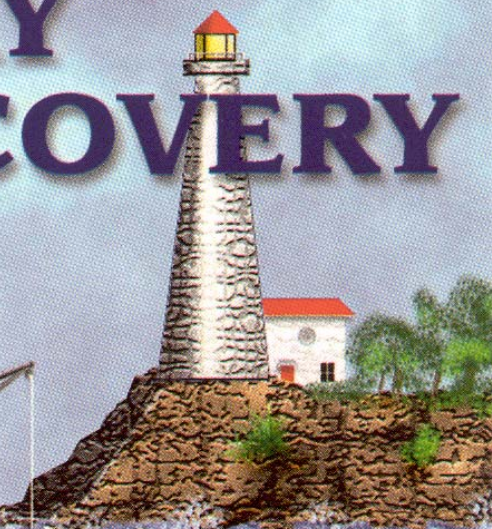


DISCOVERY & RECOVERY



of True Bible Faith



Table of Contents

THE COVER	3
PREFACE.....	4
THIS COMPELLING HOUR.....	5
GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN	9
FAITH OR FATALISM	12
A MAID WITH A VISION	15
BY THIS CONQUER.....	19
IS AMERICA A FOOL'S PARADISE?.....	22
THE RUIN OF SIN	25
ANGELS.....	29
GOD'S DESTRUCTION THROUGH ANGELS.....	29
GOD'S PROTECTION THROUGH ANGELS.....	29
I TALKED WITH AN ANGEL.....	31
GOD'S MESSENGER TO ME.....	31
A RAPTUREOUS VISIT.....	32
I TRUST GOD'S ANGEL	32
MASTERY OVER THE LIONS	33
ANGELS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.....	33
GOD'S DELIVERANCE THROUGH ANGELS.....	34
ANGELS FOLLOW GOD'S ORDERS	35
ANGELIC WONDERS	35
ANGELIC WONDERS CONTINUED.....	36
WE'LL BE LIKE ANGELS.....	37
PROTECTION FROM DEMONS	37
HARD TIMES ARE COMING SOON!.....	38
MAKE THE VISION PLAIN.....	39
THE HIGH AND HOLY CALLING	40

THE COVER

The dramatic illustration on the cover in graphic detailed symbolism portrays vividly the tragic consequences of the twentieth century perverting of God's True Word by modernists and dishonest scholars. In the sunken wreckage of The Old Gospel Ship, which brought the true Word of God to the New World, symbolically, lays the Holy Bible that has been rejected and thrown into the sea. The Holy Bible, by the way, is the old reliable King James Version of 1611 without revision. The diver has gone down to bring up the Holy Bible to the old awaiting salvage ship, Restoration, and its crew of Holy and Sanctified Christians. The Lighthouse is without Light, but the Light of God's Holy Word will restore its Life-saving beams to shine across the sea and into the frightening darkness again. We have Discovered and Recovered God's True Word, and we are faithfully projecting and proclaiming the Light and Life found only in the King James Version of 1611. May the Holy Ghost catch you in the grip of its Divine Power and Persuasion.

PREFACE

A Prophet's Message for the New Millennium

By Bro. Ray Pringle, Sr.

In the words of Christ's apostle I declare: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Ephesians 3:4-5. These messages are from a true prophet of God. Now, this further warning: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." II Timothy 2:24-26.

Beware my beloved. Today's church is full of deceit and heresies. So we warn you: "I hear that there be divisions among you: and I partly believe it. For there must be also HERESIES among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you." I Corinthians 11:18-19. **I have been approved and sent by the Lord to expose and help eliminate heresies and heretics from the true Body of Jesus Christ.**

This book contains 10 prophetic messages that are in perfect harmony with the Holy Bible, God's sure Word, and therefore true in every detail. These messages contain revelations from the Holy Ghost, fully corroborated by God's Word—the end-time warnings and directions to Christ's true disciples from God's anointed prophet.

These messages from the Lord were given over a period of time dating back to the 1950's well in advance of the distressing crisis that has arisen in Christ's end-time church. A prophet or two have always been sent by the Lord to turn His people back to Repentance and Divine Unity in times of backsliding and declension. A true prophet is God's messenger, hearing and proclaiming His terms of Restoration back to Divine Favor. Today's church of our Lord is spewed out of the mouth of Christ (Revelation 3:16), and must be Restored.

In every generation of man on this earth, from Adam until this present time, when God's people, the church, become popular, rich, and respected as today's church has become, they substitute a Creed for Christ, Politics for Power, Doctrines for Deity, and Man-made organization for Divine Unity. So my beloved, this is the sordid condition of our Lord's professed end-time church. A prophet's message and warnings are God's last effort to Restore His church back to Himself—a Holy church like the church of the Apostles in the Book of Acts—back to its First love, its Power, its Faith, its Divine Unity, to the Fear of God, and to True Holiness.

I pray that the Holy Ghost will grip your hearts in His Divine Persuasion and Power as you reverently read these Holy Ghost-anointed messages, and, please share them with others.

Bro. Ray Pringle

THIS COMPELLING HOUR

I have had several unusual experiences with the Lord, but the most impressive one, I believe, is a revelation of the end-time revival which is right at hand. I will not speak of all the wonders of this revelation, but the Lord showed me that we are moving into a revival such as the world has never known. It will not be the old-type church revival as we have known in the past, nor a nice, formal, invitational, or card-signing revival -- but of those who are in the lanes and hedges and byways of life; a revival among the maimed, the halt, and the blind -- a revival that will meet the needs of the body, soul, and spirit.

The hour is too late for men of God to spend their time in coaxing, begging, and entreating a few folks to come and play church while all the millions of this nation and of the whole world have ripened to the harvest. In my own spirit I have witnessed this end-time revival, and I feel it moving mightily even now in my soul. I have seen the multitudes coming, not just to fill a few empty pews, but coming to be ministered to -- coming by every conceivable means -- coming to hear the Word of God, and be ministered to for the needs of soul and body.

This is the *irresistible "compelling" revival* that is spoken of in Luke 14:23 by Our Lord Jesus Christ. But we need to notice the time element that Jesus emphasized in this scene. Jesus had been invited to the home of a Pharisee, and as they sat at meat Jesus noticed a man afflicted with dropsy, and promptly healed him. Then he instructed them as to how they should conduct themselves when invited to a feast. Continuing on the subject of feasts, Jesus spoke on this wise: "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:12-14.

How inclined we are to extend hospitality with the idea of making sure we get value received in return for our efforts. *Our custom today is to give a feast and invite guests who will add to our prestige, our pleasure or our profit.* Few ever give a feast in the light of the Kingdom where we serve without thought of reward in this world. It comes as a shock to us at times how debased our ideals really are when they are analyzed in the light of the teachings of Jesus. *The closer we come to the Kingdom, the more we realize how much we come short of the spirit of true hospitality.*

One of the guests sitting at the table with Jesus caught a glimpse of the wonder of that kind of social order and under the impulse of the Spirit cried out, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God." This brought forth from Jesus the remarkable story of a man who made a great supper and invited many. *In this parable Jesus was talking about the Kingdom of God.* He told it this way according to Luke 14:16-24: "A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. *And they all with one consent began to make excuse.* The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house *being angry* said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And

the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, **and compel them to come in**, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."

The Lord bade many with the invitation to come, "All things are **NOW** ready!" In other words there was a time element in this. The feast was not ready yesterday or the day before -- it wasn't ready last week or last month, but **NOW** it is ready. Come to the feast!

Now notice, that the people who made excuses did not question the ideal of the feast -- but cattle, lands, and social obligations were more important, so "they all with one consent began to make excuse." This parable has a very peculiar application to the people of the day in which we live -- **other things are more important than God's invitation.**

Thousands of people today recognize the ideal of the Kingdom -- they stand aloof and applaud its wonders -- but they will miserably fail God and go into judgment because other things are more important to them. They will continue on in their old religious routines -- criticizing and scandalizing those who will go on with God -- having beams in their own eyes, and trying to find a mote in someone else's eye; applauding the ideals of the Kingdom of God, but saying, "It can never be done." So they with one consent began to make excuse. **It is amazing that so many inconsistent excuses are used by so many of God's people today, relative to entering into the things of God.** Well, we won't take the time to go into the inconsistencies of unbelief. The people of this story did not see the imperative nature of the feast. The truth is, they thought there would be another day.

For the last ten or fifteen years the invitation has been going out everywhere -- to all the children of God: "Come, the feast is ready." But everywhere we see God's people in the grip of worldly cares, business cares, and family cares being presented as an excuse for not accepting the invitation of God to enter into the good things of the Kingdom. "But the servant came and shewed his lord these things." **I wonder what excuse the Holy Spirit has had to carry back to the Lord for you and me.** Here is the table loaded -- all things we need to make us successful in the work of the Kingdom. Oh, how our hearts were caused to overflow with joy when we first heard the message of this visitation and we encouraged each other to enter in and partake of the good things of God, but since, other matters have entered in and many have excused themselves from the great feast -- the great overflow of heaven.

Believe me people, God is not trying to unify us merely because He does not like division. He doesn't equip His people with the gifts of the Spirit just to make successful evangelists and pastors -- but for bringing in the ripened harvest of souls. Harvest time has come -- there must be no delay -- so God has invited His people to come and receive enablements for the harvest. "And they all with one consent began to make excuse." And so the servant returned and showed his lord these things, **and the Lord became angry with the Church as He was in days of old.** He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. When the Lord came and tried to bring the church of His day into the Kingdom, they were so blind to the truths of God that they rejected His invitation, and brought down judgment on their unbelieving heads. God was angry at their lack of concern -- here an individual excused himself -- there a preacher excused himself -- there a whole congregation excused itself. The outlook of the Kingdom of God looked dark, but **THE LORD BECAME ANGRY.** It is well to take heed when God becomes angry. He will plead and plead with people to accept His invitations to the feast, but when they continually and consistently offer excuses, God becomes angry. The result was that He said to His servants: "Go out and bring in those who have

no EXCUSE -- they have no cattle, they have no land, they have no social standing, and they will be glad to come and partake of the good things of God."

God says, "My house must be filled! Compel them to come in!" There is an imperative nature to this feast that contains divine things that men of God in yesterdays only dreamed of. God said to go out and find the maimed, the halt, and the blind. These are not just needs of the body, but God is speaking of people maimed in their spirits -- crippled in their spirits -- they have no excuse, and they are hungry for the good things of this feast.

