



HOUR OF POWER OF 21.09.2008

"GOOD MORNING"/OPENING SENTENCE/INVO - RHS

Good Morning! (Congregation responds: Good morning!)

A happy Sunday to you all. This is the day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. We are waiting; we are listening, Lord. We need you. We're opening our minds and hearts. We are expecting to be touched and blessed in this hour. For this is Your place, and we are Your people. And so Lord, we thank You for the way our life will be blessed immeasurably, permanently, even eternally in the next sixty minutes. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE - PSALM 121 - RHS

Now hear the reading of the sacred scriptures, from the holy book, the bible.

Psalm 121:

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills -- from whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; behold; He who keeps you never slumbers or sleeps.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you down by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and even, forevermore. God bless this holy word.

INTERVIEW - JOHN TESH – RAS

RAS: Robert A. Schuller JT: John Tesh

RAS: Thank you John! John Tesh has received two gold albums, more than a dozen top-10 new age best sellers, 2 pop radio hits and a handful of top 10 contemporary jazz discs. The Emmy award winning composer, John Tesh. John will be appearing at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles, October 17th.

John – is it true that while shooting your new video, let me see if I can get it here, “One World,” that you had a helicopter lift your piano, and put it on top of a desert mesa?

JT: Yeah, the idea behind this CD was to, and this public television special was to try and record a different song in a different country or a different city in a different country. And so we tried to embrace all different kinds of music, pop music, Christian music, Native American music, Celtic music and so during the Native American performance we wanted to be authentic, so we went on top of a mesa, 1200 feet in the air in Monument Valley, Utah, with Native Americans. And the only way to get a 9-foot grand piano there was to have 2 helicopters pick it up. It was a rental.

RAS: Did you say 2...

JT: Yeah.

RAS: So not only, did you say 2 helicopters?

JT: Yeah the only way to get anything up on top of this mesa was to have helicopters lift it up there so we tried to lift it up in its case and it was too heavy and so we took it out, assembled it, and so there's this picture of this 9 foot grand piano.

RAS: How did you propose to your wife?

JT: Wow! From a helicopter.

RAS: I thought so.

JT: I actually, if you've had a good look at my wife and if you've had a good look at me then you definitely know that I've married up. And so, I did what most men do. I pretty much begged. And I..

RAS: It's a good thing.

JT: Yeah. I wasn't sure. You know, I really wasn't sure. I mean, I knew that she liked me but I wasn't really sure if she really was into the whole deal. You know? So, I mean, men can relate to that and so I rented out a restaurant for 2 hours in Carmel, California. And I had a string quartet play a song that I had written for her called "Conchada", which is her real name. And then at the end of the evening, where we had this restaurant all to ourselves, it was right on the water, and I had hired a barge and this poor soul who was, whose job it was to light off fireworks and so for 15 minutes he shot fireworks up into the air and then I was on the sand and I kneeled down and proposed to my wife. But the fireworks were so loud that she couldn't hear me.

RAS: She couldn't hear you.

JT: So I'm, you know, I'm screaming at her and then the car alarm started going off and the karma and so you know, it was pretty much a mess. But...she said yes. And that was...

RAS: Well, that's good.

JT: Seven years ago. Yes.

RAS: So, so the point of asking the questions are this: do you ever do anything simple?

JT: No. No, it's important. If you're involved with a crazy Italian, woman it's very important not to take things, do things simply. Because you'll be in big trouble. Pretty much.

RAS: Besides flying a piano what makes this video and this CD unique?

JT: Well, you know, I love as you can probably tell, I love worldly music and I think that we become very parochial here in the United States you know, just with our pop and our R & B and hip hop and..

RAS: Yes.

