

Word of the Kingdom Conference 2009
Wednesday February 4th
Session One
Casting Crowns

1). Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 ¶ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

a). God's revelation to Man begins with a statement in v1 of God's actions somewhere in ages past.

b). It records in v2a the results of an event that is not specified at this point.

c). And in v2b - 5 we see God's planned response to the consequences of the unspecified event beginning to unfold – beginning with a separation between light and darkness.

d). A process that concludes with a 7th day – a day of rest - Ge 2:1 ¶ *Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

2). The event that is not specified here in the first Chapter of Genesis is of course recorded for us elsewhere in scripture and is that which we know as the fall of Satan - Isa 14:12 *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'*

a). Eze 28:16 *"By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.....18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading;*

b). And the one thing we must not fail to miss in this is that Satan's rebellion is with regards to rulership.

c). Satan/Lucifer was created for the purpose of ruling over one province in God's universal Kingdom, that which we know as the earth – let's back up to earlier verses in Ezekiel 28 and a couple of verses from Job to see this –
Eze 28:13 *You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*

d). Job 1:6 ¶ *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."*

e). But Satan it appears was not content with the rulership of just one province; he desired to replace God in order to exercise universal rule and persuaded 1/3 of the angels created to rule with him to follow him in rebellion. And as a result of this attempted coup, his sanctuaries - the earth - became formless and void and were covered by the raging waters of a worldwide flood. That which God had created in the beginning, as a result of Divine judgment upon sin became ruined.

3). And as we think about God's creation, 'In the beginning', we should realize that God's universe is not a random structure, but a well ordered and precisely organized entity and that order and organization is accomplished through the appointment of great angels as provincial rulers who administer God's will in every part of the universe – a reporting of this administration is what we would also see in our scripture from Job.

a). Now this order would be true for every province except the earth and the heavens associated with the rule of the earth – instead of order in Genesis 1:2 we find chaos.

b). Out of that chaos however, over a period of 6 days, God restores order to the material creation through His sovereign intervention. And then on the sixth day, from the very substance of the material creation itself God creates Adam for a specifically stated purpose - Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

c). Dominion – rulership – is the purpose and is set within the context of an unalterable restorative pattern of 6 days and a 7th day to follow.

d). And the dominion Adam would have, would be for the purpose of replacing Satan and the angels who fell with him in his rebellion with respect to the earth and the rule from the heavens.

e). It is with a view to maintaining his rule that we find Satan present at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – at the place of Man’s testing – for the purpose of disqualifying the Man and Woman from receiving the rulership role -

Ge 3:1 ¶ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

f). And as we know, through deception he brings about the Woman’s fall, leaving the Man with no choice but to join her in her sin with a view to redemption. The actions of Christ in the antitype of Adam must provide information about Adam’s actions and vice versa - *2Co 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

g). So as a result of their sin the Man and the Woman become a ruined creation also and the sanctuary over which they were to have dominion came under a curse. And in this condition they could no longer attain the position of rulership for which they were created. To change any of this would require a sovereign act of God after the fashion seen in Genesis Chapter 1. In the meantime, as the incumbent ruler - Satan, even though himself disqualified, would continue in his rebel rulership.

h). Now as we have seen God had already set in place the perfect pattern for the restoration of a ruined creation – 6 days of work followed by a 7th day of rest – therefore, the restoration of Man, so as to fulfill his high calling, would also have to fit within this same pattern – you cannot improve upon perfection - *2Pe 3:8 ¶ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 ¶ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

i). From the evidence of scripture then we would conclude that Man is a uniquely created being within the universe, destined to replace angelic rule.

j). And as we consider this we should also note that God’s purpose in creating Man to replace angelic rule was not a response to an unforeseen circumstance, rather it has been God’s stated plan from the time of beginning – *Tit 1:1 ¶ Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with*

godliness, 2 in hope of eternal [age lasting] life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

k). Mt 25:34 *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

l). Heb 2:5 ¶ *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.*

m). Eph 1:4 *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

n). And that which God has determined with regards to this will not change
Isa 46:9 *Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

4). And also within the foundation of Genesis, on the 6th day of the restoration of the ruined creation, following the creation of the Man, we have the Woman taken from the Man's body to be his helper in order that together they would exercise dominion in accordance with God's purpose. And again this sets an unalterable pattern with regards to God's new creation – Man - and rulership over the earth – that rulership must take place within a marriage relationship - Ge 2:21 ¶ *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

a). So at the very outset of scripture a type is given to show the plan and the purpose of God set in place in ages past - Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

b). Eph 5:30 *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

c). 2Ti 1:9 *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

5). And so we see the plan and purpose of God to replace disqualified angelic rulers over the earth with a newly formed creation, who would rule within a marriage relationship with God's Son, set within a context of 6 days followed by a 7th day. A plan and a purpose that was set before a Man was ever created.

