

THE BURDEN OF THE LORD

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**“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘This
People says, “The time has not come,
Even the time for the house of the
Lord to be rebuilt.”””**

**Then the word of the Lord came by
Haggai the prophet, saying, ‘Is it
Time for you yourselves to dwell in
Your paneled houses while this house
Lies desolate? Now therefore, thus
Says the Lord of hosts, “Consider
Your ways!”””**

† Haggai 1:2-5

Are you familiar with the term, “Burden of the Lord?” Well, unless you spend a lot of time in the Old Testament—and you should—especially in the prophets then you may not know anything about The Burden of the Lord. It’s not directly mentioned in the New Testament and I’ve never heard anybody preach a sermon on it or write about it but because the Lord

does not change then you should be taught about it because unless you are an intercessor—a *true* intercessor and not just a prayer—or a prophet you probably don't know what it is. And, quite frankly, as this teaching article will point out, the reason Christians today are ignorant about such topics as this is precisely *part* of the Burden of the Lord because He does not want you to be ignorant—He wants you to be passionate about the things He is passionate about and the number one thing He is passionate about is His Church that He died for.

So what is the Burden of the Lord and why does He only share it with just a few people? Well, I learned 30 years ago when the Lord asked me to go on an assignment that He doesn't have a lot of people that He can trust. Yes, it's sad to say but it's both the nature and history of humans to be selfish, self-centered and prideful. And, of course, pride itself which we are warned against in abundance from the book of Proverbs, is itself a form of self-centeredness. This is especially true of those the closest to the Lord as well like the apostles. The Apostle Paul wrote during the later years of his life that only Timothy, whom he had placed in charge of the church at Ephesus, was completely trustworthy to carry out the instructions of the aging apostle. He poignantly wrote “For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.” (Phil. 2:20-21)

What was Paul saying? You read his letters and you notice that he called many of his fellow ministers “faithful” in the ministry. But people have a tendency to follow the path of seeking “their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's” and they have a way to justify it through what I call spiritual rationalization. Even the Balaam boys who are not true and faithful ministers but nevertheless they've lied and stolen for so long that their consciences have been seared and they no longer see what they are doing as sin; they justify it in fact by saying that they are preaching the gospel. Yes, but it's not the gospel of the Scriptures—it's just another one of the long list of false gospels that Paul wrote about.

Being faithful and also because he had become the recipient of much, much revelation, the apostle Paul understood perhaps probably better than any of his time—and it's so obvious from his epistles—that as disciples of Jesus we are called to sacrifice our lives and pour them out “as a drink offering” unto the Lord. Our lives are not our own the Bible says because we “were bought with a price” yet most Christians don't act that way so although they may be good people they cannot be trusted with the burden of the Lord.

And this fact is brought out in the key Scripture for this teaching lesson, isn't it? God had prophesied through Jeremiah that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt after 70 years of captivity for their sins. And so we see in Ezra, Nehemiah and some of the prophet's writings, that God moved on King Cyrus of Persia to fulfill this prophecy in the sixth

century B.C. And the Lord laid it on the heart of certain of his people in captivity like Ezra, Nehemiah, Zerubbabel, and others of the exiles to return and rebuild both the city and the temple. And we notice as I wrote 30 years ago, Nehemiah—a type of the apostle—was tasked with rebuilding the “gates” of the city which represents government because throughout the Old Testament in Israel all the business of government was conducted at the city gates and that is where the elders gathered for that purpose. In addition, Zerubbabel, whose name comes from Babel and has its origins in Babylon means “one sown in Babylon,” is also a type of the apostle because he is “chosen by the Lord” and tasked with restoring the foundations of the second temple.

