

A FRIEND OF GOD

Now, more than ever, I am convinced of two things. In order for the Body of Christ to move forward and retake— or take for the first time— the nations we live in, we must have encounters with our God in a manner we have never had before. For some, altar experiences; for others, recapturing the bond of our first love (Revelation 2:1-7). Secondly, for our nations to be impacted by Jesus, all hell will need to break loose around them, or they will continue to demand their own way, like spoiled, offended children who have never worked a day in their lives.

“Wow, preacher, that sounds angry; not a bit like our loving God.” When a child is having a temper tantrum, do you try to reason with a two-year old, or do you walk away and let them scream for a bit? I’ve never seen a good parent reason with unreasonable. As long as they cannot hurt themselves or others, it is best to let them scream it out until they realize they are not going to get their way. At that point, most children will realize that the screaming is getting them nowhere.

Those experiences are also good tests for mental health issues in children. Children who are just testing you, will figure it out. Children with real mental health issues are not able to discern the difference. Good parenting will help them, but it cannot always overcome the mentally unstable. Unfortunately, if you have ever experienced a toddler, unstable is the norm. Most first-time parents will swear their child is crazy, not realizing that is just part of being a two to four-year old.

Children get a good portion of their emotional stability from their parents. Boys get it from their moms and girls get it from their dads. In our topsy-turvy worlds, we have removed moms and dads from the home, thinking the kids will turn out fine. Well, they are not turning out fine. Just as alarming, we have some parents totally incapable of normal, adult life; let alone being able to handle the stresses of child-rearing.

In days gone by, the church was able to pick up the slack here and help young parents cope. Even the preaching from the pulpit was received as an object lesson for the week, while the kids sat quietly in church, or joined a children's lesson where they learned why not to bite their siblings on the head. The Holy Spirit convicted all family members of sin— if you've ever had to clean up after a moment of sibling rivalry, you know what I mean— the Holy Spirit anointed the service, convincing everyone of Jesus' awesome love. A weekly healing for the frail emotions of many families took place. Think of the impact this had on a nation as thousands of families made this a weekly practice.

Our subject matter for this month has been building in my spirit for some time. It came to a head after finding notes I took of a conference from 2004, or 2005. That conference brought together North and South American leaders. The Lord gave me a word and I wrote it down. This month we remember those who died during the attacks of September 11, 2001. Sometimes, when a nation is committing hideous acts on its land, the Lord will allow the fullness of their rebellion to reap the crop they are sowing. The Bible tells us that God is not the author of this

heartache; our rebellious ways are sowing our own seeds of destruction. At that point, there are spiritual laws at work which, when triggered, can literally remove indigenous people from their own land (Leviticus 18:27-28).

At the same time this is going on, some churches are either playing games with God, or going after God, seeking His ways and His truth in order to minister to those around them. Recently, the Lord reminded me of John 15:13-16: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you” (NET Bible®).

“Ask me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the ends of the earth as your personal property” (Psalm 2:8; NET Bible®). In Matthew 28:18, Jesus says this: “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” The psalmist writes in symbolism what Jesus later tells us is now fact. When we ask in the will of what the Father gave the Son, we know God hears us. Yet, the reality remains, if we don't move in the same miracle-working power of Jesus, we will not be able to go forth to see mankind redeemed, thus redeeming nations.

In light of what the Lord shared with me from the beginning of 2018 (click the Archives tab on the Home page drop-down; see March, May and July 2018), let me share something the Lord gave me before that North and South American conference. The Lord told me that the Body of Christ needed to step into its Jordan and wash.

To understand the scope of this word, we need to understand something about the Jordan. There are few places on earth which exemplify this perfectly. We can see places in Yellowstone National Park and surrounding areas millennia after, and the Jordan Valley now, and realize how long it takes for the earth to go through this kind of transformation.

The Jordan River sits on top of the deepest rift or depression in the world. The indentation is so deep it can be seen from outer space. What causes this is the fact that the Jordan Valley sits on the Jordan Rift, which is the coming together of two deep fault lines in the earth. The rift has slipped down between these two parallel fault lines. Hot springs and mineral-stained rocks along the sides of the rift are still evidence to scientists that it is still geologically active. It is the condition of the land with the runoff from rainfall that makes the river itself muddy.

For Israel, the Jordan always symbolized healing and healing for the nations. But the Jordan is also a place of great controversy from within us. As we cross the Jordan we come to God's country, but we also come to conflict. As soon as we exchange our ways of doing things for God's ways, there is conflict. When the prophet does not come out to Naaman, a leper, and wave his

hand to perform a miracle, but instead tells him to dip seven times in the Jordan, Naaman leaves angry (2 Kings 5). Eventually he obeys, dips in the Jordan and is healed.

When Israel is invited to cross the Jordan before the battle at Jericho, it was done for many reasons. One was to symbolize their consecration of cleanness in order to walk in a newness of spirit and place with God. The other was to exalt how God wanted to do things by sending the priests in first with the Ark of the Covenant, as well as sealing Joshua as leader in the sight of the people (Joshua 3 & 4). Of course, this is not exactly the traditional way in which to take possession of a land. But when they obey God, the muddy, raging waters are dried up and memorial stones are exposed to commemorate what God is doing.

