The background of the entire cover is a vibrant sunset or sunrise scene. The sky is filled with soft, glowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and red. In the lower half of the image, a person is silhouetted against the bright light, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or worship. The overall mood is one of hope, faith, and spiritual awakening.

RISE ^{OF} THE ANOINTED ONES

ANOINTED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

40 DAYS TO A DEEPER WALK WITH GOD

Kenneth L. Birks

Rise of the Anointed Ones **Anointed For Such A Time**

40 Days to a Deeper Walk with God

Includes Biblical Devotional Poetry

By Kenneth L. Birks

~

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The Rise of the Anointed Ones

Given to the spirit of the times, sinful behavior normalizes.
Blinded by self-absorbed, unrighteous ones; denial demonizes.
Filled with hate and violence, the antichrist spirit abuses.
As unrest multiplies rapidly, cries are heard across the globe.
From heaven above, the Father sees and hears as He probes.
With a heart of compassion and understanding, He draws near.
Those with hearts of understanding, He draws into His sphere.
Breathing upon those with ears to hear, He anoints abundantly.
With a double portion, His anointing pours forth triumphantly.
In a spirit of unity, the anointed ones rise to engage mightily.

~

*But you have an anointing from the Holy One,
and you know all things.*

1 John 2:2

Rise of the Anointed Ones

Anointed For Such A Time

40 Days to a Deeper Walk with God
By Kenneth L. Birks

Table of Contents

Foreword
Anointed for Such a Time
Sound the Alarm
Discovering Spiritual Gifts
Responding to Seasons of Time
Christlike in a World Gone Wrong
The End-Time Revival
Cultivating Newness
In Sync with God's Purposes
Path of the Righteous
God's Power: Sword and Spirit
The Helper of our Joy
Grace That Teaches
Spiritual Renewal Cost
Cast Your Bread Upon Waters
Enduring Shakings
Pursue Peace with All
Trees of Righteousness
Flourish Where You're Planted
The Word Mixed with Faith
Patterns of Good Works
Stirring up Spiritual Gifts
The Secret Place – Our Refuge
Clothed in Humility

Cultural Deception
Restoring Truth to the Streets
Bride of Christ Revealed
Fervency on Demand
Kingdom Perspectives
Avoiding Worldliness
Transformed by God's Word and Spirit
Swimming Against the Current
Concerns that Dominate
Flames of Fire
The Joyful Sound
The Antichrist Spirit
Moral Excellence
God our Stronghold
Fortify Your Stronghold with Armor
Staying the Course
The Second Coming of Jesus Christ
About the Author
Other Books by Kenneth L. Birks
Workbooks by Ken Birks
Reviews and References
Ken's Online Connections

Foreword

If there was ever a set of devotionals fit for these times, this is it. In his devotional titled, “Anointed for Such a Time,” Ken Birks talks about Mordecai reminding Queen Esther, “Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Ken’s devotional is perfectly fit for a time such as this. As you read through the 40 devotionals, you will find a beautiful blend of timeless truths fitly applied to today’s culture and challenges. Ken’s insights will challenge you to grow “in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature... Then (you) will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.” – *Ephesians 4*

We live in an age of shallowness and deceitful scheming. I have known Ken for almost 20 years. I have come to realize he has a deep and rich combination of relationship with the Lord, knowledge of the Scripture, and awareness of how truth relates to our present culture. When I went through my own “Dark Night of the Soul,” Ken was instrumental in bringing me back to a place of wholeness. As I read through these devotionals, I find much of the wisdom Ken shared with me on that journey.

Each of these devotionals stands on its own, but together they will propel you into a rewarding journey of experiencing God’s presence in tumultuous times. I would encourage you to open your Bible and read each devotional with an expectant heart. May you Get Ready! in these momentous days and experience what it means to rise with the anointed ones.— *by Robert (Bob) Guild*

Rise of the Anointed Ones is like a voice in the wilderness calling God's beloved away from all that distracts to Him who is jealous for His bride. The reader who hears and responds will bring joy to the heart of God and encouragement to others who have put their hand to the plow. – *David Fredrickson*

Ken Birks has written a masterpiece of superb continuity. Each daily devotional along with the poem, and special prayer, became my favorite in the whole book – until I read the next one. The majestic flow from theme to theme contains powerful prophetic revelation, as God calls His end-time warriors to arise. I was also amazed by the poems that followed each devotional – the words were Davidic and musical – they flowed like a delightful stream with heavenly impartations. – *Edward Becker*

Day 1

Anointed For Such A Time

There is no doubt we are in the midst of tumultuous times. As we experience one catastrophe after another amid a worldwide pandemic, it is obvious. Riots with cities in flames, hurricanes, earthquakes, political unrest, and turmoil amid a world filled with hatred towards those who think differently are all part of what has now become our normalized world. It appears our world is falling apart at its seams. As Christians, what are we to do in an environment that is controlled by violence, fear, and the terror of what is to come? Have we been anointed for such a time as this?

