

Remember Mercy

By J. S. Marek

A Commentary of our Times
&
Call to Return to the Lord

Introduction

Remember Mercy is a humble call to the Church in America to heed the warnings of the Lord, which have come from Scripture, history, and even our own generation, that we might return to God, who established us as a people and nation. Written from my own experiences, this work reflects the encounters of a young man who has witnessed the mighty works of God in churches, prayer rooms, on streets, in dreams, visions, and in my own failures. I make no claim to be a prophet, but I also make no apology for writing a message that contains much prophetic content. In obedience to God's word, I urge you to carefully weigh these words with sound judgment and criticism.

Praise, glory, and honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is slow to anger and rich in mercy. His testimony is our hope, life, and our freedom.

My message will very likely be familiar to you, as many others with much greater influence than myself have delivered a similar call to our nation. Hopefully, this will encourage and inspire you, standing as a confirmation of things already understood. Even so, it is my hope that the main audience gained from this writing comes from those who have not yet heard this message. It is to such ones that I write, and it is my hope and prayer that I can dispel some of the worries associated with the spiritual and supernatural. I will endeavor to explain the spiritual as practically as possible, and the supernatural as naturally as possible.

It is my prayer that you would have understanding of the Lord's will for our nation and generation. May you have peace to know that there is always a promised hope and future for those who are in Christ Jesus. Beloved, we live in troubled times, but God has called us to be faithful and victorious. In all things, let us preach His gospel with graciousness, using every gift He has given for us to do so.

Come; let us return to the Lord.

-J. S. Marek

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I. The Angel of Light

(2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:1-2)

I believe that we are in the generation of the Lord's return. We'll get that out of the way first. To be certain we're on the same page, I will gladly maintain that we do not know the day or the hour, for only the Father knows (*Mark 13:32*). Nevertheless, Jesus commands us, in Matthew 24, to be watchful concerning the signs of His return. He would not give us this command if He did not intend to give us insight on the matter. Matthew 24 is but one of approximately 150 chapters of Scripture that give us insight on Jesus' return. Without going into great length, I hold to the conviction that both Scripture and current events signal that Jesus is returning soon. In believing it will be this generation, I mean that this generation consists of all peoples living today, even the youngest, and understand that Jesus' return could yet be many years away. Even so, this should inspire us to be ever increasingly watchful, and also diligent in doing all we can to fulfill the Great Commission (*Matthew 28: 16-20*).

One evident sign concerning the Lord's return is found in 2 Thessalonians, which speaks of a great delusion coming to the earth. *The Angel of Light* is a vision given to me by the Lord in 2008, which addresses this teaching. I believe the Lord gave me this vision to emphasize the urgency of cultivating a love for the Scriptures. A mere intellectual knowledge of Christian doctrine will not save us from deception. We must ask God to give us a love for His Word, that we might respond with hearts immune to compromise.

I was in the Spirit, standing in an open field. On the horizon, I saw something begin to fly in my direction. It was a bird that looked something like a giant, pure white phoenix. As it flew over my head I saw that this bird had a most beautiful tail.

Once the phoenix flew completely overhead, it was as though the vision started over again. The second time the phoenix flew over my head I noticed it also had a rider clothed in red garments. The rider was somehow separate, but also joined as one to the phoenix. It flew overhead and the scene started for a third time. As this happened, when the phoenix was making its way past me, I saw a great light and the phoenix began to transform within the light. Finally, a fourth time the scene began, but this time the phoenix and its rider had transformed into a glorious angelic being who was both golden and white, illuminating a brightness like the sun.

Immediately, a warm, peaceful feeling came over me. "The angel is good. This is a 'good' angel," I told myself. As this was happening, I had a vague thought come to mind that I was not to trust this angel of light. Nevertheless, the warm feeling prevailed and I became completely captivated by the splendor of this angel.

“Beware the angel of light. What is his testimony?”

These thoughts came into my mind, partially removing my gaze from the angel. A battle in my mind began, of Scripture waging war against the angel’s influence on my mind and emotions.

At this point, I was well aware that I was having a vision and began writing it down while the angel continued its attempt to captivate me. I wrote, *‘If we are not firmly grounded in the Word of God we stand no chance against the cunning of this angel. This is clearly a warning because I am not ready, and I am one of the people called to prepare...’* It was at this point as I was writing that the angel’s presence caused me to fall asleep. An hour or so later I woke up. When I remembered what had happened, I opened my bible and read 2 Thessalonians. I came to the place in chapter two where it talks about the coming of the lawless one and the strong delusion. The Lord began to minister to me through these verses.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 NKJV)

It made sense to me at this point that the phoenix and its rider represented the antichrist and Satan. The influence of the delusion during the end times will be more alluring and divisive than at any other point in history. The only way to overcome the delusion is to cultivate a pure and sincere love for the truth. We must be committed to loving Jesus with our whole mind and heart. Our mental comprehension of truth will not save us. Knowing Scripture will help, but without loving obedience to the Scriptures, our knowledge will be a vain hope of deliverance.

As it is written, *God will send them strong delusion.* To whom does He send this delusion? He sends it to those who take pleasure in unrighteousness. Taking pleasure in unrighteousness is the definition of not believing the truth. If we ‘know that He is Lord’ but continue in our sins, we condemn ourselves. Knowing that Jesus is Lord will not save you. We must receive the *love of the truth and obey it.*

Jesus came in the flesh, fully experiencing the powers of temptation, and therefore sympathizes with our weaknesses. Because of this, Jesus continually intercedes on our behalf. He intercedes though, so that we might receive the fullness of His love and walk in purity and righteousness. The degree to which you receive His love is the degree to which you will stand in allegiance to Him on the day of testing. In the latter days it says that the love of most will grow cold. Jesus is looking for the burning ones who burn with His holy flame of love. If we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

we will then burn with the zeal of the Lord Almighty. But if we sin and so deceive ourselves, we lie and demonstrate that we do not have the truth.

