

## **GOD, HIS GAUNTLET, the SWITCH and OUR SHIFT**

By Christine C. Meier



**Q**uite some time ago I felt as if the Holy Spirit was letting me know He was going to shake things up in the world and in His church. He was going to test many people to see what was in their hearts. This process was not going to be easy for some. For many others it would take them to the next level in what God had for their lives. Not only would the people of the world experience testing, but anyone who named the name of Jesus was going to go through this test -- whether they realized it, acknowledged it, or frankly, passed it or failed it. For some the 'failing' or the 'passing' would take many months and even years to realize. So when He spoke again in

2001 (pre 9/11), while I was at a local homeless mission that He was about to test everyone there, but whatever the outcome was, I was going to the next level, I was not surprised. I was overjoyed that my time would be up at this ministry and that everything the Lord wanted accomplished for that time period had been done. I had developed friendships with many wonderful people. At the same time, I had to realize that God's desire is to move us on in His plan and purpose. But I also became concerned. I became concerned that the little flock did not have the knowledge and skills to be tested. Some had gone through our foundations' course, while many others claimed to have a firm foundation, but I suspected a test by the Holy Spirit would reveal that they did not. I approached the pastor of this mission with my concern. The pastor decided to go over the foundations material again and also to start teaching in areas in which the Holy Spirit revealed each minister should speak about. The pastor felt led to teach on certain subjects while I felt the need to encourage the intercessors to pray. I also felt led to teach concerning principles that the seven churches in the book of Revelation experienced and to also go through a teaching on cross-road words. (You can get this article in Past Article Files. There is also a section on crossroad words in the book, BEYOND STRONGHOLDS: Infiltration by the Glory of God, available on this website.)

September 11<sup>th</sup> took place and Thanksgiving became Christmas. Tests kept coming and many months passed. Before Easter the Lord said some things to me and reminded me of a word He

had given me on March 1, 2001. He began to show me characters throughout the bible that were used by Him to challenge religious leadership. He began to develop in me the word that you are now reading. Eventually I began to get the picture or understanding of God throwing down 'the gauntlet' in the devil's face and that gauntlet became a switch. I began to understand that in the years to come God would use people to challenge our religious norms. As these folks did so in submission to the Holy Spirit, it would challenge principalities and powers, rulers (human, religious and satanic), that the enemy was using as an arsenal to sidetrack God's purposes on earth. This challenge (in submission to the Holy Spirit) would literally throw a switch that would change circumstances and events -- even world events that had been looking as if they were going the devil's way. This 'switch' would shift events straight into God's plan from before the foundation of the world. I thought to myself, "That's a tall order. I'm glad I'm not one of those people!" My grandmother had a saying about the young in heart. Something about us being wise in our own eyes and not counting chickens before any were hatched. After enough time has passed, I have come to realize that if any of us claim to be His -- I mean, truly His -- we are all going to experience many tests and trials. During these periods of time God may show us the good, the bad and the indifferent things that have come to reside in our hearts. For those of us that are able to walk with Him in these areas, He may

use us to say to the devil and his crew, "TAKE THAT!" as God sweeps us along His plan for the ages. It is a tall order because we serve a God that is taller than all else in heaven, in earth and in anything that is under the earth.

There are many biblical examples of this situation. There are also some modern day examples of this from our current events and from years gone by. Our best biblical example is our Lord Jesus Christ. When God desires to deliver a people, He does just the opposite of what the devil has done. He works redemption from back to forward. (See Hebrews 13:8). In the book of Revelation our magnificent Lord is always Him who *was* and is and is to come (See Revelation 4:8). Notice that He is from past to and through our present, and yet already in our future. To work out salvation on the human side of the equation, He works from the problem out. Sin started with Lucifer, and out he went (See Isaiah 14:12, 15; Ezekiel 28:17, 18). Judgment was then proclaimed over satan's future (See Genesis 3:15; Ezekiel 28:19). When sin was found in Adam and Eve and the curse passed to the creation we can see this progression a bit easier. Blood atonement was made for the two of them and total redemption for their future was proclaimed over them. (See Genesis 3:21; 3:14-19, especially 3:15). Even though Adam was created first (See 1 Timothy 2:14), God still starts the solution by proclaiming judgment on the serpent first. God then progresses to Eve and finally to Adam. Because God is from beginning to end, He also settles