Now the Lord said, "Compel them to come in," and He is leaving the compelling to you and to me. This is not an invitational feast any longer. The time of invitation has passed -- now is the time for the compelling aspects of this visitation. We can talk about the greatness of God, but the marvelous thing about this visitation is that **God has brought us into partnership with Himself**. He said to the servant, **YOU** go out and compel them to come in. The hour of invitation and solicitation has passed for people to come for healing and salvation -- this is the time for us to go out and COMPEL THEM TO COME IN. **That word "compel" speaks of taking drastic action -- of revolutionary measures.**

In this parable Jesus spoke of the maimed, the halt, and the blind -- about people in desperate need with no one prepared to meet that need. I believe God means for us to go out and minister to those people on such a revolutionary level that it will compel them to come in -- forgive, heal, bless, and meet their needs until they become acutely aware of their obligation to God -- until they recognize His sovereign goodness, and their age-old resistance will be broken down by an overflow of divine mercy manifested through us, the children of God.

So many times we pray, "Oh God, do something." But the Lord says, "**YOU** do something! ..**YOU** loose them! ...**YOU** deliver them! ... **YOU** set them free! ... so they can come." They will never come otherwise. This is what the Lord is calling the church to do NOW. The maimed, the halt, and the blind are everywhere around us and in our midst. The Church is sitting in her air-conditioned auditoriums with soft cushioned pews, listening to nice pleasing sermons with everything possible being done to make her comfortable and contented -- but **WOE** to the preacher who dares to disturb her tranquility. They are little interested in the things of the Kingdom of God, with little hope it will ever be established on the earth.

The story, however, doesn't end with the people's and preacher's lack of interest. God's house must be filled! **God is calling men and women to the kingdom for such a time as this**. I tell you with all my soul, that men who can be visited by God today and filled with His Spirit are going to become revolutionary in their actions toward a dying and lost world, and a backsliding church. God is calling us to the place that the power of God will be so manifested through us that it will cause men to rush into the Kingdom. They will see its blessings and benefits to such a degree that they will not stop to debate and argue about theology, but flee to the altar and sanctuary of God. **I don't know what others may read into this Bible scene, but I see men being driven, compelled -- compelled by something outside and beyond themselves -- beyond their reason -- beyond their comprehension -- caught in the grip -- in the sweep of divine power and persuasion**. This is the time to quit debating the Bible, and start preaching it from cover to cover -- quit arguing over creeds and start casting out devils -- quit talking about the impossibilities of man and begin to realize that when a man is linked up with God and moving in God's time, that man becomes omnipotent.

This is a revolutionary hour, for God said, "My house must be filled," and it shall! If men sit and excuse themselves from the great feast of God, the enablements of power for the harvest -- if men sit in apathy, blind to the time element, the urgency of this hour -- and continue to put it off with their excuses, *they will find their places in the Kingdom of God taken by the maimed, the halt, and the blind.*

God is calling the Church to a new responsibility -- the responsibility of compelling men to come into the Kingdom, not merely to join the church -- but to see and demonstrate the overflow and outflow of the Kingdom for people in desperate need of soul, body, and spirit. "Go QUICKLY into the hedges and highways and COMPEL them to come in, that my house may be filled."

GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37. We know this scripture is emphatically true at all times and in every situation -- but that is not enough to know. We must discover that "nothing shall be impossible" to ME or YOU. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6. We can have a faith that moves mountains, and all things become possible unto US. Caleb of old said to Joshua, "Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims [giants] were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said." Joshua 14:12. Well, Joshua didn't just hand the deed to the mountain filled with fierce giants to Caleb, but replied, "if you are able to drive out the giants -- if you are willing to fight for it -- you can have it! FIGHT! God has told us that if we can overcome the devil that is holding back the answer to our prayer, we can have anything we desire -- for Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, ALL things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23. ALL THINGS!

We must fight the devil to win the victory and move the mountain that is hindering us. "Fight the good fight of faith ..." I Timothy 6:12. The Apostle Paul warns again and again that we are always in warfare against the devil. "If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not?" I Corinthians 15:32. "... and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." II Timothy 4:17. Paul won the victory and was delivered because he was willing to fight. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we WRESTLE not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:10-12. My friend, the word "wrestle" means physical and spiritual combat -- a constant conflict.

Nothing shall be impossible unto YOU. Jesus taught his disciples how to have a faith that makes all things possible by delivering the young son of a certain father, possessed with a demon. "And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, ***Because of your unbelief:*** for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. ***Howbeit this kind goeth not out BUT BY PRAYER AND FASTING.***" Matthew 17:18-21. Now Jesus didn't say here that nothing is impossible with God -- but, nothing is impossible unto you!

Mountain moving faith comes only through PRAYER AND FASTING. Here Jesus points out the reason for failure on the part of so many who claim to be His disciples, but just won't pay the price for this kind of faith. I want to speak to you about this matter of fasting and prayer, very sincerely, from the Word of God.

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, ***and thine health shall spring forth speedily:*** and thy righteousness shall

go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward. ***Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer;*** thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: ***And the Lord shall guide thee continually,*** and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:6-11. God's instructions and advice are always best, but we've heard so many expositors tell us that prayer and meditation are the same -- that fasting a meal or so is going to help us move a mountain, or teaching us to drink liquids when we fast and that we can expect miracles. ALL THIS IS NOT TRUE. ***Real prayer is hard work and is real combat with the powers of darkness.*** "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16. The word "fervent" means hot and burning -- and God honors red hot prayer. If you desire mountain moving faith, you must spend much time in prayer and fasting. God's people in this generation have too many distractions for the church to have many prayer warriors. ***Our hearts are overcharged with surfeiting (eating and drinking), drunkenness (sleepiness and blindness - vertigo), and cares of this life,*** as Jesus warned us in Luke 21:34. Our churches are full of the world -- characterized by revelling, banqueting, hootenannies, entertainment, singing -- but woefully lacking in real prayer, and a fiery message from the Word of God that convicts God's people of their sins.

We pray for God to do something -- but God says, YOU do something. The power to move mountains, heal the sick, cast out devils, loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke is given to God's people who will pay the price in fasting and prayer, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed YE shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it SHALL remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." This power belongs to you -- don't let the devil steal it from you -- it is your gift from the Lord -- ***"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."***

The rewards of great prayer and fasting are tremendous. ***Look at what God promises if we fast and pray by His directions, not by the directions of some book or misguided preacher -- Isaiah 58:*** "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning;" - "thine health shall spring forth speedily." Praise the Lord, God will heal you! "Thy righteousness shall go before thee" -- "the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward." "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer;" -- "And the Lord shall guide thee continually," -- "the Lord shall satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones:" -- "And thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." -- "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places:" -- "And thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." These great spiritual and physical rewards come only to those who are willing to pay the price in prayer and fasting. This can be our constant and consistent manner of life -- a life of power over the flesh, sin, and the devil, for nothing is impossible unto those that believe.

Men and women in days of old wrought great victories over the enemy, moved mountains, obtained promises through seeking God by long periods of fasting and prayer. ***Esther and her maidens fasted three days and nights without food or water, and the nation of Israel was saved.*** Esther 4:16. Hannah, the barren wife of Elkanah a righteous Jew, conceived, and bare a son named Samuel the prophet, through fasting and much prayer with weeping. I Samuel 1:7. Cornelius, a devout centurion in the Roman army, sought God earnestly with fasting and prayer for his family to be saved. The Lord sent the Apostle Peter to his house with a message which resulted in his friends, his near kinsmen, and his whole family being saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 10. ***Saul of Tarsus,*** after being stricken on the road to Damascus and seeing Jesus, ***fasted three days without***

eating or drinking, received his sight and was filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 9:9. After Jesus had fasted and was tempted by the devil for forty days and nights, he returned in the power of the Spirit saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18-19. "And the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing." Isaiah 10:27. The anointing of the Holy Ghost comes through much fasting and prayer, and the yoke of the devil is destroyed and broken only through the Spirit's anointing.

Fasting a meal or two is not enough. Praying a few minutes each day is not enough -- to have victory over the bondage of the devil. You will never have power with God through the Spirit if you only partially fast, or become occupied with other things when you are fasting. "Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast YE FIND PLEASURE, AND EXACT ALL YOUR LABOURS ... wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?" Isaiah 58:3-5. We must turn to God with all our hearts to have the faith and anointing to break the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free. "Therefore also NOW, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with ALL YOUR HEART, and WITH FASTING, and WITH WEEPING, and WITH MOURNING: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil ... Blow the trumpet in Zion [the church], sanctify a FAST, call a solemn assembly: ... Let the priests, the MINISTERS of the Lord, WEEP between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" Joel 2:12-17. God says to turn to HIM with ALL your heart -- all the way back. Have you ever seen a preacher on his face before his congregation weeping, confessing his own sins, and beseeching God's people to do likewise? Have you ever seen a preacher stand in the pulpit after days of fasting and prayer, mourning before the people of God, and crying out to God "to spare thy people O Lord, and give them deliverance from being a reproach among the heathens of this nation?" My friend, Oh that God will give us such a revival should be our prayer. ***Real revival must begin in the pulpit with the minister as the prophet declares.*** Then the results of such a revival are these: "Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto this people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen." Joel 2:18-19.

There is no excuse for failure or weakness among God's people. The preacher can blame the dead condition of the church on the members if he wants to -- but it just is not true -- he should look in the mirror and he will see the cause of failure. The members can blame the pastor for their miseries and failure if they wish -- but each of us is our own best friend or our own worst enemy. We have God's directions for possessing POWER over every mountain and opposition of the devil. Let's pay the price in time -- in fasting and prayer before the Lord. You can be healed without having a terrible operation. "And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: ***yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians ... and he died.***" II Chronicles 16:12-13. Trusting a doctor no matter how skilled he is just simply is not faith and trust in God. We don't have to resort to second best -- we can have God's complete fulfillment of his promises if we believe -- we can speak to the mountain of doubt, the giants that roar against us -- and we can win the victory thought impossible. God wants to save your family, meet your needs for body, soul, and spirit. Seek Him. Trust Him completely. Fear not, for nothing shall be impossible unto you.

FAITH OR FATALISM

Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." There is no substitute for real faith in God and in His Word. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ***For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.***" James 1:6-7.

