

## Chapter 1

### **"AH, SOVEREIGN LORD!"**

"I have never started anything that I was qualified for, but the more unqualified, the better! Even Jesus in the garden felt unqualified!"

—Philip Cameron, missionary evangelist and founder of Stella's House orphanages, Montgomery, AL

**N**OW IS THE time for the unqualified to rise and lead. Why? Because what we have been doing has not worked. The unqualified are the ones who understand they cannot accomplish anything without the help of God. Furthermore, throughout history God has never tapped the professional religious to lead a Holy Spirit awakening. It's always been the ones first ignored by culture, systems, and the religious order of the day who were nominated for those jobs. Whether it was a fugitive who led the people of Israel to the Promised Land, a harlot who rescued the spies, a young shepherd who killed a giant, or a young virgin who was visited by an angel, God has chosen the ones not on the radar to accomplish His next work.

I believe God does this to show that the wisdom of man can never override the insight of God. What man calls forgotten, God calls forged. God is a scene interrupter! He loves to interrupt the scene so everyone has to sit back and say, "Only God!"

## This Is Who God Is

As I began writing this chapter, I received a text on my phone from someone very dear to my wife, Karen, and me. The text was sent from pastor Phyllis Sawyer from Calvary Assembly in Decatur, Alabama. Karen and I had worked for Pastors George and Phyllis as youth pastors prior to launching as evangelists in 1997. They have always been a rock that we have turned to for direction and wisdom.

Phyllis was in a time of prayer and fasting when she wrote the text. As I studied her words, my eyes were filled with tears. The message was simple but profound. Here is what she wrote:

He is...

Our God is never changing—"He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does." Job 23:13

Our God is the first and last—"Thus saith the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts; 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.'" Isaiah 44:6 [KJV]

Our God is King forever and ever—"The Lord is King forever and ever; the nations have perished out of His land." Psalm 10:16

Our God is the beginning and the end—"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Revelation 22:13

Our God is THE WORD—"He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is call The Word of God." Revelation 19:13

Today, my friend, He is our All! He is EVERYTHING we want and need! He is! He is! He is!

My God is the one who steps on mountains and makes them crumble! [Habbakuk 3:6.]

"I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?" [Jeremiah 32:27.]

My prayer for you today is that you discover a

revelation that is just your revelation of who and what God is in you and for you.

This text really says it all—*our God is!* The text declares God is sovereign. When we begin to understand the sovereignty of God, we become candidates for the miraculous. When God calls you into His kingdom work, the greatest hindrance you will face is not whether someone opens doors for you or gives you a hand up the ladder of ministry. No, the greatest hindrance to your call is the belief that you can make it happen yourself.

We must understand that our nation is deeply in need of a reformation. We are now living in a time when truth is considered hate speech, and very soon in many places the only intolerance that will be acceptable is bigotry toward those who declare God's Word and refuse to condone ungodly lifestyles.

The atmosphere we now live in is enough to make God's leaders discouraged and weary. But we must not grow weary in well doing, for it is at a time like this that we must trust the Lord. I believe with everything in me that if the lordship of God is not declared and acted upon in America, then our nation is doomed!

### The Wave Dream

On Sunday morning, June 1, 2014, at about 2:00 a.m., I had a dream I must share with you. In the dream Karen and I were running across a map of the United States. The reason we were running was because a giant tidal wave was chasing us.

In the dream I was screaming to Karen that we must get people to safety. I was frantic because I knew destruction was chasing us. As we jumped from state to state, the wave got closer. I could hear it. I could see it. It was massive and seemed to wipe out everything in its path. People, businesses, and land were being swallowed up by the massive wave.

In the dream I did not fear for our lives as much as I feared our nation being destroyed. Then, suddenly, we were running up the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. As we clung to the giant white columns of the building, the wave hit, and I woke up.

I was so grieved that I began to weep before the Lord. I said, "Lord, was that destruction coming to our nation? How could this be?"

