

# An Old Prophet's Years Of Laments



Prophetic Insight 2/29/2024: *Being Prepared To Expose & Oppose Bamboozlers*

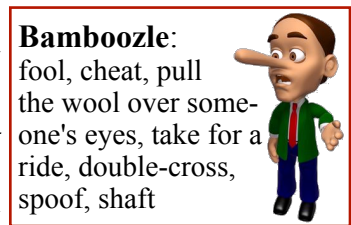


Mike: If you're genuinely born again *and* are serving the Lord Jesus you love and trust and obey, I hope that what I present in this Insight will motivate you to prayerfully reflect on how He has prepared you for His use. You may not be able to readily recount your own preparation until you do this: intentionally set aside some time and ask the Holy Spirit to help you reflect on past events in your life and discern how they were used to prepare you for now. My preparation process began *before* I began following our Lord at age 30. In this Insight and the next I'll discuss the various ways He employed to prepare me to be His instrument that would *expose and oppose* bamboozlers.

As I reflected on my own past experiences, I could see that the Spirit of our Lord was preparing me to both *expose and oppose* **long-standing sacred cows**—unbiblical practices and creedal positions that most people considered immune from questioning or above criticism. I also recognized that He put me in situations to *expose and oppose* **long-standing illegal activities taking place within certain Christian congregations and institutions**. Each time my Lord Jesus placed me in a particular situation to use me, I wasn't given any advance guidance. But when I discovered the specific sacred cow or illegal activity, I'd sense the strong prompting of His Spirit to *expose and oppose* it, sometimes standing all alone at first.

➡ As you read this Insight, please notice that I *didn't cause* anything. Rather, I *responded*, as our Lord prepared me, to evils which were already existing. Over the years it has riled me to observe how sacred cows that have kept going in Christianity have prevented so many people from *experiencing* the fullness of relationship with Jesus as their Lord. And the institutions which violated the law have continued to exist by relying heavily on slick deceptive marketing to bamboozle people who let themselves be bamboozled.

(See [2/19/2024 Prophetic Insight: Bamboozling Of and By The Spiritually Dark](#))



I do hope that my own experiences strengthen you who are **seekers of truth no matter what the cost** — you who are committed to follow our Lord Jesus and to live obediently guided by His Spirit. Maybe, though, you really are seeking truth but *aren't experiencing the spiritual power* our Lord promised His own: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever trusts in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father”* (John 14:12; see also 7:38,39; Mark 16:17,18). One glaring reason that Jesus may seem more like a Bible topic than the Lord Who works mightily through you is that you've been taught by Christian teachers who have no personal experience themselves with His promise. By His grace I've personally experienced a number of the miracles and divine interventions recounted in God's Word. And without any hesitation I assure you that our Lord's promise is **a reality for truth seekers who absolutely trust Him**.

**With our Lord's preparation come increased responsibility and grace with purpose.**

Preparation by our Lord Jesus to fulfill His purposes isn't always pleasant. The transforming process can be so miserable that you may feel like He's rejecting you as His tool. But in reality He is preparing you to trust Him more. King David is a good example. As a shepherd boy he was anointed by Samuel to be king. Then for three years David found himself avoiding death by King Saul *before* he actually served our Lord as king. You too may find that our Lord first

removes things about you that will hinder your effective service. The transforming process during the time of preparation changes your character to be more like Him. (One book in particular helped me in the cycles of my preparation and service, *In My Father's Vineyard* by Wayne Jacobsen.)

### Reflections about my own preparation to expose and oppose bamboozlers

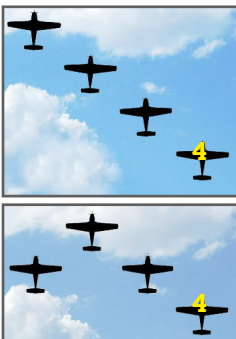
In November 1968 as the Vietnam War was raging, I entered Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) in the navy with the goal of being a pilot. For four months Marine drill instructors, men who had experienced combat, trained us. One of their purposes in training us was to put a lot of pressure on us to determine in advance if we could handle the tension of military flight. This was a severe winnowing process, and many of the candidates in my class never became pilots. Certainly the relaxed educational process of grammar school, high school and college came to an abrupt end at AOCS! Character and leadership qualities were ingrained in us— attributes which were absolutely necessary to lead men in time of war.

