

**November 17, 2010**  
**The Invasion Of Anti-Christ And Lawlessness**

Divorce is *always* a victory for Satan because he knows from the Scriptures that the marriage covenant is our Father's means of representing a couple's spiritual relationship with Him. Abba Father intends that the marriage relationship of His children personify to the world what living in covenant union *and* growing in increasing Christ-likeness looks like. It's a loving and living relationship with ever-deepening purpose and meaning. That's why His Word overflows with references to Himself as the Husband of Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures, and of Jesus as the Bridegroom of His bride, the collective church around the world.

Our Father purposes that the loving intimacy of marriage will display the relational closeness He longs for with each of His children in Christ. For we followers of Jesus who have embraced our Father's Covenant, our highest identity is that we *are* our Father's children as testified by His indwelling Spirit (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6). And, in this light, He wants the world to know Him through us as His witnesses and ambassadors.

Satan is well aware that divorce inflicts a curse of emotional bondage on children for the rest of their lives—and often for several generations afterwards. Unless they encounter the healing Lordship of Jesus, they'll remain locked in a prison of emotional self-protection (strongholds), unable to experience the freedom to love someone else completely. Do you grieve as we do that divorce is the devil's means to sabotage our Father's wonderful plan for marriage, and to imprison the descendants of divorced people within the bondage of his strongholds?

**Several tragic characteristics of contemporary western Christendom stand out as a blight on the holy Name of our Lord Jesus:**

- **a falsified gospel which demands no repentance;**
- **a proliferation of broken marriage vows which declare to the world that marriage is disposable and that the world's goal of self-fulfillment is indeed the best course;**
- **and the reluctance of those who call themselves "Christian" to share the Gospel — even with those with whom they have a close relationship.**

Satan, through the spirits of Antichrist and Lawlessness, has invaded and overcome such a large segment of "Christendom", especially through divorce. And this tragedy has been infiltrating other nations as well as our own! How does the enemy foster divorce among those who think they're fine with God? First, the devil has seduced a multitude of clergy into *divorcing themselves* from instructing people about God's commands from His Word. The Bible is God's double-edge sword that would bring people to repentance. Yet for the sake of not appearing narrow-minded or intolerant, messages of fuzzy love, acceptance and reliance on good deeds have replaced

*application of God's Word* as His good and righteous way of life for His own.

***Tolerated sin*** is the common bond of so many congregations in this nation. Devotion to Jesus as Lord and obedience to do the will of the Father as He has made clear in His Word have been discarded as "outdated and irrelevant" to contemporary society. Through misusing their influence from the pulpit to convince listeners that God is too loving to hold to the righteous standard of His Word, many clergy have cursed themselves by failing to lead people to repentance. Is it any wonder that for several years clergy have been a leading occupation for divorce in this nation? Is it any wonder that the divorce rate among "church-goers" is greater than among those who don't attend services? Studies over the years have amply demonstrated that once divorce enters a congregation and no one is held biblically accountable for the guilt of their sin, divorce then proliferates within that faith community. Tolerance breeds proliferation when repentance is lacking

Are you aware of how many religious leaders treat divorce no differently than they would no-fault insurance? We met one clergyman whose position within his denomination was to find ways to annul the marriages of divorced people so they could be free to marry others. His face was beaming as he prided himself in how successful he'd been. But, like so many religious leaders today who are seeking to please people rather than uphold the will of God according to His Word, this man missed our Father's perspective on marriage. Are you siding with the world's ways as well?

### **The Hebraic Restoration: A Gentile Awakening**

Recently, Sue found a copy of a letter we had written from Israel about a week after our arrival there in December, 1993. We'd sent it to those on our mailing list at that time and were encouraged to see that everything about our going to Jerusalem had been undergirded by prophecies we'd been given through others. We knew we were on a prophetic mission before we landed in the Promised Land, even though we also realized how emotionally broken we both were from the unrelenting demands of our ministry. Like so many who'd been seminary-trained, we had put "God's work" on a higher plane than our own covenant relationship with each other and found ourselves actually talking divorce. So we know the pain of when "love is gone" — and also the merciful victory of our Lord Jesus in reviving a deeper love than we'd ever had before. He was and is a *God of hope to His needy children!*

We've included excerpts from this letter from nearly 2 decades ago to help you understand our Father's words to Mike toward the end of our three-month stay when he was seated on the wall in front of the Church building which commemorates where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. It's located above the Garden of Gethsemane and faces the east wall of the city. Our Father shared with Mike one of the reasons He was sending us back to the United States: because He was so broken-hearted over the pain of children of divorce. What depth of His sadness pierced Mike as he glimpsed how the pain and tears of these troubled children were hurting His loving heart.

