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## **GOD'S JUDGMENT ON AMERICA**

Every two or three years I have published an article recounting the prophetic dreams I had in 1998, 1999, and 2004 while on ministry trips to Mexico. I am repeating this information at this time because I believe we are seeing God's judgment play out right before our eyes, and I believe His judgment will escalate dramatically: Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, drought and fires in the west, national debt that is out of control, a government that is almost dysfunctional, and a mad man in North Korea - - - do not bode well for our future.

I need to say that I am not a prophetic person. I have had many dreams and visions since receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit in January, 1973, but they were about my life, family and ministry but not about larger issues.

**(1)** In the first dream, in 1998, while in Mexico, I saw a series of huge tornadoes, perhaps 6 to 8, sweeping down across the U. S. In the dream I could not find my wife and was very concerned about her. I saw myself standing with other Christians and looking for a place of refuge. Then I saw myself leaving the refuge and going out to help wounded people who were lying helplessly on the ground. (Possibly the terrorist attack on 9/11/01 represented the first tornado, Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy the second and third, and the financial crash in 2008 the fourth?)

**(2)** In the second dream, which came later on the same night as the first, in 1998, I saw a boiling cloud, which reminded me of a pyroclastic flow from a volcano, advancing across our nation from horizon to horizon. Many people were standing with me staring at this terrifying scene, and we all had the same thought: "This is death for everyone!" Again in this dream I was looking for Doris and could not find her. I believe that the two dreams coming on the same night had significance. When Pharaoh had two dreams on the same night, about cows and ears of corn, Joseph told him that the two consecutive dreams meant that God's mind was made up and would not be changed about the famine. (Genesis 41)

**(3)** In 1999 I had the third dream, again while in Mexico. I saw our nation perched precariously up in the sky on tall stilts or girders which were about to collapse. Once again I was frantically searching for my wife but could not find her. (The Lord was letting me know that she would not be with me during the worst of the coming events. Doris died suddenly in November, 2002.) I believe this dream had to do with a coming financial collapse.

**(4)** In September, 2004, I had the fourth dream while I was in San Juan del Rio, Mexico. I saw myself walking on the East Coast of the U. S. A large white warship was sailing up and down along the coast, protecting it. It was an ancient ship, pre-World War I, and it displayed a plaque or seal of the

United States. A black airplane came from the horizon, dropped a bomb which struck the ship, which immediately broke in two and sank. I then heard the words: "My protection has been removed!"

If these were messages from God, as I believe they were, why would He give them to some insignificant person like me? Well, I have learned from several speakers who travel widely that over the past years many hundreds, if not many thousands, of ordinary Christians around the country have received similar dreams and visions. Also, many well known Christian speakers and authors have received such visions; men like David Wilkerson, James Robison, Rick Joyner, and others. These people, both the famous and the unknown, have seen visions of earthquakes, hurricanes, nuclear explosions in population centers, rioting, massive hunger and starvation. Were all these messages from God? God only knows. (We should be careful about accepting prophecies, dreams and visions from anyone, including from Glenn. We should, *Test the spirits, to see if they are truly from God.*)

But consider that many secular voices have also been warning America: That our enormous indebtedness is unsustainable and that unless things change there will be an economic collapse; that the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other WMD's in irresponsible hands is leading the world to a cliff; and that over-population, global warming, and growing shortages of water, food, and oil is leading to worldwide desperation. There seems to be a sense of unease in most people, an intuition that things on the world scene may get much worse.

According to the Bible, God does judge nations. That is one of the consistent themes of the Bible. Just read the book of Judges and the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Amos. In the New Testament, there are the warnings of Jesus in Matthew 25, Mark 13, Luke 21, and the book of Revelation. According to the Bible, God always warns the nations, and especially the people of God, through prophetic words, dreams and visions. There are multiple examples of this in the Bible. For example, God pleads with the nation of Israel over a period of hundreds of years through many prophets to turn back to Him so He would not have to release judgment upon them. The prophets preached, warned, pleaded, wept for their beloved nation, but to no avail. God's heart was broken that his children continued in their destructive ways.

An example from modern history: Toward the end of World War 2, the Christian community of Dresden, Germany, was repeatedly warned through prophecies received by individuals in several churches that the city was soon to be destroyed by fire. The specific words received and passed on to the churches were: *The elements will melt with fervent heat. Flee from this city.* As I recall the story recounted by a pastor who had personally visited with survivors from two of the churches, this prophetic warning was again received on the very morning of the day of the bombing. On February 13, 1945, the RAF sent 796 bombers that dropped 3,907 tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs that created a firestorm that killed perhaps 80,000 or 90,000 people, mostly women, children and old people (the young men were all gone to war). The firestorm reached over 1,500 degrees. Those Christians who heeded the prophetic warning survived, those who did not perished. Don't you agree that God has been reaching out to America, but mostly to no avail?