In the book of Esther, we discover Queen Esther, who found herself embroiled in a similar period of unrest when her people, the Jews, were on the verge of being eradicated from the face of the earth. Just as Mordecai suggested that she had come into the kingdom for such a time, so have we. It may very well be that we have been placed strategically where God has planted us for such a time.

Esther 4:24 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Let's keep in mind that one of the antichrist's goals will be to eradicate Christians from the face of the earth. Many will fall away during his reign, but God has a plan for His people just as He did for the Jews during Esther's reign as queen. We have been anointed for such a time as this. We cannot afford to remain silent. We must stir the anointing within us and pursue our callings as the Lord gives voice before His great army.

We all have the anointing of the Holy Spirit within us. It is something that God freely gave to us who are in Christ. As we are joined together in unity, His voice will echo throughout the world, providing hope to a world filled with despair.

1 John 2:27a But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you.

Before this verse, John wrote concerning the coming Antichrist and how the antichrist spirit was already deceiving them as to who Christ was. He reminded them that they had an anointing from the Holy One and knew everything. God is speaking and reminding us once again that we have an anointing within us to stir up and release so that His body is glorified amid all that is happening in our world today. We have been anointed for such a time as this.

As the Day of the Lord draws near, we must rise with one voice as a light amid the darkness, captivating hearts everywhere. Through the anointing, we will discover our gifts, talents, and placement in the body of Christ. As He builds us together as lively stones, we will be His light and voice to a world embroiled in catastrophic events.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

The above passage clarifies to us the Father's purpose and vision. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to make the anointing within us visible to those without Christ. As we stir the anointing within, we can rise as a powerful entity in the earth amid all the confusion the antichrist spirit is producing. We have been anointed for this season as God manifests His mighty miracle-working power in His Church throughout the earth. The Holy Spirit has ordained His anointed ones for such a time as this to fill the world with the fullness of Him, who fills all in all. Let us all prepare to be a part of Rise of the Anointed Ones, who go forth as His ambassadors, filling the earth with the Father's glory. May His glory rise upon us as we go into the harvest fields of the earth fulfilling the "Great Commission" to which we have been called to do in this hour of the Church's destiny.

Poem: Rise of the Anointed Ones

As storm clouds brew over the land, the earth trembles.
As unrighteousness manifests throughout, evil dissembles.
Troubles coming from every direction, darkness covers.
As anxiety, depression, and fear invade, multitudes suffer.
Engulfed in the madness of the moment, numbness buffers.

Given to the spirit of the times, sinful behavior normalizes.
Blinded by self-absorbed, unrighteous ones; denial demonizes.
Filled with hate and violence, the antichrist spirit abuses.
As unrest multiplies rapidly, cries are heard across the globe.
From heaven above, the Father sees and hears as He probes.

With a heart of compassion and understanding, He draws near.
Those with hearts of understanding, He draws into His sphere.
Breathing upon those with ears to hear, He anoints abundantly.
With a double portion, His anointing pours forth triumphantly.
In a spirit of unity, the anointed ones rise to engage mightily.

For such a time as this, His anointed ones soar on eagle wings.
Not growing weary, they run, basking in His glory, overcoming.
In the power of His might, they go as gifts release everywhere.
As the earth fills with His presence, He is known globally.
Throughout the land, His anointed ones are known universally.
The restoration of all things at hand, the anointed one's march.
They come great and strong, the like of whom has never been.
The Lord giving voice, marching perfectly, they recover all.
The earth quaking before them, the unrighteous writhe in pain.
As the heavens tremble, strong is the One who executes.

Prayer

Father God, I come before you today asking for more oil in my lamp. Allow Your anointing to fill my heart with goodness and mercy as I go forth as one of Your vessels of Honor. Open my heart to what You are doing in my field of harvest as I go about my day. Help me to stir up the gifts You have given me continually.

