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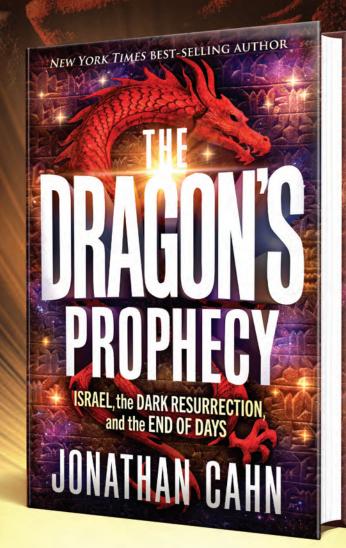
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THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY

Sharing God's wisdom requires obedience, patience and flexibility

BY HUBIE SYNN

f you have a prophetic gift, or any gift for that matter, it's important to understand that you don't have to force, manipulate or be opportunistic in any way. When you do, the results can be disastrous. People can receive a prophetic word that gets them off track from God's path. The Lord is faithful and will guide them back, but often at the cost of time and unnecessary pain. In addition, a false or ill-timed word can give them a skewed view of God, especially if they are a non-believer or a new believer without a firm foundation in the Scriptures.

A person can be quite sincere and still be quite wrong. This is why as prophetic ministers we should always be a little reluctant and move forward with caution. Not fear, but caution. Typically, but not always, when wrong words are spoken, the person giving the prophecy may be sincere but still have wrong or unclear motives. What I mean is, they may really want to encourage you, but they are also looking for affirmation of their gift or the prestige that comes with it. In some cases, they also may want to control you and feel that saying, "Thus says the Lord" gives them more power.

My experience has been that true prophetic ministers are usually a bit reluctant, cautious and take the approach that they are simply delivering the mail and then they remove themselves, letting the Holy Spirit take over. If you are truly called to the prophetic, you don't have to force it or try to make things happen. Your gift will make room for you. Proverbs 18:16 tells us, "A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men." You don't have to force or manipulate your way. If it's God, He will make a way.



What 'NOT' to Do

We must be careful to maintain strong, healthy boundaries as we appropriate our giftings, using wisdom to discern motives. Those who force their own gift will use you. This next story is an example of what not to do. It's a lesson in boundaries.

Whenever you're a guest at a church or someone's home, it is common courtesy to ask permission before doing any prophetic ministry. Personally, I always try to be respectful and obey the house rules when visiting a church or home. I don't want to do anything to disrupt the established order. One time I went to see a pastor friend who was speaking at a

church, and while I was there he introduced me to one of his spiritual sons. We'll call him John. My pastor friend suggested John and I should hang out together since we were both prophetic, so we exchanged numbers and then a few texts.

My wife, Vicki, and I were planning a worship gathering at our home, so we invited John over. The plan was for him to stay overnight since we did not know when the occasion would end. He arrived early and helped us get things in order before our guests arrived. Everything was fine until the guests started to arrive. The doorbell rang and as I started to go to the door, John raced ahead of me to open it.



As the people walked in John led them to the living room, sat them down and started to prophesy to them.

I was stunned. Unsure how to react, I just went with it thinking if it was God's will, I didn't want to judge him. Maybe he was led by the Holy Spirit for those particular people. About 10 minutes later the doorbell rang again, and John did the same thing. He raced to the door, led the couple to the living room and started to prophesy to them. What is going on? I thought, starting to get a bit concerned, but once again instead of reacting, I did nothing.

As John finished talking to that couple the doorbell rang. This time I

was standing near the door, so I opened it first and greeted my friends. I politely introduced John to them and he immediately instructed them to follow him to the living room where he then directed them to sit down, and he started to prophesy to them. Now I was really feeling uneasy. After all, this was my home and these were my guests. I was responsible.

When John was done, I told him we needed to talk. He said, "OK" and the two of us went into another room.

"John, do you have prophetic words for everyone who comes through the door?" I asked.

"I dunno," he replied.

"If you are certain the Lord is

instructing you then it is fine, but don't you think you should let the guests come in first and at least take off their jackets? We have house rules and it's just common courtesy."

John looked at me with a blank expression on his face, not knowing how to respond. Apparently, that had never occurred to him.

I continued, "I don't really know you and I'm not sure how accurate your gift is yet. This is not common practice, so don't you think you should ask the hosts if it's OK to minister to their guests since you are also a guest?"

He nodded but didn't seem to agree.

"If you can't follow the rules then you can leave," I said. "If you want to minister to anyone, please let me know first and then we can do it together."

"OK," he said reluctantly, and we went out of the room.

Later, I asked some of the guests John prophesied to how accurate he was. They responded that some of his words were "off," and other parts were ambiguous and could apply to a range of things or people, but nothing specific enough to apply to them personally. An example of this would be to tell someone they have financial issues. Well, whether rich or poor, in debt or debt free, everyone has financial issues. Another example is a "God is moving in your life" type of generic prophecy. This basically applies to everyone.

Authentic, Spirit-led prophetic ministry is specific to an individual's situation and calling. Usually, prophecies from God are spot-on with pinpoint details leaving no doubt that they came from Him and there was no way the person delivering the message could have known those details. No matter how nice a person seems to be, the Scriptures teach that we must, "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thess. 5:21, NKJV). Commentaries on this verse suggest that this testing applies to words prophesied or preached. They should always be examined by Scripture and judged for accuracy.

What 'TO' Do

One of my biggest fears when I started my prophetic journey was that I did not want to disappoint the Lord.

I took it seriously and was extremely cautious to listen and follow His lead when administering the gift. The fear of falling short and misrepresenting the Lord always bothered me, as it should all authentic prophetic ministers.

I was once attending a conference called "The Bridge Summit" and was ministering to other people who were attending. As the conference was going on the Lord would highlight certain people to me and I would watch for the right time to speak to them. I was careful to stay within the boundaries of the conference order and would always wait until an intermission or break. When the Holy Spirit opened the door I would walk up to them and speak. Of course, my insecurities were flaring up because the conference was scheduled for three days and I knew if something went wrong, I would most likely see these people again and that would be awkward.

During those three days the Holy Spirit had me busy tapping people and ministering to them. One of the people I had a prophetic word for was a conference worker named Gretchen Campbell. She was in the lobby when the Lord had me speak to her. Gretchen seemed receptive to the word and the next day she came into the conference and approached me. She tapped me on the shoulder and said, "My sister would like to speak to you in her office." My first thought was I must have done something wrong. I said, "OK" and started to follow her. I felt like a sixth-grader being marched by his teacher to the principal's office. Surely, this was not going to be good. Did I not follow the house rules? Are they going to throw me out? It was embarrassing to be taken out of the conference while it was going on.

We arrived at a door and Gretchen opened it and smiled. I walked in and there was a woman sitting at a desk. She stood up and reached out her hand and said, "Hi, I am Courtney Wright." I was still unsure as to why I was summoned to her office. Courtney smiled and said, "I've been watching what you have been doing at the conference." She paused.

My mind raced, *Oh no, here it comes.* She continued, "I have been seeing the effect it has had on the individuals and it is great. What you are doing is

"We must be careful to maintain strong, healthy boundaries as we appropriate our giftings."

unique and out-of-the-box thinking."

"Thank you," I said, breathing a sigh of relief.

"The prophetic word touched Gretchen, who is my sister, and I just wanted to meet you and say thank you."

I said it was great to be there and thanked her for the excellent job she and her team were doing at the conference. Everything was perfect with all the logistics.

A few months passed and I received a phone call from Wright. She said they were having an event for pastors called "The Capacity Conference," hosted by Bishop Dale Bronner's church, and she wanted to invite me to it. Courtney said she was thinking "out of the box" and wanted me to attend, not as a speaker but as an attendee. I wasn't quite sure what she wanted so I asked her, "You want me to come and not speak but wander around like I did at the Bridge Summit when we met?"

"Yes," she replied. "We would like the prophetic to be present at the conference."

