

REVELATIONAL INSIGHT:

A Double Portion

When Elijah was taken into heaven alive, Elisha begged to “inherit a double portion of [Elijah’s] spirit” (2 Kings 2:9). The request reflects Old Testament inheritance law: the oldest son and successor of his father was given a double portion. Elisha was asking to succeed Elijah as leading prophet in the land.

Interestingly, the Bible also reports twice as many miracles of Elisha as Elijah (14 compared to 7). They are:

- (1) Separating the Jordan waters, 2:14;
- (2) Healing spring waters, 2:21;
- (3) Cursing jeering young men, 2:24;
- (4) Filling ditches with water and winning a battle, 3:15–26;
- (5) Multiplying a widow’s oil, 4:1–7;
- (6) Promising a pregnancy, 4:14–17;
- (7) Raising a Shunammite’s son from the dead, 4:32–37;
- (8) Making poison harmless, 4:38–41;
- (9) Multiplying loaves, 4:42–44;
- (10) Healing Naaman the leper, 5:1–19; cursing Gehazi with leprosy, 5:19*27;
- (11) Making an axhead float, 6:1–6;
- (12) Blinding and trapping an Aramean army, 6:8–23;
- (13) Showing his servant an angel army, 6:15–17; (14) and predicting an excess of food for besieged Samaria, (6:24–7:20).

*The Teacher’s Commentary (1987)

Testimony

Psalms 35:27 “Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant” A sister testified on how God supernaturally wiped away her tears. The enemy had attacked her so badly and placed an embargo over her finances, it was so severe that eating a three square meal was difficult. Her bills were unpaid and Credit Collectors were knocking on her door every day. She attended one of the services, where the Servant of God – Rev. Dr. Lawrence Lasisi, through the word of knowledge and prophecy declared a financial release. God in His infinite mercy responded to the word of His Servant and mysteriously and yet supernaturally money was deposited into our Sister’s account, enough to pay all her bills. And for what God has done in our midst, we say, may His name be praised for ever more. Somebody shout HALLELUYAH!!

Worship Hours

House of Judah

Sunday Worship - 10AM
Wednesday Bible Study - 7PM
Friday Hour of Victory - 7PM

Church Mission Statement

To build a multiethnic Christian Church with a passion for Jesus Christ and compassion for the world.

Church Core Values

+ Reaching out with the message of Power, Hope & Glory.

Church Vision

+ To proclaim Jesus Christ as the hope of the world through evangelism, worship, preaching, teaching, and humanitarian services to the people of all races and colors.

+ To train and ordain God’s people for the manifold ministries of Jesus Christ worldwide. + To raise altars of prayer for God in every member household.

+ To establish schools, hospitals, medical centers, and orphanage at home and abroad.

+ To plant churches home and abroad for the purpose of making disciples of all nations.

Church Mission Statement

+ To build a multiethnic Christian Church with a passion for Jesus Christ and compassion for the world.



Meet our Pastors General Overseer

Pastor (Dr.) Lawrence A. Lasisi

Senior Pastor

Pastor Mrs. Grace A. Lasisi

Branch Pastor

South Jersey - House of Miracles

Pastor Akin Obafemi

Houston - House of Power

Pastor Israel Akinpelu

San Diego - House of Mercy

Brother Olu Babatunde

Fontana - House of Hope

Pastor Mberi Ndukwe

APRIL 2016 UPCOMING EVENTS

*Middle of the Month Prayer
and Daniel Fasting.*

Friday March 15th, 2016.

Vigil of Hope and Power.

Last Friday Night

No Weapon Prayer Summit

Friday June 10th to Sunday 12th, 2016.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

That the Holy Bible is divinely inspired by God, and is infallible, trustworthy and dependable, and authoritative in all matters of faith and conduct.

That there is only one God, who is eternally existed in three distinctive persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

That Jesus Christ our Lord is God manifest- ed in the human flesh to take away our sins and hopelessness by his voluntary suffering, death and physical resur- rection.

That salvation of all humanity is only through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our only Hope in the world of hopelessness.

That the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ to live a holy life, to witness about Christ to the lost and to be anointed to be victorious in every sphere of life.

That the church is made up of those who have genuinely accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

That healing of various kinds is integral part of the redemp- tive work of Jesus Christ. Wa- ter baptism and the Lords Supper are au- thentic ordinances of the church.

That there is Satan and its demonic co- workers, whose work is to thwart and frus- trate the purpose of God on earth, but their final end is the hell fire.

That there shall be a bodily resur- rection of the dead in Christ to heaven, and of the un- repentant sinners to hell fire.

That there will be visible immi- nent return of Jesus Christ to take home true believers in God.

THE Voice of Hope

The Springs of Hope Christian Ministries



APRIL 2016

VOL.41

Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you. Zech 9:12

MONTHLY PROPHETIC PRAYER

POWER-POINTS:

1. Today I declare a double portion of the anointing to fulfill my purpose on earth.
(2 Kings 2: 9)
2. In the Name of Jesus Christ I receive double inheritance of the firstborn of the king of kings
(Genesis 25: 5-6)
3. Today I declare that the good Lord will give me double blessings for all my troubles of the past.
(Isaiah 61: 7)
4. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray that the Lord will pay double trouble to every troubler of my life and family.
(1 Kings 18: 16-19)
5. Today I pray that the good Lord will double-sized my joy and peace.
(Isaiah 26: 3)
6. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray down the prosperity of double portion upon my children in every generation.
(Deuteronomy 21: 17)
7. Today I declare a double resto- ration for every loss of my life.
(Zechariah 9: 11-12)

