



## 2021 VISION OF THE HOUSE

Mount Zion Baptist Church – *Nashville, Tennessee*  
Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III – *Senior Pastor*

### KINGDOM ORDER

#### **Isaiah 2: 2-4 (NKJV)**

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days  
*That* the mountain of the LORD's house  
Shall be established on the top of the mountains,  
And shall be exalted above the hills;  
And all nations shall flow to it.  
<sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say,  
"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
To the house of the God of Jacob;  
He will teach us His ways,  
And we shall walk in His paths."  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
And rebuke many people;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning <sup>[a]</sup>hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

I greet all of you in the unmatched name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. After spending time with God in prayer and consecration, the Lord has spoken to me concerning the direction of the ministry of 2021. With all the unprecedented challenges the world saw in 2020, God—with consistency and with clarity—prepared Mount Zion Baptist Church. In 2018, He gave us the three-fold vision of "Connect, Commit and Change." I think we all can agree that the 2020 Vision—which was devoted solely to *Change*—was prophetic and preparatory because God knew providentially what that change would look like in 2020. We are thankful that then we were charged to have greater commitment, and as a result, we established authentic connections. Consequently, we survived the challenges that came with change and made the necessary adjustments to insure sustainability within the ministry. As we look forward to what the

new year brings, God says that “Connect, Commit and Change” should remain the foundation of our ministry, thus becoming our Ministry Mantra. Everything we do going forward will involve these three tenants to assure that we remain true to our mission as a spiritually mature ministry.

To say 2020 was a year of chaos would be an understatement because so much has changed forever. From a global pandemic to social unrest amidst a contentious political climate, last year revealed much to us all. When God spoke to me concerning the vision of **ORDER**, He said that 2021 will be the year when He will calm the chaos and re-establish His Kingdom in the earth. Man’s attempt to govern and to control his life has failed. The narcissism on display in 2020 contributed to the calamities within the earth. Although physical and moral destruction were not sent by God, God—in His sovereignty—permitted the disruption of everything humanity cherished. Now, it is clear more than ever before that God has our undivided attention. Again, and again, He has proven throughout His word that He is a God of order. God specializes in bringing order where once there was chaos. In the beginning of time, we discover that the Creation itself was birthed out of chaos when God spoke order into existence. Wherever there was disorder in 2020, God will declare, “Order in 2021.”

Isaiah challenges us to understand our role as God’s representatives within the earth. In Chapter 1, there is widespread corruption. God laments the state of Judah and what its people have become. He longs for their repentance. In Chapter 2, God speaks to the gentiles, who historically had been rejected. They would be the people to usher in Kingdom Order. Today, we must understand what is required of us because our vision is larger than just the church. The “2021 Vision of the House” is about the Kingdom-at-large. God has positioned Mount Zion to be a global example of Kingdom Order. For us to serve as a conduit for the will of God, we must be obedient to giving in 2021. Mount Zion, we must remain committed to tithing and to supporting the work of this ministry. The year 2021 requires that we become a debt-free ministry so that we accomplish the vision without financial obstacles. Not thy will, but the will of God will manifest itself in the earth.

Let us now look at the word **ORDER** acrostically.

**O-Obedience.** The fundamental establishment of order in the earth will not happen without obedience to God’s word. Obedience must be manifested individually and corporately because God desires repentance and righteousness in the lives of His people. Last year, we witnessed first-hand the sobering effects of disobedience. In this year 2021, we must recommit ourselves to living according to the will of God. For our witness in the world to remain strong, obedience to God’s liking requires that we hold each other

accountable! To this end, we will establish accountability partners within the ministry to support each other in our Christian walk. Mount Zion, we cannot lose our influence by compromising our convictions to cultural norms because God wants to establish His kingdom in the earth on a foundation of obedience. Therefore, we will kick off the year with prayer targets and with a corporate prayer service. Also, we will continue to have a series of prayer and consecration services as the Lord leads the Pastor. Without hesitation, we must move when God instructs us to act. Our obedience will often stretch us to embrace the unfamiliar, yet we must stay the course. Once positive change occurs, we will witness the second part of the vision—Revival.

**R-Revival.** God says that a revival is coming in this next dispensation like we have never seen before. Isaiah says that people will flow to the house of God and that all nations will come. For the revival to be all-inclusive and non-discriminatory, we must make sure that we are prepared infrastructurally to receive what God is about to do. First, our systems and processes must be more efficient. Second, ministry leadership must be more engaged. Third, our customer service must be stellar. Fourth, our ministry must welcome diversity. Fifth, our worship experience must reflect authenticity. Sixth, our marketing must target evangelism and reclamation. In summary, the world will not just know what we are doing but “why.” Thousands will come to Mount Zion in search of a genuine encounter with God. Mount Zion, our mature ministry requires more innovative approaches for the flock to experience the full scope of a revival. To recapture the “revive us again spirit,” we must continue to develop virtual campuses to cultivate a greater sense of community as believers connect with our ministry worldwide.

