

SEEC Magazine

A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

Volume 15

Issue 3

June/July 2011

When Will Jesus Come?
Marty Gabler

Increasing Kingdom
Simon Purvis

**Deliverance in
the 4th Watch**
Kathy Gabler

The King's Heart
Dr. Elwyn Lewis

**Jesus & His Father & the
Ministry of the Supernatural**
Jim Hodges

STRENGTHEN
ENCOURAGE
EQUIP
CHURCH
MINISTRIES

1 Co 14:3; Eph 4:12

"The kinadom of heaven is like a mustard seed. which a man took and sowed in his field: Mt13:31



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ON THE COVER:

Psa 1:2 But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity]. (Amp)

SEEC Magazine is published by SEEC Ministries International. SEEC stands for Strengthen, Encourage, Equip Church Ministries according to 1Co 14:3 and Eph 4:12 as taken from the New International Version. This is our mission statement and SEEC Ministries International is attempting to accomplish that mission through ministry in local churches, around the globe, in conferences, seminars, through publishing, audio and video. For a catalog listing of the CDs and books available by Marty and Kathy Gabler, send us an e-mail at: mail@seecministries.org or write us at our PO Box.

SEEC Magazine is a bi-monthly publication. It is for the purpose of presenting teaching on the subjects of prophecy, five-fold ministry, gifts of the Spirit, dreams and visions, and intercession. Though each of these subjects may not be covered in each issue, they will be covered through the course of the year's publications.

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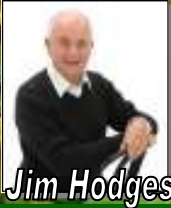


Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

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Thank you for sowing into SEEC Ministries International.

Jesus and His Father and The Ministry of the Supernatural



Jim Hodges

Mat 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to Jordan, to John, to be baptized by him. But John restrained Him, saying, I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me? And answering Jesus said to him, Allow it now, for it is becoming to us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he allowed Him. And Jesus, when He had been baptized, went up immediately out of the water. And lo, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him. And lo, a voice from Heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

I'm sensing the church has to rise up and be used of God to release signs, wonders and miracles righteously and orderly according to God's purpose. Some people do not believe in miracles and they do not see any. Some who do, want more. I think we can handle a whole lot more of the supernatural to make up for the lag time where we did not see a lot. There is too big a gap between our message and His manifestation. In the American church, we just don't see the supernatural manifestations like they see in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Even in Muslim countries, Jesus does supernatural stuff by showing up just like He did before Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. Jesus can just show up and show off.

Surely there is a hunger and a platform that can be built to approach God and ask Him how we can see more miracles, because we are the people

that believe in them. I feel strongly that in Jesus' initial beginning of His ministry, I see a platform of preparation so that you and I can function in the ministry of the supernatural. This ministry is not just for a few apostles and prophets. If you are a believer, it says in Mark 16:17, "these signs follow them that believe" and this is part of your DNA. So, this is not complex, but I think we learn something. Let us review how Jesus was launched into the ministry of the supernatural. First remove from your brain, 'Well, that was the Son of God, and we're just who we are.' That is messed up thinking, because we are sons of God, and the same Spirit available to Jesus is available to live and move through us.

John the Baptizer sort of kicked this off. I wonder if sometimes the supernatural ministry gets sensationalized because the church is so used to not having it. I'm not saying we need to be bizarre and crazy, but John was an unorthodox character. I mean, the guy ate bugs. His wardrobe was rather unorthodox. He likely had a big beard, long hair and lived in a cave. He definitely was not in the temple dressed like his dad in the priestly garb. When John was baptizing, he was caught off guard when Jesus showed up because God revealed to John who Jesus was. Jesus told John they had to fulfill all righteousness. He told him he was taking this step to fulfill the sign of obedience to His Father's call for the ministry He was to perform and release on the earth.

**THIS MINISTRY
IS NOT JUST
FOR A FEW
APOSTLES AND
PROPHETS.**

I like the fact that Jesus did not show up and introduce himself. I'm somewhat leery of people who introduce themselves. Jesus was introduced by John. There is a Kingdom protocol and it is best to be introduced. In this whole encounter of John and Jesus and the Holy Ghost and the crowd, I am seeing four dynamics that, I believe, provide a platform for us as sons and daughters to move into the ministry of the supernatural.

1) Jesus went up immediately from the water. The word there for "went up" is the same word for ascend in Eph. 4:8: *Therefore He says, "When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men."* Jesus' ministry begins with the dynamic of ascension and descension. He descended into the river, then came up out of it, ascended. At the end of His earthly ministry, He descended into death and Hades through the cross and then ascends far above all the heavens. So Jesus' entire ministry was all about descending and ascending. That is a pattern for you and me. This morning in worship, we ascended corporately. We can ascend in the Spirit to mount Zion and then descend to apply the truth and dynamic we got up there.

2) The next dynamic was *the heavens were opened.* Jesus modeled

perfectly for us that His ministry was under an open heaven, so they were able to see what Father was doing and hear what Father was saying. Our challenge is to keep an open heaven over us, because there seems to be clutter and clogs at times. One reason is that my brain is between my spirit and the open heaven, not that we leave our brains aside, but we do surpass it. Speaking in tongues is not getting irrational, but your spirit goes beyond the limitations of the brain. We can intellectualize God, traditionalize God and religionize God to the point of limiting Him and clogging the open heavens.

3) The Spirit came on Him like a dove. He who was born of the Spirit in His natural birth was born again when He was born. It was the Holy Ghost who came through Mary's womb. But He was born of the Spirit already and then baptized in power in that same Spirit. Jesus was born and Jesus was filled with the Spirit. You and I are born again and we are filled with the Holy Spirit. There is a pattern in Jesus. Here's the deal, after the ascension Jesus and the Father send the Holy Spirit on the 120 in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. Let me remind us that we are looking to Jesus' pattern to build a platform to get into supernatural ministry. I'm finding in my life that if I can see it from God and hear it from God, I can move in it and things will happen; but sometimes I'm not hearing and seeing like I need to, or I'm seeing and hearing stuff that is not the Holy Ghost. So, we have a challenge and we are likely to make mistakes, but that is okay. Let's just learn and move forward.

**WE ARE LOOKING TO
JESUS' PATTERN TO
BUILD A PLATFORM
TO GET INTO SUPER-
NATURAL MINISTRY.**

4) The voice of the Father's affirmation is the fourth dynamic. I believe that day that everybody heard that voice because Father was not just affirming and confirming His Son, He was making an announcement of His sonship. This was the launching of the supernatural ministry for a mature son. Out of His sonship, Jesus worked miracles. Jesus was not a miracle-worker, He was the Son of God who worked miracles. That is important. People can run after miracle-workers and get miracles from demonic spirits. We are not after miracle workers, rather we are after becoming mature sons of God who will work miracles.

How does the pattern of Jesus work for us?

1) We descend in humility and ascend into our assignment. If we humble ourselves, the Lord will exalt us for His purpose. There is a difference between confidence and arrogance. Confidence is boldness in God. Arrogance is self-centered. Arrogance is "notice me" instead of "notice God" and it is dangerous because it leads to a fall.

2) Heavens have to be opened over us so there is good communi-

cation between His throne and our hearts. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of revelation. This is how heaven touches earth and ministers to the needs of the people. I so love what Marty said the other night, “The word of knowledge is not a prayer request. It is an announcement.” The gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1Cor 12, are manifestations of the Holy Ghost, but they operate by communication from heaven’s throne into our spirit.