Beloved, His mercies are new every morning. God does not demand that we walk in perfection of love today, for He understands our nature. He does command that we pursue the perfection of love today, which is Jesus Christ Himself. The Holy Spirit resides in us so that we might know Christ and glorify Him in every way. When we sin, we damage our ability to walk in love and glorify Him. It is for this reason that He gave us a beautiful gift, called repentance. We must not think of repentance as a dirty word, (as our culture implies), but as the path to freedom and reconciliation to Christ. Repent, therefore! There is no such thing as defeat if you walk in love.

II. Joel's Trumpet

(Joel 1; Amos 3:6-8)

It has been said that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

One particular belief to which I hold firmly is that the Lord is the same yesterday, today, and forever. There is a doctrine prevalent in the West called dispensationalism, which teaches that God deals with people and nations differently based on the time period (or dispensation) in which they live. While there are aspects of dispensational theology I agree with, the notion that God deals differently with us based on 'when' we live in history is simply unbiblical. God deals with nations, people groups, and individuals exactly the same today as He has throughout all of history. I have heard it said that God deals differently with us now under the New Covenant, but this teaching is not biblical. Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament, which testified to the mercy and loving-kindness of God. Jesus is also the one who will come, without contradiction to anything written in the New Testament, to judge the nations of the earth and execute wrath on the Anti-Christ.

Therefore, beloved, we can stand with confidence in the Scriptures, which testify in unity with history. Are we willing to learn from Nineveh's deliverance, or Israel's bondage? Do you believe that the Lord still judges with justice, and delivers with mercy? For if we are willing to receive some of God's word, shouldn't we receive the whole? Could it be possible that a decade marked with terrorist attacks, severe drought, hurricanes, financial crisis, and housing crash, are in actuality the judgments of God against our nation? Are we paying for generations of shedding innocent blood, idleness, gluttony, glorifying greed, and independence from chaste values? Can we really afford to assume the day will never come when we will have to pay up for our sins and find ourselves morally bankrupt? As offensive as it may sound, could some of these judgments even be the mercy of God, finally waking us up from the American dream?

Is not the most correct response to repent, labor diligently, and live faithfully, fully trusting God with the matters of what is need and what is want?

Even as I write this, we are in a season of reprieve. The financial outlook is getting better, laws protecting the unborn legislated, and we're rebuilding cities ravaged by natural disaster.

But are we in only in the eye of the storm?

In Joel chapter one, Joel asks the elders of Judah, "Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?"

In Joel's day there was a great drought and locust plague that decimated Judah's food supply and economic strength. Joel identified with the crisis, asking the elders if they had ever seen anything so severe in their day or even in the days of their fathers. In the wake of the crisis, at a time when the natural mind considers and prepares to rebuild

and replant, Joel asks a question that causes the elders of Judah to identify with the true reality of their condition. Joel then proceeds with a three-fold message. First, he declares a coming judgment that will be greater and more severe than the first. Second, he calls them to repent and appeal to the Lord's loving kindness. Third, he declares the day of the Lord at the end of the age. Joel stood in the 'eye of the storm', declaring to Judah her need for complete, national repentance at the religious and political levels.

I believe we are in similar days in America. I echo the same question, “Has anything like this happened in our days, or even in the days of our fathers?”

Shall we rebuild the things that have fallen or continue with business as usual without addressing the Scriptural injustices of our nation? The blood of abortion and human trafficking has condemned our land. Divorce and Internet pornography are stealing the purity of the Church. Many (certainly not all) of those who campaign to restore America do so not in the will of God, for they attempt to perpetuate an America prosperous in wealth, not righteousness. Who will stand in the gap and make an appeal to the Most High for mercy and justice?

I tell you, “The Lord is a just God who will measure us according to His standards, which are the same for all nations past and present.” Many have found and will find personal salvation, as well as great blessings from God. Even so, as a nation and culture we are not exempt from our sins. God delights in mercy, but if we do not humble ourselves and pray and turn from our wickedness, our military and political power cannot save us in years to come.

We are the called, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. We are Christ's beloved ones, and we must use our special position to rise up and make an appeal before His holy court in the place of corporate prayer and fasting. 1 Peter 4:17 states that judgment comes to the house of God first. This is the day to blow the trumpet and declare the word of the Lord. The Lord is faithful. He gives mercy to those who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done it? Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord has spoken! Who can but prophesy? Amos 3:6-8 (NKJV)

Concerning this, the Lord says:

“My people say, 'comfort', but this is just the beginning. Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob. You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruins.”

And, “When, My people, will you take up the lament I have called you to take?”

To use a biblical historic example, we need to learn what God's people did not learn in the days of Josiah king of Judah. Mere religious reform and spiritual awakening

is not enough to turn back the judgments of God. Yes, there was revival in the days of Josiah. It is even likely that during this time that the great prophet Daniel learned the ways of the Lord while yet a boy. But this was not enough to turn back the corporate judgments of God against Judah. God sent Babylon to judge His people because of their wickedness.

Even in the days of the apostles, when three thousand turned to Jesus in one day and the early church was birthed, there was not enough change in the city to turn back the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. These revivals primarily prepared people for judgment but did not deliver them from its coming. We must look at these things and ask, "What will it take to save a nation?"

Business as usual must stop. We need to surrender to Jesus in the innermost parts of our personal lives and ministries. We need another great awakening to turn back the wickedness and dissipation of our culture. Great revival is the inheritance of our generation, but we must contend for it. Even now, God is establishing a worship and prayer movement in America to turn us back to the Great Commandment. I believe the Lord desires to put to shame the gospel of American prosperity and reestablish the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Draw a line in the sand. Will you unashamedly embrace the cross without offense, giving your lives to fasting, prayer, repentance, joy and the Holy Spirit- or are you going to play church? Today is the day to make an account before the enthroned Christ for our ministries and our congregations. Today is the day of mercy and repentance!

