

# Kingdom Chronicle

## Youth and Worldview BY ALEX MCFARLAND Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

### ZILLENNIALS, REALS, and SOGI's: Deviant worldview in the lives of teens

Just over a century ago, sociologist William Sumner defined deviancy as “abandonment of “folkways, mores, or codified law.” Writing in 1906, Sumner’s observations about whether people embrace cultural norms or reject them – whether individuals assimilate into polite society or defy it – could have been written about the clashes of our day.

Deviance against “folkways” or “mores” that came before may at first appear to have only minor consequences. But rejection of enough boundaries over a long enough period of time leads societies to a point that crime becomes the norm over laws and basic codes of conduct. Such are the results of deviancy unchecked.

### The Great Commission in a time of cultural deviancy

Teens today (even those raised in a Christian environment) are rapidly abandoning values unquestioned in previous generations. Though about 51% of youth ages 13-19 identify as Christian, at best about 8% affirm beliefs and behaviors consistent with traditional, Biblical faith. <sup>1</sup>

Since COVID, teens indicating they have no religious faith has grown from 24% to 32%. 61% of teens now say, “It is not necessary to believe in God to be moral and have good values. Only 38% affirm that it is necessary to believe in God to be moral.” <sup>2</sup>

A 2022 survey cited 58% of U.S. teens stating, “I don’t like to be told answers about faith and religion, I’d rather discover my own answers.” <sup>3</sup> Even teens coming from a Christian background – some 45% – say that, “many religions may be true.” <sup>4</sup>

Nowhere has the drift toward deviancy been more vividly seen than in the “mainstreaming” of homosexuality and transgenderism. Homosexual attraction and/or true gender confusion occurs in only 2% of the population, yet teens are taught in public schools that, “homosexuality is normal and healthy.” <sup>5</sup>

Relentless promotion of deviant sexualities has

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## Election Day is November 5<sup>th</sup>, What Are We Voting On? BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI Kingdom Chronicle Staff

In just a few days, on November 5<sup>th</sup>, America will conclude one of the most anticipated and heated election seasons in history and choose its new president. The outcome will have dramatic consequences on the future of the United States as we know it, as both presidential candidates represent very opposing and incompatible values and plans for the nation. However, apart from the presidential race, Colorado residents will vote on much more than just representatives and judges, a total of 14 ballot measures are asking for your yay or nay. Some of the proposed amendments are straight forward and even have support by both the main political parties in Colorado. Others have been the subject of very intense campaigns, fueled by funding coming from certain special interest groups. Here’s what the ballot measures are all about:

**Continued on Pages 2-4...**

## Calling All Intercessors: Join Us For Strategic Prayer BY AMANDA LOCKMAN Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Are you passionate about standing in the gap through prayer? We invite you to join us for Governmental Intercession, where we pray and intercede for everything from our local city council and school board to the nation of Israel.

**When:** Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 PM

**Where:** Java Haus Conference Room

Additionally, we are gathering for intercession focused specifically on our public library and community. Your prayers are vital in these challenging times!

**When:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:15-6:45 PM

**Where:** Downstairs of the library, first room on your left as you enter from the lower level

Please note, we start and end on time as there are events scheduled after each prayer meeting. Don’t be late—every minute of prayer counts! Come, let’s unite in prayer and make a difference.



