

“Issachar’s Burden”

“understanding the times...to know what to do”

03/13/09



ARE WE HEARING THE WORD OF THE LORD?

In the past few days, there has been a stirring among the church in relation to David Wilkerson’s blog about an upcoming calamity in our nation. What are we to make of this? Are we hearing the Word of the Lord?

Before commenting further on these blogs, I’d like for you to read for yourself what he is saying:

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009

AN URGENT MESSAGE

I am compelled by the Holy Spirit to send out an urgent message to all on our mailing list, and to friends and to bishops we have met all over the world.

AN EARTH-SHATTERING CALAMITY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. IT IS GOING TO BE SO FRIGHTENING; WE ARE ALL GOING TO TREMBLE - EVEN THE GODLIEST AMONG US.

For ten years I have been warning about a thousand fires coming to New York City. It will engulf the whole megaplex, including areas of New Jersey and Connecticut. Major cities all across America will experience riots and blazing fires—such as we saw in Watts, Los Angeles, years ago.

There will be riots and fires in cities worldwide. There will be looting—including Times Square, New York City. What we are experiencing now is not a recession, not even a depression. We are under God’s wrath. In Psalm 11:3 it is written, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

God is judging the raging sins of America and the nations. He is destroying the secular foundations.

The prophet Jeremiah pleaded with wicked Israel, “God is fashioning a calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh, turn back each of you from your evil way, and reform your ways and deeds. But they will say, It’s hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart” (Jeremiah 18:11-12).

In Psalm 11:6, David warns, “Upon the wicked he will rain snares (coals of fire)...fire...burning wind...will be the portion of their cup.” Why? David answered, “Because the Lord is righteous” (v. 7). This is a righteous judgment—just as in the judgments of Sodom and in Noah’s generation.

WHAT SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS DO? WHAT ABOUT GOD’S PEOPLE?

First, I give you a practical word I received for my own direction. If possible lay in store a thirty-day supply of non-perishable food, toiletries and other essentials. In major cities, grocery stores are emptied in an hour at the sign of an impending disaster.

As for our spiritual reaction, we have but two options. This is outlined in Psalm 11. We “flee like a bird to a mountain.” Or, as David says, “He fixed his eyes on the Lord on his throne in heaven—his eyes beholding, his eyelids testing the sons of men” (v. 4). “In the Lord I take refuge” (v. 1).

I will say to my soul: No need to run...no need to hide. This is God's righteous work. I will behold our Lord on his throne, with his eye of tender, loving kindness watching over every step I take—trusting that he will deliver his people even through floods, fires, calamities, tests, trials of all kinds.

Note: **I do not know when these things will come to pass, but I know it is not far off. I have unburdened my soul to you. Do with the message as you choose.**

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009

A Further Word

"If the foundations be destroyed, what shall the righteous do?"

Recently I felt compelled to send out an URGENT message warning of an impending great calamity — such that will cause even God's elect to tremble.

One Bishop asked, "Is there no further word: **How should the righteous respond to such a word?**"

I can only answer by sharing what the Holy Spirit is speaking to my own heart and what I am to do. I shared that I was led in a practical way to lay aside a month's supply of food — because I have witnessed the panic in the wake of terrorism. That **has to be a personal word for every individual.**

This is what I hear the Holy Spirit speaking to my heart concerning my own spiritual response to impending calamity. It is simply this — **STAND STILL AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD.**

"And Moses said to the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show you today...**The Lord shall fight for you, and you shall hold your peace**" (Exodus 14:13-14).

This is the attitude of faith in the face of calamity. What could Israel do on the brink of the Red Sea? Pharaoh's army is pressing in, mountains are on both sides, and there is an impossible sea ahead. The flesh cries, "Do something!"

The flesh cries hopelessness. Can God's people dry up the sea? Level a mountain? Fight a great army without having weapons? They are in what appears to be a dreadful, frightening situation. God's people tremble — and **in this hour of trembling comes a word from God.** In essence:

"Stand still. Fear not. This is the hour of salvation. You are going to witness the pulling down of the foundations of a world power. But in the same hour, I will fight for you. Hold your peace — be still and see my works."

Beloved, **my warning is just one voice among many who are saying the same thing.** We may all tremble for a season, but **those who truly know God's Word will be quickly comforted by the Holy Spirit.** We will be **baptized with a great peace — a supernatural quietness — which will be a tremendous witness to the fearful multitudes.**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

PERFECT PEACE

In the time of panic, God's trusting people will be blessed with perfect peace.

The Lord declares, "I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord: and I will heal him" (Isaiah 57:19). The Hebrew word for "peace" here is "perfect peace."

I believe that **as we're surrounded by chaos and hysteria in the coming days, America is going to witness the greatest testimony of God's glory and power it has ever seen.** How? All of America will see that many of God's people possess his perfect peace! In that time **the Lord is going to raise up a people who've been endowed with his absolute, perfect peace — peace that Christ himself now enjoys at the right hand of the Father. And we're going to live, move and breathe in that wonderful peace.**

Scripture says God will keep all who trust him "...in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). And right now, many of God's people are making this commitment to him: "I'm going to set my heart to seek God through everything, no matter what comes. I'm going to give him all that I have and all that I am. I believe his judgment is coming — so I'm going to prepare myself for him, as his bride!"

