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A LOVE STORY - Part 1

Once before I mentioned a man named John who is in our little cell group. John is a big guy, about 6'3" and is limited by some challenges. He does yard work and also works for his cousin part time in the glass business. He is about 60 years old and only became a believer a few years ago. A great blessing in his life was when he became an usher in our church. John attends our cell group faithfully (when we were meeting every week before social distancing whacked us). He brings a recorded worship song to start the meeting every week but only rarely participates in our discussions. But occasionally John will tell us about some experience he has had with the Lord that blows us all away.

This morning, Good Friday morning, John called to tell me what had happened to him. He said he got up, had a cup of coffee, read his Bible, and he had such a strong feeling of love for God come over him that he said out loud, "I love God!" Then he went to take care of the yard of one of his customers. He said that after he finished the job he got in his pickup and words appeared on his windshield, "I love you!" Then the words disappeared. John said, "Glenn, God is alive and He loves me, and I'm not afraid of this coronavirus."

I told him I agreed with him 100% and that we loved him and were so proud of him.

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LOVE STORY - Part 2

The Bible/Good Friday/Easter

A deeply moving story in the Old Testament is the book of Hosea. It's crazy! God told one of His prophets to go and buy a prostitute at the slave market and take her as his wife! When the gal got tired of married life and chose to return to her old life of bondage, God told him to go and buy her back and forgive her and take her home again.

What? That is bizarre. Was that really God that initiated that irrational story? There is nothing in all of the Bible, except the story of the Cross, that so clearly illustrates who God is and who we are. Could you imagine that the infinitely powerful Creator of the cosmos would reveal Himself as a

broken-hearted husband, married to a prostitute who had been unfaithful to Him?

The Bible is a love story. God the Creator humbled Himself like Hosea to rescue an unfaithful, ungrateful woman. He bought her out of slavery, rescued her from filth and degradation, and made her His wife. And like a dog that returns to its vomit, as Peter says in his graphic depiction, she decided to return to her old ways.

The book of Phillippians in the New Testament describes how God humbled Himself again and became a man in order to rescue us. But men rejected that love and crucified that Man. There used to be a bumper sticker that said: "How much do you love me?" And Jesus said, "This much, and He stretched out His arms on the cross and died."

The resurrection is God's punctuation point. It validates and proves that this was God's story.

You and I are part of that story. God is reaching out to us once again. He asks us like Jesus asked Peter on the beach of the Sea of Galilee after Peter had failed and denied Him: "Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me?"

Do you?

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A LOVE STORY - Part 3, God's Strange Work, the Work of Judgment

About every three years I have published an article recounting the prophetic dreams I had in 1998, 1999, and 2004. Each of those dreams came during the fall while I was on ministry trips in Mexico. We can all see God's judgment playing out worldwide with the Covid19 Pandemic, and it is imperative that we understand that God's judgment is what the Bible calls God's "strange work" that comes out of His love. In a time of personal or national calamity, it is common for people to exclaim, "How could a God of love do (whatever calamity is happening)?"

Let's all do some serious thinking about the subject of judgment, starting with the related topic of prophecy.

First, I am in no way implying that I am a prophet in the Old Testament sense. "Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Malachi, and Glenn" has a nice ring to it, but I don't think so. Paul stated clearly in 1

Corinthians 14:31, *For you can all prophesy.....*
 We are among those Christians who believe that all of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, so we don't have any problem believing that believers today can and do prophesy in the New Testament sense. Personally, 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 and not about any larger matters. So the dreams I had in Mexico took me completely by surprise and shook me up.

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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. (God was showing me what He expected us to do in times of disaster. Possibly the terrorist attack on 9/11/01 represented one of these tornadoes; Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and the financial crash of 2008, were surely other tornadoes. Our nation has suffered many traumatic events during the past 22 years.)

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 I sensed that 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 but am not sure that this dream had to do with a coming financial collapse. (Please note that God did not

interpret these dreams at the time He gave them to me or since then.)

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 huge 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!"

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If these were messages from God, as I believe they were, (a) what did He want me to do with these scary revelations? and (b) why would He give them to some insignificant person like me? Regarding (a), I felt that God had entrusted me with a responsibility, but He never told me what to do. I concluded that I was to pray and to share what I had seen as responsibly as I knew how. I don't regard myself as having the gift of intercession, but I have prayed, as many of you have, for a great revival and for national repentance, especially in the church. And I have shared these prophecies with others periodically but have been careful not to harangue people with them.

Regarding (b), I 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 comparable dreams and visions. Some of my friends and acquaintances here in Grand Junction have received comparable prophecies. Also, many well known Christian speakers and authors have spoken and written about prophecies, dreams and visions they have received; men like David Wilkerson, James Robinson, Rick Joyner, and others. These people, both the famous and the unknown, have seen visions of earthquakes, hurricanes, nuclear explosions in population centers, massive hunger and starvation, and rioting. Were all these prophecies from God? I certainly hope not, but God only knows. We should be careful about accepting prophecies from anyone, including from Glenn. We should, *Test the spirits, to see if they are truly from God.* (1 John 4:1)

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.

In the current pandemic and resulting economic emergency, our leaders show no misgivings about increasing our national debt by \$2.2 trillion dollars and promising more as needed. The Fed has admitted that they are simply printing money and that they have authority to print as much as is needed. The value of a nation's money is founded on the trust of the people.....it is founded on faith. When the population loses its faith, then suddenly the nation's money is worthless. A warning in scripture may be pertinent: *They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be like refuse; their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord.* (Ezekiel 7:19)

We are being warned also that the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other WMD's in irresponsible hands is leading the world to a cliff; and that overpopulation, 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.