JT: ...and you know, Christian music is becoming very, very popular now. I mean, it's been popular for centuries but contemporary Christian music is...is probably the largest and best growing genre of music, which is a testimony, a testament, to people's faith growing at this point you know, in America. But across the world the same thing is happening and what we wanted to do was embrace different types of music, different genres of music, and instead of bringing everybody here and doing it on one stage we wanted to go and make it authentic. So when we were doing Celtic music we would do it in a 16th century Dungaure Castle in Kilfenora, Ireland, which is just outside of Galway, population 150. The Native American piece was done on top of a mesa in Monument Valley. We did Flamingo pieces and we also did a symphonic piece in front of the Roman coliseum and Constantine's Arch. So, for us, the uniqueness was that we just really wanted to go and invite people from different parts of the world to be a part of the production.

RAS: So, when you say "around the world," you literally went there.

JT: Yes.

RAS: It's tremendous.

JT: We did. And the only way we knew what was going on is if it was pasta we knew we were in Italy. If it was schnitzel we knew we were in Vienna. So...that was pretty much the barometer for us.

RAS: Do you have a favorite song on here?

JT: I do, and it's actually that we're about to do, which features a pal of mine who actually sings in the church band that I'm a part of. Her name is Lena Marie and this song is called "Who Am I?"

RAS: Play it please.

INTERVIEW - KIM ALEXIS – RAS

RAS: Robert A. Schuller KA: Kim Alexis

RAS: I have another guest this morning. And it is a face that is known to millions throughout the country, Kim Alexis. She is one of America's leading Super-Models. She has appeared on more than 500 magazine covers and numerous national television programs. Including ABC's Good Morning America, CBS's Parenting Show, the travel channel, the family channel and even more. Yet, beyond the experiences of the fast lane, studio 54 lifestyle of the super-rich and super-famous, Kim made a discovery that real happiness comes from faith, family and morality. She has captured her personal story in her latest book, "A Model For A Better Future." Please welcome with me, Kim Alexis. Kim, God loves you and so do we.

KA: Thank you. It's wonderful to be here.

RAS: Did you grow up as a little girl planning to be a super-model?

KA: No. Actually I was, busy swimming. And, I guess working and trying to be a pharmacist. I was ready to go into college early and was ready to be pharmacist.

RAS: And then something happened that changed all that, didn't it?

KA: Well, yes. I was trying to make extra money. I didn't want my dad to have to pay for every little dress that I had. So I thought, people had said I was pretty maybe I could make a little money modeling. So I was in a local modeling school. Registered there and trying to earn my way through to get into the agency. And was pulled out one evening, and I thought they were kicking me out. But really they were asking me, with this talent scout from New York, if I wanted to try some pictures for New York. And I said no, no, no. I'm going to be a pharmacist. And, finally they talked me into the pictures and ended up never going to college. So, off to New York.

RAS: So you didn't go to college. Instead you became a super-model.

KA: Well, I sort of...

RAS: And...

KA: ...started out at the bottom, you know.

RAS: You mean it wasn't a super-model overnight?

KA: No. They didn't even have that term a long time ago. I don't know where that term came from, but you know you start out...

RAS: Maybe 500 hundred covers later.

KA: Yes.

RAS: Right.

KA: Yes. I don't know. I guess so.

RAS: But, you signed a contract back then. What was the first thing -- you said in your book there was something that they made you do right away.

KA: Yes. Yes. When I was still in Buffalo when he was...before I even signed my contract. Before I went to New York. He says, it was in March where I met him in

Buffalo where I grew up and he was having me go to New York in the summer. And he says, you're great. You're beautiful. But go ahead and lose 15 pounds. And I've been swimming up to 5 1/2 hours a day. It was very difficult for me, all of a sudden to hear those words and to realize, gosh what's wrong with me? I'd never really thought too much of the outside. I'd read a couple of the magazines and tried to pluck my eye-brows the way I was supposed to and walk the way...but to me it was a whole different thing to hear that I wasn't right, you know. That something needed to change.

RAS: Do you think that there's a trend in modeling today, to go thinner and thinner and thinner?

