

Prophetic Insights:

A Time for the Men of Issachar

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and knew what [God’s people] should do”*



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(1Chr. 12:32).

Introduction

Several days ago I sent an email entitled *“Dark Days to Come”*. It contained what the Lord had been impressing upon me: The United States has already been judged, and there is nothing that can stop that judgment. Since I sent that email I have received confirmation from other prophetically-oriented people whom we trust.

We feel confident that the children of today will not become grandparents before the judgment comes. In upholding His holiness God intends to chastise the US for its rebellion and lawlessness. This message is in line with what He gave Sue and me to include when we wrote *Pastoring by Elders: The “Dark Days”* of chastisement to come on the United States is also the period when the Hebraic message which the Lord gave us in Israel would begin to bear fruit. Until then, Sue and I were to “share the message,” that is, to make people aware of the faith enactment the Lord has desired since His Incarnation.

One of the foundational verses for the Hebraic Restoration is Genesis 18:19, *“For I have chosen [Abraham], so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”* It was because the Hebrew, Abraham, became the father of everyone who puts their trust in Jesus that the Lord gave Sue and me the term “Hebraic Restoration” to define what our research uncovered. Like Abraham, every father is given the same requirement from God: *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”* (Eph. 6:4). Faith communities and governments ordained by God are to help the father within his home carry out this responsibility. The home, not the school system or church, is the basic building block of spiritual training.

Our Restoration Diagram shows the relational priority for spiritual development. As the diagram pertains to leadership development, it depicts the progressive stages men must go through to lead as God intends: family, home fellowship, congregation, congregations throughout a city. The relational progression advances wise elders who will ensure the training of qualified successors to guide the generations to come, both within faith communities and government. A man who sees the seriousness of upholding God’s standards of righteousness within his home and within a home fellowship is potentially well-qualified to lead in other areas.

I am firmly convinced that our Lord is preparing for dark days to come upon this nation by recruiting men of justice from different cultural and racial backgrounds to cooperate together. They will not stop His judgment, but they will gather a remnant to be light among their people as darkness descends.

Desert Shield Prepared the Way for Desert Storm

Two weeks ago the Lord revealed something to us concerning the timing of our ministry. Everyone remembers “Desert Storm”, the war with Iraq, but not many remember “Desert Shield.” Desert Shield was the time of preparation for Desert Storm. My best friend from back in my Navy days was the Admiral in charge of the *logistical preparations* to ensure that not only American troops but also those from other countries who needed supplies lacked nothing when the war began. My friend didn’t fight in Desert Storm, but his logistical efforts were instrumental in winning the war.

The Lord showed us that we are in the time of “Desert Shield”, a time of preparation. “Desert Storm” will arrive when the Dark Days of chastisement come upon the US. Some of us may not even be here when the Dark Days come. But we can, in earnest, prepare those whom our Lord desires to be light during those days. I believe our Lord is recruiting a trans-cultural group of men of justice who can respect each other and cooperate for the common good of all people. Further on I will explain more fully why “men of justice” are foundational to preparing for the Dark Days.

I would like to share with you some of the insights our Lord has been giving us as we help prepare people during the time of Desert Shield.

Choices: Which Kingdom to Serve?

God had anointed David to be king many years before he received the throne. In the interim, David suffered greatly at the hands of King Saul, and yet in deference would not usurp the right to reign. His suffering was God's means of development for him so that David would be a *just* king. When it was God's time for David to rule, many men of valor — men with a sense of justice — joined him at Hebron. Most of these had been disenfranchised from King Saul because they wouldn't let their support be purchased as Saul had done with so many others (see 1 Sam. 22:7,8). Most of the tribes of Israel who came to David arrived with thousands of warriors, but among the tribe of Issachar were 200 men who understood the times and perceived what God wanted them to do.

Rebellion and lawlessness are bringing down both the church and this nation just as they did Saul's kingdom. Yet God is recruiting specific men for His Kingdom purposes. Just as with Issachar, there are men today dispersed among different racial and ethnic groups in this country to whom God is giving insight for their people. These men are not being heard because they have been driven away from the mainline church community. Like David, many of these men are prophetic. For standing for God's law and citing sin in their faith communities they are being driven out. Like King David, they have entrusted themselves to their Lord rather than becoming embittered over their treatment. Without realizing it, many of them have learned the path of walking justly before God through their suffering. This is crucial for any man in any culture whom God is going to use to bring lasting fruit.

