

An article from the Issachar Ministry to encourage the Body of Christ

The Shepherd's Rod for 2006

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13th October 2005

A Great Eagle

Bob's initial visions symbolically depicted the United States of America as a great eagle. However, her demeanour was not that of a majestic bird of courage and strength.

Instead, she appeared battered and confused. Her strength was depleted and her feathers were in disarray; they had been dipped in the filth of this world.

Her weakened condition prevented normal flight and she could not soar in her ordinary manner. Something had to be done and quickly!

Not only were her feathers tainted and her beak disfigured, but she also appeared fat and bloated from the poisonous meat she had consumed. She was swollen with the poison of secular humanism and spiritual self-righteousness.

All of these conditions prevented her from soaring into flight with majesty and resolve. This eagle's stateliness is dependant upon her ability to escape into the heavens to see with clarity the direction to lead into the 21st century.

Bob then watched as the eagle flew to a hidden rock. In her weakened state, an eagle malt began from this secluded place. Transition and renewal was initiated.

The only Rock that can adequately hide us during seasons of hardship, confusion and shame is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Eagle Malt

Because of their strength, eagles have been a symbol of war and imperial power since the early days of man. Nevertheless, it is theorized that at least once in the lifetime of an eagle, a malting process takes place—a renewal.

When this occurs the eagle begins to lose its feathers, beak and talons. This creates an extremely feeble and vulnerable condition.

The prophet David once acknowledged it is the Lord,

Who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle —Psalms 103:5

David spoke of a renewal process the eagle experiences that transcends into a spiritual application.

Unlike other birds, eagles malt in their old age in order to be revitalized with greater resilience. With the removal and regrowth of their feathers, there is a restoring of youth and vitality.

According to scientific theory, the eagle's feathers become laden with oil and dirt making them brittle and degenerated. The beak and talons become calcified and fragile. It is then that the eagle retires to a hidden place beyond the reach of predators, to initiate the renewal process.

With the extraction of its feathers, the molting eagle finds itself unable to fly; its vision is also substantially impaired during this handicapped season. Because of the combination of its weakened condition and pronounced calcium build-up on its beak, the molting eagle cannot carry itself in the proud manner normally accustomed.

During their vulnerability, molting eagles are dependent upon comrade eagles for their sustenance. They find themselves reliant upon others when they are conditioned to self-sufficiency. If it can survive the shame and exposure, the stripping process paves the way for the eagle to become even stronger.

All of these influences are prophetic signs of the place we find ourselves as a nation and within the western Church. Even so, our hope is grounded in Isaiah's prophecies when he said,

those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. –Isaiah 40:31

We are furnished the incredible opportunity to gain new strength, if we will follow the directive of Heaven and take our place of authority as God's representation on earth. We have the Lord's assurance that He will incline His ear to our prayers and supplications to extend mercy and grace. Like Daniel our prayer is,

O my God, incline your ear and hear! Open your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before you on account of any merits of our own, but on account of your great compassion - Daniel 9:18

Our restoration will be determined exclusively through God's compassion.

The Promise of Restoration

Bob was then told that America is in a weakened and vulnerable condition typified by the eagle shown in the vision. However, the promise was also granted that she could soar majestically once again, but only by the great-grace of God.

This is not to imply that the entirety of our nation will abandon corruption and sin. Although that would be wonderful. Rather, our present promise is for the restoration of a Godly pattern to be conveyed to our nation; the reestablishment of principles we have compromised in recent years.

Some of these areas of improvement are listed:

1. There is an incredible opportunity to see the justice system renovated to a more righteous standard.
2. We have the great responsibility to contend for the destiny of our youth with the recovery of prayer in school.
3. We also have the mandate to battle for the purity of our soil and reverse the position of our courts concerning abortion. Innocent blood continues to cry out from our soil as it did with righteous Abel. Even so, we can overcome this great tragedy.

4. Furthermore, we as the Church of Jesus Christ have the commission to lead society rather than bear the reproach of society.

5. When we begin to reflect the image of Christ and carry His virtue, then those in the world will turn their attention to us to discover life in God.

During days of great outpouring, it was gifted Christians who lead culture and revolutionized the arts, literature, finance and other arenas of our existence.

Even so, this deposit of grace needed in all of these areas will not be granted automatically; it is dependant upon the willingness of God's people to stand in the gap as a righteous agency. Moses did so for Israel and obtained God's mercy when it was least deserved.

The Lord was angry with Israel's rebellion and declared,

How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they. —Numbers 14:11-12

Moses immediately remembered the Lord's attributes of mercy and grace and assumed the role of intermediary. He called upon God's favour saying,

Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your loving kindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now -- Numbers 14:19

With that plea for mercy the most amazing thing transpired. Almighty God, the Creator of Heaven and earth, recognized and acknowledged the prayer of a righteous man and granted mercy.

The Lord altered His position from destroying the people to extending forgiveness because of righteous intercession. The Lord said,

I have pardoned them according to your word; but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD — Numbers 14:20-21

This is our promise and our hope for this season. Our only reconciliation can be found in the attributes of mercy and grace inherent in God's heart. Without it we will perish.

Nevertheless, as surely as the Lord lives, there will be a company of people in the earth who join themselves to Him without reservation, to manifest and reveal His glory. We have that Biblical mandate clearly stated.

A Righteous Response

As the vision continued Bob observed an immediate response from righteous intercessors. A vast company of virtuous saints, a number larger than Bob expected, began to surround the eagle. With great passion they began to earnestly cry out for Heavenly mercy.

Like Elijah, many have felt only a small remnant have not bowed their spiritual knees to compromise and seeker sensitive Christianity. However, the Lord is announcing that He has His "seven thousand" hidden warriors of righteousness. This is not a literal number but a symbolic portrayal of a body of people who have abandoned their hearts to God.

Honey and Scrolls

As they pleaded their case before God's Throne, a host from Heaven joined in unison. This extensive array of Heavenly messengers are specially equipped for the end-of-days confrontation. The Lord Jesus Himself spoke of a portion of this company in Matthew 13.

As the angelic host descended, they brought with them unique provision from God. They delivered "honey" and "scrolls" that would transform this weak and sick eagle into the majestic bird she was created to be.

The Honey

Honey is a general biblical reference for the sweetness and loveliness of the precious graces we discover through faith in Christ. Various Old and New Testament Scriptures make positive references for this virtue.

The land of promise is symbolically epitomized as one flowing with milk and honey. Very often, the word of God is to the soul what honey is to the body.

Furthermore, Jonathan's eyes were enlightened when he ate the honey after the weariness of battle. (1 Samuel 14:27) This is also a symbolic reference to the spirit of revelation that is being granted in this day. It is fundamentally essential for the spirit of stupor to be extracted for us to begin to see with spirit eyes.

Without illumination we will continue to make the same mistakes as in the past. This will be especially true with our governmental leadership. Our president needs a revelation concerning Israel.

These are just a few of the potential application of the honey. There can be many more!

The Scrolls

Scrolls are a general reference for oracles from God and prophetic promises. Our present call is not merely to read the Word, but "eat the Word."

When the prophets of old ate the scrolls, it was as though they consumed the prophetic theme for a generation. They then became the message. The Lord does not only want us to have a prophetic promise, but to become the promise.

In Revelations 10 we discover the open book containing the full revelation of Jesus Christ. It is the book of redemption. The Church can also expect fresh insight from God's heart that has been reserved for the end-time generation.

We are called to take the open book from His hand and eat it. We must prophesy again concerning many nations, tongues, tribes and kingdoms.