♥ These drill instructors had every right to correct and rebuke me, because they had the experience to know what *the end-all purpose* of my training was. I emphasize *the end-all purpose* because both at seminary and among the majority of clergy I interacted with over the years, their *end-all purpose* was myopic and self-satisfied, falling way short of our Lord's *end-all purpose*. Accepting correction or rebukes was not well received by most clergy, nor did they correct or rebuke their congregants. A paper I did for an older professor while at the seminary exposed this, which I'll discuss in my next Insight.

In May, 1969 I completed AOCS and began flight training. My first roommate, George, had been a radar intercept officer in the back seat of F-4 Phantom jets in Vietnam. Now he was re-entering flight training to be a pilot. When we first met, George told me, "Mike, the essence of flying is flying. Ground school helps, but it's what you do in the cockpit that makes you a great pilot." Fitted with life-and-death combat experience, George became my mentor during the first stage of flight training. Every night after supper we'd spend time in the trainers until we each had the procedures for the next flight perfect. George was right. Even though we went through daily ground school classes, it was what I did in the cockpit that reflected my skill and character as a pilot.



Let me add this: To be an excellent pilot requires far more than just acquiring the skill to fly the aircraft. Your character changes as you have to **humble yourself to receive necessary rebukes and corrections**. Not only did George rebuke me when I made serious mistakes; so did my flight instructors. They had served in combat themselves and clearly understood *the end-all purpose* of my training — the severity of the situations I'd encounter when I entered the war arena as a pilot.



One particular experience I had during flight training has guided my life to this day: to pay very close attention *to all* that my Lord Jesus holds me responsible. Before entering helicopter training, the navy required that pilots get several hundred hours of flying a fixed-wing aircraft. Part of our training was practicing different four-plane formations. During one formation training flight, the instructor, who flew behind us, had lost his radio. This meant we needed to return to base. I was #4 in the flight group, and throughout our return to the airport the lead pilot took several actions that seriously jeopardized the rest of us. #2 and #3 pilots remained silent, but with each error I radioed the lead pilot and informed him of the correct procedure.

After we landed, we were ordered to meet with the CO and Safety Officer. They played an

audiotape of the air-to-air communications during our flight. You could clearly hear my repeated radio calls to the lead pilot about his dangerous actions. I thought, “He’s really going to get chewed out now.” Instead, “Dowgiewicz, come forward and stand at attention! How long were you going to let this mess go on? Until somebody got killed? The lead pilot didn’t know what he was doing. When were *you* going to take over and *get the flight back safely*? Mister, don’t you ever forget this!” They hammered home that **the end-all purpose** of a flight is to come back alive. (This experience has continued to guide me as my Lord has used me to expose and oppose.)



Several months later at my first operational squadron, I was co-pilot in a flight group of helicopters carrying personnel to an aircraft carrier 100 miles west of San Diego. On the flight back from the ship the lead pilot wasn't navigating correctly; he was leading the group toward Baja, Mexico. I told my aircraft commander several times that we weren't heading to San Diego. Finally, when our fuel gauge warning light showed we were running very low on fuel, I mutinied and took control of the helicopter and turned toward San Diego. The astonished aircraft commander looked intently at me and realized I was deeply determined about not relinquishing control of the helicopter. He called a “Mayday” on the radio, and a radar operator responded that he had our flight group on his radar heading deep into Mexico. The rest of the flight group overheard this and turned toward San Diego following us home. A safety investigation was held and I was the only pilot exonerated. I was even thanked for having the courage to save the whole flight group!

### **A bit of navy history: learning from when those who should take action don't**

On September 8, 1923 a navigational error by the lead ship during heavy fog sent nine destroyers crashing onto the coast at Honda Point, near Santa Barbara, California. Seven sank, and 23 sailors died. Officers on the bridges of the other ships *knew* that the lead ship was in error in its navigation. *But not one was willing to speak up.* If you'd like to read the full account of this tragedy, use this link: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2010/february/naval-tragedys-chain-errors>

I'd already been guided by my personal experiences and had read about this disaster before I was sent to Vietnam on three deployments as part of a helicopter combat support detachment. As both an officer and a pilot I paid very close attention to **the end-all purpose** of our supply mission. On several occasions during those deployments I faced being put on report and court-martialed for confronting ship's officers about their failure to focus on **the end-all purpose** of their supply mission. These supply ships operated off the coast of North Vietnam and were there to provide munitions for ships and aircraft trying to stop the flow of supplies being used to kill our service personnel in South Vietnam.