# Election Day is November 5<sup>th</sup>, What Are We Voting On?

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

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Title	About	Campaign Contributions	Party Positions
<b>Amendment 79</b> Right to Abortion and Health Insurance Coverage	This amendment would enshrine the unlimited (up to birth) right to abortion in the Colorado state constitution and at the same time repeal the current provision banning the use of public funds for abortions. The amendment would prohibit state and local government from discriminating against people exercising that right. As a result, no future restrictions on abortion can be passed, parents do not have a right to be notified should their underage daughter seek an abortion, and abortion procedures could be funded through tax payer funded health insurance plans. Passes with 55% of the votes.	Support: \$9,218,256.11  Oppose: \$518,506.30	Democratic Party: Support  Republican Party: Oppose
<b>Amendment 80</b> Constitutional Right to School Choice	This amendment would create the constitutional right to school choice and a “quality education” for every K-12 student, a right that is currently only guaranteed by statute. It specifies that school choice includes public, charter, private, and home school programs based on the parents’ authority to direct their child’s education. The term “quality education” is not further specified in the wording of the amendment, raising concerns with certain home school advocacy groups over potential government overreach. Passes with 55% of the votes.	Support: \$0.00  Oppose: \$4,923,775.21	Democratic Party: Oppose  Republican Party: Neutral
<b>Amendment G</b> Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Individual Unemployability Status	Veterans with a 100% service-related disability currently benefit from a property tax exemption. The amendment would expand this benefit to veterans whose disability, regardless of the degree, makes them effectively unemployable. Passes with 55% of the votes.	Support: \$0.00  Oppose: \$0.00	Democratic Party: Support  Republican Party: Support
<b>Amendment H</b> Independent Judicial Discipline Adjudicative Board	The amendment creates an independent judicial discipline adjudicative board made up of citizens, lawyers, and judges, to preside over ethical misconduct hearings involving judges. It also sets rules for such a judicial discipline process. The amendment would increase public access and involvement with these procedures, increasing transparency in the judiciary. Passes with 55% of the votes.	Support: \$0.00  Oppose: \$0.00	Democratic Party: Support  Republican Party: Support
<b>Amendment I</b>	Under the current law, judges must set bail for people	Support:	Democratic Party:

Remove Right to Bail in First Degree Murder Cases	charged with first degree murder. The amendment would remove the right to bail in cases of first-degree murder when the proof is determined evident or the presumption is great that the accused committed the crime. Denying bail would keep the accused detained while awaiting trial. Passes with 55% of the votes.	\$0.00  Oppose: \$0.00	Support  Republican Party: Support
<b>Amendment J</b> Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban	The Colorado constitution currently contains a provision approved by voters in 2006 saying: "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state." The amendment would remove this definition. However, the provision was already declared unconstitutional by state and federal courts, making it currently ineffective, despite still being a part of the state constitution. Passes with a majority of the votes.	Support: \$762,552.67  Oppose: \$0.00	Democratic Party: Support  Republican Party: Neutral
<b>Amendment K</b> Initiative and Referendum Filing and Judicial Retention Filing Deadlines	This amendment shortens the deadlines for citizens to file initiative and referendum petition signatures by one week in order to allow more time for the secretary of state to certify signatures and publish ballot language. Passes with 55% of the votes.	Support: \$0.00  Oppose: \$0.00	Democratic Party: Support  Republican Party: Oppose
<b>Proposition 127</b> Prohibit Hunting of Mountain Lion, Bobcat, and Lynx	The proposition would prohibit the hunting of mountain lion, bobcat, or lynx, whereas the hunting of lynx is already prohibited under current law. According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, hunting is one way in which big cat populations are currently being managed and kept at an ideal level. Passes with a majority of the votes.	Support: \$3,074,969.51  Oppose: \$1,904,773.50	Democratic Party: No Position  Republican Party: Oppose
<b>Proposition 128</b> Parole Eligibility	This new law would require that persons convicted of certain violent crimes – committed after January 1, 2025 – serve at least 85% instead of the current 75% of their sentences before being eligible for parole. Passes with a majority of the votes.	Support: \$0.00  Oppose: \$103,202.00	Democratic Party: Oppose  Republican Party: Support
<b>Proposition 129</b> Veterinary Professional Associate	This proposition would create the profession of a veterinary professional associate (VPA) requiring a master's degree and registration with the state board of veterinary medicine. The proposition hopes to help with the current shortage in veterinary care in Colorado and access in rural communities. Passes with a majority of the votes.	Support: \$1,548,302.06  Oppose: \$2,441,007.70	Democratic Party: No Position  Republican Party: Support
<b>Proposition 130</b> Law Enforcement Funding	Allocate addition funding of \$350 million to law enforcement agencies. In addition, it would require the state to provide a one time \$1 million death	Support: \$0.00	Democratic Party: No Position

benefit to the family of every officer killed on duty. The additional funding cannot come from raising taxes.  
Passes with a majority of the votes.