As we call upon Him, He is promising to answer us and tell us great and mighty things that we presently do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3)

The scrolls descending with the angelic host represent measures of revelation concerning the nature of Christ and latter-day prophetic promises from His word.

According to Daniel 12:4,

But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.

These words contained in God's blueprint will have application within the Church and also for our nation in its transition into a more fruitful posture.

Again, these promises are not to indicate the complete turning of this nation, but within the core leadership position on key issues. Even so, we are promised a great harvest of souls from our nation and throughout the world.

There will be a grace for those seeking it, but also increased lawlessness for those who spurn God's hand of mercy. It will be the best of times and the worst of times.

Ours is a promise for the restoration of moral virtues to be recaptured that were once lost.

Releasing the Honey and Scrolls

The more righteous prayer ascended before God, increased measures of hope was being imparted to the eagle. As the angels continued to feed the bird through the saint's intercession, the transformation was initiated.

When the angels fed the honey and the Word of God to the eagle, the poison she had previously consumed began to be neutralized. This process appeared to be approximately a two-year journey. We are presently in a two-year transition. God's Word will eradicate the contamination of secular humanism; it is the only antidote.

This eagle is not appointed unto death during this season, but to repentance. She is called to once again eat the good Word of God. The Lord is not finished with this nation. There are prominent things yet to be accomplished before the end comes.

Although many may see the outward condition of the eagle and predict her death, it is not the will of God for this to transpire. It takes people with Heavenly vision to be able to see an exceedingly great army in a valley of dry bones.

Nevertheless, those that possess eyes to see will prophesy life to the bones and watch the miracle transpire. The future of this great eagle is in the hands of God's people.

A Fullness of Time Juncture

We are living in a crucial moment in the spiritual history of this nation and in the Church's destiny; a "fullness of time" moment in God's plan. God Himself is granting to the Church increased authority to stand in the gap for our nation.

Our willingness to heed this call will determine the speed by which the heart of America is transformed from a weakened and poisoned position into the majestic nation she was intended to be.

The "great eagle" is called to live in this hour and also to lead. This nation's present eagle malt can be facilitated only through the prayers and counsel of God's people. It will be the consolidated intercession of the Church and the spirits of righteous men and women made perfect. As the writer of Hebrews acknowledges,

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel
- Hebrews 12:22-24

We have come to Mount Zion and the city of the Living God. We have come to myriads of angels and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.

All of the Heavenly host are standing to attention at this most crucial hour in our nation's history and in God's blueprint.

As the Bible depicts, we are presently surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who constitute spirits of righteous men made perfect. The Lord Himself ever lives to make intercession, and those joined to Him do likewise.

When the righteous cry out, the Lord hears from Heaven. All of this hinges on the establishment of righteousness in God's people and their willingness to stand in the gap.

Our nation's cleansing transformation has already begun. The malting procedure has been initiated with many of the things we have been watching over the last two years. The direction of the future is in our hands.

In Bob's vision, it was the Church of Jesus Christ surrounding our nation that caught God's attention. It is our righteousness, imputed to us by the Lord's blood that is our door of hope. It is our role to bring the spirit of repentance into the Church on behalf of our nation.

Hidden Warriors

Many of the ones who are called to play a key role in this responsibility are not even known on earth, but they are known in heaven. These spiritual warriors have received the imputed righteousness of God and carry His influence.

They have captured the attention of Heaven and it is now time to arise, like Moses from the wilderness, and exercise their delegated authority.

For a season, David was hidden in the cave of Adullam. When the time was appropriate, he and his mighty band emerged in strength to execute God's commission. So shall it be with this company.

Although the call is for the entirety of the Church, those that will be used most notably in this battle will be many who are yet unknown in a public forum; even so, they are well-known before the Throne of Grace. Their reward will be great, once victory is achieved.

The heart of this message is for God's people to adhere to His standard of righteousness. Purity and maturity will prepare us to carry great mantels of authority needed for this commissioning.

A primary part of our mandate for this season is intercession for our nation and Israel. A deposit of anointing and authority is being allocated for those who will apprehend it.

Although we are focused on the prophetic promises for the future, much will be determined by our willingness to embrace this present responsibility. Winning this battle will lay a platform for the achievement of many prophetic promises granted to us as a corporate body and as individuals.

Transforming the Prophetic

As a form of prophetic symbolism, the eagle is distinguished for its beauty and strength. They are endowed with keen eyesight that portrays revelatory vision and prophetic understanding. The eagle is an emblem of God's voice to mankind, conveying divine favour, correction and Heavenly direction.

Bob's vision can also portray an eagle malt taking place in the prophetic community and throughout the entire Church. This has been a refining season. God's pruning is for the purpose of bringing us to a place of maturity so that we can taste the good word of God and the power of the age to come.

Thus far we have been like infants on milk learning how to operate in revelatory gifts and callings. This has been a necessary season; it is now time for maturity and character to be exemplified in the body of Christ and especially within the prophetic community.

There are mysteries of the Kingdom that the Bible calls strong meat that is to be delegated to us in this season. Clean hands, pure hearts and spiritual adulthood are prerequisites to steward properly this great responsibility and end-time destiny.

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil - Hebrews 5:12-14

Our Spiritual DNA

The Lord is presently speaking very pointedly about the Church's need to move into spiritual maturity. Many people living in this generation have a unique and holy attribute woven into their spiritual DNA.

A predetermined virtue provokes us to move beyond the outer court and into a place of Kingdom expression. It is called divine destiny.

Our adversary has worked diligently to release the "spirit of stupor" over the western church. This diabolical scenario blinds our eyes and shields our ears to spiritual truth. It promotes a sense of satisfaction to simply live in a justified state without being incited to greater deeps in God.

The eagle malt within the Church is to strengthen us and move us into a place of greater responsibility in the functioning of our spiritual gifts. This process is fundamentally necessary for the achievement of our personal and corporate destiny.

The Lord has saved us and He has also given us a holy calling or a divine destiny. The Scriptures declares that He,

has saved us 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 — 2 Timothy 1:9

We as God's covenant people have a function and responsibility while living in this world. If we are content to simply remain in the elementary principles of the faith, we may never achieve the notable destiny and holy calling prescribed for us. The eagle malt presently taking place is to bring us into adulthood and our "time-of-the-end" mandate.

With spiritual maturity we can be entrusted with tremendous virtue and authority necessary to impact our generation with the Kingdom's message. We are called for this objective.

These blueprints for our lives are already recorded in the archives of Heaven. (Psalms 139:16) It remains up to each of us individually to co-operate with the Lord in their fulfilment.

Conformed to His Image

Our ultimate personal destiny is to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. We are not certain what we will be like in the conclusion of time; but we do know that we will be like Him because we will have seen Him as He is. What an incredible assurance!

1 John 3:2 outlines this promise saying,

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The Lord is granting to His people eyes to see and ears to hear the revelation of divine destiny. This realization breaks the spirit of despair and hopelessness. It launches us into an inheritance set-aside for us before the foundation of the world.

This grace was purchased at a great cost; the blood of Jesus Christ. We are the "joy" that was set before the Lord for which He willingly endured the cross although He despised its shame.

Many things are now being spoken about the provision for our destiny. This trend will escalate in the days ahead.

One of the foremost aspects of identifying our destiny is to also understand the stewardship of spiritual provision essential for its fulfilment. That is the primary objective in the eagle malt presently taking place. We must come out of it much stronger and more mature.