~

May you be blessed in all that you do as you go forth in the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Day 2

Sound the Alarm! The Day of the Lord is Near

Is God about to do something extraordinary? We should be pondering this question if we desire to be a part of the prophetic fulfillment of the times before the Second Coming of Christ—the Day of the Lord. As the prophet Joel declares, we are to sound the alarm and warn all that the Day of the Lord is at hand. Now is the time to make ourselves ready as His instruments of righteousness.

Joel 2:1-2 Blow the trumpet in Zion and sound the alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand: ² A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains.

In Peter's great sermon following the healing of the lame man at Solomon's Porch in the book Acts, he says Jesus won't return until the restoration of all things happens, and everything spoken by the mouth of the prophets is fulfilled. The above passage is a prophetic statement concerning the times we are entering. We are at a point when our worldly climate demands that we make ourselves ready. The trumpet has begun to sound the alarm warning the inhabitants of our world to get prepared for what God is about to do. We are entering into a season of urgency, wherein we must first make sure we clothe ourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ by putting on our wedding garments. Will we be among those who have prepared ourselves for the great wedding day, or will we be caught unaware suddenly when the day comes on us? Preparing ourselves for how to be used in this season is an important question we should all be pondering.

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and her wife has made herself ready.

Romans 13:13-14 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

The trumpet sound emanating from the throne of God is a wake-up call for the Church. We must wake up from our slumber and realize the alarm is sounding. We have a grave responsibility to be watchmen on the walls to warn the world, our friends, and loved ones of the impending disaster that is coming on all the inhabitants of the world, lest their blood is upon us. We must open our hearts and spirits to the

alarm sounding throughout the world's landscapes and allow His Spirit to speak in a way we understand. As the prophet Ezekiel warns us, God made us security guards for His house. We are to warn the world's inhabitants to save them from their wickedness. He says their blood will be upon us if we fail to do so. It is evident; Paul was well versed in the words of Ezekiel. When speaking to the leaders of the Ephesus church, he said, *"I am innocent of the blood of all men."* During the whole of Paul's ministry, he was motivated to sound the alarm and boldly proclaim the gospel to everyone he met. How motivated are we to sound the alarm to those we meet and know?

To remain in a state of readiness, we need to have the anointing oil flowing from our lives as we commit to His purposes for our generation. Without the anointing, we won't be adequately prepared to minister in the fullness of Christ with the gifts of the Spirit He has given. John informs us in one of his letters that we all have the anointing of God. What are we doing with the anointing God has given us? Are we stirring it up daily? We have been given the power of the Holy Spirit to minister supernaturally to a world filled with hate, violence, sexual depravity, deceit, and much more that exudes out of self-absorbed people caught in the lies of Satan. We are to be salt and light amid a dark and oppressed climate. Through the anointing of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus, He was able to penetrate the darkness that assaulted the lives He set free. We have been given that same anointing as the following passage of Scripture reveals.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ and there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

The term "works" means active operation, productive, powerful, dynamic, efficient, fervent, and mighty in showing forth. The word "manifestation" means to make visible, clear, and known. With these two definitions in mind, we can see that it is the Father's desire for us to be vigorous and mighty in showing forth and making His power visible through the gifts of the Spirit.

There is an end-time anointing that is coming before the return of Jesus Christ that will be greater than anything that occurred throughout the earth's history. God is now commissioning us to fulfill the words of Jesus when He said, *"You will do greater works than Him."* This anointing will come suddenly like a mighty rushing wind as it did with the early disciples in the book of Acts. So now is the time as Christ's bride to make ourselves ready. As we hear the trumpet sounding the alarm, we must take the time to fill our vessels with the oil of the Holy Spirit as we purpose to go forth in His anointing.

As chaste virgins espoused to Christ, let us not be like the foolish virgins who took no oil with them while they waited for their bridegroom. Instead, let us be like the wise virgins whose lamps were filled and ready to move in step with God's plans and purposes. The prophet Joel also mentions this when he says, "*A people is coming, great and strong, the like of whom has never been nor will there ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations.*" The prophet, Daniel, said, "*The people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.*" Therefore, let us heed the words of Paul, the apostle.

Romans 14:11-14 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far spent; the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

As the alarm reverberates through our spirits, let us go forth into our harvest fields, sounding the alarm as God displays His glory. With the rise of the anointed ones, God will usher into His kingdom multitudes upon multitudes before the great and notable day of the Lord. May we not be caught sleeping as this excellent opportunity to be used by the Lord is upon us. The time to get ready is at hand by getting the extra supply of oil for all that God has prepared for this crucial time in the history of the earth before the second coming of Jesus Christ. May we sound the alarm for all to hear.

