



Times of Refreshing

At Christ's Table ~ ACTpublications

"Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."

1 Corinthians 2:13

© 2025

W.D. Furioso, Writer ~ Frances Furioso, Editor

At Christ's Table Ministries ~ ACTpublications ~ <https://www.AtChristsTable.org>

ACTpublications may be freely shared, reproduced, and distributed - unaltered, in digital or print formats. Any quotations or excerpts must also be unaltered and referenced with the above information. Scripture quotations taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

"Times of Refreshing" – along with ["Defining the Presence of the Lord"](#), ["Experiencing the Manifested Presence of God"](#), ["Longing"](#), ["The Presence of God in Light of the New Covenant"](#), ["The Shekinah"](#), and ["Worship, Prayer, & Music"](#) are excerpts from the book ["The Manifested Presence of God"](#) – all of which are freely accessible on our website: <https://www.AtChristsTable.org>

["The Manifested Presence of God"](#)
is also available in paperback format on [Amazon](#).

A Distinguishing Presence

“Therefore, repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of **refreshing** may come from the **presence** of the Lord.” Acts 3:19

Peter exhorted the people to repent and return to the Lord “in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” This article discusses why we – the Church, the Ekklesia Jesus is building - need “**times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord**”.



“And He said, “My **presence** shall go with you, and I will give you **rest**.” Then he said to Him, “If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here. For how then can it be known that I have found **favor** in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be **distinguished** from all the other people who are on the face of the earth?” Exodus 33:14-16

The significance of God’s presence is that it distinguishes God’s people – the Church (Ekklesia) – with His grace – unmerited divine favor and blessing -

allowing them to enter into His “rest” (Hebrews 4:3) – peace and quiet, reviving, and refreshing.

Goshen

We find in the Old Testament a type (a symbol) for the New Covenant Church (Ekklesia) which I believe has special significance with regards to “times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”:

Physically, the Land of Goshen was a place of the Lord’s provision of “times of refreshing in His presence” – in the midst of Egypt. *Spiritually*, the Lord has “a Goshen” in the spiritual realm in which is His provision of “times of refreshing in His presence” – in the midst of the fallen world system, typified by “Egypt”. The narrative is found in Genesis 45-47. Much spiritual truth can be mined in the story of Goshen on the basis of “first the natural, then the spiritual”. (1 Corinthians 15:46) But for our purpose here, we will focus on **the Lord’s provision of “times of refreshing in His presence” – in the midst of the fallen world system:**

The Land of Goshen was located in the eastern part of the Nile Delta in Egypt, bordering the Promised Land which God had given to Abraham and his descendants. (Genesis 12:7) Abraham's grandson, Jacob, had twelve sons, whose families made up the nascent nation of Israel. Jacob's sons had sold their brother Joseph into bondage in Egypt. But the Lord favored Joseph in Egypt, promoting him to a place of the oversight of much of Pharaoh's kingdom. When a famine arose, Jacob's brothers sought provision in Egypt. Out of respect for Joseph, Pharaoh said the Hebrews could **dwell in the Land of Goshen**, because the unpleasantness of their sheep herding would be far removed from Pharaoh's residence.

"Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous." (Genesis 47:27; Cf. Exodus 1:7, 12, 20; Deuteronomy 26:5; Acts 7:17)

So, there, in Goshen, the Lord provided for His people even in the midst of their tribulations being in bondage and oppressed by the world system.

“But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more they multiplied and expanded, so that the Egyptians dreaded and were exasperated by the Israelites.”

(Exodus 1:12 AMP) **And when the Lord sent His judgments upon Egypt, He placed a spiritual covering over Goshen (Exodus 9:26) – where God’s people experienced “times of refreshing in His presence”.**

“These things were written for our instruction and encouragement”. (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11)

Tribulation

The Greek word translated “tribulation” is *thlipsis*¹, which can also be translated as: *pressure, affliction, anguish, distress, trouble*.² When Jesus and His apostles spoke of “tribulation”, it was not only in reference to “the great tribulation”,³ which is understood to be either a 7 or 3 ½ year period near the end of the age, but they were particularly referring to **the usual, on-going condition of the world throughout human history**. In Luke’s gospel, a statement by Jesus is recorded in which He tells us that “these things must

¹ Strong’s # 2347

² See my eBook [Facing the Future](#)

³ Matthew 24:21 & 29, Mark 13: 19 & 24, Revelation 7:14

take place first, but the end does not follow immediately".⁴ This tells us that these tribulations "*are characteristic of the entire present age, not just signs of the end of the age*".⁵

Abiding

In John's gospel, Jesus summarizes what life in the world will be like for His followers⁶ by saying: "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you have tribulation** but take courage; I have overcome the world."⁷ Jesus spoke these words to His disciples in Jerusalem, after the Last Supper, just before His betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion.⁸ He wanted to prepare His disciples for what was about to take place with Himself, as well as prepare them for what would take place with themselves in the future. In John 15, we have the passage concerning "Abiding in the Vine", which ends with Jesus speaking of the tribulation His disciples would experience in the world. He had made sure to make clear to His disciples that

⁴ Luke 21:9

⁵ Notes from the *NASB Study Bible* (Zondervan)

⁶ John 15:18; 16:1-4, 32-33

⁷ John 16:33 *New American Standard Bible*.