However, we can only achieve the fullness of our inheritance when we first discover the awareness and personal pursuit of our individual destiny. Each of us has the destiny to be like Jesus and convey His nature.

A Righteous Army

Very often in God's ways, difficult things are allowed in order to achieve higher purposes. Joseph's tribulations in Egypt prepared him for leadership. What the enemy intended for evil, God meant for good.

After God's pruning was complete, Joseph recognized God's hand and said,

Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. - Genesis 50:19-20

This has been the model during this present season. As God's people, the difficulties and hardships we currently face are principally designed to make us better. This season of the spirit is intended to establish righteousness within a company of believers who will become an exceedingly great army.

That is not to imply that the entirety of our condition is the result of an enemy assault. Much of our present circumstances are the result of our poor choices.

Even so, the enemy exploits the opportunity to unleash destruction and misery. The Lord allows this for a season to accomplish a Heavenly purpose.

Nevertheless, once it is complete and Gods righteousness and purity is woven into our hearts, we can then petition the justice of God for restoration of all that the thief has stolen and destroyed. The Lord promised, "I will restore."

I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them back, because I have had compassion on them; and they will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them. - Zechariah 10:6

If we submit to God's grace, it will make us better; but if we do not, these times will make us bitter. Heaven's desire is for the Lord's righteousness to be made evident among God's people. That is the number one objective in this season.

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you - Matthew 6:33

If we will seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness, everything else we need will be imparted to us.

Once we carry the evidence of His righteousness, we can then be endowed with the mantels of power and authority needed for the harvest. The end result of this season will be a mighty harvest of souls brought into the Kingdom through demonstrations of God's power.

The Kingdom of God consists of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. These are the attributes we must embody during the harvest season.

Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit - Romans 14:16-17

If we do not possess these Heavenly attributes, we could be overcome by the flood of darkness prevalent in this spiritual climate and the insecurity rampant in the world.

[Grace for the Arts](#)

Although there are many pressures that we presently experience, these times will also introduce a heightened release of creativity in the artistic community. Bob was told, "Great deposits from the Spirit of the Creator will be evident in the arts, literature, poetry and music."

Those who are gifted in this arena should begin to earnestly pursue this measure of grace that is about to be available. Its purpose is to awaken our generation to its uniqueness.

Very often the greatest songs are written during seasons of distress and heartache. The same principle has been true throughout history in relationship to the arts.

Bob heard this on the Day of Atonement and I had a confirming revelation many months ago. We entitled it "The Coming Renaissance."

[The Coming Renaissance](#)

The end of 2003 provided one of the richest and thoroughly rewarding revelations I have received from the Lord. It was an incredible journey into Heaven's treasury room. I have written about this

encounter in detail in "Books of Destiny."

The apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Colossians, records an encouragement regarding the great wealth we have as our inheritance in Christ. He hoped,

that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ Himself in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
Colossians 2:2-3

This wealth, however, is not the riches of this world but priceless treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ. It is our privilege and prerogative to explore the depths of His heart by the spirit of revelation to ascertain the immense value of these riches.

Greater opportunity exists today than any prior generation to access God's mysteries and secrets hidden in Christ Jesus. The prophet Daniel foresaw this privilege and wrote of it in Daniel 12. He recorded,

Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase. Daniel 12:3-4

The end of days will be characterized by great revelation of God's Kingdom and tremendous truth restored to the body of Christ. The time of the end will be a period of revealing and re-instating truth as well as exposing the hidden devices of darkness.

These truths will be cultivated from God's word and communicated in a variety of ways. The arts and literature will be marked by God's sons and daughters who live in the revelatory realm of Heaven.

Painting and poetry will be taken to greater heights by anointed artists accessing the Creator's heart. Engineering blueprints will be diagrammed by Christian architects who access the ingenuity of Heaven.

Tremendous advancement is going to be achieved in the sciences. The cellular and molecular structure of creation will be understood in this generation with greater clarity than any before.

Inspired teachers who have encountered the Teacher will bring to the Church revelatory truth that will separate the precious from the profane according to Ezekiel 44. Great mysteries of the Kingdom are reserved in God's heart to be examined and explored by the end-time Church.

Such is the heritage of God's people in this crucial juncture of Church history. This generation has broached a "fullness of time" moment in God's time-line. This is indeed a kairos season.

Most importantly, the goodness and glory of God will be revealed in the earth in tangible ways. Christ in us is our hope of glory. Who can measure the immense value of a life yielded to God or the spiritual wealth ascertained by possessing the nature of Christ?

Sing a New Song

The Church should look forward to mightily anointed songs that have never been heard on earth to emerge from present-day worshipers. The treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ are accessible to be released through psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

This creative sound will be revelatory truth that eye has not yet seen nor ear heard. These new sounds have not yet entered into the heart of man. Nevertheless, the Spirit of Christ is searching the depths of God's heart to bring these realities into this present day.

When this occurs there will be a spirit of deliverance that accompanies the new sound. Many people will be set free from addictions, oppressions and infirmity simply by apprehending God's heart in the atmosphere of anointing that will be created by this fresh deposit of worship. They will be songs of deliverance.

And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, *"Great and marvellous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; for ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED - Revelations 15:3-4*

This new sound will not only remember the works of Christ; it will produce them.

Stay Your Mind on Christ

Corporate praise will be increasingly necessary to stay our minds on Christ in the midst of the difficulties evident in the world. This will be part of the 21st century model.

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in. You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. - Isaiah 26:1-3

In the midst of great darkness, we can discover God's light through abandoning our hearts before Him in praise and worship. It will be difficult for people in the world to understand this spiritual gift. Nevertheless, it will also be a tool that draws many into the Kingdom.

It is the God of peace that will crush Satan under our feet. As we acquire Heavenly peace in this atmosphere of worship, it will become evident to all around us. Those that have no peace will begin to pursue the ones who do. This will be a great evangelistic tool during times of greatest pressure.

Spiritual Fathers and Mothers

Bob saw in a vision, young men and women walking the aisles of the Church seeking those who would become spiritual fathers and mothers to them. There is something coming from God's Spirit that will make us inherently mindful of our need for mothers and fathers.

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me - 1 Corinthians 4:15-16

The spirit of self-sufficiency and independence will begin to be extracted as the Holy Spirit continues to deal with issues of our souls. We will recognize the richness of spiritual wisdom imparted by those who have gone before us. We will do well to follow their spiritual example and learn from their mistakes.

This younger generation can save enormous time by heeding the council of fathers and mothers in the faith. Months and sometimes years are lost through poor decisions that result in ministry dead-ends and spiritual cul-de-sacs that can be alleviated by this one simple commitment.

Imparting the Blessing

Furthermore, those who accept the duty as mothers and fathers will also find grace for their roles as leaders and receive God's favour for impartation. A spiritual blessing can be imparted to facilitate the equipping of this generation's champions.

Isaac blessed Jacob and that experience launched Jacob into a divine encounter with God. It set him on the course for the attainment of his individual destiny.

May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham- Genesis 28:3-4

It is important to note that being fathers and mothers is not necessarily related to age, although many who embrace this role will be much older. Our need for one another will become obvious in this season ahead, crossing all barriers.

It was also clear in the experience that many of the people that assumed the position as fathers and mothers were not presently in recognizable leadership positions. Nevertheless, they carry authority with God. The purposes for which they have been prepared over many years will now become evident.

They will embrace the sons and daughters with Heavenly affection and apprehend great grace for instruction and spiritual impartation. Their love for the sons and daughters will be as real as the love they have for their natural children. This can only come from God's heart.

just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children - 1 Thessalonians 2:11

A sense of security will be established in this younger generation as they open themselves up to the council and wisdom of spiritual mothers and fathers.