Jesus is Lord! He came in the flesh. He is Emmanuel. He is Messiah. I write to you in the Holy Spirit as a witness to the Truth. You have a destiny! He made you for His glory. Jesus is Lord and you are His beloved. Let us be a people who shine like Moses in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Jesus is our only hope, and what a great hope we have! Let us position ourselves before our Holy God, that we might be consumed by His love and burn with His jealous zeal!

Let those who have ears, hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

III. The First Lamentation

(Ezekiel 19:11-14; 1 Peter 4:17; Ephesians 4:5-6)

On June 19, 2007, the Lord began a conversation with me that I hardly believed was possible. Throughout most of my walk with the Lord, I have been aware and believing of the gifts of the Spirit. Even so, I struggled believing prophecy. I wanted to believe it, and in my heart I knew that God had called me to prophetic ministry to one degree or another. Going back a few more years, to 2003, the Lord began moving in my life through the prophetic. I gladly received the ministry as Paul teaches it in the New Testament, which is primarily to *'edify, comfort, and exhort.'* (1 Corinthians 14:3)

Any other type of prophetic ministry (such as corrective, foreseeing, and revelatory) should be greatly tested and judged before it is received as revelation from God. Once the revelation is accepted, it must still be held under the careful scrutiny of the Scriptures, and its interpretation held prayerfully under the watchful eye of those who lead the Church. We must learn to accept every type of prophetic ministry given to the Church, but we must do so in the context of sound doctrine and faithful leadership.

Much of the remainder of this book contains these corrective, foreseeing, and revelatory prophetic messages. As you continue to read, my prayer is that you will carefully regard and consider the message, but that you do not readily accept any revelation that you cannot find in the Scriptures for yourself. I believe that these are the very words of the Holy Spirit revealed to me, but I am also imperfect in my ability to hear God. Therefore, receive and keep what glorifies Christ, and disregard that which you believe does not.

This is the conversation that began in 2007:

During a time of prayer, the Lord placed a burden in my heart concerning the condition of His Church. His love toward us is marvelous, and His mercies unfailing. At this time, the Lord began to share with me the same words He shared with Ezekiel. I began to realize that the American church was not only a stumbling block unto itself, but also to the nations who looked to us as an example. I do not like to emphasize the sins of my brothers and sisters, (for who am I to judge another man's servant), but there must be a place for correction. The Lord did not need to reveal to me that our church culture was full of sin, for this is evident. He did need to reveal to me how deeply it grieves His heart, how much He longs to give us freedom, and how severe He must act if we refuse Him. Freedom, beloved, is found in repentance. If we repent there will be neither shame nor bondage. But if we do not repent, how can we expect the Lord to forever continue allowing us call upon His name and be His witnesses to our culture? There is certainly a day of reckoning for our generation.

The Lord revealed to me that His words to Ezekiel were fitting to be read again to a new audience, which is the American church. The conversation begins with the reading of this prophet, whose words echo today as a witness and a warning:

"Its branches were strong, fit for a ruler's scepter. It towered high above the thick

foliage, conspicuous for its height and for its many branches. But it was uprooted in fury and thrown to the ground. The east wind made it shrivel, it was stripped of its fruit; its strong branches withered and fire consumed them. Now it is planted in the desert, in a dry and thirsty land. Fire spread from one of its main branches and consumed much fruit. No strong branch is left on it fit for a ruler's scepter. This is a lament and is to be used as a lament." -Ezekiel 19:11-14 (NIV)

"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" -1 Peter 4:17 (NKJV)

Beloved, our Western Christianity is entrenched in the sexual immorality and idolatry of American culture. Despite this, the Lord is calling us to freedom and repentance according to His great and tender mercies! There is yet a great inheritance available to the Church in the west, for the Lord Jesus Christ yearns to fill us with the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. Even now, America is ripe for a harvest of revival that would far surpass the book of Acts, but *we must first examine ourselves and repent for our sins and the sins of our fathers*, as I know some have. By the grace of God, we may still overcome the spiritual bankruptcy of our culture, and walk fully in the will of God.

It could be very easy to point to the sins of the world, but there is much fallacy in such thinking. How can we expect those who abide under the oppression of lawlessness to live righteous lives according to God's standard? Beloved, judgment comes first of all to the people of God, according to our deeds, and then it is exerted upon those who are not of faith. The sword of the Lord is hanging over the church in the west. As assuredly as the Lord lives, if you are in sin and haven't been exposed it is because God is revealing His kindness and long-suffering so that you might repent and reap the rewards of redemption. The Holy Spirit is coming to glorify the works of Jesus, who once said, *"I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled... From now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three."* (Luke 12:49-52 NKJV)

True unity comes through repentance, love, and mercy. God will give all opportunity, and when the time is right in His eyes, He will reveal and divide so that those who desire unity may pursue it in one accord. This does not mean we will be free from all differences, but it does mean that we will pursue the same values, beliefs, and big picture goals. Any division brought forth will be to remove those who do not embrace Jesus' values.

The Holy Spirit will certainly divide the Church in the west, for He says, *"As for me and My House, we shall serve the LORD."* Beloved, we are the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, and He will cut off those who refuse to serve in the love and meekness of Christ. Again, the Lord is faithful to give all opportunity. He is merciful and just, and desires that all come to repentance. We must therefore embrace the truth that we cannot serve both Christ and idols, for: *"There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father who is above all, and through you all, and in you all."* -Ephesians 4:5-6 (NKJV)

We must take heed! The dull, dissipated Christianity of the west is full of harlotry and flagrant disregard of God's desires. Most assuredly, we draw near with our lips with the loudest, most elaborate praises, but our hearts are far from Him. Do you not see that we are so distant from the pure and undefiled religion described in the book of James? We have handed our orphans and widows over to the systems of an unjust government in the midst of economic crisis, while polluting ourselves with the love of money, the love of possessions, Internet pornography, humanitarian justice, and idleness. I fear we have become like Nineveh, not knowing our right from our left, a religion of pagans and drunkards. Oh, that we would run to the mercies of God, as did Nineveh during the days of Jonah, so that the God of heaven would relent from sending a bitter judgment!