3) The Spirit comes on those who are first born of the Holy Ghost. As we said earlier, it is the Spirit that releases the miracles. Later Jesus tells us that we know the Kingdom has come when He casts out demons by the Holy Spirit. A footnote that is important here is this, you and I are not the anointing. We are the anointed. When you are called to serve God in any capacity, as a believer or leader or in the market place, God puts something in you that draws people. Now if you think that is all about you, you are on dangerous ground. He is the anointing and we are the anointed. Without awareness of that distinction, some anointed go on in supernatural capacity but refuse correction in their character or their issues with money or their issues with the opposite sex, or whatever, because they are anointed. We don’t need the tragedy that comes from thinking we are the anointing. I think the enemy really goes after those with supernatural

**THE CHURCH
NEEDS SOME
AFFIRMATION.**

manifestations because that brings the greatest blight on the gospel in the culture. I’m not saying we should think in terms of earning the anointing, but people who move in such power and yet live totally out of line with their revelation, are dangerous and detrimental. Even Jesus

did not draw on His DNA power, but rather on the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not draw on His DNA power to minister or to overcome Satan, because then we could not be like Him. We minister and overcome by the same Spirit as did He.

4) We need to hear the voice of our Father as we function out of our identity as His sons and daughters. We are not hirelings. We are not defenders of God. We are sons and daughters. I’m praying that the Lord will let us move in more equilibrium between apostolic affirmation and apostolic signs and wonders, because I’m finding the church does not need another sermon. The church needs some affirmation. Everything is beating people up and that ought not be. I know there is warfare and we have to overcome stuff or we won’t grow, but there needs to be awesome affirmation coming upon the church because God loves the church. These are His people! I’m not mad at the church. I’m mad at the devil and the abuse the church as gone through.

In summary, how does the pattern of Jesus work for us? His pattern works for us in four ways: 1) We descend in humility and ascend into our assignment. 2) The heavens have to be opened over us so there is good communication between His throne and our hearts. 3) The Spirit comes on those who are first born of the Holy Ghost. 4) We need to hear the voice of our Father as we function out of our identity as His sons and daughters.

In the next issue Apostle Hodges will write about the platform of obedience we see in Jesus and the pain of His testing as our example. This article was taken

from a message Apostle Hodges spoke at Grace International in March 2011.

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Dr. Elwyn Lewis

“The king’s heart is like a stream of water, directed by the Lord; He guides it wherever He pleases (Proverb 21:1) (NLT). In this scripture we see three phrases: 1) The king’s heart, 2) a stream of water, 3) directed by the Lord. In this article I will show the working together of each of these phrases to accomplish spiritual maturity and the developing of the Kingdom of God in each of our individual lives.

First let us look at the phrase **“THE KING’S HEART”**. What are the characteristics of a king? A king rules, reigns, takes dominion, sets in order, insures justice, conquers, possesses, develops, takes ownership, stimulates prosperity and causes his kingdom to grow. I will take a few of these and expand on their meaning.

TO RULE means to take authority, dominion, preeminence, and to establish identity first in power, rank and influence. It is an act of taking a position of oversight and responsibility.

TO REIGN is a synonym of rule but to me holds a distinct difference.

To rule means to take charge, but **to reign** is to administer, set in order, and put into motion the responsibility of his rule by delegating his authority to other capable people to develop the kingdom and see that those persons fulfill their assignment. In reigning he sees to it that all his kingdom functions properly and is provided for in every aspect of life. It is the act of caring for his subjects, bringing prosperity.

TO CONQUER is to subdue his enemies, possessing new territory and causing his kingdom to grow and develop into a strong empire. He defends his kingdom from both domestic and foreign enemies. He takes ownership of all he possesses.

**DAVID AND
SOLOMON WERE
TYPES OF CHRIST.**

TO INSURE JUSTICE the king makes certain all his subjects have the same opportunity and no one is violated under the law.

Here are some of the characteristics of a righteous king's heart. He seeks to manifest these in the promotion of the welfare of his kingdom by his compassion and love. The king in this proverb is the king of Israel under the influence of God. King David and King Solomon were the two most powerful kings of Israel.

David was a warrior; he conquered; he took dominion and possession of the Promised Land given to his people by the Lord; and subdued his enemies. He provided for the advancement of Israel and the building of the temple in Jerusalem. He conquered the land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River and from Dan to Beersheba. He set it in order.

Solomon was a peace maker. He brought Israel to the greatest, richest and most powerful kingdom in the world at that time. Other kings brought tribute and respect to Solomon because of his rule and reign. He built the temple and dedicated it with God's glory resting on it with great splendor (1Kings 6-8). David and Solomon were types of Christ. They were not perfect as Jesus was. They failed and suffered because of their failures. In spite of these failures they gained the favor of the Lord because they repented and humbled themselves. God said that David was a man after His Own Heart, a man who would do His will (Acts 13:22). David saw to it that Solomon, his son, was anointed king and he challenged him to assume responsibility for the kingdom before he died (1Kings 1-2).

Solomon reigned over all his father, David, had conquered and brought peace (1Kings 4:21). In 1Kings 3 Solomon asked God for wisdom to govern His chosen people. God replies with these words in verses 11-14, *"Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies--*

I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for-- riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.” Solomon humbled himself before God Who exalted him to high levels of reigning.

God wants to make all of us kings and priests who are righteously dedicated to His Kingdom. Revelation 1: 6 says that Christ has made us kings and priests to His God, and Father. Revelation 5:10 says, “*And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.*” God calls us to have a heart of a king like David and Solomon to rule, reign, conquer and possess the land he has assigned to each of us. He has given us territory to take dominion over.

**GOD CALLS US TO
HAVE A HEART OF
A KING LIKE
DAVID AND SOLO-
MON TO RULE.**

Genesis 1:26 says that God created man in His image according to His likeness and gave him dominion over the earth. Taking dominion, as stated already, is a major characteristic of a king. The first place we take dominion as a person of authority in the kingdom of heaven is our own heart. God wants us to set in order the way we think, act and react to the situations we face. We can't reign in the kingdom until we take charge of our personal lives.

Christ has established his throne in our heart to give us authority to determine our destiny and future. Through Him we conquer, take dominion, and set in order all things His will designates. He gives us power to rule and reign. Look at your heart like God looks at your heart. He wants us to rule our heart according to His precepts. He has set the laws to govern our heart. When we have set our heart in order then we will be able to take dominion of the world around us. Our heart condition determines our relationship with those we have contact with in marriage, family, with fellow Christians, and all social and economic situations we touch for the kingdom of God.

Before we can be a king like Solomon who reigned in splendor and glory, we must be a king like David who was willing to go to war against the enemies of Israel, thus conquering and taking possession of all God has promised. Possession and prosperity are a result of warfare, victory, and taking the spoils of the battles. We have the resources and authority to conquer all our enemies and take dominion. God will enable us to take dominion over the earth and reign.

The second phrase in our text is “**THE KING’S HEART IS LIKE A STREAM OF WATER...**” Water in the Bible represents the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:25-26 says, “*Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the **washing of water by the word.***” There are many scriptures that emphasize the sanctifying and cleansing power of the word. Jesus said in John 15:3, “*You are already clean because of the word...*” This indicates that the word is an agent like water to cleanse the heart. Also in John 3:5 Jesus said, “*...I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*” In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Paul said, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the **man of God** may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” All this action of the word is working on the heart. Romans 10:8 says, “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.*” The word flows from the mouth and the heart like a stream of water.