This was especially evident in the worship arena. Bob saw that many worship leaders will pursue spiritual parents who will provide covering, protection and insight.

This will begin to seal enemy access to areas he has formerly exploited in his vile attempt to derail many gifted people.

Divine Alliances

On Saturday morning before the Day of Atonement, I received a spiritual dream that communicated a message consistent with this theme. Wanda and I along with Bob Jones, Shawn Bolz and Aaron Evans were involved in the "Engaging Heaven" conference with our friends Brian and Candace Simmons in West Haven, Connecticut.

At 2 o'clock in the morning, the hotel fire alarm was activated requiring an evacuation of the hotel. This in itself conveyed a spiritual message for this season. Our enemy will constantly trigger false alarms to keep us in unrest. We must keep our minds focused upon the Lord at all times.

Once it was determined that there was no real danger, we returned to our rooms. As soon as I was able to sleep, I immediately went into a dream.

The context of the dream was set around the TV program "Survivor." It was incredibly vivid and detailed. Every circumstance that we discover on this program was involved in the dream. A group of people, including myself, were delivered to a remote island with little or no provision.

Each person was placed within a tribe with whom they would live, survive and depend. Part of the program scenario centres around challenges that promote teamwork and communication. There is a reward challenge to hopefully acquire the essentials necessary for survival on the island. The other is a competition to determine which tribe must eliminate one of its members.

Immediately I recognized the only hope for survival in this context was to form an alliance with others that I completely trusted. I was able to locate three other men that shared common views with me. We committed ourselves to an unbreakable alliance built around trust and open communication.

The dream continued for four consecutive hours until the time came to be awakened for the morning conference meetings. When the dream concluded, the only "survivors" that remained were the four of us in the divine alliance.

Instantly, I knew the heart of the message conveyed in the dream. The days ahead are going to be difficult and trying. Much of what we have readily depended upon for day-to-day life will be removed. Our only hope for survival in the coming season is a willingness to form divine alliances and partnerships with others we thoroughly trust.

Communication and mutual confidence will be two of the most indispensable commodities discovered in ministries and churches that flourish. I remember thinking at the end of the dream that I was pleased to be awakened before another member was to be removed from the island. I do not believe any of the four of us would have broken the alliance.

Alliance Defined

An alliance is defined as a formal agreement that establishes a relationship or partnership between other parties to achieve a particular goal. It is an association built around common interests and objectives. Alliances are primarily established to advance a certain cause or agenda. It is sometimes referred to as a treaty of friendship.

As 21st century Christians, we have the greatest cause of all to advance —Gods Kingdom and the revelation of Jesus Christ. Many in the world are asking pointed questions concerning the conditions that exist in the earth. We as the Church must provide the answers; if we do not, who will?

It is now time for a transition to take place where we lead by example. Divine grace is being released from Heaven that will allow Christians to trust one another once again in the context of divine alliances, partnerships and close friendships.

There is going to be the revelation of a high calling around which many will build their entire lives. This realization will so profoundly impact many, that they will willingly lay aside personal agendas and ambitions to embrace this mandate.

Great strength and advancement in God's Kingdom will be discovered by those determined to enter in to such an arrangement. Divine alliances will not only produce substantial results but also a sphere of safety. We each need the spiritual light that others carry. The consolidation of many lights produces a great light.

The uniqueness of divine alliances allows for churches or ministries to maintain their own identity and vision while also joining in agreement with others to advance a common cause. If the Lord can

find just three or four churches in a region to dwell together in harmony, and support one another in friendship, then great progress can be achieved in that territory.

Avoid Unholy Alliances

The Bible also contains numerous examples of unholy alliances that were displeasing to God. These, however, were centred on compromise and idolatry. As always, our adversary seeks to pervert everything that is fruitful.

It has been our experience that those to whom we are to be joined in covenant relationship are made evident. In this context, partnership in ministry is very similar to the marriage of man and woman.

It must be a divine arrangement with those to whom we are equally yoked. Trust, communication and mutual vision are all essential ingredients that formulate a successful union.

The Lord will bring into our lives those to whom we are to be joined in long-term relationship. It does not have to be something that we force into existence.

In the Order of David and Jonathan

The Bible provides numerous examples of New Testament leaders who established ministry covenants. Peter and John clearly functioned as a team as we discover in Acts 8. Paul and Barnabas illustrate one of the earliest examples following the Day of Pentecost.

However, one of the greatest alliances in the Bible that advanced God's cause, existed between David and Jonathan.

Jonathan said to David, "Go in safety, inasmuch as we have sworn to each other in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever." Then he rose and departed, while Jonathan went into the city - 1 Samuel 20:42

Jonathan recognized in David the future of Israel's prosperity. There was a cause that he discovered that was worthy of his sacrifice and commitment to achieve.

Furthermore, the LORD imparted genuine affection in their hearts for one another. Theirs was an unbreakable bond of commitment that resulted in David's survival and Israel's welfare.

The entirety of 1 Samuel 20 provides a vivid portrayal of the commitment that existed between David and Jonathan. They entered into a divine alliance that provided safety and strength. They enjoyed clear and concise communication that facilitated the plan of God and the future of Israel.

The Fraternity House Vision

Throughout the last several years there has been a reoccurring dream that I have had perhaps 100 times. The dream always involves the people with whom we are in relationship and ministry association.

The essence of the dream always takes place in the fraternity house that I lived in during my college days. Uniquely, this fraternity at Mississippi State University had as a large portion of its membership, openly radical Christians. In fact, other fraternities often made the statement that our fraternity house should have a steeple on it.

It was not uncommon for us to have campus-wide Bible studies and private prayer meetings two or three times a week. We would regularly have awesomely gifted musicians and singers leading worship. Our meetings often had between 100-200 students participating in the gatherings.

There existed among us true brotherhood that preferred one another and reinforced each other during times of distress and difficulty.

It was a truly significant time in my life in which many of the seeds were sown for the things we are presently doing. For that reason, I believe the Lord uses it to emphasize His desire for a body of people who live together in "fraternal" affection who genuinely have all things in common.

Joined in Fraternal Affection

Fraternal affection and brotherly love is emphasized in the ascending pyramid of graces and Godly attributes discovered in 2 Peter 1:5-8; these are essential in our quest to become one spirit with the Lord.

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Greek word for "brotherly kindness" in this passage is "Philadelphia." This word is defined as "fraternal affection; brotherly love (kindness) or love of the brethren."

From a position of fraternal love we move forward into the "agape" of God. If it is our hearts' desire to participate in the harvest of the ages and the healing of the nations, then it must be from a position of authentic compassion birthed in love. These can only be imparted to us through the Holy Spirit.

As summarized through the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, we are to abide in faith, hope and love. We dwell in faith through the conviction and belief of man in his relationship with the Lord; hope is our confident expectation of redemption.

The greatest of this triad of graces is true affection for God and man expressed through saints; it is generated by a deposit of Heavenly virtue resident in us --LOVE.

A truth to be greatly emphasized in this generation is the transference of our lost nature for His divine nature. We have the precious and magnificent promises by which we become partakers of the divine nature and escape the corruption of this world and its lusts.

By virtue of being joined with Him as His body in the mystery of incarnation, we likewise share in His heart of love and desire for the brethren as well as lost humanity.

As the Lord declared in John 17:23,

I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

We are being sent in this generation in like fashion as the Lord Himself was commissioned by His Father. We are to be carriers of His heart.

