

Woe to the Shepherds

Woe to the Prophets

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Scripture References: Jeremiah 23:1-4, Ezekiel 13:2-23

I've had a lot of supernatural experiences in my life starting from infancy when I can remember the Lord and angels coming and standing beside my bed during the night on many occasions. In *Revelations from God* I give the first vision I ever had at age 4 titled "Vision of the Nuclear Cloud" which I had a second time in Montana in August, 2004, and deals with judgment against America. The number 2 in prophecy means God is going to do it quickly.

I've recognized for some time that the dominant anointing upon my life from the Lord is a Judgment anointing – it seems to me to be a mixture of Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Apostle Paul – whereas my wife's dominant anointing is Mercy. The Lord used her at a convention in South Africa to release a Move of Mercy to the world in 1997.

The Lord told my wife before we were married that "He was marrying mercy and judgment to produce the child Glory." I believe it's much easier today to walk in a mercy anointing than judgment because when you carry a Judgment Anointing it often makes other Christians, because they don't understand spiritual things very well nor recognize the Anointing, think you're angry or frustrated. Also, people don't want to hear prophetic words of Judgment because they don't feel "edified." We see this throughout the books of the prophets in the Old Testament, particularly in Jeremiah and Ezekiel and we're going to deal with some of these today because they speak to the Church.

I heard Benny Hinn say on television back in the early '90s when he still had his church in Florida concerning prophecy, "if it doesn't bring edification, exhortation and comfort it's not true prophecy" (cf. I Cor. 14:3) which is an erroneous statement. Now I'm not speaking against Brother Hinn because I don't know spiritually where he is right now with the Lord and I've not been told by the Lord to speak out against any ministers by name. Perhaps he knew better then and did not explain the difference or perhaps now he does know the difference between the spiritual gift of Prophecy Paul was speaking about in Corinthians and prophecy from a prophet who carries an anointing of Judgment and is often called to prophesy words like those to the kings of Israel that did not bring "edification, exhortation and comfort." But it's important for you to understand the distinction between the two. We have been called upon by the Lord to speak words of judgment against some churches in churches who invited us to minister. It's not a fun thing to do because they don't expect it and certainly don't advertise to their church or the community that "Brother and Sister Timmons are coming to give us words of judgment" and they never invite you back. Unfortunately, like the Bible, they normally reject the Word of the Lord and for this reason they must reject the messenger as well.

In 1997 Ev and I were ministering in South Africa for several months and spoke at a large convention. Many of the ministers and pastors there then asked us to minister in their churches. One church in JB were so excited that we accepted their invitation but when I got up to speak and told them that the Lord had a word of Judgment for them and then bang I read off the sins of that church, 1,2,3,4,5, etc., I think there were about 8 or 9. You could hear a pin drop but the pastor got up after my "short" message of 10 minutes (my normal teaching message is 90 minutes) and stood before the congregation and said, "Well, we were hoping to hear a 'Word from the Lord' and this is not what we expected but I believe it is the Word of the Lord."

But you see, *IF* our hearts are right with the Lord and we could really understand Judgment then we would not fear it but rather welcome it. The same Hebrew word is also rendered, *justice*. Often Christians cry out to God against injustice but then lament when He sends a true prophet to try and bring this justice through a message of Judgment. Because Jesus is not only the Lamb but also the Lion He is a God who must use His prophets to release prophetic words of judgment into the earth like He did Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

The Lord told me in 1998 that like He sent Ezekiel to Israel He was sending me to the Church. He said it was not going to be a pleasant experience for me (and it's not) and that I would be rejected. Today while I was doing my morning

prayers and Bible reading/meditation the Spirit of the Lord came upon me and He reminded me of this call to the Church.

I want to share with you some Scriptures regarding this concerning the condition of the Church *because* of so many ministers who are false, i.e., not anointed by God. Now please understand, they may have good hearts, although many are evil and deceived as evidenced by their “fruit.” Many are pastoring not because God called them but it’s just become another vocation.

But if you’re not called by the Lord then you’re not anointed and even though you may be pastoring and doing some good you are not a *genuine* pastor, prophet, evangelist, etc. It’s the Anointing that determines what office(s) you stand in to represent the Lord to His Church. Most Christians have no understanding about God’s government and the Five-fold offices.

Because we’re living in the Laodicean, lukewarm Church Age and we’re in the apostasy Paul spoke about that he said would *precede* the coming of the “man of sin” we refer to as the Antichrist, many Christians and ministers have fallen away from the Lord and the Faith. God must send true prophets to speak judgment like He did Israel in order to bring His people back to Him. That was Elijah’s main calling and as I bring out in the messages titled, “*The Spirit of Elijah*,” the revelation that the spirit of Elijah must return in these last days for the same purpose. This was prophesied in Malachi and John the Baptist only fulfilled the first portion of that Scripture. However, it’s also quite interesting that although he foreran the first coming of Jesus as the Lamb, his message was one of judgment, “Repent!” You see it’s only when we repent that we are able to enter into the Mercy of God. I believe we should expect an even stronger message of judgment from those called in the spirit of Elijah to forerun the Second Coming of Jesus.

