

The Lord's Day Nov. 27, 2005

Amos 3:1,6-7 – “Hear this word the Lord has spoken against you...against the **whole family** I brought out of Egypt (or delivered from sin and bondage). When a trumpet sounds in a city (to warn) do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city has not the Lord caused it? Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the Prophets.”

Jer.1:9-10,16-19 – “...behold, I have put My words in your mouth, see I have appointed you...to pull up, to breakdown, to destroy and to overthrow, to build, and to plant. And I will utter My judgments against them touching **all their wickedness**, who have forsaken Me (or become lukewarm and compromising) and have burned incense unto other gods (or carved out intellectual graven images of who you believe God to be) and worshipped the work of their own hands. Now gird up your loins, and arise, and speak to them all which I command you. Do not be dismayed at their faces, lest I confound you before them. Now behold, I have made you as a fortified city, and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the Kings of Judah (the house of praise and worship) to its princes and its priests (leadership) and to the people of the land. And they will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord.”

As I sit in the Spirit in a campground, that is nearly empty in the Smoky Mountains. I heard a voice, a sound of a great rushing: **(Rev.1:10, Ezk.3: 12, Amos 1:12)**, “They hate him who reproves in the gate and abhor him who speaks uprightly”, **(Amos 5:10)**. This occurred on the first day of advent the ‘holiday of Chanukah’. It commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple by the Hasmonean priest, after it had been defiled by the Greeks. One container still bearing the seal of the high priest was found, enough to light the menorah for one day. Yet a miracle occurred and the flames stayed alight for eight days, as much time as was needed for more oil to be produced. The priest also removed the idolatrous statues and pagan images that the enemy had placed within the temple. (I will come back to this later). It was during this time that the altar in the Holy Temple was rebuilt and rededicated.

Early in the morning of this day, the winds began to blow gently at first, and then as the day progressed they became harder, and began to come in waves, blowing extremely hard. The plastic tarps that were over the fireplace area and tent pad of the campsite were tied at the corners with ropes and began to be ripped out over and over again. Meanwhile the canopy (that was named “the tabernacle years ago”) that was over the table area remained fixed and secured. For the canopy’s frame was tied with ropes to stakes that were driven deep into the ground, allowing it to take the pounding over and over again without being ripped apart. Then the Spirit said to me, too many of my people are stepping outside the covering and are not deeply rooted and fixed. “...and none of you shall go out of the door of His house until the morning”. **(Ex.12:22)**. “My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge”, “My people are gone into captivity (stripped to reveal-advertise) because they have no knowledge,” **(Hosea 4:6, Isa. 5:13, Ezek. 39:23-34)**. Being in captivity can rip you to pieces.

God is about to shake the world, but it will start in His house first, **beginning with the leaders (the elders)** and filter down to the people, **(Ezek. 9:4-11, Ezek. 22:25-31, 1Peter 4:17)**. Shepherds, it is time to “cry aloud and spare not, to lift up your voice as a trumpet and tell My people of their transgressions”, (Is. 58:1). God has zero tolerance for sin and He does not change. Confess your sin or answer for it at the judgment bar of God. (1 John 1:9). There will be **a great shaking followed by a respite**, a time and space to see of our repentance, I speak of the church. **(Rev. 2:21 – 23)**. Spiritual adultery and intellectual idolatry is wide spread within the Body of Christ.

As I pen this, I sit inside the framed canopy, its walls securely fixed, representing the church, a mighty rushing wind blew upon it and shook with such force that **a table, full of many different articles**, fell over to the ground in a mess of disarray. The Spirit of the Lord said to me; “What do you see?” “A mess”, I replied. The table and all of its articles were picked up and **‘placed back as they were before’**. A short while later, another wind came through and shook like nothing I had ever experienced before, turning the same table of articles over again. The Lord asked, “What do you see this time?” I said, “An even greater mess than before”. “You have seen well”, He replied, “So will I do in My house **if they try to put things back the way they were** before I shook it the first time.”