Water is also a type of the Holy Spirit. In John 7:37-38 Jesus said, “*...If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the **Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.***” Jesus was speaking about the Holy Spirit. 1 John 5:8 says, “*There are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water (Word), and the blood and these three agree as one.*” It is the Word, the Spirit, and the blood of Jesus Christ that keep the redeemed heart flowing with the authority and power to rule, reign, conquer and take dominion. As water is essential to life, so the Word and the Spirit are essential to living a successful Christian existence as kings and priests.

AS WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE, SO THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT ARE ESSENTIAL.

The last phrase in the text reveals the **direction of the Lord**. “**THE KING’S HEART IS LIKE A STREAM OF WATER DIRECTED BY THE LORD; HE GUIDES IT WHEREVER HE PLEASES.**” God takes His word and Spirit and directs and guides our heart and action wherever He pleases. Proverbs 21:2 builds farther on this thought, “*People may be right in their own eyes, but **the Lord examines the heart.***” Proverbs 21: 30-31 puts it this way, “*No human wisdom or understanding or plan can stand against the Lord. The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.*” In Proverbs 16:1-3,9 we see this concept expressed, “*We can make our own plans, but the Lord gives the right answer. People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives. Commit your actions to the Lord and your plans will succeed... We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.*”

God has given us dominion and authority over the earth through the work of Christ the King on the cross and His resurrection, and has delegated His work to us by the flowing of His Word and Holy Spirit through our heart. We have the heart of the King because He rules in us. It is God who works in us both to will

and to do of His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).

The Spirit also helps our weaknesses. He prays for us because we don't know what to pray for. He searches our heart because He knows what is the mind of the Spirit and can pray for us according to the will of God. He causes all things to work together for good for us because we love God and are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

God wants us to have The King's Heart that flows like a stream of water by His Word and Spirit under His direction so He can guide us wherever He pleases. Nothing is more secure than a heart under God's control. Conquer your flesh; subdue it and take dominion over it. God is looking for a people to rule and reign with Him with the heart of a king. Only those with The King's Heart will survive the coming storm before the coming of the Christ.

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Watch the progression of the Kingdom. It cannot fail because the zeal of the Lord will perform it. (1) When Adam and Eve sinned and rebelled against God, He killed a lamb and clothed them, showing His redemption would start with the individual. (2) With His covenant people in Egypt, His salvation came as a lamb was slain and the blood was put on the doorpost of the house. This was not salvation for an individual, but for a household. (3) When He brought them out of Egypt He estab-

lished a tabernacle for His presence to be among His people. Here the priest went once a year to offer sacrifice, a lamb for a nation. The Kingdom is increasing. (4) John the Baptist shouted, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." The increase of His government and peace will have no end. He will save the world by the Lamb.

God has something in mind and the zeal of the Lord will perform it. He did not give you salvation with getting you to heaven on His mind. In Ps 67 it says, *bless us Lord*, but then you find out why His blessing is upon you. His blessing does not come on you with just you on His mind. We have had presented to us a self-centered, selfish gospel. But He saves you because the Kingdom is increasing to save the world.

When He gets an individual, He wants their household. When He gets you, you are a seed for the house. The seed of God is in me, His eternal life is in me, but not only is He in me, I become a seed. In 1 John 3:9 it says the eternal life of God is a seed.

HE SAVES YOU BECAUSE THE KINGDOM IS INCREASING TO SAVE THE WORLD.

The finished work of Christ is that He gave His life, He shed His blood. When a lost sinner believes upon Jesus, having faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, God in the supreme court of heaven justifies him. When He justifies him, He does not make him righteous. Rom 4:5 says He justifies the ungodly. While we are still ungodly, because of the finished work of Christ, God takes the sin of the ungodly and puts it on Christ. He takes Christ's obedience and puts it upon the sinner and counts the sinner as though he has never sinned, but he is still a sinner. He justifies the ungodly and the sinner has no righteousness of his own. The sinner is adopted into a family and is given eternal life and divine nature in his spirit.

That eternal life is in him as a seed, and that seed starts growing. As the seed grows, it is called sanctification. Sanctification is holiness, set apart to God. In Col 3, when we put on this new man, we are renewed in knowledge. That starts renewing our minds. In Eph 4:23, it says "be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new man, who according to God *was* created in righteousness and true holiness." **Holiness is the character. Righteousness is what comes out of the character.** God is holy and that's the reason that He does righteous acts.

So, God starts making this sinner holy. He is justified, no longer condemned, no longer under the wrath of God, but he has no righteousness. Paul said in Philipians that Christ is all my righteousness. Now he is

justified and has received the Holy Spirit and has been adopted into the family and God starts working on him. Here is the thing God is after, not getting you to heaven, but taking a sinner, putting His nature in him, putting the Holy Spirit in him, and making him holy so that he does right acts. We are not predestined for heaven. We are predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom8:29). I'm predestined to be holy. So, God is more interested in me being holy because that will produce right actions.

The word of God and the life of God is a seed in me and it is growing. His divine nature in me is a seed that is growing. It does not come into us full blown. God is demonstrating that He can take a sinner, an ungodly man that puts his faith in Jesus Christ and justify him, adopt him and give him His Spirit. What God puts in that man will grow and grow until sin becomes weaker and weaker and can no longer rule that life. The Lamb frees us from the guilt of sin and the condemnation of sin and gives us life that frees us from the power of sin.

Rom 5:10 *For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.* We are saved by His life. Rom 5:17 *For if by one man's offense death reigned by one, much more they who receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ.* Through His righteousness we will reign in life. We reign over the power of sin. Romans 4, 5, 6 are talking about sin. Sin shall not have dominion over you (Rom 6:14). More than getting me to heaven, God is interested in breaking the power of sin over my life. *We are justified unto life* (v.18). I don't have a divine nature, but I partake of His and it is growing in me. He is more interested in putting His holy character in us and out of that character producing right acts than us going out and doing things we think are righteous but blaspheme His name! His blood freed us from the curse of sin. We must let His seed, His life grow and free us from the power of sin which is to have no dominion over us.

**THE WORD OF
GOD IS A SEED
IN ME AND IT IS
GROWING.**

Yes, we have an advocate before the Father, but we also have an advocate within. He points out our sin, not trying to get us to heaven but to make us holy. The more the seed grows in me the weaker sin gets. He renews my mind. I don't think like I used to because His seed is growing in me. The devil is not our problem, it is the stuff within us. There is nothing in God that should be out of Him because He is holy, but there are things in me that ought to be out of me. The life of God is growing and working within, driving those things out inch by inch, not all at once. The

Kingdom in us is a seed increasing in us through discipleship. This process of the seed growing inch by inch should be working in a man before he ever goes into marriage and family. He should go into marriage and family as a seed for the Kingdom of God. When this process works, according to Matt 13, talking about the tares and the wheat, it says the good seed are the sons of the Kingdom. The corrupt seed are the sons of the wicked one. I'm a seed and I'm growing. Wherever He puts me, I'm a seed. If He puts me in a family in a covenant relationship, according to 1Cor 7, that seed sets that family apart, sanctifies them for a purpose. When God gets us, He gets a family. When the families get together, they create a local church. Then the local church, city by city, takes a nation. A congregation is a seed and the life of God is breaking the rule of sin in an area and region. It is not that they eliminate sin in the area, but they break its power to rule.