After we arrived back in the United States with the Hebraic foundations He'd opened up to us, we saw a drawing by the artist Jean-Louis Forain that depicted the return of the prodigal son to his gracious and merciful father. This work sensitively captures the sense of the longing of our heavenly Father to embrace His beloved children. The Holy Spirit impressed into our hearts that our prophetic message was to be called the **Hebraic Restoration**. This was to be His merciful means to enable each of His own to live in intimacy with Him through love-grounded, obedient trust. We realize that the multitude of material He's given us to share since then isn't intended by Him to be just perused and forgotten. Rather, to make these truths a way of life is a *regimen of change* you must seek to embrace if you yearn to experience spiritual intimacy with Him and with others in the family of Jesus.

We earnestly hope you'll realize that what we were given to share by our Father is a prophetic message of *restoring what has been lost*. Pagan customs, organizational hierarchy and manmade traditions have replaced the purity of living individually and collectively in loving Him wholeheartedly and obeying His will through His Spirit. A specific goal we're working toward in the next two Kingdom Living Today segments is twofold:

- to help avert divorce in those of you who may not even be aware that you're heading for it;
- to help bring healing to both those who have been divorced and to the children of divorce.

Our God still hates divorce as much as ever! There is no milder way to say it. BUT, in His mercy He has given His children the means through the Hebraic foundations to heal those who have been emotionally scarred by the **sin of divorce**. Yes, divorce *is* a sin from His perspective, and like any sin, needs to be confessed by the humble-hearted and repented of so that you might press on in forgiveness and fruitfulness. Please consider this: the sin of divorce is always the result of a *pattern of sins* the husband and/or the wife have failed to truly repent of. When one or both spouses keep on sinning (1John 3:9) — never truly repenting and developing the character of Jesus in those old sin-nature driven areas of their lives — divorce becomes the all-too-accepted option. And with it come inevitable consequences for any children involved.

The sin of divorce is *not* the unpardonable sin. However, like the sin of bitterness (Hebrews 12:15), it defiles many for years to come. Most of the divorced people and many of their close relatives and friends whom we've met over the years are still beset by bitterness and unforgiveness toward one or both parties. But their unforgiveness carries with it an unintended tragic result: Until they free themselves through repentance, *their prayers will go unheard* by our Father. The *unrighteousness of unforgiveness* closes His ears to those who hold so lightly the price His Son paid for us to access forgiveness and reconciliation with Him. And from Satan's perspective, when prayer doesn't reach our Father's ears, no testimonies to His glory and faithfulness come forth either—another victory for the enemy of our souls.

Consider the implication of these words of Jesus: ***"Therefore I say to you, whatever***

**things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses**"(Mark 11:24-26). A Father who is prepared to do great miracles in response to your prayers is kept from answering them because He can't forgive you due to *your refusal to forgive*. If this portrays you, please, REPENT and forgive. Don't allow the enemy to usurp your fellowship with our Father any longer!

If you or someone close to you is emotionally suffering because of the sin of divorce, please be encouraged. Cling to the loving truth that our merciful Father has provided the means for *your heart to be healed* and for you to be *fully reconciled with Him*. This is one of His purposes in restoring the Hebraic foundations. He IS faithful!

### **Excerpts from our letter of December 22, 1993**

Sue and I have just finished our first week in Israel. Before we left the U.S. the Lord gave us three directives for our stay in Israel: 1). to absorb. 2). to remember that the Son of God touched earth here. 3). to know that I was being delivered to Israel to further my prophetic mission. All three of these directives have been incredibly alive in our first week here. Our first week was also filled with incredible heartache, remembering the people we left behind. This was accompanied by tremendous awareness that God had us here *for a purpose*.