The Lord has made a decree, "Those who do not repent for sexual immorality and idolatry will be removed from their ministry to the Church by the fire and wind of the Holy Spirit. Let this be a sign to you: 'One of your main branches, a great and mighty branch, will be removed by a fire that will come up from under it and it will consume much fruit.' Do not inquire of the Lord nor lift up your hands until you have repented even for the sins of your fathers."

What this means is, on account of sexual immorality and idolatry, a greatly influential [ministry, denomination or movement] in the Church will be uprooted by the fury and jealousy of the Lord. The Holy Spirit will test it with fire and reveal its dross. The judgment will come up from under it, which means that hidden secrets and sins will be publicly exposed. Much of the fruit of this ministry will be completely destroyed, meaning that many of its disciples will be scattered or fall away. It will be evident and unexpected. Without repentance, it will surely come to pass.

After receiving this message and writing it down, I shared it with my pastors, a few other leaders, and eventually the members of the Church. In 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2013 I re-released edited versions of this message online and in personal letters. In 2009&10 I saw a very clear fulfillment to this word. For this reason I have faith that God has spoken clearly and is calling us to return to Him with all of our hearts.

This fulfillment happened when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) voted at a Church-wide Assembly in Minneapolis to allow congregations to call and ordain homosexuals. The vote took place on August 21, 2009, and by April 2010, they had made official revisions to their ministry policy to ensure that the Churches uphold the August 21 vote. The ELCA was, and still is, the largest Lutheran denomination in America, and is the seventh largest in the States. Since this ruling, over 100,000 Lutherans have left the ELCA to form a new Lutheran denomination, that they might restore and reform the biblical truths of the bible to the Lutheran church.

As a sign of warning, during the ELCA Assembly in 2009, a tornado touched down one minute after the start of the meeting, striking an 800 pound cross at the ELCA's largest cathedral in Minnesota, leaving the cross hanging upside down. This signifies the trend toward apostasy within the ELCA leadership, and the severity of the Lord's decrees. Let me be clear, this does not mean everyone in the ELCA is becoming apostate. I have faith that there are at least a few, if not many, who are deeply committed

to Christ within the denomination, trying to lead it back to a true foundation in Christ. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that this is the Lord's sign, and points to the Holy Spirit's warning against sexual immorality.

While the Lord promised a lamentation, He did so in grace, decreeing a great revival in the Church as well. We can look at the judgments of God a signpost, that we might find mercy and forgiveness, as well as the healing and restoration of our churches and our nation. I believe even the most adamant offender can be returned to the Lord. While the ELCA has in part fallen, it stands as a sign that those who do not repent of sexual immorality will face God's rebuke.

Let us not take the grace of God in vain! Great judgment is coming to the Church and we would be fools to not heed the warning of the Lord. The beautiful thing about judgment is that if we repent and follow Christ with our whole hearts, He is able and willing to forgive any and every trespass. Not only can He forgive, but also He can fully restore.

Pray on behalf of the Church, that she might be filled with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God! Stand in the gap on behalf of your brothers and sisters, pleading over them the mercies of the Lord, which are for their repentance. Do not fear nor envy those who do wickedly, but rather pursue the meekness of Christ and enjoy the peace and fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

While the Lord had given me this word of judgment, He did so with the promise of a coming revival. In doing so, The Lord has made another decree, that there would be a restoration of the apostolic ministry in our generation. The Lord is calling forth an apostolic witness from our land to bring restoration and reformation to the lifestyle, ministry, government, and passion of the church. God is resurrecting an apostolic church that will walk in the ancient paths (holiness, devotion and purity) of the early church. *These apostolic leaders will move in a great prophetic anointing, similar to the prophet Samuel, and they will call the people of God to a pure and chaste devotion to Jesus.* They will go forth with this message: 'God is Restoring the Great Commandment to the Church', 'God is Fulfilling the Mystery of Christ' and 'The Day of The Lord is at Hand.' They will be equipped by the Holy Spirit to finish (with all the saints) the work of the Great Commission, and prepare the Bride of Christ for the marriage supper of the Lamb.

In the restoration of a church equipped in apostolic ministry, a renewed gift of faith will be firmly established in the Church. This restoration will be paved through steadfast intercession and tenacious messengers of a 'kingdom gospel'. Meekness will abound as a virtue of this move of God, which will empower the Church to walk unashamed in their spiritual authority, while elevating the glory of Jesus in their message.

While I am greatly encouraged in the Lord's plans, this word of prophecy comes with a simple word of caution. Please understand that there will be both genuine and false apostolic ministry. Even so, the easiest way we discern the false ministry is by having a firm understanding of the genuine. We also need to be sober-minded about the implications of such a movement. The apostolic ministry is being restored for the purpose

of releasing every spiritual gift of the Church into its fullness, so that we can fulfill the great commission and the great commandment. The fullness is described in Ephesians 4, where the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher are given to the Church to build up all believers into the fullness of Christ. This is a very tall order, but Christ is able to accomplish the task in us and through us, so long as we yield to His grace. (*1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:3-13; Ephesians 4:7-13*)

To be apostolic is to “*be sent*.” The true apostolic movement will equip and release believers to walk out the fullness of the gospel and kingdom life. Above all else, this movement will be most concerned that we are walking in purity and simplicity of devotion to Christ. The leaders of this movement will devote themselves to the Church as bond-slaves of Christ, that we might one day be prepared to meet the Lord at His coming.

