

# ***The Messenger***

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**Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me."

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## ***"Rivers in the Desert"*** **A Prophetic Word for Arizonans**

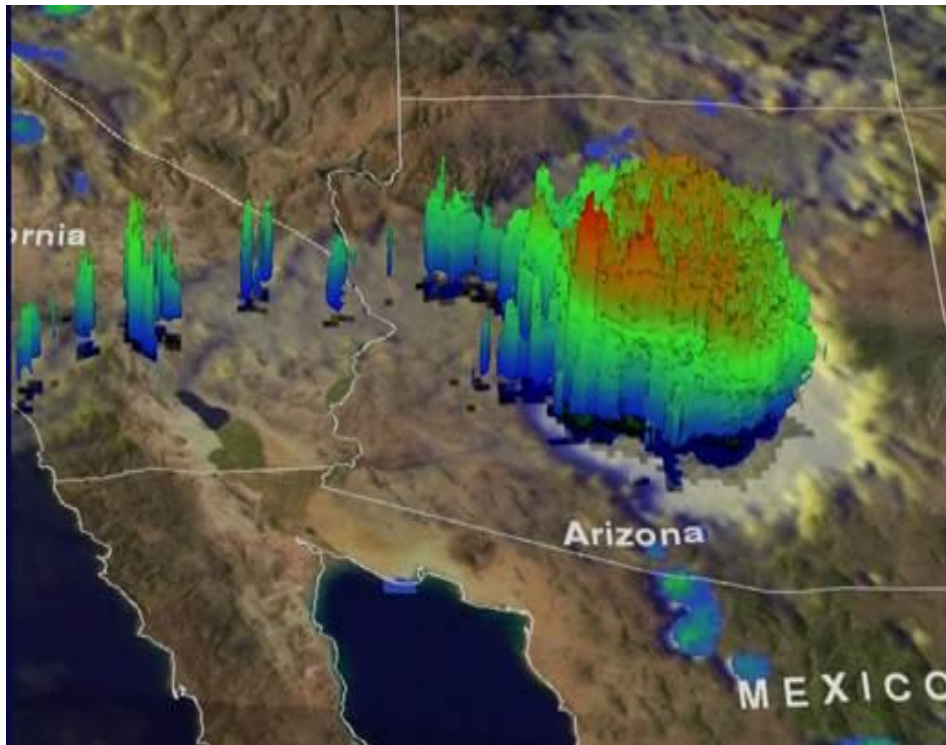
By Rob Winters

On Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Phoenix received 3.29 inches of rainfall, breaking a calendar day record of 3.06 inches set on September 3, 1939. Phoenix's wettest day on record was accompanied by flooded roads, stranded drivers, school closings and power outages. Interestingly enough, Phoenix's high watermark day came just before Shemitah, a Sabbath year beginning on Rosh Hashanah, the eve of September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The Hebrew word for "release", Shemitah historically is the seventh year of a seven year cycle during which Israel was mandated to leave their fields fallow and release all debt (Leviticus 25:4, Deuteronomy 15:1-2). For Israel and nations honoring Jehovah, the Shemitah year was and continues to be a year of peace, blessing, freedom and exaltation. However, for those nations who dishonor the Lord and Israel, the Shemitah year is often one of economic judgment and war. For example, the last two Shemitah years were characterized by economic collapse. The stock market crash beginning in 2000 was followed by the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attack on America, which ultimately resulted in 37% of the stock market being wiped out. Similarly, over half of the stock market was obliterated during the "Great Recession" of 2007-2008 – a Shemitah year.

### **The Right Time and Place for Revival!**

Despite the looming judgment facing America in the upcoming Shemitah year (September 25, 2014 - September 13, 2015), could the recent record-breaking rainfall in Phoenix be a prophetic sign of hope to the God-fearing, remnant Church in Arizona? In 2009, internationally recognized prophet Chuck Pierce shared a significant prophetic vision the Lord had given him of the United States. To Chuck's surprise, Arizona was the brightest state in the nation, over which a cloud of glory was resting and ready to be poured out. Ironically, the following weather radar image of the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

downpour in Arizona resembles a cloud hovering over our state. Could this image prophetically symbolize the glory of the Lord and latter rain soon to be poured out upon Arizona?