When Jesus steps into the Jordan for baptism, John tells Him that he has need instead to be baptized of Jesus, not the other way around. The idea of baptizing Jesus challenges John. Jesus does this to fulfill all righteous and as a lasting memorial to all that would follow Him into the cleansing waters of obedience. At that time God testifies that this is His Son (Matthew 3:13-17).

While science looks at microscopic and atmospheric principles for global warming— as well as other rift-occurring phenomena on the planet, like hurricanes, tornadoes, drought and earthquakes— almost everyone forgets the spiritual rifts which cause these events in a realm we no longer see clearly in (1 Corinthians 13:12). They want a scientific way to stop the destruction of the planet, ignoring the motivating cause of the

destruction. To heal those rifts takes obedience and an acknowledgement of our sin. It also takes an assurance of God's love for us.

When God takes a people to their Jordan crossing, He is asking them to step into a rift of muddy waters. He asks them to stand there in it; to identify with what muddies them and pollutes them. He is asking them to be honest with the fact that their 'spiritual' garments need washing. He is asking them to be real about the rifts within them. God does this *before* He takes them to a new place or another level. If they refuse to agree to this process, when they do move with the Lord to that next level of signs and wonders— and they have not washed— they will enjoy the power.

Relishing in a power trip is the last sign before our destruction. Proverbs says it this way: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). Many preach this as the first sign of trouble. Like continually spoiled children escalate bad behavior, it is not the first sign; it is the last sign of losing our first love. At the heart of a child is to love their parents. When love turns to disrespect because obedience is not conveyed, a power trip ensues. Manipulation and control are modern-day words for witchcraft and idolatry (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

When we are in love, we are at rest. When children trust parents, they obey. When we trust our spouses, there is no shouting or bickering. When we know we are the object of our spouse's affections, we don't need to check their cellphones. If, on the

other hand, we have been wounded by a love or a parent, we will continue to bring this lack of love and respect with us wherever we go.

There are many reasons why our Lord asks a people to step into their 'Jordan.' There is another reason I would like to mention. It is to prepare them to dispossess all enemies that are in their land. In this way, they can be a healing nation in order to heal other nations. When they agree to this process, they prophetically embody what troubles the nations they will minister to. As they watch the Almighty sweep back the muddiness in their own lives, they see those parts of their hearts that have become stone, which the cutting and swift flowing flood waters can hide. God always keeps a reminder of this for us, so that those around us can see the awesome work that God has done in miraculously healing us. In this way, other people and nations can realize God can do the same for them. It's also a type or act of His people's worship before their God— a sign of their love.

When I received this word, I also sensed that the Lord was raising up the South American people to minister to many Arab nations. By this I am not saying that only South Americans can witness to Arabs. We all are exhorted to do the work of an evangelist. At that time I was also ministering in a South American country. I sensed the Lord was asking them to step into their Jordan; acknowledge what divided them as a people, and step into what caused their own rifts. In this way, they could be witnesses and intercessors to other divided people groups. This could help them minister Christ effectively on many levels.

As I reflected on this word, I realized its timing is still awaiting another stepping stone. Stepping into the Jordan is a ministry of inner healing and deliverance. There are many wounds that individuals, churches, ministries and people groups experience. Some wounds are self-inflicted. These cause old attitudes or thoughts which taint our present views of people. For example, if we were hurt by men, we will always view men suspiciously. If we were wounded by women, we will bring that wounding into our present situation and wound people in that place, where they know nothing about those problems, and don't understand what the issue is.

As I look around at the Latin American community in the United States, I can see where the devil wants to taint and cause wounding. Rarely reported by the media is the phenomena of what illegal immigration has produced in America. The cost in dollars is mind boggling.¹ As well, the cost of criminality among this group is tragic.² Even when we bring in legal immigrants, we are disobeying the mandate of heaven to "GO into all the world."³ After you view the YouTube clip in the footnote, realize what it is I am saying. Without someone going to the unreached and poor nations, or helping missionaries in those countries, we will never see the poor reached with the Gospel of Jesus. When you look at the math, as displayed in that video, you can see why missions is important. (Click on the link in Footnote 3.)

¹ < <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2017-09/Fiscal-Burden-of-Illegal-Immigration-2017.pdf> >

² <<http://www.foxnews.com/transcript/2018/06/19/american-victims-illegal-immigrant-crimes.html>> <<http://www.foxnews.com/transcript/2018/06/18/sessions-defends-zero-tolerance-immigration-policy.html>>

³ < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIVMW7g5QBI> >

But we can't go unless we are walking in God's anointing. Quite often, we can't walk because we are wounded. Some wounds are as a result of traditions and a misunderstanding of what one generation is called to. We can see this evidenced even within our own churches. Other wounds are based upon ethnic and cultural divisions, which produce racism and other hatreds. All of these inner healing issues (sin) can hinder the reception of the Gospel, if we are not healed. We see this presently in many of the Arab nations. There is so much past hurt that has gone on between Americans, Jews and Arabs, that understanding one another comes through some very sore wounds which still have not healed.