I believe we are seeing the beginnings of this coming revival. While there has yet to be widespread salvation and reformation in America, we may take hope that some wonderful breakthroughs are beginning to take place. In 2012, I listened to Lou Engle, leader of *The Call*, share about *Mission Ekbollo*. *Mission Ekbollo* is a movement focused on praying for the release of preachers, missionaries, and messengers into God’s harvest fields among the nations. Mr. Engle believes that it is possible for the great commission to be fulfilled in our generation. His desire is to join the ministries of prayer and missions to a greater degree, and intercede for the sending out of apostolic, evangelical, and prophetic preachers. While I desire to take nothing away from the churches, ministries, and organizations wholeheartedly devoted to the Great Commission (*Matthew 28:18-20*), the message shared by Lou Engle regarding the purpose of *Mission Ekbollo* stood out to me as a sign that an apostolic restoration is taking root in the west. This movement is transcending denominational and national boundaries, and has fully embraced Jesus’ apostolic mandate to finish the work of the great commission.

Concerning this coming apostolic ministry, I make a very firm stance in declaring that none of the biblical gifts have ceased. If you disagree with me on this matter, I encourage you to read Ephesians again with an open heart, and to pray through each verse. We make a great error when we read the bible through the lens of a particular doctrinal or denominational stance. I believe that the Holy Spirit is in the business of gently correcting us on these matters, but we must position ourselves in a posture of humility to properly receive correction. I have found no verse in the bible that alludes to any biblical gift ceasing *before* the return of Jesus. I have too often heard people confuse the ministry of the apostle with the mandate and authority to write Scripture. Yes, the early apostles wrote most of the New Testament, and yes, I affirm that the Scriptures have been fully written, finished, and sealed. Even so, the writing of Scripture was not the only aspect of early apostolic authority. The biblical model of New Testament ministry is not complete without the apostle. To explain this subject at greater length is a matter for another time, but I would greatly encourage you to begin seeking the Lord regarding His will concerning the apostolic. This can be accomplished simply, through prayer and reading the Bible. I especially encourage you to read Acts and Ephesians, giving each mention of apostolic ministry special notice in prayer. The Holy Spirit is a good teacher. Have faith in His ministry.

IV. The Second Lamentation

(Jeremiah 7:9-11; Joel 2; Isaiah 6)

The Lord spoke to me again with a second lamentation. There were more to follow, and I will address those later, but I now desire to explain why these are called lamentations. I do not use this word in an effort to sensationalize the message. The Lord actually instructed me to *'take up a lament'*, using the same word and emphasis as the Lord did with the prophet Jeremiah. This was, in part, because I had a chip on my shoulder regarding the church. I was more frustrated with the church than loving it at the time the Lord spoke these things to me. I had yet to truly encounter God's heart for His beloved church. Honestly, I did not want to lament, but rather rejoice that God was going to *'finally'* provoke change. In doing so, I had completely missed the point. In His mercy, the Lord drew me into a truly great love for the body of Christ that has since been tested on multiple occasions. Beloved, my point here is that we cannot afford to be bitter regarding the church. We are, in all of our brokenness and disunity, the beloved and anointed of God. While my words come with much correction, they are tempered with the desire to not *'speak against the Lord's anointed'*. I have come to understand that Jesus is truly lamenting our condition and He is sending people into the west to be a catalyst for restoration, not condemnation. I would bet that we have all been wounded to some degree or another due to churches or ministries, and this is because imperfect people are involved. For this very reason, one of the best ways to move forward is to begin forgiving one another. There will come a time when we will fail to endure if we cannot trust one another, so the most profitable thing we can do right now is to build the necessary trust by giving each other opportunity to grow in faithfulness.

This second lament has also seen some fulfillment, which I will describe throughout the explanation. This message was given to me in 2007, and similar to the first lamentation, the second has been released throughout the past few years.

With great fervency, I believe the Holy Spirit declares this to His people:

"A great terror will soon overtake America, and her punishment will be ordained by God. Complacent and lukewarm Christianity will be turned on its head. The Lord will again demonstrate that He is neither 'for' nor 'against' America, making it known: 'He is God in America'... and, 'she will be used in holiness for the purpose of Christ.'"

Concerning the Church, the LORD says,

"You have been as the Laodiceans, who were neither cold nor hot. As many as I love, I will rebuke and chasten. Be zealous and repent. I am the Amen, and the I AM. I am turning you upside down and you cannot turn Me from this, for what I have decreed shall come to pass. Turn from your idolatry so that you will not be shaken when I remove the plunder from the 'den of robbers'. My house in America shall be a house of prayer."

“When you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before Me in this house, which bears My Name, and say, “We are safe”- safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears My name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching, declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 7:9-11 NIV)

Beloved, we have greatly offended the Lord and grieved the Holy Spirit. We are, as it was written in Isaiah chapter 6, ‘*men of unclean lips in the midst of a people of unclean lips.*’ Speaking in terms of national conscience, the blood of judgment hangs on our own heads. Even so, how can we point our fingers at those outside the Church when we have missed the mark ourselves? A great shaking is coming! I will, for all of our sake, walk a very fine line in this rebuke. The Lord is sincere. In all of my efforts to appeal to His great mercies I would fall short, for His mercies are so vast. The goal is righteousness, justice, and love from a pure heart. Will you heed this call to repentance and do everything in your might to change the tide, regardless the size of your influence and impact?