Poem: The Day of the Lord

As darkness and oppression take over, alarms begin to sound.
With the Day of the Lord at hand, a voice thunders, "Get ready!"
At the sound of the alarm, inhabitants of the land begin to tremble.
With the alarm reverberating throughout the land, madness rules.
As the voice thunders, alarms go off, captivating all who hear.

Awakened out of spiritual slumber, revelation incites action.
Darkness gripping hearts everywhere, many stand in wonder.
Poised for action, many stand ready with their lamps lit with oil.
With the day of the Lord at hand, a sense of urgency captivates.
Like a mighty rushing wind, His fullness comes to those with oil.

As lamps fill, signs and wonders disarm those caught in the madness.
Touched by the anointed ones, hope invades those lost in darkness.
Miracles with great exploits multiplied the anointed one's minister.

Fulfilling prophetic words from prophets of old, they dispel darkness.
Multitudes upon multitudes in valleys of decision, turn in repentance.

The sickle put to the harvest; He reaps with an abundance turning.
Spewing venom in anger, Satan knows the Day of the Lord is near.
Those reaped, the Father rescues as Satan spews venom like a flood.
On wings of an eagle, anointed ones escape to a place of refuge.
Nurtured and provided for, they dwell as havoc wreaks everywhere.

No longer restrained, the anointed out of the way, Satan's fury releases.
With power to kill and destroy, the foolish ones without oil, he martyrs.
With power to deceive, usurping God's authority, masses follow blindly.
With the anointed ones taken out of the way, God releases His wrath.
Seven Angels given seven vials; they pour wrath on all inhabitants.

With God's mystery finished, the culmination of all things is at hand.
The fullness of His wrath released; Mighty God signals He's ready.
The Day of the Lord at hand, the Righteous One mounts His horse.
The dead in Christ risen, the anointed ones are caught up to meet Him.
Gathering His troops from the four corners, they mount up and ride.

With Armageddon as their destination, the Day of the Lord arrives.
The inhabitants destroyed by His brightness; He takes possession.
Setting feet on the Mount of Olives, He's ready to set up His throne.
With Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet bound, He conquers.
Ruling and reigning a thousand years, the Day of the Lord fulfills.

Prayer

Lord, help me maintain my focus on You and all that you desire to do in my life and those around me. Help me be a diligent watchman and ready to respond to all that comes my way.

~

May you rise with courage in your heart as you purpose to sound the alarm to those in your field of harvest.

Day 3

Discovering Spiritual Gifts

The gifts of the Spirit are a vital part of who God has created us to be. Therefore, we must press in and discover the gifts given because they play a significant role in all that God intends to do before the second coming of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

Because the gifts of the Spirit play a significant role in the end-time environment, we need to fan the flame by stirring them up. We have all received at least one of the gifts of the Spirit. In his letters to the churches, Paul says, God gave gifts for the profit of all. Therefore, God desires that we all discover and use the spiritual gifts He gave us. We will not experience the fullness God has ordained for our lives unless we find out and use the gifts freely given to us by the Holy Spirit. Once discovered, we must then fan them into existence by using them regularly.

In Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians, he was concerned that they would not be lacking concerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit as the day of the Lord draws near. His heart towards them was that they would be well used in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which prompted him to spend ample time explaining their proper usage for the glorification of the body of Christ.

Paul also wrote to Timothy to stir up the gift of God which he received. To stir means to kindle afresh or keep in full flame. Metaphorically, it refers to the fact that the gift of God is like a fire capable of dying out through neglect. In other words, we must continually fan the flames with fresh kindling.

Knowing we have access to the gifts of the Spirit through the Holy Spirit; it is our responsibility to discover them. So then, as the Father distributes His gifts as He wills, He prepares our hearts to receive all we need for the tasks and purposes He has called us to so that we can go forth as His flames of fire filled with His passion.

Discovery is the key that unlocks our spiritual gifts. How do we go about it? There are no simple answers or specific steps. It's a process that comes with our relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit searches the heart of the Father for those things that concern our lives. He explores the heart of the Father for the spiritual gift or gifts that are best suited for who He created us to be.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Through our relationship with Christ, we begin to discover all that He has created us to be. As we grow and mature in Christ, we catch glimpses of our purpose and ministries. As we start to grasp who we are in Christ, we should think about what gifts of the Spirit would best match our callings. In the letter to the Corinthians, he tells us to desire the best gifts. What are the best gifts? They are the ones that are the best suited for who you are in Christ. The key to fanning the flame for your spiritual gift to burst into an intense love that ministers to others is desire. You must have a sincere desire to be used by God to minister in the gifts of the Spirit.