Oppose:  
\$103,202.00

Republican Party:  
Support

**Proposition 131**  
Top-Four Ranked-Choice Voting

This proposition would create an all open primary election with all the candidates from all parties or independents, where the top-four candidates would advance to the general election. The voters are then asked to rank these four candidates and votes are automatically relocated over several rounds by the system until one candidate clearly has a majority support. The hope of ranked choice voting is to offer a chance for less extreme party candidates or independents. However, the system can be very confusing to voters, is not traceable, can lead to independent candidates “buying” their way onto the ballot without being vetted by a party, and has the danger of leading to a centrist government.  
Passes with a majority of the votes.

Support:  
\$14,655,331.91

Democratic Party:  
Oppose

Oppose:  
\$458,719.77

Republican Party:  
Oppose

**Proposition JJ**  
Retain Sports Betting Tax Revenue for Water Projects

This proposition would allow the state to retain any tax revenue collected in excess of \$29 million annually from the tax on sports betting proceeds and use it for water projects. Under the current law, any taxes in excess of \$29 million have to be refunded.  
Passes with a majority of the votes.

Support:  
\$515,000.00

Democratic Party:  
Support

Oppose:  
\$0.00

Republican Party:  
Oppose

**Proposition KK**  
Excise Tax on Firearms Dealers, Manufacturers, and Ammunition Vendors

Creates a new 6.5% excise tax on firearms and ammunition on top of the already existing 10-11% federal tax on firearms and ammo to fund crime victim services programs, mental and behavioral health programs for children and veterans, and school security and safety programs.  
Passes with a majority of the votes.

Support:  
\$0.00

Democratic Party:  
Support

Oppose:  
\$0.00

Republican Party:  
Oppose

**Here Is A Local, Christian-Owned Business We'd Like To Highlight:**

**bitcreed**  
bitcreed.us

Agile Project management, apps, security audits, recruiting, etc.  
Contact us at [info@bitcreed.us](mailto:info@bitcreed.us) for a free initial consulting.

**Your partner in all software matters**

**Kingdom Chronicle Updates** BY KYLE GONZALEZ  
*Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief*

The Kingdom Chronicle is looking to fill some important roles in our team. If you feel the call to come alongside us in helping to provide Godly news to the city of Woodland Park, please contact us via [editor@kingdomchronicle.news](mailto:editor@kingdomchronicle.news). Also, if you find our content to be a blessing, have suggestions for us, or feedback (to include testimonies) please send us an email at [editor@kingdomchronicle.news](mailto:editor@kingdomchronicle.news). I pray that you all have a blessed day.

## Youth and Worldview

BY ALEX MCFARLAND  
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

taken place alongside decades of rampant divorce, and the glamorization of promiscuity in media and entertainment. Wave after wave of American teens indicating less and less support for Biblical perspectives is sad, but not surprising.

### The Great Commission in a time of cultural fragmentation

It was as millennials came of age (around year 2000) that an undeniable loss of Christian commitment among America's youth became identifiable. Coming after millennials were kids raised in the most fragmented America yet, "GenZ".

"GenZ" / "Zillennials" – the most racially diverse people group in U.S. History – are projected to be the majority demographic by 2026. They are also the least religious demographic in US history. Many experts believe these religiously "disaffiliated" Americans will never be assimilated into what we traditionally call church.<sup>6</sup>

### Common attitudes of young adults without a Biblical foundation

“Youth are growing up amid a crisis of truth, a crisis of identity, and an absence of context.

There is ambivalence (or distrust) toward history, and absence of moral and spiritual grounding known to previous generations. Teens frequently feel anxious, resentful, and alienated. Impersonal government (rather than family, church, or neighbors) is expected to ensure solutions, security, and fairness for all.

Such summations – while generally accurate – can prompt angry push-back from teens themselves: They are hurt and feel misunderstood by adults who “don’t care.” Yet at the same time feel invaded and “labeled” when adults accurately assess them.

Adolescence is emotionally and psychologically volatile for most everyone. That is why a Biblical worldview is so important: It provides a stable sense of *self* and *life context*. Without God’s foundational truths on which to stand, many teens today live with inner turmoil: They are fearful at not being a part of a group, yet resentful in being “lumped in” with a group. ”

Another factor that has contributed to the fragmentation of our nation is “identity politics.” A product of the pro-tribal messaging of leftist media and progressive public education, growing numbers of young adults identify themselves as REAL’s. These are politically engaged, activist minded teens not identifying themselves by gender, and certainly not by American citizenship. They see their person-hood in terms of race, ethnicity, ancestry, or language. The REAL’s views about morals, truth, and personal accountability are generally counter to Christianity.