God first made his promise of perfect peace to those in Judah who were undergoing a great chastening of the Lord upon their land. God was bringing down all the high fortresses and walls, all the pomp and riches people leaned on, "...even to the dust" (Isaiah 25:12). Even the faithful remnant that still trusted in God were shaken

to their very core. Yet during that time, God told Isaiah to reassure these faithful believers: "The Lord is going to keep you in perfect peace – if you simply trust him!" The prophet said, "Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us..." (26:12). In other words, God is going to set up in our hearts his very own peace. He wants to give us a peace that can't be shaken.

Likewise today, when panic strikes in America – when the ominous news begins to send shock waves of fear across the land, and hysteria mounts – God's people won't be able to avoid feeling the huge wave of human anxiety. That's right – I will feel it, you will feel it; all Christians are going to feel it. Such feelings are inevitable; it's simply human to have this kind of reaction to such terrible chaos. Yet, at the same time, God will put within us the resources needed to take immediate control of every fearful thought and bring it to the truth of Christ. And his Spirit will fill our very beings with his perfect peace!

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009

Fix Your Thoughts on Jesus

We are to listen carefully to the warnings of the watchman but are not to become obsessed with their warnings.

We are to be alerted and warned by prophetic messages, and we're to heed every one that's revealed and confirmed in scripture. We're to gather all the knowledge we can about the coming storm, so we can prepare our hearts for whatever destruction it brings. But we are not to let fear or anxiety consume our thinking, dominate our minds, take hold of our hearts!

Darkness is certainly coming, and judgment is at our very door. But as God's people, we cannot allow any cloud of darkness to hide the light of his great promises of love and mercy toward his people. We are to be well informed by the Lord's words and prophets- but we are not to dwell on prophetic knowledge so much that it takes over our lives.

The devil would love for that to happen. He knows if he can't get you to doubt God's word concerning his judgment, he'll take you to another extreme by driving you to a fearful obsession with perilous times. He'll try to rob you of all hope by consuming you of thoughts of foreboding.

The apostle Paul reassures us about such things with this instruction: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8). Paul is telling us, "You've heard all the warnings. Now, simply take heed to what God's word reveals and to what his watchmen are saying. Then, finally, fix all your thoughts on Jesus and his goodness."

I have faithfully warned of a soon-to-come worldwide economic holocaust, and we already see this happening around the world. I have warned that Christians are going to suffer- that there will be great loss and hardship- and right now multitudes of precious saints all over the world enduring unbelievable tribulation. But these things are not the main focus of all my energies and ministry. For the deepest expression of my soul is to proclaim the love of God the father and the tender mercy of our savior Jesus!

So when I go to bed at night, I know that He alone is in control of all these things. I simply do what the prophet Isaiah did: he put his mind to rest by fully trusting in his Lord. He said, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

What are we to do in times like these? Is it a time to "run for the hills"? Where can we really hide? What will we do? What can we do when it seems that everything we've come to trust in naturally is failing before our eyes? It seems that there are no answers for America. But those of us who know the Lord know that this is not true. For our Father is not leaving us to grope for answers in a time of many perplexing questions. He is with us, He is speaking to us, and He is preparing us for what is coming upon us.

In a time of calamity, what will we do? I believe that even though most of us would really not want to face this situation, it is inevitable that there will be a generation that will face the "gross darkness" that Isaiah prophesied would come upon the earth. Our hope is in the rest of the prophetic word he brought - in this

time of “gross darkness...the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you”. This darkness precipitates His arising on the church and His glory being seen in the church!

Though everything in my soul and flesh are being pushed to the limit and being stretched in this season, my spirit is sensing a pull upward to anticipate Him as never before. And regardless of how we view end times theology, we all know we are in the midst of a time never before experienced on this planet. We are going to see our Lord in His church as we’ve never seen Him before. We are in the midst of an awesome “move” of the Holy Spirit as He is dealing with the church to turn her heart to her Lord. He is dealing with us as with sons in a day when the creation itself is crying out for the “manifestation of the sons of God”. He is turning the hearts of His sons to Him as Father. A cry is emanating from our hearts and is resonating in the heavens – “Abba Father!” – as we are in a day when we will see things we’ve yet to or are even able to imagine.

So, here we are, hearing a Word from a prophet that has been speaking to the church in this nation for more than forty years. In similar warnings, he has had a level of accuracy in speaking to the church and this nation that most of us would cherish. Many of us surely remember “The Vision”, which was written in 1974. And what of the sequel, “Racing Toward Judgment”, written in 1976? Following those “words”, were “Set the Trumpet to Thy Mouth” in 1985, “America’s Last Call – On the Brink of a Financial Holocaust” in 1998, and “God’s Plan to Protect His People in the Coming Depression, also in 1998. All these books, when written, were received with more ridicule than thanks. Yet, after the fact, we have seen much of what has been printed in them come to pass or they are at least in the beginning stages of being fulfilled. In that light, we must ask the question - how should we respond to this man’s “word” to us now?

