

Current Affairs #51 – The Two Great Prophetic Themes of Scripture

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Prophetic Scriptures are especially designed to illuminate our understanding of what is to come. Often, they refer to things that have passed so that we have a measure by which to calibrate our understanding of what is to come. Prophecy is for edification, to edify us so that we are not walking ignorantly, we are not stumbling blindly through the landscape of humanity. So, it is for edification. It is for exhortation. When our senses are overwhelmed, when we are tempted to stop and not want to go any further, prophecy exhorts us to press on as one running in the race. So, in a sense, prophecy is like your friends on the sidelines cheering you on toward the final finish. And it is for comfort. So, it is for edification, exhortation, and comfort. Comfort is when everything around you is gloomy, the light does not penetrate, and depression, anxiety, worry, fear reach out of the darkness to grab you, prophecy serves to comfort you. It allows you to raise the shield of faith to quench the fiery darts with which the enemy attacks you through the five senses. So, it comforts you.

Whoever walks without prophecy walks without edification, so they have only the ruminations of their own minds and the collective wisdom of their companions; they have the power of reason in the place of divine enlightenment, *this is that*. Regarding exhortation, lacking the cheering from the sidelines by the Scriptures and by the examples of those who have gone before us, we can only hope that our souls can be motivated by positivity, by thinking positive thoughts, or as somebody said (I think it was in the movie *Peter Pan*) thinking happy thoughts. This is no time for that kind of a flimsy reed on which to lean. And for comfort, you can only have the comfort of the sound of your own voice or the comfort of escape, rather than the work of the Holy Spirit who brings forth the word to you in the season of God, that word that had been spoken and repeated through the corridors of time and brought certainty, clarity, hope, and direction to the people of God.

Look, prophecy is not discretionary. Prophecy is front and center. Without it, history occurs and catches us entirely unprepared. Think, for example, of the book of Daniel, the eighth and ninth chapters in particular, where Daniel is given understanding of the rise of the nation of Greece, pictured as a shaggy goat with a horn that moves across the ground and does not touch the ground, and all of the prophetic Scriptures that speak of how the empire is broken up and divided into four groups or four portions. That is exactly what happened. After Alexander the Great, that shaggy

goat, after he died, his empire was divided between the families of his four generals, and they ruled until the coming of the time of Christ. That prophecy had been announced in chapter 10, when the angel said to Daniel, “As you were praying, I was given instruction to come and give you revelation about these things, but the prince of Persia, a demonic spirit known as the prince of Persia, detained me for a fortnight, for twenty-one days.” But he said, “Michael came to my aid; the great angel Michael came to my aid and removed the objection of the prince of Persia. When I return, the prince of Greece will come” (cf. Daniel 10:12-21). In that prophetic declaration, in what he told Daniel, he prophesied the future, namely, that not just the Babylonian Empire would fall to the Persians, but the Medes and Persians who came after that, that they would in their turn as tyrants fall. Then after they fell, there would be the rise of the Greek Empire. That is exactly what happened.

So, if we ignore prophecy... Modern man thinks himself to be so smart because he thinks the ability to search things on the computer gives him all knowledge, all relevant understanding at his fingertips. There is a wisdom that underlies the movement of history, because all of history serves to bring forth and to be the record of the bringing forth of what God originally knew, God’s original intent. So, what was and what is God’s original intent?

You have heard me speak about this many times, so I will not go into any depth of it; but God created man to be the image and likeness of God so that the purpose of man, collectively upon the earth, was to host the presence of God.<sup>1</sup> When man departed from that view, beginning with the fall of Adam, an entire opposition to that movement of history was introduced. It came to be known as the *kosmos* (Strong’s Greek 2889)—a kingdom comprised of systems to entrap man into the belief that we can live apart from God, inasmuch as man had chosen to engage an economy based upon his toil for the purpose of provision and protection.

So on the one hand you have got the progression forward, inexorably, to the end result of a corporate man who is in the image and likeness of God, known as the Body of Christ, growing to the fullness of maturity, measured by the fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ, for the purpose of putting, collectively, on display the nature of the Living God. When the earth has served its purpose, that is what we will have. Why? Because the power and the authority of the Living

God underwrites the outcome. It is not like there is a possibility that this will not happen. God knows the end from the beginning. But the other story is also progressing. And these two stories, the one being the purpose of God to be demonstrated in a corporate man—the nature of God being put on display in a corporate man—is being shadowed by an opposition that intends to prove that man was not the appropriate heir; that it was the angels who were dispossessed in the process. That is the rebellion. Both of these things, both of these directions have been gathered up, organized, and arranged into kingdoms. Why?