Once you discover the best gift for who God created you to be, you must begin to press in by learning everything you can about it. Study and seek out others who are well used in it and learn from them. We must step out in faith and start using His gifts at some point. Paul wrote to the Romans, "*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry; he who teaches, in teaching, he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*"

It is of vital importance that we allow God to plant us in local expressions of the body of Christ where we have the liberty to grow and mature in the gifting and ministries to which He calls us to engage. The Church is the body of Christ. It needs its members to function together in unity and harmony with one another for God's glory to manifest in their communities. As each member determines to stir or fan their gifts into flames, we become the flames of fire God has ordained us to be.

Poem: Spiritual Gifts and the Harvest

Chosen by God as peculiar treasures, in Him, we delight.
Distributing gifts to all, He pours into our vessels to ignite.
Given for the profit of all, His body, He desires to glorify.
Given to aid in ministry, we press to receive His best.
Like flames of fire burning with passion, we press to bless.

With the fields of harvest before us, His gifts, we attest.
The word of knowledge at the well, He reaped a harvest.
As prophecies reveal the state of hearts, faith challenges.
With gifts of healings and miracles, crowds gather to hear.
With discerning spirits, demonic strongholds disappear.

Knitted and framed together as lively stones, He builds.
As each stone discovers its gift, He places strategically.

Freely given to expression, we press on, building accordingly.
As each stone freely explores, His glory overshadows.
Bathed in glory, multitudes repent, changing dramatically.
A greater harvest to reap, fully developed, we make ready.
As one body, fully equipped in all gifts, we rise in formation.
Throughout the earth, we go to every tribe and nation.
Fully armed with spiritual weapons, Satan stands aghast.
As Jesus puts the sickle to the harvest, the earth is harvested.

Prayer

Today, Heavenly Father, I come before You in humility. I ask that You reveal to me what my spiritual gift is. Create a desire within me to have a seeking heart to receive all that You have in store for me so that I will be one of Your flames of fire, who ministers to glorify You in everything.

~

May you be filled with the blessings of God as you press into His gifts.

Day 4

Responding to Seasons of Time

Throughout the annals of time, seasons have come and gone — some bad, some good. No matter what season we may find ourselves in, God has a purpose to be fulfilled. As born-again, Spirit-filled Christians, we have all been called according to God's purposes, as Paul reminded young Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:9 Who has saved and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

Just as King David was quoted in Scripture as serving the purpose of God for his generation, God has also called us to serve our generation. Therefore, we should contemplate how we should respond to doing it. Just as the sons of Issachar understood their times and knew what the nation Israel was to do or how they were to respond to their particular season, so should we.

Do we know the nature of the season we are in and how we are to respond to it? Jesus rebuked the Pharisees of His day when He said, *"You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of your time."* Let this not be said of us. As Paul preached, God expects us to be wise and discerning of our living times. We are to walk circumspectly in the wisdom God has imparted into our spirits.

Ephesians 5:15-17 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is.

We have just come through a season where our world experienced a worldwide pandemic known as COVID19. If anything, this pandemic opened our eyes to the stark reality that we are in a troubling season. It is a time to give thoughtful consideration to all that is going on in light of what God's word says about the end time environment. Do we know what time it is? We could very well be in the season the writer of the Book of Hebrews spoke of when he referred to the shaking that is to come before Christ's return.

Hebrews 12:26-29 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, *"Yet once more I shake not only the earth but also heaven."* ²⁷ Now this, *"Yet once more,"* indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

The pandemic shook every aspect of our lives and cultures. It has changed the way we live. God looks down from the heavens above to spot those who understand their times in seasons like this. He looks for those seeking Him, who desire to respond to all that's going on in our world. Amid the turmoil, Jesus is building a Church with His anointed ones to withstand the pressure of these times. He is creating a place of refuge—a strong tower for all of His righteous ones to run into and be safe.