I told her I would pray about it and get back to her. I thought it was an unusual request and a great idea, but I still had to pray about it first. I spent the next few days praying about it and the Lord said yes, so I called Courtney and accepted the invitation. I wasn't sure how all this was going to work but I usually just show up and the Holy Spirit takes it from there.

I wasn't exactly sure how I would fit in since I wasn't a pastor and it was a pastor's conference, but I have learned to be pliable, which is something I've had to continually work on.

I arrived at the conference and as I began wandering and moving in the prophetic, word spread, and people were now starting to approach me during the breaks, a lot of people. I still wasn't sure how it was all going to work. Early on, I met a guy from Mississippi and we hit it off. I knew it was a divine appointment, but I wasn't sure what it

was all about yet. When he saw what was going on, he decided to jump in and help. He made sure I was attended to when I needed anything. He stayed with me the whole conference. Unlike John, he wasn't out to use me, but to be a life-giver and helper to me. I never even asked for help, but he jumped in and started to serve. One time when I was taking a break, we had time to chat and he said when he saw what was going on the Lord told him to help me, so he did. It was that simple. His humility, quiet confidence and spirit of servanthood touched me deeply.

As the conference went on, I hardly stopped ministering. The days became a blur due to the constant ministering, but it was all great! I ministered up until the moment it was time to leave. I got home exhausted and poured out, but knew God's purpose had been accomplished. Courtney called to give me some praise reports that people gave her. As I sat and listened to all the good reports, it was humbling to know He used me as a vessel to help so many people.

And the story doesn't end here. God gave me great favor with Bronner and Courtney, such that they decided to use my first book, *Tales of a Wandering Prophet*, as a textbook for a prophecy class they were teaching and invited me as a guest speaker. Later I was invited back to another Capacity Conference to wander around and do what I do.

God will open the doors for you to administer your prophetic gift in the unique way He created you to minister. God will use your one act of obedience to lead you to another open door of opportunity and then another without any need for forced entry or self-promotion on your end.

HUBIE SYNN is a speaker and prophet who has ministered to Super Bowl hero David Tyree, media personalities, Grammy Awardwinning artists and countless others. A certified public accountant by trade, he resides in New Jersey with his wife and five children.

Simply Christ

Gospel Insight
with Keith Surface

He is the Cure

In the first recorded prophecy of Isaiah, God described the sinful condition of Israel in terms of a person stricken with disease throughout their entire body. Consider these astounding words:

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Isaiah 1:4-6.

Sin truly is a spiritual cancer which devours a person from the within. It may seem insignificant at first, but it never stops spreading and eating away at the person it inhabits. For all human history a cure has been sought, but none was found. The Jews thought the Law of Moses was the cure, but it only treated the symptoms of the disease. It could go so far as to kill the patient, yet, it could never take iniquity out of their heart.

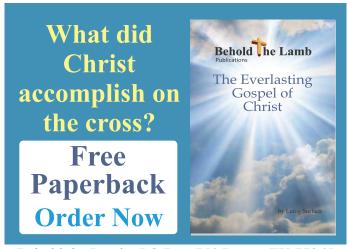
Every human attempt to cure this disease has ended in failure. Humanity has been like the woman "...which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse." Mark 5:25-26. These "religious physicians" have vastly different treatments to contain, control, or subdue this evil thing that works in the human heart. The only thing they seem to agree on is that there is no cure. Thankfully, God does not concur!

Isaiah, the same prophet who described this horrid disease of sin and iniquity, also spoke of the cure. Most of us know his words well. He wrote, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was

bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5. The word "healed" in this passage actually means "to cure." Jesus Christ gave himself to suffer and die upon the cross in order to "cure" the incurable disease called sin. He came to do what "the blood of bulls and of goats" could never do. Hebrews 10:4-5. He came to "take away our sin." John 1:29. I John 3:5.

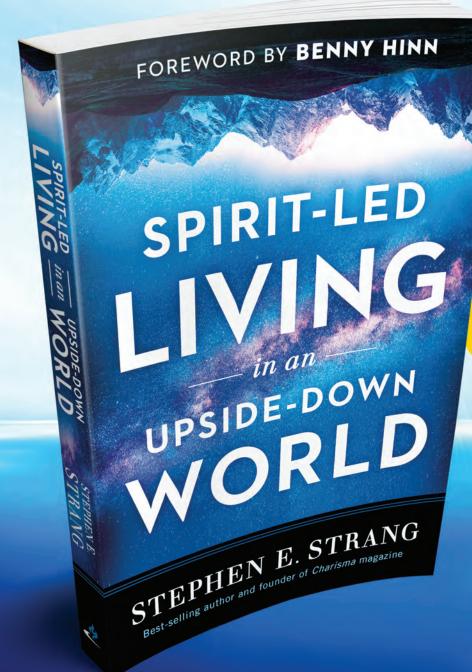
The Apostle Peter presented this "cure" as the true purpose of Christ's sufferings. He wrote, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that (in order that) we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ve were healed." I Peter 2:24. It is important to see and believe the reason Peter gives as to why Jesus "bare our sins in his own body on the tree." He does not say, "To take our punishment," "to pay a penalty," or even "pay a price." He says it was so that "we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:" Christ died in order that sin in us would be destroyed through our death with Christ. This is God's cure for sin in the human heart. Peter confirms this by quoting Isaiah, "by whose stripes ye were healed (cured)."

The Apostle Paul also confirms this as the purpose of Jesus' death, saying, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin." Romans 6:6-7. Can sin in you really be destroyed and you truly be made free from its presence and power? Absolutely! Jesus Christ is the cure for this incurable disease. He told us he came to make us free!



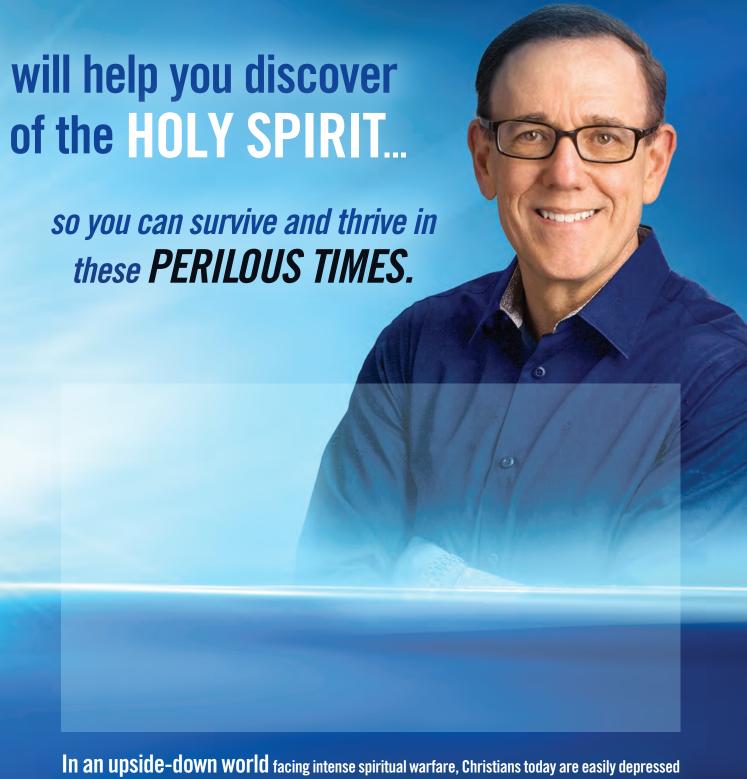
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JERUSALEM: CAPITAL CITY

Why the US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital is significant for the Jewish people, the church and the world



BY RON CANTOR

ec. 6, 2017, was a historic day for the nation of Israel. On that day, Donald Trump fulfilled a significant campaign promise he made as a presidential candidate in March 2016 at an AIPAC (The American Israel Public Affairs Committee) conference.

"When I become president, the days of treating Israel like a second-class citizen will end on Day One," Trump said. " ... We will move the American embassy to the eternal capital of the Jewish people, Jerusalem."

And the world went crazy.