the issue from first to last. Throughout the Old Testament, 'Adam' or men were cleansed enough first in order to be priests, women were not (See Leviticus 21). When Jesus came as the fulfillment of the blood sacrifice women were finally set free to be kings and priests onto God equally with men (See Galatians 3:28). Once our Lord wraps this whole thing up, the creation will finally be set free. God will provide a new heaven and a new earth (See Romans 8:19-21; Revelation 21:1). The awesome reality of God though, is not only does He work from the inside out because of the human equation. But because He is God He also works from a realm that satisfies Him. While working from beginning to end he has already taken care of our future (See Revelation 21:6). Isn't that really what all the animal sacrifice was about in the Old Testament? It pointed mankind forward to recognize the cross and the One and Only Sacrificial Lamb, Jesus; while animal sacrifice provided a temporary solution which satisfied God's desire for fellowship with clean and spotless human vessels. (See Genesis 8:20-22; Hebrews 10:5-10).

So the Lord of the universe invites mankind into the equation of a solution by finding a prophetic type. He looks for people that are willing to work in ways and in situations that look impossible. This is done to deal with the devil's accusations (See Job 1:6-11; 2:1-5), while at the same time obeying God in ways that go in direct opposition to what the devil or human reasoning can understand. This desire to confront

principalities, powers and rulers in submission to the Holy Spirit, literally changed the then known world. Think about it. During Christ's time nearly 70 percent of the population of planet Earth was in slavery. Women had little or no rights according to Roman law. They were afforded much greater legal rights according to Jewish law. Within 300 years women are treated far better within Christian circles; and slavery, while still in practice, started to lose its grip on mankind to the point today where it is outlawed by the United Nations. As the centuries roll by and saints like the apostle Paul, Luther and Joan of Arc are challenging religious systems that have lost touch with the Living God, revelation and understanding concerning the God of the bible increased. Even a cursory study of world history reveals that wherever Christianity gained a foothold as the religion of a country living conditions in that country increased. While not trying to instigate a fight with any other world religions, look at countries where true Christianity is not in their founding roots. What you see is abject poverty among a large portion of the population. From a human rationale this poverty may look as if it's due to climatic conditions or due to corruption by governing powers that hold that country in chains. But even rich farming land can be turned into desolation when the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is not involved in that society. Where Christianity prevails, corruption is held in check. Look at Israel pre-1948. When the Jews returned to their land, it truly

did flow again with milk and honey (See Exodus 3:8; Isaiah 34:8-35:2). With the increase of war and Israeli sovereignty being challenged, Israel is beginning to look like a desert again. Truly Jesus is the Jewish Messiah that can restore all land in question.

Remember Elijah, Elisha and the other prophets? They always challenged the religious norms of their time. They always exposed where the rulers had lost touch with the revelation of God, His word and His ways (See Psalm 103:7; Rev 1:1; John 1:1). Not every confrontation by a prophet was received with malice or an 'attitude.' King David genuinely repented at Nathan's word (See 2 Samuel 12:7-14). Josiah humbled himself when he found the 'book.' (See 2 Kings 22). Even the heathen king Nebuchadnezzar received healing from his 'animal-like' syndrome when he looked up to heaven confessing that the Almighty is God and admitted there was an authority and a word that preceded Nebuchadnezzar's own authority and word (See Daniel 4).

Three questions can be asked when you realize that the pattern I just described really is normal Christianity. Today in Christian circles we have developed a mentality that basically says, "Don't challenge the norm. Don't upset the apple cart because it will be viewed as strife and rebellion." Actually, this thought is not an unreasonable one. How do we know if we really are doing as God requires by challenging a religious system or if we are really in strife and rebellion instead? This is the first question. It will give rise to a

second question. How can we be sensitive enough to hear the Holy Spirit so we will know which is which? And the last question, Are there definite areas in which God will require change? In other words, are there any dynamics to this to let us know where we are at? Log on next month to this same site for the answers to these questions . . . .