6). This purpose and pattern are repeated throughout the scriptures, all laid upon the foundation of that which we have seen in Genesis.

a). There are many places we could go to look at this, but I would like to draw our attention to a particular incident recorded in the gospel of Matthew – Mt 17:1 ¶ *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.*

b). This event that we refer to as the 'transfiguration' is referenced by Peter to testify to the veracity of his message concerning the salvation of the soul – 2Pe 1:16 ¶ *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 ¶ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

c). In the 'transfiguration' the pattern of 6 days followed by a 7th, in which Christ is King, is made reality for those present through their experience of seeing Christ in His glory; making clear for them, and for us through their testimony, that the prophetic word – all of scripture – is confirmed.

d). We will remember what we have already read in 2 Peter Chapter 3.

7). The Apostle John was also present as an eye witness on the Holy Mountain and through the beginning of his gospel God once again draws our attention to His pattern and purpose - Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 ¶ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

a). God sees fit through His servant John to bring us right back to the beginning of His revelation in Genesis. Concluding in our 5th verse here with what would be the equivalent of the first day of Genesis 1:5 where a division is made between light and darkness.

b). If we were then to continue through the first Chapter of John's gospel to the beginning of Chapter 2 we will find a sequence of 6 days followed by a wedding on the 7th day - Joh 2:1 ¶ *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.*

c). Again underlining that which scripture teaches throughout – 6 days followed by a 7th day wherein a marriage relationship is in view.

8). That which we see given in type at the beginning of John's writings is then presented in the antitype at the conclusion of his writings in the Book we know as 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ'

a). Although in The Revelation the 6 days are not dealt with per se, the opening events of the Book make them implicit - Re 1:9 ¶ *I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

a). Here is a picture of the complete Church, all the eternally saved from the 2000 years, the 2 days of this dispensation, in the presence of Christ as Judge – no longer High Priest.

b). Just as with the 6th day in Genesis God has gathered together ‘the dust of the ground’, Abraham’s descendants by faith, to form the Body of the Man, the Body of Christ.

c). And in the antitype of the Woman being removed from Adam’s side, so through the process of Judgment with regards to works emanating from faithfulness, the Bride of Christ will be called out from the Body of Christ – the ‘better resurrection’ of Hebrews 11:35.

d). 2Co 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

9). Let’s look at some detail with regards to this Judgment - Re 2:1 ¶ *"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. 6 "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.""*

a). Revelation Chapter 2 begins with the Lord’s judgment upon the church of Ephesus, which is the first of the seven churches ‘which are in Asia’ and forms the beginning of the judgment of all born again believers from this dispensation at Christ’s Judgment Seat following the resurrection/rapture.

b). All of course with a view to decisions and determinations being made with regards to Christians attaining positions of rulership with Christ as part of His Bride, being adopted as a firstborn son, receiving the salvation of the soul – and what is particularly fascinating about what is recorded in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 is that John is transported through both time and space – to the end of this dispensation into the Lord’s Day in heaven – to be an eye witness of events that are to take place with regards to all Christians that remain for us yet future.

c). However having said that we need to realize that what John records is not something like what will take place, it is a particular facet of the very event itself – what we read is exactly the experience in which we will all one day participate - Re 1:1 ¶ *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.*

d). John is not dreaming, nor is he witnessing a vision, he is literally present at an event in future time at which both you and I were present and will be present.

10). Not only does the Lord, in these 2 Chapters of Revelation, present to us the very detail of this facet of our appearance at His Judgment Seat, He also, through the use of the 7 churches – seven being a number of completion – presents to us the history of the church throughout the 2000 years, the 2 days of this dispensation.

a). He begins with the Church at the beginning of the dispensation – represented by the church of Ephesus – and concludes with the Church at the very end of the dispensation – represented by the church in Laodicea.

b). And what we see in these two churches are born again believers who left their ‘first love’ at the beginning of the dispensation, resulting in the born again believers alive at the end of the dispensation being almost totally nauseating to the Lord’s sight because of their complete indifference to that ‘first love’, yet sadly in complete ignorance of their deplorable situation – Re 3:16 *"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

c). Given the close proximity of the Lord’s return for His Church we would have to conclude that the Lord’s words recorded here will be addressed to the greater majority of Christians alive on the earth at this present time. Even people that we may know and love – and God forbid, even us. We would do well to remember that what we read here in Revelation is not something we shall witness as a detached observer, but as an active participant. We will hear the very voice of Christ speak these very words that John has recorded.

d). We may thank God though that in every generation there is a remnant of believers who have remained faithful to their high calling - Re 3:4 *"You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