What could unite Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, Iran, Hezbollah and even ISIS? What could cause even America's closest allies to turn against the U.S. and Israel? What earth-shaking event could cause the United Nations to bite the hand that feeds it by voting 128-9 to condemn the United States? In a word: Jerusalem!

But how do we as believers respond? Prolific writer Shira Sorko-Ram of Maoz Israel, who is celebrating her 50th year of ministry in the Holy Land, told me, "Christians have the choice of listening to the U.N., the European Union, the mainstream media and almost all of the 193 nations of the world which say Jerusalem does not belong to the Jewish people. Or they can take a leap of faith in the Word of God and say, 'If the Bible says it 170 times, it must be what God meant!'"

Jerusalem's Role in Bible Prophecy

If you need any more proof that the God of the Bible is real, look to Jerusalem. The Old City is no bigger than a large shopping mall and yet remains the center of world uproar 2,500 years after the prophets of Israel predicted its comeback.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, author of several best-sellers, including *The Paradigm*, believes this recognition is crucial. "America's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is monumental and prophetic," Cahn says. "The Scriptures foretell that in the last days, the Jewish people will return to the land of Israel and to the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will then become the focal point of world controversy."

Cahn is referring to Zechariah 12:2-3 (NIV): "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. ... On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves."

Parallel to the restoration of Israel is the rejection of Jerusalem from the nations. Psalm 2 says the nations will rage against God and His Messiah (vv. 1-2). They will be united against Him. God will laugh at their hubris and then judge them in His anger (vv. 4-5). The issue is over the Messiah and His city, Jerusalem, also known as Zion. The Lord makes it clear that the only opinion on Jerusalem that matters is His: "I have installed My king on Zion, My holy hill" (Ps. 2:6, MEV).

It should be no surprise that Jerusalem is on the front page of every major newspaper. Asher Intrater, one of the founders of Tikkun International, an Israel-based Messianic congregational network, reflected on the president's declaration.

"Political events in the Middle East sometimes reflect spiritual issues behind the scenes," Intrater says. "President Trump's declaration about Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the subsequent U.N. reaction show an ever-increasing focus on this city that plays a central role in biblical prophecies. According to end- times prophecies, Jerusalem will be the center of conflict in world politics."

The prophets spoke of her restoration 2,500 years ago, and God has watched over His Word. As kingdoms conquer the city and its Jewish inhabitants were exiled and murdered, God never forgot His promise. This is what the Lord Almighty says: "I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, and with great wrath I am jealous for her. Thus says the Lord: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem" (Zech. 8:2b-3a).

Rabbi Cahn sees this as impossible without someone behind the scenes, guiding world history.

"The mere fact that the ancient city still exists and is still in the news is amazing enough," Cahn says. "But that in the 21st century, it is the center of global controversy is beyond amazing and against all odds."

Three thousand years ago, David asked, "Why do the nations rage?" (see Ps. 2:1). And the Arab nations used the same word after the Trump recognition, calling for "days of rage."

God's Master Plan for Israel

Jerusalem became Israel's capital when King David decided to unite the tribes of Israel. He left Hebron, deep inside his own tribal land of Judah, and captured the Jebusite stronghold next to Mount Moriah, where Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac. It borders Benjamin. It was under Jewish rule until the Babylonian exile in 586 B.C. The exiles returned when Cyrus, king of Persia sought to restore Jerusalem.

In the first Jewish revolt, General Titus utterly destroyed Jerusalem and its temple. The historian Josephus reported, "Jerusalem ... was so thoroughly razed to the ground by those that demolished it to its



foundations, that nothing was left that could ever persuade visitors that it had once been a place of habitation." This was a far cry from the city's destiny to be "the praise of all the earth" (Isa. 62:7b, NIV).

However, in 130 A.D., Emperor Hadrian decided to rebuild the city and thought it would be a nice gift for the Jewish people. But then he was advised that rebuilding the temple would fuel subversion, and instead, he rebuilt the city as a Roman colony and renamed it after Jupiter—ironically causing the very subversion he feared.

Hadrian crushed the subsequent Jewish revolt and became obsessed with ridding the territory from any Jewish influence. He changed the name of the region from Judea to Palestine. In fact, it should be noted that the word "Palestine" goes back to Rome, not to any Arab entity. There has never been an Arab nation called Palestine, and Jerusalem was never the capital of any Arab nation.

Through Hadrian, the rage of the enemy against the Jewish people was unleashed. Jews were forbidden to enter their holy city under threat of death. They were exiled, and the goal was clear: Destroy the Jewish people completely through assimilation, exile and death.

And if you didn't think God has His hand over history, watch this: The number for life in Hebrew is 18. The time between Hadrian's renaming of Jerusalem until Israel became a nation again was 1,818 years!

Johnny Enlow, author, speaker and co-leader of Restore7, posted a prophetic word more than a year ago that predicted Trump's recognition of Jerusalem.

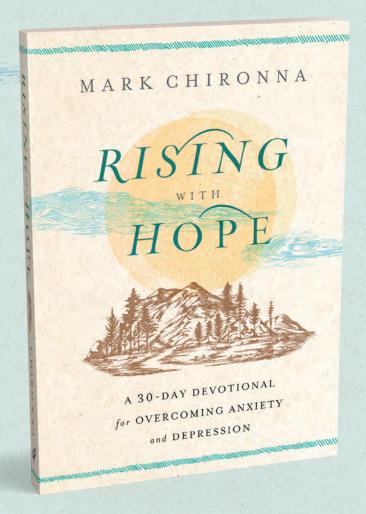
"There is a reason Jerusalem and its destruction is the desire of every principality," Enlow wrote. "Destruction of Jerusalem destroys the master plan, and it is the master plan of our God that will guarantee Jerusalem's future."

Here we are nearly 2,000 years later, with Israel restored and Jerusalem as her capital. You have to be somewhat blind to believe replacement theology—that God is finished with Israel, and the church has replaced the nation. That would mean that by massive coincidence, Israel was reborn in 1948: Jerusalem was restored through the miraculous victory in the Six-Day War; millions of Jewish exiles came back to Zion just as the prophets predicted; and this all occurred while the most persecuted people in history suffered 52 attempted genocides. No nation has ever lost its geographical homeland for more than a short time and remained an identifiable people. Israel wandered for two millennia and survived! Only God could have done that.

Signpost for the Second Coming

And yet, I've seen many believers fret over President Trump's announcement, saying it is irresponsible, dangerous, racist toward Palestinians, inconsequential or an impediment to

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peace, completely missing its spiritual significance. Intrater points to this in his new book, Alignment: "The biblical nickname for Jerusalem is Zion, Tsiyon. The word 'Zion' means 'signpost.' A signpost points to something. It is a sign; it has sign-ificance. What is the reestablishment of the Jerusalem pointing to?"

Intrater goes on to state that Jerusalem had to be there for the first coming—Yeshua died and rose from the dead in Jerusalem, and the Holy Spirit birthed the first Messianic community there. But for the past 2,000 years, as the gospel spread, there was no need for a specific location.

"The starting line and the finish line is Jerusalem," he writes. Jerusalem's reunification is a signpost (Zion) that the countdown to the Second Coming has begun.

Cahn also sees the significance of Trump's announcement.

"The Trump recognition was another critical step in the unfolding of God's prophetic purposes on the road to the return of the Messiah—in the city of Jerusalem," he says.

Restoration of the Nation

When Yeshua's disciples asked Him after His resurrection, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6b). He did not rebuke them for asking a stupid question. For any student of the prophets, that would have been the most logical thing to ask.

A plethora of passages speak to the restoration of Israel in the Old Covenant, so that would be the first, obvious question from His Jewish disciples. And look at Yeshua's response: "He said to them, 'It is not for you to know the times or the dates, which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:7-8).

Yeshua clearly indicates that the Father has set the time and date for Israel's restoration. The issue wasn't if but when. The newly Spirit-filled Peter prophesies that Jesus must remain in

heaven "until the time of restoring what God spoke through all His holy prophets" (Acts 3:21b). This was what he didn't understand in Chapter 1. But when it is time for the restoration

God's Word."