As the Kingdom seed increase, sin decreases. God does it through the preaching of the gospel. The great commission says because all authority and power belong to Jesus, He then sent His disciples to disciple nations.

**FOR WHEREVER
WE GO WE ARE
SEED THAT TELLS
SIN IT CAN NO
LONGER REIGN
THERE.**

He had a world vision on His mind. Each of us is part of a world vision, a seed growing and part of what God is doing in the world. You can be really discouraged by watching the news if you don't realize there is a seed growing. God is going to save the world and not by the second coming. That kind of belief will get you coming to a church

building like it is a bus depot where you wait for a bus. God may have to tear down the bus depots to get us positioned for purpose in the marketplace, politics, arts and communications. For wherever we go we are seed that tells sin it can no longer reign there. I'm a seed, a divine carrier. We have to see ourselves as part of a world vision.

We have believed that if we all come together and lift the Lord up, He'll draw people to Him, but that is not the meaning of that concept. Jesus said if He would be lifted up and put on the cross, He would draw all men unto Himself. That is about what He did, not about us coming to meetings. When they lifted Him up on that cross, He did that which was expedient to draw men unto Him. He will save this world through that, not the second coming. People have twisted the second coming until people do not even know what it is about. The second coming is because sin's power has been broken on this earth. He's coming to give us a new body and bring a final end to the rebellion of men and He's coming to bring a new heaven and new earth to its fullness. Don't ever think His second coming is to save this earth or this world. That's why He was put on the

cross.

We might be only a seed but we can, with all confidence, shout our God is going to save this earth by the shed blood of Jesus Christ and it cannot fail. It cannot fail because there is a glorified man, one of us with a glorified body, a God-man on a throne in charge of His Kingdom. People think that when Jesus died, He went back to heaven and was not man anymore. However, there is a glorified God-man in charge and the covenant is made with Him and the zeal of the Lord will perform it. The last enemy is death, so all the other enemies will be defeated and the power of sin's right to reign will be broken before He comes.

(This article was taken from Simon Purvis' message at the Concerning The Kingdom Conference 2011. For CDs of Pastor Purvis' messages or to contact him about speaking engagements or to purchase his 160 page study manual on the Kingdom of God, call Word of Life Church at 936-639-2000; Email: wol-luf@consolidated.net * Simon Purvis' message from the conference is available on CD: 5.00 + 1.00 shipping/handling = 6.00)

THE CRY OF THE LAND



Larry Burden

When Adam was created, God placed him in a special relationship with creation. Not only was he to have dominion over all the creatures of the earth but he also was given dominion over the ground. "Ground" in the Hebrew is the word "adamah" from which Adam was formed and from which came his name. Adam was formed from the ground; he was placed on the ground (the Garden) and was given instructions to care for the ground. From the beginning it is evident that LAND has foundational importance to the principle and people of domin-

ion. The ground, like the creatures, was subject to Adam.

Adam's sin not only brought judgment upon the woman and the serpent, it also brought a curse upon the **GROUND** (*Genesis 3:17-19*). Sin caused the land to be defiled and the fruit would only come forth through "*sorrow*" and "*sweat*". Adam's son Cain attempted to offer the Lord a sacrifice of the "*fruit of the ground*" in *Genesis 4:3* only to have the offering rejected since it was defiled. After killing his brother Abel, the blood of Abel **CRIED OUT** from the **GROUND** (*Genesis 4:10*). Cain was banished from the LAND and condemned to be an aimless wanderer for the remainder of his life.

The LAND became infested with wickedness as the years followed until God cleansed it with the flood. He saved a remnant people through the family of Noah and established covenant with Noah. Not only did

SEEDTIME AND HARVEST WAS INITIATED AS A COVENANT BLESSING, "WHILE THE EARTH REMAINS".

God promise never again to destroy the earth with water, it was in His heart to remove the curse from the **GROUND**. The LAND once again became subject to man as **SEEDTIME AND HARVEST** was initiated as a covenant blessing, "*while the earth remains*".

After the flood, man attempted to reach God through the Tower of Babel. Since no man can reach God through his own efforts, God confused their tongues and scattered them throughout the LAND (*Genesis 11:9*). God then determined to establish covenant with Abram. He called him out from his country and family to send him on a journey in search of a "*city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God*" (*Hebrews 11:10*). In that LAND not only would Abram and his seed be blessed but "*all families of the earth*" would be blessed as well (*Genesis 12:3*). Abram was instructed to walk through the LAND. He was given dominion and the LAND was subject to his authority as he began to raise up a great nation.

The word of the Lord came years later to Jacob, Abraham's grandson, in a dream saying, "*the LAND where you are lying, to you will I give it and to your seed; and your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south; and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in the places where you will go, and will bring you again INTO THIS LAND; for I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken of thee.*" (*Genesis 28:13-15*)

Moses was raised up years later to redeem this nation from Egyptian slavery. God heard the cry of a people who had become slaves to the **GROUND**. He was commissioned by God not only to liberate them from captivity but also to bring them into a new **LAND** that "*flowed with milk and honey*" (*Exodus 3:8*). In this **LAND** of promise they would take their righteous place as priests and kings and once again exercise dominion. A generation died in the wilderness through fear and unbelief but after forty years of wandering, Joshua led the nation as they **POSSESSED** the **LAND OF BLESSING**.

Throughout the remainder of Old Testament history the theme of the **GROUND** and **DOMINION** continued. When the people of God were obedient the **GROUND** responded as a fruitful place of blessing. When the people of God disobeyed, the **GROUND** responded by becoming desolate and barren. *2 Chronicles 7:14* records the words of the Lord to Solomon, "*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their LAND.*" Solomon records in *Ecclesiastes 10:16-17*, "*Woe to you O LAND when your king is a child and your princes eat in the morning* (Foolish and self-serving kings). *Blessed are you O LAND when your king is a son of nobles and your princes eat in due season for strength and not drunkenness* (Wise and righteous)." Job said, "*If my LAND cry against me, let thorns grow instead of wheat and weeds instead of barley*" (*Job 31:38*). The **GROUND** is actively involved with those given ruling authority over it.

<p>THE GROUND IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH THOSE GIVEN RULING AUTHORITY OVER IT.</p>
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Finally, Paul teaches in *Romans 8:19-22* that the "*creature*" and "*creation*" groan and travail for the sons of God to manifest. In the Greek both "*creature*" and "*creation*" are the same word "*ktisis*" and are defined as "*a founding as of a city, the colonization of a habitable place, the sum total of all that God has created*". The **GROUND**, the foundation of all creation, **CRIES OUT** in groans and travail for the sons of God to manifest and take their place of dominion rule and authority upon it. The **LAND** wants to be redeemed!

From the beginning until today the **GROUND** has been dynamically involved in dominion. She is no doubt crying out louder than ever for the "*sons of God*" to manifest today. As a culture we have killed unborn babies by the multitudes. We have removed prayer from the public schools. We have exalted Halloween over Christmas as the premiere holiday of the year. We have removed the Ten Commandments from the courthouse and continue to seek removing "*under God*" from our Pledge of Allegiance. We have polluted the covenant of marriage by attempting to legalize same sex unions. We have destroyed the sanctity of the

home. We have demolished the incentive to work. We have become slaves to drugs, pornography, and every evil form of lewdness. We have tiptoed around apostate religions so as not to offend them, and we have discriminated against Christians and the principles of Christianity upon which our nation was founded.