On the four ships I served on detachment, none of the supply officers comprehended **the end-all purpose** of their responsibilities. As a result, they didn't search out the most efficient means to move munitions and other supplies. Their failure meant I ended up hovering for long periods waiting for them to prepare another load to deliver. And the ships that were using those munitions were left having to wait on me for delivery. One ship was completely out of ammunition and had me drop the load right next to its gun mount—risky business!



Yes, I got irritated. And in very clear navy jargon I confronted even the senior officers, pointing out that **the end-all purpose** of their supply mission was to save the lives of those being killed by enemy munitions moving south. By their very lack of commitment to **the end-all purpose** of their supply mission, they were bamboozling the military personnel whose lives were

being cut short in the South. In these encounters some officers threatened me with being put on report. But others joined me in dramatically improving and speeding up the supply process.

Several years later I was at seminary and was assigned by the older professor I mentioned earlier to survey a number of local congregations and their clergy. Their complete lack of understanding and commitment to our Lord's *end-all purpose* was blatantly evident in these clergy. Seminaries and the clergy they trained bamboozled congregants by failing to emphasize and insist that they put into practice what they were taught, and that they trust in our Lord's promise to "*do the works that I do; and greater works than these will you do.*" I'll return to this in my next Insight.

It was also during my naval service that my Lord prepared me to bear the cost of publicly identifying with Him. After my first deployment to Vietnam I returned to our home squadron in San Diego, California. The military ordered all personnel to wear their uniform between their duty station and their home. The public climate in this country toward military personnel at that time was very negative. One day while stopping off at a store on my way home from the base, someone walked up to me and spat at me. After that incident, however, I was even more proud to be seen in my uniform in public.

In loving appreciation for our glorious Lord, both Sue and I delight in representing Him in public in any way we can. As we've mentioned earlier, we've observed that so few Christians are willing to publicly be identified with Jesus. This reluctance is appalling to us, verging on denying Him! Even religious leaders are silent on Jesus, preferring to blend in with the unbelieving. What this has sadly shown Sue and me is how little they appreciate Christ's Lordship and His atoning sacrifice on their behalf.

### **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2Timothy 3:16)**

In 1976 I first read the Bible from cover to cover. It didn't take much to realize that our Lord required that His commands in both the Newer Testament and appropriate ones in the Older Testament be applied to my life. There was such an indissoluble link between my loving trust in my Lord Jesus being manifested through keeping His commands (John 14:21,15:10; 1John 5:3; 2John 1:6). Even as a spiritual infant, when I read the entire Bible I realized that following Jesus as Lord of my life meant me serving Him as my King – He commands and I do it!!

In February, 1977 I began following Jesus as my Lord, and in 1978 I resigned my navy commission to attend an interdenominational seminary. One purpose for going there was that I was interested in why Christendom was full of so many competing denominations and sects. In light of the unity that Jesus calls for among His own (see John 17:20-23), these long established divisions appeared to violate God's Word. I was accepted "conditionally" by the seminary because of my "religious limitations", like not knowing a major prophet from a minor prophet in the Older Testament, or what exegesis or hermeneutics or prolegomena were.

But I knew my Lord Jesus, having witnessed several of His miracles and timely interventions as well as His power and authority to evict demons. My prior experiences allowed me to speak personally about Him as my Lord. During my time at seminary I found only two faculty and a handful of students who could share similar living testimonies. The vast majority of my encounters with faculty and students alike involved speaking *about* Jesus, and almost always regarding Him being "Savior" but not ruling them as Lord and King.

I've shared with you some of my own preparation encounters and circumstances. I hope they prompt you to search your own memory banks to recall how our Lord was already preparing you in specific ways to use you in times like these. In the next Insight I'll discuss one of the greatest bamboozles in Christianity—and how it may have impacted your own spiritual life.