In the aforementioned prophecy from more than a year ago, Enlow declared: "Donald Trump as president will be the best friend to Israel that

"Yeshua clearly indicates that the Father has set the time and date for Israel's restoration. The issue wasn't if but when."

of all things, Israel will be restored with Jerusalem as her capital. And we are the generation that has seen it come to pass.

President Trump's Cyrus Call

Many prophetic voices shared before the election that President Trump was a type of Cyrus. Who was Cyrus? He was the Persian king about whom Isaiah prophesied by name 100 years before Cyrus appeared on the scene. The prophecy, recorded in Isaiah 44-45, says Cvrus will:

- » rebuild Jerusalem (Isa. 44:28, 45:13)
 - **»** allow the Jews to return (45:13)
 - » not know God at first (45:4)
 - » eventually come to believe (45:3)

The passage even says the people will argue with God about His choice (Isa. 45:9-10).

At this point, it should be clear that the president is called to be a king like Cyrus. Trump is an unlikely choice, but he has favored Zion more than any other U.S. president. There has been much talk about whether or not he is a born-again believer, but we can all agree that he needs us to pray for him.

Benefits of Blessing Israel

Any student of history can tell you that those who bless Israel will be blessed, even as God told Abraham (Gen. 12:3). Rabbi Jonathan Bernis, the host of Jewish Voice, told me, "President Trump's recent decision to honor a 23-year-old commitment made by the U.S. to move our embassy to Jerusalem will result in unprecedented blessings for America. God's decree to bless those who bless Israel is still in force and is true for both individuals and nations. I applaud his bold decision to align our nation with they have ever had. He will attempt to be fair to the Palestinians and try to negotiate a reasonable peace treaty, and the plight of the Palestinians is very important. However ... he will discover that those who represent the Palestinian people are driven by the unreasonable hatred of a demonic principality and have no real desire for peace or compromise.

"President Trump will then expose their hypocrisy and severely turn on them. ... No country on the earth has been more unfairly and unjustly treated by the nations over the last couple of decades than Israel, and there is a now a larger spiritual bill to pay. The nations that have unjustly judged Israel are presently under limited grace for terrorism and the ones that just voted against Israel have just caused another decrease in grace over their nations."

This is exactly what has happened.

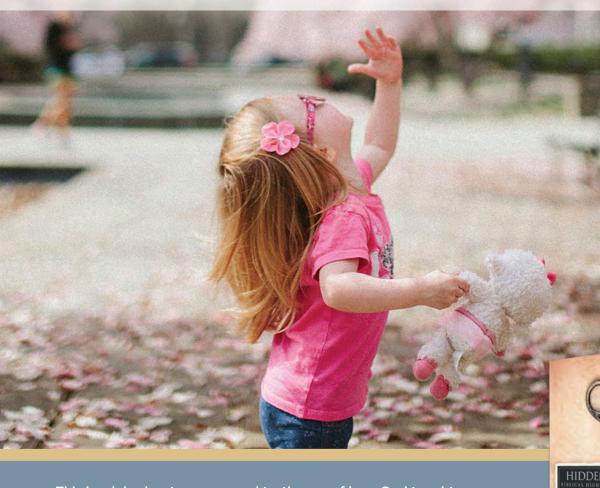
God has a plan for Israel, and we don't want to be on the wrong side. Sorko-Ram has a question for Christians who may be on the fence regarding Jerusalem: "When the Lord returns, the book of Acts says He will touch down on the Mount of Olives. Who is going to meet Jesus there? It is the Jewish people who say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord?' (Matt. 23:39b). He returns to a Jerusalem in Jewish hands. Not to the capital of a Muslim state called Palestine."

RON CANTOR is a leader in the Messianic movement in Israel. He is regional director for GOD TV in Jerusalem and serves Tikkun International, an Israel-based, global family of Messianic ministries, as an evangelist and director of media. Learn more at roncantor.com.



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PETER AIELLO

THE PROPHETIC PROMISE OF PROVISION

Discover the Amos paradigm of favor that transcends time, culture and need

BY TIM HILL

'm bringing you into your Amos 9:13 season." Those were the words I heard clearly in my spirit, and they couldn't have been more pronounced had I heard them audibly spoken. As I awakened early in the morning, I reached for my Bible. I had no idea what was written in Amos 9:13.

Still drowsy, I read: "Indeed, the days are coming, says the Lord, when the plowman will overtake the one who is reaping, and the treader of grapes the one who is sowing the seed; the mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will flow with it."

I said aloud, "Thanks, I suppose." Then I placed the Bible aside and tried to return to sleep. But those words would not leave me. They continued to swirl in my spirit until I walked downstairs to the study.

Once there, I reached for The Message Bible. I have often gained insight and inspiration from this interpretation of God's Word, and I wanted to see how it rendered Amos 9:13. It read:

"'Yes indeed, it won't be long now.' God's Decree. 'Things are going to happen so fast your head will swim, one thing fast on the heels of the other. You won't be able to keep up. Everything will be happening at once—and everywhere you look, blessings! Blessings like wine pouring off the mountains and hills."

As I absorbed that Old Testament passage back in the summer of 2012, I became aware of the Holy Spirit leading me into a redefined paradigm of living, accentuated by three promises I heard spoken into my spirit:

- » "I will exceed all you expect."
- » "I will increase all you invest."
- **»** "I will accelerate time to accomplish My kingdom purpose through your life."

What I felt then was beyond mere emotional fervor. I experienced what I call a "faith resurrection." Suddenly,

I was moved into a zone of remarkable trust and confidence in God.

I had not experienced that level of miracle faith in quite some time, even though throughout my ministry I had seen miraculous blessings in every realm of life. This was the beginning of the most remarkable time I had known in nearly four decades of ministry. With no exaggeration, I lived a miracle every day of that particular year and have continued to see unprecedented miracles ever since.

I was introduced to what I came to identify as "the Amos paradigm." This was more than a season. It was a new way of living. I was discovering life at the speed of favor. I came to understand by the Spirit, which was confirmed by the Word of God, that as sure as there is a speed of light and a speed of sound, there is a speed of favor—a divine pace at which God sovereignly pours out His blessings upon us.

God will exceed all you expect. He will increase all you invest. And He will accelerate time to accomplish His kingdom purpose in and through you. That is the word the Lord gave me early one morning in July 2012. Since then, He has done that and more in my life, and He has revealed that the promises of Amos 9:13 are not reserved only for me. They are for anyone who takes Him at His Word and obeys His promptings.

God is releasing this season of unprecedented favor and accelerated increase to bring in His end-time harvest. Yet as He builds His kingdom, the overflow of His favor will touch your life and mine. We will see miraculous provision, supernatural breakthrough and unparalleled blessing—"things are going to happen so fast your head will swim."

If you are a child of God, these troubled times are nothing to fear. God is pouring out His Spirit and



releasing His favor at breakneck speed. Nothing can rival the speed of His favor.

Timeless Promises

It is important to understand that God's words to Israel, though spoken almost 3,000 years ago, are relevant to His children today. In Scripture, some prophecies are fulfilled in the short term while others take years, sometimes even decades, to manifest. Although numerous biblical prophecies are specific to a particular people, place and time, other prophecies fulfill a dual purpose. These unique prophecies may very well speak to the times of the initial utterance while also speaking to a time period yet to come. So it was and is with Amos 9:13.

The promise of accelerated favor most certainly applied to ancient Israel. However, never think for a moment that this promise isn't applicable to you as well. This promise transcends time, culture and need.

Paul clarified that we as God's children are heirs of promise as part of the "Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16b, MEV). He affirms the same truth with these words, "Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise" (Gal. 4:18, ESV). To be clear, as Christians we have not replaced Israel in the divine plan and providence of God, but we have been gloriously brought in to this promise by adoption and inheritance through Christ Jesus.

I challenge you to blow the ancient dust off Amos 9:13, take hold of it personally and allow it to be activated in your life now.