Today the **GROUND** is **CRYING OUT** to us in America. She is saying, **"Enough is enough. Will the TRUE SONS OF GOD PLEASE STAND UP?"** Thank God there are many who are hearing the cry of the **LAND**. There are many who are standing up to **MANIFEST** as true sons and daughters of God. Believers are hearing the cry of the **GROUND** and are taking their place of **DOMINION AUTHORITY**.

It is not a time to remain idle or hold your peace. Rather you must seize the time and rise up to let your voice be heard. This could well be your finest hour. Let your voice be heard in your city. Let your voice be heard in your public school. Let your voice be heard in your community. Be heard in City Hall. Make it known in **YOUR LAND** that you are taking your place of dominion. Together we can redeem our nation and once again make her a blessed and fruitful **LAND! The GROUND is counting on YOU!!**

(Larry and Kathy Burden are the founders of KingdomLife. Larry has just released his book entitled *Kingdom Life—Finding Life Beyond Church*. In his book you will discover why current church models are failing in America, why your church experience often leaves you empty inside, the true freedom and blessing that is found in the kingdom of God. www.kingdomlife.org)

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL



When Jesus said to his disciples "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" it was because he found them sleeping when he had asked them to pray with him. He wanted them to

watch and pray so that they could avoid temptation. This was at a time when he was going through pressure that made his temptation in the wilderness seem simple in comparison. The pressure was so great that he was sorrowful even unto death even before anyone laid a hand on him. He was sweating blood - literally - even before a thorn touched his brow or a rod his back.

I find it interesting that with all the pressure he was under he wanted the disciples to watch and pray with him so that *they* would not enter into temptation. He knew what was coming and knew that time in prayer would strengthen the spirit.

Lately there has been a lot of news coverage of air traffic controllers sleeping on the job. They are paid well to be modern-day watchmen. They work from special towers and with their equipment see into the distance and into the darkness and know what is coming long before it arrives. This is symbolic of the spiritual watchers who are called to be alert both night and day praying and listening for instructions from the Lord.

Before Jesus was crucified he had many instructions and warnings for the believers concerning the days ahead of them. He instructed them to watch and pray so that they might escape all the things that he was warning them about. A number of his warnings were concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and what signs would precede this. Historical reports from those days indicate that the Christian inhabitants of Jerusalem listened and watched and all were able to withdraw before the Roman legions sealed off all escape.

I have been praying about the air traffic controllers. Not only in light of safety for the many planes and people traveling by air, but in a spiritual sense. I have been wondering if there might be a

warning in this for those of us who are called to be watchmen and women in a spiritual sense. Have any grown weary in well doing? The air traffic controllers who were found to be sleeping have been terminated. Situations could have been worse however. In a theater of war sentries are posted at night to watch for danger when others are resting. If a watchman is found sleeping in a theater of war the punishment can be quite severe, because the consequences are so far reaching. In biblical times the punishment for sleeping on watch could be death.

**"I WILL WATCH
TO SEE WHAT
HE WILL SAY
TO ME..."**

Spiritually speaking those who are called to watch and pray can expect the singular blessing of hearing the voice of the Lord. There are numerous prophets in scripture who were spoken to by the Lord while they fulfilled their time as a watchman on the wall for their city. Both Habakkuk and Ezekiel have great examples of wonderful revelation that came to them while they were on watch. Habakkuk even seemed to expect the Lord to speak to him while he was on his post. Hab 2:1 "I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me..."

A number of years ago I was awakened by the Holy Spirit with an unction to pray. My normal inclination when such an instruction would come would be to sit up in bed and begin to pray quietly for whatever came into my spirit. But not this

time - I was very tired and didn't feel like praying! I said "Lord I'm tired and I don't want to pray, I want to sleep." Again I heard "I want you to pray" and again I protested. Then I heard "Alright then if you don't want to pray, then turn on the light and read". I groaned within myself a bit because I knew I could pray in the dark, and now I had to turn on the light. But with concern that things might get worse for me if I didn't obey at this point I turned on the light and, without looking, reached for a book on my night stand. There are always books and magazines on my night stand and the one I happened to grab was one I had been reading previously. I opened the book to the place where the book mark had been placed weeks before and read the words "Those who sleep not bless Thee: they stand before Thy glory and bless and praise and extol... and here my eyes saw all those who sleep not: they stand before Him and bless and say: Blessed be Thou, and blessed be the name of the Lord forever and ever. And my face was changed." I have to admit that at that point I closed the book and I prayed.

We are in unique times, potentially perilous, often opportune. We must be listening to the Lord and following His lead if we are going to escape peril and enter opportunity as it is presented. Those who will watch and listen can enter promises of great blessing for themselves and for others. In our day the word of the Lord is precious in and of itself, and is a great value to be treasured. Often what happens in the natural precedes what happens in the spiritual (1Cor 15:46). We can learn something from the air traffic watchers - that those of us who are called to watch and pray are found at our post awake and alert when the Lord finds us.

Ezek 33:7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me."

(Lloyd Phillips is the director of The FLInt Net. It is the Fellow Laborers' International Network of Churches, Ministries, Intercessory Prayer Groups and Equipping Centers. Lloyd is an author and has written books including "Growing in the Prophetic". He also writes articles for *The Morning Star Journal*. P.O. Box 113 Missoula, MT 59806 * (406) 251- 5730 * www.flintnet.org * impact@flintnet.org)

Lean Not Unto Your Old Paradigms



There has been an intensity in the air lately; such an intensity that the good has seemingly felt bad. There is a sense that something is happening but you can't see it. That intensity is a paradigm shift. Our old ways of doing things and our old examples and patterns are being shifted to accommodate the influx of the millennium harvest. Let

me just say right here that our old paradigms weren't necessarily wrong, it's just time to shift. They were for a season, but that season is over.

The air has not only been full of intensity, but it has been full of vision. God has released vision to His people. Visions of strategy and freedom that may seem too "out there," but in the shifting He is confirming His vision. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa 55:8-9). Don't be satisfied with what you've known. There is a harvest out there that you, with a renewed mind, are here to take.

The vision that Father is releasing is so peaceful, so freeing, and surprisingly so easy. It's easy because we are learning to rely more on Him, and Him in us and others than on formulas; and it is easy because we are learning the simplicity of miracles. So the intensity and the struggle are coming from us trying to fit this new vision into old paradigms. They won't fit the old mold. "Lean on, trust in and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths." (Prov 3:5-6 AMP). There are thoughts and ideas out there that will bring freedom to generations, but they require paradigm shifts. They require trust in God.

(Melissa and the Grace International Band lead us in A Worship Encounter quarterly at Grace International Church. The next Encounter will be July 29, 2011 at 7pm. There are two excellent CDs from the January Encounter available for 10.00 + 2.00 s/h=12.00.)

DELIVERANCE in the 4th WATCH **(Confessions of a Rower)**



Kathy Gabler

I awoke at 3:30 in the morning recently. As I sat praying, I heard a cry coming up out of me, "Lord, please walk on the water again and help us." I knew those words were coming

from my spirit because I had never consciously thought to pray that way before. I went to read again the account of Jesus walking on the water, and I came away stirred and encouraged.