A few days ago, I shared with Sue some insights I felt concerning the nature of the spirit that was opposing our call to Israel. It is a spirit which causes strong emotions — persuading people to *run away from God's purposes*. I believe it is something like the "mystery demon" Howard Pittman wrote about in *Placebo*. I believe this spirit uses either one or all of the following — hurt, regret, shame, self-pity, and the lack of awareness of the warfare against us — to operate and coordinate its attack. It uses torment of soul to *wear us down* and to *compromise our call*. It *deters follow through* on the part of God's people in order to disrupt God's plans that require several people to cooperate in fulfilling His purpose.

On our first day here our friends took us to Bethlehem. As we passed in and out of Arab and Jewish territories we could feel the tension. You need to have a Spirit of Peace in the face of such animosity and hatred. Our visit to the Church of the Nativity was heightened by the tension around us since Bethlehem is an Arab town. I began to weep as we drove into the city. The reality that Jesus first became man here was overwhelming. It was wonderful that God prompted our friends to take us to where it all began. The tension reminded me of the tension surrounding Jesus's arrival on earth and the need for Herod to kill Him. I pondered the death of those babies murdered because the Son of God needed a place to be born.

After Bethlehem we went to the Old City of Jerusalem which is contained within the towering city wall. At the Wailing Wall, where hundreds of Jews were praying, God

began to speak to me. He explained to me that the Temple was destroyed because the Israelites were not concerned with spreading the truth about the One True God to all mankind. I sensed that He is in the middle of fulfilling His prophetic promises here, but the importance of our being here was based on our regard for *all of mankind coming to know Jesus*.

The following day we went to Golgotha which is near the garden with the tomb of Christ's burial, outside the city gate. As I stared at the site of Golgotha, the Lord spoke to me. His words confirmed what we have been learning over the past two years, something to the effect that His concern is for *all mankind*. His victory was a *spiritual victory over the hosts of darkness*, which He won at the cross. Now, and in the future, the two of us must encourage others to continue to use the authority obtained in His victory on the cross to *evict the powers of darkness and spread His Kingdom*.

Since we arrived I have had this burning desire to go to the Garden of Gethsemane. Today, Wednesday, our friends took us to Gethsemane... How can I put my feelings into words? My eyes were full of tears as we walked around the lower part of the garden. The stumps of the olive trees we saw may have been there when Jesus prayed alone. They saw Him!!! How my heart envied them. Just to be a tree who saw Him. This is the garden where He led the way for all of us who have had our own Gethsemanes, and through His grace we too cannot let the cup pass. Our love for Jesus overrules every other consideration. For Jesus and Him alone...

[If you've been having difficulty embracing the "Gethsemane" experiences in your own life, we strongly recommend David Wilkerson's February 1, 2010 letter: *The Making of a Man of God* (<http://www.worldchallenge.org/node/7604>). Also, we recommend another of his letters, *They Hated Him Without Cause* (<http://www.worldchallenge.org/node/6612>)]

From the garden, you can look across the Valley of Jehoshaphat, or the Valley of Judgment, toward the Old City Wall. On the east wall is the Golden Gate, sealed up for now until the Messiah returns and walks through it. As we turned from looking at the wall and went inside the Church of All Nations, my heart was churning with emotion. Inside the church I felt the Spirit's prompting to kneel, for the Lord wanted to speak to me.

I had entered the church still saddened by His sacrifice and anguish in the garden. As I knelt there the Lord told me how He appreciated my sadness over His suffering. He reminded me of people in the past few months whose sacrifice of love on our behalf had taught us to empathize with the sufferings of others. (This was made visibly real to us at the Holocaust Museum, which we visited yesterday.) *Sacrificial love is the norm* for all of us in Christ, not the exception. "They will know we are Christians by our love" has a deeper and more painful significance here.

Meanwhile, back on my knees: The Lord told me to put sadness away. He is full of joy. (Sue, who knelt down beside me, was told the same thing by the Lord.) Through His sacrifice on the cross all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him.

Everything is happening according to His prophetic plan. He reminded me of something our host Bert had just shared with us earlier today. Bert told us that there is a veil over the mind of the Jew until the full number of gentiles come in (2 Corinthians 3:14-15; Romans 11:11-32). With this understanding the Lord made it plain that we were to speak to the gentiles in a different way than before.

Driving away from the Garden I spoke to Bert and Sue about the Lord's words to me. Bert replied that the gentiles must know that they are intricately linked with the prophecies concerning Israel. He said that although some Jews are coming to Christ, the real conversions will come when the Holy Spirit is poured out here and the veil that blinds the people here is removed. Bert, who is a Jewish believer, told me that the gentiles must know that their actions to spread the gospel of Jesus are linked to the future fulfillment of the prophecies pertaining to Israel.