After a period of time, I fell back to sleep. When the alarm woke me a few hours later, I could not get the dream out of my mind.

That morning I ministered at a church in Tennessee. I was still grieved by the dream even after I arrived back at my hotel room that afternoon. I began to pray, saying, "Lord, You promised that You would not destroy the earth with water again. How could I have dreamed such dream?"

Then I heard God say, "Son, the dream you had was not the destruction of America but a wave of My glory that will flood America!"

I said, "Lord, I want to see America shaken by Your glory, but it seems so far away."

The Lord then spoke again to me. He said, "Get ready, because it is coming!"

What I didn't know at the time is that Karen also had the exact same dream a few months before I did. She had even logged it in her journal the morning after she had it. Through this synchronicity of our dreams, God was speaking to us both that a wave of His glory is coming. God is calling His church back to passion, intimacy, and holiness. Don't you want to be a part of that?

For the next month I meditated on this dream time and time again. Then on the morning of July 1, 2014, I was awakened yet again with a powerful message from the Lord. I kept hearing over and over the words, "Ah, sovereign Lord!"

I didn't understand why the Lord kept speaking these

words to me. I also felt a very heavy weight in my spirit. I knew that two days later my family and I would be headed to Washington, DC, to minister with very dear friends, Drs. Rodney and Adonica Howard-Browne, at the Celebrate America Conference. The Howard-Brownes carry a very powerful prophetic mantle to awaken America to revival. The conference was going to be held at Constitution Hall and would last a total of three weeks, during which time thousands would be saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. I had been invited to speak the night of July 3, which had been deemed youth night.

As I reflected on the upcoming speaking engagement in our nation's capital and kept hearing those words, "Ah, sovereign Lord!" I became overwhelmed by the fact that God's sovereignty is what our nation is missing.

**"The unqualified ones are the Davids of this generation. They see victory when others see defeat. They are the ones who run with courage when others run with fear. They are God heroes in disguise. God causes the unqualified to succeed when people expect them to fail."**

**—Micah Marshall,  
youth pastor, Altoona, PA**

I began to study this phrase, "Ah, sovereign Lord!" and discovered it appears throughout the Bible. In fact, the phrase *sovereign Lord* is found 288 times in the New International Version of the Bible. One of the scriptures that stood out the most to me concerning this is found in the book of the weeping prophet Jeremiah, who said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you" (Jer. 32:17).

I knew that I had to go deeper in my research.

## The “Ah” in My Spirit

I first began to study the word *ah* and realized it means, “an exclamation of sorrow or regret,”<sup>1</sup> and can be found in passages such as Psalm 35:25; Isaiah 1:24; Jeremiah 1:6; 4:10; and Jonah 4:2. I knew immediately then that the heaviness in my spirit was a cry of sorrow.

Perhaps you have noticed that many times in the Scriptures you find the word *O* just before you see *God* or *Lord*. This is the same exclamation. It is the sound you or I make when we feel deep pain. It is a cry from within—a deep yearning in the spirit. The best way I can explain it is to say it’s what we’re feeling when we have a breakthrough or experience great grief. It’s placed as a prefix before God’s name to render that same indication of emotion in the Scriptures.

I then began to study the term *sovereign Lord*. I first looked up the words in the original Hebrew language. The term for *sovereign Lord* used in the Hebrew language is *Adonai Yahweh*.<sup>2</sup> So let’s break down those two words.

1. The meaning of *Adonai*, also meaning *Elohim*, means “all authority and exalted position.” The word stresses man’s relationship to God as his master, authority, and provider.<sup>3</sup> Moses declared of God, “Sovereign LORD, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do?” (Deut. 3:24).
2. The meaning of *Yahweh*<sup>4</sup> is “the LORD” (all caps!) from the meaning “I AM,”<sup>5</sup> taken from Exodus 3:14, where God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

"Ah, sovereign Lord" means, then, "In my anguish I declare that all authority belongs to the I AM!" This is exactly what happens when we give our hearts to God completely. After all, lordship is where it begins for us! As Romans 10:9 says, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

### Tracking the Source of the Burden

At first I wondered why this phrase was so heavy on my spirit. I wondered if it could be because the Supreme Court of the United States had just ruled four days prior on the side of Hobby Lobby, in a 5–4 decision, that Hobby Lobby did not have to provide contraception that could kill a child in the womb on the basis of religious convictions.<sup>6</sup> After all, Psalm 109:21 says, "But you, Sovereign LORD, help me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me."