In the face of all this, if you believe that America is in the midst of ongoing judgment, and that more and worse things are headed toward us, **what are our options?**

- **Denial.** You can simply refuse to listen to it or to believe it. "I don't like that 'The sky is falling' preaching. I don't believe in a God that sends judgment on people or nations, and I think things are going to turn around, the 1% are going to start sharing their wealth, the politicians are going to start working for the good of the nation, the terrorists are going to repent, wars are going to end, the weather is going to be nice, and we should all think positive." I genuinely hope you are right.

- **Flee.** Many Americans, including many Christians, have concluded that the wise thing to do is to get out while the getting is good. There is an enclave of 30,000 people, mostly Americans, many of whom are Christians, that live in a community on the shore of Lake Chapala near Guadalajara. There are similar communities in Costa Rica, Panama, and most all the nations of Central and South America. I personally know a mature Christian couple who have moved to Ecuador. Before the Roman army surrounded Jerusalem in 70 AD, many thousands of Christians fled to Petra and escaped the slaughter and enslavement that followed. They did this because of Jesus' prophecy that Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed, and because God warned them to flee through dreams and visions and prophetic words.

- **Become survivalists.** There are internet sites about extreme survivalists. They move to an isolated place, build a doomsday bunker, stock it with survival-type rations, shotguns and ammunition, and hunker down for whatever is coming.

- **Prepare physically and materially for difficult times.**

1. Get out of debt.

2. Rick Joyner has detailed ways that every pastor and church leader can take basic training in crisis management and said that all leaders in his church have taken the training provided by the International Fellowship of Chaplains and the Crisis Intervention and Stress Management training offered by FEMA. "The credentials provided by completing these courses can open major doors for ministry and will likely raise your church's esteem in the eyes of local officials which can give you access to other ministry opportunities and help make your church a true light to your community. It is no accident that church buildings are called "sanctuaries." The church is going to become the sanctuary from the storms that are coming and needs to be prepared." Galen Daily, one of the Elders of our local Vineyard church, and a team from our church are working with law enforcement, the medical community, the Food Bank, Salvation Army, etc., in this area.

3. Consider taking a part of your savings out of the stock market and having the money available in cash. (I am out of my depth in talking about this subject, but this is the advice of a Christian friend who is a retired investment counselor.)

4. Each family needs sufficient food, water, and emergency medical supplies, including medications that you take, for emergencies. We in our society are very vulnerable because we are so dependent on electricity, water, sewer, and food delivered by trucks. Consider the people in south Texas and in the Florida Keys.

- \* **Prepare spiritually for difficult times.**

1. Spend time in the Word and in prayer seeking God's wisdom and His personal direction. Seek first His kingdom and His purpose for your life.
2. Get out of debt. (This is also a spiritual matter.)
3. Ask God if you are in the right job and the right geographical place.
4. Find the right Christian fellowship for you, including a cell group where there is prayer, intimacy, accountability and help in seeking God's wisdom.
5. Determine that no matter what happens in the world that you will trust your heavenly Father and not be afraid. In times of crisis in the Bible, God says to His people again and again, *Fear not!*
6. Prepare yourself so that in a time of crisis you will not hide but go forth to help the wounded and hurting, as I believe God showed me in the first dream I had in 1998, as mentioned above.
7. I think that if it comes to such a choice, we should prepare ourselves to die for our Lord rather than to deny Him. Jesus warned His disciples that many of them would suffer persecution and would even die for His name, which they did. We should ask ourselves, "Am I really willing to die for my Lord?"
8. Remember that God chose you and me to live in this time. He has placed great trust in us that we will represent Him and be salt and light in this difficult time.
9. In every prophetic word from God about a coming cataclysm, there is nearly always a word of hope and encouragement. Friends, a great opportunity for revival is coming!

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### **A GRACE DISGUISED – (3)**

I am continuing a synopsis of Gerald Sittser's book, [A Grace Disguised, How the Soul Grows Through Loss](#), about the sudden death in an auto accident caused by a drunk driver of his wife, 4-year old daughter, and mother.