Because God moved in sovereign power at certain appointed times, many people have taken a fatalistic position and resigned themselves to what they consider the inevitable regarding their own state. Usually this is done very piously by adopting a martyr spirit and saying, "Thy will be done." It is good to be determined to do God's will, but let us make sure that it IS God's will. FAITH, NOT FATALISM, is the medium that will bring men into a true relationship with God. The sovereign acts of God move on dispensational lines, rarely on personal lines. ***It is our own faith that projects us into the realm of impossibilities -- not the sovereign act of God.*** I want to repeat that -- there is a sovereign act of God that moves at the junction of dispensations -- but anytime, anywhere, any place in those dispensations the individual can lay hold of God's promise and do the impossible.

We have come to that place and time in the history of God's dealings with mankind where God is commanding us to rise up and take a commanding position in all things. ***All humanity is reeling under the impact of Satanic power.*** The whole world lieth in the wicked one. (I John 5:19). He is the prince of the power of the air and it is time that his power was broken. Centuries ago God made provision for the deliverance of men -- but men, because of lack of faith, have failed to put these provisions into operation except on a limited scale. But the time has come when God wants us to enforce all the claims of Calvary even to the degree that God's people everywhere can be brought under the power and sway of the LIVING Word of God, but this requires living faith in the unlimited power of the Word and Gospel of the Lord. ***God must raise up a veritable army among His people who will truly manifest themselves the Sons of God, as lights in a darkening world.***

One of the characteristics of faith is perseverance, and it is amazing what it will accomplish. Feelings operate largely on the level of impulse but faith operates on a definite positive determined position. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." II Corinthians 5:7. Faith always takes the initiative and operates in the offensive -- never in the defensive, passive realm. It is so easy to find excuses for failures, but faith accepts only a complete victory. Faith provides a resource that does not even need the mechanics of religions. ***It is always easier to compromise and rest upon defeated theology than it is to exercise a faith that claims and possesses its objective.***

In the 10th chapter of the book of Joshua, the children of Israel had been led into a fierce and decisive battle. It developed into a long hot battle. It seemed impossible to achieve a real victory over the enemy -- but in the midst of the battle Joshua showed the tremendous initiative of faith when he commanded the sun to stand still, holding back the darkness until Israel could defeat the enemy. Now God had not told Joshua to do this thing, ***but faith took the initiative*** in response to the desperate need of the hour -- and the Lord wrought a great victory that day.

In this battle five kings had conspired to overthrow Israel, but under the leadership of Joshua, Israel prevailed, and these five kings fled and hid themselves in a cave. Joshua said, "Roll great stones upon the mouth of the cave and set men by it for to keep them: And stay ye not, but pursue after your enemies, and smite the hindmost of them; suffer them not to enter into their cities: for the Lord your God hath delivered them into your hand." This is the spirit of all who become more than conquerors -- PURSUE AFTER THE ENEMY until you destroy him. Don't relax in the

battle with only a partial victory. Joshua commanded them to bring the five kings out of the cave and caused his men to put their feet on the enemies necks. Then he prophesied, **"Thus shall God do unto all your enemies!"** Joshua 10:24-25.

They could have left the enemy in the cave to starve to death. Most people would be satisfied if they could bind the devil and shut him up somewhere, but not so with Joshua. There is more to victory than chasing the enemy into a theological cave and leaving him there. God's people must have faith generated in their hearts for complete victory, and this was what Joshua was doing. He brought the enemy kings forth and staked them out on the ground -- then he said to his men, "In the past you have been afraid of these kings, but come now and put your feet on their necks." And this is what God wants you and wants me to do. He wants us to demonstrate the weakness of the enemy in the presence of God's people -- show the people that they need not be afraid. **"Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight."** God is calling us out to battle -- real decisive battle -- and regardless of what turn the battle may take, there are divine resources at our disposal. **Joshua did not have access to any resources that you and I do not have access to** -- not only that, but he wanted his followers to know how weak the enemy really is when faith goes into action -- **put your foot on the neck of the enemy!**

"He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Revelation 2:26-29. These are challenging words from Christ but they will work wonders when men believe them. Personally, I am committing myself to a course of action from which there can be no retreat. That is the only course by which God's will can or will be done. **When "they loved not their lives unto the death," then they overcame the enemy by the "blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony."** Revelation 12:11.

There is no peace for the man who is afraid. The fearful man is always a captive -- a slave. But men can have peace and be free, for the Apostle Paul said in Romans 16:20, **"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly!" Your FEET! YOUR feet!** Joshua called to his captains and said, "Come, lift up your foot and put it on the neck of these enemy kings who have had power and authority over you -- put your foot on their necks and don't be afraid!"

When Jesus was crucified and arose from the dead, He made an open show of His victory over the devil. (Colossians 2:15) He bruised the devil beyond hope of recovery and now it remains for you and me to put our feet on his neck and manifest our authority and power over him. **God wants to move in your life and create an initiative that will make it possible for you to become a partner with him in the performance of a miracle.** Faith must be raised to the level where it won't be necessary to run people through the old religious routine of healing lines. Only too often these healing routines and ceremonies become the objective of the people when instead they are intended to be only a means to the end, that they be delivered. Faith in the right objective will produce the right initiative, and that initiative will have to do with your particular bondage. The lame man must have the initiative to rise up and walk -- the blind man must "go wash in the pool of Siloam" -- the man with the withered arm must stretch forth his hand.

That is why Joshua had each of his captains put his foot on the neck of the enemy -- so they would see their own individual responsibility. They could have said, "Now, Joshua, you are a great

leader -- you put your foot on their necks and we will applaud." But he said, "I want you to take some responsibility. ***I want you to know it can be done and the only way you will ever know is for you to come and do it.***"

In these harvest days God must be able to bring up an army -- a host of people with individual initiative to produce miracles in their own lives, and this will give them courage to produce miracles in the lives of other people. ***Our greatest difficulty is to bring the people out of their old religious routines.*** They will cling to them even though they speak only of defeat and death.

I see a world of six billion, five hundred million people sitting in the shadow of death, in defeat and disillusionment, and I know that routine religion will not win the day. Some way we must impress people with the necessity of initiating individual faith. "Every place you put the sole of your foot it shall be yours." ***We go from faith to faith.*** God is calling us to an open conflict with Satan. We must take the initiative. ***God wants you to take the initiative for your own deliverance.*** Your testimony of deliverance could start up a chain reaction for victory in a million people. God is requiring you as an individual to rise to this new level of faith whereby a world may be brought into the consciousness of a miracle-working God. Take your position before God, the church, and the world. Put your foot on the neck of the enemy that has been binding and tormenting you. The Scriptures speak of deliverance as already being accomplished -- in the past tense -- ***"By whose stripes ye were healed."*** I Peter 2:24. Claim your deliverance as already accomplished. As long as you question the outcome, faith cannot work. ***"The word of faith is in your heart and in your mouth."*** Romans 10:8. Fear not to speak! Fear not to act! Victory is assured for it is HIS WILL!

A MAID WITH A VISION

The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18. The Apostle Paul boldly related his heavenly vision to King Agrippa and his court while on trial for his life -- "Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision ..." And this great apostle, driven relentlessly by the effect of his vision, shook the Roman Empire to its foundations by a ministry of faith and power of the Holy Ghost unequaled in the history of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, how the church of the living God needs men of vision with a mighty anointing of the Spirit to preach the Word of God and shake the foundations of Hell today. ***A preacher without a vision is just as useless as a car without gas.*** Most preachers today are without vision, that is, a heaven-sent vision, and have become as the prophet Isaiah foretold -- "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter." Isaiah 56:10-11. Isaiah was moved exceedingly by a great vision from the Lord (Isaiah 6) to cry out -- "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Then in the vision, a seraphim put a live coal of fire from off the altar of God upon his lips, and the sins of the prophet were purged. Then the Lord cried out, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? ***Then said I, Here am I; send me.***" The Spirit of God is searching for men and women of this untoward (difficult to manage) generation who can be visited by God, stirred and driven by a heaven-sent vision, to lead God's people and the church back to the Word of God and to His true Holiness -- out of the wilderness and into the promised land of Victory over the flesh, sin, and the devil.

In Rouen, France, over 500 years ago a 19-year old girl was chained to a post and burned to death because of a heaven-sent vision. Her death was ordered by the religious and political leaders of her day. The forty-eight men who sat as her judge, jury, and prosecutors, represented the intellectuals (in the University of Paris), the military (in the armed forces of England), and the ecclesiastical (in the church). These men condemned her to die. The intellectuals wanted her to die because, as an illiterate farm girl, she defied and questioned their book knowledge. The English military wanted her to die because she had brought defeat to their forces over and over again. ***And the religious leaders wanted her to die because she was not "orthodox."*** They particularly wanted her burned at the stake, with the hypocritical pretense that her soul might be purged if her body was burned.

Joan of Arc was born about 1412 in a small village called Domremy on the border of Lorraine, France. Her parents were farmers and she grew up as an ordinary farm girl. There were no schools for the poor in those days, so she never learned to read or write. At that time France was hopelessly divided among the feudal kings and lords, and much of the country was overrun by the English troops.

In the midst of these troublesome days, Joan of Arc had reached her thirteenth birthday, and she began to hear a voice which she claimed to be from God sent to guide her. During the next four years, voices and also visions continued to come to her, preparing her for the unprecedented work she would be called upon to do in the immediate future. Finally, she declared that an angel

appeared to her in her father's orchard and gave her instructions as to what she must do in the limited time of the next few months.

Looking in the natural at this heavenly commission to liberate France, it would have appeared impossible for even an experienced general with a large army ready for immediate action to accomplish. But here was a young, ignorant peasant girl, with no knowledge of the world or of military tactics -- no money, no friends, and no influence, directed of God to do the impossible! Despite all these handicaps she left home and began to present her cause. She dressed only in a homespun calico dress, had no shoes on her feet, and was unable to read or even write her name. However, she was fired up with a vision from heaven and a consuming passion for the people, and by this she overcame every obstacle and finally reached, through the uncrowned king of France, her beloved nation. In the presence of this weak and defeated king, with a determination that could not be denied, she prevailed, until he finally raised an army and sent her forth with it.

In spite of all the treachery and double-crossing of many of her officers, she began to win victory after victory until even the English soldiers began to panic when she began to march in their direction. She refused to recognize the old, orthodox methods of warfare. She rejected the counsel of her own military staff, declaring that she had better counsel with her heavenly advisors. And step by step every prediction came to pass. The common people hailed her as the "savior of France", but the leaders gave her grudging cooperation part of the time, and no cooperation most of the time.

She began this great adventure on February 23, 1429, when she was 17 years old, and in 15 months she had won recognition throughout all France, raised an army, and riding at the head of her troops had driven the enemy from one stronghold unto another until all of France became endued with something of the same sublime faith and enthusiasm. Twice she was wounded in battle, but always she rode ahead of her troops -- inspiring them to deeds of daring against which no enemy could stand.