But absent the holistic touch of Jesus Christ in their lives, teens are more fragmented – we might say, more broken – than ever. They are confused about themselves, desiring to be empathetic to fellow strugglers, lonely, yet fearful of relationships: Sociologists call many of them “SOGIE’s” (meaning, they struggle with sexual orientation, gender identity or expression).

This generation, like our nation, urgently needs the Gospel. Therein lies opportunity.

### Your enlistment in a “little platoon” that influences youth

Chuck Colson (1931-2012) was decades ahead of most leaders in discerning that America and the West is deeply embroiled in a struggle over worldviews. Quoting the Irish-born philosopher Edmund Burke (1729-1797), Colson would challenge believers not to underestimate the good each of us can do in our “little platoons.”

Within our families, churches, and communities, people of all ages are poised to be used by God. It is time we see ourselves as soldiers of the Cross, ready to make a difference alongside the “little platoon” in which we have been providentially placed.

### Realistic ways we may position ourselves to lead teens to a Biblical view of life:

- **CHURCH:** Participate in a solidly-Biblical church that makes a priority of outreach to youth.
- **PARENTING:** Consistently role model Christianity and prayerfully do your utmost to “pass the baton” of faith to your children.
- **MENTORING:** Become a tutor, volunteer in the schools, seek out local ministries in which to assist.

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- **PEER-TO-PEER IMPACT:** Youth can organize a Christian worldview club and lead their friends to Christ. Visit [www.ViralTruth.com](http://www.ViralTruth.com) to learn more.
- **CIVIC INVOLVEMENT:** Attend school board meetings; Better yet, run for school board or city council. Look for ways in which you, as a Christian citizen, can get involved in the affairs of your town.

### “Prayer is the nerve that moves the muscle of God”

The battle for our youth is a spiritual battle. The quote above (generally attributed to Charles Spurgeon) is true. There are many things that Christians can do to try and rescue our teens from believing false, ungodly things. But the most important act is something we all can do – we can pray.

*Alex McFarland teaches at Charis Bible College ([charisbiblecollege.org](http://charisbiblecollege.org)). He regularly speaks in revivals and conferences throughout the U.S. ([alexmcfarland.com](http://alexmcfarland.com)).*

### SOURCES:

1. <https://alignlifeministries.org/christian-youth-culture-statistics/> Accessed November, 2022.
2. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/09/10/10-key-findings-about-the-religious-lives-of-u-s-teens-and-their-parents/> Accessed October, 2022.
3. <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/what-you-need-to-know-about-teenagers>. Accessed, Summer 2022.
4. *Ibid.*, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/09/10/10-key-findings-about-the-religious-lives-of-u-s-teens-and-their-parents/> Accessed, September 2022.
5. <https://probe.org/helping-teens-understand-homosexuality/> Accessed October 2022.
6. <https://www.americansurveycenter.org/research/generation-z-future-of-faith/> Accessed, November 2022.

## Raise Your Voice! BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI Kingdom Chronicle Staff

### Upcoming Community Dates:

- ◆ 11/03/2024, 10 a.m.: BYOB (Bring Your Own Ballot) Event by Freedom Church at Java Haus.
- ◆ 11/03/2024, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.
- ◆ 11/04/2024: Applications open for the 2025 Woodland Park Citizens Academy.
- ◆ **11/05/2024: ELECTION DAY!** Polls close at 7 p.m.!
- ◆ 11/07/2024, 9:15 a.m.: County Commissioners meeting at 112 North A Street in Cripple Creek.
- ◆ 11/07/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave. **\*pre-briefing and prayer at 6 p.m. at the Memorial Park flagpole.**
- ◆ 11/17/2024, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.
- ◆ 11/12/2024, 12:30 p.m.: WP Library Board of Trustees meeting at WP library.
- ◆ 11/12/2024, 6:30 p.m.: Teller County Republicans (GOP) monthly meeting at Pikes Peak Community Center in Divide.
- ◆ 11/13/2024, 6 p.m.: Regular School Board Meeting at the District Office, large conference room. **\*pre-briefing and prayer at 5.30 p.m. in the High School parking lot.**
- ◆ 11/17/2024, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.
- ◆ 11/19/2024, 6:15-6:45 p.m.: Prayer meeting for our library (Woodland Park library, first room on the left when entering from lower level).
- ◆ 11/20/2024, 6 p.m.: Community Engagement Forum with the Woodland Park Police Department at the Ute Pass Cultural Center.
- ◆ 11/21/2024, 9:15 a.m.: County Commissioners meeting at 112 North A Street in Cripple Creek.
- ◆ 11/21/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave. **\*pre-briefing and prayer at 6 p.m. at the Memorial Park flagpole.**
- ◆ 11/24/2024, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.

