

Prophetic Insights

Will You Respond To God's Handwriting On The Wall?

April 17, 2014

*"Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall"*
(Proverbs 16:18).

*"A man who remains stiff-necked
after many rebukes will suddenly
be destroyed—without remedy"*
(Proverbs 29:1).

Many years before we were given understanding of the Hebraic foundations, we'd worship with a certain congregation whenever we didn't have a retreat at our center. One Sunday during a time for testimony and prayer a man went forward with his family standing next to him. He related how they'd had been in a major car accident together, and while their vehicle was a total loss no one was seriously injured.

As he asked for prayer, I (Mike) bowed to ask the Lord for His wisdom and perspective on this situation. I heard His Spirit speak within me, *"I did this to him because of the detestable things he does in his own home."* After the service I went to the elders and told them what the Spirit of our Lord had said.

That afternoon they went to this man's house. Later one of the elders called me, saying it wasn't only what the man did in his home, it was also the vile things he had in his home. But the man refused to repent. Two weeks later we again attended service there, and the same man and his family went forward. This time he tearfully reported that fire had destroyed his entire home.

Pride and a haughty spirit always precede a downfall. And those who *resist correction* bring even more judgment on themselves. The fifth chapter of the Book of Daniel records an elaborate banquet hosted by arrogant King Belshazzar for thousands of nobles. The king and his guests began to drink from the gold gob-

lets that had been seized from the temple in Jerusalem. As they were boisterously praising the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone, suddenly human fingers appeared near the lampstand writing these words plainly on the wall: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN."

It was a simple, straightforward message from the God Whom the king had set himself up against: MENE—God had numbered the days of his reign and ended it. TEKEL—He had evaluated the king and found him lacking. PERES—The monarch's kingdom would be divided among others. And that very night the prophetic words were carried out.

- Has our Lord been warning you and/or your family by using distressing events and situations to get your attention? If so, do you recognize His hand behind the circumstances?
- In your own life how do you respond to warnings or corrections issued either by God or by others? Is it easy for anyone to voice a caution or correction to you without you balking or offering excuses or rationale?

I was recently having blood drawn at the V.A. hospital. The lab tech told me about her father's PTSD, sadly noting that he was in complete denial and deeply wounding the people who loved him. I could readily see that her heart was grieving; she couldn't convince him to seek help. He not only refused to face the truth about himself; he was also oblivious to the pain his denial was causing others.

While most Christians would like to believe that faith is the characteristic they have in common, a prophetic understanding reveals that many share the most powerful of self-deceiving manifestations: **denial**. It's the cunning

nature of denial that you're far more able to recognize when others deceive *you* than to perceive denial *within yourself*. And if others do point out your denial, you most likely refuse to face the truth.

Our Lord confronted the denial that had plagued His people for generations, sadly aware of their complacency and indifference within a religious system of rituals and formalized practices which reflected no responsive love for God:

“For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them” (Matthew 13:15).

When people within Christendom use **denial** the way so many government and religious leaders do, they erroneously believe that they're disconnected from any **personal responsibility**. If you've raised children, then you've registered that denial is inherent in our sin nature. It was a tactic Adam and Eve futilely tried with God, and He still held them responsible for their disobedience.

We in whom the Spirit of our Lord Jesus dwells can't deny our personal responsibility for what we say and do or fail to say and do! We must trust implicitly in the authority of His Word, and out of loving obedience put His commands into practice, never giving into denying our love-grounded responsibility to Him.

Comfortable **complacency** leads to indifference; **indifference** produces **denial**. Let's look at this.

Years ago a friend gave us powerful insight into how Satan progressively changed his strategy against Christians to silence them. Initially he tried to use persecution to stop the spread of the Gospel. But as history

demonstrates, his efforts to destroy Christianity only proved to make it stronger. So he began to seduce Christians into pursuing personal prosperity and ease rather than sacrificial service to our Lord. The results of this new tactic?

Satan, along with the demonic principalities and powers under his control, has succeeded beyond measure in this land. Generations of Christians bent on self-satisfaction in their **comfortableness** have become **indifferent**. Few today even care that the government, media, and public education have undermined the moral values of God's Word throughout all levels of society. For all too many self-identified “Christians,” as long as they occupy a pew each week they can **deny** they have any responsibility to do anything to further the Kingdom or to do Father's will.

“Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, ‘But we knew nothing about this,’ does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will He not repay each person according to what he has [failed to do]?”