Mat 14:24 *But the boat was already many miles away from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary.* The disciples were committed to a course and too far on their journey to consider turning back. They were battered literally meaning “tortured, tormented and vexed by the waves” (troubled, overwhelming circumstances.) The contrary wind could have been from one direction or gusting from several directions, but the opposition was undeniably stalling their progress. Jesus had sent them on their journey in the evening, meaning dusk or sunset, on what had to be a typical, reasonable boat trip for those fishermen. Yet, here they are hours

THE POSSIBILITY OF JESUS WALKING INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES TO BRING SUPER-NATURAL CHANGE IS BREATH-GIVING HOPE.

later, in the wee hours of the morning, only about half way to their destination because of the opposing circumstances. By this time, they were physically worn out and bound to be emotionally stressed in the threatening darkness and chaos.

I sat there reading through my tears, thinking, I know how they felt. Lord, we are in same boat, committed to your destination and plans, yet weary with the opposition and delays in so many areas of our lives. Sometimes changelessness is smothering, like the doldrums sailors dreaded when there was not even a slight breeze to get them beyond the vast isolation and stillness of a glassy sea. However, there is also another kind of changelessness, that of seemingly unending turmoil and wearisome battle with no victory in reach. In either case, the possibility of Jesus walking into the circumstances to bring supernatural change is a beautiful, breath-giving hope.

Mat 14:25 *And in the fourth watch of the night (3:00 to 6:00 am) He came to them, walking on the sea.* There I sat at 4:00 am, in the 4th watch of that night, reliving His appearance and intervention for those He loves. Hope stirred in me that surely I could expect Jesus to walk into my circumstances, finally. However, in the next moment, just like Peter, I was suddenly full of doubt and fear. The fact that I had been praying about these same contrary forces for years pierced my hope. (Experience has a way of demanding the loudest mic. He carries the weight of logic and tangible evidence.) Of course, God had answered other prayers in the mean time, and He is always faithful, but these particular circumstances had been opposed consistently and successfully for years. The changelessness and delays in three areas of our lives seemed undefeatable. I'd actually tried to

stop counting the years and stop imagining what relief the good plans of God would look like in these areas. It seemed better to keep my mind on other things and just keep rowing rather than let these conditions work against my faith.

At that moment, fear was vexing me even more than the weariness of battle. It felt like the storm conditions had gone in on me, and I realized that I was afraid to even breathe in hope. I was not just struggling with circumstances now, I was struggling within my soul. I knew that in God's order and principles, that hope is essential to faith, yet I feared hope would set me up for disappointment, again. Could change really come that very night? Being in the darkness of the 4th watch, I doubted the possibility of any phone call or physical manifestation that would prove change had come, and I wanted proof. I did not want to get to dawn with only hope, a confident expectation of change coming. Neither did I want to see the sunrise only on faith, with a guarantee of change coming sometime in the future; but I knew my wants and demands were not aligning with God or His ways. I sat there in the dark stillness considering how to confront my own soul, for if I refused expectation and faith's guarantee, I knew there would be no calming of the storm that night, within or without.

Changing directions like the wind, my thoughts and emotions switched to panic at the possibility that Jesus might *not* come on the scene. Mentally, I plunged into a frantic search for a life jacket, the right words, the right scripture or a plea that would insure He would show up. The only scripture that came to mind was 1 Cor 10:13, *God will never let any test or temptation push us past our limit; He will always be there to help us come through it.* (Msg) That is plain, simple truth, no if's, and's or but's can be added. Nevertheless, I remembered the times of having to talk myself off the ledge, when I wanted to notify God that, "I have reached my limit!" in case it had slipped His notice. I remembered the times I had considered going out on my porch in the middle of the night, to stand on the landing, (beyond the roof where God can see me plainly), and yelling, "God! If You can hear me, please do something!" Then I remembered the times, like Peter, when I'd just sunk in circumstances and drowned in tears, no words, no yelling necessary. As I rehearsed those times, I also remembered circumstances did not change. Beyond that heaviness, there was another dread that lingered in the shadows: what if I just thought I was at my limit, but God knows there's still a ways to go? So, there I sat in the darkness, too weary to row. I just handed the oars to my doubts and fears, wiped my face, blew my nose and started to go back to bed in the despair of changelessness.

**GOD IS SEEKING
OUT AGREEMENT
IN THE EARTH
FOR WHAT HE
WANTS TO DO!**

That sounded easier than trying to muster hope, only to have it dashed by continuing contradictions and changelessness.

However, like a sudden lightning strike, the light came on to make things clear. It had not been my idea to awake and deal with all these matters that night. The Holy Spirit reminded me who had called this confrontation in the 4th watch of the night. It was He that had orchestrated my petition. It was He that stirred my spirit to ask the Lord to walk on the waters to help us! Surely, if the Holy Spirit initiates and instructs us in prayer, it is because God is seeking out agreement in the earth for what He wants to do! Surely, that activates that elusive element of God's timing into the equation. In God's math, my experience and history are not the most important factors. They don't carry the weight with Him that they do with me. My fear and doubt are not more powerful than His faithfulness. In spite of the disciples' fear and doubt, in spite of their focus on the circumstances rather than the Christ, in spite of more confidence in the potential of the problem than the power of God . . . the Lord still delivered them!

By the time things get to the 4th watch, we sometimes need supernatural intervention just because of weariness. When Jesus stepped into the boat, the wind stopped. He will get in the boat with us, totally understanding every ache, every desperate feeling as well as every apprehension. The 4th watch is the deep darkness before the dawn of break-through. The 4th watch is the completion of a night, the end of limited vision, the last of the unknown before daylight brings clarity. The 4th watch is where the intervention of God can become a tangible manifestation, like the fourth man in the fire. I'm sure there are many details and facets of this account in Matthew and Mark that should equip us for mastering the 4th watch, but for now, let's breathe in the relief of hope and be confident of this one thing: Jesus will show up.

My prayer in June of 2011: Lord, we are far into a difficult journey. Please come to us in this 4th watch for we are battered, tormented and vexed by contrary forces from every direction and weary with overwhelming, unchanging circumstances. Come to us and still the opposition in a supernatural demonstration of your power and presence so that we, and everyone in the same boat, will see who You are afresh and worship You. Lord, please come quickly into the boat so that the circumstances change and we can get where we are going. Amen

(Kathy's most requested CD *Guarding Against A Hardened Heart* is available for 7.00 + 1.00 s/h=8.00).

When Will Jesus Come?



Marty Gabler

Before I finish this article I will tell you exactly, from the Scriptures, when Jesus is going to come. But first I believe it necessary to address some predictions and presumptions that are obviously incorrect.

A BASIC UNDERSTANDING

A basic understanding we must come to at the outset of this subject is that none of the date-setting and predictions about our Lord's return are new. There is an urgency in the preaching and proclaiming of many church spokesmen today concerning an immediate departure from the planet because so many are so unhappy with the current political and economic climate (as have been so very many throughout history). Many (as evidenced by their refusal to at least go to the polls and vote biblical values) have lethargically consigned this age and this planet over to evil. While standing boldly and profitably at the forefront of popular religious thought at present, this is not a new thing in the attitudes and history of man. A case in point from the year 1646: "Some held that the world should last as long after Christ's birth, as 'twas from the Creation to the Flood, viz. 1656 years. By this account it should be ten years away. Others say that it shall be as long from Christ's birth to the End of the world, as it was from Moses to Christ, viz. 1582 years. Beloved, I only name these for the end, lest when you should read fancies about this time, you should be ensnared and taken in a trap..." (Christopher Love, 1646) In the 1800's one lady predicted the coming of the Lord to be 2,000 years from either the birth of Jesus or the baptism of Jesus based upon the 2,000 swine that ran into the sea and were drowned in Mk 5:13. (I'm simply at a loss of words over that one.)