**Record-Breaking Rainfall in Phoenix, AZ – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

In 1910, William Seymour, the leader of the Azusa Street Revival that literally transformed the world, prophesied that in about one hundred years, there would be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and His Shekinah glory that would be greater and more far-reaching than what was experienced at Azusa Street. Obviously, we are in the midst of the season of the fulfillment of that prophecy. Interestingly enough, Arizona’s destiny regarding this anticipated outpouring was prophetically encrypted in the name **AZUSA**, before Arizona (AZ) became the 48<sup>th</sup> state of the United States of America (USA) in 1912. Amazingly, Phoenix’s greatest amount of rainfall ever recorded in a twenty-four hour period (4.98 inches) occurred on July 1-2, 1911, foreshadowing the spiritual outpouring that would come to Arizona approximately one hundred years later – now! Moreover, the weather radar image above traces a path to Arizona from the Los Angeles area - the birthplace of the Azusa Street Revival. Now that is something to shout about!

## **The Highway of Holiness**

The prophet Isaiah exhorted Israel to forget about how the Lord used to do things, and to realize that He was about to do something new. Although His precepts, character and love are unchanging, His methods are often unpredictable. While we should learn well from former days of revival glory, we must understand that the Lord is

doing a new thing that is springing forth now. That new thing encompasses making a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19 “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old.<sup>19</sup> Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

Isaiah 35:6-8 “For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. <sup>7</sup> The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray.



**Record-Breaking Rainfall in Phoenix, AZ – Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The road in the wilderness that the Lord has commissioned the remnant Church in Arizona to build is the Highway of Holiness. The Highway of Holiness will be prepared by the remnant Church, but made straight by a new company of prophets coming in the spirit of Elijah. These prophets will not only preach a message of repentance, but also possess a mantle of repentance that will prepare a people for the coming of the King of Glory. These prophets will be messengers of fire and be accompanied by a spirit of judgment and burning that will purge and purify a remnant wholly given over to the Lord. (Malachi 3:1-3, Isaiah 4:3-6, Psalm 24:3-10).

Isaiah 40:3-5 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; <sup>5</sup> The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

## **The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed**

Isaiah 40:5 promises us that the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. “All flesh” refers to people inside the Church and those outside the Church - those that are saved, and those who are not. In other words, outpouring of the Holy Spirit will not only revive the Church, but also transform and reform our culture. The glory of the Lord will arise upon the remnant Church to such an extent that the beasts, jackals and ostriches of our society, in other words, the unbelievers, will honor and turn to the Lord.

Isaiah 43:20 “The beast of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen.”

Despite the judgments of the Lord being rendered upon our nation, those who abide under the shadow of the Almighty shall bloom in the desert and experience the salvation and glory of the Lord in an unprecedented measure. While fear grips the masses because of terrorism, war, pestilence and economic collapse, the remnant Church who dwell in the secret place of the Most High shall not be afraid (Psalm 91).

Isaiah 35:3-4 “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you.”

Not only shall a harvest of souls accommodate the coming of the King of Glory to the Valley of the Sun, but also signs, wonders, miracles and supernatural healing shall accompany an unparalleled outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 35:5-6 “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing.”

## **An Alpha and Omega State**

Arizona (AZ) is an Alpha (A) and Omega (Z) state and therefore will play a crucial role in determining the destiny of America. In essence, the remnant Church of Arizona’s obedience to divine directives now will carry great weight in determining America’s destiny. It is therefore imperative that we awake, arise and prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by embracing His holy prophets and the fire of repentance they will be administering. Only then will the King of Glory come in all of His glory to transform Arizona from a spiritual wasteland into a river of glory.

**Prayer:** *Father, help us to prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight in the desert a highway for our God. We receive your prophets - your messengers, and embrace their message and mantle of repentance that will prepare us for the coming of the King of Glory. Transform this spiritual wasteland into a dwelling place of the glory of God that will impact the spiritual destiny of Arizona and America, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

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