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GOD'S JUDGMENT AND MERCY ON AMERICA

One of my least favorite things to do is to write about God's judgment. But like it or not it is what I believe I am supposed to do this month:

In 1998, 1999, and 2006 I had a series of four prophetic dreams while on ministry trips to Mexico. And 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 of 1973, but they have been about my life, family and ministry but not about larger issues.

1. In the first dream, in 1998, I saw a series of huge tornadoes, perhaps 7 or 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 looking for a safe place, a refuge, with some other Christians. Then I saw myself leaving the refuge and going out to help wounded people who were lying helplessly on the ground. (Possibly the terrorist attacks on 9/11/01 represented the first tornado, Hurricane Katrina the second, and the financial crash in 2008 the third.)
2. In the second dream, which came 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. A lot of people were standing with me staring at this terrible 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 coming 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 that will encompass all the world.
4. In September, 2006, I had the fourth dream while I was in San Juan del Rio, Mexico. I saw myself walking on the East Coast of the United States. A large white warship was sailing up and down along the coast. It was a ship of ancient vintage, 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 in the world would He give them to some inconspicuous 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 Christian speakers and authors who have a large audience have received such visions; men like David Wilkerson, James Robison, Rick Joyner, and many others. These people, both the famous and the unknown, have seen visions of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, nuclear explosions in population centers, rioting, civil war, 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; that over population, global warming, and growing shortages of water and food is leading to massive hunger; then there was the Boston Marathon bombing, theatre shooting, school shootings; floods in the east and fires and drought in the west; declining income and more stress in the lives of most people; etc. I believe there is 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 patterns 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 Revelations.

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 be melted by 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 people 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 also been reaching out to America, but mostly to no avail?

In the face of all of 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 in harmony 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, but I have my doubts.
 - **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. I am told that Chuck Missler, a Christian author and speaker, has moved to New Zealand. 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 is a program on television 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 (IFOC) and the Crisis intervention and Stress Management (CISM) 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 is one of the Elders of our local Vineyard church, and he 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 all or a significant part of your savings out of the stock market and having the money available in cash. (I am totally out of my depth in talking about this subject, but this is the advice of a close 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 extremely vulnerable because we are so dependent on electricity, instant

communications, and availability of food delivered by trucks. We could lose all of that instantly, in the event of a natural disaster, for example, what we are seeing now in the floods around Boulder, Fort Collins, Loveland, etc. in eastern Colorado. A terrorist directed disaster could also be disruptive in many ways.

• **Prepare spiritually for difficult times.**

1. Spend much time in the Word and in prayer seeking God's wisdom and His personal direction.
2. Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.
3. Get out of debt. (This is a spiritual as well as a material matter.)
4. Ask God if you are in the right job and the right geographical place.
5. Find the right Christian fellowship for you, including a small group where there is prayer, intimacy and accountability and help in seeking God's wisdom.
6. Determine that no matter what happens in the world 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!*"
7. 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.
8. 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?"
9. 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.
10. In every prophetic word from God about a coming cataclysm, there is nearly always a word about the coming opportunity to minister salvation to the lost. Friends, a great opportunity for revival is coming!

WHY GOD USES US IN HIS SERVICE

John Paul Jackson shared the following little story about his relationship with his son: John Paul had been on the road ministering in different churches and felt he should give more attention to his young son. Finally he had a weekend off and thought it would be a good idea to build his son the tree house he had always wanted. Driving to the lumberyard, he loaded up his truck with 32 two-by-fours. When he got home he started lifting them out, about four at a time, and taking them to the back yard. Walking by, he noticed his son looking at him with an expression of longing.

The thought came to John Paul, "Why are you doing this?" "Well," he replied, "because my son wants a tree house." "But what does he really want?" Then it hit him, "To spend time with me." So he asked his son if he would like to help carry the boards. His son's face lit up. So one by one, John Paul would lift one end of a two-by-four, his son would lift the other, and slowly they would carry it to the backyard – 32 times. What would have taken him about ten minutes took about an hour.

But you know, he reflected, because of doing it together, both my son and I realized that something happened that day, a bonding like never before. He added, Later, the Lord started speaking to me about this experience. "John Paul, don't you think I could do the things you do without you? I could easily heal the sick, call people by name and speak truth into their lives. Why do you think I choose to do it with you? I do it because a bonding happens between us, like what happened between you and your son. We get to do it together."

When you see God work, and especially when you see Him work through you, something changes inside of you. It is the most thrilling, fulfilling experience you can have. The reason I like for people to go on short-term mission trips is that they will likely have some of those God-experiences. Jesus said, "Go into all the world....." and when people get out of their comfort zones and go somewhere that stretches them, they will usually see someone saved or healed or set free. When you see God use you to profoundly bless someone, it really messes you up. This can become what you want to do with your life, in whatever way that God has gifted you and calls you. You want to sell all you have and buy the field with this treasure in it.

EGYPT AND SYRIA - - DIFFERENT FUTURES

Egypt and Syria have been much in the news, and God apparently has seen a different future for each of them. Note the following prophecies:

I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; everyone will fight against his brother and against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom. (Isa. 19:2) (Read Isaiah 19:1-17 for terrible judgments against Egypt.) But the story changes when Isaiah looks into the future, starting at Isa. 19:19:

In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. The Lord will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day.The Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people....."

There are some negative prophecies against Syria, for instance in Isaiah 17:1 – *The prophecy against Damascus: Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap.* (This happened when Syria was invaded and destroyed by Assyria in 732 BC, but there are no prophecies in Scripture promising a great blessing for them.)

God gave Isaiah a wonderful prophecy about the ultimate restoration and salvation of Egypt in the end-time, but there is no such promise regarding Syria.

SALVATION – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Salvation: 1. The act of saving; preserving from destruction, danger or great calamity. 2. Appropriately in theology, the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him of everlasting happiness.

Justification

(Past Tense)

- * Spirit has been saved
- * Receive eternal life

Sanctification

(Present Tense)

- * Soul is being saved.
- * Live Christ's life

Glorification

(Future Tense)

- * Body will be saved
- * Live with Christ

*PAST (SPIRIT) (JUSTIFICATION)

1. Ephesians 2:8 – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.*
2. 1 Corinthians 6:17 – *But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*
3. Romans 5:1-2 – *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have access by faith into this grace in which we stand...*
4. Romans 5:8-9 - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

PRESENT (SOUL) (SANCTIFICATION)

(Word Meanings in the New Testament: “The basic idea of salvation is *deliverance*. It is a divine deliverance both *from* sin and *to* holiness.”)

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18 – *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*
2. 1 Peter 1:9 – *You are receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.*
3. Philippians 2:12 – *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed. . . . work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*
4. Romans 2:4-11 - *.eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality. . . .*
5. Galatians 6:7 – *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*
6. Hebrews 3:12-14 - (Don't let an evil heart of unbelief cause you to depart from the living God) *For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.*
7. Hebrews 3:18-19 – *And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*
8. Matthew 7:13-14 – *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way which leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

NOTE: “Only a persevering faith is a saving faith.” (A familiar expression.)

FUTURE (BODY) (GLORIFICATION)

1. Romans 13:11 – *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*
2. 1 Peter 1:5 - . . . *who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
3. 1 John 3:2 – *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

God Bless

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