The idea of an imminent end of the world and the idea that we should resignedly bow out of here, “because this present time belongs to evil,” is a very old one that dates back to the apocalyptists and is not as modern as some dispensational pundits tell us. The apocalypses (Jewish writings dealing with the coming of the Messianic kingdom) have their origin in the intertestamental period, the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The language and the setting of Matt. 6:13 are very important: “for thine *is* the kingdom.” We cannot go to Holy Scripture without being aware to whom Jesus was speaking and their understanding of the context. Neither can we approach such a subject without consideration of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God (Matt 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Mk 1:14). The context of Matt 6:13 is a prayer of desire for the realization of the Kingdom of God here and now. It is not a prayer for something to take place somewhere else at some other time.

The apocalyptists were writers who were presenting a theological viewpoint based upon their personal experiences and the experiences of the Jews as a whole; in other words, based upon current events. Their conclusion was that the Kingdom *had* to be future because all the past and present were so undesirable. The apocalyptists see the Kingdom beginning at some point in an ideal future when all the failures and struggles of a nationalistic kingdom are but history. Their view: A “righteous Israel” which kept all of the law and “therefore merited the Kingdom” met only suffering and political bondage. All that was required to satisfy the nationalistic apocalyptists was for the Jews to trade places with the Romans; Jews on top of things, Romans on bottom of things. The apocalypses arose out of this setting to provide an explanation of the sufferings of the righteous and “the delay” of the Kingdom of God. Hence, we are presented with the viewpoint that this present age is controlled by evil but the age to come will be the Kingdom age in which evil will be abolished and Israel will not have to deal with it on any level. Since the rule of God (the Kingdom) could not be realized by Israel in the form of turning the tables on the Romans and Hasmoneans, it could only be future after evil (the Romans) was removed.

PREDICTIONS AND EVIDENCES

In his book *The Day And The Hour* Francis Gumerlock lists over 100 predictions of the coming of the Lord dating from the year A.D. 41 to A.D.

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3836 and they are based upon various “evidences” from Scripture and current events of the time. “Every generation with an eschatological consciousness has tended to see its own age as the most sinful and corrupt in history.” (Bryan Ball, 1975) “If they studied the history of the expectation of the times, they would learn that what they claim for our day has been claimed by equally dedicated, equally qualified, equally inspired interpreters of prophecy in every generation of Christians since the time of Jesus. In every generation there have been those who calculated the times and the seasons, and lo and behold! they pointed unerringly to their own time! ... And so far, after nearly 2000 years of trying, every single one of those calculations has been wrong.” (Walter Klaassen, 1992) Not knowing what exactly is behind each of the predictions, the result has nevertheless been a producing of a great deal of fear and uncertainty. Several times in recent months people have approached me after meetings, leaned toward me and quietly said, "Thank you for bringing us hope." Nine years ago I wrote in this magazine an article entitled “More to Come.” I preached that message at a church where a pastor’s wife who has known me since I was a boy, walked up and angrily said, “Don’t say that again!” She did not want me doing anything to delay an immediate coming of the Lord because of her fear of getting old and dying. It is curious that I don’t remember the dear woman saying anything about wanting to see or be with Jesus or the glory of the King and His Kingdom that will be revealed as a result of His coming.

There was a pastor on TV who stood in his pulpit when the U.S. invaded Iraq and told his congregation and TV audience that he would not be attending next Sunday's service because Jesus was going to come before next Sunday. He was not censured, not called on the carpet but received accolades for his eagerness concerning the return of the Lord. No one even hinted at the term "false prophet." The biggest names in predicting end-time events have missed their predictions time and again concerning Israel, Russia and China yet they are still on TV and Christians are still buying millions of their books.

THE MAN WHO PREDICTED THE END OF THE WORLD

The man who predicted that Jesus was coming in 1988 because he had discovered 88 reasons why, simply apologized for a "miscalculation" and wrote a second book about 89 reasons why Jesus would come in 1989 and sold an unbelievable number of those books. Rather than it costing him, it was profitable for him. Gross miscalculations and misrepresentations have simply been labeled “zealousness” for the coming of the Lord. Yet, some of those presenting accolades to those erring predictors have all but called for known prophets to be stoned if they missed a single aspect of one of

their prophecies. One known prophet has received phone calls, letters and emails from some of these zealous supporters of the mispredictors demanding that he cease prophesying altogether while a recent President of our nation asked him to never stop prophesying.

A man, claiming to be very knowledgeable of Scripture, recently gave an exact prediction as to the day and hour of the return of Jesus. Yet, the Bible plainly states in Mk 13:31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. 32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*. (NASB) There were, reportedly, multiple millions of dollars spent promoting the false date and multiple millions of dollars collected by the inventor of the date, and to what end? Was it simply OK to spend all that money in that manner without consequence? (We have friends who are trying desperately with little result to raise money to rescue young girls who are sex slaves in human trafficking. Many people seem more concerned about wild predictions of the future than they do about the actual biblical mandate to disciple nations: people groups) Will that be just one more admirable, "zealous" person who we will ponder in our minds for a few weeks and forget? Now, the inventive gentleman has "recalculated" and given us yet another date for October! There will be many who will follow him through yet another false prediction. Is any of this about relationship with a Lord and Savior or could it just be about religious curiosity and the need to be right about a thing?

Some minister friends of ours, on vacation in early May, were approached by some young adults who were the date-setting man's disciples and they were handing out leaflets and "witnessing" about the end of the world on May 21. Our friends tried talking to them but said they only received rude and belligerent responses from the young adults. What are Jews and Muslims and the godless thinking about all the evangelical zeal over dates and erroneous predictions? Have they had a viable Christ presented to them or have they been assaulted with pointless, inane religious trivia which seem to further prove their point about "Christian" error?

Not only did Mt 13:31-32 come to mind when I was told of the individual's prediction but these came to mind as well: 1Pe 1:24 For, *"All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever."* And this is the word which was preached to you. (NASB); Rom 3:4 *May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar....* (NASB); Isa 44:24 *Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and He Who formed you from the womb: I am the Lord, Who made all things, Who alone stretched out the heavens, Who spread out the earth by Myself [who*

was with Me]? 25 [I am the Lord] *Who frustrates the signs and confounds the omens [upon which the false prophets' forecasts of the future are based] of the [boasting] liars and makes fools of diviners, Who turns the wise backward and makes their knowledge foolishness. (Amp)*

THEY ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON

A famous dispensational writer who has sold millions of books, based upon his predictions which never came to pass, predicted that a pretribulational rapture would take place in the early part of the 1980's. He wrote, "A generation in the Bible is something like forty years. If this is a correct deduction, then within forty years or so of 1948, all these things could take place. Many scholars who have studied Bible prophecy all their lives believe that this is so." As Gumerlock notes, "If these many 'scholars' have studied Bible prophecy 'all their lives' and have come to this same conclusion, then what does this say about their study of the Bible?" These same methods used by these famous Bible prophecy writers have been used for centuries by people who miscalculated and wrongly predicted end-time events. They all have one thing in common: They've all been wrong. One old-timer quipped, "Three things cannot long be hidden: the sun, the moon and the truth." In 1918 Robert Cameron said, "Dr. Gordon used to say he was sure the devil hated the doctrine of the Lord's coming by the cranks he sent to preach it."