(Proverbs 24:11,12).

You may know this story. Martin Niemöller was a German pastor incarcerated by the Nazis in a concentration camp. After his release at the end of the war Niemöller is quoted as saying this:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

The same oblivious silence is being repeated in this nation now. The unseen principalities and powers that rule this country are “testing the waters” to see if anyone in Christendom is willing to take a stand. If you study the Nazi takeover of Germany or the current Communist push to infiltrate and once again take over nations, you’ll see that the sequence of demonic takeover is happening in the United States too.

God’s Word is no longer the guiding force behind this nation’s governing policies. Therefore demonic influence on mankind’s sin nature stirs those in authority within the government to erode individual rights and liberties. First the principalities and powers use some form of domestic or international threat to feed citizens’ fears. People’s craving for personal safety compels them to forfeit their rights, turning to the government more and more to “save” them.

Then laws begin to be enacted that officials claim are for the “*broader good of society*.” A present example is the government enforcing state support for gay marriages and abortion. The demonic principalities are using these unbiblical trial balloons to test Christian determination to stand up for our Lord and His Word.

Now that **widespread complacency** and **indifference** have been revealed, laws will soon be passed defining we who stand up for our Lord and His Word to be “intolerant.” Followers of Jesus will be accused of *hate crimes* because of their dissent over unscriptural practices. And as our persecuted family around the world have found, living “*contrary to social harmony*” brings severe consequences.

Satan has been enticing the “selfie” minded population to elect a series of presidents and other government officials to fulfill his diabolical plan. The dis-

cord and chaos found throughout our government today mimic the devil’s pattern within Germany and Communist countries only a few generations ago.

Government-sponsored abortion and life-ending forms of birth control aren’t just violations of the Creator. They are, in fact, demonstrations of the power of the demonic principalities over this nation to show the impotent Christian religious systems who’s the “alpha” in the world of evil.

Doubtless many within Christendom will continue to nod indifferently toward these unbiblical, government-sponsored programs. The religious liberals will even cast their support for them. But there will also be those who publicly take their stand and resist, such as Hobby Lobby and Chick-Fil-A have been doing. The real issue is, “Who will stand with them?”

“Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it”

George Santayana

In a recent e-mail we cited several quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lest we forget, they’re as important today, if not more so, as when he first spoke them:

- The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict.

- History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.

- The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?”

- The time is always right to do what is right.

• The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

With all the anti-Christ, anti-Bible events taking place in this society, where and how has our Lord prompted you to stand up? Have you? If you haven't, what's stopped you?

It's time you see the handwriting on the wall for yourself before it's too late!

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:12,13).

Compared to other societies in the world our populace lives very comfortably. Many Christians would like to think we're blessed by God because this nation is righteous in His sight. But can it be that our God has permitted Satan to test us in light of His commands to stand up for Him and persevere in our love-grounded service to Him? Our Lord Jesus was and is the prime example of love-grounded, obedient trust for all who would follow Him. He *persevered* in the barren desert, and *persevered* in the lonely garden of Gethsemane, and *persevered* in those excruciating hours when He remained on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

Because He set the example for perseverance, is it any wonder we're commanded to follow suit?

*“You need to **persevere** so that when you have **done the will of God**, you will receive what **He has promised**”* (Hebrews 10:36).

On the cross our Lord Jesus emptied Himself of “God-power” to fulfill His Father's will. Jesus needed to become fully man with all of humanity's weak-

nesses so He could show those who belong to Him that we too can persevere because of His indwelling Spirit: *“He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1Corinthians 1:8).

Our Lord could have called down legions of angels to save Himself. But He knew that every one of His followers would need His ultimate example of death-to-self if we're to truly be His. Our Lord intends that we share in the fellowship of His suffering (2Timothy 1:8; Hebrews 13:3; 1Peter 4:12-16). Self-pleasing indifference only blinds people to their need to suffer for His Name's sake.

In the face of so much evil overtaking this nation we can't be blinded to our Lord's handwriting on the wall. This nation has been found wanting. We who love and follow our Lord must empty ourselves of earthly goals and be uncompromising in doing our Father's will. That means such a loving determination for Him that we persevere even to not loving our own lives unto death.

Perseverance is an unwavering determination in doing something despite difficulty to achieve success. It's also not faltering in a trust-based life as you do your Father's will until you're welcomed by Him for eternity.

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you” (John 15:18,19).

His handwriting has been on the wall for some time. Have you seen it?