Shall we praise God and extort our brother? Shall we support biblical family values in the voter’s booth but not in the marriage vow? Shall we murder our heritage by preventing birth? Shall we idolize American culture and the American dream? Shall God be mocked? We have played the harlot very well, but in His mercy the Lord has chosen us as a bride. This can be our ‘grace’ moment if we will yield to the desires of God. Let us be shaken from our slumber and provoked to a zealous pursuit of the sweet, repentant lifestyle that seeks first God’s kingdom and His righteousness!

A few years ago I was in the Spirit, and during this time a peculiar vision was given to me. In this vision I saw the frantic terror of our government, as it attempted to politically retreat from its enemies. In this retreat I saw the working of a principality, which is a spirit of destruction that currently has authority in America to inflict much terror to our nation. This principality will overtake us, but not completely. Though I saw this in spiritual terms, the application is very natural, or practical, if you will. We will see this play out in our politics, and I believe to some measure it already has. Our systems are failing, and rather than try to change our ways, we add to our systems. These methods will only lead to internal collapse.

While domestic trials abound, in the nations we see the rise of a new Islamic order coming forth in the Arab world. Groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood are gaining power, and these pseudo democratic groups have pronounced their hatred against Israel and America. In the Spirit I have seen that a marriage will take place between Islam and Communism, and the Lord has arranged this marriage to take place. He is doing so to wake us up from our slumber. The Lord once used an unrighteous ruler, Nebuchadnezzar, to judge Israel. In like manner this union between Islam and Communism will be established to judge America and the Western nations. I fervently believe that this shall not completely overtake us, but it will become a severe time for our generation. I also hope that if the warning wakes us up, and we return to the Lord and to His purposes, the Lord may relent. Let us not allow the seemingly unusual partnership of Islamic and Communist powers to deter us. Maybe you’ve heard the expression, “War makes

interesting bedmates.” This simply means that two opposing ideologies have the tendency to become partners if they possess a common enemy.

In light of this, the solution is not better foreign policy. The answer is the Church. We are a chosen people and a holy nation, in terms of calling, but we must trust in the grace of God that He will enable us to live out that calling. Jesus is not asking us to do it alone. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us become pure and holy, and He has also given us one another, so long as we learn to love our neighbor as ourselves. God defends the defenseless, and like it or not, that is our condition. Our money and our military will fail us in the day of trial, but mercy and justice will never fail. When has the battle *not* belonged to the Lord?

How then shall we live? The prophet Micah gives us a familiar instruction: “He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Figuratively speaking, the coming hour will be likened unto Joel 2 and Isaiah 6. Concerning this the LORD says, *“Like dry grass set ablaze, so I will consume My Church. Be not afraid, O land! Be glad and rejoice!”*

Surely the LORD has done great things. In the face of trial the Lord always prepares a way. In Joel 2 the proper response to the word of the Lord was to fast and pray. Even now, the Lord is establishing in His church those who are dedicated to such a ministry. Years ago, the Lord spoke to me saying, *“Am I not establishing priests who weep between the porch and the altar? Am I not already establishing those who will stand in My counsel day and night? Will I not send to them My ministering angels who declare My provision? Will I not give them My Spirit and power? Trust me. Your labor is not in vain.”* The Lord has done this, and is continuing to do so.

Also concerning this, the Holy Spirit confirms to me, *“The glory of the Lord will fill the tabernacles of His Spirit. This will reveal new depths of depravity. Does not the fire of God burn? Will it not pain you? Will it not cleanse you and purify you from iniquity? The Lord is removing guilt and sin from His bride. The years to come will cause great maturity and fruit, and the Church will walk in her greatest anointing. Yet, this same fire that purifies will also consume scoffers. If you return to the Lord with fasting and weeping, then you will be crowned with beauty for your ashes, gladness for weeping, and praise instead of despair. You will be displayed for the splendor of the Lord. He is a God of fulfilling promises!”*

Finally, we need not fear the things to come. While there will be distress and trial, the Lord has appointed it with faithful intentions. Some of what we perceive to be God’s judgment will actually be the Lord delivering us from unnecessary cultural luxuries. In the midst of these circumstances, our greatest weapon will be to rest in the sovereignty of God. He is a loving Father who fully understands our condition. He knows our frame, and is able to sympathize with our weakness and prepare us for the days to come. Beloved, we have a great Lord and Master. He is trustworthy and secure. It will not be easy or

comfortable, but the Lord always prepares a way for His people. There will once again be fullness of life in the western church, and the Lord will fill us with abundant joy as we live and die unto the eternal purpose of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

V. The Third Lamentation

(Luke 11:33-34; 1 Peter 1:7)

The third lamentation is very political and originally the most difficult for me to understand. While I do not apologize for the largely political nature of this section, I am sensitive to the very common and obvious tensions that arise as a result of politics. I have made my best effort to relay this message in a manner that is honoring and respectful to our governing authorities, and also those of a different political persuasion. I do not believe it is profitable to incite the rebellious and divisive spirit that is so common in political discussion, and I have made my best efforts to write in a manner that is of meek esteem yet firm in position.

“No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness.” (Luke 11:33-34 NIV)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church:

“I have shined My light on you, America, but you have hidden My light. Your eyes are held captive in a prison of darkness and your abundance has made you swift with envy. As swiftly as you have fled terror and placed your hope and wealth in the hands of men, a Red Man will come in fury and become your terror. He will terrorize your strong position and your abundant wealth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired great wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy gold refined in the fire, so that you may become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. You adulterous people, do you not know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend with the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think that Scripture says without reason that the Spirit He caused to live in us envies intensely? But He gives more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter into mourning and your joy into gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” (Reference: Revelation 3:17-18; James 4: 4-10)

It says in 1 Peter 1:7, *“These have come so that your faith- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Christ Jesus is revealed.”*

This lament begins with the understanding of God’s blessing. The Lord has in fact shined His light on America. We are a people of many blessings. The God of heaven has certainly been excellent to us! The great question however, is ‘how have we received His

blessings?’ Beloved, the Lord did not bless us so that we could be idle, rich, and proud. With our vast resources, we could have easily finished the Great Commission years ago, so why are we taking our time? Have we become a culture of mere hearers of the word and not doers? Has Jesus become another idol on our shelf that sits beside the ‘American Dream’ and earthly comforts? We need a dose of sobriety.