The most famous of the Bible prophecy writers have repeatedly missed on their predictions, yet people line up at Bible bookstore counters and pay for more of the same thing and turn on TV and watch more of the same thing year in and year out. It has been said that in the 1970's Bible prophecy became an industry. I remember walking into a Bible book store shortly after the U.S. army rolled into Iran. Every shelf where Bible prophecy books were sold was completely empty. All of the shelves where living a victorious Christian life, giving ourselves totally to the service of the King and becoming formed into the image of Christ were completely full. I wonder how many books are presently selling on being an effective martyr or raising and mentoring homeless children? Indeed, Bible prophecy is a lucrative industry and the stay-here-and-glorify-the-Lord-who-died-for-sinners subject is not even an industry at all. What we put emphasis on and what we spend our money on speaks to history and to culture of what we are. Is what they are discovering we are, what they want?

WAITING OR LABORING?

Me thinks that all the energy and finance spent on end-time apocalyptic events and dates might be better spent on accomplishing something that glorifies our Lord in the present. What might happen if we simply presented a living, viable Jesus to this present generation instead of trying to

persuade them of a need to focus on exact dates and circumstances of end-time events that, in essence, announce to them that they have no future? When Jesus does come, He should have to peel us off the back of a demon before we can go because we are giving ourselves fully to warring against darkness. "Waiting" for the return of our Lord is totally unacceptable (Mt 28:19). But laboring in the vineyard until the Owner of the vineyard returns is actually biblical (Mt.20). Jesus deserves to receive what He died for. He died and rose again to bring many sons to glory (Heb 2:10); "to glory," i.e., bringing them by Spirit empowerment to the point that they manifest the purpose of God in their generation, thereby glorifying God with their life's mandate. There is a risen and reigning Lord who is our great inspiration to give this generation a Christ-centered challenge to rule in the mountains of society that He might receive what He died for.

When will Jesus come? Just as the Bible declares the exact date of the birth of Jesus, I believe we can call on that same Scripture, in principle, to give the exact date of the return of our Lord. The Bible shows us when Jesus was born in Gal 4:4 "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son..." In Jn 7:8 Jesus, refusing the pressure of His brothers, showed us that He does nothing until the time for its fulfillment has come. Jesus will come in the fullness of time and that... is known only to the Father.

Charles Spurgeon in 1892 made the observation "The fact that Jesus Christ is to come again is not a reason for star-gazing, but for working in the power of the Holy Spirit." Dealing with similar unscriptural predictions as we are today, Lydia Maria Child in 1840 offered "What does it matter to me whether the world is destroyed in 1844 or in 18,044? Even if I thought the End of all things was so very near, I could see no better way of preparing for it, than by purity of life and conversation, a heart at peace with all men, and diligent efforts to do all in my power to save and bless." If persons are truly sons of God, why would they want to know a date to help them prepare for the end? Why wouldn't they conduct themselves in alignment with the mandate of God on their life in the same manner every day? Rather than trying to figure out the exact day or hour so last minute adjustments and/or preparations can be made, we ought to live faithfully each day. Lk 18:8 "...However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" This question does not inform us that our Lord will be looking for people scrambling around trying to "get ready," but it asks if there will be faithful servants being faithful servants while realizing God is for them and not against them.

When Jesus does return, we should all "be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2Pe3:14).

(Suggested reading: *Bringing The Future Into Focus*, Harold R. Eberle; *End Time Delusions*, Steve Wohlberg; *The Day And The Hour*, Francis X. Gumerlock; *How Can I Face What Is Coming On The World?*, Marty Gabler)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Call before traveling.

Check website for updates: www.seecministries.org—click on “Events”

*** PLEASE PRAY FOR US ***

June 4 * Hallettsville, TX

SEEC InterAct * Marty & Kathy

The ROCK Room * 10am-3pm

Info: Billy Barrera 361-798-4561

June 12 * Willis, TX

Grace International Church * 10am

Kathy speaking on "Transition"

Melissa Gabler leading worship

Info & map: www.graceic.org

June 18 * Sealy, TX

SEEC InterAct *

Holiday Inn Express * No Fee

Subject for June: "Hearing God" *

Marty & Kathy Gabler Teaching

We will be talking about the many

different ways we can hear God.

God is always speaking. The challenge

is to learn to hear.

10am-11am Teaching

11am-12pm Interaction

12pm-1pm Lunch (Fast food and restaurants close by)

1pm-2pm Teaching

2pm-3pm Worship & Ministry

Info: Lynn Burling 979-865-5464

June 19 * Moss Hill, TX

The Lighthouse

Info: 936-334-4707

June 26 * Raywood, TX

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Info: 936-402-2471

July 2 * Hallettsville, TX

The ROCK Room * No Fee

"Threshold Wars"

The principles we learn from experience are supposed to mature us.

Emotions we carry from experience cannot rule us or they will embitter us, limit us or even stop us.

We will talk about the keys to winning threshold wars.

10am-11am Teaching

11am-12pm Interaction

12pm-1pm Lunch (Fast food and restaurants close by)

1pm-2pm Teaching

2pm-3pm Worship & Ministry

Info: Billy Barrera 361-798-4561

July 7-9 * Lufkin, TX

Word of Life

Apostolic Summit

Info: Jim Becton *

eaglesvision@att.net

July 10 * Livingston, TX

Church on the Rock * 10am

Info: jrsdeb@yahoo.com

July 21 * Woodville, TX

Youth Camp * Youth Pastors

Marty & Kathy

July 29 * Willis, TX

Worship Encounter * 7pm

Marty & Kathy Gabler

Melissa Gabler & The Grace

Worship Band

Encountering God's presence in worship, prayer & ministry

Times of refreshing, hope & encouragement

Grace International Church

Info & map: www.graceic.org

July 31 * Tomball, TX * 10am

Saddlecreek Church

Info & map: www.saddlecreek.org

www.seecministries.org

Email: mail@seecministries.org

SEEC Ministries International

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I will not allow any person nor any adverse circumstance to determine the lifespan of the hope God originally put in me.

Thank you for praying. After each issue is mailed, more dates get added to the calendar. Bless you for praying for us.

May the Lord grant you peace and the salvation of your home. May the Lord's Word prosper in you and may you bring forth fruit to His glory.

Worship Encounter

Come,
Let Us
Worship
Together!

-AN EVENING OF WORSHIP-

July 29, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Marty, Kathy & Melissa



And The Grace International Worship Band

**Encountering God's Presence in
Worship, Prayer and Ministry**

Times of Refreshing, Hope, Encouragement

Grace International Church

503 W. Marlin * Willis, TX 77378

Map: www.graceic.org * 936-856-2455



Heb.3:11 I swear, if you harden your hearts you will never get where you are going. * Every time we decide not to see God's purpose in trials and just continue to resist Him, we are hardening our hearts. * A hard heart and calamity are not the legacy we were born to leave. (7.00 + 1.00 s/h=8.00)

Martin Luther said that prayer is not overcoming the reluctance of God but it is laying hold of His willingness. * Could it be that there is more involved in "laying hold" of His willingness than there is in finding it? * What are some of the reasons for unanswered prayer? (7.00 + 1.00 s/h=8.00)

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