Maybe it was because I have desired so badly for the youth of this generation to have an early encounter with God and make Him all that matters, as it says in Psalm 71:5: "For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth."

Maybe it was because Islamic terrorists were beheading journalists and issuing an Islamic jihad to America and the Middle East. After all, the cry of Psalm 140:7 is, "Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer, you shield my head in the day of battle."

I know too that God has promised to pour out His Spirit across the land, so maybe that was it. Maybe my soul was longing for this. After all, Isaiah 61:11 says, "For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."

Or maybe it had to do with the way secular humanism has made its way from the universities into the lives of naïve

Christians. Humanism cannot harm God's plan for the church unless the church no longer sees humanism as dangerous and embraces its lies as truth. We have gone from Scripture promise boxes that you can get from Christian bookstores to Christian celebrity tweets. Many times the messages from such Christian celebrities contain more humanism than God's Word. But God has called us to declare Him and not our secular ideas and opinions: "But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds" (Ps. 73:28).

Maybe too it was because I was in the midst of a long summer of ministry and I live the promise of Isaiah 61:1: "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." How can I help but be burdened in my spirit when carrying such purpose in my heart?

Or maybe it's because I was—and continue to be—so grieved by the false grace movement spreading across America that has removed repentance from salvation. Jude 1:4 says it like this: "For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord."

One of my heroes is Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor who stood against Hitler and the Nazis during World War II. This great theologian watched as the government infiltrated the church, insisting that it preach Nazi propaganda. Dietrich Bonhoeffer refused to bow. He and many others from the group called the Confessing Church stood their ground. He would later be murdered by Hitler and his regime. Yet his writings still speak to us today. This theologian understood that holiness is what brings about true

relationship with God. He once wrote, "Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."<sup>7</sup>

Too many Christians are unwilling to take bold stands today, perhaps because too many teachers of the gospel have bought into the lie that a lifestyle of perversion is OK with God. However, 2 Peter 2:1 warns, "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves" (MEV).

As I began to go deeper into my research of the phrase, though, I realized it was actually a cry from the heart of God for our nation and the army God desires to raise up. God wants to be sovereign once again in our lives and in America. When God has all authority over a nation, then His protection can cover it.

In order for this to happen, though, we must invite God back into our nation. The Bible says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen as His inheritance" (Ps. 33:12, MEV). This verse declares where the blessing comes from. It doesn't come from innovative minds, from the financial markets, or from the White House. The blessing of God comes when we declare that Jesus is Lord of our nation.

## **We Need God's Help**

You must realize that without God's intervention, our nation is doomed to self-destruct. This may sound very unpatriotic, but my patriotism is at the root of why I would make such a statement. I believe God is not done with America—and He wants to use us, the unqualified, to accomplish His purposes.

I believe Satan's ultimate goal is to destroy this nation. America has sent Christian missionaries all over the world to spread the gospel for more than two hundred years. Alas, it might be time for the missionaries to come home, because our nation needs their pioneer spirits and their unabashed voices.

In fact, the church at large is very quiet concerning the moral issues of today. Maybe this is due to a fear of offending the lost or causing a flap in the media. In any case, if Satan can quiet the church concerning righteous and moral issues, he will have freedom to roam at will, unabated by "those pesky Christians."