KA: I think there's a good healthy balance. And I think a lot of Americans maybe as we get older we think it's okay to just sort of relax and not take care of ourselves as much.

RAS: Yes.

KA: But there's also going the other way where you're not eating quite so, you know, you're not really eating at all. So there's definitely a set point, is what they call it, where it's your natural weight. And some girls try and go way below that and it's harmful, it hurts and it destroys your body. And I'd like to say to them that I've tried doing that and all it does it ends up making it more difficult for you to lose weight as you get older. So, not to be heavy and not to be too, too thin. There's a...He wants us to be just right.

RAS: Now, you have a strong faith in Jesus Christ.

KA: Yes I do.

RAS: How did you come about that faith? Is it something you were raised with? Is it something you discovered? Tell us about it.

KA: Well, I grew up as a Christian in Buffalo, and my mom took us to church on Sundays and, I went to school on Wednesdays afternoon. And by the age of 17 I was an elder at my church, to represent the young people. So I had known about God. I knew...I'd gone through the confirmations. I'd done all the things you're supposed to do if you're a Christian. And knew all the different Bible stories and if someone had asked me I was going to heaven I would have said, well, yes. Sure. I'm a Christian, I'm going to heaven. But as I got older and as I went through some of my problems in New York and having a failed marriage, I realized that something was missing. And it was an every day relationship with Jesus. And having Him inside my heart. And to accept Him as my Savior. And I'd never really done those words before. It was always just a Sunday, you know, one hour a week giving Him, and not reading my Bible. And not seeking His Face. And not seeking truth and righteousness. I probably did that off and on because I thought it was right, but to really know that His word is what's the truth and what's law. And not what my own understanding is of certain situations.

RAS: You know, we've been talking about turning hurts into halos for the last few weeks. And there are people who looking up and they're looking at this beautiful woman that God has blessed with, you know, with poise and dignity and with this wonderful career. What would she possibly know about turning hurts into halos?

KA: Well, I sort of say that we've got to go through the refining fire. In order to make pure silver you've got to heat it up a lot and when we get heated up and to try and destroy the impurities, it's very painful. And I have been through quite a bit. And I think I've been through the hurts because I haven't stayed in His will. And the closer I can stay towards His truth and His will, the easier my life is. So, I figured that out finally.

RAS: It took you awhile to figure it out?

KA: Yes. It took me awhile to figure it out. And now if I have problems I'm almost at the point where I can laugh and say ha ha, Lord, You've given me something and You're doing it for my good and You're making me a better person and You're here with me. You're here with me through the whole problem. And we're going to get through this together. And I'm going to get it right because I don't want You to give me this problem again. We get it right we get to move on.

RAS: Is there one specific message that you want people to walk away with after they read this book?

KA: Well I find that I enjoy inspiring people, and especially women. And if they can realize that they're...even though theirs is such a busy lifestyle and we have all careers. Or, or even the career of being a mother to let that be such a blessing to these mothers that are either they're single mothers or they're only mothers and they think, I'm only a mother. That is the best job that we could possibly have. And to give such value to being a parent. It's so important for our legacy for our children to raise great children. So that just to be inspired out there and there's definitely, God's watching us and definitely takes care of us.

RAS: Well Kim, we want to thank you for writing the book. For having a beautiful life....

KA: Thank you.

RAS: ...that exemplifies the glory of God and we want you to know that God loves you and so do we.

KA: Thank you. You too.

RAS: Good bless you.

KA: Thank you.

MESSAGE - ROBERT A. SCHULLER - "Turning Hurts into Halos" - part 6

My father has been going through a series of messages on his new book, "Turning Hurts Into Halos." And he asked me to continue to share on this subject because he understands that I too have gone through the pain and the refining of fire, as Kim Alexis would say. And it's amazing how many people look at our ministry and they look at the Schuller's and they look at me and they say, how can you talk about going through hurts and going through pains. What do you know about hurts? And what do you know about pain?