Four Promises

Every promise appropriated from heaven needs to be activated on earth. Every few years, the bank I use sends me new debit and credit cards with the instructions to call a specific number in order to activate the account.

Nothing works until I take the few moments necessary to do my part. Similarly, you and I must personally activate God's generous promises.

With any promise given from the heavenly Father, it is our responsibility to recognize it, rely on it and rest in it. Jesus said in Mark 11:24 (MEV), "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you will receive



them, and you will have them."

I am convinced as never before that this is the day of overflow for the kingdom of heaven. God is accelerating His work among His people in these last days, and it is by no accident that we are alive at this epoch in history. We were chosen to be a life-giving generation with a life-changing and prophetic word to this world.

We have been given these promises, and we are to declare them to others. They include a promise of:

Accelerated harvest. As Jesus told His disciples in John 4:35, indeed the fields are already ripened for the harvest. As Amos prophesied about a time when the reapers would be overtaken by those ready to plow and sow the fields again, this powerful word from the Lord completely describes the current ingathering that is happening around the world. Don't believe the naysayers and pessimists. An unexcelled and unprecedented wave of missions is spanning the globe. Just as one generation completes its labor, a new and younger generation with greater energy, resolve and boldness is on the heels of the previous one ready to reap another harvest.

Accelerated opportunity. We are in a season of opportunity unlike any the church has ever known. The complexities of national and world events combined with a spiritual climate rarely seen in our lifetime all lend themselves to unprecedented open doors for Christ to be made known. An increased wave of immigration has brought the world to the doorsteps of America, and now the United States is literally a "nation of nations." This fact alone creates exponential kingdom possibilities. Many new

immigrant believers become amazing missionary evangelists not only to their own communities in the United States, but also to their homeland. As we fix our eyes on Jesus, He will enable us to see and seize the opportunities He brings our way.

Accelerated restoration. I feel a burden to tell you that you have entered into a day of divine recovery. Just as God promised Israel through the prophet Joel, He will restore all that the enemy of your soul has devoured (see Joel 2:25-27). God's promise to Israel was a complete restoration of the years that had been taken away. His promise to them and to you is a restoration of lost time. I'm not talking merely about days and months, but even the years of lost health and peace previously stolen by your adversary.

Accelerated power. God has promised us unusual power for unusual tasks. In Luke 4:18, Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed."

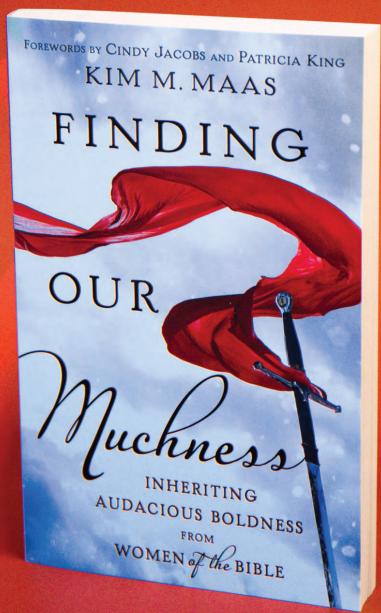
Here we see a clear link between task and anointing. It seems that throughout Scripture, a strong case is made to support the fact that God provides power commensurate with a task. In Acts 10:38, Peter said, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

Without a doubt, the Holy Spirit has endowed us with favor for these times. So why should any believer yield to the intimidation of Satan? Jesus made this promise: "Look, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. And nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

Friend, God is for you! He has empowered you, and you have no reason to be afraid. Abide in relationship with Him and receive His boldness to powerfully advance His kingdom. Indeed, this is life at the speed of favor. \triangleleft

TIM HILL is an ordained bishop in the Church of God and currently serves as the aeneral overseer.

FULFILL YOUR CALLING as a WOMAN of GOD



- break through cultural barriers, religious traditions, and political limitations
- refuse to be defined by your circumstances
- dream, risk, and fight again
- discover your Kingdom identity and purpose













"In judgment God is going to remember mercy, which means souls, which means He needs evangelists. He's literally giving the call of evangelist to the church. That's prophetic. Judgment is coming and He needs workers."—Hal Linhardt





SEAN ROBERTS

IS PROPHETIC EVANGELISM THE ANSWER?

At a time when polls show Christians rarely share their faith with others, a new and innovative form of evangelism is exhibiting promise

BY KEN WALKER

hen Kevin Dedmon walked into a New Mexico pizza shop with two 60-year-old women and a young man, the hostess told the visitors to sit anywhere they liked.

"We're not here for pizza," replied the pastor from Northern California's Bethel Church. "We're on a treasure hunt."

After they showed her clues the Holy Spirit had revealed prior to the group's visit, the woman said, "I'm not a treasure. I'm an atheist." Then she asked them to leave. As they turned to go, Dedmon sensed the Spirit leading him to tell the woman, "God wants you to know you're a good mom."

Immediately, she erupted with cries so loud the shop's owner rushed out from the back to halt what he thought was a robbery in progress. "No," the woman told him, "they're here to help me."

Then she related how her 16-year-old daughter had tried to commit suicide four days earlier. That morning, the hostess awakened awash with guilt, thinking her poor parenting skills were to blame.

Not only did the hostess accept Christ and get filled with the Spirit, so did the owner. Amazing? Yes, but for Dedmon and others he has trained, such continuing experiences illustrate the effectiveness of prophetic evangelism—an innovative method of reaching unbelievers through prophetic gifts.

Today, Christian evangelists and laypersons alike are using

words of wisdom, gifts of healing and prophecy to open others' hearts and minds to the claims of Christ. These modern-day soul winners say these supernatural insights mean the best days of evangelism are still ahead.

"This is the antithesis of the normal preacher with a bullhorn condemning (crowds): 'You rotten sinners,'" says Dedmon, whose book, *Treasure Hunt*, has become a classic in this field. "I think it's time the world gets a true representation of Jesus. He didn't go around condemning sinners and tax collectors, just religious leaders. He became a doctor, a friend and a counselor to people, and they wanted to follow Him."

"It's just an expression of how we do life," says Bethel Pastor Bill Johnson, whom Dedmon credits with opening him to the "out-of-the-box" thinking that led to *Treasure Hunt*. "All prophetic evangelism is connecting to God's heart for people. Jesus came to reveal the Father, not the taskmaster or the caretaker of an orphanage. We look to find the gold in people, for what God has deposited in them. That's their true identity."

Prophetic evangelism is definitely on an upward trend, comments Hal Linhardt, director of the Forerunner Evangelism department at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Missouri. Ironically, despite its reputation as a cutting-edge ministry for more than 15 years, IHOPKC's evangelistic outreach has only blossomed during the past five.

While Dedmon's book helped light a spark, Linhardt

identifies a crucial development as his team attended Christ for all Nations Founder Reinhard Bonnke's first school of evangelism in Orlando, Florida, in June 2012.

"He laid hands on everyone," Linhardt says. "We came back with a fresh anointing and a zeal to go out and do things, whether prophesying to people, healing or calling people out into their destiny. I think it's part of the restoration of all things. With the establishment of the 24-7 prayer movement, I think God is answering prayers. He saves the best wine for last."

This emphasis is emerging through various leaders. Figures like former drug addict Todd White (founder of Power & Love Ministries), Steven Uggen of Trinity Works in Minneapolis, and prophetic teacher Randy Clark. A number of powerful evangelists are part of Clark's ministry, such as Will Hart, featured in filmmaker Darren Wilson's latest movie, Holy Ghost.

This movement is widespread too.

Dallas-area teacher Jean Krisle Blasi, who has taught at Bethel and numerous other venues, knows of churches in California, Michigan and Hawaii that are especially active, as well as one in Germany.

Blasi says that while every believer has the gift of prophecy in them, many don't recognize it. Insisting that everyone with Jesus inside has a prophetic gift, she trains thousands of people annually on how to listen so it

"It's a new paradigm," Blasi says. "It comes out of the presence and power of God. You've got to have the presence of God; He has to do the work. It's not you. When I open my mouth because I believe God is going to be there, God comes."

