

SAFETY IN TREACHEROUS TIMES

Tell my people, "Heed the teacher, for their counsel is sure and will provide safety in treacherous times." The angel made this statement a few times while addressing me.

God has some wonderful and glorious events awaiting His church - spiritual realities that would marvel even the most astute: miracles which doctors can't analyze; limbs growing out where none existed so that a body can be made whole. In addition, plagues and diseases for which there are no cures will be healed in response to the spontaneous prayer of the likes of three-year olds. There will be people raised from the dead; not to mention signs and wonders with the elements of nature, awe-inspiring things that the world may know that the Lord, He is God! We are also going to be entering into what the angel called "treacherous times". Paul wrote to Timothy of this: *But understand this, that in the last days will come perilous times of great stress and trouble.*"(2 Tim. 3:1)

~Outbreak Against the Family~

Although I believe we are going to experience about three-and-a-half years of glory, we will find toward the end of that time that we will begin to enter a stage of ever-increasing troubles, a time of great perplexity, stress, confusion, even anguish.

Satan alas, decreed an all-out attack against the family. When it's released, it will be like floodwaters bursting through the living room window. Nothing is sacred to him. He will attack children and parents alike with sickness, misunderstandings, and will cause family breaches in any way he can. Spouses will be tempted toward unfaithfulness as never before. Virtual hate will rise up and you won't know why.

The Lord told me that children from as young as two and two-and-a-half are going to receive non-threatening visitations from demons. They will teach these toddlers to work with them and eventually how to become possessed by them. Being born again will not be enough security against this. It will take living under the protection of the blood of Jesus through lives of purity, holiness and prayer. You must know what your children are watching. Sit down and explain to them that those characters on cartoons are really demonic and if one of those things tries to make friends with them, to rebuke it in Jesus' name and come and tell you. It's all-out war!

If this ever happens to your family, get on your knees until the Lord reveals to you where you have given Satan a foothold. Then repent and get back under the protection of the blood.

It isn't God's will for any of His children to feel the press of those times. He would rather that our relationship with Him be so solid that we would walk in the strength of His

peace and joy as well as His perfect provision. There will be those of the body who will have wisely developed their relationship with the Lord and will walk in that, which the Word calls "the rest". Jesus repeated "fear not" many times throughout His time of earthly ministry. He knows the heart is so fearful. He yearns for His church to be wise and to be prepared by getting to know their Lord so they don't have to know fear. If we truly walk in the secret place of the Most High, we will walk in peace and strength no matter what is happening around us. I might add here that Jesus told me that the reason He is sending revival is as follows; **In revival the mind, heart and soul are freed from fear and filled with faith. So, I am sending revival to My church for the preservation of My church in a time of persecution."**

~God's Best in Troubled Times~

God's best is perfect provision in times of great lack - in famine, perfect provision of food; in national crises, perfect provision of safety; in great darkness, perfect provision of light and wisdom; in disaster, perfect provision of protection. The Lord always desires to give perfect care to His own. The appropriation of this provision will be dependent on faith, that faith which grows because of a relationship with the Lord.

In the world, there will be many disasters, one right after another - personal calamities, national and international droughts of an unprecedented nature, natural catastrophes, and economic and social collapse. These are just the beginning. There will be plagues for which there will be no cure found, wars on every front. This avalanche of trouble does not exclude America or Canada! But God wants His church to have provision, supply enough for the church and for those in need of the people who are not part of the body. If the church is prepared, this time of "great trouble" will also provide to be a time of great harvest.

~Strategy in Troubled Times~

One of the areas that the church will find abundantly supplied is the area of "divine counsel". When times get desperate, we find people become teachable. When Jesus sees a listening ear, He gladly releases all the counsel, insight, and direction a soul needs. God is going to use this time of unparalleled trouble to make a difference between His true church and the world, just as the Bible said He made a difference between Israel and Egypt. It will also be a time of refining and purging within the Body of Christ. Third, as I said earlier, the supply to the world will be raised up from within the church. This will open doors for the evangelization the great revival alone failed to open.

