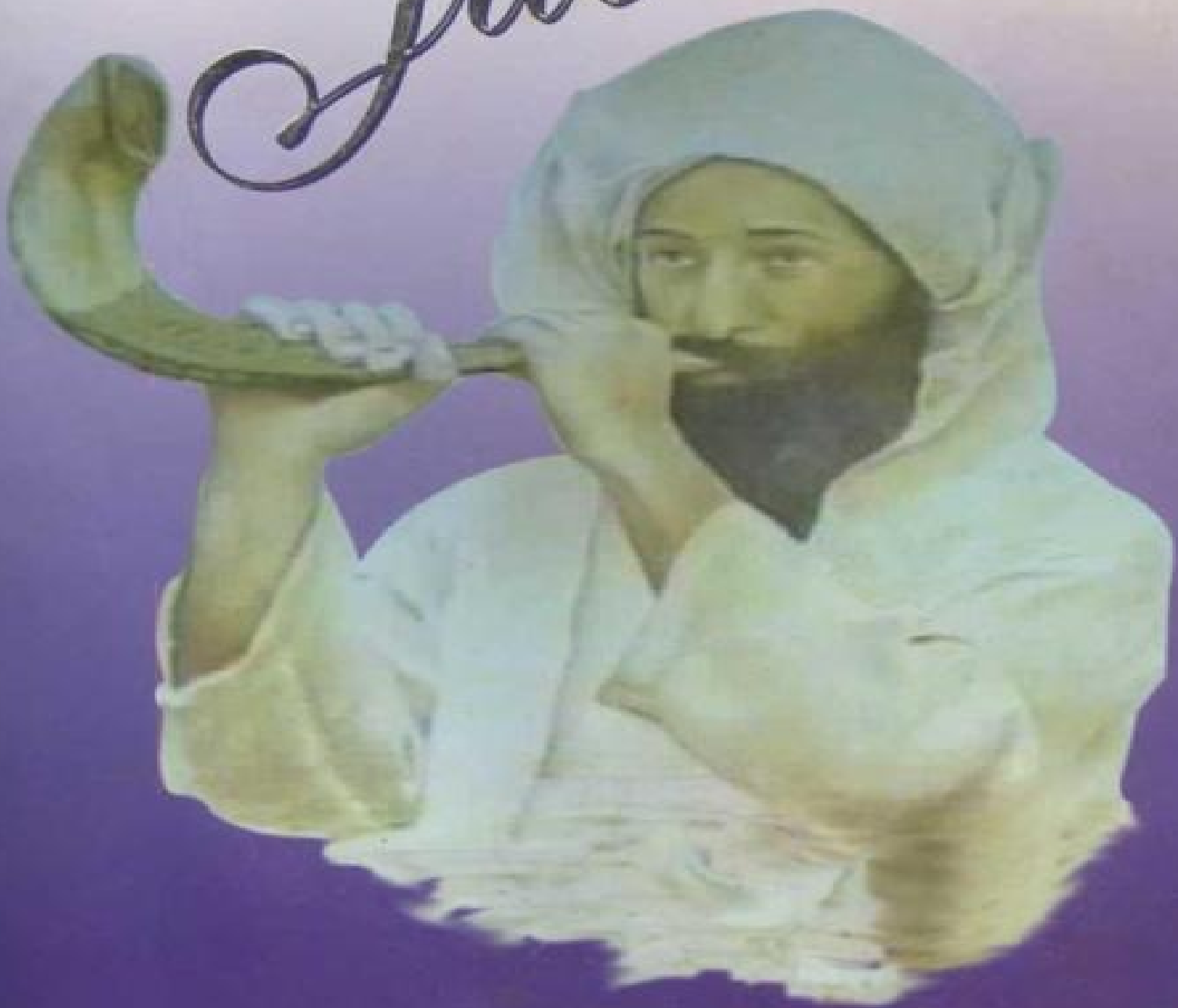
DECREEING YOUR *Jubilee*



PERRY STONE JR.

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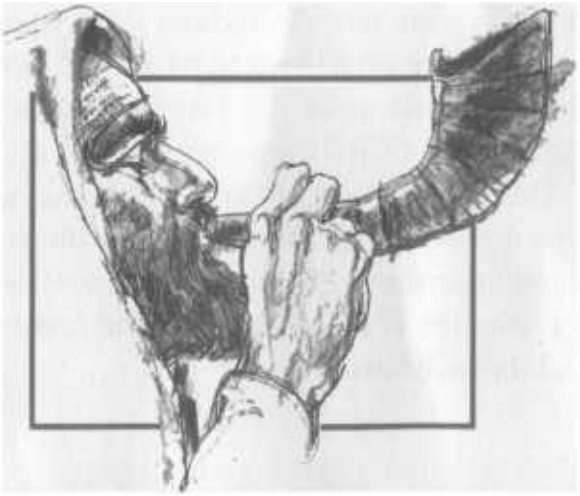