Reaching the Lost

This expanding form of outreach promises to multiply the often-limited impact of traditional evangelism.

A 2013 survey by The Barna Group found that 73 percent of born-again Christians say they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, but only 52 percent had actually done so during the previous year.

Fear and uncertainty over how to present the gospel to unbelievers are often cited as prime drawbacks. But Dedmon thinks the very nature of street witnessing that reaches drug addicts and the homeless proves ineffective with doctors, lawyers, soccer moms or delivery truck drivers.

Formerly a pastor in Huntington Beach, California, Dedmon saw this firsthand going to the beach every Friday night for 10 years. He says prophetic evangelism not only meets needs, it unlocks others' destinies.

Healing is an integral part of this tool. Two years ago in a shopping mall in Switzerland, Dedmon observed a Muslim family, denoted by the women clad in burkas. He walked up and asked who had back pain, which brought an affirmative response from an elderly woman.

Assuring her he could practice "presence therapy," Dedmon placed his hand on her back and prayed. About 15 seconds later, she gyrated with joy before placing his hand on her neck and asking him to pray for her neck and shoulders.

Next, he prayed for the woman's 12-year-old granddaughter, who hadn't been able to bend over normally. The girl responded by jumping in the air, exclaiming, "Grandma, I'm healed!" Before Dedmon left, everyone had said a prayer indicating their decision to follow Christ.

Johnson says Bethel has observed more than 1,000 healings in the midst of this wave, such as one woman who had steel rods in her spine that vanished, people coming out of wheelchairs, and

"We don't do what we do to get attention," the pastor says of skeptics who question such reports. "If the person who was deaf in his right ear can hear now, he knows."

IHOPKC has reported similar activity. Linhardt says his teams have seen around 1,000 healings the past year during weekly visits to Kansas City's jails, nursing homes, festivals, and other places. About 90 percent occur outside of church environments.

"We go anywhere people are," Linhardt says. "Sometimes we're led to a particular person. It's all about talking to people and the Holy Spirit letting us know something about them."

They happen outside the state too. Last year Ehi Taranov traveled to New Orleans with an IHOPKC evangelism team. There he approached a young man who had just exited a bar and asked if he had pain in his lower back.

"Actually I do," the man responded. "I just drank beer and that's why, because I'm in excruciating pain and I don't like the pills they gave me." Taranov asked if he could put his hand on the man's vertebrae. When he agreed, Taranov simply prayed, "In Jesus' name, be healed." The man responded by bending over and touching his toes. Then he screamed, exclaiming he hadn't been able to do that for five years. He asked how Taranov had been able to do that. "Jesus," Ehi replied. "Would you like to know more?" "Yes," the man said, and said a prayer dedicating his life to Christ.

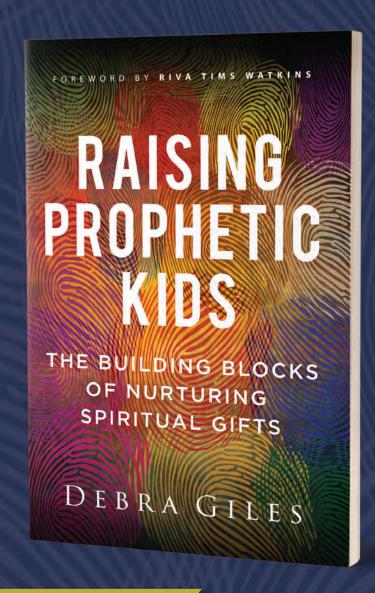
Treasure Hunting

Dedmon first thought of treasure hunting in 2003. Despite Bethel's burgeoning reputation as a spiritual mecca—its School of Supernatural Ministry has 2,100 students—back then few members were going on visitations. Even the leader didn't want to go; when he confessed that, God told him, "So change it."

That led to the concept of developing a treasure map with certain clues from the Spirit about people who represent treasures. Namely, those whom God has His eye on because He knows who is spiritually receptive. One suggested approach: "Excuse me, ma'am. We're on a treasure hunt and we think you are our treasure. See, we have red shirt on our list and you have a red shirt on. We are out to bless people in the community, and we want to see if you need healing anywhere in your body."

"I've made witnessing and evangelism fun," Dedmon says. "The evangelist's job is to equip, activate and empower people to do witnessing. We're all supposed to witness. I don't even like the term, 'prophetic evangelism,' because it makes it seem like the evangelist is supposed to be doing the witnessing."

Usher Your Children into Their Highest Calling



God is calling forth a new generation of Samuels and Deborahs—here's everything you need to train them in the way they should go.



NEW FROM DEBRA GILES

READ FIRST CHAPTER









While their methods aren't identical, the Kansas City evangelists see similar results. When Josh MacDonald flew to a conference Minneapolis in the spring of 2014, he and another team member noticed a blonde teen a few rows away because of her repeated glances at them during their flight.

As the married 25-year-old Mac-Donald wondered if she was flirting, the Spirit whispered, "She's an evangelist."

Unable to find her after they landed, MacDonald pulled out his phone and recorded a video declaring the girl was an evangelist. He promised to show her the video later that weekend.

As the weekend passed, MacDonald wondered if he had heard right. That is, until he saw her with her parents as they arrived at the airport for their return flight.

Walking up, MacDonald introduced himself and showed them the video he recorded two days earlier. After all three burst into tears, MacDonald encouraged her to pursue God's calling.

"I just accepted Jesus into my life a month ago," said the girl, who was staying at a Kansas City boarding school after earlier rebellions left her parents unable to cope.

This meeting led to a relationship between the boarding school and IHOPKC, and financial support for MacDonald's ministry (Messenger's BootCamp) from the parents. It also prompted a visit to the IHOPKC campus by the girl and her mother in early January of 2015. With her daughter in constant pain because of a rare disease that led to her shoulders constantly popping out of place, the mother had driven to Kansas City to comfort her.

The morning MacDonald prayed for her, he recalls the Spirit falling over the room and both of the girl's shoulder blades snapping into place. "She lifts her arms straight up in the air and her mother is crying and saying, 'I can't believe it,'" MacDonald says.

Facing Challenges

As exciting as such testimonies are, believers must steel themselves for rejection like the kind IHOPKC's assistant evangelist department director, Laurie Ditto, encountered several years ago.

She took a team of international students on door-to-door evangelism, something they would never do at home. At one house, an elderly African-American answered. As an Hispanic girl with heavily-accented English explained why they were there, Ditto heard the Spirit say, "He's going to die in three days."

Although the man replied that he wasn't interested, Ditto followed by describing the terrible things that had happened during his life, including rejection by his children. Telling him she had come because of his sickness, Ditto asked if he had cancer. He asked how she knew. but when she said, "Jesus," he rejected her invitation to follow Him.

"So I started all over again and God gave him more wonderful facts about this man," Ditto recalls. "He eventually said, 'I believe you believe what you're telling me, but I refuse to believe there's a God. Now please leave."

"I wanted to quit my job," says Ditto, the author of Go Tell Others About Me. "I told Hal, 'I quit' and he said, 'You don't need to quit. You need a vacation."

Soon after, Ditto and her husband received two plane tickets to Florida, where a family provided them a place to stay, a car, and spending money. One day as she sat by the pool and asked God what to do, He replied she could quit but there wouldn't be anyone to take her place—a divine comment on the lack of workers in the spiritual harvest.

Ditto has since seen the wisdom of remaining. At last December's One Thing conference, she met a young teen and his grandparents. As she talked to them, she sensed the young man was quite troubled.

Using her prophetic gift, she described his nature and his favorite subject in school. That led to a discussion where she learned that the youth had tried to commit suicide and was considering another attempt. She later told the grandparents that the boy didn't trust them because of some things that had happened in the past, which prompted a teary admission from the grandmother that she had spoken uncaring words.

"This grandfather was a 6-foot-6, 250-pound man and he told this teen, 'I affirm you,'" Ditto says. "When I saw

them the next day, everything about this boy had changed. Yes, he got saved, but this prophetic gift is able to unlock pieces of people's heart."

