

The Messenger

A Prophetic Bulletin Published by Prepare the Way International
Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me."

Volume 9, No. 9

December 2011

Prepare America!

Hope for a Nation in Crisis

Part 7 of 7

Prepare to Arise!

by Rob Winters

Approximately a week after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Japan on March 11, 2011, I abruptly awoke at 1:23 AM. I did not give it much thought, until the very next night I again suddenly awoke at precisely 1:23 AM. Knowing that the Lord was speaking through this prophetic sign, I carefully examined all of the 1:23, 1:2-3, 12:3 and 123 scriptures in the Bible. I discovered within the 123 scriptures the following clear and timely prophetic message to America. I have elaborated on this message in seven consecutive editions of *The Messenger*, this one being the seventh. In January, these messages will be available in my latest book, *Prepare America! – Hope for a Nation in Crisis*.

As darkness continues to invade America, it is imperative that the Church arise and shine. However, before we can arise, we must first awake. In recent years, many have likened the American church to the Laodicean church in the book of Revelation. Much like the Laodiceans, America's greed has unwittingly produced in us spiritual complacency, moral indifference and sexual corruption. Moreover, our devotion to Mammon, among other idols, has allowed a spirit of stupor to hypnotize the Church, resulting in widespread spiritual blindness (Romans 11:8, Revelation 3:16-20).

Over the past few decades, the hypnotic state of the Church has become so severe that many have become spiritually anesthetized. In other words, the church in America has fallen asleep, much like the church of Sardis in the book of Revelation. Having a reputation of being alive, the church of Sardis was dead. Although the American church is not dead, we are sleeping and must be awakened soon, or else we will die (Revelation 3:1-3).

A Third Great Awakening

The sounding of an alarm is one means by which many people awake every morning. During Old Testament times, the blowing of a ram's horn served as an alarm or wake-up call for Israel to repent of their sins. Similarly, over the past few decades, massive, solemn assemblies in cities throughout the United States, appropriately titled "The Call", along with other such gatherings, have been effective in awakening a remnant of the American church. However, in order for the Church to arise, the entire Body must be awake, not just a few members. Unfortunately, as a nation, we have overslept, and are now in danger of missing our divine appointment and destiny (Ephesians 5:14).

Last year my son David scheduled an early morning college class for the fall semester. The first few days of the semester, I would hear his alarm sound for several seconds before he awoke to shut it off. One particular morning his alarm continued ringing longer than usual, and I thought to myself, "Am I going to have to shake him to awaken him?" In like manner, the Lord has been faithful to continue sounding the alarm, calling America to repentance. Nevertheless, most have refused to awake spiritually. Consequently, the Lord has had to resort to shaking in an attempt to awaken us.

Shaking is a form of divine judgment. When we refuse to judge ourselves, and respond to the chastening of the Lord, we become subject to judgment with the world. Shaking not only awakens the sleeping, but also exposes hidden sin and judges that which is corrupt. Indeed, the public exposition of the gross sin of many large, United States based ministers over the past few years has been a manifestation of divine judgment and shaking (I Corinthians 11:31-32).

As an answer to the prayers of an intercessory remnant, the Lord will continue to shake the Church, and every other kingdom, including our government, economy, educational system and media. Assuredly, environmental, ecological, epidemical and economic shaking will perpetuate until America awakes from its spiritual slumber and turns back to God (Hebrews 12:27-28).

As repentance is wrought in the hearts of Americans, we will begin to witness what very well could be the greatest spiritual awakening in the history of the United States. Not only will there be a great revival and harvest of souls, but also a righteous revolution that will catalyze the restoration of America's foundation and the reformation of our one nation under God.

Arise and Build!

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied that there was an allotted amount of time that Israel would remain in Babylonian captivity – seventy years. At the appointed time, the Lord stirred up the spirit of the Persian king, Cyrus, and commanded him to rebuild the Lord's temple in Jerusalem. The following "123" scripture, from the book of Ezra, contains a portion of the written proclamation that King Cyrus issued, petitioning Israel to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the house of the Lord (Jeremiah 25:12; 29:10)

Ezra **1:2-3** "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem."

Similarly, the appointed time has come for Americans to leave our spiritual captivity, return to the Lord, and rebuild His temple – the Body of Christ. Like Zerubbabel, who led the temple restoration effort, those who resolve to obey the Lord in this regard will be met with severe resistance. In fact, the temple restoration under Zerubbabel ceased for fourteen years, due to severe opposition and indifference. Much like the Israelites, Americans have been focused on building their own houses, instead of the house of the Lord.

Haggai **1:2-3** "Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built."

In response to Israel's covetousness and indifference to the Lord's command to rebuild the temple, He sent prophets Haggai and Zechariah to confront them. These prophets' rebuked and challenged Israel, which catalyzed them to arise and build the temple of the Lord, completing it in just two years. Similarly, the Lord is commissioning prophets today to confront American believers regarding our greed and spiritual complacency. If we will heed the voice of the Lord through these prophets, we will not only arise and build the Lord's temple, His Body, but also arise and shine as lights in a nation quickly becoming engulfed by darkness (Ezra 6:14).

Arise and Shine!

Fundamentally, light represents life, truth and all that is good, whereas darkness signifies death, deception and all that is evil. Notice in the Bible's very first "123" passage that after creating the heavens and the earth, the first thing God created was light.

Genesis **1:2-3** "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was^lon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."