Strengthen Our Tent Cords

The phrase that Bob heard in his dream was, "now is not the time to lengthen our tent cords but to strengthen existing ones." We are in present need of having our relationships strengthened in order to endure the winds of adversity that are coming.

The Bible declares that there are appropriate times and seasons for all things. It becomes a great responsibility of God's people to suitably recognize the spiritual climate and when to emphasize certain characteristics.

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven-- A time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance;

A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. A time to search and a time to give up as lost; a time to keep and a time to throw away;

A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; a time to be silent and a time to speak; A time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace. Eccl 3:1-8

According to the prophetic indications that we are presently receiving, we are currently in a season to reinforce our tent cords which represent relationships that we currently enjoy. There will be a time for the extending of our tent cords with the expansion of power and authority that will soon be delegated.

However, the present need is for personal and ministry relationships to be fortified and cultivated in a deeper fashion. Our adversary is often called the accuser of the brethren. This divisive role is frequently subtle in its erosive effects on relationships ordained by Heaven.

Therefore, the Lord is asking for those who are joined in common purpose and ministry to take the time and effort to strengthen those existing relationships before we move into a season of expansion.

The Insignia of Love

The following is a portion of one of our previous prophetic articles emphasizing this truth that developed from a series of dreams and revelations the Lord gave me:

As the Lord was about to leave the disciples he gave them a new and unique command —that they love one another as He loved them.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another - John 13:34

Surely after three years of life and ministry together, the twelve future leaders of the church experienced such love emanating from the Lord toward them that it was beyond the expression of words. Yet, they were given this new commandment, not only as an admonition, but a banner or badge of their discipleship.

This great fraternal affection was to be a signature by which they might be known as His friends and followers. It was the identification by which they were to be distinguished from all others.

Never before had there been a precedent for such a command as this for a people group to be distinguished and recognized.

By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another — John 13:35

Now, in the case of born again believers in Jesus Christ, we are not to be known by distinctions of wealth, education or fame, although some may possess these; we are not required to aspire to earthly honours or acclaim; we are not even mandated to adopt any special style of dress or insignia.

This new royal priesthood is to be identified by tender and constant affection and allegiance for one another.

This great command to walk in brotherly love will transcend all distinctions of national origin, colour, social status, or denomination. The disciples of Christ are to uniformly perceive we are all in the same spiritual family with common goals. We have all been redeemed by the same sacred blood of Jesus Christ.

We are to befriend each other in trials and ardently guard each other's feelings and reputation. We are even to deny ourselves in order to promote one another's welfare. Amen.

Mankind is looking for something as a standard by which to measure. Brotherly love and divine alliances will be the "standard" by which the Church will receive its authority. Those willing to adopt these principles will find great blessings, favour and anointing.

Sarah experienced a quickening in her body that produced life and manifested God's promise. She was made beautiful in her old age.

Much like Abraham and Sarah, many saints perceive their promise is dead. Nevertheless, God's life-giving Spirit is being released to restore and recover lost hope. Our posture should be like that of Abraham and Sarah depicted through the apostle Paul when he said,

Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God —Romans 4:19-20

Furthermore, Paul continued with his example of Sarah in Romans 9:9 stating,

For this is the word of promise: "at this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.

At the appointed time, those who experience barrenness will bear fruit. This should be a substantial promise of encouragement to individuals and Churches.

Although many trials and difficulties face the nations of the earth and the Church, we also have the most profound promises.

[The Prayer of Desperation](#)

Hannah was likewise barren until she made a covenant with God from the desperation of her soul. Many of the "Hannah's" of today will make a pledge to God in order to bring forth something of great spiritual value in God's Kingdom. Hannah completely yielded to God the fruit of her womb without reservation or stipulation.

In her resignation to be fruitful, she prayed a violent and aggressive prayer that touched God's Throne. She said,

O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head - 1 Samuel 1:11

Although lukewarm leadership did not recognize the condition of her soul, God did. True to her word, Hannah took Samuel to Shiloh and presented him to the Lord for his priestly duties. Great leadership resulted from this encounter between Heaven and earth.

There is something fresh and new in the way of Godly leadership that is about to be birthed through the "Hannah's" of today. From a place of desperation they will touch God's heart and receive from Him a fruitful reward.

It is our encouragement for this season to petition God's Throne as did Hannah. He is promising to hear this kind of prayer to establish a form of leadership today that is epitomized in the life of Samuel.

[The Carpenters](#)

Master builders and skilled craftsmen are being set in the church who build by divine revelation. During this time of destruction and uprooting, a grace is also being granted to plant and build.

That is the hope that is being given in this hour. Jeremiah was given a commission stating,

See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. The word of the LORD came to me saying, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" And I said, "I see a rod of an almond tree. Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it - Jeremiah 1:10-12

God is watching over His word to perform it. Much of what we are seeing in the way of natural disasters, economic failures and political upheaval are for the intent of replanting and rebuilding with something far greater, both spiritually and in the natural realm.

This is especially true in our judicial system. As God's people, we currently have a fundamental responsibility to pray into office righteous justices.

We cannot simply allow ourselves to become complacent and hope that our president makes good choices. Instead, we are to be militant in this arena and override the oppressions and witchcraft sent against this nation's leadership involving these crucial decisions.

Great spiritual darkness is being unleashed against our president as it relates to the appointment of these justices and in relationship to Israel. To us, God's people, a grace is being given to recapture the judicial branch.

Somehow, the Church was asleep at the wheel over many decades and didn't recognize the importance of this arena.

This generation suddenly discovered itself facing the decisions of unrighteous judges who had been appointed on our watch. Their unholy verdicts have prompted a measure of God's discipline on our nation.

The Lord is once again giving us the opportunity to set judges and counsellors in our midst who adhere to high standards of morality and justice.

Then I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counsellors as at the beginning; after that you will be called the city of righteousness, a faithful city. Zion will be redeemed with justice and her repentant ones with righteousness — Isaiah 1:26-27

Saints with an anointing and commission functioning like spiritual "carpenters," will take their position in the Church and begin to reconstruct with standards of righteousness what has been shattered or destroyed.

Even so, this will not happen automatically. It requires a pro-active role on our part to call this into being by the spirit of prophecy and the testimony of Jesus.

Spiritual transformation will predominantly be achieved through increased authority being granted to the prayer movement.

Areas that have been most devastated by natural disasters are being rebuilt. Whether they are spiritually reconstructed for better or worse depends in large part upon God's people. The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth He has entrusted into the hands of men and women who possess His authority and articulate His desires.

The carpenters and craftsmen are anointed by God to overcome the four horns of the adversary that scatter, destroy and divide.

Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns. And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" So he answered me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem. Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. And I said, "What are these coming to do?" So he said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it - Zechariah 1:18-21

These individuals being set in the Church will carry much revelatory insight. They will be like the sons of Issachar who know the times and seasons and the things that Gods chosen people must do. We must be wise master builders. According to Paul,

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ —1 Corinthians 3:9-11

This will result in a new spiritual unity in the Church. Divisions and strife are a signs of immaturity. Paul wanted to deliver strong meat to the saints but could not until they dealt with envy and lack of unity. Divine alliances and commitment to one another will open the door for advancement is this important arena.

Increased Lawlessness

It is not encouraging to report, but the spirit of lawlessness will increase. As tension and difficulty elevates throughout the world, people without hope in Christ will be drawn to "sin centres" in hopes of finding temporary relief. The Bible foretold this would take place. The apostle Paul prophesied,

that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these - 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Bob actually saw thievery, robbery and other such crimes increasing because of the desperation of the times. It will result in the unrestrained human spirit functioning at a heightened level.