#### **A Sudden Halt to Business As Usual**

A motion picture contains many picture frames, each slightly different from the one before and after, which run by fast enough on a screen to be indistinguishable from each other. We live life as if it were a motion picture. Loss turns life into a snapshot. The movement stops; everything freezes. Loss leads to a confusion of identity. I still think of myself as a husband to Lynda, as a father to Diana Jane, and as a son to Grace. But the people who defined me that way by playing the roles of wife, daughter and mother are no longer there. The self I once was cries out for them, like nerves telling me that I have lost a leg or an arm, though only a stump remains.

I have photographs of Lynda, Diana Jane, and my mother on the mantle in our living room. Their pictures fall far short of what they were in real life. They are poor replacement of the multi-dimensional relationships I had with them. I am comforted by the trajectories of those relationships. We loved each other well, though imperfectly. Lynda and I had just weathered a period of tension in our relationship and had entered a new period of romance. We were communicating well and finding time for each other, in spite of being so busy at work and home. My mother relished the times she could visit us. She always came with enthusiasm and an eagerness to serve. She was proud of me as I was of her.

The relationships with those I lost were all headed in the right direction. Even so I have regrets. The relationships were still flawed and incomplete. For example, I had always been inclined in my marriage to demand too much from Lynda and to give too little to her. She and I also tended to follow certain patterns whenever we had a conflict. She would blame, and I would feel guilty. The only problem was that she was not always right and I was not always wrong. We both knew that too. We were striving to change that pattern when the accident occurred, and we were making good progress. I wish the process could have continued.

I knew Diana Jane for such a short time, only four years. So I did not have the history with her that I had with my mother and Lynda. Yet she was my daughter whom I rocked to sleep at night, read to in the morning, and wrestled with after dinner. Like any daughter with a father, she had won my heart. Of all my children, she had the most obvious idiosyncrasies, which endeared her to everyone. And she was the only one in our family who had to wear glasses, which she was forever pushing up on her nose. She used to climb onto my lap in the early morning and say affectionately and authoritatively, "Daddy! Story!" She loved to change clothes, which she did many times every day without putting any of her clothes back in the drawer, much to Lynda's frustration. She giggled often, cried loud and hard, and seemed to walk everywhere on her tiptoes. Mischievous eyes told the story of her personality. Independent and stubborn, she could get

away with almost anything because she was so hard to resist and almost too cute to discipline.

These memories were, and are, beautiful to me. I cling to them as a man clings to a plank of wood while lost in the middle of the sea. But they are also troubling because they are only that – memories. I cannot live with the memories, and I cannot live without them. Regret is an unavoidable part of any loss, but it can be very destructive. Virtually every person I know who has gone through a divorce has regrets – regrets about selfishness, dishonesty, criticism, coldness, temper, and manipulation. They see how different it could have been, which only exacerbates their feeling of failure. Parents of a child who has committed suicide talk about similar regrets. They realize they did not discipline their child consistently, or they pushed material things on their son or daughter as a substitute for parental attention. Now it is too late to reverse the damage. Their child is gone forever.

People with terminal illness wonder whether better habits might have spared them from the disease. Why, they ask, did they not heed the medical warnings against smoking, overeating, poor diet, alcohol abuse, or drug addiction? Reckless or drunk drivers live with the regret of having caused the death of an innocent person because they did not say no to their appetite for speed or drink. Victims of abuse wish they had confronted the abuser or cried for help. Instead, they said nothing, endured the abuse, and let it become shame in their soul. One person told me that she wished she had pursued a career. Another wished he had spent more time at home with his family and less time at work.

Regret causes us to repeat a litany of “if onlys”: “If only I had tried harder to make the marriage work...,” “If only I had forgiven him...,” “If only I had studied harder...,” “If only I had asked him to stay home that night...,” “If only I had gone to the doctor when I first noticed the symptoms...,” “If only I had not spoken in such anger...”

Regret keeps the wounds of loss from healing, putting us in a perpetual state of guilt. We think there is no forgiveness or redemption because we are deprived of the opportunity to right our wrongs. I no longer have a chance to be a better husband to Lynda, father to Diana Jane, and son to my mother. Regret is inescapable in a world of imperfection, failure, and loss. But can there also be redemption? Can a life gone wrong because of loss be made right again, however irreversible the loss itself? I believe there can be redemption. People must let go of the loss itself and embrace the good effects that the loss can have on their lives. They must somehow transcend what lies behind and reach forward to what lies ahead, directing their energies toward changes they can make now. In other words, they must seek personal transformation, which comes only through grace.