Justice is first and foremost a heart issue. *"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets"* (Matt. 7:12). Justice is found in a humble person who would never consider treating others in a way he would not want to be treated in the same circumstances. This attitude inherently carries the humble regard for one another's interests that God requires of all people because we are made in His image. A truly just man has **Theocracy in his heart**. His life and purpose flow from God Himself.

Peter cited the Role Model and the path men must follow: *"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps"* (1 Peter 2:21). Jesus explained how men of justice would be developed: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you"* (Matt. 5:10-12).

David was a man of justice. Like Abraham and Moses before him, David was a man guided by **Theocracy in his heart** — an awareness and recognition of God in all matters of his life. What does a man look like who has called on God as the ruler of his life? Look at David:

- He was fully aware of his need for God's guidance, His *rhema*.
- He was consumed by hunger for God's Word to discover what pleases Him and to recognize the boundaries that would keep him from sin.
- He purposed to not treat others in a way he would not want to be treated (despite his tragic role in Uriah's death).
- He was quick to repent when confronted with his sins.
- He never excused himself for wrongdoing nor blamed anyone else.
- He readily acknowledged God as his only Provider.

David's relationship with God was so strong that we are told he was "a man after God's own heart." I would like to summarize the connection between David and the just men of different racial and cultural backgrounds who will be coming together during "Desert Shield":

The church system of today is analogous to Saul's kingdom—full of rebellion and lawlessness. The Theocratic republic that is coming out of the Dark Days will be analogous to David's kingdom. Those whom God will use to prepare this Kingdom are being disenfranchised from the present church system which serves its own purposes, controls through vested interests, and ignores God's guidance.

The Kingdom that is coming will not move without a Word from the Lord. The men of valor being recruited are not concerned about their own benefit or position in this Kingdom, nor are they bothered by what others think. To walk humbly and justly before their God while extending His mercy — this is what motivates them.

During "Desert Shield" there are spiritual factors of tremendous proportions that will be confronted as we prepare for the Dark Days. This preparation will incur ire, if not outright persecution, by the "Saul System."

"Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up" (1 Cor. 8:1b).

Desert Shield: The Time for Just Men to Become Free of European Hellenism

Many people of European descent think the world revolves around their particular ethnic history. Even as we consider the founding of the United States and the growth of this nation, we fail to consider fully that there were nations of people here long before we arrived. These people had a history. They had government. They hoped to pass along the wisdom of their ways to generations to come. They were people who were considered noble in their conduct and worthy of respect by the early European settlers.

The motives of the newly arrived Europeans were mixed. However, most were, in essence, fleeing negative circumstances and hoping for a better life on this continent. The Europeans considered themselves to be "Christians." In reality, their walk showed them to be swarms of antagonistic insects fighting over every point of ***creedal difference***. To our detriment, it was this creedal antagonism that kept them from establishing a Theocratic republic. Because of ***creedal differences*** the Founding Fathers, most of whom were deists, only touched base with God and His Word. Devoid of Spirit power, they could not establish a government which flowed from Him to carry out His will upon the earth. Thus, the government was established for the people's sake rather than for God's purposes.

The Founding Fathers attempted to adapt biblical principles upon which to establish their government. However, the early Europeans arrived on this continent burdened with centuries of Hellenistic church history.

- Hellenism had produced "The Dark Ages".
- Hellenistic domination had held the Bible captive in Latin for 1,100 years.
- Hellenistic anti-Semitism persecuted and decimated the Jews and true followers of Jesus.
- Hellenistic church systems and dictatorial monarchies governed by control rather than by servanthood.
- Hellenistic syncretism discarded God's Word by adopting a myriad of pagan practices as church ritual. For example, the biblical feasts of God were replaced by pagan celebrations of Easter and Christmas. The service of wise elders in shepherding God's flocks was replaced by clergy who replicated the functions of pagan priests.