A little later Bert and I were leaning against a rail in the Old City near the Tower of David. God spoke a word to me: "Mike, you are about to become part of a Gentile Awakening." Until I came here, I had never been conscious of myself as a "gentile." Now, the end time fulfillment of biblical prophecies and the connection of Jew and Gentile takes on a wonderful meaning.

As I reflect back to the last few years at Coventry House [the retreat center at which we served] I remember how sad I was in seeing so many believers *losing their keenness to repent and confess their sins*. I saw so many, including ourselves, getting weary. I cannot remember how many times I would read, "**Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers**" (Galatians 6: 9-10).

At Coventry House, I felt guilty reading the above words. Now, I see everything through the eyes of Jesus and I want to encourage you through these verses. We must not get weary, we are so close to the end. Our efforts to complete the number of the gentiles ushers in the final move of God in the land of Israel. I pray Paul's words to Timothy for each of you, "**Fan into flames.**" Choose your place in the final countdown. Pray, give, evangelize, encourage, whatever He directs — Do your part.

Do not let the Son of Man come back and not find His people faithful. That is how the Jews lost their place. Yes, the full number of gentiles will come in.

- Will your family and the ones you love be part of that number?
- Or, will the doors of hope be shut for them because you forgot the cause of Jesus?
- Yes, Israel will be grafted again into "their own olive tree," but which one of your unbelieving loved ones will be left to face the judgment and wrath of God? Pray about this. Fast about this, until the Lord breaks through and gives you wisdom and direction.

An insight God just gave me connected to the above: Our friends live below the hill where King Saul encamped during the Philistine occupation. You may want to read 1 Samuel Chapters 13-15. In Chapter 13 Saul loses the kingdom because he failed to

keep the command of God. The Israelites were in bondage to the Philistines, and ***“only Saul and his son Jonathan had [weapons.]”***

In Chapter 14 we find Saul [v. 2] sitting under a pomegranate tree with one of the only two weapons of Israel. I can envision him up on the hill above us. Saul's actions are symbolic of many today who are failing in their obedience to God's command of, ***“as you go through life make disciples...”***

Let's look at Jonathan's response to the same situation. ***“...Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, ‘Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side.’”*** I can picture this scene enacted in the ravine that I can see below us from Bert's front yard. You can read all of Chapter 14 for yourself to discover what one person's courage and faith can do.

This story of Jonathan has had the most incredible influence on the two of us over the years because you never find out the armor bearer's name. Yet this unidentified man says to Jonathan, ***“Do all that you have in mind ... Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.”*** Our prayer since we first noticed this fact is to bless many people with as few people as possible ever knowing Sue and I lived. Oh! To be nameless, yet to be *known by God*. To be met at death and hear, “Welcome, faithful servant” from our Lord's mouth.

I believe what I am writing about is going to take the uniting of many who are unknown to each other. Our *mutual encouragement* is, ***“we will be with the Lord forever.”*** Our *mutual motivation* is our joy to see the Gospel spread. The Lord's words in Matthew 24:14 are more applicable to me now, and I trust to you, ***“This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”***

The above letter was written after our first week in Israel. During the three months that followed, our Father revealed to us the facets that enabled the first followers of Jesus to be so spiritually powerful and relationally intimate—the Hebraic foundations. It's His desire to see these truths restored and become a way of life for EVERY ONE of His children. It was only at the end of our stay that our Father revealed one of His purposes for us to receive these truths: to heal the pain of the children of divorce.

We who follow Jesus as our Lord need to not only halt the sin of divorce by not considering it as an option; we also need to bring healing to those suffering the curse of divorce. We need to come alongside those struggling in their marriage and bring the balm of our Father's wisdom and the counsel of His loving way of life. Once divorce is not an option for a couple, a whole world of opportunity to experience the power and grace of our Lord can be experienced.

The attached Kingdom Living Today is a first step in helping you view marriage and divorce from *our Father's perspective*. It also reveals how true shepherds must deal with

the sin of divorce so that repentance may come and fellowship with our Father be restored.

We write as messengers of hope to those whose heart's desire is to both experience the love of Christ and to pass it on.

**Mike & Sue**