**"The filth, the vile, the unrighteousness, and thoughts I fight daily to walk on the right path carrying the love of Christ make the word *unqualified* my middle name. I am amazed that a perfect God would give a putrid person with such a terrible past the gift of salvation! I cry mercy and grace on all occasions. Now I can show the lost His love with my gifts!"**

**—Steve McGranahan, strongman and TV personality on *Fat N' Furious***

This is why I'm convinced that if the unqualified and the remnant do not rise up and lead, then we as a church will be done in by our plastic faith and lost holiness. While we have spent the last fifty years building our majestic houses of worship, the nation has lost its magnificent voice of truth.

To see the devil's handiwork, all you have to do is tune into the twenty-four-hour cable news cycle or pick up a newspaper. I believe we are now living in a day when the books of prophecy, such as Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and Revelation, are being unfolded and fulfilled in front of our very eyes. Whether we look

at the continued advance of Islamic militants, the isolation and persecution of Israel, the constant threat of horrible diseases, the economic uncertainty the plagues us (the US national debt raced past eighteen trillion dollars as of the writing of this book)<sup>8</sup> or the rise of the anti-Christian agenda, we know we are in very perilous times.

The destruction of America will come from those inside it, not outside. Those who have decided that God is no longer welcome on our soil have eroded the very foundation of Christianity. Biblical values are now considered closed-minded and obsolete by the humanist, atheist, and progressive culture. The systematic dismantling of our nation's history came to a head when the forty-fourth president of the United States, Barack Obama, declared at a press conference in the nation of Turkey on April 6, 2009, "We do not consider ourselves a Christian nation."<sup>9</sup> This, of course, was our president doing his best to win the hearts of the Middle East in what many have called his "apology tour."<sup>10</sup> It has not necessarily worked out very well for our president or our nation, since the majority of the Muslim world hates America now more than ever.<sup>11</sup> Yet this also exposes an agenda that is at work in our nation. The agenda includes the intense demonization of those who stand for biblical truth in areas such as heterosexual marriage, gender identification, the protection of the unborn, and similar moral issues.

### **The Forgotten Lordship**

For centuries the world needed to only look to the West, to a young, idealistic nation called America, for direction and strength. From the days at Plymouth Rock to the wars of the Middle East, we have stood as a beacon of hope.

What has made our nation so special is the foundation it was built upon that freedom is a right. The writers of the Declaration of Independence wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they

are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”<sup>12</sup> Even at the foundation of our nation, the Creator was acknowledged.

We must admit that America has not been perfect. Our history concerning the rights of all people regardless of color or creed, the equality of women, the respect of Native Americans, and the protection of the unborn has marred the landscape of our history, but America has, for the most part, been a beacon of hope. It is a nation that has stood as the model of democracy and liberty to all abroad. Our shores represented hope, prosperity, and freedom to the world.

For more than two hundred years the fortitude and perseverance of the American culture could be tied to its founding as a Christian nation. After all, our national motto is “In God We Trust,” and it was our first president, George Washington, who declared in his Thanksgiving proclamation on October 3, 1789, “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.”<sup>13</sup>

All through our history as a nation, God has been confirmed as America’s foundation. Here are some very important quotes that prove the sovereignty of God in our nation’s history:

We have this day [Fourth of July] restored the Sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven, and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His Kingdom come.

—SAMUEL ADAMS<sup>14</sup>

The name of the Lord (says the Scripture) is a strong tower; thither the righteous flee and are safe (Proverbs 18:10). Let us secure His favor and He will lead us

through the journey of this life and at length receive us to a better.

—SAMUEL ADAMS<sup>15</sup>

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

—JOHN ADAMS<sup>16</sup>

Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is their duty—as well as privilege and interest—of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.

—JOHN JAY,

FIRST CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT<sup>17</sup>

God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.

—THOMAS JEFFERSON<sup>18</sup>

That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN<sup>19</sup>

If any earthly institution or custom conflicts with God's will, it is your Christian duty to oppose it. You must never allow the transitory, evanescent demands of man-made institutions to take precedence over the eternal demands of the Almighty God.