⁸ John 14:31b

they could expect the same kind of tribulation in their lives in this world.

What emerges from looking at this context⁹ helps us understand *why* Jesus was speaking about “Abiding in the Vine”; and gives us a key to what it means to “Abide in the Vine”. Jesus had clearly forecasted that **His disciples would experience tribulation in their lives in this world. In the midst of this tribulation, we are to endure¹⁰ by “Abiding in the Vine”.** And because Jesus has ascended, the Partner¹¹ in our “abiding” is the Holy Spirit. Earlier in John’s gospel, Jesus had told the Samaritan woman at the well that “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”¹² So, Jesus is explaining that when He is ascended, “abiding” in Him must be “in spirit” also. This is a spiritual relationship which is made possible only through the Holy Spirit. When Jesus speaks of “abiding”, the Greek word used is *meno*,¹³ meaning to

⁹ John 14-17

¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 4:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:45; 2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 11:25, 12:7; James 5:11; 1 Peter 2:20.

¹¹ The Paraclete, Counselor", "Helper", "Encourager", "Advocate", or "Comforter".

¹² John 4:24

¹³ Strong’s # 3306

stay, to continue, to dwell, to endure, to stand in a given place or state, or relationship. While the concept of abiding is rich in similes,¹⁴ being in the presence of God is certainly essential to abiding. **“Abiding in the Vine” is a parabolic picture which we can associate with “times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”.**

When Times are “Dry”

“Now following Him was a large crowd of the people, and of women who were mourning and grieving for Him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are those who cannot bear, and the wombs that have not given birth, and the breasts that have not nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us’. For if they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Luke 23:27-31

“For if they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen **when it is dry?**” Commentators

¹⁴ See my eBook [Abide in the Vine](#).

agree that this is a Jewish proverb but vary on their interpretation of its meaning. *This is my interpretation.* A green tree is alive, and a dry tree is dead. Thus, Jesus is saying: *“If they do these while I am alive, what will things be like for you after My departure?”* The fact is, before they rebelled in 70 A.D., the Jewish people actually experienced a measure of acceptance and peace under Rome’s rule. But as Jesus forecasted, *“In this world you will have tribulation”*,¹⁵ and the apostles concurred with this in their writings.¹⁶ Also in Luke’s gospel, a statement by Jesus is recorded in which He tells us that *“these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately”*.¹⁷ This tells us that these tribulations and persecutions are *“characteristic of the entire present age, not just signs of the end of the age.”*¹⁸ **God’s people would need to endure tribulation and persecution throughout the whole of the Church Age.**¹⁹ And they would need periodic affirmation of God’s divine favor and blessings,

¹⁵ John 15:18-20; 16:2-3; Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:19-20

¹⁶ Acts 14:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:3; 2 Timothy 3:1; Revelation 11:7, 12:17, 13:7, 20:4

¹⁷ Luke 21:9

¹⁸ Notes from the *NASB Study Bible* (Zondervan)

¹⁹ Cf. Daniel 7:21-25, 8:24, 11:36, 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7; Ezekiel 38:16

including revival and refreshing in His manifested presence when times are “dry”.

“This Present Age”

The New Testament writers refer to both “this present age” and “the age to come”.²⁰ An exhaustive survey of the New Testament will show that whenever they were referring to the “eternal age” or “eternity”, the plural, *aionas*, was used,²¹ or this Greek construction, *aionas with aionon*, was used.²² Otherwise, the singular, *aion*, was used to refer to “this present age”²³, which Bible

²⁰ Mark 10:29-30; Luke 18:30; Cf. Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 10:34; 1 Peter 1:4, 5:10; Revelations 2:10, 21:4.

²¹ Matthew 6:13; Romans 1:25; Galatians 1:5

²² Ephesians 3:21; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 13:21; 1 Peter 4:11.

²³ **“Usage:** The Greek word “αἰών” (*aión*) primarily denotes an age or a long period of time. It can refer to the present age, the age to come, or eternity. In the New Testament, it is often used to describe the temporal world in contrast to the eternal kingdom of God. It can also imply the spiritual or moral state of the world during a particular age. The term is frequently used to express the concept of eternity, especially when describing God's eternal nature or the eternal life promised to believers. **Cultural and Historical Background:** In the Greco-Roman world, the concept of “αἰών” was often associated with the cyclical nature of time and the ages of the world. Philosophers like Plato and Aristotle discussed the idea of ages in terms of cosmic cycles. In Jewish thought, influenced by Hellenistic ideas, “αἰών” came to represent not just a period of time but also the spiritual and moral characteristics of that time. The New Testament writers adopted and adapted this term to convey the contrast between the temporal, fallen world and the eternal, perfect kingdom of God.” Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible with Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries.” Other reputable Greek scholars concur: Johann A. Bengel, Richard C. Trench, W.E. Vine, Kenneth Wuest.

commentators and theologians often refer to as “the Church Age”.