CONCLUSION:

God is just. He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well.
(2 Thessalonians 1: 6-7)

Pastor 's Corner

I joyfully welcome you afresh into the New Year 2016, God’s Year for Our LIMITLESS GRACE. Amazingly, the new month of April is our God’s Month of Divine Double Portion. In the Bible double portion is the sole inheritance of the family firstborn (Deuteronomy 21: 17). Graciously, every born-again child of God is a firstborn in the kingdom due to our covenant connection to Jesus Christ, who is the only begotten and firstborn of the Father ((Ephesians 1:20–23; Colossians 1:18, 24; Hebrews 2:10–12). So regardless of your natural birth order you are entitled to the privilege of the double portions of the kingdom. May the good Lord double-size your blessings today. Amen.

How is Jesus the “Firstborn of the Dead”? by Justin Holcomb

At the beginning of the book of Revelation, John writes this greet- ing to the churches he’s addressing:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. (Revelation 1:4)

The title “firstborn of the dead” for Jesus is of great theological importance, especially with Easter in the background. The Greek word for “firstborn” that John uses is prōtotokos, a word that literal- ly refers to birth order—the first child born. This is a concept of great significance in the Old Testament, where the firstborn son inherited his father’s place as head of the family, receiving the father’s blessing and a double portion of the inheritance (Deuter- onomy 21:17).



Prophetic Focus

“Instead of your shame you shall have double portion, And instead of disgrace they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double portion; Everlasting joy shall be theirs.”
Isaiah 61: 7

Long Beach - House of Judah
1925 Pacific ave. Long Beach Ca 90806
Phone: (562)-599-6768
Fax: (562)-599-7167
E-mail: pastor@springsofhopeministries.com
www.springsofhopeministries.com

South Jersey - House of Miracle
31 Poplar Street.
Williamstown, NJ 08094
Pastor Akin Obafemi
(917) 306-2154
www.springsofhopeministries.com

Houston - House of Power
8001 S. Kirkwood Rd. Suite F & G
Houston, TX 77072
Pastor Israel Akinpelu
925) 895-0878
www.springsofhopeministries.com

After the Passover in Egypt, God told his people that every firstborn child was set aside as his own (Exodus 13:2), and the nation of Israel as a whole was referred to as God's "firstborn son" (Exodus 4:22).

Because of the biblical significance attached to the concept, the word "firstborn" acquired a metaphorical sense and came to also refer to the special status of the firstborn as the preeminent son and heir. In the New Testament, Jesus is shown to be the "new Israel," the culmination and fulfillment of God's promise to bless all the nations through the offspring of Abraham (Galatians 3:7). Jesus fulfills the intended role of Israel as God's faithful firstborn son in his perfect life and sacrificial death, and he is vindicated by God in his glorious resurrection.

In referring to Jesus as the firstborn of the dead, John is drawing words and imagery from Psalms 89:1 which celebrates the kingship of David and his line with phrases like "the firstborn," "the highest of the kings of the earth," and the idea that the Messiah's throne will be a "faithful witness in the sky." Calling Jesus firstborn portrays him as the heir of David, exalted and lifted up as the representative of his people.

Numerous other times in the New Testament Jesus is referred to as *prōtotokos*, firstborn:

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:29)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

When he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." (Hebrews 1:6)

Two other passages convey the same idea with slightly different language:

"[The prophets and Moses said] that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles." (Acts 26:23)

In fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

As "firstborn of the dead," Jesus is both first in time and first in preeminence. As the first to be raised from the dead, Christ is the founder and initiator of the new era God is bringing about through Jesus' victory over sin and death. Jesus' resurrection from death opens the way for all who trust in him to follow him in a resurrection like his when he returns. This is important because it shows that our ulti-



mate hope is not just for our souls to go to heaven, but for our physical bodies to be raised to new life like Jesus' was. He is the firstborn of the resurrection.

In Revelation 1:5 we also see the metaphorical sense of the term, showing Jesus' supremacy in authority and kingship after his resurrection. Biblical scholar G.K. Beale explains,

John views Jesus as the ideal Davidic king on an escalated eschatological level, whose death and resurrection have resulted in his eternal kingship and in the kingship of his beloved children "Firstborn" refers to the high, privileged position that Christ has as a result of the resurrection from the dead Christ has gained such a sovereign position over the cosmos, not in the sense that he is recognized as the first-created being of all creation or as the origin of creation, but in the sense that he is the inaugurator of the new creation by means of his resurrection.

We can draw all this together to see that there are two central ideas in the title "firstborn of the dead" in Revelation 1:5. First, the allusion to Psalm 89 shows that Jesus fulfills all history as the messianic King descended from the line of David. Second, being the "firstborn of the dead" means that Jesus is both the first to rise and the first in supremacy. He is the first to rise from the dead and thus the first of the new creation. He is also the inaugurator of the new creation and sovereign over everything. He is the rightful heir to it all.

Christians have a sure hope that one day we will follow Christ into the resurrection and new creation, and, because we are in Christ, will reign with him as the firstborn of God, heirs of all things in heaven and on earth. Rejoice! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

2016 WATCHWORD

GOD'S YEAR FOR OUR LIMITLESS GRACE!

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU FOR MY POWER IS MADE COMPLETE IN YOUR WEAKNESSES AND CHALLENGES."

2 CORINTHIANS 12: 12: 9

SHALOM