The Lord let me know He was getting ready to visit people who did not even know that He existed (Isaiah 65:1). That if those called to minister to them did not wash (Revelation 22:1,12-17; see also Isaiah 55:1), when they saw the Lord move upon the people He was ministering to, they would look upon this situation out of the eyes of their different and respective wounding. Instead of blessing what God was doing with these people, they would curse what the Lord was doing, just as Israel had done to Jesus and the early Christians. By the way, this has gone on in revival after revival for centuries. If God's people would wash, it would have long lasting effects, even to the nations (Isaiah 55:1-56:7).

I'm writing this because I believe God will move in glory upon people in America, even the illegal ones. God will use them to minister to the impoverished in the world. Please do not think I

am condoning illegality; I will not. But, what is the best way to get people back on to God's plan for healing their own nation, instead of fleeing from it? It is to get them saved, set free and delivered by the power of Jesus Christ. Then, they can go back to minister to their kindred or others God calls them to.

Why does God choose one people group to minister to another? I'm not quite sure, except that it goes in line with the fact that the Gentiles were brought into the kingdom to minister to the Jews (11:11). So it should not surprise us if God calls different groups to minister Jesus to other people groups. Usually there are similarities. The people of South America are basically poor. They have been under the bondage of many different religious spirits.

A hallmark of a religious spirit is poverty and the control of women. South America has wealth underground: oil, gems and countless other resources that are probably unknown. Many Arabs also live in poverty and control as a result of bondages to religious spirits. They also have underground wealth.

While I was at the airport an interesting thing took place. Some people were searched more extensively than others. I began to wonder why. After watching this a few times I realized why. This took place only on my destinations to Spanish-speaking countries. I began to realize that the people that were searched were Spanish, but that they had striking resemblances to being Middle Eastern or Arab. I understand this can apply to many other people also; but I felt as if it was one more connection that South Americans had with Arabs.

I asked the Lord why America, as a whole, would not be as successful in spreading the Gospel to the Arabs as South Americans would be. I felt as if the Lord said to me that America had opened a rift that would be difficult for many to cross. But as a result of opening this rift, the Gospel could be preached by other peoples. I don't mean to imply no Americans can minister to Arabs; but, as a whole, I feel South Americans will be more successful.

Both the Arab people and South Americans have gone through a 'breaking' process that many Americans have not experienced. It is in this brokenness that God can show up in powerful ways, convincing everyone involved of His great love for us. God does not cause this brokenness. If our brokenness is the only door we open for Him, He will walk through it.

I felt as if the Lord said to me that America was a nation that could witness to Israel concerning her Messiah and her need of belief in Jesus. We have all been affected by rifts as people. America suffered a civil war. Israel also suffered a civil split between Judah and Israel. There are many different factions in South America. The Arab people have many different factions also.

I knew this word was going to take time to unfold. In fact, when I shared it long ago, I felt it may have been a bit premature. After prayer recently, I felt the Lord impress upon me that for many in Central and South America, the U.S. would be a point of transition. Please also realize I am not trying to say that only

Latin people can minister to Arabs. We are all called to do the work of an evangelist. It was impressed upon me when Hispanic people responded to Jesus' call, then God would open the heavens over them, and the Holy Spirit would manifest in undeniable ways so that many others would be brought forth into the kingdom of God.

The Lord gave me Luke 3:21 as a confirmation of this. I feel as if this is for a future confirmation. I do not know how far into the future. But, as this process was unfolding, and because of the connection of America with Latin America and Latin America with the Arabs, Israel would become so jealous of Arabs being blessed of God, that it would cause them also to want Jesus, their elder brother (Romans 10:19).

I asked the Lord for further confirmation concerning this South American-Latin connection. He told me I already had it. I said, "I do?" He said, "When did I originally give you this word to wash?" I realized then that it was before the conference of South American and North American leaders, which, as I said was sometime in 2004 or 2005. When I realized that, I was stunned.

After getting so many confirmations of this word, I asked the Lord to confirm the Israeli connection. He said, "You already have that." He then reminded me of a picture I took while in downtown Guatemala City. It is there that I saw a large Star of David. I was so amazed when I saw it that I had to take a picture of it. Unfortunately, I have lost that particular photograph. What I did was upload a recent photo of a Star of David placed to commemorate Guatemala moving its embassy to Jerusalem. I

placed that current picture on our Feature Article tab for this month.

The Lord knows we need His strength and power to GO into all the world. We need our eyes washed to be able to see what it is He is doing. Each one of us in our own nation need His eyes to see and His ears to hear. We all need to experience the love of God— to know, regardless of our wounding, how much He loves us. Our prayer this season is we, as Americans, and all of us, as Christians, are able to see and hear what it is the Spirit is saying to the churches. “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7). “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (Revelation 2:11; see also Revelation 2:17; 2:29; 3:6; 3:13; 3:22).

To this I say, “Maranatha; Come, Lord Jesus, Come.”