Also at the time of the second shaking a chair blew over into the fire. It was picked up and put to the side. The Lord asked again, “What do you see?” I see a chair that is marred up and good for nothing. Then the Lord said, “After this manner, will **I mar the pride of those who are called by My name** if they refuse to listen to My words and walk in the stubbornness of their own hearts. I would that they might be unto Me for a people, and for a name and for a praise and for a glory, **but they would not hear**.” “They are fragmented and divided, caught up in the same spirit as the Pharisees and Sadducees, preaching falsehood, making My word of none effect because of their traditions, saying ‘Thus says the Lord, when I have not said’. The prayer of My Son shall be answered to those who have an ‘ear to hear to be one’.” “Hear you and give ear, **be not proud**, for the Lord has spoken, if you say in your heart, wherefore have these things come upon us? For the greatness of your iniquity (willful knowing sin) and trusting in falsehood (a grace that would excuse unconfessed sin)” **(Jer.13)**. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore and repent.” **(Rev. 3: 19)**. Only a few in Sardis had not defiled their garments, **(Rev. 3: 4)**. The very word defiled denotes a garment that was clean becoming soiled, blackened. Jesus said, “Behold I come as a thief, blessed is he who watches (to keep awake – be vigilant) and keeps (to guard from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon) his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame, **(Rev. 16: 15)**.”

The body of Christ is not ready for His coming. Many within the church are proclaiming the shaking that is coming upon the world. However the Word of God proclaims His church shall be shaken first. For the church cannot impact the world as God intends while the world sees us naked, speaking evil of one another, mocking their brethren in other churches, fighting and back biting. Jesus Christ turned the tables over in the Temple once before because of defilement and He is about to do it again. **“Return to Me**, with all your heart. Rend your heart, not your garments. Blow a trumpet in Zion, gather the people, and **sanctify the congregation**. Let the Priest, the Lord’s minister’s weep between the porch and the altar and let them say, ‘Spare your people O Lord’.” **“Now return** to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in loving-kindness and relenting of evil.” (Who is the Priesthood today? Everyone under the blood of Christ. Run to the altar!) “Who knows wither He will turn and relent and leave a blessing behind.” (Joel 2).

Church there is a cleansing coming and coming soon. It is our choice as to the length and severity of the chastening. Put aside the lukewarmness; “anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see, **Rev. 3:18**”. Five of out of the seven churches was told to “repent”. Seven out of the seven were told, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear”. It was also seven out of the seven who were told to “over come”. It is only the over comer who is qualified to receive the blessing. “He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” (Rev.21:7)

As the winds progressed into the second day, becoming ever stronger, continuing to come in waves that could be heard in the distance until it was upon me shaking every thing around, and then departing. Other waves of wind would come through that I could hear, but it would not come over top of me. The Lord said, those are the two out of the seven churches (and/or people) that were not told to repent, for they are absolutely clean before Me. They will hear and come along side the others, who choose to repent and help them through this chastening.

As nightfall fell the second day, “Give glory to the Lord your God, before **He causes darkness (Jer. 13:16)**”. The wind became so extreme there was nothing that could be done to keep the plastic tarp in place over the fireplace area or the tent pad. They were totally ripped away, while the ‘canopy’ over the table area remained steadfast. Deep into the night and into the third day began the crashes of thunder, lightning and rain.(Ex.19:16) I laid awake most of the night to see what the Lord would say. Come the dawn of morning, the winds had subsided, the clouds were gone and the sky was a clean bright blue. My wife, Donna, had returned to camp before dark of the second day. As I began to tell her on the morning of the third day all that the Spirit of the Lord had said to me, she responded, “What thunder, what lightning?” “The thunder and lightning that shook all around us last night.” I said. She then said, “I heard none of it, I slept great.” (This was coming from one who doesn’t like strong storms, even within in her own home, let alone in a tent in the high mountains.) Then the Lord reminded me of the words I gave her before this trip. “God is going to teach you first hand how to remain calm in the storm.” So I asked her, “What did you pray before going to sleep?” “Psalm 91, basically. I just kept saying it over and over,” she replied, “Let the meditation of my heart and the words of my mouth be pleasing unto You. I will abide under the shadow of His wing.”

I then questioned the Lord as to the plastic tarps over the fireplace and tent pad that were ripped away, because I did not understand their meaning. He reminded me of the first thing we did after setting up camp. Everything except the tarps and chairs were anointed with oil and consecrated to Him. Thus, the things (the works) that are anointed of Me, and those people who are anointed of Me, having clean hands and a pure heart, who keep their garments from defilement, who are obedient to **all My Word** and stop the sinning (Heb. 10: 26 – 31), who endure through the storm (chastening) without murmuring (1 Corth. 10: 10), shall enjoy the beauty of the day (My coming).

It was not random chance, as to why our ‘mountain’ trip this year and the Word from the Lord came during ‘Chanukah’, it was divine order. The miraculous is taking place during a time of ‘cleaning out’ of the Temple of those things that have defiled it. If you do not believe that a loving God will put you in a ‘full body cast, sucking soup through a straw’ in order for you to weigh out your options, then you are self- deceived! Jonah and Saul (Paul) would not agree with you. (One in the belly of a fish the other struck blind).