Consider the coronavirus pandemic: This current epidemic is hardly to be compared to the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918-19, at least to this point. Currently, covid-19 has resulted in the deaths of about 30,000 people in the U.S. In 1918-1919, only 9 years before I was born, the Spanish flu resulted in the deaths of 675,000 Americans, and this was a time when our population was only 103 million people, less than a third of today. It killed more Americans than all those lost in the 1st and 2nd World Wars combined! And it was especially deadly to those aged 20-40 years, the strongest among us. The Spanish flu started out in 1918 as a normal, mild outbreak, and it seemed to play out by summer. Then in the fall a second wave rolled over the world like a tsunami and infected one-third of the world's population and resulted in the deaths of at least fifty million people. So many people died in the U.S. that the national longevity rate was lowered by 10 to 12 years. Some scientists have warned that the same sequence as the Spanish flu could be repeated. If we had such a repeat, God forbid, with the electronic media stirring up panic 24/7, what would happen to our country?

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 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. God pled 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, and many were martyred for their beloved nation, but to no avail. God's heart was broken that his children continued in their destructive ways.

Let me share some thoughts about this subject;

- Does God allow judgments to come on individuals and nations, or does He send the judgment? The answer, I believe, is both. We humans slide into sin and destruction when we choose to exclude God from our private and public lives.

Without God, we sink into addictions of all kinds: alcohol, drugs, gambling, sexual addictions, etc. I just saw an ad on ESPN that said, "We have to have something to believe in: Sports!" Exactly. Sports of all kinds become an addiction to fill our emptiness.

Without God, we don't function well as families: abuse, rejection, abandonment, divorce.

Without God, we don't function well as a society: political camps that hate one another, civil war within nations, wars between nations.

In the prophecy of 2004, I heard God say, "My protection has been removed!" God simply allows us to have what we choose. Life without God, as Adam and Eve learned, is to choose death, not life. We cannot "break" the law of gravity by jumping off a high place, it breaks us. The same is true for God's moral laws.

But God is not passive in the matter of judgment. He sends it on people and on nations that live in rebellion against Him and His laws. Read the writing of the Prophet Habakkuk, only three short chapters. Habakkuk complains that God is allowing violence, injustice and wickedness in the land of Judah. God said, with a little paraphrase, "Oh, I'm going to do something, son. I'm going to send the Babylonian army to invade your little country and kill almost everybody, and the ones they don't kill they are going to carry off into slavery." Habakkuk hollered like a pig with its tail caught in the gate: "What? You can't do that, God! You're too good, too holy, to do a terrible thing like that!" But that is

exactly what God did. And Habakkuk ultimately prayed: *I stand in awe of your deeds, O God...but in wrath, remember mercy.* And he made one of the most beautiful statements of faith in the Bible: *Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, and though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He enables me to walk on the high places.*

And in Isaiah 7:18-25, God showed Isaiah a similar judgment that He was sending on Israel in that era. Isaiah writes, *The Lord will whistle for the fly and the bee to come on our land.* The fly and the bee were metaphors for the armies of Egypt and Babylon. Note that God said that He would “whistle” for them to come and deal with His rebellious people.

- But don't we believe in a loving God? How could a God of love do such things?

Well, how could a God of love send His own Son to the cross? It was either a meaningless charade or it was because God saw that we were headed toward an eternal separation from Him, a place called hell, and the cross was His last, desperate attempt to rescue us.

Likewise, God sent terrible judgments on His own people in a last ditch attempt to rescue them from destruction in this life and in the life to come.

The book of Judges demonstrates all of this: *Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord....they forsook the Lord who had brought them out of Egypt (rescued them from their bondage to sin), and served Baal (money, ambition, sex, drugs, sports); they played the harlot (like Hosea's wife); and continually turned away from the God who loved them. So the Lord delivered them into the hands of their enemies who plundered and tormented them. When they cried out to God to rescue them, He was moved to pity and raised up judges (deliverers, Christ) to rescue them. But when that judge died, they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers.* (Judges 2)

I don't know about you, but this terrible pattern was reenacted in my life. God rescued me from my sins and destructions (sin always leads to destruction). Instead of being grateful, I returned to that life of degradation and slavery. That was moral insanity. Only when God allowed me to teeter on the edge of the pit did my mind come back to reality. I believe that when we are “born

again” we can't become unborn, so I don't think I was in danger of being lost eternally, but I was certainly in danger of destruction in this life and of losing any rewards in the life to come.

How about you? Are you walking faithfully with the Lord or have you fallen away from your first love?

- Dear friends, there is a God, one God, and He is revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ *When you have seen me, you have seen the Father.* And Jesus Christ is revealed in the Holy Bible.

- The Bible says that life, your life and my life is a test. God has created us with free will so that we may choose Him or not. He loves us desperately and reaches out to us even when we reject and turn away from Him. Remember Hosea.

Deuteronomy 8 summarizes all of this:

When you have eaten and are full, beware that you do not forget the Lord who brought you out of the bondage of slavery. He led you through that great and terrible wilderness (the time of testing) where there was no food or water and fed you with manna and brought water out of the rock (That rock was Christ), that He might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

- In this time of testing (the Coronavirus pandemic) and in the future tests that are sure to come, will it be settled in our minds and hearts that God is good? Will we decide, like Habakkuk, that even if there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls that we will rejoice in the Lord and know that God is worthy of our trust?

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WISDOM FROM ROBBY DAWKINS

Robby spoke in a little church in Grand Junction in February, and following are a few words from him:

- There is no relationship without communication. There are over 2,100 verses in Scripture where God is talking to human beings. Are you talking to Him and hearing Him speak to you?

- Crisis is always the best friend of Christ. There is a higher level of desperation and trying to communicate with Him.

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A GREAT QUOTATION BY A GREAT LADY

“Jesus doesn't practice social distancing.”

-- Alice Monroe

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