

Close to God in

40

Strategically woven into the number forty are the testings of man, God's judgement, and the mechanism that restores the way to God that brings spiritual healing and **an intimately close relationship with God.**

CHRIST WAS CLOSE TO GOD, BEFORE HE BEGAN HIS MINISTRY. For 40 days and 40 nights Jesus fasted in the wilderness. He was walking and talking with God. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he was a powerhouse of spiritual strength. He was ready to begin his ministry that would enable our spiritual healing, producing in us—a new man, necessary before entering into the presence of our righteous heavenly Father. The foolish tempter who often uses physical needs and desires to lure believers away from the spiritual truths and ways of God, failed to entice Jesus. God's plan to save mankind will not fail.

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.** The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, '**It is written: 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down...' Jesus answered him, '**It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'**" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'" Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! **For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only''**" (Matthew 4:1-10).

Despite Jesus' physical hunger, he was filled—with God's Holy Spirit and the word of God. He made it possible for our spiritual filling. Through the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, feasting on the word of God, and living the way of God enables mankind to enter into God's kingdom as His adopted children—part of the Eternal, Great, Royal, Ruling, Holy Family of God Almighty.

AFTER HIS RESURRECTION—NOW VERY CLOSE TO HIS FATHER, MOMENTS FROM RETURNING, CHRIST PREPARED HIS FOLLOWERS FOR 40 DAYS BRINGING THEM CLOSER TO GOD.

After the crucifixion and resurrection, **Christ spent 40 days meeting with his disciples and preparing them** to bring the Gentile ten tribes back into the fold, so they can fulfill their job of taking the message of the kingdom of God to the whole world. From this renewal, a small group of

people gathered believing that Christ is the Messiah, that the resurrection of the righteous is sure, and the way of God is right and true.

“After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of **forty days** and spoke about the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).

Christ’s work on earth was finished 40 days after his death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit arrived 50 days later on the first day of Pentecost, seeding the spiritual healing for all of mankind.

GOD CLEANSSED THE EARTH IN 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS OF RAIN.

God caused the great flood that cleansed the earth of wickedness preserving only eight people. Noah and his family were protected. They were the new beginning for mankind. For 40 days and 40 nights, Noah and his family along with selected animals were saved in the ark. As the rain poured and the waters rose, the ark was brought closer to the heavens. It was a natural result that brought the small remnant and their home on the water higher and higher, closer to God. **Forty days and forty nights of God’s judgement** in the form of a flood sentenced the wicked to death. Noah was judged before the flood and he and his family found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

“In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. **And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.** On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark” (Genesis 7:11-13).

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8).



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While the earth was being cleansed by a world catastrophe, those preserved were brought close to God.

“For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the water increased **they lifted the ark above the earth**. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water” (Genesis 7:17-18).

NOAH WAITED 40 DAYS AFTER IT RAINED BEFORE HE OPENED THE WINDOW IN THE ARK.

Noah and his family remained covered sending out a raven, then a dove to determine the water level. When the dove did not return, he removed the covering of the ark and saw a cleansed new world. Forty days they waited for the waters to reside. **During that time, they were brought down back on earth spiritually strengthened and rejuvenated, ready to restore the way of God and repopulate the earth with God-fearing and God-obeying people.** This remnant was humble before God and offered a sacrifice, which pleased God and He promised never to destroy mankind and living creatures again with a flood.

“And it came to pass **at the end of forty days**, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made” (Genesis 8:6).

“Then **Noah built an altar to the LORD** and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, **he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma** and said in his heart: **‘Never again will I curse the ground because of man**, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And **never again will I destroy all living creatures**, as I have done’” (Genesis 8:20-21).

“Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, **‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth...** I will establish a covenant with you... Never again will all life be cut off by waters of a flood to destroy the earth... the sign of the covenant is the rainbow in the clouds” (Genesis 9:1-16).

MOSES—FOR 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS COVERED IN A CLOUD, WAS TAUGHT BY GOD THE COMMANDMENTS, STATUES, AND ORDINANCES. HE WAS RIGHT NEXT TO GOD DURING THOSE 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS—VERY CLOSE TO GOD.

During the 40 days and 40 nights, Moses was taught the complete law of God, returning with the 10 Commandments written on two stone tablets. Moses was prepared to restore the law of God and bring a spiritual healing to the people



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of Israel. God's law written on **two** tablets of stone provides a guaranteed witness that God's law works to establish order, peace and prosperity.

"Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain **forty days and forty nights**" (Exodus 24:18).

"So, he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments" (Exodus 34:28).