In rising to this commanding position it was necessary to overcome all the obstacles of both the Church and the State. She was questioned over and over again concerning the voices and visions. She was compelled to undergo examinations to determine her virginity. She suffered many abuses and insults but persisted until she was placed in a position where her vision could be carried out. However, her period of success was short-lived, for in May 1430 *she was captured by the enemy as a result of the stampeding fear of the people in Compeyne, whom she had come to deliver.*

We will not go into detail concerning the many months of imprisonment, of the long, drawn out trial, of the abuse by her guards, or of the unjust accusations continually hurled at her by the most learned and by the most "spiritual" men of that day. *Among the many names they called her at the trial, here are a few: a limb of Satan, sorceress, blasphemer, an invoker of demons, an apostate, sacrilegious, seditious, indecent, immodest, presumptuous, guilty of bloodshed, and a seducer of innocent souls.* They declared that at the age of 15 she was the inmate of a brothel; that she had become the mistress of some of her officers. They declared that she consulted demons and cast spells upon people -- of using witchcraft and using her so-called visions and voices to make possible the unbridled vices of the flesh. All these accusations were later proved to be false, but her prosecutors used them to put her to a shameful and painful death.

All this was over 500 years ago, and what have we learned from this and other martyrdoms? We may have changed our methods of punishment, but the accusations remain the same. When

inspiration outruns intellect -- when political tyranny is jeopardized by prophets with a message of deliverance -- and when religious orthodoxy is breached by those with a heaven-sent vision -- then comes the accusation of heresy and immorality. ***The purpose, of course, is to destroy faith in the person of the prophet and his message.***

The wonder of the story does not rest alone in the faith and courage of this peasant maid of France, but the greater wonder lies in the intervention of God to bring deliverance to the poor and needy of the land -- ***in the fact that God could not find a man in all the religious ranks who would fully listen and obey Him.*** Among all the bishops and ministers, all the professors of religion, God couldn't find one man to whom he could impart the message. God couldn't find a man in all the political and military system -- not a statesman, not a general, not one to whom He could speak His purpose. Among all the intellectuals, ***among all the church leaders, not one was able to hear from heaven*** -- so God was compelled to go among the poor and ignorant of the land and finally in His searching find a 13-year old girl whose heart and mind were open to a message from heaven.

When they brought Joan of Arc forth to be put to death, they placed a dunce cap on her head with these words written upon it: "Heretic, relapsed, apostate, idolatress." Then she was compelled to sit on a stool while her funeral sermon was preached. Her career was cut off quickly, but her consecration to a heaven-sent cause started a mighty current that swept the enemy from her beloved land and started France back on her way of becoming one of the great nations of the world. She, with her vision and faith, broke the darkness of a long, long night, and ushered in a new way for a hopelessly divided and defeated nation. ***The church of our day is in a similar condition***, and, oh, how we need to pray for God to raise up men whom God can visit and impart his vision to repair the breaches, and heal the divisions that are tragically weakening to all of God's people and our nation.

It might be interesting to note that twenty-five years after her death, the Church and the French government, after six years of investigation, declared her trial a miscarriage of justice, that her judges were corrupt and unjust, and that Joan of Arc was innocent of all the charges. An outraged public opened the grave of the man who was the moving figure in her prosecution and threw his corpse in the sewer.

So ended the story of Joan of Arc, but this story has a peculiar application to the hour in which we live. The eternal warfare continues between static religion and a God that marches on. The spirit of vision and liberation still challenges the forces of entrenched bigotry and intolerance, ***but the spirit of the accuser is still in the land, and men with a heaven-sent vision still walk the blood-stained way to a cross of shame*** -- ostracized by the accusations of shriveled, pygmy souls who cannot understand how the demands of the CROSS and the demands of a Holy God for one to bear a designated cross, sets a higher standard than is contained in all the arbitrary rules and regulations of men and systems of religion.

What God did for France in that day, He is trying desperately to do for a world today -- a world that is torn by dissension, distrust, intolerance, unbelief and sectarianism even as France was divided under feudal kings and lords, and trodden under foot by the enemy. And, as He used a little maid in that day to do what He could not find statesmen, generals, intellectuals, and theologians to do, ***even so is He speaking to the hearts of men and women in this hour -- common men and women who will believe, and in believing all things become possible.***

On several missionary tours in the 1970's, we visited a number of other lands and people -- and we could see that the whole of creation is groaning for God's day of deliverance. ***God is***

moving again in the earth -- moving to bring all the blessings and benefits of the overflow of the Kingdom of God -- *moving to restore "all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began"* -- moving to bring this world back into harmony with Himself.

BY THIS CONQUER

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the CROSS of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Galatians 6:14. Thus was the power of the cross of Christ in the life of the Apostle Paul, and thus shall our victory be. Our victory over the devil and sin is altogether through cross-bearing. "And he [Jesus] said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his CROSS DAILY, and follow me." Luke 9:23. The cross symbolizes persecution and conflict to those who forsake all to follow the Lord. One's own self must go to the cross first for the flesh to be subdued, and then the world is next to be crucified. The Apostle Paul experienced the subduing of the flesh and the world on the cross of Christ, and proceeded to subdue the Roman Empire through a life lived as Christ "lived through him." ***"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:*** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20. "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.)" II Corinthians 10:4. So, by the power of the Cross of Christ, stronghold after stronghold was conquered as Christ worked mightily through the Apostle Paul -- and the mighty Roman Empire was brought under the power and sway of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Through the midst of the City of Rome flows the ancient Tiber River. This historic river is spanned by an ancient bridge called Ponte Molle. This ageless bridge has sounded and resounded with the tramp of untold legions of both defeated and victorious troops of the Caesars as the power of the Roman Empire rose and fell with the victories and defeats of its iron-clad warriors. Across this famous bridge on the north banks of the Tiber River, two centuries after the mighty conquests of the Apostle Paul, another mighty battle was fought to its bitter end. ***Here, the soil has been soaked with the blood of men who fought in hand to hand combat in a fierce struggle involving the cross of Christ.*** Here the screams of agony and the moan of dying men were mingled with the exultant shouts of victory as one army swept another to defeat and death -- some dying by the edge of the sword, while others were driven down the bank into the river, which was a powerful ally to the invading army by swallowing up thousands of the defending Roman soldiers in its muddy resistless waters.

The time of this historic battle was October 312 A.D. Before this battle the Apostle Paul had come to Rome and was met with martyrdom, but he planted the seeds of Christianity in this pagan stronghold that never died. These Roman pagans had persecuted the Christians by every conceivable form of torture, from the days of Paul to the day of this battle. But despite the fact that they were thrown to wild beasts which tore them limb from limb and devoured them while 100,000 spectators celebrated another Roman holiday, and countless others were saturated with oil, fastened on high poles and burned as torches to light the gardens of the emperors -- yet Christianity grew. ***Men and women became Christians, knowing full well it would cost them their lives, and that, by the most brutal methods of torture.*** In those days all Christians were "one" because they all lived a consistent, consecrated life.

The city of Rome was a pagan city with all those in authority lending their power and influence to stamp out this new religion of Christianity. Maxentius the Emperor had reigned for six years when Constantine brought his army over the Alps from Western Europe and in due time came within striking distance of Rome.

It is recorded that as Constantine came to the summit of the hills just north of the Ponte Molle bridge on the Tiber River, it was noonday -- as he looked out over the valley and the Roman capital before him gripped in paganism -- a flaming cross appeared in the sky with these challenging words, "BY THIS CONQUER."

Constantine at this time was a pagan himself, and although moved by the vision he did not understand its full significance. That night his army of 30,000 men encamped along the hillside overlooking the valley while they waited for the dawn of the day of battle.

During the night Constantine lay down to rest. It had been a long, hard march -- and tomorrow either he or Maxentius would be dead, or worse, a captive doomed to die by torture. He knew his army was outnumbered three to one -- and they were weary with weeks of marching. They were also in a strange land and pitted against his 30,000 tired soldiers was the cream of the Roman army -- 100,000 strong, rested, and on home territory.

That night as Constantine slept, a vision of the cross again appeared in the sky with these words blazoned beneath, "By this conquer." He arose and commanded every soldier to paint the sign of the cross upon his shield. The battle standards were likewise painted. All through the night the work went on until as dawn broke over the Tiber Valley, every soldier was carrying the sign of the cross with these words, "By this conquer." During the night the Roman army had come across the river over the famous Ponte Molle bridge -- and when the morning came they were stationed with their backs to the river. Now the two armies faced one another ready for battle.

Constantine gave the order to charge. His 30,000 men leaped forward to do battle with 100,000 first-line soldiers, fighting like inspired men. *With the sign of the cross on their shields, they attacked with such fury that they literally swept a part of the opposing force into the river, and with them their leader, Maxentius.* By the sign of cross Constantine conquered and when he became Emperor of Rome he immediately stopped the persecution of the Christians and was later baptized himself.

Here was the man Constantine, a pagan general, yet God was able to reveal to him the conquering power of the cross of Christ. "BY THIS CONQUER!" By the power of the cross paganism must go -- heathenism and modernism must go -- darkness and superstition must flee before the light of Calvary. Oh, that the Church and every believer would see the vision and *"by this conquer!"* Every division would be healed -- every schism would lose its power and God's people would conquer every foe by employing the power of the cross.

In the first two centuries, persecution followed the Christians everywhere, but in the midst of all their persecutions they were "one". But after the persecution ended by a decree of Constantine, the Christians began to quarrel among themselves over doctrines, and the quarrel became so bitter that Constantine called a council of all the leaders in 325 A.D. in an effort to establish peace and fellowship among the followers of Christ. Think of it. For two centuries of fierce persecution the Christians were "one" in everything, but it took only 13 years of popularity to hopelessly divide them. *When men are facing fiery furnaces, lions' dens, dungeons and galling chains, they think in terms of a living, personal Christ -- but let them grow rich, popular, and respected and then they substitute a creed for Christ, a doctrine for Deity, formality for faith, politics for power, and man-made organization for divine unity.*

The ceaseless war of Christian against Christian has been the tragedy of the church age. The Church can never be destroyed from without. ***Whenever and wherever Christianity has suffered loss it has come from the civil wars within her own ranks.***

I personally have suffered from persecution and at times the cross of reproach has been almost too heavy to bear but I thank God for all the persecution, all the falsehoods, all the trials -- for they have caused me to think in terms of Jesus and Him alone. He is my Rock, my only hope. I am not leaning on church organization, creed, doctrine or ceremony -- ***Jesus is my life.*** In Him I live and move and have my being. ***With my whole heart I echo the words of the Apostle Paul, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me."***

It is time for the enemy to be put to flight. ***It is time for every believer to go forth in the spirit and power of the cross of Calvary.*** It is time to strike a blow for the deliverance of those in bondage to the powers of darkness. This is the hour God is calling the weak to say, "I am strong." This is the hour when a little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. ***This is the hour to "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."*** Isaiah 60:1.