While eternal joy is associated with “the age to come”,²⁴ trials and tribulations typify “this present age” with a longing for the joy of His presence in “the age to come”.²⁵

*Yet, as believers, we do have a “foretaste” of “the age to come”.*²⁶ “Goshen”, which we mentioned earlier, is a symbol of that “foretaste”. And as typified by “Goshen”, the Lord desires to give periodic foretastes - “times of refreshing” in His presence during this age of tribulation. And as in Goshen, “the more the Egyptians oppress us, the more we will be multiplied and expanded, so that the Egyptians will dread *and* be exasperated by us.” (Cf. Exodus 1:12 AMP) Again, “These things were written for our instruction and encouragement”. (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11)

²⁴ Cf. Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17

²⁵ Psalms 42:1-2, 63:1, 89:2, 143:6

²⁶ Or “first fruits”: Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:20-21; or “pledge”: Ephesians 1:13-14; Cf. 1 Peter 1:3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:2-5; Galatians 5:5; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2; Also: Luke 21:28; Ephesians 1:14, 4:30.

"Times of Refreshing"

¹⁹ "Therefore, repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that **times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**; ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹ whom heaven must receive²⁷ until *the* period(s)²⁸ of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouths of His holy prophets from ancient times." Acts 3:19-21

In summary, Peter is saying that *before* Christ returns at the end of this present age, there will be "**times of refreshing**",²⁹ and that these times would "**come from the presence of the Lord**". "Times" is plural, so the scripture is telling us that the plan of God is to bring numerous "times of refreshing" during the Church Age – from Pentecost to the return of Christ at the end of the age. The Greek word translated "times" is *kairos*³⁰, which also can be translated as "periods" or

²⁷ Greek: *dechomai*, Strong's # G1209, to welcome, but also can carry the meaning of to take up, to hold, or to embrace, as in Luke 2:28. (*Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*)

²⁸ Literally "times", plural. (ASV, Berean Study Bible, KJV, Holman Christian Standard Bible, et. al.)

²⁹ Verse 19 speaks of "times of refreshing", while verse 21 speaks of "times of restoration". These are NOT one and the same. The "restoration" is at the end of this age, when Jesus returns. The "refreshing" occurs BEFORE that. And there is more than one time of refreshing between now and the end of the age.

³⁰ Strong's # G2540

“seasons”.³¹ *Kairos* is rich in meaning³²: It carries the meaning that these “times” are “fixed” or “appointed” – that is, “times of visitation” which the Lord has prearranged.³³ These are “opportune times” – “suitable” and “favorable” – the “right” moment.³⁴

The Greek word translated “refreshing” is the noun, *anapsuxis*,³⁵ meaning a recovery of breath, a reviving, a cooling with fresh air.³⁶ It is my conviction that we call “revivals” (or “outpourings of the Spirit”) are in fact God-appointed “times of visitation” of the manifested presence of God. And God brings these “favorable times” at the “right moments” throughout church history according to His plans and purposes for this age, and when His people need “refreshing” – recovery, reviving.

³¹ Gary Hill and Archer L. Gleason, *Emphatic Language Pointer System* (Synonym Glossary, Discovery Bible, NASB New Testament) Moody Press (1987)

³² Interestingly, the Greek Orthodox Church uses the term *kairos* to refer to the “climax” of their worship service, when the moment comes to hear the word proceeding from the mouth of God.

³³ Cf. Matthew 13:30; Mark 1:15; Luke 1:20, 12:42, 19:44; Galatians 6:9

³⁴ Cf. Acts 24:25; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 5:16

³⁵ Strong’s # G403. Akin to the verb form, *anapsucho*, Strong’s # G404.

³⁶ Gary Hill and Archer L. Gleason, *Emphatic Language Pointer System* (Synonym Glossary, Discovery Bible, NASB New Testament) Moody Press (1987)

Bill & Frances Furioso
At Christ's Table ~ ACTpublications



Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, disciplined many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, he can no longer travel, so their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet... www.AtChristsTable.org

ACTpublications

"Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words." 1 Corinthians 2:13

A teaching ministry from Bill and Frances Furioso

At Christ's Table

Disciples of the King and His Kingdom eating and drinking of Jesus

THE HEAD

THE CENTER

THE FOUNDATION

of Biblical Christianity

with a view to

REVELATION of Christ

RELATIONSHIP with Christ

REFLECTION of Christ

READ-LISTEN-DOWNLOAD (FREE)

**ALL OF OUR MINISTRY RESOURCES ARE ON OUR
WEBSITE:**

<https://www.AtChristsTable.org>

Other places you will find our written & recorded resources ...

WRITTEN MESSAGES

The Restoration Library: <https://www.therestorationlibrary.com>

Academia.edu: <https://independent.academia.edu/WDFurioso>

RECORDED MESSAGES

YouTube: www.YouTube.com/user/BillFurioso

Academia.edu: <https://independent.academia.edu/WDFurioso>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-648428572>

Spreaker: <https://www.spreaker.com/user/14502151>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: www.facebook.com/atchriststable

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/at-christ-s-table-ministries-254b5320/>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/atchriststable1>

WhatsApp: +1 (585) 747-3906

Times of Refreshing

16