Although the church will be moved into a dimension of faith not known before, during the revival God will neither manipulate nor control people. Even though we will walk in creative power, so far as our faith is concerned, we won't be given the power to make someone want Jesus. Consequently, in order to get their attention, He will have to send trouble running after the stubborn of heart. By that time, the church will be demonstrating the true Christ in a manner such as the world has never seen. As a

result, the harvest will continue to grow, for many weary hearts will want to find rest and safety in Him at that time. Daniel best addressed the issues of these times:

And such as violate the covenant he shall pervert and seduce with flatteries; but the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm, and do great exploits[for God]. And they who are wise and understanding among the people shall instruct many and make them understand, though some [of them and their followers] shall fall by the sword and by flame by captivity and plunder, for many days. Now when they fall, they shall receive a little help. Many shall join themselves to them with flatteries and hypocrisies. And some of those who are wise, prudent and understanding shall be weakened and fall; [thus then the insincere among the people will lose courage and become deserters. It will be a test] to refine, to purify and to make those among[God's people] white, even to the time of the end; because it is yet for the time [God] appointed. (Daniel 11:32-35 Amp.) (emphasis added)

Although this was distinctly given as a divine warning to the Jew to equip them for national crises, it speaks clearly to us today. This little passage of scripture says everything I could hope to say in this chapter. Let's get a real good look at what it is saying. "Such as violate the covenant". These are non-Christians. The Lord through Jesus Christ set forth a covenant that was open to all the world that they might enter. He said, "I would that none should perish," and He gave His only begotten Son that all might be saved. But those who refuse His atoning death as a means to salvation, are "violators of the covenant". Of these, it says, "...he will pervert and seduce with flatteries."

~Flatteries of a Nation~

We saw an entire nation run after Adolf Hitler. Demon possessed and frequently demonstrating strong straits of insanity, he shouldn't have been given a second glance, let alone national following. His message was a blatant perversion of truth, full of double meanings and confusion. A person with little insight should have been able to see the sort of consequences attached with adopting the message and the man. Yet, a nation ran after him. Why? Because he seduced them with flatteries. He appealed to their broken national pride. He gave them something in which to place their hope, since up to that time they had been reduced to a hopeless people. So it was a seduction, waged to lure them through *fear* and *pride*.

Once captivated by this revolutionary, although it was soon proven that the new condition was worse than the first, it took decades before the full impact of the reality of their national error would hit home with them. Why? Perversion of truth had blinded the heart, truly veiled it from seeing what was obvious. The Bible says hearts are willingly deceived. What created this willingness? It was fear that opened the door to the seduction of nations. Fear of what you say? To them, it was fear of "lack". As a nation,

they were nearing economic and social collapse. There were no jobs and little food. The rich were people of mega-wealth caliber while the majority were very poor.

The nation hung in the balance. The first with a viable alternative won the booty. He won the prize, but the world lost and so did the church. The price of Hitler's victory may never be fully calculated. I'm not sure we would want to know if we could calculate it. The grandest deception of all was when more and more Soviets bought the lie, the end of which took the lives of babies, innocent children, moms and dads, grandfathers and grandmothers - millions of Jews and Christians. It was a lie that spread like cancer throughout the republic. How? Through fear and flatteries.

That is Satan's tactic on every scale, large and small. He doesn't care if he wins one in this way or the whole nation. His efforts remain just as intense. All he cares about is winning souls. Great effort is made to trap you by means of fear. Then he'll lure you to the depths of his lordship by flatteries, exciting the pride and giving new hope. It's false hope, but you won't know it until it's too late.

This same process is happening before our eyes today. We are rubbing elbows with our enemy, the USSR. The Soviet government has not changed the framework of their system or their dreams for the future at all. They still have one goal in mind: "world domination". while they flatter with the tongue, the tool of fear which they hold in their hand is their military strength. We all know they have the ability to push the "red button", so in fear we seek to make friends with the untamed leopard as he holds out his paw. We foolishly think he wants to make friends, forgetting that at the end of that paw are claws. At the other end are teeth that kill. Since when can a leopard change its spots? If he can, then the Soviet government is seeking only peace and they have embraced democracy. I will, however, show you in a later chapter that this Soviet leopard is staying true to form and we, who are being flattered today, will be its next victim.

~Antidote for Deception~

My son, eat honey, because it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Prov. 24:13 (Amp.)

Just as we have seen this "seduction by flatteries" from the Soviet government, we will see it take in a new and more stunning complexion. It will encompass a global "deception" and bring what are now thousands of fractured and diverse little satellite groups together into one big composite called "**A New World**". If you're not a "**New World**" man, you had better be born again because you may be killed. While I'm not saying that every traitor will be exterminated, that will be a common way of handling it. It's obvious that Christians will be a prime target as well. Yet God will manifest His greatness as He did in Babylon with awesome supernatural deliverances.

Daniel said it would be the "great seduction". So if you don't know the Word nor believe that it is infallible, nor have a personal relationship with Jesus, you will undoubtedly fall to the seduction.

On the other hand, he said those that do know their God will remain strong and will do great exploits for Him. These great exploits are along the nature of the things I spoke about at the beginning of this chapter. The other significant promise that was given was "strength". They would remain strong in the things of the Lord and not fall. What is the key going to be? Knowing God on a personal level and trusting His Word.