Let us unite our hearts against the common foe -- ***let us not turn to destroy one another as the Christians did after they were liberated by Constantine,*** but let us stand together with a consciousness that by the mercy of God have we been saved -- that it has not been by our wisdom or our righteousness.

What a tragedy if we fail to grasp this golden opportunity to teach and preach true discipleship and reap the harvest of the earth. If we continue to be at ease in Zion and loll in the lap of luxury -- if we continue to place respectability above reaping -- ***if we cling to creeds more than we do to Christ -- if we emphasize doctrines, ceremonies, and systems of religion more than we do revival,*** then fierce PERSECUTION must come to drive us to a consciousness that salvation is of the Lord and not of ourselves -- that God meant every word He spoke, and that the Bible is His Word and He will require every word of you and me. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. ***He was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:8.*** He came into the world to set men free and he issues this earth-shaking challenge to every son of Adam, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:12.

As I think of that old battleground and how men shed their blood and fought that the power of the cross might conquer, it makes me feel ashamed and humiliated to think that so many Christians today just take Christianity for granted. There is little contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints -- there is no real concern for the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth -- no real concern for a Church that is either backslidden or at least backsliding -- little or no concern that is real for a judgment bound generation. Men everywhere "PLAY SAFE AND SECURE," occupied with selfish interests while a world has ripened to judgment. Oh, may God alert our lives to the consciousness of the late hour in which we live -- that we might go forth with the blood-stained banner of the cross and "BY THIS CONQUER."

IS AMERICA A FOOL'S PARADISE?

Luke 12:15-21: "And he [Jesus] said unto them, *Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.* And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? *So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*"

This generation, although living in the lap of luxury, is actually faced with the problem of survival, living in constant danger of the devastating judgments of God. While leisure and pleasure increase daily in our lives, the day of decision and judgment will surely come upon us as it did the rich man of the Bible, as we continue to base our future security on full barns and material wealth. Oliver Goldsmith expressed this so well in "The Deserted Village", "*Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey; where wealth accumulates, and men decay.*" *How True!*

We are our brother's keeper; and we are only stewards of God's inheritance to us-ward, for ministering to others. Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. *Sell that ye have, and give alms;* provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" Luke 12:32-34.

When the rich young ruler of Mark 10:17-22 came to Jesus, he told him, "One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." *What a paradox!* A young man, very rich, and very sorrowful. He was sorrowful because he feared to face the challenge of giving up his spiritual poverty and his material wealth. We cannot separate our material wealth from our spiritual experience. God does not mean for us to separate our social responsibility to minister to those in need, from our spiritual experience. Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the soul-saving gospel to all men, everywhere -- but also to be a "Good Samaritan" to all those along life's highway who are hungry, naked, and bleeding -- victims of the devil's oppression. We are responsible to our brethren in need, and to our fellow man, and we will not escape the judgments of God as a person or nation if we seek to escape this responsibility. *This is a moral universe, and it is ruled by moral law.* The irresistible forces of cause and effect move like the mighty tides of the ocean; and men and nations that accumulate money and food with no concern for the cries of the hungry, will be judged as fools.

When a nation so unanimously rejects the True Word of God as America has done, and the Bible is the object of scorn and ridicule in our schools, colleges, on television, and in the market place as a popular pastime, no other provocation is necessary to stir up the wrath of God and invite his severe judgments. This generation has sorely polluted this good land which the Lord God gave to our forefathers for an inheritance in which to be free to serve and worship Him. God has always judged nations in the past when they defiled the land with their wickedness and abominations. As in Jeremiah 2:7-9: "And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the

goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination. The priests said not, Where is the Lord? and they that handle the law knew me not: **the pastors also transgressed against me**, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit. Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the Lord, and with your children's children will I plead." Preachers of this generation are guilty of contributing to America's terrible spiritual plight, by not showing people the "difference between the clean and the unclean, the holy and the profane." Ezekiel 22:26.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by the judgments of God because of the same terrible moral corruption that is prevalent in this nation today. What has led us to this terrible spiritual decay that causes millions of our youth and young couples to live like alley cats and not like human beings created in the image of God? Here is the cause God gives: Ezekiel 16:48-50: "As I live, saith the Lord God, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, **pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness** was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good." These conditions always lead an individual or nation into moral decay.

Here is another warning of God that judgment will swiftly come to an entire nation when the moral and spiritual condition reaches the immoral and polluted nature of America today: "Hear the Word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, **because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.** Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away." Hosea 4:1-3. These prevailing conditions all over America are making our homes, streets, and countryside increasingly unsafe, and even terrifying in many of our cities. The days of Noah are upon us; the darkness of the storm of God's judgments are hovering ever lower, and the day in which many Americans will be judged by God as being fools will surely come. Psalms 9:17: "**The wicked shall be turned (cast) into hell, and all nations that forget God.**"

The spiritual condition of America is graphically described in the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, "How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. **They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife.** Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Jeremiah 5:7-9.

The spiritual plight of our nation is soberly set forth by the prophet in this one statement -- "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, **and that my fear is not in thee**, saith the Lord God of hosts." Jeremiah 2:19. The Fear of God has practically left this nation, and young people and adults alike become demon-inspired and demon-filled without the fear of God. As in Romans 3:18, "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES." What is the condition of a person or nation where the Fear of God has left? God declares these conditions to be existent, shamefully: "There is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery

are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known." Romans 3:12-17. Also in verse 11 for emphasis: "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."

Thus is the wretched and miserable condition of America before the Judge of all the earth. America must turn back to the old paths of the Lord, and God has raised up prophets "to lift up their voice like a trumpet, and SHOW GOD'S PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSION, and the House of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1. As the Lord said in the book of the prophet, "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." Isaiah 62:6-7. Amen.

THE RUIN OF SIN

Ezekiel 18:29-32. "Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. **REPENT, AND TURN YOURSELVES FROM ALL YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS; SO INIQUITY SHALL NOT BE YOUR RUIN.** Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." God says, "You must destroy sin or sin will destroy you." Sin has caused more tears, broken up more homes, filled more jails, destroyed more lives, filled more prisons, insane asylums, and hospital beds, dug more graves prematurely and caused more poverty and suffering than anything you can mention. Let me repeat, God says, **Unless you destroy sin -- SIN WILL DESTROY YOU!** This is evidenced in tragedies, heartache, suffering, fear, poverty and lawlessness on every hand -- and knowing this dear reader, why will you allow sin to be your ruin?

The New Testament equivalent to this Old Testament text is found in Romans 6:22-23: "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Also in John 5:14 Jesus warned, Go, and "sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." In God's Book of Wisdom the Bible warns, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12. Also in verse 9, "**Fools make a mock at sin.**" And again in verse 16, "A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident." Another sober warning God gives in Proverbs 28:13: "**He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.**" In the greatest message Jesus ever preached, He soberly warns: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **many** there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few** there be that find it." Matthew 7:13-14.

God's warning is frank and clear enough; not confusing or distorted in the least. If you choose to continue in sin, you automatically choose ruin, because sin invites ruin. Unless you get rid of your sin, **YOUR SIN WILL GET RID OF YOU.** Sin will ruin you physically; sin will ruin you financially; and sin will ruin you spiritually, sending you into judgment and hell.

First, I wish to show you the physical destruction of sin. In Deuteronomy 28:15 God says, "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that **all these curses** shall come upon thee, and overtake thee." Verse 22: "The Lord shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning ..." Verses 27-35: "The Lord will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and the scab, and with the itch, **whereof thou canst not be healed ...** from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head." Also in Deuteronomy 28:59-61: "Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed."

The cause of sickness today is the same as it was in 1451 B.C. when this scripture of warning was written. The curse of sin and its effects are as destructible upon the people of today as it was in 1451 B.C. Jesus Christ came into this world to bring a cure for sin and its effects. Acts 10:38: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him." Also Galatians 3:13: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:" ***Sin, sickness and disease are curses*** -- and they came upon the human family because of rebellion and disobedience to God's Word; therefore disobedience and sin are the primary causes of disease. God said in Psalms 107:11-20, "Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down and there was none to help. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder ... ***Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.*** Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death ... He sent his Word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."

God warns of the physical destruction of the sins of the flesh in Galatians 6:7-8: "***Be not deceived; God is not mocked:*** for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." ***The word "corruption" means rotten flesh.*** God is warning every cigarette smoker, every dope addict, every sex pervert, every winebibber, and every glutton, that these things will bring disease and sorrow and regret. These sins and every perverted appetite can only bring heartbreak and ruin to young and old alike. In the giving of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:5, God says: "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Thus the only way to God's love is through the keeping of His commandments; or we hate God. In Lamentations 5:7, God says, "Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities." Many people are suffering today because of the sins of their fathers and mothers; Sins of immorality, smoking, drinking, dope addiction and every form of debauchery. Terrible diseases come upon millions of parents who commit these sins and perversions, and consequently these diseases are transmitted to their children and children's children through heredity. Our hospitals and asylums are filled with unhappy tens of thousands with case histories that bear record of this truth. God says in Proverbs 5:11-13: "And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!" God says, "***But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God ... that all these curses shall come upon thee and overtake thee.***" We don't have to look for these terrible curses of disease to come upon us -- only rebel against God and they will appear. To the man Jesus had healed, He also warned, "***Go, and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.***"