The Sarah's and Hannah's

Bob heard a voice calling out for the "Sarah's" and the "Hannah's" to take their post of duty in this hour.

The name Sarah means "princess" and Hannah denotes "favour and grace."

Sarah bore much fruit in her old age and Hannah did in her despair. The Voice from Heaven is calling for veterans of the faith to begin to bear fruit in their older age.

This was not only speaking of individuals but also churches and movements that have been barren for an extended season who will birth something immensely fruitful in their old age.

Sarah carried a promise for many years before she saw its fulfilment. Not only that, she also experienced rejuvenation in her body that made it possible for the promise to be realized. This is a prophetic illustration for many individuals and Churches.

There is not one good thing in any of us except the Holy Spirit for those who have embraced the cross and redemption through the Lord Jesus' blood. The unbelieving host without the restraints of the Holy Spirit will take lawlessness to even greater levels of depravity.

The emotions of those living under the influence of this world's spirit will become exceedingly volatile. There will be a sense of restlessness by the unbelieving world not anchored in Christ, as they witness the many things taking place.

Likewise, Christians are going to be required to carefully watch their conversation. Life and death is in the tongue. Although we are seeing many things with our eyes we cannot be moved by what we observe, but what we believe. Our conversation and comments must be based from a spirit of a faith, not fear.

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit - Prov 15:4

This spiritual truth will be truer now than ever before.

In many instances we must have the faith of Abraham to call those things that are not, as though they were. We cannot afford to agree with the spirit of this world. Our language must be in harmony with Heaven.

Saints who learn this discipline will experience deeper measures of the spirit of prophecy to articulate God's heart. Once developed, this commissioning will change the spiritual atmosphere from darkness to light within homes, Churches and regions.

Peacemakers will be anointed to bring peace to volatile situations merely with an anointed word. It is light that must dispel darkness, not the reverse. This will be the evidence that we are living in the end-times.

Psalms of Hope

Psalms 37 and Psalm 23 will have considerable anointing on them during the coming days. The promises of these passages will have increased relevance as we invoke the spiritual truth they carry.

In the midst of this difficult and trying season, the Lord is also giving promises of consolation and hope; they will be like an oasis in the midst of a desert.

The implications of Psalms 23 are obvious. This is been one of the most endearing and cherished Psalms in the entirety of the Bible.

It is interesting that most believe David penned this rich Psalm during one of the most difficult and discouraging times of his life. The enemy of his soul was constantly attempting to destroy him. Nevertheless, he found peace in God even when circumstances looked grim.

Psalm 23 is a promise for restoration, and protection from evil in the process. Our Great Shepherd comforts and sustains us in our prophetic journey with Him. It is a portrait of God's heart towards His people and His promise to shelter, sustain, and befriend us even in the shadow of death.

The Lord even promises to prepare a table for us in the presence of our enemies. This implies victory both on this side of eternity and in the millennial reign of Christ when it is made complete.

Psalm 37 is likewise a promise for protection in an evil and perverse generation. In it, the righteous are reminded not to be envious of the seemingly successful exploits of those in the world. Rather, our delight is in the Lord and the fruit generated in the spirit.

The heart of this Psalm is to keep us focused on those things which are truly important, despite implications in the world. We are not to fear because of the apparent domination of evil in the earth.

We must keep our mind fixed upon the Lord in this season more so than ever. Our spirit is strong but our flesh and soul are weak. This is a Psalm to help us reinforce our soul (mind, will and emotions) in the midst of things that would make us emotionally volatile.

The predominant theme of Psalms 37 deals with our struggle to keep peace of mind in the midst of numerous circumstances that would rob it. This Psalm emphasizes that evil will eventually be cut off and judged while the righteous will be blessed. This will come at the time when Divine Justice is realized.

Justice is the dual function of blessings upon the righteous and discipline upon unrighteousness. The Ancient of Days is preparing to take his seat as the Just Judge. When He does, he will open the books revealing the unrighteousness of this age to render a verdict in favour of the Saints.

In so doing, the Lord will unleash divine authority for us to begin to reveal His Kingdom on this side of eternity. We are promised to taste the good word of God and the powers of the Kingdom age that is to come. (Hebrews 6:5)

The Psalmist declares from personal experience, God's incredible care for His children. The truths communicated in Psalms 37 will have direct application to the conditions inherent in these times. The Lord is giving this as an emphasis of His grace.

We will discover amplified anointing on the directives communicated in it.

[A Fresh Wave of Intercession in Kansas City](#)

This next season will see an increase in grace and anointing for the ministry of intercession. This will be especially true for the prayer centres in and around Kansas City.

A prayer movement has been initiated in this city that will escalate in its relevance. This is not only in relationship to IHOP, but also the many other prayer ministries that have been birthed from it.

Likewise, there will also be other Churches and movements that are not associated with current "Harp & Bowl" fellowships that will discover the importance of this ministry in birthing end-time scenarios.

Houses of prayer and worship will continue to grow with expanded involvement from the body of Christ. This is a trend that will continue until the end of the age.

Of course, this is not limited to the Kansas City area but the entirety of the Church. Kansas City has been an incubator for the birthing of this movement and a leader in its development.

[Watchmen– Intercession with Revelation](#)

In addition to the prayer and praise framework that has already been constructed, an increased revelatory anointing will be joined to provide the watchmen ministry. According to the prophecies of Isaiah,

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth - Isaiah 62:6-7

The merger of the revelatory anointing with intercession produces the watchmen on the wall. I wrote of this in "Books of Destiny" and will include a brief excerpt...

[The Lord's Holy Alliance](#)

In the 1999 leader's meeting, the Lord emphasized that His "holy alliance" was the antidote for the enemy's devises. God intends to endow a generation of overcomers with the spirit of revelation and position them, in power and authority, as watchers on the walls of the Church.

These people will facilitate a holy partnership of both revelatory anointing and intercessory prayer with true spiritual authority. They will provide continual prayer, anointed worship, and prophetic declaration.

Daniel's prophetic portrait is a helpful paradigm of Heaven's strategy in this confrontation. Daniel focused his attention on Heaven, through prayer and fasting, in order to understand the spiritual conflict raging in the spiritual realm. He received a visitation from Heaven in response to his devotion.

The divine attributes we read about in this passage also provide foresight into the Lord's revelation about the struggle we presently face. The Lord admonished us in 1999: "This is not to be touched by human hands, that is, human perceptions, traditions, and formulas. Instead, what is being birthed will be Spirit-led and Spirit-sponsored."

Everything manifested in radical Islamic strongholds is directed in the heavenlies against the purposes the Lord desires to release to us. However, as the Scriptures point out:

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.-Matthew 11:12

If we truly hunger to see God's spiritual government birthed and functioning, we must take our post and gain the Lord's authority through prayer and declaring our agreement with Heaven. That is the divine strategy for this season.

[The Ministry of the Watchmen](#)

The watchmen are specially prepared spiritual warriors who capture the Lord's desire and restate it to Him in the form of anointed prayer. Like Habakkuk, watchmen take their position on the wall to see what the Lord may speak. From that informed position, God's people then know how to reply to Him with effective intercession.

Habakkuk said,

I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved — Habakkuk 2:1

Revelatory prayer will carry the Church into the 21st century. These will be prayers of laser-like precision and clarity. The union of revelation with intercession generates concise spiritual light that will penetrate the heavens with power.