We notice the Burden of the Lord upon Nehemiah when he recognized the disgrace because “the gates” of Jerusalem had been “burned with fire.” The Word says that he “sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.” Nehemiah is definitely one book you should read several times and meditate on to assist you in understanding this teaching because that is the condition of the Church today—her “gates have been burned with fire.” So if you can see with the Eye of the Eagle then you understand that the *true* government of the Church, which should flow down from the Head, Jesus Christ, through His Five-fold ministers has been burned up with fire and is a disgrace to the Head of the Church. I didn’t know it at the time, but this is what the Lord was beginning to show me in October, 1991, when He said, “The Church is not being led by the Holy Spirit—it’s being led by religious spirits.”

In addition, the Temple of the Lord had been destroyed and so must be rebuilt and at that time the Lord called upon Zerubbabel to accomplish that task. And likewise, the foundational ministries of apostle and prophet (Eph. 2:20) are being raised up today to restore the gates and the temple according to the pattern by the Spirit. But don’t forget this part, this is precisely why the devil has been active raising up false five-fold ministries—especially prophets and apostles. His goal is to sow confusion and discouragement and is typed by Tobiah and Sanballat in Nehemiah. Remember what I’ve preached and written for 30 years—just because you put the title apostle or prophet or pastor on your business card doesn’t make you one. It’s only the anointing given by the Lord Jesus that makes you a Five-fold minister. And you just need to understand that today is no different than in Bible times—most apostles are *false* apostles; most prophets are *false* prophets. And if you don’t have The Eye of the Eagle then you are in trouble because you may not be able to recognize the difference.

So the Lord Jesus is continuing to send prophets and apostles to the Church to rebuild what has been destroyed and they need the support of Christians willing to help them do just that. How successful do you think Nehemiah, Ezra and Zerubbabel would have been by themselves if they hadn’t had others working alongside them to build? And that is the

pattern of the *real* Church that we only find a picture of in the book of Acts. As I've preached for years, where in history do you ever find an army where nobody does anything? Do you think Alexander the Great had people in his army who didn't do anything? Does the U.S. Army have people in it with no duties? No, of course not. Well, why do so many "pastors" think that their people don't need to do anything or that their people don't have any spiritual gifts that are greatly needed in the body of Christ?

HEROD'S TEMPLE

The history of Israel is very instructive if we are to learn about the Kingdom of God and His government. Many evangelicals say we need "to watch Israel" for what is next on God's prophetic calendar. And there is a lot of truth to that statement because Jesus said that every word must be fulfilled yet I've found that the Israel we really need to watch is the Israel in the bible because Israel is a type of the Church and all of the similarities are too numerous to be coincidental.

When we study the dealings of the Lord with man in the Scriptures that He always works through covenant—a legal agreement—which men tend to break whenever they want to because of the sin of rebellion and the inclination to follow Satan out of selfishness when they are deceived. So the Lord establishes an agreement with His "covenant people" and He keeps the agreement but men and women don't—they fall away in sin. So we *learn* God's pattern of dealing with man through covenant and then His way of dealing with them when they fall away. We see this very effectively in the Book of Judges which spans hundreds of years and demonstrates a cycle with what I refer to as the 4 r's—rebellion, retribution (God's judgment), repentance, and restoration.

If you're familiar with this history of Israel then you know that the nation was divided due to the sins of Solomon. Let's face it. If the wisest man who ever lived could not keep covenant with the Lord then the human race has a problem. Solomon's son retained the kingship in Jerusalem but God gave 10 tribes to Jeroboam as prophesied through His prophet Ahija. But what did Jeroboam do? Instead of being grateful to the Lord he rebelled and set up his own temple worship system complete with golden calves! He did this for political reasons because he was afraid that his own people would rebel against him because all of the males of Israel were required to go to the Temple in Jerusalem and worship at least 3 times a year. Jeroboam did not trust the Lord to sustain him in his office of king so he had to do it himself—in other words, the works of men instead of by the Spirit. Therefore, because the Levites only served the *real* Temple in Jerusalem, Jeroboam could not get any legitimate, anointed priests so he had to appoint his own. Thus, the whole religious system of Israel became one of politics and a system of worship run by men.