God is looking for those willing to partner with Him as Jesus builds a Church in which the authority of Hell has no power. He plans to remove all made according to poorly devised plans made through a false self-centered gospel that seeks to appease rather than challenge. Now is the time to rise and build according to the pattern or blueprint shown in Scripture. Paul, the wise master builder, said there is no other foundation than Jesus laid. He said we are to be careful how we build upon it.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field; you are God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God, which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

In one of Peter's epistles, he describes us as living stones built up as a spiritual house. We are the strong tower, or the Church Jesus is building of which He desires to fit and frame us as fellow citizens who are growing together as a holy temple. Our part is to yield to the Holy Spirit as He sets and positions us in the places He specifically designed and created for us.

Only as we seek to discover who we are in Christ and what our gifts, ministries, and callings are can we be fitted together. Allowing the Father to frame us together is the pattern He established to bring forth the glory that will usher in the harvest of souls He has prepared for this season. As we allow the Father to fit and frame us together, it brings forth His glory that fills His temple, the body of Christ, in the same way Solomon's temple was.

Therefore, our responsibility is to lose our "Me Too" attitudes prevalent in today's cultures. We are to deny ourselves and submit to the process that binds us in unity by submitting to one another in fear of God. We are to speak the truth in love to one another as we grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, cause growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

What is God about to do? He is looking for those of His body who have been diligently joining themselves together in unity. Let us not be caught unawares in the season we have He gave us to sow in. Let us fully embrace our season and serve the purposes of God for our generation.

Poem: Adjusting to Changing Seasons

With changing times, lost in wonder, we question.
Round and round, we go searching for attention.
Lost in a state of confusion, we give into cynicism.
As mania surrounds, fear gives birth to extremism.
Caught in the moment, we look for a connection.

Questioning the absurdity of all, we seek direction.
As peaceful times disappear, we long for solutions.
Given to attitudinal changes, hope gives birth to faith.
As fresh winds blow, new fragrances, we sense.
No longer victimized, we turn to the season with faith.

As new fragrances take hold, hearts fill with vision.
Finding purpose and vision faith leads to decisions.
Alive in the Spirit, spiritual authority brings deliverance.
As strongholds dissolve, righteousness spreads rapidly.
Looking down from heaven, the Father smiles heartily.

Prayer

Father God, I look to you today for wisdom and understanding. Help me to be of those You find seeking. I commit my life as a living stone. Fit and frame me into what You desire in this season of my life. Increase my sensitivity to all that You want to do in our world today.

~

May God bless you mightily as you purpose in your heart to fully follow Him no matter what season you may be facing.

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About the Author



Ken Birks is an ordained Pastor/Teacher in the Body of Christ. He functioned as an elder, a staff pastor, and Bible teacher at The Rock of Roseville in California for the past 20 years. He is presently semi-retired with a writing ministry and serves as a wedding officiant in the Sacramento region. Before this, Ken was the Senior Pastor of Golden Valley Christian Center, a Spirit-filled, non-denominational church in Roseville, for twelve years.

Ken attended and graduated from the Charismatic Bible College of Anchorage. He came into the relationship with Apostle Dick Benjamin, then the Pastor of Abbott Loop Christian Center (ALCC) in Anchorage, Alaska.

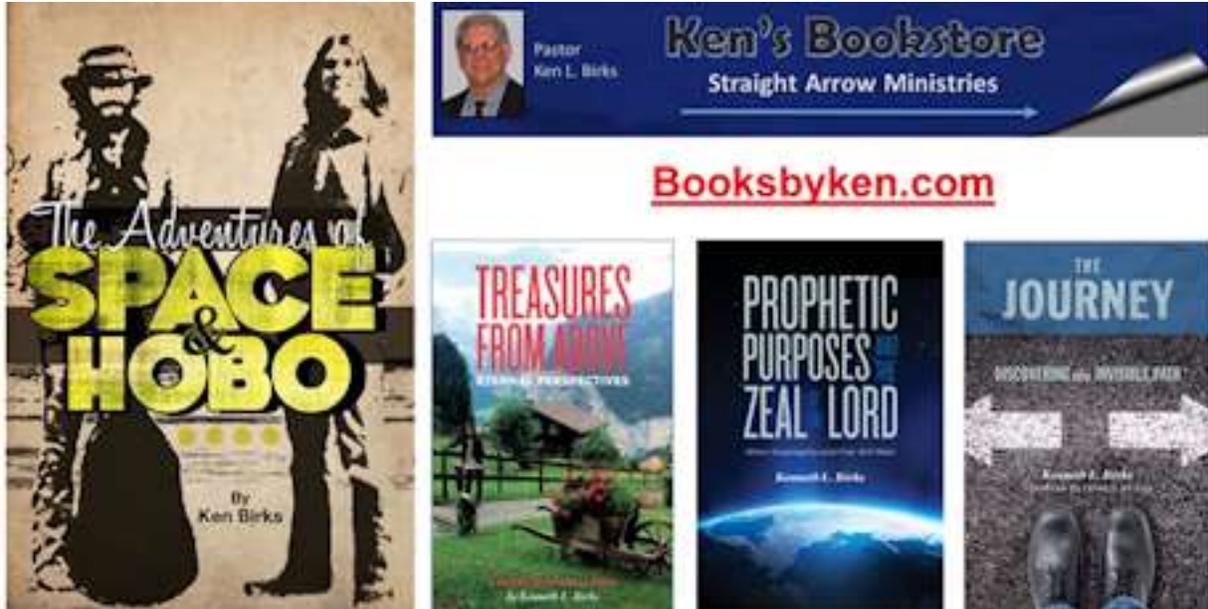
Aside from The Lord Jesus Christ, the core of Ken's spiritual being and the person he's become is a direct result from the influence and teaching he received from Dick Benjamin for more than 25 years." Other influences have been Bob Mumford from Life Changers and, in the past 18 years, Pastor Francis Anfuso of The Rock of Roseville.