The European settlers arrived on this continent ***far more in need of help*** than they did having something spiritually life-giving to offer. Tragically, the Christianity they did present has balefully kept the Native peoples from experiencing the freedom God desires for them. The most besetting form of Christianity that has been given to the Native people has produced ***legalistic perversion***—the use of fear to control people.

Hellenism blinded the European-based colonist church through pride and superiority. They could not come to grips with the fact that God had brought them to a people whom He intended to use as instruments of light to help them.

Yes, the Europeans were technologically advanced compared to the Native people. But the Native people could show the Europeans a spiritual life focus rather than the practice of religious form so evident

in European culture. If they had been receptive, the colonists could have observed a family and government system that approximated more closely what our Lord desired for His faith communities before the Hellenist converts perverted Christianity in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. God had brought the Europeans to the New World to show them men who had qualified for leadership by years of life experience in gaining wisdom. The colonists saw first hand what true *zakens* (Hebrew sages) were: elders who lead justly.

Grievously, the colonist invasion became a clash between European knowledge and Native wisdom. To the detriment of us all, “knowledge: won. Many in the puffed-up Church of today still fail to see why the Native people don’t perceive Christ in their European-based religious organizations.

The Founding Fathers Sought Native Wisdom. Why Didn’t the Church?

Those who were forming the foundations for the government of the colonies sought the wisdom of the Native people. Benjamin Franklin invited leaders of the Iroquois to explain their system of governing and leadership to a gathering in Albany, New York. The Iroquois model helped a special delegation form “The Albany Plan of Union”, which served as a model later for the Articles of Confederation and, ultimately, the Constitution.

Even though the drafters of our Constitution embraced the republic form, the Church battled within itself, ranging from autocratic faith communities in which clergy ruled to democracies such as the Congregationalist tradition. The Hellenistic mindset prevented them from looking beyond themselves to the biblical beauty of God as He had revealed His ways among the Native people. The Reformation had not taken place so far back in history that the Europeans would have forgotten the victory of a personal knowledge of God’s Word. Perhaps in His mercy God brought them to Native peoples who were already living out the Hebraic relational mindset of the early Church so that together they could experience more of God’s Kingdom here on earth.

***“He has made everything beautiful in its time.
He has also set eternity in the hearts of men”***

(Ecc. 3:11a).

God’s Witness in the World

Many Christian systems perceive that God interacts and involves Himself solely with Jews and Christians. From this perspective, the rest of the world has gone on without Him for countless centuries. Yet, God has put a general understanding of Himself in all mankind and has set an awareness of eternity in the hearts of all people. Consider the cultures archeologists have investigated that were so aware of an after-life that they buried their dead with items to use in the hereafter.

It is Hellenistic arrogance for Christians of any period to believe that God limited Himself to the Judaic-Christian line of history that came through Europe. For instance, many years ago I met a follower of Jesus whose faith ancestry had emerged from the Far East, where the Apostle Thomas had planted faith communities all the way to India. By the 5th century, an estimated 8 million Christians resulted from Thomas’ initial efforts. Tragically, due in part to their lack of the written Word, most of these believers were wiped out by Islamic persecution. Only pockets of them remain. Interestingly, these followers of Christ have little in common with the Hellenistic Roman Catholic/Protestant Church doctrinal arguments.

Paul affirms a universal awareness of God: *“Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse”* (Rom. 1:19,20). The world began with the knowledge of the one true God. The perversion of sin has blinded most, but not all: *“Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them. This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares”* (Rom. 2:14-16).

Almost every culture in history has had some form of religious expression. They acknowledged someone transcendent to themselves and established methods of approaching their gods. Within this framework, two perspectives can be seen:

1. **Power seekers.** Those cultures which, over time, observed creation around them and developed religious and governmental systems using dominance and power to control others; for example, most of Europe, the Incas and the Aztecs.
2. **People blessers.** Those cultures whose religious systems did not rely on domination and whose laws were just. The just men of these cultures counseled together to enact laws based upon the principle, "Don't do to others what you would not done to yourself." Most native North American cultures were of this persuasion. They exhibited a republic form of government rather than a power-based monarchy as in Europe.