The fact of the matter is we've been there. My father when he was a young man, he came home from college only to find and see and experience what so many experienced just recently, with their homes being blown away by the horrors of an incredible tornado. And he witnessed his father almost...almost 65 years old, hitting the steering wheel saying to his wife, Jenny, it's all gone. It's all gone. It's all gone. Losing everything. And yet of the five farms that were destroyed, only one re-built. And it happened to be the Schuller farm.

What do we know about turning hurts into halos? Well, I look at the tragedies that we've had in my family. My mother. She lost her breast in cancer. She recently had a by-pass surgery. Six way bypasses. It was not a fast recovery. And almost a year before she was really back to normal.

I look at my sister, Carol. She lost a leg when she was 13 years old. Not only did she lose a leg, but beyond that she was in the hospital for 9 months. Do you realize how long that is? Nine months in the hospital? She lost her leg in June. She did not leave the hospital for one minute until Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving she came home for the morning only to go back to the hospital again. She remained in the hospital until Christmas. Christmas she came home for one day and one night only. She went back to the hospital again. We know what

pain is. We know what hurts are. And they continue to happen on regular basis. You will be tried. You will be tested. You will go through the refiner's fire. I think of Job. You can read about him in the Bible. He's got a whole book to his name. And Job was a man of God. Called by God, challenged by God, living for God.

He lived a wonderful life. He had everything a man could possibly ask for. He had a wonderful family, he had wealth, he had a great reputation he had his health, he had everything! When Satan came to God and said, God, here is this man of God of yours. This man who worships and respects You, his name is Job. But who wouldn't worship and respect You with You treating him so good. Giving him everything he wants. Never putting him to the test. Never challenging him. Let me put him to the test and see if he'll still bless You.

God allowed Satan to bring tragedy into Job's life. And in the process Job lost his family. He lost his home. He lost his possessions. He lost his health. He lost his reputation. He had nothing. With boils over his body, in pain and in agony, He cried out to God. And he gave us these words we so often hear. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away."

But what so many people fail to hear are the most critical words that he gave us. And those were the words after the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Do you know what he said? "Blessed be the name of the Lord" when he had nothing. When he was in pain and agony. When his reputation was destroyed, his family was gone, he still praised the name of the Lord.

The question is can you do the same? When tragedy strikes. When hurts are given. When blows are struck. Can you continue to lift your hearts with praise and say thank You, God for everything. It is probably one of the greatest challenges that you could ever face. To give thanks for all things at all times is an expression of faith. Because God is in the process of blessing you right now. It may not feel like it. It may not look like it. It may not...you may not be able to comprehend it, but the person of faith says God is blessing me. And looks at the tragedies in the circumstances that come his way, or her way, says okay Lord, where do we go from here? It begins by realizing that everything we have is a gift from God. Everything.

There was a young boy who went to his grandma's house and grandma decided she would pull out the game of Monopoly. So she pulls out the game and she spreads it on the table and they sit down and they start playing Monopoly. Now, grandma is a "killer" Monopoly player. She rolls the dice, she starts whipping around the board, buying up everything, accumulating all of this mass, and within very short order her grandson is slammed. He is bankrupt and the game is over. And she says, "Son, you need to learn how to play this game. And when you learn to play this game you come back and we'll play it again, okay?" And they put the game away. Well, that motivated him. He decided that he was going to learn how to play this game. So, he goes and he goes home and he pulls his old game out and he starts playing all his sisters until he can beat them, and his parents until he can beat them. Then he starts getting all of his friends in until he can beat them and before he knows it he knows this game backwards and forwards. Grandma, are you ready? So over to grandma's house he goes. Out comes the Monopoly board. The dice starts rolling and away they go. They're ripping across the board, buying up pieces of property, accumulating their masses of wealth and the boy is suddenly takes the turn and he gets the numbers on Broadway, and he gets the other ones that accumulate the wealth like none other. And after a few hours grandma bites the dust. And he's feeling so good. Grandma says, "Son, you've learned the game. You've learned it well. But now you have to learn the toughest

game of all. The toughest lesson to learn is this: when the game is over it all goes back in the box." And that's the way life is. We run around playing this Monopoly game. Grabbing all this money. Grabbing all the lifestyle. Getting everything we can, but let us never forget the most important lesson of all. When the game is over. It all goes back in the box. No one takes a U-Haul to heaven. It all goes back in the box. The Lord gives.