11). And here in these seven letters culminating in seven ‘overcomers’ promises is a truly remarkable example of the grace and mercy of God towards us.

a). Not only does the Lord give us the exact detail of what will take place at His Judgment Seat, and not only does He lay out for us the complete history of the Church during this dispensation , but He also makes absolutely plain what action needs to be taken by each individual Christian at any point within the dispensation to avoid the negative consequences spelt out in the judgment given.

b). And this admonition for each individual Christian was then given to the Church through the pen of John at the very beginning of this dispensation for anyone with ears to hear.

c). In consequence we can realize then that we are completely without excuse to appear before the Lord as anything other than an overcomer.

d). And yet the very recording of the literal judgment itself detailed through John’s pen shows unequivocally that few from our generation and perhaps most preceding generations come to that have taken any notice of what the Lord has said despite the promise given for doing so - Re 1:3 ¶ *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

e). Because of our lack of excuse this must lay the blame for failure on our part squarely on our own shoulders and we can have nothing to say about the righteousness of the Judgment handed down - Mt 22:12 *"So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.*

12). For those of course with the good sense to hear and put into practice and thereby become an overcomer the promised blessing shall become a reality Ps 8:3 ¶ *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen-Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!*

13). At the conclusion of the 2 days of this dispensation presented through the historical perspective of Church history seen from Ephesus to Laodicea. At the conclusion of the Judgment of the complete Church seen in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3, those who have been found worthy as a result of their faithful obedience

will have been identified. And for the first time since the plan was devised in the council chambers of God somewhere in ages past those who were destined to replace angels as rulers over the earth will be ready to assume their God appointed role – That typified in the Book of Ruth will be completed, the search for the Bride as in Genesis 24 will be over, the parables of the pounds, the talents, the 10 virgins, the unfaithful servant, the wedding guest and most of Matthew 13 will have been realized and the events of 1 Corinthians 3 will be over. The Bride will have been revealed on the Lord's threshing floor and her purpose for being there, as Ruth, will have been made known.

a). The very thing that all of creation has been longing for - Ro 8:18 *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

14). And it is with a view to the conclusion of these events that the 4th Chapter of Revelation begins - Re 4:1 ¶ *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.*

a). Here again we have reference to the resurrection/rapture, but we are now moving to events beyond the Judgment Seat signified by the rainbow around God's throne, taking us back to the appearance of the rainbow following God's Judgment in the days of Noah.

b). Here we see 24 'elders' sitting on thrones wearing crowns of gold.

c). Clearly it would be impossible for these elders to be Christians as at this point in time the inheritance has not been redeemed, Satan has not been overthrown and the fallen angels not displaced. It is Christ's wife who will be consort queen and in the antitype of Ruth and Boaz the bride does not become the

wife until the inheritance is redeemed for her. And this redemptive process does not begin until Chapter 5.

d). Rather the 24 elders are representative of the 2/3rds of the angels who did not join Satan in his rebellion. 12 is the number of government – 3 the number of divine perfection – so perfect government would be represented by 3 sets of 12 – 36.

e). If we take 1/3rd from this number for those who rebelled we are left with 24 – hence the elders are self explanatory

f). What follows in the 4th Chapter of Revelation is perhaps, apart from Christ's literal return to the earth, the very apex of God's purpose –
Re 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

g). For the very first time ever the salvation that angels desired to look into has been accomplished and created beings other than angels have proved themselves worthy, by the grace of God, to take the scepter of rulership and have dominion in their stead.

h). For the first time in 6000 years those who occupied positions higher than Man have cast their crowns before God's throne in acknowledgment and rejoicing of their now taking a subservient position as the plan of God comes to fruition.

i). From this point onwards things within God's universal Kingdom will never be the same again. The enormity of this moment is really beyond description.

j). What takes place here sets the stage for there to be an established order within this province of God's universal Kingdom, something that has not existed since the days before Satan's rebellion – with God's 3 firstborn sons, Christ the only begotten, Christians and Israel adopted to that position ruling with a rod of iron throughout the Millennial Kingdom.

15). That all of these events will take place just as scripture describes them is without doubt – the only thing that remains in doubt is whether you and I will participate with rejoicing or with weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

16). As we begin our conference this year let us be mindful of the context we have outlined this evening into which the events of our conference must fit.

a). Our motivation is completing the race of faith and receiving the salvation of our soul – this is not just a conference, but a work to the saving of the soul.

1Th 2:19 *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?*

b). And each one of us who stands before you this week has been granted the privilege of participating in that work looking to that end result, and so I encourage us all, in accordance with the scriptures – Heb 2:1 ¶ *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*

c). Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

e). And - Heb 10:23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

d). Remembering - Heb 10:37 *"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.*

e). Re 22:20 ¶ *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*