Secondly, let us consider the financial ruin that sin can bring to a person's life. Jesus said in Luke 11:41-42: "But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: ***these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.***" God says in James 4:17: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." The Lord would have us to be enlightened on a subject that becomes such a tragic failure to so many of His people. "***Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me,***" saith the ***Lord.*** Malachi 3:9. That curse will come on every individual who robs God of the tenth or tithe

which belongs to the Lord. Someone asked me once after I had preached rather persuasively on tithing, **"How will the curse come?" Well, let me answer that searching question to one and all --** The curse can come in the form of sickness and disease, a broken home, a fire, a storm, an accident, a wrecked automobile, a failing business, insanity or a nervous breakdown. The Bible says that we are God's sheep, and whoever owns the sheep, owns the wool (Luke 12:32-34) but too often we use God's part of the wool for our own selfish designs and desires. Deuteronomy 8:18: "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth ..." God gives us the opportunity, the health, the mind, the sun, the rain, and the energy to obtain money and possessions; and as a partner with us in the accumulation of material things, God demands the tithe and offerings. The tithe or tenth is for the ministers of the Lord who preach the Word of God faithfully. Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, ..." Hebrews 7:8: **"Here men that die receive your tithes: but there He receiveth them of whom it is witnessed that he liveth."** Christ is the High Priest of the New Covenant that receives tithes in this age of grace. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. **For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**" You just cannot afford to rob God and invite the *curse* to come unto you and your family -- and at the same time be missing the great blessing God promises in "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. **And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes ...**" Malachi 3:10-11. Giving to God is like shoveling out one door, while God uses a bigger shovel and loads us with blessings through another door. Jesus says that God gives to us with the same measure that we use to give to Him. If we use a spoon to give to God, He will use a spoon to return a blessing to us. If we use a bucket to measure in our giving to the Lord, He uses the same measure in returning to us a blessing. If we use a barrel to measure our giving, the Lord in return gives us a blessing by the same measure. I had a very unusual experience in Arkansas several years ago after preaching on the subject -- "When God Laughs Last." At the invitation to come for salvation, a young man and his wife came to the altar while under conviction, and were wonderfully saved that night. A few nights later I preached on Tithing and Giving to God and the same young man, his wife and family were there. After the service was over, the young convert approached me and asked, "What is tithes?" I explained very carefully to him that the tithe is the tenth of one's net income. He replied, "I'm a farmer, a sharecropper that raises cotton -- I'd sure like to give God a tenth of what I make on my crop, but the boll weevils are destroying my cotton, and it looks as if neither God nor I will make anything." I instructed him then to take his Bible, go out into the midst of his cotton field and read Malachi 3:10-11, tell God that you want Him to be your partner, then rebuke the boll weevils in the name of Jesus. Well what do you think? He looked me straight in the eyes with a big smile and said, **"If you believe it will work, you come do it!"** Brother, was that a challenge! I asked him where he lived and he told me. I drove down that highway the next morning looking for that new convert, and found him waiting for me, leaning on his mail box in that hot July sun. I said, "Brother, show me the boll weevils," and was I curious, because I'd never seen that pestilence before. **Well, they were there by the thousands; the curse was devouring his very livelihood.** Then I opened my Bible and read Malachi 3:10-11 to those pestilences and to the new brother in the Lord, "Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse ... AND PROVE ME NOW: AND I WILL REBUKE THE DEVOURER FOR YOUR SAKES, AND HE SHALL NOT DESTROY THE FRUITS OF YOUR GROUND ..." I said, "Brother, will you let God be your partner ... you know He demands at least ten percent." He replied tearfully, "Brother Pringle, I will give God at least twenty percent!" Then we prayed, and I rebuked the boll weevils in the name of Jesus, and left. Two nights later at the revival the young brother came up to me with a big grin and said, "Brother Pringle, I thank you for praying about the boll weevils; there is not a one left in my cotton patch." Praise God! That same brother today is not

a sharecropper, but God has poured him out a blessing and now he owns his farm, his combines and other equipment, a big brick home, plus money for God's work, as well as his own and his family's needs. Sin had almost broken up this young man's family and home, but just in the nick of time he was brought to the Lord, and escaped the terrible ruin that sin was bringing him into. ***"Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."*** Malachi 3:9.

Thirdly, sin will ruin you spiritually, and send your soul to hell. Sin is like a cancer. It eats slowly but surely. The devil never says to anyone, "I want you to die a dope fiend, or with some horrible disease or injury." He says at first, "Just take a sleeping pill," or "you need a strong tranquilizer to give you some rest or peace." The devil never shows you the finished product of the brewer's art -- he says "Just have a beer or cocktail to be with the crowd." The devil never shows you what you will do while intoxicated -- that indecent gesture, that immorality, that crime that will be committed, that untimely death. ***He only wants you to commit that sin, and to invite the ruin to your life that will follow.*** The devil doesn't say to that young man or woman, boy or girl, "I want you to die with a hacking cough and lung cancer." He says, "Just smoke one cigarette to prove to your friends that you're not a sissy." The devil doesn't say "Don't give to God's work at all;" he says, "You need your money to pay your bills this week, or you need to take a vacation ... you need the tithe more than the church or God does." The devil knows that sin and rebellion against God's Word will bring ruin to your life. Sin will ruin your soul. Sin will invite the judgment of God upon you. Sin will open the gates of hell to you. Sin will bring down God's wrath and fury on you, suddenly. NOW is the time to turn from every sin in your life. Back to the text of this message in Ezekiel 18:30-32, ***"Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.*** Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die ... I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." ***Fall on your knees in repentance now!***

ANGELS

-- Servants of God --

We begin this message in the life of Jesus Christ from the gospel according to Mark 1:12-13 after the Baptism of Jesus: "And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and *the angels* ministered unto him." This is one of the great revelations in the Bible about the angels as ministering spirits in the life of Jesus Christ after He was driven in the wilderness by the Spirit of God. He was there 40 days and 40 nights tempted of the devil and he did eat nothing. The scripture says that angels ministered unto Him. The Lord has always had a plan for His people -- for protection, for deliverance, for well being, both physically and spiritually. And God has provided this measure of security for His saints, from the time they are born into the world until the time they depart to be with the Lord. The Lord knows the day of our death. We don't know it, but God knows it. Jesus said in Matthew 18:10: "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven *their angels* do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." When a little child is born, those that are to be in God's elect (and only God knows who they are), God has an angel to go with that child until death. When we begin to think of God's care and concern for our lives, it makes us more aware of that great love that He has for us -- and that love is not just in giving us everything we want, but God's love gives us everything we need. He knows before we are born what we will need to make this life one that will be lived to his glory and honor; and His Guardian Angel ministers to us every moment. Your Holy Bible declares that angels are God's messengers, and many times throughout the Word of God, God sent His angels to bring a message to warn someone of some particular peril coming their way, or to deliver them out of trouble they were in.

GOD'S DESTRUCTION THROUGH ANGELS

God's angels are to bless as we read on many occasions in the Bible. They can also destroy as recorded in Genesis 19 the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Also in the entire book of Revelation we read about the destructive activities of God's messengers, *the angels*. And seven of God's angels will pour out the vials of wrath upon this earth in the end time when the great tribulation has come upon this earth and men begin to cry for death because of the terrible wrath of God being poured out. These angels will do the great work of God's destruction. Also angels are God's pallbearers. Luke 16. The beggar Lazarus died and *the angels* carried him into Abraham's bosom.

GOD'S PROTECTION THROUGH ANGELS

Angels are ministering spirits to those who are the heirs of salvation. Hebrews 1:13, 14. "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all *ministering spirits*, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Of course, they are ministering spirits for you and me who are the heirs of salvation through Jesus Christ, and we need to become more sober with the consciousness that that angel is always presently available to give us the help we need even though he may be in heaven with God.

Time and space mean nothing. Jesus said, as we go back to Matthew 18:10: That the angels of little ones "always behold the face of their Father which is in heaven." The angel can be in heaven, but when we need him, the angel can be here within a split second. He can be here to give us that divine deliverance, and, that divine guardianship is always available because that angel is always responsible to God to answer for your life and mine for our physical well-being. The Holy Ghost is for our spiritual well-being as in Isaiah 59:19: "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." So the Holy Ghost will come in to deliver us from the spiritual attacks of the devil, while the angels of God will deliver us physically, if we will hearken and listen to Him and be conscious of His presence and His voice that gives us direction. God will deliver us from the physical injury that the devil would inflict upon our bodies if we will cooperate with God's angels in our daily living.

We read in Psalm 34:7: "**The angel** of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." The angels of God are responsible for those that fear the Lord. In Psalms 91:11: "For he shall give **his angels** charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." In I Timothy 5:21: The apostle writes, "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **elect angels**, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality." We see here from the scripture that we are being observed by the elect angels, and they are God's recorders. They keep an accurate, detailed record of all our deeds. Jesus warned, Every idle word that we speak, we will give account in the day of judgment. In Ecclesiastes 5 there is a great scripture about the work of the angel of God, in particular, verses 4 -7: "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou **before the angel**, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: **but fear thou God.**" Don't go back and tell the angel that recorded your conversation when he heard you make that vow, "God, if you will deliver me and bless me, I will do thus and so --" and God has kept His part. Then you say, "Hey, I made a mistake." God has warned us about that and said: "Don't let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, and don't say before **the angel** that wrote down your vow it was an error, for wherefore should God be angry at thy voice and destroy the work of thy hands." I tell you truly, the angels of God can and will destroy the works of our hands if we will not hearken to God's voice.

Let's go to another scripture, Exodus 23:20-26: "Behold, I send **an Angel** before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries." The presence of that angel is just exactly as if God were there. What a tremendous promise from the ministry of angels if we will cooperate with their ministering guardianship over our lives. It is absolutely incredible. It is something we don't understand, because we don't see that angel.

Notice the blessing of the ministering spirit, the angel that God assigns to us: "And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." If we obey his voice and beware that we cooperate fully with Him, and if we will serve the Lord faithfully, He will bless our bread and water. He will take sickness away from the midst of us, and: "There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfill." Now, how many days is that? Psalm 90:10,12. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their

strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Then God says: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." God says if we will listen to that angel carefully and serve God, He'll fulfill the number of our days. Thank God for His marvelous promise. He said, "I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee." Exodus 23:27.

I TALKED WITH AN ANGEL

I want to relate here briefly an encounter with an angel of God that I had. I know we have a Guardian Angel! I knew it definitely back during World War II when I was a soldier and carried my Bible turned down to Psalm 91, which is a great scripture about the angel of God. Psalm 91, verse 5 begins: "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." Why? "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation." And He continues in verse 10: "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. ***For he shall give his angels charge over thee.***" During the war I remember that the Spirit spoke to me and said: "My angel is with you and I am going to be with you and deliver you." I didn't see that angel until 1957 in February when I had been fasting for 6 days. It was a very cold afternoon, but the sun was shining brightly. I was very weak, and was kneeling at my bed. All of a sudden I looked up from my bed and I saw a very strong but kind looking man standing between me and the window. I have never seen any individual appear so strong, healthy, radiant, and kind, all in the same body. I thought I was seeing a mirage, and I ducked my head back down to the bedside again in prayer and I said, Lord I don't believe it -- I am seeing things. Curiosity got the best of me, and I raised my head again and he was still standing there. I looked at him again and said: "I don't believe you are there." He said, "I am. God has sent me with a message for you." I said, "If you are real, come around my bed and let me get hold of you and see if you are real." He walked around to me and I took hold of his hand and he took my hand and pulled me up, and I held his hand for about 20 minutes as he began to relate to me the message that God had sent to me.