Ken has been married to Lydia for 40 years plus. They have two adult children and consider them their highest calling, along with the many teens and children they have been foster or surrogate parents to over the past 25 years.

Ken also has an internet ministry called "Sowing Seeds of Faith" located at kenbirks.com. Sowing Seeds of Faith reaches over 5500 unique visitors a month with free Bible studies, devotional poetry, sermon outlines, audio, and video messages, podcasts, and other Bible study materials to help equip saints for the work of the ministry.

Other Books

by Kenneth L. Birks



Click on the Titles for Each Book for Complete Info on the Book

Treasures From Above – A 40 Day Devotional

The devotionals are designed to enhance your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in all aspects of your walk. The intent is to draw you into a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit and God's Word work together to conform you into the image of Christ. Each devotional should inspire you to be all you can be in Christ as you embrace the wonderful promises of God to help you receive all that pertains to the life God has given you. The aspect that separates this book from other devotionals is that each devotional ends with a biblically inspired poem that encapsulates the essence of the devotional.

Prophetic Purposes and the Zeal of the Lord

Do you believe worldwide revival is possible? Try to imagine what it will be like when the Church rises in the glory spoken of by Isaiah, the prophet. Just as God in His sovereignty brought forth the Messiah according to the timing of Daniel's prophecy, He will bring forth the prophetic purpose of a worldwide revival according to His timing. God's people, who He planted in every city, village, town, and countryside throughout the world, will stand up as the vast army just as Ezekiel

prophesied. His prophetic purpose will be fulfilled. As God breathes on the dry bones prophesied by the prophet, Ezekiel, His glory will fill all in all just as Paul prophesied to the Ephesians. This book explores and instructs how to be ready for this prophecy and others that God will fulfill before the coming of Christ to set up His eternal kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Journey - Discovering the Invisible Path

The Journey gives you a glimpse into the path God has purposed for your life. Whether you are starting your journey in the middle, or you're detoured and lost your way, this book will help you. This practical guidebook will shine the light on the invisible path that leads to God's goodness and experiencing His kingdom within. It will lead you to discover the most incredible adventure of your life.

Quote from Pastor Francis Anfuso – “Ken makes complex concepts simple and masterfully unpacks the Bible's greatest mysteries. He provides a sure foundation upon which to build a lifetime of insight.”

The Adventures of Space and Hobo

The Adventures of Space and Hobo tells the story of Ken's nomadic life after Vietnam. The book explores the on-the-ground confusion and chaos of the Vietnam War and its effects on a generation and those who served. Named “Space” by a new friend, Hobo; Ken and his traveling companion hit the road to partake of all the possibilities of that generation in search of adventure and uncharted experiences. The story takes us step by step along the path of awakening a lost soul on his way to finding an understanding of himself, his path, and the meaning of his life.

For more information on these books and other materials

by Ken Birks, please visit booksbyken.com

Workbooks

by Kenneth L. Birks

Biblical Perspectives Course

This course features lessons designed to give you a solid Biblical foundation in the elementary truths of God's Word. It has three things in mind: building doctrinal foundations, developing godly character, and helping you discover and find the destiny and purpose God has for your life. Please see the following website for more information and Lesson Titles:

Please see the following website for more information and lesson titles:

kenbirks.com/perspectives-both/

More Biblical Perspectives Course

This course features lessons focused on three major areas of our Christian growth - doctrine, character, and destiny.