**D-Discipleship.** I am pleased with the progress we made in 2020. God says that those who come to the house of the Lord yearn for instruction and direction. Therefore, having a clear understanding of what discipleship really means to the believer must remain a primary focus. For several months, our assimilation team put together a Quick-links program that is centered around improving discipleship engagement. Likewise, our Christian Education Department implemented virtual villages as well as online classes to enhance our discipleship efforts. As Pastor and as one who teaches the Word, too, I will continue to educate believers on salvation and on the importance of walking out the spirit of discipleship. In 2021, Christian Education curriculum with practical application will be made available to those connected to the Mount Zion Ministry. Last year, we established our e-store, which still conveniently allows us to access Christian Education materials. This year—through our Christian Education app—it is our goal to make available over 200,000 pieces of Christian literature at the push of a button.

**E-Empowerment.** Community outreach will be our primary focus in this area. We will commit ourselves to the empowerment of those within our ministry as well as those in

the community we serve. We will be intentional about partnering with local agencies to bring about positive change. As Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, I have established four pillars that we, The Fellowship, implore every church to address. They are *Faith, Family, Fitness* and *Finance*. Mount Zion, we will continue to focus on these four areas in tangible and measurable ways. We will enhance our virtual class offerings to include tracks that range from biblical studies to specialized courses. We will also enhance our Deeper Dive Biblical Encounters as well as increase our virtual curriculum for both children and youth. The Mount Zion Family Ministry will provide innovative ministry offerings through seminars, fellowships and conferences for our youth, young adult, college, singles and marriage ministries. Also, we will establish the first-ever Husband Camp and Wife Camp, which will prepare men and women for marriage. Our ministry will celebrate Mount Zion's senior saints through resource sharing and outreach support. The Health and Wellness Ministry will continue to expand work in the community. Church-Fit will continue to enlarge its territory in virtual space. Providing mental health resources and supporting those in need will remain on our ministry radar, too. We will also re-establish our Recreational Ministry by providing an intramural league to promote friendly competition, healthy living and greater community connections.

This year, the Finance Ministry will focus primarily on two areas. First, the Financial Literacy Institute will be a community-based program that will provide financial literacy education for beginners-to-advanced enrollees. Second is the development of Entre-School—a unique training space for aspiring entrepreneurs. The institute's leaders will assist in developing business plans, in acquiring access to capital funds and in writing marketing business strategies. They will also create mentorship opportunities with top business leaders both in the community and around the globe. Mount Zion, moving forward, we will also develop a Professional Connect Ministry. This unique ministry will form virtual groups comprised of persons with similar career interests. Participants will glean from one another, thereby creating a "buddy system" for support.

**R-Realignment.** The scripture says that God would turn the nations' weapons of war into weapons of productivity and peace. Here, Isaiah's realignment is a spiritual realignment that places a demand not only upon the nations (*house of Jacob*) but also upon us. In 2021, God wants us to reconcile broken relationships and to work together toward manifesting our vision. God's plan will use Mount Zion as His catalyst for change. Thus, everything out of order must be put back in order. In 2020, we were blessed with an extraordinary leadership team who worked tirelessly on our strategic re-engagement plan. Part of the team's responsibilities included both determining the church's administrative essentials and determining which ministries produce positive, measurable results. *Realignment* also means that we will retain plus factors like remaining committed to the work of social

justice, civic responsibility and racial reconciliation in 2021. Equally so, we expect our membership and ministry programs to reflect greater diversity and inclusion. As leaders in the community, we believers realize that to whom much is given, much is required. Our dedication to realigning the Mount Zion Ministry will reflect our spiritual maturity and yield us greater influence across the world.

Let us not be naïve, Mount Zion. The year 2021 will not be without challenges, but the implementation of *this* vision is vital to divine order manifesting where there has been chaos. Expect our ministry to meet the needs of God’s people in our physical and virtual spaces concurrently. We will continue to be innovative and unapologetic as we minister outside the box!

Rest assured, the Mount Zion Ministry faithfully proclaims Jesus as Savior and Lord. Even more, in 2021, we will profess Him as King of kings and as LORD of lords, for He is about to establish His Kingdom in the earth. As His disciples, we are blessed to join Him in this work—work that is *all* for His glory! Out of the chaos of 2020 shall emerge ORDER in 2021. Yes, Kingdom Order is on the horizon throughout the earth, on the horizon in this ministry and on the horizon in *your* house.

Let us remain connected, committed and, ultimately, changed. Let us continue to declare that we are ALL IN!

To the glory of God and Amen,

Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III