Remember, the Lord had shown King David the pattern for the first Temple and it was typed by the Tabernacle. So God commissioned the building of the First Temple and He also commissioned the Second Temple as we discussed earlier through the edict from King Cyrus to rebuild the city and the Temple.

But it's always the nature of man to want to be in charge and, through pride to want the glory that is reserved for God alone. We see it first with Satan the anointed cherub who issued worship into the Throneroom of God. We see it in the Exodus when Aaron's own sons were killed because they offered up "strange fire," i.e., man-made fire. Man has an inclination to think that we are something. It ruins many if not most who God gives the strongest anointings to because they do not keep pride out of their lives, especially when people shower them with praise and wealth.

So we notice that God only instituted *two* Temples, both in Jerusalem and yet both were taken away because of the sins of the people and the government. But you probably never stopped to realize that there was actually a Third Temple built by Herod the Great, who is the same king who Satan tried to use to kill the Baby Jesus. He died in 6 B.C. So let's talk about this "temple." Herod wanted to demonstrate his piety to the Jews so that they would trust him—which they didn't at first thinking that he just wanted to destroy the existing temple. And you know from reading the Scriptures that the people considered this second temple inferior to the first one constructed by Solomon because it lacked the beauty, the gold, etc.

If you study the secular history of Israel and Rome then you will learn that the "king" or governor or whoever the emperor put in charge of a conquered nation such as a proconsul's main job was to keep the peace and maintain law and order. If you couldn't do that the emperor would replace you quickly. Of course you were provided with an army to assist you in this endeavor. So Herod deemed it a good political move to do this yet in order to win their trust he had to promise not to tear down the "old" temple first but to build the new temple up around the old and then much of the old could be dismantled. Herod began this in 20 B.C. and it was a beautiful structure but don't forget an important point—it was *not* commissioned by God but rather was "man-made."

And there is a spiritual principle here. God spoke through the prophet Haggai and said, "Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison as nothing?" But now notice the Word of the Lord through His prophet, and this was the subject of one of the articles in our very first teaching letter back in November, 1991, entitled *The Glory of the Latter House*.

"...I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter house

Shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Hag. 2:7-9)

Now let me ask you a question. Was the Lord prophesying about the second or third temple? Those who had seen Solomon’s temple wept because the second temple paled in comparison. Yet the Lord prophesied that “the glory of the latter house would be greater than Solomon’s temple (the former house).” Can you see it?

Herod’s temple was much more glorious physically but because the Lord didn’t ordain that this couldn’t be what He was prophesying yet the religious leaders of Jesus’ time probably thought this was it but we know that flesh cannot contain the glory of God and this “new” was built by flesh under the command of an ungodly king.

THE GLORY OF THE LATTER HOUSE

So I think it’s obvious that the burden of the Lord is for this “latter house” which is the Church that He died for—He longs to see the Church rise up and be what He has ordained her to be and to rule and reign with Him now on the earth. This latter house contains His glory through the Holy Spirit given to each of us when we join the family of God. But the Church can only do this *if* each member of the Body does its part as the Apostle Paul wrote in two of his letters.

But I think most people reading this realize that the church you go to does not encourage your operating in your gifts and they probably don’t assist you in developing those gifts either. Why is this? Because the gates have been burned with fire—most church *governments* are wrong—they do not follow the Church of Acts nor God’s government as laid out by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4 and elsewhere. This is why the church is in chaos—spiritual chaos. It may look fine physically, i.e., financially, socially, etc. but it’s not okay spiritually for men to do things their own way.

Like Jeroboam’s temples that he set up, many if not most churches are organized by men through pulpit committees, a board of elders (who are usually not spiritually qualified to be elders but are often people of financial means or business leaders in the community), deacons, etc. That is why you rarely see the anointing in most church services today—the Holy Spirit is not in charge, men are. They even print out a bulletin telling Him what they are going to do and He will let them do it too. Meanwhile, the glory of the latter house lingers waiting for the genuine apostles and prophets to restore the foundations of the Church in the Temple and at the Gates.

MARANATHA