The watchmen will have a strategic word placed in their mouths. The Lord then promises to overshadow them with the power of His hand. From this place of anointing, the words that are declared will plant seeds of the Kingdom in the heavens and found His will on the earth. It will announce to the Zion, "you are my people" and beckon them to the place of destiny. As Isaiah stated,

I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea and its waves roar (the LORD of hosts is His name). "I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, "You are My people." - Isaiah 51:15-16

Clearly, the seas and waves have been stirred in recent days. This is a natural reality pointing to these spiritual truths. The Lord is looking for a submissive and obedient company of people so that He can place revelatory words from His heart into their mouths.

When they articulate this message from an atmosphere of the anointing, the heavens will be established with the revelation of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. What is established in the heavens will be revealed on the earth. A called-out body of people will then begin to step into their inheritance.

[Psalm 106](#)

Psalm 106 is a Psalm of transition. This clearly identifies the season we are presently living in. This year will produce a spiritual shifting that will transport us into a different aspect of God's plan and strategy.

The message of this Psalms deals with Israel's difficulties and tribulations leading up to the revelation of a greater Kingdom. It outlines God's discipline for seasons of iniquity, but only so that something greater can be established.

There is great similarity in this Psalm with Daniel's prayer of repentance and supplication. Daniel cried,

we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land. Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day-- to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You — Daniel 9:5-7

These prayers petition for God's intervention to deliver His people from captivity as He has done in times past.

Most commentators agree that Psalms 106 was composed during a period of public calamity. This clearly has application for today!

The verses of this Psalm rehearse the failures of the past, particularly during the wilderness experience. It also contains a plea for God to gather His people from the different places to which they have been scattered. This is done when we are willing to praise His name and humble ourselves before God.

Praise and worship provide a key to the kingdom and a strategy for restoration.

As one historian commented, "Psalms 106 offers a humbling reminder of how the Chosen People have provoked the anger of the Lord, only to be forgiven and avenged."

1. Verses 1-5

We must abide in an atmosphere of praise and worship.

We can focus on God and He will keep us in perfect peace.

We are to observe justice and treat others fairly so that we remain in right standing with God at all times. Those who do will receive increased measures of His imputed righteousness.

2. Verses 6-22

One of the great failures of the contemporary Church is our lack of understanding of our heritage and God's dealing throughout Church history. This was also recorded in Psalms 106. We are to rehearse God's mercy and His exploits.

Our admonition in Hebrews 13:7 is to examine the faithfulness of our leaders who have gone before us to observe and scrutinize their conduct and the results of their lives. We are then charged to imitate their faith because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

We are not necessarily called to emulate their personal style or patterns and formulas but imitate their faith. In so doing, the Lord will do through us what he did through them by mighty expressions of power and authority.

This is the era of God's justice. He is looking for a dedicated people to apprehend the truth of verse 8 saying,

Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, that He might make His power known.

Moses once reminded Israel that they forfeited their opportunity to inherit the promise because they did not have eyes to see nor ears to hear. They did not possess the revelatory anointing that is fundamentally essential to cooperate with God. (Deuteronomy 29:2-4)

This Psalm remembers that reality but also highlights the Lord's mercy because of those who allowed His righteousness and divine character to be imparted. The Lord did so in order to show His mighty power in the exploits of His name.

The pain of the past is our preparation for the future. Like Joseph, we must reconcile ourselves with the past in order to make our future more fruitful. The Patriarch Joseph demonstrated this truth in the naming of his sons.

Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, *"For," he said "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household. He named the second Ephraim, "For," he said "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction — Gen 41:51-52*

If we seek His ways and cry out to God to reveal His thoughts, we will discover His mercy.

3. Verses 23-29

Verse 23 records our call to take our position, like Moses, as God's intermediary on earth. It is time for the body of Christ to stand up and cry out for mercy and grace. If we do not, who will. Moses was one of the Lord's great representatives who stood before Him as His spokesman in a position of righteousness. Moses was able to occupy this distinguished office of great responsibility because of the prior years of preparation, purging and refinement that qualified him.

Like Moses, Job was another prominent saint who learned to stand in the gap for his generation. Perhaps there could be many purposes expressed for the testing of Job's righteousness.

Clearly, one of the designs of the Lord in this endeavour is to bring Job into a heightened place of relationship and authority as the Lord's representative on the earth.

The benefit for the sifting of righteous Job was to establish a greater level of right standing with God along with intimate fellowship. Through the "cleanness" of his hands, he was then be able to deliver the ones who were not innocent.

The understanding is, that the man who returns to God in righteousness, and who is regarded by Him as His friend, is more amply equipped to intercede for the guilty and unrepentant with the Lord's heart of compassion.

When righteous intercession is offered, extraordinary favour is shown, even when it is not deserved. This sentiment is consistent with that expressed in Genesis 18:23-24 as Abraham intervened on behalf of Sodom from his place of friendship with the Lord.

Job's highest calling was to a position of leadership as a fearless representation of heaven on earth. Our mandate is the same today.

The Lord recently expressed His desire to deal with the strongholds in us so we can deal with the strongholds in our churches, cities and nation.

The ultimate purpose of Job's testing, and ours, is to dwell on a higher plain of authority before God and a greater level of intimate relationship as the Lord's intermediary on the earth. The Lord will always have a witness on the earth of His righteousness to testify against an evil and perverse generation and call them to repentance.

The Lord Himself is designated as the "Faithful witness" and His Spirit in us will also bear witness of His righteousness. It is this marriage between heaven and earth that will release both the kindness and severity of God throughout all generations.

Amos is another example of one called by the Spirit to foresee the judgement of God and stand before His Presence and intercede on behalf of His people.

Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed it was the late crop after the king's mowings. And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said: "O Lord GOD, forgive, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, for he is small!" So the LORD relented concerning this. "It shall not be," said the LORD. Amos 7:1-3

Daniel was described in the scripture as one greatly beloved. Part of the reason for this truth is because of his heart for the nation and his willingness to stand in the gap for his people. He humbled himself and presented supplications on behalf of those in his age and the prior generations. He did so with a heart of repentance and foresight for the generations to come.

The Lord's friends are able to stand in this post because of the refinement that has taken place in their lives that enables them to occupy this privileged place in God. Intimate fellowship with the Lord results when righteousness has been developed. It allows us to peer into God's heart to obtain understanding of His nature and character.

In this manner, divine purposes are birthed in the earth through words anointed with Spirit and Life expressed from this position of righteousness.

Principally, the Lord is looking for a righteous agent on the earth to stand in the gap on behalf of a sinful generation. The Lord Himself is the perfect mediator between God and man establishing for all generations God's righteousness.

That virtue is now being imparted to those in the Church established in righteousness, as His earthly delegation to intercede for this nation and the destiny of the Church.

If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to show man His uprightness, Then He is gracious to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom' — Job 33:23-24

The Father has chosen the Church as His instrument to unfold His great redemptive plan. When this is achieved, we have the Lord's promise for restoration and salvation for man;

His flesh shall be young like a child's, he shall return to the days of his youth. He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, he shall see His face with joy, for He restores to man His righteousness. — Job 33:25-26

If there was no agent to stand in the gap, then mercy and grace could not be found

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads, says the Lord GOD —Ezekiel 22:30-31

When a righteous representative of God is able to enter His Presence, it pleases the Father to hear intercession on behalf of the lost. It is because of the righteousness of Christ established in us through the Spirit of Christ that will enable us to come before the throne of grace to obtain mercy and help in time of need.