Introduction

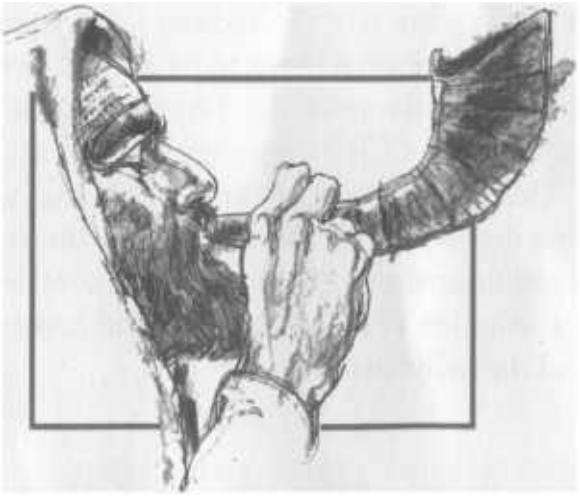
In the year 70 AD, the Roman tenth legion encircled the city of Jerusalem, tore an opening in the city walls, stormed the Temple Mount, and burned the city and the Holy Temple to the ground. The gold furniture was carted off to the city of Rome, along with thousands of Jewish slaves. Since that time, the Jewish nation was occupied by various Gentile forces. That all changed, however, in 1948. It was in that year that one of the greatest miracles of modern history occurred. On May 14th, 1948, a date preordained by God, Israel was restored as a nation among the nations.

For over 1900 years, this land no larger than the size of New Jersey was called Palestine. The word Palestine is a derivative of the word "Philistine". This was the name the land was given by the Romans during the Roman occupation. Even in modern times, the British refer to the land as Palestine. Yet, in 1948, when David Ben Gurion announced the establishment of a Jewish state, he used the name ISRAEL and not Palestine. All of the ancient prophecies concerning the restoration of the land refer to it as Israel and not Palestine.

In the year 1998, Israel will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary as a modern nation. So, this is the time of Jubilee. The year of Jubilee was decreed by God to occur every fifty years. During this time of Jubilee, the land was given rest; the Hebrew slaves were permitted to go free; and the land returned back to its original owners. While meditating on the importance of this fifty year prophetic cycle, I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Tell my people to begin declaring their own Jubilee!" This book will reveal the principle that what affects Israel in the natural

realm will be repeated in the realm of the Spirit. When you understand this, you will see how the Jubilee in the natural is a reflection of the Jubilee that God desires to send to the Church and the individual believer.

Decreeing Your Jubilee



The Celebrations of Israel

God loves to throw a party! He likes to see His people participating in a celebration that brings joy and spiritual increase. We can realize this by understanding the establishment of the seven feasts of Israel. Each year there were seven major feasts that the Hebrew people celebrated. Some lasted for one full day, and others lasted for up to one week.

We in the west are familiar with Thanksgiving, Christmas and the time we call Easter. Yet, these three celebrations have been blurred by commercialism and greed. For instance, Christmas has become a giant money-making season for retailers. As early as September, stores target consumers by tempting them with trees, ornaments, gifts and food. The true meaning of this celebration has been lost. The simplicity of the occasion has become a burden as families go into debt to enjoy two hours of opening expensive gifts. Yet, our God has set aside seven times a year when Jews could enjoy the family, the food, and the spiritual application of the seven feasts.

The feasts centered around the time of seed planting, harvest and rain. Below is a list of the seven feasts of Israel:

1. Passover (the 14th day of the 1st month)
2. Unleavened Bread (the 15th-21st day of the 1st month)
3. Feast of First Fruits (the 1st Sunday after Passover)
4. The Feast of Pentecost (50 days after First Fruits)
5. The Feast of Trumpets (the 1st day of the 7th month)
6. The Day of Atonement (the 10th day of the 7th month)

7. The Feast of Tabernacles (begins the 15th-21st day of the 7th month)

During the course of a year, the spring, summer and fall months were times when the Hebrews enjoyed spiritual celebrations. These feasts were reminders of past victories and prophecies of future blessings. *Pesach,* or Passover, was a reminder of the night the Hebrews came out of Egypt. *Chag haMatzot* or the Feast of Unleavened Bread reminded them of their forefathers who left Egypt in such haste that they were forced to make dough without leaven. The Feast of First Fruits, *Hag haBikkurim,* commemorated the first fruits of the barley harvest, but it was also a reminder of the day Moses and the Israelites arrived on the other side of the Red Sea, free from the bondage of Pharaoh! The Feast of Pentecost, *Shavuot,* was a celebration reminding Israel of the time Moses received the tablets of the law on Mount Sinai. The Feast of Trumpets, also known as *Rosh Hashana,* was the beginning of the Jewish civil year. *Yom Kippur,* the Day of Atonement, occurred once a year and was set aside as the time the High Priest went alone into the Holy of Holies to make a blood atonement for himself, the Levites and the people.

The final feast was the Feast of Tabernacles, also known as *Sukkot,* which means "booths". This feast lasted for one week. During this time, the Hebrew people built booths beside their homes and lived in them for seven days. This feast reminded the Hebrews of the time their fathers spent forty years in the wilderness living in tents underneath the stars.

These seven feasts also have a prophetic fulfillment. Christ was crucified on the eve of Passover, buried in the tomb as the "sinless lamb of God" (without leaven) at the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and appeared to His disciples on the third day after His death, which was the Feast of First Fruits. The church was birthed fifty days later on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). It was there that the Holy Spirit came down on Mt. Zion and wrote the law in the hearts of believers.