Besides potential rejection, Christians must keep a balanced perspective about what lies ahead. Linhardt warns that the last days will include great darkness, "technological tyranny," and God's judgment.

Before the latter occurs, he thinks God's mercy will be evident as prophetic evangelism leads to mass conversions.

"In judgment God is going to remember mercy, which means souls, which means He needs evangelists," Linhardt says. "He's literally giving the call of the evangelist to the church. That's prophetic. Judgment is coming and He needs workers."

As part of this divine activity, the IHOPKC leader predicts there will be round-the-clock evangelism, similar to the 24-7 prayer movement that has spread across the globe since 1999.

He believes that helping fuel this development will be formation of countless grassroots evangelists' groups, which Linhardt says will provide the accountability and mutual encouragement they often can't find in churches.

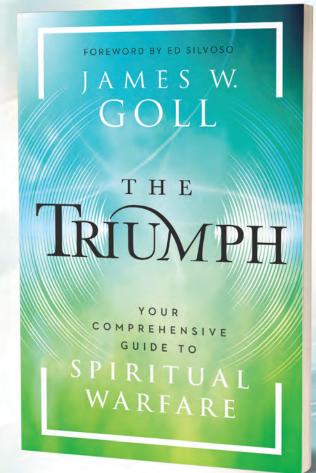
Johnson agrees that God is at work in powerful ways. Instead of fretting over the huge social problems in our midst, he advises Christians to take their cue from Christ. When John the Baptist asked if He was "the One," Jesus told him to focus on results: the lame walking, the blinding see, the deaf hearing and the gospel proclaimed (Matt. 11:5).

"There are things happening now that were dreams a decade ago," Johnson says. "Miracles are common. I can't give the details, but we're frequently brought to offices of national political leaders and top business leaders. There's a level of (spiritual) hunger at the higher echelons of society I have never seen."

Lindhardt gets this too. "I think we're going to see some of the most exciting evangelism ever take place in the very near future," Lindhardt says. •

KEN WALKER is a freelance writer, co-author, and book editor from Huntington, West Virginia, as well as a longtime contributor to Charisma.

WAGE WAR AGAINST THE POWERS THIS PRESENT DARKNESS AND WIN!



EVERY PERSON IS BORN IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE AND FOR A SPIRITUAL BATTLE.

YET SO MANY OF US ARE UNDER-EQUIPPED AND EVEN LOSING BATTLES WE SHOULD BE WINNING.



THE BATTLE IS RAGING, AND IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE YOUR PLACE ON THE FRONT LINE. **BUT DO NOT FEAR:**

YOU WERE BORN FOR THIS—

AND MADE TO TRIUMPH IN CHRIST JESUS.







THE PROPHET'S BLESSING

Receive encouragement to walk in the anointing of your prophetic gift and the power of divine activation no matter how difficult the journey

BY JOHN ECKHARDT

esus told His disciples that when He returned to the Father, they would experience persecution, betrayals, imprisonment and even death because of their faith in Him. But He assured them they had nothing to fear from the world because He had overcome it.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world," (John 16:33, KJV).

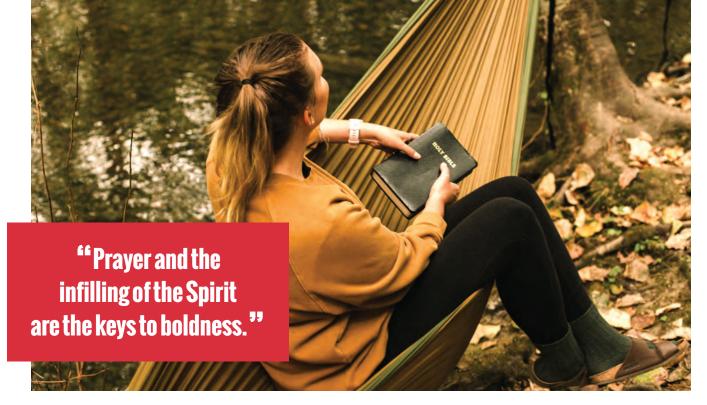
Despite threats and persecution, the apostles boldly preached the good news of the gospel, and miracles, signs and wonders confirmed their message. Consider an account in Acts 3 and 4. After the lame man was healed at the gate called Beautiful, the priests, temple leader and Sadducees took Peter and John into custody and interrogated them because they healed on the Sabbath and preached that Christ had been raised from the dead.

When the religious leaders asked Peter and John by what power they healed the lame man, Peter, full of the Holy Ghost, boldly said: "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we today are being examined concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, how this man has been healed, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole," (Acts 4:8b-10, MEV).

Acts 4 goes on to say that "when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it," (vv. 13-14, KJV).

Realizing they couldn't deny that a miracle had taken place since the healed man was standing before them and all the people knew what happened to him, the religious leaders threatened Peter and John, commanding them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. "But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot help but declare what we have seen and heard'," (Acts 4:19-20, MEV).

Peter and John were released, and when they returned to the company of believers, they shared



everything that happened.

"When they heard this, they lifted their voices in unity to God and prayed, "Lord, You are God, who has made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ... Now, Lord, look on their threats and grant that Your servants may speak Your word with great boldness, by stretching out Your hand to heal and that signs and wonders may be performed in the name of Your holy Son Jesus," (Acts 4:24, 29-30).

How Prophets Bless Others Through Prayer

Notice that when Peter and John returned to their company, they prayed fervently. Prayer was the key to their power and their boldness.

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness," (Acts 4:31, KJV).

They prayed and exalted the Lord until the place was shaken by the power of the Holy Ghost as He filled them again with His power and boldness.

Prayer always precedes the power. Prayer and the infilling of the Spirit are the keys to boldness. That company of believers prayed until the power of the Holy Ghost fell and filled them again. And with the infilling of the Holy Spirit came the anointing and boldness to keep

spreading the good news of the kingdom of God and not shrink back.

After the stoning of Stephen, a great persecution arose in Jerusalem against the church (Acts 8). King Herod even stretched his hand against the believers, killing James the brother of John with the sword. When he realized James' death pleased the religious community, Herod imprisoned Peter with the intent to do the same to him.

But the saints prayed.

"Peter was kept in prison, but fervent prayer for him was persistently made to God by the church (assembly)," (Acts 12:5, AMPC).

The believers prayed fervently until the unseen became seen and the impossible was accomplished. An angel awakened Peter, removed his chains, unlocked locked doors and escorted him safely out of the prison. Peter went to his praying company—and they were still praying when he arrived!

Prophets and intercessors, be faithful and persistent in prayer. That is how you will remain sensitive to the Spirit of God and receive the boldness to speak and pray with the kind of power that removes burdens, destroys yokes and sets captives free!

Blessing the Prophet to Bless Yourself

God releases divine blessing upon

those who honor His representatives. Those who are hospitable to prophets get God's attention.

The treatment of prophets is a sign of a person's heart toward God. Favor, blessing, promotion and financial breakthrough are some of the blessings that come into your life when you receive a prophet of God. Even if you are called to prophetic ministry, honoring God's prophets brings rewards.

The widow of Zarephath received Elijah as a prophet because he was a prophet. She extended to him the hospitality he requested of her (1 Kings 17:9-16). She acted on his words in faith, giving her all to God by making his servant a meal with her only food. Then, in obedience to Elijah's instructions, she used her flour and oil to make the prophet food, with the expectation that God would keep them filled so she could provide for herself, her son, and Elijah. As a result, God rewarded her faith. "The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah" (1 Kings 17:16, NKJV). Later on, after what seemed to be a fatal tragedy—her son's sudden death—she was rewarded for her faithfulness to Elijah when her son was restored to life (1 Kings 17:17-24).

Something similar happened to the

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Shunammite woman who received Elijah's successor, Elisha, into her home. The woman said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there," (2 Kings 4:8-10).