Because anytime you have a collection of people on the earth moving together toward a particular purpose, they have to be organized in order for that purpose to have any chance of succeeding. If you have got a large group of people on the earth, each of whom has an idea about carrying the presence of God, how will they, as individuals, carry the presence of God? How can an individual carry the fullness of the presence of God? He cannot. It is not given to an individual. A portion is given as a partial investment, but God always intended—indeed, that is the only way it could happen—to have a collection together, an orderly arrangement. In our case and for our purposes, that orderly arrangement is called the Body of Christ. It is empowered, hence the concept of Kingdom, which is the term *basileia* in the Greek (Strong's Greek 932) or *basilica* in the Latin, and it means a foundational basis of power and rule. Every collection of people moving together to fulfill a particular purpose have to be empowered, and there has to be an order to their progression. So, part of empowerment is bringing order, in addition to having the strength or force necessary to accomplish their objectives.

This is simple. This is not complicated. This is the Scriptures. Now, I understand that today, in the gospel of narcissism, which is living your best life now or the gospel promoted by motivational speakers, they go for the individual. They have no overarching concept of corporeity, no more than they have an overarching concept of purpose. Their purpose is simply the purpose of consumers. They have “dumbed” the gospel down to something that is grotesque, and in its fundamental form, opposes the gospel of Christ. This is another gospel. Needless to say, God is dismissing the proponents of this gospel in this time because that is part of what is happening prophetically. *This is that*. He is taking the people out of the hands of wicked and exploitive shepherds and putting them into the hands of those who are moved by His Spirit, so that they may experience the

Fatherhood of God in their corporeity and they may experience and tap into the true economy of God.<sup>2</sup> Which exists, not so you can barricade yourself behind a mountain of possessions so that you do not need God. Do you know the basic premise of the prosperity gospel is to secure enough goods and wealth from God so that you do not have to trust God? It is an idiocy beyond imagination, viewed from the sane mind of God. But from the insane and unsound mind of fallen men, it is what he always wanted: he wanted to be able to clothe himself and to protect himself, and that, from God.

This other trend that is moving through the earth is the alternative. And as I have said, it too is organized in the form of a kingdom with certain power. It has an objective and it has a power that sustains it, just like the Kingdom of God has an objective and has the eternal power of God sustaining it. The objective of the Kingdom of God is the manifestation of God in the corporate man. It is not about going to heaven when you die. That is just a religious gospel. Yes, you will go to heaven when you die, but God did not create man just so he could go to heaven when he dies. God created the heavens and the earth and put man in it so that God may become visible in creation in a corporate man. Anything else is less than the gospel. And when a thing is less than the gospel, it may either be inoffensive to the gospel or it may actually be a stumbling block to the gospel. I am convinced that the reason that people were not motivated to search this matter out more thoroughly has been because of the hegemony of the gospel of going to heaven when you die.

Now, look, when I am not here, you may properly assume I am in heaven. But that is not my goal: to get to heaven. Because heaven will be emptied out at the return of the Lord. Eventually, all the heavens will be rolled up as a scroll, but the purposes of God will continue. So, the doctrine that focuses on going to heaven versus going to hell is short-sighted. It is not the whole gospel, and it will not allow you to engage the economy of the Kingdom of Heaven because that exists, not to get you to heaven when you die; that exists to strengthen you against the opposition that intends to keep you from that goal of putting on display the nature of God in your time on this earth.

The opposition, as I mentioned, is also arranged as a kingdom, and the driving force behind this opposition is called the enemy. Now, the “enemy” is not merely a term, like the term “spiritual.” The enemy is a real person. He was a created being who rebelled against God. He was not created

to be any more than a servant, and indeed, all of the spirits like him were angels who at one time served God, because all angels are created as ministering servants.<sup>3</sup> When they lost their place, it was because they chose to rebel against that for which they were created, and so in creation they do not have a divine purpose. They oppose a divine purpose, and they are bound over for destruction. But they have not chosen to go quietly. They chose to oppose God in heaven, and they continue to try to oppose God on the earth; inasmuch as, the earth was the place that God put man to perfect him into the image and likeness of God. Born as an infant (or created in the case of Adam), but meant to grow up into the fullness of this calling.