Resident in the Father's heart is both mercy and justice. Justice calls for the judgements of God to be established in the earth. Yet, His heart also yearns to release mercy when His representatives stand before Him in this mediatorial role reminding him of His longsuffering and loving kindness.

The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth; who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished —Exodus 34:6-7

4. Verses 29-31

In the person of Phinehas we find a type of the one who stands in the gap to obtain mercy in the midst of judgement.

Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, and the plague broke out among them. Then Phinehas stood up and interposed, and so the plague was stayed. And it was reckoned to him for righteousness, to all generations forever — Psalms 106:29-31

This loyal priest received a divinely issued covenant of peace because of his jealousy towards the Lord and his commitment to the Word.

The Bible teaches that the Old Testament saints and God's dealings with Israel are given as an example. The lives of the patriarchs and faithful men and women of old are adopted for our instruction in God's ways.

Many believers will begin to emerge in this hour with the anointing of Phinehas and a covenant of peace. These will be priests providing inspired revelation of God's Word.

This reality will primarily be discovered when we call upon the Lord in desperation. When we do, He has promised to answer us and show us great and mighty things which we do not presently know.

This unique group will embody a heavenly "jealousy" and integrity by rightly dividing the Word of Truth without mixture or compromise. This anointing will produce in many people a healthy ardour and zeal of God for the Spirit of Truth.

Furthermore, those with the Phinehas anointing will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God nor tremble at the fear of man. (Acts 20:27) There is a clear distinction between possessing the zeal of God as opposed to having zeal for God.

The name Phinehas means "mouth of brass." This is a depiction of those who will begin to "judge and discern the thoughts and intents of the heart" and help others identify the sin which so easily besets them. (Hebrews 4:12)

When the Living Word is present, all things are open and lay bare before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Nothing is hidden. This is not something to fear but embrace to facilitate maturity and purity of soul.

The Bible depicts the revelation gifts unveiling the secrets of the heart so those who observe it will fall on their faces and say, "surely God is in this place". This manner of revelation is not rooted in suspicion, but genuine insight from the Lord and disclosure of divine secrets ministered in charity and faithfulness.

This work of the "Phinehas" anointing will usher the Fear of the Lord back into the Church and pave the way for Divinely granted repentance that leads to the knowledge of the Truth.

This will produce a more righteous body with whom the Lord will become intimate and share His mysteries and power.

5. Verses 32-40

The conditions recorded in these verses results from unknowingly embracing the "spirit of compromise" that facilitates the substitution of the Holy Spirit with the spirit of this world.

What the enemy cannot accomplish in head-to-head battle he easily achieves through this deceptive snare. The Lord Himself warned us about this spirit in Matthew 24.

This is the strategy that Balaam utilized against Israel that the psalmist remembers. When the adversary was unsuccessful in cursing God's chosen people he altered his approach. What he could not perpetuate in direct confrontation he easily accomplished through stumbling blocks and snares facilitated through compromise.

The New Testament reminds us of this demonic strategy from the spirit of Balaam in both Jude and the book of Revelations. It is a battle that we must learn to win. It is the spirit of Godly jealousy, as demonstrated through Phinehas, that is the antidote for this dilemma.

It was the teaching of Balaam that eventually led Israel into God's judgment. Balaam was unable to curse Israel, therefore he convinced her to compromise her covenant with God by intermingling with Balak and the people of Moab.

And Moses said to them, "Have you spared all the women? "Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the congregation of the LORD. Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man intimately. "But all the girls who have not known man intimately, spare for yourselves- Numbers 31:15-18

Ours is an admonition of separation and purity while patiently waiting on the promised union with the Lord Jesus. It is the counsel of "compromise" to lead us away from that position at all costs.

The "way of Balaam" is the covetous conduct of the ones structurally described as "hirelings," whose primary motive is to commercialise their divine gift.

Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness - 2 Peter 2:15

The "teaching of Balaam" is the teaching of the mercenary ministry counselling the church to abandon Godly separation and noble character in favour of worldly conformity.

But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality- Revelations 2:14

Very often, following this path will seemingly bring quick results and attract scores of people with much less spiritual resistance. Nonetheless, the conclusion after all has been done is death and fruitlessness.

Balaam taught Balak to corrupt the people who could not be cursed by seducing them to marry Moabite women and commit spiritual adultery. That is what is being rehearsed in Psalms 106.

When we are faithful to God our enemy cannot overcome the anointing and authority that the Lord is able to delegate to us. His strategy for victory is to corrupt God's people by seduction with the spirit of the world.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God-1 Corinthians 2:12

Spiritual compromise will always lead us into wrong relationships. Concession leads to death while faithfulness leads to repentance, restoration, and victory.

6. Verse 41

Economic slavery! For a season, much of this nation's economic resources will go to other nations. This will be especially true involving countries associated with the petroleum industry.

The conditions that have been created in this arena constitute a form of economic slavery for our nation. We are in large part bound by our need to obtain fuel from Islamic nations in order to meet our high demand.

This will increase over this next season.

7. Verse 44

Much of the conditions of our nation and the Church are the result of compromise. We have yielded our righteous standards for a counterfeit substitute that provokes God's discipline.

This Psalm also highlights the Lord's willingness to show mercy and bring restoration. This was repeatedly exemplified with the nation of Israel. It is the strategy by which our prayer movements are to be mobilized.

8. Verses 47-48

We are to cry out in Godly sorrow for the USA and ourselves until God grants repentance. All the shaking is for the expressed purpose of positioning the Church in righteousness for the restoration of His glory.

The earth will begin to cleanse itself from the shame of innocent blood. The measure to which this takes place will be determined by the abundance of our intercession and obtaining Godly granted repentance.

[Prophetic Sound-Bites](#)

1. In the 2005 Shepherd's Rod we listed the ten plagues of Egypt providing a prophetic parallel that will continue in this season. This is a symbolic portrayal of calamity, pestilence, sickness, and other disciplines that took place in Egypt that built upon one another in a domino effect. This is a representation of God's discipline on the spirit of this world.

We encourage our readers to review that portion of the 2005 Shepherd's Rod as this trend will continue. Much of what we saw in New Orleans and the Gulf coast are outlined in it.

2. Nashville will continue to be a focal point and a strategic city. There is a special grace being

extended for songwriters and musicians to capture spiritual truth and convey it.

This will result from the same stream of creativity that is coming to the Church in the form of worship. Nevertheless, this form of music will have positive and beneficial messages centred in the Nashville music industry.

3. The colours for this year are blue and white to represent a call to purity and the release of revelation. White is generated by his imputed righteousness. There is a great opportunity in this season to advance substantially in this area.

With the establishment of Godly righteousness and virtuous character, mantels of power and authority will be downloaded that are needed for harvest.

All that has taken place in this hour is part of the preparatory process for a wave of harvest that is to come. The next major outpouring of the Spirit will be for "power evangelism."

The colour blue is a symbolic representation marking a great opportunity to apprehend revelatory insight needed in every area of our lives. The inspiration for revelation will be especially pertinent in the area of intercession. Comprehension of His heart will bring clarity and precision to the saint's prayers.

Revelation will also bring a stream of anointing resting on the promises of God for this age that strategically position us in our confrontation with realms of darkness. The sons of Issachar knew times and seasons and the things that Israel needed do. Likewise, the "Issachar" anointing is being released for this purpose today.

We cannot afford to wander aimlessly in this crucial hour. Furthermore, our prayers do not need to be in the way of a shotgun, but of a laser. Revelation produces precision.

_____End_____

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