She not only acknowledged Elisha's call and the anointing; she also exercised her faith to make provision for that call and anointing to operate in her life. God rewarded her faith by fulfilling the word given to her through the prophet that her barrenness would be removed and she would have a son. And when that son got sick and died, God used the prophet Elisha to raise him back to life (2 Kings 4:16-17, 34-37).

The prophet's reward is the fulfillment of the prophet's word. It is received by giving honor to the prophet and taking action in faith that shows you believe the prophetic word will surely come to pass. It is also received by faith in the prophet's blessing or decree.

"For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward," (Mark 9:41, KJV).

Receiving a Prophet's Reward

You can receive a prophet's reward in many ways: divine intervention, impartations, confirmation of direction, blessings and the breaking of curses. Other ways in which you can receive a prophet's reward include the following:

» Encouragement. This is one of the assignments of prophets. They will encourage people others have forgotten. If you need encouragement, get around prophets. In Acts 4:36, Barnabas is called the "son of prophecy" or the "son of encouragement."

"Judas and Silas, being prophets themselves, exhorted the brothers with many words and strengthened them" (Acts 15:32, MEV).

"The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned, that I may know how to sustain him who is weary with

a word; He awakens me morning by morning; He awakens my ear to listen as the learned," (Isa. 50:4).

» Conviction. Without conviction, there is no change. Conviction is the grace of the prophet. Their words pierce the heart to bring understanding, insight and the fear of the Lord to produce lasting change.

"When they heard this, they were stung in the heart and said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

- » Hope. Prophets can step into hopeless situations and prophesy a miraculous turnaround. Prophets can see beyond discouragement and despair. They can see restoration, change and hope (Ezek. 37:11-12).
- » Miracles. If you want to see miracles, step out in faith on the words of a prophet. Peter obeyed the word of the Lord and caught a great number of fish (Luke 5:5-6).
- » Warning of and exposing the enemy's plans. Elisha warned the king of Israel concerning the plans of the enemy because the Lord opened his ears to hear the plotting of the enemy (2 Kings 6:10-12).
- **» Revealing root issues.** It is a true blessing when a prophet gets to the root of a problem to address what is hidden beneath the surface. Roots are the source of what is growing. Is the root rebellion, pride, rejection, bitterness or unforgiveness? Prophets will reveal and deal with the root issue so you can reap the reward of freedom.

"Even now the axe is put to the tree roots. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matt. 3:10).

» Sensitivity to the Spirit of God. Prophets know and can bring correction when the Holy Spirit is grieved or vexed, and also when the glory has departed (Ichabod). It is amazing that some people can carry on when God's glory leaves, but the prophet cannot act as if the glory is still there when it has lifted. Prophets are grieved when the Holy Spirit is grieved or vexed.

"Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted," (Eph. 4:30, MSG).

» Prosperity. Prophets hurt when they see the people of God struggle because of disobedience. (Consider, for instance, the Lamentations of Jeremiah.) Listening to God's voice and responding with obedience is a key to prosperity.

"I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring the future you hope for" (Jer. 29:11, GNT).

» Times of refreshing. Churches and believers need seasons of refreshing. A prophetic atmosphere refreshes and provides rest and water in the dry places. Refresh means "to revive or reinvigorate, as with rest, food, or drink; to renew by stimulation." We are refreshed in the presence of the Lord.

"So repent (change your mind and purpose); turn around and return [to God] that your sins may be erased (blotted out, wiped clean), that times of refreshing (of recovering from the effects of heat, of reviving with fresh air) may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19, AMPC).

» Other rewards. Prophets also help us go through God's chastening and correction the right way (Heb. 12:11-13; Rev. 3:19). They challenge our comfort zones (Amos 6:1, 4) and call us to rise out of sin and rebellion. Their foresight as well as their discernment of the times and seasons help us to stay poised, purified and prepared for the future.

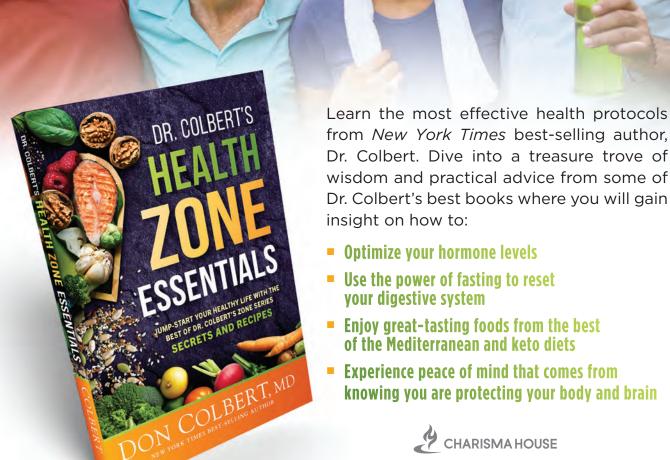
"We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger," (Matt. 10:41, MSG). ◀

APOSTLE JOHN ECKHARDT is over-

seer of Crusaders Ministries, located in Chicago. Gifted with a strong apostolic anointing, he has ministered throughout the United States and overseas in over 80 nations. He is a sought-after international conference speaker and has authored over 40 books, including Prayers That Rout Demons and Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare Manual. Eckhardt resides in the Chicago area with his wife, Wanda.

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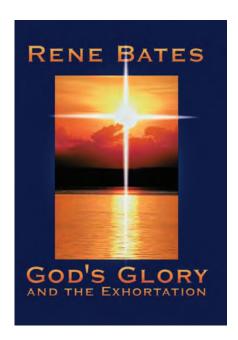


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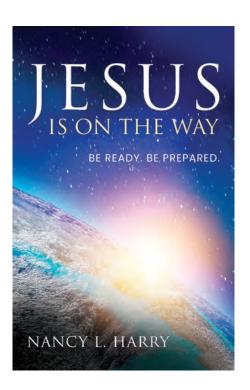
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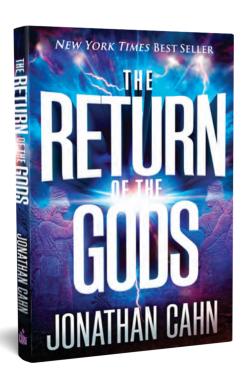
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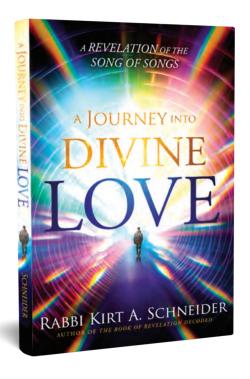
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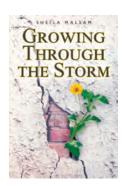


A Journey Into Divine Love by Rabbi Kirt A. Schneider

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Guided By The Holy Spirit In Prayer

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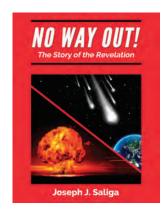
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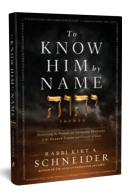
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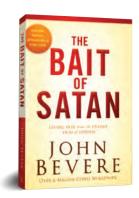
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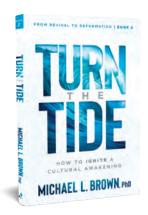
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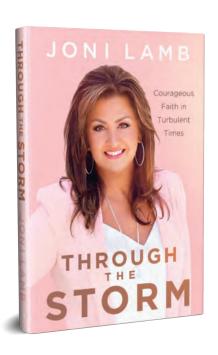
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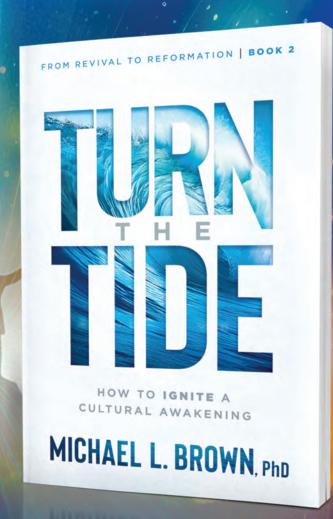
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