ELIJAH—FOR 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS WALKED TO MOUNT HOREB TO STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD—CLOSE TO GOD. Filled with strength from God, Elijah sustained the walk without food or water to climb Mt. Horeb. There, he was **prepared for the task to lead the people of Israel back to God.**

"So, he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, **he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God**" (I Kings 19:8).

"He replied, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. **The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too**'" (I Kings 19:14).



<http://www.mikeszone.com/day-26-more-like-you/elijah-elisha/>

GOD'S JUDGEMENT AND RESTORATION:

"The Lord said to him, 'Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. **Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him**'" (I Kings 19:15-18).

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel [both houses: Judah and Israel]. See, **I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse**" (Malachi 4:4-5).

It is thought by some that John, the Baptist fulfilled Malachi 4:4-5, but John, the Baptist did not say that he was called to fulfill Malachi 4. The Jews in Jerusalem sent the priests and the Levites to identify the role of John, the Baptist.

“And this was John’s testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?” He did not refuse to confess, but openly declared, **“I am not the Christ.”**”

“Then who are you?” they inquired. **“Are you Elijah?”** He said, “I am not.” **“Are you the Prophet?”** He answered, **“No.”**”

So they said to him, **“Who are you?** We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet: **“I am a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord’”** (John 1:19-23).

John, the Baptist’s role was to baptize repentant people and prepare them for the ministry of Jesus. Elijah will prepare the people during a time of great distress when supernatural events and miracles become a daily occurrence. During the latter days of this evil age, Elijah will be resurrected and finish the commission given to him.

FOR 40 DAYS JONAH WARNED THE NINEVITES OF THEIR DESTRUCTION IF THEY DO NOT REPENT OF THEIR VIOLENCE AND EVIL WAYS. They listened and feared God—the only God who could fulfill the warning given to them. They acknowledged their sins against the Almighty God. He accepted their humbled repentance and extended them grace and life.

“On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: **‘Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!’**” (Jonah 3:4)

Jonah was humbled in the belly of the fish and after being vomited up, he accepted the task to take the warning of destruction to the city of Nineveh. For **forty days**, he warned the Ninevites. Jonah’s message reached the king of Nineveh. He humbled himself and proclaimed a city-wide fast for man and beast, commanding that everyone urgently cry out to God and give up their violence and evil ways. The whole city repented and God had compassion on them. They were not destroyed but received spiritual healing through God’s grace.



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The Ninevites were cruel Assyrians and one of ancient Israel’s worst enemies who touted their supremacy and bragged of their military triumphs. And yet, God had compassion on them and He extends His grace to anyone who repents of their

sins. God does not judge with bias. His people are not favoured over the people of the nations. In contrast, God will punish His people double for their sins because they have been given His law and the oracles. An oxymoron in the truest sense, even the people of Nineveh on judgement day, will stand against God's people who reject the Almighty God. They knew God better than the wicked generation of God's people during Jesus' life on earth and into the present.

“The people of Nineveh will also stand up against this generation on judgement day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent” (Luke 11:32).

FOR 40 YEARS THE ISRAELITES WANDERED THE WILDERNESS BEFORE ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND. It took the full forty years to **cleanse ancient Israel** of the generation of unbelievers who despite the many miracles they witnessed, still did not believe in the supremacy of the God of Israel and His love for them.

“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘How long will this people **treat Me with contempt?** How long will **they refuse to believe in Me, despite all the signs I have performed among them?**’” (Numbers 14:11).

While the unbelieving died during the walk through the wilderness, their children matured and lived to enter the glorious land promised to them. They embraced God's law, kept His Holy Days, and vowed to keep His ways. God fought their enemies with them; together, they won. **They were close.**

The children of the unbelievers of Israel vowed to serve the God of Israel—the Almighty God.

“It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our forefathers up out of Egypt... performed those great signs before our eyes. Protected us on our entire journey... **the LORD drove out before us all the nations...** He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. ‘If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.’ But the people said to Joshua, ‘No, **we will serve the LORD.**’ Then Joshua said, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.’ ‘Yes, we are witnesses,’ they replied... **‘We will serve the LORD our God and obey him’**” (Joshua 24:17-22, 24).

The works of our Creator go beyond the wisdom of man. His use of numbers is woven into His handiwork with exquisite precision. He threads them as mysteries and binds them securely in His timeline, in our story, in His gifts, in our correction, in His rewards, and in our obedience. The number 40 is used to confirm a completion in testing, judging, restoration and hope that culminates in an intimately close relationship with God. Learn from the City of Nineveh and don't wait for the fulfillment of 40; repent now and draw close to God.

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