 PM, Friday, Jan. 10

- **Service Office Hours**

Service Office Hour will be suspended for 3 weeks; We will resume on Jan. 13, 2025.

PRAYER BURDENS

- The upcoming semiannual training in Anaheim (December 23-28) and all the local video trainings—The general subject will be Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (2); let us pray for the Lord's anointing on the speaking of the messages, the speaking brothers, the health, travel and protection of all the saints, and the services supporting the training, particularly the audio and visual service, both in Anaheim and in all of the localities carrying out a video training
- Thanksgiving to the Lord for all the young people, college age saints and young adults—Let us pray that each one would “flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 *Tim.* 2:22) and that they may be “blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation” and “shine as luminaries in the world” (*Phil.* 2:15) as they face the attack of the enemy in this dark age
- The citywide young people's meeting held yesterday in Hall 1
- The Lord's move in various localities throughout the earth, both in the United States and abroad:
 - a. That the Lord would provide the funds for the construction of the new meeting hall in Atlanta, GA
 - b. The need for a new meeting hall in Orlando, FL
 - c. The need for a new meeting hall in Ann Arbor, MI
 - d. The need for a meeting hall in Lisbon, Portugal
- The strengthening of all the meetings and practical services in the church this week

- The various needs of the saints both locally and in other localities (e.g. physical and emotional, health-related, job-related, family-related, etc.)

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: 2024 JULY SEMIANNUAL TRAINING: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (1)

WEEK 4: The Kingdom as the Subduing of Rebellion and as the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus

Portions from Days 1, 2 & 3:

In the universe there are two great things: believing unto salvation and submitting to authority. In other words, to trust and obey. The Bible shows us that the definition of sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4).To be lawless is to disregard the authority of God, and to disregard the authority of God is sin.

There are two principles in the universe—God’s authority and Satan’s rebellion. We cannot serve God on the one hand, while taking the way of rebellion with a spirit of rebellion on the other hand. Although a rebellious person can preach, Satan will laugh, because the principle of Satan is there in the preaching. Service is ever attendant to authority.

After creating the heavens, the earth, and billions of items, God created man. According to the book of Genesis, God created man for a twofold purpose. On the positive side, God created man in His image so that man may express Him. On the negative side, God gave man His dominion over all created things. Dominion means “authority in a particular realm or sphere.” Dominion, therefore, is related to God’s kingdom.God’s image is for His expression, and God’s dominion is for His kingdom.

Not being able to fulfill His purpose through the first Adam and his descendants, God came through incarnation as the last Adam. As God incarnate, the Lord Jesus came to establish the kingdom of God, to establish a realm in which God can carry out His purpose through the exercise of His authority. This was the reason the Lord taught His disciples to pray for the coming of the kingdom (Matt. 6:10). This was also the reason the Lord Jesus in His preaching of the gospel told people to repent for the kingdom of God.Those who repent because the kingdom of God has drawn near will be able to participate in the accomplishment of God’s eternal purpose.

As He was preaching the gospel, the Lord was destroying the kingdom of Satan by the power of the

Holy Spirit.The Lord would not do anything by His own power, strength, or energy. On the contrary, He did everything by the Holy Spirit. In particular, by the Holy Spirit He preached the gospel in order to plunder Satan’s house and destroy his kingdom.

Matthew 12:28 indicates that when the Lord Jesus was destroying Satan’s kingdom by preaching the gospel, He was bringing in the kingdom of God.Where the Spirit of God is in power, there the kingdom of God is, and there the demons have no ground. (Life-study of Mark, 2nd ed., pp. 114-115, 107-108)

Now we can see that in chapter 4 the Lord spoke concerning the kingdom, and in chapter 5 He carried out the kingdom through the casting out of demons. Between the word concerning the kingdom and the carrying out of the kingdom, there is the incident of the stormy sea. After the Lord rebuked the wind and spoke to the sea, the wind ceased and there was a great calm, for the rebellion of the evil angels in the air and the demons in the water was subdued. Therefore, in 4:35-41 we see the kingdom as the power to subdue rebellion.

The sequence in this chapter is significant. Immediately after the unveiling of the kingdom, we have the subduing of rebellion. This is for the carrying out of the kingdom of God. (Life-study of Mark, 2nd ed., pp. 106-107, 148-149)