Many people are destroyed by loss because they choose to wallow in guilt and regret, to become bitter in spirit, or to fall into despair. The difference between despair and hope, bitterness and forgiveness, hatred and love, lies in the decisions we make about what to do in the face of regrets over an unchangeable and painful past. We cannot change the situation, but can allow the situation to change us. If we refuse to do that, it leads to the destruction of the soul which represents a tragedy I call the “second death.” The death that comes through loss of spouse, children, parents, health, job, marriage, childhood, or any other kind is not the worst kind of death there is. Worse still is the death of the spirit, the death that comes through guilt, regret, bitterness, hatred, immorality, and despair. The first kind of death happens *to* us; the second kind happens *in* us. It is a death we bring upon ourselves if we refuse to be transformed by the first death.

Thus a spouse’s terminal illness may tempt us to despair of ever becoming a joyful person again; but the despair itself is not the result of the illness but of our attitude about it. Divorce may tempt us to hate an ex-spouse; but the hatred itself is not the result of the divorce but of the way we choose to respond to the divorce. Death of a child may tempt us to become self-pitying. But self-pity is not the result of the death but of a decision we make about the death. Chronic unemployment may tempt us to go on a binge; but the binge itself is not the result of the unemployment but of an unhealthy response to it.

I met a woman recently whose presence made me weep even before we exchanged one word. She communicated profound depth, compassion, and grace to me. Something about her broke down my defenses. Later I found out why. She had lost two children at birth and an eleven-year-old daughter to cancer. She had suffered loss but had chosen nevertheless to embrace life. She became an extraordinary human being. I have also known people whose losses destroyed them. It is not that they suffered more than anyone else. It is that their losses had turned them sour. Like everyone else, they faced the temptation of self—pity, bitterness, revenge, and all the rest. At that point they did not face these emotions squarely, acknowledge them for what they were, and seek to transcend them. Consequently they were not transformed by their suffering.

Loss can be transformative if we set a new course for our lives. My loss reinforced much of what I already believed; it confirmed that I was headed in the right direction. Still, I realized over time that I was too ambitious at work and too selfish at home. Loss broke me of some of those bad habits and also turned me toward my children. I had been attentive to them before, but since the accident I have begun to carry them in my heart. I once performed *as* a parent; now I *am* a parent.

Finally, loss can be transformative if it causes us to seek the forgiveness of God. It reminds us of how far short we fell prior to the loss and how poorly we responded to it. It exposes our inner selves. We are forced to face the ugliness,

selfishness, and meanness of our own lives. The gift of divine forgiveness will help us to forgive ourselves. Without it, regret becomes a form of self-punishment. We loathe our selfishness and foolishness. And we know that there is nothing we can do to reverse the consequences of our actions. Yet a holy God shows us mercy and embraces us in love. If such a God can forgive us, then surely we can forgive ourselves. If such a God lavishes us with grace, then surely we can stop punishing ourselves and live in that grace.

We will not be delivered from suffering, but with God's help we can be transformed by it. The apostle Paul wrote that nothing can "*separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Nothing! Not dangers, problems, conflicts, failures, guilt, regrets. Nothing. Not even our losses. That is the promise of true transformation; that is the power of the love of God.

Still, a problem remained. God may have promised forgiveness and unconditional love. But I wondered if I could trust a God who allowed, or caused, suffering in the first place. My loss made God seem distant and unfriendly, as if he lacked the power or the desire to prevent or deliver me from suffering. Was it even possible to believe in God, considering what had happened? As we shall see, that question haunted me for a long time.

### **QUOTES AND OBSERVATIONS**

- "Don't worry about the devil all the time. Step out in obedience to Christ and make the devil worry about you." - John Arnott
- "A survey of thousands of women by Dove Soap revealed: Only 2% of women thought they were pretty. About 50% thought they were ugly, or not pretty, and that they needed a make-over. This self-loathing is the root of the huge industry of cosmetics, cosmetic surgery, Botox, etc. Women, and men, don't need a face lift, they need a faith lift." - Larry Randolph
- "When God called you, He factored in the possibility of your being dumb and making a lot of mistakes. Think of the life of Simon Peter. God is not intimidated by human failure. At the judgment, according to the parable of the talents, God will say to us: 'I wish you had made more mistakes. At least you would have been trying.'" - Larry Randolph.
- "JOY is big to God! Jesus went to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. What we desire to hear as we stand before the Lord on that day is, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter in the joy prepared for you.'" - Bill Johnson
- "Revival is just a time of entering into radical obedience to God." - Charles Finney
- Remember that grief is a normal human emotion necessary to work through loss. But we can become stuck in that emotion. Also, a spirit of grief (a demonic spirit) can attach to the emotion. Jesus' love and His Word can heal the emotion; and His authority can cast out the evil spirit! Hallelujah!

God Bless  
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I would like to thank each of you for your support of this ministry.

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