—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.<sup>20</sup>

The Bible and its teachings helped form the basis for the Founding Fathers' abiding belief in the inalienable rights of the individual, rights which they found implicit in the Bible's teachings of the inherent worth and dignity of each individual. This same sense of man patterned the convictions of those who framed

the English system of law inherited by our own Nation, as well as the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

—RONALD REAGAN<sup>21</sup>

Many secularists would love our history revised to remove God from our nation's foundation, but as you can see, the proof of God's sovereignty can be found throughout our history books and is inscribed upon the walls and monuments of our nation.

To give you an example of their intent, though, note these happenings. In 2013 a group of atheists sued the Treasury Department of the United States to try and have the words "In God We Trust" removed from US currency. These words were first approved for use on US coins during the Civil War in 1864. In 1956 Congress "passed a resolution to recognize the words officially as the national motto, replacing the de facto phrase 'E Pluribus Unum.' A year later, it began being printed on paper money."<sup>22</sup>

The atheists lost their battle when the US district judge dismissed the case. Judge Harold Baer Jr., in his dismissal, wrote that "the Supreme Court has repeatedly assumed the motto's secular purpose and effect," saying the federal appeals courts "have found no constitutional violation in the motto's inclusion on currency" and that the phrase's inclusion on US currency doesn't constitute a "substantial burden" on atheists.<sup>23</sup>

The battle to remove God from our nation will always exist. In 2014 the American Humanist Association launched a campaign called "Boycott the Pledge" on its website because the Pledge of Allegiance has the words *under God* in it.<sup>24</sup> These are just a few examples of efforts that are taking place on a mass scale today to remove the Christian heritage and foundation of our nation.

This is why we need the unqualified to rise up and lead more than ever before.

## We Are God's Army

It's so easy for us to believe God will use someone else when He wants to use us. For years I thought if I simply knew the right people and if I developed the right gifts, then I could be qualified for service in God's massive kingdom. As we journey into the understanding that God is in the business of using the unqualified to do His work, we must also realize the unqualified will spend their entire lives doing battle with the idea that God can only use those who are qualified by culture or those who are part of the religious establishment or those who have climbed the ladder of success. Really the only high place God has called us to climb is a cross.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,  
but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I  
live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave  
himself for me.

—GALATIANS 2:20

It is from the view of the cross that you hear the cries of lost humanity. And it is only when you hear the sound of the hurting and crawl from your closet of repentance that God allows you to see the bigger picture. What is the bigger picture? It has to be one that says, "If I don't do something for God, then I have no right to complain when destruction comes."

All throughout history God has used the ones no one saw coming to awaken the masses. Whether it was a kid born in a log cabin named Abraham Lincoln, a woman sitting on a bus named Rosa Parks, or a young preacher raised on a farm named Billy Graham, our nation is rich in its history with the advancement of those no one saw coming.

Could it be that you and I are the ones God saved for this moment in history to fill the void left by the former unqualified? All God needs is people willing to stand when others bow.

“The unqualified choose to take up their cross daily without question. They ask Father God to tie them tight to the altar so that when the pain of change comes, they can’t even so much as flinch. They are one with the One who gently slays them and believe in His ability to raise them into the life He has destined them to walk in.”

—Cameron Brice, missionary, Fayetteville, NC

In my book *I Am Remnant* I wrote the following: “This is your moment to rise up and make your mark. Destiny is at your door, and it wants to know what history will say about you. Please realize your freedom requires a response. Are you up for the challenge to prove God right and the devil wrong?”<sup>25</sup> I declare the same statement once again. Will you choose to lead a life that leaves no footprint on this land you have inherited by God’s awesome grace? God forbid. We are accountable to the minutes, hours, and days we live on this earth. Your life doesn’t belong to you. This is your call to wake up!