Light also represents the glory of God. Glory is the magnification of the distinguishing attributes of a person that causes them to arise and shine. For instance, the glory of children is their father, the glory of young men their strength, and the glory of older men their wisdom. However, to seek one's own glory is not glory. Indeed, the

scripture exhorts us to glory only in understanding and knowing the Lord (Proverbs 17:6; 20:29; 25:27, Jeremiah 9:23-24).

The glory of any king is his dominion. Therefore, the glory of King Jesus is the expansion of His kingdom throughout the earth. However, the glory of God is not only a celebration of His dominion, but also a tangible manifestation of His presence and power. In the glory, darkness is dispelled, sin is purged, bondages are broken, bodies are healed, revelations are received, commissions are accepted, gifts are imparted, souls are saved and prayers answered.

Although the light of the knowledge of the glory of God is found in the face of Jesus Christ, it also resides within every believer. Indeed, Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit, who is the hope of glorifying God throughout the earth. As ambassadors of Christ and epistles read of all men, our mission is to expand the kingdom of God by manifesting the light of His glory through our words, works and ways (II Corinthians 4:5-7, Colossians 1:26-27).

Widespread repentance and salvation is by far the most important effect of God's glory. For too long Christians in America have attempted to fulfill Jesus' great commission and reap a spiritual harvest without the light of His glory. Indeed, presenting the gospel without the glory is like going fishing without bait. As a result, the harvest in America over the past several decades has been dismal. However, in the midst of increasing darkness, the Church of Jesus Christ now has an opportunity to shine the brightest, and to become a light to a nation in search of a future and a hope (Isaiah 60:1-3, Jeremiah 29:11).

Daniel **12:3** "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

In order for the Church in America to arise and shine, we must with wisdom corporately and earnestly begin to seek the glory of God. In recent years, the outpourings in Brownsville, FL, Smithton, MO, and Daphne, AL have provided us glimpses of God's glory. However, for many to turn to righteousness, and be rescued from an eternity in hell, there must be a widespread outpouring of glory throughout our land. Only then will we experience a revolution of righteousness that will not only transform the soul of America, but also reform our "one nation under God" (Proverbs 11:30).

Arise, Cross Over and Take Over!

Moses was destined to lead Israel not only out of Egyptian bondage, but also into the glorious liberty of a land of promise called Canaan. Instead, Moses spent the last forty years of his life in a wilderness, leading a rebellious, hard-hearted, and unbelieving generation of Israelites. After Moses' death, there remained a faithful remnant of leaders, Joshua and Caleb, who had not been contaminated by the fear, lawlessness,

and cynicism of their contemporaries. Quite the contrary, they were of a different spirit – one of faith, courage and the fear of the Lord.

Joshua **1:2-3** “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

In the 1960s, a company of rebels arose in America that eventually led a generation into spiritual captivity. This counterculture of “hippies” was characterized by communal living, psychedelic drug use, sexual promiscuity, and acid rock music. In 1967, a social ingathering of hippies in San Francisco called the “Summer of Love” catalyzed a cultural and political rebellion among young adults throughout America. Although a remnant of this generation turned to Christ through the Jesus Movement, many hardened their hearts and departed from the living God (Hebrews 3:7-13).

After wandering in a spiritual wilderness for forty years, this remnant, much like Joshua and Caleb, arose in Nashville, TN on July 7, 2007 to issue a call to national repentance. Leaders of “The Call” led participants in prayers of repentance, and encouraged all to renew their covenant vows with the Lord. My wife and I, our children, along with 70,000 other believers had the privilege of participating in this strategic national prayer event, which marked the beginning of America’s exodus from a spiritual wilderness.

Notice in the preceding “123” scripture that the Lord commissioned Joshua to take all of the children of Israel into the land of promise, not just a remnant. Likewise, every member of the Body of Christ must coordinate and collaborate in order to be effective. Indeed, as darkness increases over America, it is imperative that this remnant exhort those still captive to be strong, of good courage, and to boldly cross over to receive their inheritance (Joshua 1:6-9).

The Lord intended Joshua, Caleb, and the Israelites to not merely reside in Canaan, but instead to preside over it. In other words, they were to have dominion. To enforce their reign they had to conquer Canaanite cities such as Jericho and Ai, and drive out those inhabitants who refused to serve Jehovah. In like manner, to fulfill the Lord’s great commission, the Church must not only arise and cross over, but also arise and take over!

Without question, the next American revolution will not be militaristic in nature, but instead spiritual in nature. This oncoming revolution of righteousness will impact every kingdom in America, not just our families and churches. Surely, a righteous remnant of revolutionaries shall arise and affect every aspect of our culture, ranging from Wall Street to Main Street, from Capitol Hill to Chapel Hill, from Hollywood to Dollywood, from CNN to CBN, from USC to UNC.

In conclusion, it is high time that we, the Body of Christ in America, awake from our slumber. Only then will we find repentance and the resolve necessary to arise and build the Church. As we position ourselves to seek the face of God, His glory will arise upon us, drawing many out of deep darkness toward the brightness of our rising. As we lead multitudes out of spiritual captivity into a promised land of revival and

reformation, we will participate in the fulfillment of America's divine destiny. Undoubtedly, it will be America's finest hour!

Prayer: *Father, shake and awake the Church! Through your prophets, convict us of our sin and provoke us to arise and build Your Church. May we arise and shine with Your glory and become a light to a nation in crisis, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

The Messenger is a prophetic bulletin published by Prepare the Way International. Issues of **The Messenger** are available on our website (www.preparethewayint.com). To receive **The Messenger**, subscribe to the Prepare the Way e-mail distribution by e-mailing us (info@preparethewayint.com) your name and e-mail address. Thank you.