

November 09, 2014

## Mostly Personal...

Loved Ones,

Well, another election day has come and gone. As I'm writing this, the results are not yet in, so I don't really know what has happened or what the atmosphere in the nation has become. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since I first began talking about national issues in 2008 when I presented *The Long Emergency*.

At that time, we had no sense of timing in regard to when these significant events would occur. Some prophetic voices agreed with the scenario, but saw them playing out between 2014 and 2018 – some as late as 2020. I felt such an urgency that I didn't think it would take that long. We have seen some things come to pass, and we have seen several more begin to appear. But the full-blown picture has not emerged.

Yet.

I believe it will, though it looks like the time line predicted by others may be more accurate than I thought. So, what do we do from here?

I would encourage you to stay very close to Father as you formulate plans. I still believe I am hearing the same thing I heard when we began this journey together. With that in mind, here's my first recommendation:

1. Don't make the mistake of disregarding proven, trusted prophetic voices. In the days of Jeremiah, the official position of the Royal Court was that God was too good to allow anything to happen to Judah and Jerusalem. Jeremiah endured some jail time because of his insistence on God's judgment, but he held true, even when a host of false prophets opposed him.

The same thing happened in the days of Jehoshaphat, the righteous king of Judah, who had allied himself with evil King Ahab of Israel. Ahab had scores of prophets, all of them with the same message – "God is for you! Keep on going forward! God won't let anything happen to you! He is nothing but love!"

Yet Jehoshaphat asked Ahab, "Isn't there a reputable Prophet of the Lord we can ask about this? This doesn't line up with what they are saying."

There was such a prophet – his name was Micaiah. He delivered the true word of The Lord – and it cost him his life. Ahab persisted in pursuing the message that pleased him. He died as a result. Upon his return from battle, Jehoshaphat was chided by another true prophet – "Should you have helped the ungodly and love them that hate the LORD, by following Ahab and listening to the false prophets?" (see 2 Chronicles 19).

There is no shortage of prophets who deliver a popular message instead of a correct message. We often mistake a *positive message* for

a *true message* because of our bend toward faith.

Some of these messengers are evil and corrupt.

Others are well meaning servants of The Lord, but are slaves to a theology that makes no provision for anything negative or judgmental. Not long ago I heard a genuine Man of God say, "It's easy to be a prophet today. You just need an Old Testament verse and a newspaper headline." It seemed clear he was rejecting the kind of message we have embraced here at Christian Life. I believe he is sincere and well meaning, but I also believe he is profoundly, perhaps dangerously, in error. We must be careful to not disregard a message from credible people just because it doesn't fit our theological grid.

Still, some really are hearing from God, but are just receiving a part of the message.

I like what David Ravenhill wrote in *Charisma* online a few weeks ago. He felt that both sets of prophets are right, but that neither group sees the whole picture. So, on one hand, God is going to move in great power and anointing, and the church will see her greatest days. Yet that will not happen until we see a time of great trouble and purging. It will seem as though the church is defeated, but God will chastise His people and bring us, cleansed and renewed, through great trial. I believe both groups are right. That is what I've believed and taught from the very beginning, and I haven't wavered from that view.

I still believe the message from *The Harbinger* and *The Mystery of the Shemita* by Johnathan Cahn. I still believe *The Perfect Storm* by John Paul Jackson, and I still believe *The Long Emergency* vision I shared with you in 2008.

2. Secondly, I encourage you to focus on your own growth and maturity in Christ above any eschatological possibilities. I believe God can and does warn us to prepare for adversity. He did that in the book of Acts through Agabus and through Joseph in the story of Genesis. But above all preparation, we need to keep growing in Christ and be found faithful when The Lord returns.
3. Finally, ask their Lord to confirm His word to you. Something God spoke to your heart can lose its fervency with the passing of time. John saw the Spirit of God descend upon Jesus, confirming that our Lord was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Yet after months of hardship and imprisonment, John still asked Jesus, "Are you really the One, or should we look for another? Could I have missed it?" Jesus took time to answer John's questions, remind him of what was going on even as John was in doubt, and then He rekindled the Word of The Lord in the heart and memory of the young prophet.

Beloved, I believe Jesus is still able to rekindle His Word to you just as He did to John. Just set aside time you can utilize to open yourself to Him.

I love you all, *Pastor Stephen*

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