Oswald Chambers said it best:

There is no such thing as a private life, or a place to hide in this world, for a man or woman who is intimately aware of and shares in the sufferings of Jesus Christ. God divides the private life of His saints and makes it a highway for the world on one hand and for Himself on the other. No human being can stand that unless he is identified with Jesus Christ. We are not sanctified for ourselves. We are called into intimacy with the gospel, and things happen that appear to have nothing to do with us. But God is getting us into fellowship with Himself. Let Him have His way. If you refuse, you will

be of no value to God in His redemptive work in the world, but will be a hindrance and a stumbling block.<sup>26</sup>

God has marked your days on His calendar. Heaven is watching from the grandstands to see what you will do with your time on earth. You are living out your appointed time: "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands" (Acts 17:26).

### **Are You Desperate for God's Rescue?**

As I stumbled through that morning on July 1, the weight of the message of "Ah, sovereign Lord!" became overwhelming. Finally I heard the Lord speak to me. He said, "Son, the 'Ah, sovereign Lord!' that you hear in your spirit is the cry of those who have come to a place of knowing I am King and ruler, those who are broken and desperate for their God. These are those that know that without My help, My intervention, and My preeminence, everything they try will be for naught. If you will declare My sovereignty, I will intervene. My army will arise. The I AM will rescue!"

God then took me to the book of Ezekiel, and I immediately knew what God was trying to tell me. He was calling for His army to wake up. The dream I had experienced one month earlier of the tidal wave of God's glory rising on this nation was tied to this new cry in my spirit. Here is what I read (and notice the inclusion of the *sovereign Lord* phrase multiple times!):

The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. Then he

asked me, “Son of man, can these bones become living people again?”

“O Sovereign LORD,” I replied, “you alone know the answer to that.”

Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, ‘Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.’”

So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, ‘We have become dry, old bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.’ Therefore, prophesy to them and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you

will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the LORD has spoken!”

—EZEKIEL 37:1–14, NLT

This scripture declares that the nation of Israel will awaken, but I also believe this passage is for you and me. God will awaken those who are dead on the battlefield of life—the ones who are no longer qualified. The bones represent those who have died with no hope. Indeed, we are in need of the wind of God to call our bones back together. With the Spirit of God in us, we can rise up and lead.

And so on the night of July 3, just two days after receiving that “Ah, sovereign Lord!” message from God, I shared the stage with a dear friend named Joel Stockstill at the Celebrate America Conference. We were both supposed to share for thirty minutes, but as we headed into the service, Joel said to me, “I really feel I should only share for a few moments and you share the word God has given you in its entirety.” I was honored he would give part of his time to me, and I knew God was stirring the atmosphere for His message.

That night God invaded the building that sits just four hundred yards from the White House. I didn’t stand up to preach as a politician or some renowned statesman, but rather as a kid from Oneonta, Alabama, who had a word from the Lord. I was overwhelmed God would use me on such an auspicious occasion. In truth, I felt like running and hiding just before I took to the stage to deliver this message that was only a few days old—a message I knew was not just for youth but also for our nation as a whole—but I stood and let the wind of God’s Spirit move through me and those gathered there. He began awakening dry bones!

Right now as you’re reading this, I pray that you too will stand to your feet and declare with me, “Ah, sovereign Lord!” It is when we declare the very sovereignty of God that we are fulfilling the first of the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:3: “You shall have no other gods before me.” There

is a reason that this commandment is number one. God must be first in everything we do. When God's sovereignty takes control of our lives, we are no longer moved by opinions, personalities, or catchy doctrine but simply by the will of God.

**“The unqualified are those who have paid the price to walk closely with Jesus but have not been noticed by man for extreme gifting or personality. The playing field is being leveled by the Lord of the harvest, and the laborers of true passion are being released!”**

**—Joel Stockstill, evangelist and prophetic voice, Dallas, TX**

God is awakening His people for this last-day move of God. The vision of Ezekiel tells us that all it takes is God's Spirit.

I can hear the wind blowing, the bones rattling, and the army forming. Can you? It is the awakening of the nobodies! It is the unqualified. God has given us His promise that we will see the last-day outpouring. I believe we will see the tidal wave of God's outpouring of glory when the church declares God's sovereignty once again.