Each step of his journey is opposed by this alternative kingdom that has as its prime actors, the hierarchy of evil spirits. The top of the hierarchy being the accuser of the brethren, Ha-Satan, the devil, variously referred to as that old serpent, the devil, or Satan.<sup>4</sup> Now, he is not the only big actor in this kingdom of darkness. The kingdom of darkness is known after him. He is the prince of darkness, meaning, he would take you back to the time before there was light. God created the heavens and the earth to reveal His nature. That is the meaning of, “Let there be light”—God was revealing Himself. The enemy wishes to take mankind back into the darkness of not knowing God. Because if you walk in the light, as He is in the light, you have fellowship one with another, the blood of Jesus Christ continues to cleanse from all sin, and you grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth.<sup>5</sup> But if you walk in darkness, your ways are not informed by the righteousness of God. In fact, you love darkness rather than light precisely because your ways oppose God, your deeds are evil.<sup>6</sup>

So, these two kingdoms are inevitably clashing with each other. The Scriptures tell us, unequivocally, what the outcome will be. The saints of the Most High, the ones destined to carry His presence and put it on display, they are destined to possess all the kingdoms of the earth. In other words, to bring everything again under the rule of the Son of God. All things began by being put under the rule of Adam, the first of the two sons. The last Adam is a spiritual man, comprised of many members, and everything is expected to come back into divine order under the rule of that Adam.

Now, both kingdoms are moving forward. The kingdom of darkness has been presented prophetically in its final stage as a great beast that rules upon the earth, that terrorizes the earth, subdues it, and presses it down. Well, that is consistent with the nature of the opposition. Similarly, the Kingdom of God, as it draws to the conclusion of the age, is presented in the picture of a bride to her husband. If we understand biblically, the concept of the bride is not one of romance. I know there are many silly, popular, even Christian writers who try to depict the relationship between Christ and the church as one of an amorous relationship between two persons, a man and a woman. No. He is using types and shadows. The bride, you see, the purpose of the bride is to carry the holy seed, to gestate within the *Corpus Christi* those who are born of God, of the seed of God, who then are presented in the image and likeness of God within the context of the corporate man as that which is the fullness of the representation of God upon the earth. Two trends are moving forward:

- The bride, who carries the seed, brings forth that which is the man child, as it were, that is the fullness of the Body of Christ that carries the representation of God on the earth.
- The other is as a grotesque kingdom, a systemic kingdom, that oppresses the whole earth, seeking to draw it under its rule and to draw even the believers back under the rule.

Now, do not be deceived. And you will not. As a believer, as a true believer, you cannot be made subject to the evil one because you will see and understand as the times unfold. We are in a critical epoch. We are in the time when the bride is about to bring forth this perfect man. That is why it is called the beginnings of birth pains.<sup>7</sup> Do not forget: When there are the beginnings of birth pains, something is about to be born. But in this birth, it will not bring forth an infant because the metaphor of birth is not used to depict the coming forth of a child, like a human child. This is the thing that has been gestated in the womb of God from the beginning of time.

We live now in the full provision of what God has supplied for us, anticipating the time when it is time to show what was born of God, what had been gestated in God. And so, to that end, the enemy and his kingdom are presented as a dragon that waits to devour the Child.<sup>8</sup> The type and shadow of this, of course, is the natural birth of Jesus, and Herod seeking to destroy Him when He was born. A similar type and shadow is Moses at the time of his birth in Egypt, where the Pharaoh was a type and shadow of this dragon. But the things about prophecy, you see, is that it is not linear. The thing about prophecy is that you cannot understand it with a domesticated understanding

because it speaks of spiritual things through earthly symbols. So, what is to be born is not going to be an infant. What is to come out of the bride, so to speak, is that which God was intending to do: a fully-grown man to the image and likeness of God. With that, we will have the final clash of the age. Where we are now is in the beginning of birth pains. And when we come back, I want to talk to you about the symbols that dominate and define our time.

Endnotes:

1. See Genesis 1:26 NKJV: “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”
2. See Jeremiah 23:1-4 NKJV: “‘Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!’ says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: ‘You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,’ says the LORD. ‘But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,’ says the LORD.”
3. See Hebrews 1:14 NIV: “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”
4. See Revelation 12:9-10 NKJV: “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’”
5. See 1 John 1:7 NKJV: “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
6. See John 3:19 NKJV: “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

7. See Matthew 24:4-8 NIV: “Jesus answered: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, “I am the Messiah,” and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.’”
8. See Revelation 12:4 NKJV: “His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.”