Jesus left instructions, “To be watchful and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all those things coming on the earth.” (Luke 21:36). These instructions were given to the disciples, not to the world. What will be the purpose behind what’s coming, **“men learn righteousness when His judgments are in the earth.” (Isa.26:9)**. Translation, God can accomplish more with judgment than mercy. This is not ‘popular’ to say such a thing today, but it is certainly the uncompromised Bible truth. God is not out of mercy, but He is out of time. He is on a seven-day plan (7000 years), one day of which is a day of rest (1000 year reign). **Luke 13:32** is prophetic. The two days of signs and wonders (2000 years), and on the third day coming into His glory. According to the Jewish calendar we have passed the 2000th year since Christ, and are entering into the 3rd day. God’s **true prophets** will be “crying aloud and sparing not, lifting their voice as a trumpet and declaring to His people their transgressions”. For the time is short.

Many do not understand **John 15:1-2** to its fullest extent. As a farmer and “husbandman”, let me help you to understand that which is in the natural, to enable you to better understand, that which is in the spiritual. We have a 500 tree peach orchard and regardless of the type of fruit tree, they must be pruned and the fruit thinned in order to attain the highest quality, sweetest tasting fruit.

First, the goal of the husbandman (keeper of the orchard or vineyard) in the pruning process is two fold. One is to stimulate new growth, but the other, **an extremely important reason, is to let 'light in'**. You have heard that the fruit is out on the limb and that is true, but on an improperly pruned tree, that tree will have different degrees of fruit quality throughout the tree because adequate light could not penetrate through the canopy of the tree (to many unnecessary limbs) thus making the fruit in the very top of the tree or out on the end of the limb the biggest and the best (because of more light) while the rest of the inner part of the tree was of poor quality. During the pruning process, someone with an 'untrained eye' may ask; 'Why are you removing those limbs?' "They look to me as having nothing wrong with them and are healthy and good!" They say that because unlike the 'Husbandman' who is looking to the finished product and harvest they are allowing their eyes and mind to deceive them into believing something is good when it is not. That is why, for the Body of Christ a pruning is coming, because a harvest of quality fruit is coming. Never in my entire days on the land did I ever hear a peach tree holler out, kick and scream and say, "Please! Don't do that, it hurts, it hurts!". The Husbandman is about to begin a major pruning process with His Bride.

Secondly, after proper pruning takes place to enable proper light to penetrate uniformly throughout the tree, there comes the process of what is called 'thinning' after fruit set. Apples, pears, and grapes form in clusters that must be thinned, peaches bare up and down the whole limb. Remember the goal of the 'Husbandman' is a high quality fruit **throughout the whole tree**. If this second process is ignored and or not done properly along with the first, then the pruning process would have been for naught.

Let me explain why, if the fruit is not thinned, even though you would have a limb full of peaches, the fruit will be very small, resulting in a harvest of poor quality fruit. However, if for example a twenty four inch limb was properly thinned to six - eight peaches, instead of leaving the twelve - sixteen that set on, come harvest time the six to eight peaches will be large, high quality, sweet tasting fruit, while the twelve - sixteen would have been small inferior fruit. You see to the 'untrained' eye it would appear to leave all the fruit on the limb. But in doing so it sucks out and takes away nutrients from the remaining fruit and does not allow it to grow into a fruit of high quality 'pleasing and acceptable to the Husbandman'.

So what is being said here? There are things in our life that 'appear' to look like acceptable (good) 'limbs and fruit'. The Husbandman is going to go in to prune and to thin in order that what remains will be of high quality, pleasing and acceptable to Him. This will not be a time to kick, scream, and rebel at the pruning and thinning of the Husbandman, or to **deceive yourself into thinking this is a work of Satan**, but a time to yield ourselves to Him. "Presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable for this is our reasonable service".

The last of the seven church eras, the one we are currently in, before the rapture of the church, is the Laodicean, lukewarm church. The majority of that church as a whole will be spewed out of God's mouth. Jesus said in the last days the church would depart from the truth. (**2Thess. 2:3, Matt.24:24**). "Falling away", means defection from truth, forsake. "Many in that day will say Lord, Lord" (**Matt.7:22**), not a few but many, a majority impact. Why? Because they did not yield to this rebuke and chastening. "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten, be zealous (to have warmth of feeling for, covet earnestly) therefore and repent." **Rev. 3:19**. Nor was **Rev. 16:15**, yielded to, "Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth (to keep awake, be vigilant) and keepeth (to guard from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon) his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame".