GOD'S MESSENGER TO ME

The message concerned this end-time ministry and also about my calling as a prophet of God. I had been told this in 1950 when I had fasted a period of ten days and laid on my face before God in a little old rinky dink church in Arkansas that I had just become the pastor of, and was destitute for a solution to those great problems we faced. I was seeking God, and the Lord related to me that my ministry would be the ministry of a prophet. I didn't know what the ministry of a prophet was. I was just a young minister in my 20's and I just barely knew there was such a thing as a prophet. It took years for God to instruct me through experiences and knowledge of the Word of God and revelation of the angel, together with other revelations of the Holy Ghost, to acquaint me with the ministry of a prophet. Then on this particular visit in February 1957, the angel of God stood in my room for about 20 minutes and related to me the very message I am preaching today. He also instructed me of the things concerning the ministry of a prophet, much of what it would consist of, and many personal requirements and responsibilities God was laying upon me. Also he

told me of the personal dedication, concentration and consecration that God required of me to be His servant to receive His message and to be anointed to be His prophet.

As this visitation of God's Angel ended, there was only one question that came to my mind to ask him. There was a great evangelist that had just died in November 1956 and his name was Jack Coe. I asked the angel if Jack Coe went to heaven. I had heard of Jack Coe lying and being a rogue. I knew very little about Jack Coe and God's Spirit working in his life, but his meetings always looked wonderful. In answer to my question about Jack Coe going to heaven, the angel replied, "He sure did." I said, thank the Lord! I am glad to know that! I asked him why God took Jack Coe, and I can't relate that because that is too personal in the lives of Bro. Coe's own family. Anyway, that was the only thing I could think to ask the angel. I can now think of a hundred questions I would like to have asked him, but then I couldn't remember them.

A RAPTUREOUS VISIT

Then the angel released my hand and went right up through the roof of that room back up to heaven where he came from, and the golden shaft of light disappeared behind him and he was gone. For several days I felt like I was going with him, but, of course, I couldn't go. It was a feeling almost of rapture, of leaving this world and going up with that angel. That angel left and I have never seen him since, but I have been conscious of his presence. It has given me a feeling of security and it has given me a great confidence that God would take care of me in any situation where I have been preaching the Word of God and rebuking people for their sins. I have been threatened to be shot and threatened with other acts of physical violence to my body. All those things I have considered as part of the jeopardy of the ministry of a prophet, but I have committed my personal care and physical security to God's *great angel* that God says will go with me and take care of me also. Every time I get on an airplane, I feel for that angel. Are you there? If that angel is not there, I am ready to step off that airplane whether it is a jumbo jet or a little two-seated plane like I have been in on a number of trips and felt like I was going to fall. I want to know I am pleasing God and listen carefully to my angel and obey His voice and not provoke Him. If I hear a warning whispered to me or some advice or instruction, I am going to obey. I am going to check it out before I do something to put my life in jeopardy when I am doubtful that I am all pleasing to God. I am going to listen to that angel because I believe that angel can take care of me if I listen to his voice -- and He has for 78 years as this is written.

I TRUST GOD'S ANGEL

As these great scriptures in the Holy Bible say, they are a warning that goes along with the acceptance of the physical security that *an angel* can give as a ministering spirit sent from God. Ecclesiastes 7:16-17: "Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself? Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: *why shouldest thou die before thy time?*" If we will listen to that *angel of God*, we will fulfill the number of our days. God says, I'll take sickness away from you. If you don't have steaks to eat, He will bless your bread and water and make it healthy for you. God will make your enemies turn their back to you; whatever you do He will bless it and your family. There will be no barrenness among your family. This is the great provision God has made for every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who will listen to God and consider *the angel of God* and his warning that we get all along through life. My

beloved, fear the Lord greatly, so His angel will be responsible to you and God will hold him responsible for you.

MASTERY OVER THE LIONS

Daniel 6:21: "Then said Daniel unto the king, ... My God hath sent *his angel*, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God." There is nothing more comforting to one of God's elect than to know we have an *angel of God* to watch over us. It shouldn't be only a subconscious feature in God's security program in our lives, but we need to be conscious of this mighty angel because there is a great blessing in being conscious of his continuing presence with us. He is responsible to God and he must answer to God for you and me. We must serve God and listen to God and the scriptures as in Psalms 34:7: "*The angel of the Lord* encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." We must fear the Lord, as it says through the Word of God. Now let's go into the New Testament on the ministry of angels.

ANGELS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

In the Word of God angels were connected with the life of Jesus Christ in every way. His conception was announced by an angel. Luke 1:26: "And in the sixth month *the angel* Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And *the angel* came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And *the angel* said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." This angel Gabriel was one of the arch-angels sent from God to announce the conception of Jesus Christ in a little virgin named Mary. Then at Jesus' birth, angels were present as recorded in Luke 2:9: "And, lo, the *angel of the Lord* came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid ... For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord ... And suddenly there was with *the angel* a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

In Luke 24:4: "And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments." On the resurrection morning two angels appeared in white raiment and spoke to the women at the tomb and asked: "Whom do ye seek?" They said, "Jesus." The angel said, "He is risen. Behold the place where he lay." The announcement of the resurrection of Jesus Christ was by *the angels*. It was at His ascension, the last message to the church and to the apostles was *by angels*. In Acts 1:9: "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel [these were angels]; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." The

Lord sends His angels as messengers to warn us, to deliver us, to bless us, and if we are serving Him faithfully, Luke 16 reveals, He will send them as our pallbearers to usher us into the paradise of God. I tell you angels are always around God's people to deliver them.

GOD'S DELIVERANCE THROUGH ANGELS

Let us look at a few of God's servants in the Word of God who were delivered. In Acts 12 the great Apostle Peter, along with James, was imprisoned; and James was beheaded. After King Herod killed James, the Bible says that prayer was made without ceasing unto God for Peter, and God sent **His angel** to unlock the door and deliver Peter. God providentially delivered that great apostle and preserved his life for future use. For many years Peter was one of the greater apostles as God used him and gave him the Keys of the Kingdom to open the doors of the Kingdom of Heaven to the Jewish disciples in Jerusalem. He also opened the kingdom to the Gentiles that were brought into the great plan of God's grace. Further, we read in the Word of God about a certain Prophet named Elisha who had a double portion of the Spirit of Elijah upon him. In II Kings the first chapter we read a part of his biography that was written about his deliverance by an angel of God. II Kings 1:15: "And **the angel** of the Lord said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king." Elijah had been sitting on a little hill. He sent a message to the King of Israel that he was going to die because he was a rebel against God and he worshipped Baalzebub rather than the true God. The king was very adamant toward this great prophet, and he sent a captain with fifty soldiers to arrest him. And Elijah said to the Captain: "If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty." He sent another captain of fifty and he said to the man of God, "Come down the king saith." Elijah answered the same thing to him and fire came down and consumed him and his fifty. The king sent a captain and his fifty the third time. But this captain knew that fire came down from heaven and burned up those captains and their fifties, and he pleaded, "Let my life be precious in thy sight." **The angel of the Lord** said to Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him." Then Elijah went with those men and he communed with the king again -- and the king died as Elisha prophesied.

We need to listen to the message that **God's angels** will deliver to us when there is danger in our lives and our lives are in jeopardy. Beloved, God wants us to know that we must be careful and listen to His angelic messenger because he will warn us when it is necessary to deliver us or keep us out of trouble. God can spare our lives in this way and save us for His glory, many, many times because the Bible says **the angels** are for our physical well being.

We find again in the New Testament in Matthew 2:13 that **the angel** of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream and told him to go into Egypt "for Herod seeks the young child's life." God spared Jesus from the destruction of Herod through the angel's warning to Joseph, His earthly father, because Joseph and Mary went into Egypt by the warning of God's angel.

Paul the Apostle was on his way to Rome on a prison ship, bound in chains, when a violent storm arose. Acts 27. And "All hope that we should be saved was then taken away." Beginning with verse 21: "But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night **the angel of God**, whose I am, and whom I

serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee." In verse 31 the instructions were: "except these abide in the ship, you cannot be saved." These instructions were obeyed, and all 276 souls on the ship were saved even though the ship sank.

ANGELS FOLLOW GOD'S ORDERS

Beware of God's ministering spirits! In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:1), the scripture reads: "There came *two angels* to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them;" and he invited them to his home. In verse 15: "And when the morning arose, then the *angels* hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city." Beginning in verse 12: "And the men [i.e., the angels] said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: ***For we will destroy this place***, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; ***and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it.***" If we stop listening to God, then God will send His angels to destroy instead of bless.

In Acts chapter 12 we read about King Herod being smitten by the angel of the Lord. "And immediately ***the angel of the Lord*** smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost." A pagan was claiming to be God. As he sat on his throne, the people gave a shout and said, "it is the voice of a god, and not of a man; and immediately ***the angel of the Lord*** smote him" and the worms ate him even as he sat upon his throne. The angels of the Lord destroy as well as bless, warn and deliver.

In II Kings 19 there is a story of Hezekiah, a righteous king of Judah who prayed to the Lord, repented himself of all the pride in his heart, humbled his heart before the Lord, and began to seek for God and His mercy. Because of his pride God had sent a mighty army against Jerusalem to destroy it. Sennacherib the mighty and terrible King of Assyria had come to destroy Jerusalem ruled by Hezekiah. But because Hezekiah repented and turned the people back to the Lord, verse 35 says: "And it came to pass that night, that ***the angel of the LORD*** went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses." When Israel arose, they looked out on that army that had cut them off from water and food. They had humbled their hearts and turned to God with great repentance, and God had sent a mighty angel and slew 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian Army. God's people had looked out over the wall the day before, they had seen a mighty army drawn up with battering rams to subdue that city that Sennacherib was determined to conquer. God knows how to deliver His people if they will put their trust in Him.