There is still a future application and prophetic fulfillment yet to be realized for the three fall feasts. Many believe the "Rapture" could occur during the Feast of Trumpets. The Day of Atonement was a time God judged the sins of Israel. Some believe this prophetic pattern could refer to the time of tribulation called "Jacob's trouble" in the book of Jeremiah. Some feel this may also be fulfilled when Jesus judges the nations who have gathered at Jerusalem, where He will divide the sheep from the goats.

The final feast, the Feast of Tabernacles, could refer to the time of the resurrection of the dead and the time we, as believers, live in heaven for seven

years while the seven year tribulation is occurring on the earth. However, it may see its ultimate fulfillment at the dawn of the Messianic age when the King of Kings tabernacles among His people.

Besides the seven major festivals, there are several minor festivals and holidays. *Purim* and *Hanukkah* are examples of minor festivals that are celebrated each year. Each month

Rosh Chodesh, "head of the month", is observed. This marks the beginning of the new lunar cycle and the new Hebrew month. Each week *Shabbat* "Sabbath" is observed by abstaining from all work and dedicating the time to God and family All of these minor holidays and observances hold historical as well as prophetic significance. Most of us are not familiar with some of these celebrations and have missed out on the enriched principles they teach.

One such celebration often overlooked is the Year of Jubilee. The Year of Jubilee is ordained in Leviticus 25. In fact, fifty-five verses are assigned to this passage. I want to share several verses then explain the general meaning of the Year of Jubilee.

"And thou shalt number seven Sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; And the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years."

"And thou shalt cause the trumpet of Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all the land."

-Leviticus 25:8-9

Numbering the Years

For Israel's population, every seventh day at the close of the week was called a day of rest — a Shabbat or Sabbath. God instructed Israel to number the years in the same manner. In relation to the land, God said to number seven years, and during the seventh year the land was to rest. No farmer was to toil in the field or sow seed in the ground. When the sabbatical year had ended, farming resumed. After another six years of planting and harvest, the same process was repeated during the seventh year. This numbering of years continued through the forty-ninth year. Then, in the fiftieth year on the Day of Atonement, a silver trumpet was sounded declaring a Jubilee throughout the land.



The priests blowing the silver trumpets at the Temple

The Amazing Practical Aspects

There were several practical reasons to allow the land to rest every seventh year. First, there were often swarms of locusts sweeping the Middle East devouring everything in their sight (see Joel 1:1-5). These insects have an incubation period of seven years. By allowing the land to rest during the sabbatical year, and assuming this seventh year coincided with the arrival of the locusts, it is possible that Israel's farms lay empty when the locusts showed up to eat. Therefore, they would travel to other nations and devour their increase.

Secondly, farming year after year takes the nutrients from the soil. By allowing the land to lay fallow and allowing the fruit from the trees to fall to the ground and rot, it restored much needed nutrients to the topsoil. The Sabbatical

year allowed the land to rest and to replenish itself. What the Sabbatical year was to the land, the Year of Jubilee was to the people.

A Time To Rest

Since the celebration of Jubilee occurred every fifty years, most people would only celebrate a Jubilee once in their lifetime, depending upon when they were born. If you were born near a time of Jubilee and lived to be seventy, it is conceivable that you could experience two Jubilee celebrations. More than likely though, Jubilee is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Everyone was at complete rest during the Year of Jubilee. There were to be no struggles, either financially, materially or spiritually. It was a time of joy, freedom, celebration and release. In fact, God sent such an increase of produce from the fields during the forty-ninth year that the entire nation could eat from that increase during the fiftieth year! Once the Year of Jubilee had been declared, there were several important *releases* that immediately occurred after the silver trumpet sounded.