Redemptive Analogies in the Pre-Hellenist Early Church

The revelations of God embraced by different cultures can be used as "Redemptive Analogies" by those wishing to share the Gospel cross-culturally. When missionaries take the time to understand these analogies, they can build a bridge for God's Word to that culture. In other words, they can affirm "*that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts.*"

Paul used a redemptive analogy as a starting point with the Athenians: "*For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you*" (Acts 17:23). The apostle was able to make a bridge and reveal Who the "unknown" God is.

Consideration for Oral Tradition

European descendants seem to place little value on oral tradition: *If it isn't in writing, it can't be true!*

Several months ago I sat listening to a Navajo elder. He was recounting for me some of the oral traditions that had been passed along for generations by his people. The Navajo may have descended from eastern Mongolians who crossed the Bering Straits. [The history of my Lithuanian-Polish ancestors goes back to the migration of the western Mongolians into eastern Europe.] As I listened to the elder I responded, "Do you realize that you are articulating the conditions of the covenant that God made with Noah?" Their oral tradition, which perhaps goes back to the sons of Noah, has been kept faithfully all these centuries. Realizing that many Native people understand the importance of covenants, I asked him about the missionaries who had come to the Navajo: "Did they present Jesus as God's new and final covenant for the people?" "No," he replied, "they were just interested in getting us 'saved'." A missed redemptive opportunity...

One of my friends spent years in ministry in Iran. One day he met an Iranian who called himself a "Baptist." Asking to which Baptist affiliation he belonged, my friend was amazed to learn that this man, like his family for centuries before him, had resolutely followed the teachings of John the Baptizer. They had never heard that the Messiah had come, but for centuries had meticulously passed along all that John had taught.

THE GOD Who Loves the Whole World

Before any sinner ever put His trust in Jesus, God loved him. This is a crucial truth to implant in our thinking to undo the Hellenistic arrogance that somehow Christians are more loved than unbelievers. The Scriptures reveal God's genuine concern for unbelievers. Consider Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian slave. After she fled Sarah's harsh treatment, God came to her aid in the desert. He prophesied to her that twelve tribes would come from the baby she was carrying [Ishmael]. Consequently, Hagar called the place *Beer Lahai Roi*, "well of the living One who sees me."

God gave Pharaoh a dream, and Joseph the ability to interpret that dream. He gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream and revealed to King Belshazzar writing on the wall, both situations which Daniel was able, through God, to interpret. When God prophesied the destruction of Judah and Israel for their unrepentance, He told them that He would raise up a heathen nation against them. How did the Lord guide these nations which had no loyalty to Him?

I cite the above instances of God's interaction with non-Jews and non-Christians to lay a foundation that our God has been concerned with all mankind since its creation. Perusal of the Hebrew Bible confirms that God chose the Jewish people to tell the world about Him. Likewise, He has chosen Christians to proclaim Him to the world. But He didn't send us into a world that He hasn't been readying. He has prepared

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the way with revelations of Himself through putting awareness of Him in their hearts, and has created redemptive analogies and oral tradition for us to build off as we present Him. Sadly, Hellenistic arrogance has prevented us from identifying the work He has already accomplished in advance.

The Freedom to Develop Culturally-specific *Halakhahs*

Our research of the early Church supports the premise that as the Gospel went forth cross-culturally, those who shared it allowed for halakhic application that was unique to each culture. That is, each culture was permitted to express their faith practice using the appropriate cultural practices that were within the guidelines of Scripture. If the missionaries who first shared the Gospel with the Native people had done this, Christ would have been embraced much more readily. We would now be witnessing a republic form of government in Native faith communities, the “government practice” of the early Church. Instead, the creedal infighting which plagues the European and American churches has created the same estrangement among the Native people.

The freedom to develop culturally specific *halakhahs* as a faith expression is what the men of justice from different cultures will be able to recognize and respect, thereby honoring each other. Scripture, not the dominant culture, provides the guidelines for obedient, trust-grounded living.

**“Let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5:24).**

As we prepare cross-culturally during the time of “Desert Shield”, it is critical that each man who would take part truly understand Who God considers Himself to be. If we are ever to live with a **Theocracy of heart**, we must know Him as He is and live according to what He wants from us. One of God’s characteristics is that He is just, showing no partiality. Isn’t that what He is asking of men who would represent Him—to show no partiality? Doesn’t He use His servant James to warn us about injustice? *“But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers”* (James 2:9). Just men are “color blind.” They treat others from different ethnic and racial backgrounds in the same way they want to be treated.