## Coming Up @ Your City Council Meeting:

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Please find the current agenda and supporting documents on the city's website:

<https://woodlandparkco.portal.civicclerk.com/>

We encourage you to attend these public meetings and voice your opinion during public comment. Also, please email your council-members to make sure your voice is heard. Even a few emails have a tremendous impact on the council-member preparing for these meetings.



## Here Is A Local, Christian-Owned Business We'd Like To Highlight:



[Yourmoneymakeover.com](http://Yourmoneymakeover.com)

## Here Is A Local, Christian-Owned Business We'd Like To Highlight:

**SYSTEMA**  
in Woodland Park

THE SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

Join us in the practice of Systema and discover how martial arts, breathwork, and healing practices converge. Together, we will delve into the study of breath, movement, posture, and relaxation through engaging drills and exercises designed to liberate both body and psyche from tension.

**MONDAY AND THURSDAYS**  
STARTING APRIL 29TH 2024

**LOCATION**  
UTE PASS CULTURAL CENTER  
210 E Midland Ave  
Woodland Park, Colorado

**CONTACT**  
KENNY GONZALEZ  
[tampasystema@icloud.com](mailto:tampasystema@icloud.com)  
813-857-7738

Contact for more information.

A true warrior sees both his pride and tension and works to defeat them. The bodywork of Systema seeks to cleanse the body of excess tension, to facilitate deep relaxation, to balance mind, body, and spirit, to assist alleviating deep trauma, emotional stress & accumulated tension.

Systema is not an external system of moves and cool tricks. It is a journey into the interplay between your conscious and unconscious mind and the awareness and opportunities therein. The key principle of the Systema is non-destruction.

## Are You Listening? - Ari's Zigzag Journey

BY JOY OTI

*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Rousing in the knowledge of God's mindfulness of him, Ari prepares his heart for the next stage of revelation. "You are wondering what my explanation is for the death of your parents," said the Everlasting One, cutting into Ari's thoughts.

Ari nods his head, and the Everlasting One responds, "if I have to explain every activity on earth; good, bad and ugly, then I would have to destroy the entire world, because the world as it is, is not how I planned it."

Ari feared he had angered the Everlasting One, but He cuts into Ari's thought again and says, "No, I am not angry. But questioning my responsibility is questioning my faithfulness. Now, I will take you behind the scenes of the events that happened that led them coming home earlier than I planned."

Ari's parents got a wedding invitation and sought God's guidance, as they normally would. Ari's father, Jeremiah, sent in his leave request, but it wasn't granted. He believed his request was denied because his manager was prejudiced against him, so he reached out to the director, Matthew, with whom he had good favor. Matthew overruled his manager and granted his request for leave.

He booked two tickets for him and his wife, Carol. One week to the trip, Carol became ill and was admitted to the hospital. Three days later, she was discharged from the hospital and strong enough to go on the trip. One day to the trip, he got a call from Matthew; they were short staffed and needed someone to fill the vacuum, and he was the only one who could do it.

"I made a promise to be at the wedding," he told Matthew.

"I understand, Jeremiah. But something will go wrong with the flow of work, if you do not come." Matthew countered.

"Is it something I can do online?" asked Jeremiah.

With a bit of hesitation, Matthew responded, "Yes, you can. But your presence would be preferred."

"I would rather do it online, sir. Pardon me please." Jeremiah responded, the matter concluded.

Not able to convince Jeremiah, Matthew gave the final permission to go on the trip.