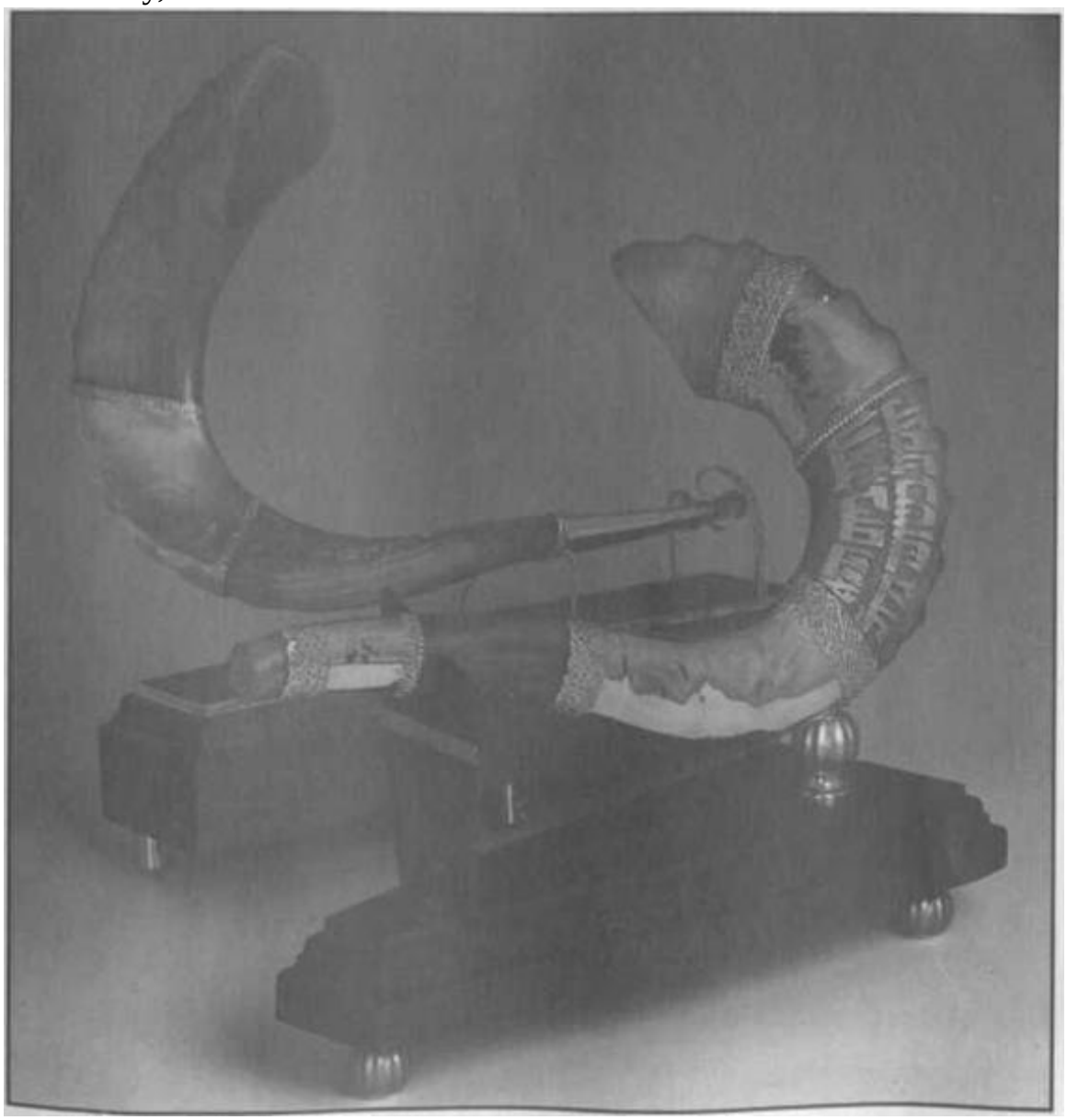
- All Hebrew slaves were permitted to return to their families.
- The Hebrews were not to oppress one another.
- Property which had been sold could be redeemed by its original owner.
- It was not permissible to charge interest to a poor man or stranger.
- People were to dwell in a land of safety.

There is an interesting point that should be made about the laws of Jubilee. The Levitical proclamation dealt specifically with property. If you were to purchase a field, what you were actually buying was the potential to grow forty-nine crops—not the land itself. The custom of Jubilee allowed the original owners to redeem the land that once belonged to their family. When a person wanted to redeem the family's land, the eldest family heir would present the family will to the elders of the city. The seals would be broken and if the claim was legitimate, the land would be turned over to the rightful owner. This was God's intention, for in Leviticus 25:16, He instructed them that the land must not be sold permanently because *" the land is Mine and you are but My tenants".*

When Jesus takes the seven sealed book out of the hand of God in Revelation 5, it is a Jubilee will. The "Lamb of God" is getting ready to redeem the earth back to God. Jesus is introduced in Revelation 5 as the "lamb slain". His death and resurrection made Him worthy to become the man who would redeem men back to God.

A Time of Redemption

In our Bible, the first occurrence of the word "Jubilee" is the Hebrew term *teruah.* Actually, *teruah* is a series of short



Gold and silver-plated shofarot (ram's horns)

trumpet blasts on the *shofar.* Out of the twenty-two times "Jubilee" appears in the Scripture, twenty-one times it is translated from the Hebrew word *yovel. Yovel* literally means "the shofar of a ram". The ram's horn, the shofar, is a symbol of repentance and redemption. Tradition states that when Abraham slew the ram caught in the thicket, he preserved the two ram's horns. One of these horns was sounded at the giving of the law at Sinai. This event marked the beginning of Israel's *return* to the land that God had promised to them — the

land where His presence would dwell. In essence, this represents repentance, for the true meaning of repentance is not "turning", but "returning". The second ram's horn is to be sounded on the day of final *redemption,* when all departed saints are resurrected. So the term *yovel* or Jubilee alludes to returning, repentance, and redemption. The shofars used in announcing Jubilee were silver. This is another allusion to redemption for in the Scripture, silver always represents "redemption".