When you hear the one crying out peace and blessings in the midst of sin and disobedience (Jer. 14:10, 13-15) that will be the acid test of a false prophet (**Mt. 24: 4-5, 11, 24**). The false prophets will always greatly outnumber God's true prophet (Micaiah was four hundred to one).

Jesus said over and over, "Be not deceived." At the root of deception is a lie. Only active obedience to all the Word qualifies us for the blessings of God. To believe anything else is deception, and the truth is not in us. Our disobedience qualifies us for the judgment of God. There is no old God of the Old Testament and a new God of the New Testament, He is one in the same and He does not change. "Knowing therefore the terror (to be put in fear exceedingly) of the Lord we persuade men" (**2 Cor. 5:11**). "To him that over cometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am sit down with My Father in His throne." "He that has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches!" (**Rev. 3:21-22**). Five out of the seven churches were told to repent, seven out of the seven to overcome and have ears to hear. Church, the days ahead need to be filled with repentance, overcoming, and enduring through. "Hold fast your confession of faith" and allow the Husbandman to do His good pleasure, Hear and Obey. For we cannot lay claim to having faith until we actively obey what we hear, "I will watch to hear what He will say to me and what I will answer, when I am reproved (Corrected, chastened)." (**Hab. 2:1**)

"Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates unto the city. And if any man shall take away from the words of this Book of this prophecy (the Bible), God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life and out of the Holy City and from the things which are written in this Book (**Rev.22: 14,19**). Multitudes today are saying that they know God. Multitudes today are saying they love God, and are talking about the love of God. But Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments. If you keep my commandments you will abide (continue) in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide (continue) in His love."(**John 14:15, John**

15:10). Jesus had not one good thing to say about the Laodicean Church (to which I remind you we are in that last church age prophetically). Laodicea means peoples; it was the people's church, **the will of the people's church**. It was the most prosperous of all churches, but because of rampant deception within its walls, it was also the **most blind!** Jesus was on the outside knocking on the door of the church trying to get someone to let him in, but because of the denominational doctrines and traditions it "has made the word of God of none effect". The body of Christ is separated and scattered and "the tabernacle has been spoiled", by fault of the sheep? No! **"For the shepherds have become brutish (stupid) and HAVE NOT SOUGHT the Lord"**, becoming ear ticklers and men pleasers, **"therefore they shall not prosper and all their flocks shall be scattered"** (Jer.10: 20-21). If sheep are not to smart to begin with, and the shepherds have become stupid because of denominational doctrines and traditions, GOD HELP US! It is time to look deep into the prophetic word of the Laodicean Church to see that we say, "we are rich, increased with goods, (as never before) and have need of nothing". But the Lord says, we are so deceived in our fuzzy feel goods we can't even recognize that we are truly "wretched, miserable, poor, **blind**, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). That is why God is raising up prophets **trained by His own hands** in the wilderness. They have not had their minds polluted by today's 'lost it' seminaries. I do not speak of those with the '**gift of prophecy**', I speak of the five fold ministry-"**the called prophet**" of God who goes forth in the Love of Jesus and the fire of Elijah to purge wickedness (that which is twisted) from the earth. If those in the remaining four of the five ministries never allow Gods called prophets (not the false prophets that cry peace and blessings in the midst of sin and disobedience, in which the charismatic movement is full of), then that Body will never attain "unity in the faith" (Eph. 4:11-13). It is also time to heed and look deep into the parable of the ten virgins, for "**the Kingdom of Heaven** (not the world) is likened unto it"(Matt. 25). 2006 will mark the beginning of the "midnight cry" before the rapture, as God will begin to deal with mankind. Pay very close attention, take heed and be not deceived, that in this parable **all**, I repeat **all**; ten of the virgins when they started out had a lamp. **All**, I repeat **all**; ten virgins had lamps full of oil (Holy Spirit), and all with their flames burning. The foolish started well, but they did not finish well. "**If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land (Is.1: 19)"**. **"Tell the righteous (the right living ones) it will be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings."** (Is.3: 10).

Righteous praying people may not succeed in delivering others and **share in a common judgment**, but it won't be to them as it is to the unrepentant, **it will be sanctifying** and will do them good.(see **Dan.7:28**)

My prayer, for all who may read this, is that you be blessed as you read, hear, and heed to the things which are written in it, for the time is at hand, (Rev. 1:3). May the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth as you have, "ears to hear what the Spirit says to the churches".

Until He comes,

Michael Johnson Ministries