ANGELIC WONDERS

Another wonderful work of angels is found in Acts 10:1-6: "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius ... A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day ***an angel of God*** coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius, ...Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God." If you want an angel of God to watch over

you in every facet of your life with care and concern, with warnings, and deliverances, and blessings, you must fear God and support God's work. This man's offerings and tithes had been paid to the Lord and they built a memorial before God. When he needed help, God looked around and saw his memorial; that is, his prayers and alms. God said to *the angel*, go down and give him a message from Me: "And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do." In Acts 11:12, Peter related what happened to Cornelius to the other apostles: "Then the Spirit bade me go with him, nothing doubting." These men were sent to get Peter and bring him to the Centurion's house. This took three or four days to transpire. Peter had brought six brethren with him and entered the man's house and said: "And he showed us how he had seen *an angel* in his house which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter, *who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.*" (Acts 11:13-14) Praise God! That makes me want to listen to the *angel of God* who can give direction that you and I will never learn through a book or a million sermons, and he can give you a word of knowledge and wisdom whereby your whole house can be saved -- your house, your wife, and your children! God is more interested in us than we seem to sense and we need to accept it.

ANGELIC WONDERS CONTINUED

In the 8th chapter of Acts, it is recorded that an evangelist name Philip, encountered an *angel of God*. "And *the angel of the Lord* spake to Philip saying, arise and go toward the south ... which is desert..." Now an Ethiopian had been to Jerusalem to worship, but he wasn't saved. He needed to know Jesus Christ. The Spirit told Philip to join himself to the chariot in verse 29. The eunuch was reading Isaiah 53 and asked Philip: "How can I [know what I read] except some man should guide [instruct] me?" Philip preached Christ to him from Isaiah 53 and he was saved. He then went into Ethiopia and, according to Bible history, multitudes were saved through the witness of this one man. It all began with the instruction of *an angel* to Philip.

Then we find in Judges 13:2 where *the angel of the Lord* appeared to Samson's mother telling her of a son she would bear and instructed her as to how the child should be reared. The angel also revealed to her that God would use Samson to deliver Israel from their enemies.

In the New Testament in Luke 1, we learn about a great man of God named John the Baptist. It all begins with *an angel*, verse 10: "And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared unto him [Zacharias, John the Baptist's father] *an angel of the Lord* standing on the right side of the altar of incense." He said, "You shall have a son -- call him John. He shall be great in the sight of the Lord.. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God." What a mighty visitation and what a mighty result of this visitation to parents who would listen to the message of the angel of God. Angels will visit us and give us directions and secrets that we will otherwise never find out. The Holy Ghost doesn't even give you those kinds of secrets. God has a special purpose for His angels, but there is a special responsibility on our part to honor, respect and be sober concerning his visitation and provoke him not, for he is God's servant -- your ministering spirit. He has a responsibility to us, but we also have a corresponding responsibility to respect him.

WE'LL BE LIKE ANGELS

We need to study the Word of God and receive all the help that God will give us. But let me show you when we will need our angel most -- when it comes time to die. In Mark 12:25 Jesus said, "For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as *the angels* which are in heaven." True Christians will be like the angels one of these days. We will have power to transcend space and time; we'll never grow old. We will be like the angels in the resurrection, but we are going to need that guardian angel when we die.

PROTECTION FROM DEMONS

Angels also protect us from evil spirits. This is revealed in Daniel 10 when Daniel fasted, it was Michael, an Archangel, that came and held off the prince of Persia, a mighty evil spirit, and came with the answer for which Daniel was seeking. It is *the angels of God* that war with the evil spirits that can give us the victory. You've probably read that scripture in I John 4:4: "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome *them*:" But God is not talking about evil spirits here. The "them" refers to false prophets, and that the Holy Ghost will give us understanding and direction to overcome the deceptive message of the false prophet. It doesn't say anything about evil spirits. It says "try the spirits," but it also says "false prophets have gone out into the world." This scripture warns about the spirit of false prophets. God has given us power through the Holy Ghost to discern and to overcome the message and ministry of a false prophet. The angels of God minister to us and put a hedge around us for protection as shown in the case of Job. I remember speaking to the angel that appeared to me several years ago and his presence still thrills me. I know that as long as I fear the Lord he will stay close to my side and give me and my family deliverance. My beloved, you can have this great deliverance and the blessings and warnings of an angel if you will serve and fear God faithfully.

The End.

HARD TIMES ARE COMING SOON!

Rebellion against authority, permissiveness in behaviour, rejection of Biblically established patterns of morals and ethics, and a despising of that which gets specific and dogmatic about God are the most dominating signs of the age in which we live.

In the United States and Western-cultured nations, a militantly hostile paganism, absorbed in a form of religion, has arisen, viciously intent upon the elimination of the people who insist that God rules this whole universe, punishes all sin, reveals Himself in the Bible, and only through the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, is there Redemption from Sin and Hell.

We are destroying ourselves! We have rebelled against our God and His inexorable laws! God's laws, when ignored or arrogantly broken, like the mighty tides of the sea, sweep men and nations into the great judgments of God. This is a moral universe, established by God under His moral laws, and whatsoever a person or nation sows, they will also reap. "They [we] have sown the wind, and they [we] shall reap the whirlwind." Hosea 8:7; Gal. 6:7-8. ***God has warned: "Be sure your sins will find you out."*** Numbers 32:23

The archaic guidelines that have their origin in the Word of God are no longer tolerable to the unbelievers, which crowd today's churches. ***They have suddenly realized that they, after all, are the majority.*** Those old Bible guidelines are a threat to their ideal of absolute permissiveness – ***"love is God, our kind of love – the holiness, good guys must go!"***

Let me warn you: If you are a churchgoer or follower of Jesus Christ for what you can get out of it, or because it is a pleasant way of life, may I suggest that you get off the bandwagon now while the getting is good. The road ahead for a real saint of God is going to be a rough one – somebody is going to get hurt who truly belongs to the Lord.

America is an enigma to the whole world as our enemies and friends alike behold the dissipation of our energies and virtues in a lifestyle that is more like animals than of men created in the image of God. ***These are witnesses to a tragic drama – watching as we destroy ourselves from inner moral decay, amid rising violence and crime.*** An entire book of our Holy Bible was written of a once godly nation that died from inner decay and violence -- the obituary of Israel, written in the Lamentations of Jeremiah, Israel's weeping prophet.

What were the underlying causes of this judgment from the Lord upon Israel [or upon America]? In the words of the prophet is the answer found: ***"Thy prophets [preachers] have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity [i.e., rebellion against God's Word], to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment."*** Lamentations 2:14. This sounds just like today's religious folly – "do something religious, but don't live a holy, sanctified life in the fear of God" – but unfortunately for millions, God won't accept anything less than holiness and godliness.

During the third decade of the Nineteenth Century, Alexis de Tocqueville was French Ambassador to America. In his own words, de Tocqueville wrote of this experience: "I sought for the answer to the greatness of America. I sought her greatness in her cities, her factories, her rivers and lakes, her mountains, her waterfalls, her seaports and halls of government. ***I did not truly understand the greatness of America until I visited her churches and witnessed her***

pulpits aflame with righteousness.” Then he continued to make this prophetic observation: *“America is great because she is good – if America ever ceases to be good, then she will cease to be great.”* Remember, this prophetic observation was made in the 1830’s.

What has happened to our goodness? O America, God says, “Your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.” Hosea 6:4. God has decreed: *“Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.”* Proverbs 14:34. Our nation is gravely ill from moral decay and spiritual decadence. We are spiritually bankrupt! *The pulpits of America are not aflame with righteousness – this source of our greatness has been discovered by the devil and has been corrupted. The thundering voices of God’s true prophets have been silenced until there is only a whisper against the sins and rebellion, which are destroying us.* The pulpits of America were once aflame with righteousness! They are now filled with weaklings & soothsayers! Take a look at the TV preachers and most on radio, and there you will see the reason for our degeneracy and apostasy, leading us squarely into the thundering judgments of God.

A terrible famine for hearing God’s Word, that is, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth has arisen upon us – (Amos 8:11-13) – and, God has raised up this ministry with its divining messages, and, its holy saints to make intercession for our church and nation through fasting and prayer. These troubles and crises will multiply and magnify as we are now entering the Beginning of Sorrows as Jesus predicted (Matthew 24:8). We will not bury our heads in the sand or close our eyes to these rising calamities and catastrophes, as the prophet forecast: “Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet.” Ezekiel 7:25-26. Did you hear that – God’s people will seek the prophet’s vision very soon as these rumours and subsequent sorrows fall upon them.

MAKE THE VISION PLAIN

A prophet’s vision must be published as a warning to God’s elect as in the Lord’s command to Habakkuk: “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:2-3. This ministry and minister cannot hold our peace but be obedient to the Lord. We must cry aloud, spare not, lift up (our) voice like a trumpet, and show God’s people their transgressions and the church their sins. (Isaiah 58:1). We have the vision and the message to a nation with deep-rooted, spiritual suicidal tendencies. We know the causes of our inner pain and sickness, and we have the cure to effect Restoration by the anointing of the Holy Ghost. We are a voice – not an echo among many false presentations by preachers telling Americans falsely how to have God’s favor. *We’re leading God’s people into an end-time Holy Ghost revival of True Holiness.* The Holy Ghost is “the Spirit of Holiness.” Romans 1:4. All these “Hard times” will precede the Return of Jesus Christ.

THE HIGH AND HOLY CALLING

If God has called you to be really like Jesus in all your spirit, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put on you such demands of obedience, that He will not allow you to follow other Christians; and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful may push themselves, pull strings, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others can brag on themselves, on their work, on their success, on their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others will be allowed to succeed in making great sums of money, or having a legacy left to them or in having luxuries, but God may supply you daily, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, and that is a helpless dependence on Him, that He may have the privilege of providing your needs day by day out of the unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored, and put forward, and keep you hid away in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade.

God will let others be great, but keep you small. He will let others do a work for Him, and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much good you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He will let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and this will make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes. The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch on you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own, and He will not explain to you a thousand things which may puzzle your reason in His dealings with you. God will take you at your word; and if you absolutely sell yourself to be His slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and let other people say and do many things that you cannot do or say. Settle it forever, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chasing your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that others are not dealt with. Now when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven.

The following scriptures fully corroborate this valid revelation from the Holy Ghost:

- “[God] hath saved us, and called us with **an holy calling.**” (II Timothy 1:9)
- “I press toward the mark for the prize of **the high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:14)

- “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling...” (Hebrews 3:1)

More scriptures for further study:

II Timothy 2:20-21; I Thessalonians 5:21-24; Hebrews 5:7-9; Hebrews 13:20-21; I Peter 5:10