Jesus the Jubilee Man

When Jesus returned to Nazareth after His forty days of fasting, He stood at the front of the synagogue and read from Isaiah 61, a prophecy concerning the Messiah. This, Christ's first sermon in a public setting, is recorded in Luke 4:18-19.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

-Luke 4:18-19

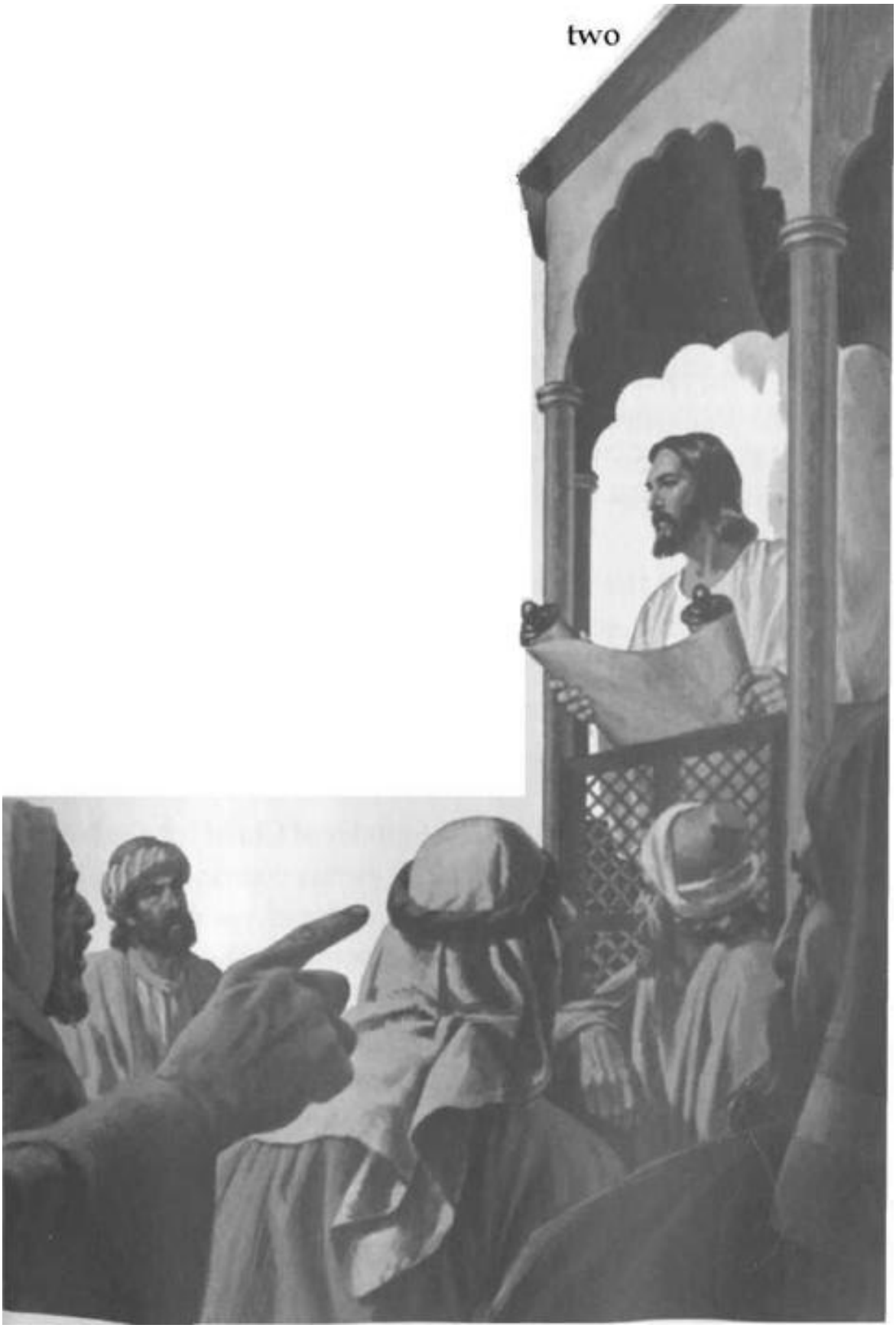
When reading from Isaiah 61:1-2, one can see that Jesus purposely omitted part of Isaiah 61:2. It reads:

" To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and ***the day*** *of* ***vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn..."***

Jesus declared the "acceptable year of the Lord", and then shut the book. He said nothing about the "day of vengeance".

Why?

two



The ancient rabbis believed in messiahs. One is called "Messiah Ben Joseph" (Messiah the son of Joseph), and the other is called "Messiah Ben David" (Messiah the son of David). They believed the first messiah would suffer, and the second messiah would rule. They saw this theme in the writing of the prophets and thought they were two different persons.

The fact is that Jesus is the only Messiah, and He will appear in two different roles. The first time He came to suffer and die for the sins of the world. The second time!

He appears He is called the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah" (Revelation 5:5). As a lamb He died, but as the lion He will rule! When He returns as the lion He will roar from Zion! He will rule the nations "with a rod of iron". He will come *"in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