Let us examine ourselves. While some will question our nation’s historic Christian merits, and may have valid arguments throughout many pivotal eras in our history, we have yet experienced many moments of revival and spiritual breakthrough. There is no debating the great culture of revival we have seen through the first and second Great Awakenings, the Pentecostal revival, nor the modern missions movements that have sprung forth in America. In our relatively short history we have seen entire movements within the Church pursue the great and high callings of Christ.

In this generation, the Lord is calling us back to a heritage of revival and devotion to Christ. To do this, we need to begin tearing down the idols of our land. This work begins in our own hearts, where we must decide whether or not we will swear our allegiance to Jesus Christ. We must also endeavor to extend this call to all who are in our influence, as well as anyone to whom we are able to witness the Gospel. This we cannot do if we are serving two masters. Here is your line in the sand.

Our culture boasts every manner of sin, from murder to sexual immorality, tolerance, humanism, idleness, and more. While these sins are common to man, we reside in a culture that celebrates these things. Once an entire culture begins to not only condone, but also celebrate sin, we invite the wrath of God. If the Lord were not slow to anger and abounding in mercy, we would already have reached the point of no return. However, the Lord is gracious and He mourns our condition. He longs to restore and redeem us!

Beloved, we are the Church. We are called to be salt and light, and a holy people in the midst of a wicked generation. We have the truth on our side! It is imperative that we humble ourselves and reject our culture if we are to abide in the truth of the Gospel of Christ. We need to reject the idols of our people, beginning in our own hearts and homes. With the help of the Lord, I believe we can do this. If you receive anything from me, receive this: “The Lord shall restore the great commandment to the foremost position in the hearts of His people, and He shall restore the great commission as our greatest work.”

Even so, a spirit of judgment hangs over our nation. One third of a generation has been murdered through legalized abortions. Without widespread repentance, we will pay back every drop of blood spilled. What many fail to recognize is that our nation has taken more lives than Hitler, and as a culture, our hands are as bloody as his. This is but one accusation that the Lord has against us. To echo the prophet Joel, I believe we are to respond with fasting, weeping and mourning. May we take the appropriate stand, and call upon the Lord that He might relent from judgment. The sons of our people once paid for the blood of the slaves in our own civil war. In our generation we will make an account for the innocent lives lost through abortion. May it be according to mercy!

Let me explain a little mystery to you. What would you say if I told you that the Lord has already begun this judgment, but in a manner that would eventually lead to our repentance and blessing? I believe the Lord is trying to wake us up, and I believe that the Lord has given us President Obama to do so. You may say, "We elected him." Yes, but the Lord establishes every ruler and authority. (*Daniel 2:20-21; 4:32-35*) Barak Obama is our president because the Lord put him in place. Was this not the Lord's plan, He would have intervened. Before the 2012 elections, I was talking to a friend and mentioned that I would be more surprised if Obama wasn't elected, than if he was re-elected. This was because I did not believe that the Lord was finished with what He has planned to accomplish through Obama's presidency.

Earlier I had mentioned that the Lord revealed to me a 'Red Man' would terrorize our strong position and abundant wealth. This man is President Obama. The characterization of the 'Red Man' comes from the communistic/socialistic policies of the current administration. Regardless of your position on the policies and ideals of our President and his administration, they do in fact bear the fruit of socialism especially. During Obama's presidency, we have seen the debt of our nation escalate, and the moral fabric of our society fall into great jeopardy. By no means does this mean we revolt or disobey our civil authorities, but we must take a strong and faithful stand to call our people and our nation to Christ. I do not believe like some that another revolution is the answer. If this current administration was put in place by God, (not by political strength), to judge us and cripple our great wealth, it is then a return to righteousness and justice which will lead to our restoration (not mere political change). This does not mean we completely reject politics, for if we live in a Republic that hears the voice of the people, we must steward it faithfully with our voices, our service, and our votes. This does mean though, that we must understand the severity of our condition. We are a nation on the brink of losing its blessings, influence, and freedom. Make no mistake; it is the Lord's judgment against us that put in place the current leaders of our nation. Nevertheless, if we return to the Lord, He is able to bring our leaders to redemption or give us new leaders. For this reason let us pray more earnestly for our president.

More so, we have a greater leader than any president. Behold the glory and wisdom of Jesus Christ! His leadership and faithfulness will guide us through this crisis. These things must come, but those who put their hope in the LORD will not be put to shame. Victory will not be defined by surviving trial, but rather by the purity and sincerity of our love for the LORD, and our love for those He has entrusted to us. Fix your eyes upon the holiness of Christ Jesus that we might possess the fullness of all that God has portioned for us during this critical hinge and juncture in history.

VI. The Fourth Lamentation

“And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.” (Psalm 45:4 KJV)

Do we live with an understanding of true biblical victory, prosperity, and fear of the Lord? Victory has been established by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. His resurrection helps us define a biblical doctrine of prosperity. His faithfulness to complete and fulfill all things, demonstrated by His literal coming return, is the fear of the Lord. I will briefly explain these things in more detail.

We are granted salvation, redemption, and victory over all things as a result of Jesus' death on the cross. He buried sin, iniquity, disease, and every affliction spiritual and natural. Ephesians 4:8 declares that Jesus took captivity itself captive, which means that there is every kind of eternal freedom available when we meet Jesus at the cross. In my opinion, the most beautiful part of this is that the work Jesus finished on the cross is only the beginning of the work He plans to fulfill in us for all eternity!