In Jeremiah and Ezekiel, God warns those in ministry with the strong word, “Woe!”

“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Saith the Lord.” ■ Jeremiah 23:1

“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts ... woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!”

■ Ezekiel 13:2-3

Like the Church of today, few in Ezekiel's day were able to see that "the land is full of blood, and the city full of injustice." Many people in ministry today refuse to deal with injustice and sin within their own churches. This is one of the reasons as I mentioned in *The Sins of the Church* that there is no corporate anointing on that body of believers. We are called to be holy and lead holy lives. If not, it's the responsibility of God's Five-fold to deal with sin and He will often use prophets to expose sin, especially if a person or church has allowed it to go on unchecked for a long time. At that time, if there's no repentance then judgment falls swiftly.

Yet we see from the Scriptures that Ezekiel was not only told about all the sin and wickedness but the Lord actually commissioned him to "prophesy against" several groups of people who were leading the people astray. The nation as a whole had "not walked in my statutes, nor obeyed my rules, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you." (11:12)

First, the Lord told Ezekiel to prophesy against the "wicked rulers." Then the Lord told him to prophesy against the false prophets and there was also a clear warning given that these false prophets would be "cut off" from the people meaning (13:9) it would seem that they lost their salvation. The reason? God gives it in v. 10, "Precisely because they have misled my people, saying, 'Peace,' when there is no peace ..." The Lord says that by doing this type thing, i.e., prophesying "peace" and "prosperity" when God is not happy with them "strengthens the hands of evildoers." In other words, they think they're "okay" and they do not repent.

Now in 14:9 comes a really *scary* word from the Lord which I wrote about in *The Prophetic Voice* because I understand this perfectly. God often will give a "prophet" a deceiving or enticing word. You need to understand this because it still happens today in the Church.

"And if the prophet is deceived and speaks a word, I the Lord, have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel."

But notice v. 10, it's not just the false prophet who is punished but those who inquire of the prophet shall suffer the same punishment. The Lord continues on speaking about all the sins and comes to "dishonest gain" in 22:13 yet I wonder how many of the false prophets appearing on "christian" television with their made up stories to extort money from God's sheep would ever think this could apply to them?

Finally, the Lord speaks about “the prophetesses” of Israel and their magical charms which is exactly what many “ministries” have been doing for decades sending you “charms” (miracle spring water, miracle oil, flour to “mix” with your best offering and send back, etc.) not realizing that this is nothing more than lies and witchcraft; God will and is judging it.

If you’re in ministry and you’ve been guilty of this then I want beg you to repent today before it’s too late because it is too late for many of these who are now operating through divination and not the Spirit of God. Like Saul of old they are destined to gradually lose their minds and die an untimely death.

The Lord is merciful but the wise Christian who truly fears God knows that if we don’t accept God’s mercy then judgment will follow until either we do accept His will and way or we perish.

In 1998 the Spirit of the Lord came upon me strongly in Elliston, Montana, and He said, “Many thought they were safe and secure but they were cast into outer darkness.” I have written much about this: we cannot always presume upon God’s mercy which is why the Scriptures say, “Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation.” (Isaiah 49:8, 2 Cor. 6:2)

I would encourage you today to take the spiritual checkup I mentioned in *Mysterious Secrets of the Dark Kingdom*. Spend some quality days alone with the Lord and seek His Face to learn “if there is any wicked way” that you need to repent of as well as His direction for you life.

In September I took my annual “checkup” which for me is normally 3 weeks dwelling in a tent (Feast of Tabernacles) in the forests of Montana. All we ever seem to hear today from ministers is “love, peace, joy, prosperity, grace,” etc. These things are all true but they must be kept in balance. During this time last month the Lord spoke to me about two individuals – that He “was going to hold them responsible” for certain things in their lives. One is (was) an elder in a church and the Lord said to me, “If he continues on as an elder in that church I’m going to hold him accountable – he will share in the sins of that church.”

Most Christians are only taught that you’re saved by the Blood of the Lamb; they’re not taught 2 Cor. 5:10 where Paul spoke about the judgment of Christians, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive for those things done in the body, whether good or bad.”

We are free moral beings but free will is something that can have good or terribly evil consequences based on the decisions we make. I hope today you'll make a quality decision to accept the mercy of God, repent of any sins and live a holy life until the Lord's return.