When he speaks of “calamity so frightening even the godliest among us will tremble”, and in the same context the wrath of God is spoken of – for me, I know that there is an anger of God that is resident in His heart with His people at this time. We’ve all heard the sermons over the years about our not being appointed to His wrath. I believe that, but, I also know that I personally have come up short in allowing Him to do the work in me that He truly desires. I have been hearing a “word” to come closer to Him in this season. I am not as close as I should be. I have reserved some places in my heart where He is not really welcome to “arise upon me” and bring His glory to drive out the darkness. May that change in me and in all of us.

We have some ground to make up in this day to become all we should be. We are behind the curve in our maturity in Him. We are playing catch up in a day when the changes in the world, the church and in us individually are moving so rapidly, that if we don’t get seriously connected to Him, we’ll be left behind and only watching from the sidelines, or, maybe even from the grandstands in heaven, when we should be participating in those things he’s been preparing us

for all the days of our lives. I don't want to miss out on being a participant in what my Father is doing. I yearn to go deeper and farther than I've ever gone before, in prayer, in love, in grace, in being a son who hears His Father and speaks accordingly, and sees what His Father is doing and only represents those actions in the earth. We are privileged to be here on this earth, in the church, in this season. May none of us miss out on being a part of this new season.

In our day the "secular foundations" that he speaks of are crumbling before us as we watch our nation go through the birth pangs of an ever increasing approach to the reality that we will one day see the return of our Lord to this earth! Again, we should all agree that "the day of the Lord" is upon us. It may take years and even decades to completely manifest and come to full fruition, but, we should all be convinced by now that we are in the dawning of that day. And with that reality facing us, we have a choice as to whether we will hear His voice in the practical matters of storing up for a day when the essentials are precious. Can we hear His voice in matters like these without being motivated by a fear that would cause us to become like all the other "voices" around us that are compelling people to see no real remedy for the fears facing them? We must draw close to Him and "hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church" if we are going to be prepared to be His witness in this season.

We have a tremendous door of opportunity before us – to contend for the grace and peace that only comes to those who know Him. One contention is with our own soul's desire for provision and protection in a day when only the Lord can be trusted in the dispersion of those things He has promised us as His sons. Though we will "feel the anxiety" of the times as the "tribulation" of this day comes upon us, we are promised that "He will keep in perfect peace those whose mind is stayed on Him". We'll never do that in our own strength. But, He is pouring out a grace in this new season to move us into a place of peace and rest that surpasses anything the world can offer us. Will we choose to "wait on the Lord to renew our strength"?

God is speaking, from heaven, into the earth. He is speaking through "His holy apostles and prophets". He is being heard in the heavenly realms and we are seeing the results as "foundations are being destroyed" in ways we could have never foreseen. Our choice is in whether we will hear Him so that we will be fully prepared for whatever may come to our world, our nation, our state or our city. We are His sons, and we have His Spirit with us and in us. We do not have to be in a position of wondering what He is doing, even in a work of judgment in the earth. Why? Because whether we live or die, we live for the purpose of Him who has purchased us with His own blood. Our lives are not our own, and thus, not ours to preserve, only to give for His will and the extension of His kingdom in the earth.

Are we hearing the Word of the Lord? I believe we are. And, as with any Word spoken to us by any man or woman sent to us by the Lord, it is our responsibility

to steward that Word by the Holy Spirit in us. What is He telling you to do? You are accountable to what you hear the Holy Spirit saying to you. If we will all take the helm of our heart, present it to the Lord, and position ourselves to hear Him only, we will not be without a Word from Him in a day when the true Word of the Lord is precious and few. He is faithful and will not leave us without a Word of direction and instruction for how we should live in the midst of this crooked and perverse generation. We are holding forth the Word of life for our world. And if we don't hold it forth, who will?

As the "tribulation" of this season ramps up and we are faced with the changing of everything that touches our lives – we are being given the opportunity to come up to a higher level of life in Him that will position us to hear Him, obey Him and present to those who are seeking to hear a distinct and relevant voice needed for this season – a voice that will resonate in their hearts, revealing to them a Father that from before the foundation of the world, knew them, sent them into the earth, and is now calling them back to Himself. He is searching the earth for His sons and His sons are seeking their Father. We have the awesome responsibility and privilege to be those "ambassadors of reconciliation" going forth in the earth in this day with the gospel of His kingdom – showing in our lives the reality of the one true kingdom in which all kingdoms will ultimately bow to in honor of the one true King, our Lord, Jesus, the anointed One.

"You are worthy Oh Lord to receive glory and honor and power: for You have created all things, and for Your pleasure they are and were created....You alone are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals, for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation, and You have made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth....You are worthy....to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing....The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and You shall reign forever and ever....Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are Your ways, King of saints. Who shall not fear You, Oh Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy: for all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments are made manifest....Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last....from The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Richard