Carol overheard the conversation Jeremiah had with his director, and expressed her concern. "I couldn't help but hear your conversation with your director. I just

realized this is the third attempt to stop us from going on this trip. Is God saying something?"

Jeremiah shoved it aside, and told her to see it the other way round. "Carol, what if it's the devil doing everything to stop us from going on this trip? James is my best friend, and missing his daughter's wedding may affect our relationship. He's counting on me to be there."

The following morning, they got to the airport to board their flight, but there was a three-hour delay. They waited, but almost three hours later, the flight was canceled. Jeremiah threw a fit, and insisted on getting a refund so he could get on another flight. Carol became very uneasy, almost in tears. She pleaded with him to cancel the trip, because she was having a bad feeling about it.

But Jeremiah wouldn't listen. "James is the reason why I am where I am today. I should honor him."

"I think you got it wrong. God is the reason you are where you are today, and you should honor Him. James was just an instrument." Carol pleads.

Nothing Carol said would convince Jeremiah. Eventually, they get on another flight for their journey, but never arrived. The plane crashed and they didn't make it alive.

Knowing this truth, Ari began to cry in pain for what he believed he could have changed if he was present. He was on a mission trip from when his parents had received the invitation.

Knowing the thoughts of his heart, the Everlasting One tells him, "Your father didn't listen to Me. He wouldn't have listened you. It wasn't about the trip, it was about his heart. He was focused on pleasing someone else, so nothing I said mattered. When your heart is in the right place – with Me, you will always hear Me, because I am always speaking and leading. I always to do My part as God and Father, but not everyone listens. I am never the missing piece in a puzzle."

### CALL TO ACTION

Every human born of man will live a zigzag life. But what would make the difference in that life is who they are following or listening to. In this world, we will have many troubles. But God is able to help deliver us

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## Are You Listening? - Ari's Zigzag Journey

BY JOY OTI  
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

from many troubles as possible, but we must be willing to listen to Him. Sometimes we are not able to hear Him because we are distracted by so many things. That is why it is important for us to take some time out and search the activities of our lives to see if God is saying something. It's okay to cry out, and we must always take responsibility for our actions. And sometimes, God will take us behind the scenes, only if He chooses. But most importantly, we must take time to listen and know what God might be saying or where He is leading, because He always beckons but His will is rarely done on earth.

*“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing –*  
Matthew 23:37

## Hanging On, Letting Go BY CHRISTY ENG - Abiding In Him

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Hello dear reader! Welcome back to my column. My name is Christy, and you can feel free to ask me anything. I'll do my best to give you back a well-considered and thoroughly bathed-in-prayer answer from a God-fearing woman with a biblical perspective empowered by the Holy Spirit. If you want to receive encouragement directly into a situation in your life, please email me at: [kingdomchronicle375@gmail.com](mailto:kingdomchronicle375@gmail.com)

Last issue I shared how in Jesus Himself is already the very thing that we have loved in others, since every good quality stems from Him. To include what we have lost or hope to have, we already have in Him. Therefore, if we have Jesus, we have everything that makes our hearts sing.

I want to continue that by saying that there is a letting go in relation to the holding on. We must let go of the dead thing that doesn't give us life any longer and grasp the new thing that God is springing up before our eyes if we are to continually see, speak to and commune with the living Jesus, as the Living God and King that He is. He has empowered us to walk like He walks, as kings before Him in our time on this earth.

We can see this in the first chapter of the book of Revelation: “4 *Grace to you and peace from Him who is*

## Hanging On, Letting Go BY CHRISTY ENG - Abiding In Him

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*and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

God is a very present God. He will presently be a help to you right where you are right now if you see you need Him. You don't need to wait, you can call out to Him and He will rush in and empower you, if you give Him the chance. Read an excerpt from the 46th Psalm with me:

*“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah. There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.”*

But the holding on to Him requires a letting go of everything and anything in His place at the helm of our hearts. That can feel like a hard thing to do sometimes. God explained it like pruning to me. If you let Him prune you like a tree of unfruitful things your life will produce much more fruit in what remains. You will have more energy for more love, more joy and more peace. More faithfulness, more patience, more gentleness, more goodness.