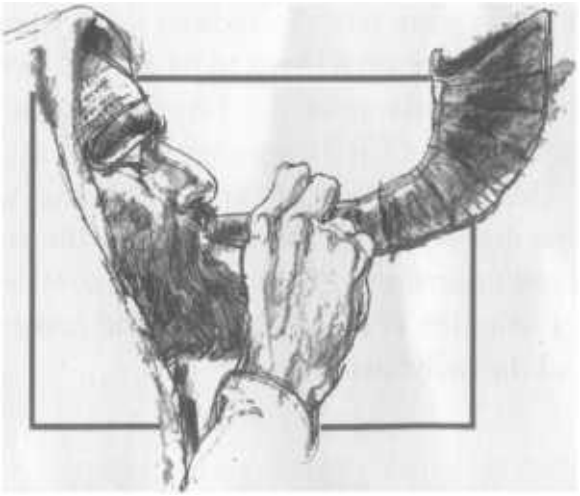
Yet, the first time Christ came, He came to proclaim the "acceptable year of the Lord"! This is a term that alludes to the year of Jubilee! He was telling the Jews, "I am the *fulfillment* of what the prophets wrote, and I am your Jubilee!" This is why He closed the book immediately after declaring the acceptable year of the Lord. Jesus did not preach a message of vengeance to His audience in Nazareth, because He did not appear the first time as a Messiah of wrath and judgment. He is called the "Lamb of God". In Isaiah 53, the Bible says, "... *he is as a lamb to the slaughter and as sheep before her shearers is dumb yet he openeth not his mouth"* . It is interesting to note that the word "sheep" in this verse is the Hebrew word *yovel* — Jubilee. Christ came the first time as the Lamb to declare *redemption* to mankind. He did not come to *"condemn the world, but came that the world through Him might be saved"*. He was full of mercy and grace. He came to:

- Preach the gospel to the poor (Luke 4:18)
- Heal the brokenhearted (Luke 4:18)
- Preach deliverance to the captives (Luke 4:18)
- Declare recovery of sight to the blind (Luke 4:18)
- Preach the Jubilee of the Lord (Luke 4:19)

According to Gordon Lindsey, founder of Christ for the Nations in Dallas, Texas, many major Biblical events coincided with Jubilee years. For example, the major judges of Israel ruled and delivered the nation during times of Jubilee. Another author, Grant Jeffrey, believes that Jesus preached His first sermon

(Luke 4) during Israel's 30th Jubilee! From the time of Moses to Christ was about 1500 years. A Jubilee fell every fifty years, which means Jesus would have begun His ministry during the 30th Jubilee! The timing of His message in Luke 4 illustrates that Jesus was the Jubilee personified. In essence, Jesus was declaring to the people, "You don't have to wait for fifty years to receive your miracle." He was announcing, "Now is the time of Jubilee. I am proclaiming that the acceptable year of the Lord is here. The blind can see, the lame can be healed, and the captive can be released today! The Jubilee *(yovel)* is here — in person!"

Normally, the silver trumpet was blown on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, to announce the beginning of Jubilee. Yom Kippur was the sixth feast of Israel. In Scripture, six is the number of man. Historically this sixth feast was an ominous one. It was the day that sealed the fate of all Israel! The Day of Atonement was when the High Priest entered into the Holy Place to make a blood atonement for the nation. It was on that day that God decided who would live and who would die. For Jubilee to begin on the Day of Atonement is a striking contrast. Jubilee was a time of release and rest that lasted for an entire year. So, when Jesus, the Jubilee man, showed up two thousand years ago, it was not to announce the day of judgment but to deliver, restore and to liberate. That same deliverance is available to us today and every day until Christ returns.



Four Prophetic Parallels

An area of study that has always intrigued me is the area of prophetic parallels. The definition of a prophetic parallel is this — a prophetic Scripture that has a literal fulfillment as well as a spiritual application.

For example, when Gabriel warned Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt, the gospel writer quotes from Hosea 2 and points to its fulfillment being the action of Joseph. Yet, if one reads Hosea 11:1, it says, *"I have called my son* (Israel) *out of Egypt."* The prophecy is speaking about how God brought Israel (the nation) out of bondage in the time of Moses. Yet, the writer applies this Scripture, which had a natural fulfillment, to Jesus. When we consider the parallel between Israel and Jesus, then we can understand how a reference to natural Israel can be applied to Jesus. For example. if I give you these clues and asked you who I am speaking about, what would be your answer?

• Without a miracle in his mother's womb his birth would have been impossible.

- As an infant he was called the son of God.
- As an infant he was taken to Egypt where his life was preserved
- He left Egypt and returned to the promised land where his fame spread abroad
- He was despised and rejected by those who were around him
- He was killed by his enemies
- He was raised again from the dead and will never die again

Most would reply that I am referring to Jesus. It is true that all seven parts

of the riddle apply to Christ, yet they also apply to Israel.

- Without a miracle in Rebecca's womb, Jacob's birth would have been impossible
- Israel was called the son of God
- Israel was carried into Egypt where his life was preserved for a season
- Israel left Egypt and returned to the promised land where his fame spread abroad
- Israel was despised and rejected by those around him
- Israel was put to death by his enemies.
- Israel was raised up in 1948 and will never be destroyed again.

While Israel is the fulfillment of this riddle, Jesus is a direct parallel of this riddle as well. This is an example of a primary and secondary meaning of a prophecy.

There is also an application for the natural and the spiritual. For example, there is a "natural seed of Abraham" (the Jews), and there is a "spiritual seed of Abraham", which consists of born again believers from around the world.

There is a natural "Zion" located in Jerusalem, Israel, and there is a spiritual "Zion", which is the local body of believers who "ascend into the presence of the Lord" every Lord's day.

Likewise, there was a natural temple that once sat on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and there is a spiritual Temple of God, that is the body of each believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and that the Spirit of God dwells in you."

