--"Greek mythology tells us that Hercules constructed two pillars near the Straits of Gibraltar to mark the edge of the then known world. These pillars bore the warning "Ne Plus Ultra!"---No More Beyond Here". They served as a warning to sailors and navigators to go no farther, essentially shutting the door on possibility. In the 1400's, the belief that there was nothing more to discover was so prevalent that "No More Beyond Here" was written on the edges of their maps. The Spanish were proud that their nation was the westernmost part of the earth; they felt they were, literally on the edge of the world. Thus, the ancient coat of arms of the Spanish Royal family contained the words, "Ne Plus Ultra...There is NO MORE Beyond Here."

-After Columbus' voyage it was clear that there was far more beyond Spain's borders, thus rendering the royal motto meaningless.... -A wise adviser suggested to Queen Isabella that they simply drop the "No" from the coat of arms. Thus, the new coat of arms read – **"There is MORE beyond here.**"

## For The Church & Each Person God Declares There Is MORE Beyond Your "HERE"!

Jer.29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." **Eph.2:10** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (*NLT*)

#### Eph.3:20

Now to the God who can do so many *awe-inspiring things, immeasurable things, things greater than we ever* could ask or imagine through the power at work in us. (*Voice*)

## God Often Begins By Asking "What Do YOU See?"

#### Zechariah 4:1-2

The angel who was speaking with me returned and woke me up as one might wake up someone who is sleeping. He asked me, "What do you see?"

#### Proverbs 29:18

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble allover themselves; but when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed. (MSG)

## God Wants To OPEN Our Eyes And Give Us Fresh Vision!

### **Col. I:9** We are asking God that you may see things, as it were, from his point of view by being given spiritual insight & understanding. (J.B. Phillips)

## I. He Invites Us To Seek Him

**Deut.29:4** But GOD didn't give you an understanding heart or perceptive eyes or attentive ears until right now, this very day. (MSG)

#### Jer.33:3

"Call to me and I will answer you. I'll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own." (MSG)

-"Ask me and I will tell you some remarkable secrets about what's going to happen here." (LB)

#### Eph.1:17-19.

I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength! (MSG

# 2. He Opens Our Eyes To SEE Him Walking With Us Through Our Trials

#### -Gen. 13:14-15

The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had left him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are *standing*, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever.(*AMP*)

#### II Kings 6:15-17

When the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." <sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

#### Luke 24:13-16, 21

That same day two of them were walking to the village **Emmaus**, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.(MSG)

-21 "But we were hoping he was the one..."(J.B. Phillipps)

-Emmaus was not so much a place as a state of mind. The state of mind where we go to escape... escape from pain, loneliness, longing, sorrow, bewilderment, grief, betrayal, an ungrateful family or that horrible gnawing grief over life and love lost. (Frederick Buechner)

## ---"Where There Is No Hope In The Future, There Is No Power In The Present!"

# 3. He Leads Us Out Of The Familiar - The Known In Order To OPEN Our Eyes

"The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they're too strong to be broken."

#### Mark 8:22-25

When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch and heal the man. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man's eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, "Can you see anything now?" The man looked around. "Yes," he said, "I see people, but I can't see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around." Then Jesus placed his hands over the man's eyes again. As the man stared intently, his sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly.

#### Matt 14:28-31

Then Peter spoke up. "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you." **29** "Come!" answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. **30** But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. "Save me, Lord!" he cried. **31** At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, "What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?"(*GNT*)

-"Why did you doubt and dance back and forth between following Me and heeding fear?" (Voice)

- Hebraic thinking doesn't begin with Rational Arguments, Compelling Doctrines or Cognitive Convictions. It begins by DOING Something. It is the most practical of religions. Have Doubts? No problem. Just get into the flow of DOING what God commands and see what happens. Just start acting on the basis of His instructions. It's OK to doubt. In fact, it's expected. After all, you won't know the Hebraic truth of the matter – and that means the reliability of your stance – until you actually **stand** and walk it out!

## 4. He Challenges Us To Look With A Fresh Faith Toward Our Future

# **Philippians 3:13** Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal

#### Isa.43:18-19

Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? (MSG)

-Believers cannot live on past victories, nor should they be debilitated by the guilt of past sins. Churches are full of spiritual cripples, paralyzed by the grudges, bitterness, sins, and tragedies of the past. Others try to survive in the present by reliving past successes. They must break with that past if they are to pursue the spiritual prize. God is interested in what believers do now and in the future. "No one," declared Jesus, " after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God "The clearest vision belongs to those who forget the past." (John MacArthur)

#### Joshua 18:1-3

Whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled at Shiloh. And the land was subdued before them. But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance. Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?

# God Gave them 300,000 sq. miles & the most they claimed was 30,000 sq. miles!

## Matthew 9:29 Then He touched their eyes (Vision) saying, according to your faith be it unto you.