He continues to give to us as we prove to be managers, good managers of that which He has blessed us with. And the way He tests us so often is every once in a while He'll take some of it back. Just to make sure we know who's it is in the first place. And He takes some of it back once in a while. And sometimes He takes a more than we expect. And the question is, when He takes it back can you remember where it came from? The question is, when He takes it back can you continue to praise His name and say blessed be the name of the Lord? That's the question. When He takes some of it back, and you realize that he is a God who cares and loves anyway.

In 1922, who was the president of the largest steel company? Who was the president of the largest gas company? Who was the president of the New York Stock Exchange? The greatest wheat speculator? The president of the Bank of the International Seniment? The greatest bear of Wall Street. These men should be considered some of the world's most successful men. At least they found the secret of making money. They found secret of winning at Monopoly.

Do you know what became of these men? The President of the largest steel company, Charles Schwab died a pauper. The President of the largest gas company, Howard Hobson, went insane. The President of the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Whitney, was released from prison to die at home. The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cougar died abroad insolvent. The President of the Bank of the International Seniment shot himself and the greatest Bear of Wall Street, Cosby Rivermoore, died by suicide.

Some people never learn to bless the Lord. Instead they learn to curse the Lord when He takes away. And the cursing comes in different ways. It often comes in denial. Oh God? He doesn't exist. He's a figment of your imagination. He's a crutch for the poor and for the weak. He doesn't exist. And it manifests itself in rebellion. I'm going to do it my way. I'm going to gather as much as I possibly can. I'm going to take any highway I can to success.

It's like the man who was going down the street and he came to a road construction sign. It said, "road construction," no passing this way. Well he had just bought a great big new 4 X 4. One with tires about this big. And this thing was jacked up and ready to go and he's going, can't go this way huh? Just watch. And he proceeded around to the road-closed signs and started ripping down the road about 60 miles an hour. A pile of dust behind him you could see for a mile. And he continued to run down that road until all of a sudden he came to a cliff and he slammed on his brakes and he screeched and came right to the very edge of the cliff; and he realized that unless he wanted to commit suicide he wasn't going any further.

This was a straight edge. Straight down. It didn't matter how big his tires were he wasn't going down there. So he turned around and he went back. And as he approached the signs that were set up on the other sign road closed, the contractors had taken some spray cans and did a little graffiti. It said, welcome back stupid.

Now we start getting on the wrong road. And we start thinking that hey, you know we can do this all ourselves. And we run into the cliffs of life. And God has a big sign that says welcome back. It's good to have you back. The Lord giveth.

The Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. We look at circumstances in life...look at the challenges that we face and we realize that God does bless.

When I was ordained, I was ordained here in this church. In fact it was the second service that was ever held in this church. I waited so I could be ordained here. The first service was the dedication. The second Sunday I held my and had my ordination. Two years later I was pastoring a church in Rancho Capistrano. And we had two-three hundred members.

It was going very well. And my wife came to me and said I want a divorce. And I received the papers from the attorneys. And the divorce proceedings continued. And it was a very difficult time to say the least. It was a time where I didn't know how I could continue and how I could go on. Because there are scriptures and there are words within the...in the Bible that that scared me. That caused me some concerns. I wrote a book at that time. "Getting Through the Going Through Stage." Because it was a time with...so difficult for me. One of the things that caused me problems was a passage of scriptures that said, a Bishop or a Minister then must be blameless, a husband of one wife. One who rules his own house well. For if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the Church of God? And so I thought my ministry was over. I felt that my schooling was for naught. That my usefulness as a minister was behind me. And then there was another scripture, which bothered me because I believed that since I was getting a divorce that I probably should live a celibate life. Because Jesus said, "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife except for sexual immorality and marries another commits adultery. And whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." So I came to the conclusion that no longer...not only could I not be a minister. I came to the conclusion that I probably couldn't marry again. And so it was a very, very difficult time when I kissed my children the day after Christmas, realizing that it would never be the same again. And it was without question the most difficult time in my life.