Then Daniel said it will be the "wise and understanding" among us that will instruct many during these dark times. That is what the angel of the Lord alluded to when he spoke to me. The Lord will not leave His people without counsel and instruction. He never has and never will. Although we will still be given the witness, the guidance of the Holy Spirit from within our hearts as well as in the Word. We will also experience guidance in a rather profound way through the "wise and understanding" whom God has set aside for that reason. Because the body will heed the counsel of these individuals, many lives will be saved.

Moses was a type of what is to come. By listening to his counsel and government, Israel could be assured of "perfect provision". The two times we see them utterly disobey him and despise his counsel (the incident with the golden calf and when they did not rise up to take the promised land), many lives were lost. Although there were other uprisings, none had the overall effect and long-term negative impact as their rebellion in those two settings.

It will be true concerning these counselors also. Not heeding their teachings will have disastrous effects. Holding close to the guidance the Holy Spirit will give through them will be a way of safety and protection for the body.

Daniel went further to say that some leaders and members of the body would fall by the sword, flame, captivity, and plunder for many days. At that time, many would choose to receive help from those not of the church and fall to deceptive flatteries. It will be a choice to save their earthly lives rather than experience martyrdom for their faith. It will be a choice with an eternal price - the loss of that person's soul.

~A Martyr's Death~

The body is not to fear this time, as it will be a time of grace as none other. Just prior to the first publication of Prepare, (September 23, 1990), the Holy Spirit took me through the simulated experience of a martyr's death on three different occasions. Within two weeks of the second experience, the Lord spoke to me from heaven in the middle of the night and told me to share what I've experienced with my family, the Church of Jesus Christ, so they won't fear what is about to happen, as that was the purpose of these experiences.

From my personal experiences, I'll explain what will happen. While only a minority will have the privilege of martyrdom, it's important to remove the fear of the experience from the masses. First of all, when you know you're being called to be a martyr, fear will

overwhelm you. God will allow it, as it will act as sort of divine sieve, sifting out those who don't think Jesus is worth dying for.

However, the minute you say, "Yes, Lord, I will give my life for you", the fear will leave and in its place you will be filled with a peace that surpasses understanding. Joy will seem to explode from every fiber of your being. You will be filled, saturated, with a love for God so strong, so overpowering, that it will seem as though you are going to go to heaven any minute for the pull to be with Him will be so overwhelming. Your love for Him will draw you to want to give yourself as a martyr - and the sooner the better.

Nothing less will seem good enough. That's why history records that Paul ran to the ax man to have his head cut off. He was filled with a martyr's grace. The one thing that will permeate your mind will be the joyful anticipation of the martyr's death. If it is a whole family, as each member makes that decision to say yes, the whole family will receive the grace I just spoke of. Mom, you may know your little children will have to watch your death. Don't worry or be afraid. They will be so full of the martyr's grace that they will be rooting you on while they will maintain the necessary boldness to fulfill their part, and vice versa. If it's your children that must go first, you will feel only joy for the privilege of your family's sacrifice. So you will be applauding each member and anxiously awaiting your turn.

By the time your spirit leaves your body, you would have been so saturated with the presence of God; you undoubtedly wouldn't have felt much pain. If, in fact, pain does occur, it will be wonderfully offset by the consuming presence of His grace. Passing on to Jesus will hardly be noticed because of the degree of His presence you were in already.

Stephen's focus was not on the rocks, which crushed, his body when they stoned him to death in Acts the seventh chapter. He was already in the presence of God.

But he, full of the Holy Spirit (martyr's grace) and controlled by [Him], gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at God's right hand. (Acts 7:55) (*Authors note)*

Acts 6:8 told us Stephen was full of grace and power. We see Jesus is already preparing him for his death when it says his face shone like an angel. But by the time he was stoned, he was so full of the Holy Ghost that all he did was talk to Jesus face-to-face until his spirit left his body, and he was with the Lord.

Fear didn't fill the other saints that stood by. Those dedicated saints who loved Stephen were also filled with that same grace so that a boldness swept over them in his death. Although the Bible indicates that many devout men grieved over his death, but it wasn't a grieving consumed with fear. It was the scriptural grief of the loss of a righteous man, that which God himself feels. But their lamentation was offset by the joy of God's abounding grace. That's why in Acts 8:4 the Bible said they were already back preaching

"the Glad Tidings". He was what they would become, a sweet-smelling sacrifice of love to Jesus.