On the other side of letting go is a full life. Don't mourn the pruned branches, because they are leaving you so that you will bear more fruit. Indeed, when we are focused on the branches we are not focused on the Vine. But if you can get your focus off the branches and onto their source, you will find your connection to the True Vine more vital and life changing. I hope you can hang on to life and let go of death in your life, friend.

This revelation has changed me and allowed me to live with more grace. Today I am not giving an example of a friend changed by this advice, but myself. I have found the importance of letting go is essential to holding on to the one thing that matters most: Jesus. And full circle now, in Him is everything we've ever longed for. I hope this encourages you and helps with what you are facing today.

## You Will Arrive!

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

One evening, I was studying the book of Exodus and came across the part of scripture that talks about some members of Israel who died in the wilderness, and I heard the Holy Spirit say to me, “EVERYONE who left Egypt, God intended to bring to the promised land – EVERYONE.” It was as though the Holy Spirit was defending God as blameless against those who died in the wilderness. EVERYONE was supposed to arrive, and within a short time too. Those who died in the wilderness were disobedient, and this was due to their impatience. They felt the journey was too long, and rebelled against Moses’ instruction. When they faced hardship, they grumbled and looked back, lusting for the food in Egypt. They were not willing to fight for what God had promised. **All they were supposed to do was move in the direction of the Holy Spirit, and no matter what they faced, reaching their destination was guaranteed.** They chose the convenience of being subject to their oppressors, instead of believing God and fighting their way to victory, and many of them died in their unbelief. Yet, God was still committed to His promise to Abraham.

Many years later on the journey, Moses and Aaron died after playing their role. But before Moses died, God told him to pass the torch to Joshua, and gave Joshua everything he needed to continue the journey. Joshua excelled in his position as Israel’s leader, even though he faced overwhelming challenges and setbacks. But by the time Joshua was at an old age, so much was still outstanding. In Joshua chapter 13:1-6, God says something to Joshua, which everyone who has a promise from God should keep in mind.

*1 When Joshua had grown old, the Lord said to him, “**You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over.**” 2 “This is the land that remains: all the regions of the Philistines and Geshurites, 3 from the Shihor River on the east of Egypt to the territory of Ekron on the north, all of it counted as Canaanite though held by the five Philistine rulers in Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron; the territory of the Avvites 4 on the south; all the land of the Canaanites, from Arah of the Sidonians as far as Aphek and the border of the Amorites; 5 the area of Byblos; and all Lebanon to the east, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo Hamath.*

The sentence in red is for emphasis. In paraphrase, God was saying; “Joshua, I see you are old and too weak to continue this journey. You may be done, but I am not

done. I made a promise and I am determined to fulfill it, no matter how long it takes. **All the lands I promised must be taken.**” But God doesn’t stop there; He names all the lands yet to be taken. Think about it! He knows what He promised and has the details at the tip of His hands. In the backdrop of this scripture, I can boldly say that every promise God has made to us, He will fulfill, even if we forget. We do not have to worry about remembering all His promises – they are too many. But we should rather have faith in Him, and patiently wait for the fulfillment of His promise – *“I am the Lord, When the time is right, I will make these things happen quickly.”* Isaiah 60:22. God truly makes all things beautiful in its time. It is noteworthy that even though God uses people as a vessel to bring about His promise, the end of that vessel is not the death of His promise. He moves!

### CALL TO ACTION

If you have left your Egypt, please don’t die in the wilderness. Don’t look back. Don’t get stuck. The journey will be tough and rough. It’s part of the process. Embracing this mindset – that difficulties and troubles are integral to the path toward your promise – can make the journey easier. God didn’t take Israel through the short route, knowing they would encounter challenges that might tempt them to turn back. Instead, He guided them through the wilderness, a longer path. This long route didn’t eliminate troubles but made the distance to return too great, strengthening their resolve to keep moving forward, and forcing them to fight for a win. Short cuts are not always the best paths. It’s easier to give up in the face of trouble when the path you’re traveling on is short. But God is committed to fulfilling His promise to you by leading you on the right path. You will not know how or when, and you’ll need to be patient. Hebrews 6 verse 12 says, *“they obtained the promise through faith and patience.”* If all that you can do is crawl, keep on moving. You will arrive!