During “Desert Shield” just men who follow Jesus have an opportunity to build bridges of respect across race and culture. God is gathering men of justice together who are not the biblical scholars who merely *teach Bible content*. Just men have **applied the Word of God** to all facets of their lives and have stood the test of rejection. They haven’t gone along with the crowd just because it was popular. They’ve sought to remain as anonymous and faceless as possible. When these men from the Black, Native, Hispanic, Oriental, White, and other communities are brought together, they will recognize courage in each other. They will have a love for knowing God’s will as did David. They will hunger for His Word and be able to teach others how to apply it *by example*. They will seek out injustice and right the wrongs done against others. The men who have **Theocracy in their hearts** are the leaders who are being prepared for the biblical republic of the future. These men see the entire Bible both as a continuum of God’s revelation of Himself and as the articulation of the just laws by which all mankind should live.

Lawlessness — Injustice — Democracy

Unaware people have no idea that democracy is the first cousin of anarchy: *“When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers”* (Pro. 28:2a). Democracy is the final stage of lawlessness when it has come to full power. Sadly, much of the Church has been duped into becoming tiny democracies. People vote with their wallets, and with the epidemic of mortgages held by churches, clergy are sensitive not to offend the wallet holders. “Democratic” congregations embrace the lie that the opposite of God’s law is grace. Grace is understood as a license to live apart from the law, or lawless. The Bible, however, teaches that the opposite of God’s law is lawlessness.

Consider this issue as presented clearly in both the Older and New Testaments: No one is declared righteous except by the blood of Jesus Christ. A man’s best efforts or good works do not make him righteous. With this truth in mind, the “democracies” of deceived believers see no purpose in teaching *Torah*, that is, God’s teaching and laws, His guidelines to live by. They choose to remain lawless, and to live and die blanketed in ignorance of God’s law. Yet, their desire to remain ignorant concerning His 613 commands in the Older Testament and His 1,050 in the New is an **affront** to Him. Without repentance, He will be

forced to chastise them. Most Christian counseling perpetuates the growth of lawlessness by sidestepping the biblical responsibility to know God's law thus excusing sinful actions. Instead, people or events are sought to blame for a person's problems. The sinner is thus relieved of the guilt that the Spirit would use to draw him to repentance.

Those who choose to be ignorant of God's standards abide in what they perceive to be "democratic" faith communities — they can vote their approval with their wallet or their participation. The injustice of church "democracy" emerges when preferential treatment is given to those whose success is esteemed by the world's standards and to those who contribute the most. Their sinful shortcomings are more readily unchallenged for fear of financial loss. Their power and influence intimidate those who should hold their brother or sister accountable.

Law — Justice — Republic

The just see the *Torah* from God's vantage point, as David did: "*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you*" (Psa. 119:11). David's relationship with His Lord compelled him to incorporate God's Word so deeply in his way of life that it was captured in his heart. Isn't this what is truly meant by "doctrine" in the New Testament? Doctrine wasn't creedal, as the Greek philosophers twisted it to mean. To the early followers of Jesus, doctrine meant a way of lovingly living out the teachings of God so that others could see to Whom they belonged and bring praise to the Father.

David's view is reemphasized by Paul, who writes, "*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin*" (Rom. 3:20). Remaining ignorant of God's law doesn't make a person guiltless. Yes, our righteousness comes only through Jesus Christ. Yet, a person who truly loves God will desire to find out both what pleases Him and what offends Him. This pattern is true in all caring and meaningful relationships. God's law is His means for us to know the areas of freedom and boundary that we have in our relationship with Him. Followers of Jesus seek to know and to live out His law because they love Him.