I know this because in prayer the Holy Spirit spontaneously took me through the whole experience from beginning to end. I didn't ask Him to, in fact, until those experiences, I feared my family or myself ever having to experience that sort of death. During the first experience, He told me I would certainly give my life in this manner; I felt it would be in Europe. Now, I can honestly say, I can't wait! My relationship with the Lord is now so much deeper. I love Him so much more. I find its privilege to die for Him. You will too, once you make the decision and put fear under foot where it belongs.

Look at the toll cancer takes and how painful that kind of death is. Yet, how many souls are won through it? We are all going to die someday, someday. Why fear it just because the word martyr is attached to it?

Jesus took the sorrow and the suffering of the deaths of His martyrs on Calvary. What He gave us in return is a grace that produces a song through our experience. The Lord doesn't call us to be martyrs just to see if we will suffer for Him. He suffered so our suffering would be met by a higher grace. We are called that we might bear testimony for His name's sake. A martyr's testimony has a way of bringing people into the kingdom that nothing else can. What is the testimony? We give our lives gladly, joyfully for Him, *and* the pain is diminished to varying degrees so we can sing or preach the gospel all during our martyr's experience. That sight will possibly be the only thing that will bring them to Jesus. There is nothing to fear, only rejoice, if you're fortunate enough to be called in that way.

Please understand, I am not speaking of being tortured for Christ - only martyrdom. Many who have gone through torture have suffered immense pain. The Lord seems to give a different kind of grace to those - that which enables them to bear the unbearable and still love their violators. Yet, we see in the lives of men like Peter, James and Paul that God will give a supernatural joy, even in torture. His ways are diverse and wonderful.

Although martyrdom will be a common thing, there will also be many supernatural escapes. The book of Daniel gives us examples of the Lord's deliverances and His purpose behind such acts. Jesus was the fourth man in the furnace and became their covering so that the three Hebrew men came out without even the smell of smoke.

During the coming times of persecution, divine rescues of this nature will be astounding - and common. A saint might be in a line-up to be shot when suddenly he will disappear and once again show up in his own living room. As many ways as man can devise to kill, the Lord can create to deliver, bringing further testimony to the gospel. So don't be afraid - just stay close to Jesus and He will take care of you.

As I said earlier, there will be many who will choose not to stay with the Lord during these worldwide persecutions. They will instead yield to the devil's flatteries and lose their souls. Don't fear, Church, only trust. Hold fast to your crown. Don't go the way of the wicked. **The price is too great!!**

Daniel goes on to say that while some have given in to the devil's deceptions, still others who are considered wise and understanding (in other words, leaders in the body), will grow weak and fail. He also tells us that this will bring about a chain reaction.

My Amplified Bible reads:

"...[thus then the insincere among the people will lose courage and become deserters. It will be a test]..." (Daniel 11:35)

During good times, it can sometimes be difficult to know who made it to heaven and who didn't. God looks on the heart. We just don't always know the heart, saints. But, during times like we are talking about now, it becomes much easier to see who's real and who isn't. Daniel tells us three times, once in verse 32, 34, and again in verse 35, that those who are not true, but are weak in heart, will fall and not go on with God. He also encourages us in verse 32, 33 and again in verse 35 that those who know God will be strong.

The key, as I see it then, is not to be considered wise or even understanding, although those two things can be great strengths. But, that which will hold you in those days will be one thing alone - how well you know the Lord. To the degree you know Him, you'll be able to stand. What is your secret relationship with Jesus? Loving Him won't be enough. Knowing hundreds of scriptures won't be enough, although that too, will help. Your ability to hold tight will be in how well you know Jesus personally. Where do you stand today?

Finally, he says in verse 35 that this will all be for the purifying of God's own, even until the time of the end. So once this process begins, it will continue in ever-increasing ways until the end.

Your relationship with Jesus will keep you. Your submission to the Holy Spirit will hold you secure and guide you daily. Your willingness to hear God's counselors in the times ahead will help keep you in "perfect provision".

Now is the time to press into Jesus. Don't wait. If you wait, who will save your foolish soul? The wise in heart, upon hearing this message, will throw every distraction and hindrance out of their lives and run all the way into Jesus where they will be strong. How about you?

The Bible says God's grace is sufficient. This is a work of the precious Holy Spirit giving strength, peace and joy for difficult times. We must remember to whom we belong, and trust His abounding goodness. Though the times may be treacherous, those who draw

close to our wonderful Shepherd will always know the joy of their salvation. This is why the Bible says where sin abounds, grace doth much more abound. So don't expect to travel through tomorrow on the likes of today's grace. God, in His infinite mercy, will equip us with an "abounding grace" – to meet with victory, the intensified darkness. So do not fear - prepare!

- PREPARE! -