These lessons are designed to give you the Biblical understanding to strengthen your Christian foundation and take you on a deeper walk with God.

Please see the following website for more information and lesson titles:

kenbirks.com/perspectives-both/

Small-Group Lesson Guides

25 Lessons to help you discover Jesus in your midst during small group Bible studies.

Please see the following website for complete information and titles:

kenbirks.com/discipleship/lesson-guides.htm

Reviews and References

David Fredrickson
Retired Sr. Pastor



Most true followers of Christ would agree that we are witnessing a time when self-serving Christianity is reaping the whirlwind of disunity, confusion, and fruitlessness. It is past time to listen to the voice of reason merely. Instead, we must respond with renewed minds, hearts, and actions.

Rise of the Anointed Ones is like a voice in the wilderness calling God's beloved away from all that distracts to Him who is jealous for His bride. The reader who hears and responds will bring joy to the heart of God and encouragement to others who have put their hand to the plow.

Ed Becker: Sr. Pastor
Vice President-Antioch World Mission



“RISE OF THE ANOINTED ONES” by Ken Birks is more than a daily devotional in the hands of the reader. This work is filled with Biblical truths and spiritual revelation that flow from a heart passionate for the Savior and His precious Bride, the Church.

Today, there are hundreds of devotional works available – from Oswald Chambers to A.W. Tozier, Anne Graham Lotz, and many more.

Ken Birks has written a masterpiece of superb continuity. Each daily devotional I read, along with the poem, and special prayer, became my favorite in the whole book – until I read the next one.

As I finished the manuscript, I realized each devotional revealed timely end-time strategies to enlighten, equip, and inspire the believer. Each devotional also challenges the reader to grow, mature, and pursue the highest level of Christian conduct.

The majestic flow from theme to theme contains powerful prophetic revelation, as God calls His end-time warriors to arise. I was also amazed by the poems that followed each devotional – the words were Davidic and musical – they flowed like a delightful stream with heavenly impartations.

I will give “RISE OF THE ANOINTED ONES” a privileged place at our church book table. I will highly recommend it to everyone in our fellowship – as well as to the unbeliever.

I have known Ken Birks for forty years and have enjoyed a wonderful friendship while sharing in the work of the Lord. I believe this book will bless and encourage multitudes.

Dr. Jay Zinn
Founder of the Discipleship Group



“There are few authors who can take theology and turn it into a devotional series of divine, inspiring nuggets and poetry. Ken Birks is an author who penetrates your heart and soul to know God better.

—Dr. Jay Zinn

Doug Hartline
Information Technology Director



When thinking about reading a devotional, one must ask themselves two questions: Is it relevant, and what makes it stand apart from the myriad of devotionals one can choose from? From my perspective, devotionals can be vital tools in improving upon our quiet time experience with God. They should be able to bring scriptural insight to us. Scripture is far more important than the words of even the most famous of authors, for it is Scripture that penetrates our souls with God's wisdom and daily guidance. Ken's work ensures that God's Word takes center stage and holds the most important place within it so that it remains both timeless and relevant.

It is the incredible prose and poetry, however, that separates Ken's devotional books and makes them stand apart from the others. Poetry can shine a light on God's Word from a different angle, in a way that helps us to look at it in a much deeper and often more profound way. It provides us with a unique ability to understand and appreciate God's Word in ways we may never have thought of before. We are suddenly confronted with beauty and clarity to our perceptions of our world and God's Kingdom.

Dr. Jim Feeney
Former Sr. Pastor



"I've known Pastor Ken Birks for several decades. He and I have worked in various ministerial capacities in the same family of churches. Ken is held in extremely high esteem among our many pastoral colleagues. He is a minister with a strong grasp of the Word of God, a wide variety of administrative skills, a heart for souls, a proven experiential familiarity with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and an unwavering commitment to the work of the Lord."

John Dubler
Senior Pastor



"Ken Birks is an extremely effective teacher of the Scriptures. He combines a healthy respect for the Word with enthusiasm and personal experiences that match his teaching. Ken is a man of unimpeachable integrity, and his longevity in the Body of Christ as a pastor gives credence to the message of hope and encouragement that he brings to all."

Ken's Online Connections

www.kenbirks.com

Sowing Seeds of Faith, Bible Studies and More

www.straitarrow.net

Bible Studies, Seminars, and More

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry

Biblical Devotional Poetry

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