John joins Paul in declaring the importance of knowing God's *Torah* so that we may know when we sin against Him: "*Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin [to live in lawlessness], because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil [the lawless one] are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother" (1 John 3:4,7-10).*

Our compassionate Father understands the frailty of man and his inability to perfectly keep all His commands. Yet, in light of our frailty He neither withdraws His commands nor excuses our sin. Instead, He shows us the means of restoring fellowship when we do sin: "*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One*" (1 John 1:7-2:1)

John is preparing just men for these days of lawlessness when he tells us, "*If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death*" (1 John 5:16,17). All sin is wrong, but there is a distinction. The Israelites sinned, but God did not judge them until they chose to sin in ways that **affronted** Him. Just men will need to pay special attention to discern where they can help and where they should refrain. Some types of sin are a direct affront to God and no one can intervene justly to help. This is why no one can stop the judgment coming upon the church and this nation.

To illustrate this, compare two men: One arrives home late for dinner, while another stares longingly at a sexy woman as he walks with his wife at the mall. Which wife would be more greatly offended? Why? Because the second husband's sin is an **affront** to her character and dignity.

Sins such as lying, cheating, and stealing do not directly **affront** God's character. These sins are

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against His law but do not **affront** Him personally. But we affront His character when we presume on the future, which is solely His domain. Worry about the future shows our lack of trust in Him – another affront to His character. And the demonic **affront** of lawlessness totally disregards His righteous laws that reveal how to lovingly relate to Him. It is because of these **affronts** — this country's rebellion demonstrated by the absence of trust in God and by the lawlessness of so many — that judgment is coming. This nation and the host of “democratic Christians” have for too long affronted His character. As the Lord Himself exclaims, **“My name is blasphemed because of you”** (Rom. 2:24). This nation, along with the lawless church, has prostituted itself and become a collection of spiritual adulterers just like Judah and Israel. God is impartial, and His judgments are meted out equally — as to the Jew, so to the Gentile.

“I will make known my holy name among my people. I will no longer let my holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the LORD am the Holy One. It is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign LORD. This is the [dark] day I have spoken of” (Eze. 39: 7,8).

A God of Hope in the Midst of Chastisement.

God's chastisements are not His rejection of His people. He disciplines those He loves, and even during periods of chastisement He extends hope. God gave the Israelites hope when He presented the Ezekiel measurements for rebuilding the Temple, even after the prophet saw His Shekinah depart. God ordered Jeremiah to buy a field because the people would return after the chastisement. And God is giving us hope for a future — a hope that will cause the wise to prepare as David prepared for his son Solomon to build the Temple, and as my friend in “Desert Shield” prepared for “Desert Storm”. Our preparations for the Dark Days to come require men who have **Theocracy in their hearts**, and can live and teach others to live justly before God. Out of their hearts they will be able to build a Theocratic republic, teaching God's ways first to their families and then to their faith communities. Will this be embraced by many? NO! It will probably be persecuted so that the Lord can show His power through these men as He did in times past. The darker it gets, the more a small light can be seen.

As more become aware of the Hebraic Restoration that is underway, God will continue to recruit those who are inclined to serve Him. Even now we are encountering men who once saw their religious life in terms of creedal allegiance now being challenged and changed by our Lord to have a relational view of their faith. These men are not triggered to “fight or flee” every time someone differs with them. Their humility to entrust differences to God is seen in the Hebraic verse, *“All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you”* (Phil. 3:15). As just men cooperate for Christ more and more cross-culturally, they will encounter many different expressions of approach to and worship of God. Their love and respect for one another will be the glue that binds.

The cooperation of husbands and wives during the time of both “Desert Shield” and “Desert Storm” will require greater biblical insight than has been demonstrated in the organized church systems. Many families have depended on their congregation for spiritual development. God is once again raising up the home and family as the basic building block for developing Godly generations.

Beginning in January 2001, Sue and I will begin focusing our writing on the biblical patterns of living justly before our God. Sue is already working on a series of teachings for women based on living as “daughters of Sarah.” Many who know my wife esteem her as a “Proverbs 31 woman.” I believe she is uniquely qualified to join with other older women to train the younger ones appropriately.

I am in increasing contact with men from different races and cultures in this country. They have suffered injustice and have a God-given deep burden for the welfare of their people. These men will be the beginning of establishing halakhic applications for their people. They are “color blind” — impartial in their desire to serve the Lord. As with the early Church, “Desert Shield” will not require organization but rather an affiliation of just men who have **Theocracy in their hearts** and love for all mankind.

“They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations”

(Isa. 61:4).