-1 Corinthians 3:16

When we understand the natural, we are able to comprehend the spiritual. First the natural, then the spiritual.



David Ben Gurion announces the establishment of the modern state of Israel on May 14, 1948.

Modern Prophecies Fulfilled

It appears that what involves Israel in the natural also has a parallel repercussion in the realm of the spirit. For example,

I am going to give you four major dates in the progression of modern Israel and demonstrate how, during these same time periods, amazing parallels were occurring in the church.

The Miracle of 1948

When one traces the genealogies found in Genesis, revealing the time from Adam to Abraham, we discover there were 1,948 years from Adam to the birth of Abraham. From the birth of the second man Adam (Jesus) to the restoration of the seed of Abraham (Israel), was exactly 1,948 years (1948).

The year 1948 was marked by the restoration of Israel as a nation among the nations. Remember, this was accomplished after the seven year holocaust and at the end of World War II. The British mandate gave the Jews a homeland, yet this territory had actually always belonged to the natural seed of Abraham.

The land had been taken over by the Romans. The Jews were dispersed subsequently, and settled in various nations over the four corners of the earth.

Through the centuries the land was occupied by various gentile powers and influences, including the Romans, Byzantines, Muslims, Turks, and British. The British mandate was an official paper allowing the Jews to return to Palestine and create a land where they could live. It was in reality the restoration of Israel that had been prophesied by the prophets of the Bible.

It was during the same time period in 1948 that a major revival came to the United States of America. There were many men of various denominations who spearheaded a great awakening from coast to coast. Men such as Billy Graham and Oral Roberts became household names, although they were from opposite ends of the denominational spectrum.

Beginning in 1948, a revival known as the "restoration revival" began to sweep the nations as men set up large tents seating 15 to 20 thousand people. In many of the tents there were astonishing miracles of healing that were reported, many of which were confirmed in the early stages of the revival. This revival lasted for about seven years and began to slowly fade out. The point is, it coincided with the restoration of modern Israel.

The Miracle of 1967

The second major date in Israel's modern history was in 1967. This miracle involved the holy city of Jerusalem. Although Israel was declared a nation and was recognized as a nation by the world, the city of Jerusalem was divided between the nation of Israel and the kingdom of Jordan. East Jerusalem was Arab, and West Jerusalem was the home of the Jewish population. There were people called "Palestinians" who lived in both areas, some of whom were considered citizens of Israel.

Most Jews never believed that Jerusalem would one day be united and become the capital of Israel. It was during June of 1967 that the Six Day War broke out. In this decisive war, the enemies of Israel were defeated, and Jerusalem was reunited as the capital of Israel. Once the Jews captured the Western Wall and the Temple Mount, the large cement wall that had divided the city was destroyed. The year 1967 marked a breakthrough for the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. The barriers that had separated the Jews from the sight of their ancient Temple were removed.

Spiritually, the late 1960's was the turning point in the church as it relates to God tearing down denominational barriers. Those issues, that had once divided the people of God, were slowly being removed. During this time, people from

various denominations began to join together and unite



Israeli soldiers at the Western Wall after liberating the Old City.

around the gospel message of Jesus Christ in what has been called the Charismatic movement.

The Breakthrough in 1989-90

During the decades of the '1980's, our nation was under the leadership of Ronald Reagan. Many Christians have not heard the story of how George Otis, a minister, prayed for, then, Governor Reagan in 1970 at the Governor's mansion in California. Reagan was hosting a meeting with several ministers and dignitaries, Pat Boone among them. At the close of the meeting where Bible prophecy was discussed, Otis was leading a prayer for the Reagans. A prophecy was given stating that if Reagan would obey the Lord, he would one day be president of the United States.

Oddly enough, on the other side of the world, another man of destiny was being groomed for leadership. His name was Mikhail Gorbachev. Gorbachev assumed leadership in the Soviet Union during the 1980's. During his administration, Soviet Jews were granted permission to return to Israel. Great

religious freedom broke forth as the barriers began to crumble. These events occurred just after the breakdown of the Berlin Wall, which separated East and West Berlin. In the late 1980's, a prophecy surfaced in the West that was reported to have been given in the Soviet Union in the 1930's. The prophecy was in the hands of the bishop of an unregistered Pentecostal Church in the Soviet Union. The bishop reported that in the 1930's, a woman prophesied a "word from the Lord" stating that in the last days a leader would come to the Soviet Union who's name would be Mikhail. He would be recognized by a birthmark on his forehead. During this man's time, great freedom of religion would once again come to Russia. This freedom would last for a short season, and then repression would come.

I was also told by a Texas business man who visits Russia, that Mr. Gorbachev's mother was an Orthodox Christian and would bring him birthday cakes with scriptures on them. Another insider reported that others informed Gorbachev that he was raised up by God to assist in the release of Soviet Jews back to Israel and to assist in the freedom of Christians in the Soviet Union.

For whatever reasons, Mikhail Gorbachev was instrumental in bringing about a great restoration for the Jews. Once again, we see in the natural, the captives returning back to their homeland. Since about 1990, there has been a steady stream of Jews making *aliyah* "return" to the land of Israel.