But the promises of God are so true and so real. He says that all things work together for good to those who love Him. Who are called according to His purpose. And so I continued to study these scriptures and I came to some and discovered a wonderful commentary. It was actually from a very conservative commentator. A guy by the name of Lenske. I'd received these commentaries from my great uncle. My Uncle Henry Beltman. It was he who rubbed my father said when he was five years old and said, Bob, you should be a minister when you grow up. Basically called my father in to minister. When he was ninety some years old he passed away and in his will he gave me his library. And in there were a set of commentaries by C. H. Lenske and having to speak on this topic and having some grave concerns on the idea of never being able to marry again.

I read these words. He said there is no passive verb in Greek for the words to commit adultery. Scholars have wrongly translated these words in this passage as active verbs. They are not active, they are passive verbs. Since our English fails us here Lenske said, we must express the two passive forms as best we can to bring out the passive sense of the Greek forms. We attempt this by translating the words as an infinitive. He brings about that she is stigmatized an adulteress. It should be translated in the finite verb as he is stigmatized as an adulteress. Nothing in the words of Jesus forbids such a woman, or in the case of the reverse, such a man to marry again. Lenske went on to say, such a prohibition is always presumed, but without the least warrant in Jesus' own words. It is this false presumption that causes the current mistranslation. And so today I can tell you

that I have been happily married for many years. And I have two more beautiful children. God has blessed me in ways I cannot begin to imagine.

But the test comes in this. When God chooses to take some of it back again, can you say blessed be the name of the Lord. For we much realize that somehow, someway, God always prevails.

It like the three trees. The first tree turned to the one growing next to him and he said, when I grow up I'm going to become a jewelry box and I'm going to hold the jewels of kings and queens. The second one said, well I'm going to be a mighty ship that sails the seven seas and I'm going to carry kings and queens around the world. And the third one said, well I'm going to stand tall and broad and strong so that when people look at my boughs they will indeed see the glory of God and worship Him.

And so it is that the woodsman came and took the three trees. All of them. And the first one he made it into an animal feed box. And there the animals slurped their food. And the second one instead of becoming a mighty ship, far short became nothing more than a little old rowboat on a little old lake. And the third one wasn't used for anything. Just thrown in the back of a woodshed.

But as it would be a little baby was laid in that food box. And that tree heard the angels singing, Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill to men. And he realized that he had carried and held the greatest jewels that the world has ever seen.

And one day a group of fishermen climbed into this little old boat on this little old lake and they rowed out off the shore when suddenly the wind started to blow and the waves started to beat that boat where she knew she was going to fall apart. And suddenly the fishermen woke up another and that Man stood up and He said, peace be still. And the wind stopped. And the waves vanished. And it became calm. And he said, I realized I didn't just carry any king, I carried the King of kings and the Lord of Lords. And not long after that the third tree was picked up and thrown on the back of a Man who carried it through the streets and men spit at him, and hurled insults at Him until He was raised on top of the hill. And his boughs were out stretched. And to this day people look at that symbol, the cross, and they magnify God and they see the wonder and the beauty of God almighty.

Today you may be in a place where you cannot understand the hand of God. But the beauty and the truth is that God will take your hurts and miraculously somehow, someway turn them into halos. But it starts here, with faith. Saying the words just like Job. The Lord giveth. The Lord taketh away. Blessed by the name of the Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION – RAS

And now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always and forever. Amen.