Through His resurrection, the power of God that conquers death and Satan was revealed. This power is called grace. Grace is a proper biblical prosperity message. I say this because every form of prosperity, meaning spiritual gifts, health, wealth, resources, and heritage are ALL to be used according to God's purposes and used ONLY for His purposes. We have been given all these things for two simple reasons: To love God with all of our heart, soul, and strength; and to love our neighbor. Jesus' resurrection speaks a testimony: “Love God and fulfill His great commission, for He has prospered you with perfect grace!”

If we have been in the Church for any amount of time, it is likely that we have heard it said, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” In John 17, Jesus declares that the knowledge of God *is* eternal life. This knowledge is not a mere ‘knowing’ God intellectually. This knowledge is a personal and evident wisdom and understanding, that we ‘know’ God personally. As we better ‘get to know’ God, we encounter the evident truth of His faithfulness. In understanding His faithfulness, we begin to see that Jesus is willing, able, and in the process of doing everything that He said He would do. He will be faithful to complete every good work, which includes the judgment of the unrighteous. Judgment is good, because it means that God is bringing justice and righting every wrong. For instance, even salvation is a judgment of God. In salvation, the Lord is showing mercy to the repentant and making a ‘right’ judgment according to the truth, meekness, and righteousness of His kindness. If God did not ‘judge’ the unrighteous by granting salvation, none of us would be saved. When we have reverence (fear of the Lord) due to the faithful and mighty hand of God, we are able to walk properly in light of His judgments.

With these things, I leave you with the fourth lamentation, in which the Lord confronted me because of my own lack of reverence. This was my conversation with the Lord:

“You have been asking Me,” said the Lord, “‘How long?’ But I ask you, ‘How long do you think you have before I reveal My Son as the righteous judge of all nations?’”

This question I ask you, beloved: “What terrible things are found in the instruction of the right hand of the Father?”

Jesus Christ will hold the nations to account, and He will ride forth against sin and injustice as a victorious and mighty warrior. Deliverance and salvation will be at His coming, but He will also tread the winepress of His wrath on behalf of truth, meekness and righteousness. During this conversation with the Lord, I was deeply confronted by my lack of preparedness, for I had been crying out to see His judgments and salvation, while not being fully committed to preparing for His return.

This was the Lord’s reply:

“Have I not forgotten the sins of the repentant? Before you cry, ‘Come Lord Jesus’, examine yourself. In what areas of your life have you not embraced repentance? I tell you, I come for a pure and spotless bride. Repentance from dead works is the path to understanding truth, meekness and righteousness. You need not worry. I have the power to remove those things that hinder your love for Me. I answer the prayers of the contrite who seek My face, and I also have the power to remove the things that hinder you from the fear of the Lord. Take up a lament for those who do not know the nearness of My coming.”

At this I remembered the word of the Lord, which was given to me a few weeks before this current conversation:

“Listen, you who prophesy in the name of Jesus! Listen, you who testify of the Word of God in truth! Do not speak as though the coming of the Son of Man is a distant reality.”

Beloved, Jesus Christ is preparing the Church for His return. There is coming a revival of authentic holiness, and the wise will pursue intimacy with Christ. There is sufficient grace in this hour to walk in the beauty of holiness, for the Holy Spirit is completing the work of righteousness in our generation. Whether you believe that the coming of our Lord Jesus will be in this present generation, or in a generation to come, the test of our hearts is this: “Am I preparing myself for the coming of my Lord and Savior?” However you may answer this question now, know that there is mercy and grace for us in this hour. The grace of the Lord is always sufficient, and His mercies are unfailing. He will never leave nor forsake his people. It has been the work of God up until this day to redeem, purify and prepare His people, and this work will continue to be completed until the day of His return. Therefore, it is to be the response of the Church to receive the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, that we might know the surpassing greatness of our God. He is willing and able to take a broken and contrite people and make them to be a beautiful and perfect reward for Himself.

We have many in this generation who love to prophesy (rightly so), but very few

who are willing to pay the cost in prayer for the Church. Who among us has a watchful spirit? Let them contend on behalf of a Church that is in desperate need of prayer. The Church is Christ's reward. When we pray for the Church, we are connecting with the passion of God's heart for His beloved. I am calling you to fasting, lamentation, and mourning. Contend in prayer for the reality of a pure and spotless Church, prepared as a bride for our glorious Savior. We know how it all ends. Jesus gets His bride. Even so, who is willing to pay the price now, partnering with our beautiful Savior while He intercedes for us in heaven?

Did not Jesus Himself teach us to pray?

"Heavenly Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

VII. Conclusion

Complacency will not remain. Whether by our own response, or through God ordained circumstances, the Lord is in fact shaking everything that can be shaken. On a national and international scale, great shifting is taking place in the spiritual, natural, and political realms. I hardly need speak as though this is prophecy, since most people would look around and agree. Whether or not you believe these things are a 'sign of the times', you would be mistaken if you did not attribute these great global changes to the hand of God. He ordains all things, and as it says in *Psalms 33: 10-11*, "*The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. (NKJV)*"

Change is coming to the west, to America, and to the Church. It does not all need to be gloom and doom. The Holy Spirit longs to prepare us to be victorious in the midst of every circumstance. Our calling is to live out the faithfulness of Christ as a demonstration to all. We have a good Father, and He will not leave us in need. He remembers His covenant. When we are willing to obey the commandments of God He will shower us in blessings. May the Church live out holiness and justice!

Remember that we need one another. The Church is a spiritual family, and when we turn away from fellowship, we put ourselves at great risk. Contend for the unity of the faith and for a like mind. Speak truth to one another and above all else, love one another with the love you have received from Jesus Christ. We cannot afford disunity in this hour of history.

Let him who has ears, hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Blessings and grace upon you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

-J. S. Marek