The Restoration and the Jews



Russian immigrants arriving at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport

Having traveled in full-time evangelistic work for over twenty years and having ministered in over thirty states and seven foreign countries, I have certainly been exposed to the move of God. I have witnessed firsthand how God has brought back the many people who had drifted away from the church and the Presence of God. I am amazed at seeing the large number of people who have been out of church for many years now being pulled like a magnet back to the House of God. One person told me, "It seems that everyone who has come to this church in the last twenty years and dropped out is coming back!" The captives must be set free!

What we have seen unfold in the natural has its same parallel in the spirit. The natural seed of Abraham is returning to the land of their father, and the spiritual seed that has been captive and in bondage is returning to the "Father's house". Each group is experiencing their own freedom from past bondage.

The Miracle in 1993

The year 1993 marked the signing of the Peace Agreement between the Palestinian people and the Jewish leaders in Israel. This agreement, which was signed on the lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C., marked the turning point of the relationship between the descendants of Ishmael and the descendants of Isaac.

While people were caught up in the prophetic moment of what was unfolding in Washington, there was something occurring in Israel that was prophetically more important than the signatures on paper in Washington.

The Clash of the Rains

Those familiar with Israel know that the land has been barren and dry for centuries. When Mark Twain visited the Holy Land years ago, he commented that it was the most "God-forsaken place" he had ever visited.

In the mid 1980's, I stood on Mount Nebo in the country of Jordan overlooking the plains of Pisgah and the Promised Land. I viewed the Holy Land that Moses did almost 3500 years ago. As I looked over the land before me, I noticed there was a small green patch surrounded by dessert. The green patch was the oasis of Jericho. When I returned to Jordan exactly one year later, there were several green patches. Each year as I stood on Mount Nebo, I noticed that the desert was beginning to turn green. I realized that the prophecy of Isaiah 35 was coming to pass. It states that, *" The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose"* Isaiah 35:1.

Israel had always had a shortage of water, yet, in the early 1990's they began to use updated irrigation systems. They also began drilling and found long-hidden underground water sources, but the greatest miracle that occurred in 1993 dealt with the latter rains.

The Early and Latter Rains

There are two main rainy seasons in Israel. One begins in the winter months and continues into the early spring, and the other begins in the fall and moves toward the winter months. One is called the early rain, and the other is called the latter rain. These are also known as the autumn and the spring rains. These two rainy seasons are separated by several months of hot dry summer weather and very little rain.

In a spiritual sense, rain represents the Holy Spirit. The *coming o*f the rain is a "type" of the *coming* outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Both Joel and James prophesied about this rain which would come.

"Be glad ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month."

-Joel 2:23

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I shall pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

-Joel 2:29

Notice the same theme, worded differently in James 5;

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the Husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receiveth the early and latter rain."

-James 5:7

Remember, Scripture can have a dual application—first the natural, then the spiritual. As we said, Israel has always experienced (except in times of drought) two main wet seasons; one in the spring and one in the fall. These two seasons are always separated by several dry months.

Likewise, every local church experiences seasons of "refreshing" (Acts 3:19). Often, between these seasons of refreshing are seasons of drought. When we understand the principle of natural things manifesting spiritually, then we can remain faithful to the Lord during the "wet times" and during the "dry times". By the natural example, we know that dry seasons will pass with time.

The Prophet Joel predicts something very strange. The Holy Spirit showed Joel that the early and the latter rains would clash together in the first month. Our month of March or April coincides with the first month on the Jewish religious calendar. The first month on the Jewish civil calendar falls during our month of September or October. Joel predicted the early and the latter rain would fall on the same month!

Normally, there is a summer dry spell that affects the entire nation of Israel. In fact, I have known there to be entire months when rain did not fall. In some places, entire years would pass without the precious life-giving liquid of heaven falling upon the parched ground. Yet, in 1993 something very strange happened.

There was a collision of the two rainy seasons. Currently in Israel, rain falls almost on a continual basis. For several years, I have taken groups to tour Israel during the month of November. The first few years there were clear skies and no rain. Now, we are uncertain what the weather will be. While the weather is similar to that of southern California, the rain can come at any time.

Those who study Bible prophecy state that this collision of the rains falling in the same month has never happened before! Areas of Israel, where it has seldom rained, are now seeing clouds form and drops fall on the parched ground. This is a sign of the coming of the Messiah!

We must understand that what begins to happen in the natural has a parallel in the spiritual. Since the outpouring of the rain is considered a pattern of the refreshing of the Holy Spirit and the "outpouring of the Holy Spirit", then how does the year 1993 fit into the prophetic pattern of what God is doing?

The End Time Revival

There are some Christians I call "doubt peddlers and joy killers". They have a "death" mentality. They do not believe that God can manifest His presence in any form today, except when a sinner asks for salvation. They equate every miracle or healing in a local church to some type of deceptive spirit or, at times, even a work of the devil.

While the Bible predicts terrible times and even a great apostasy for the final days, it also predicts a great revival of the Holy Spirit when *"sons and daughters shall prophesy"* (Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:17-18). In fact, Joel said this outpouring would occur "afterward". In the context of Joel 2, the prophet was predicting the restoration of Israel as a nation. He stated that after this restoration, God would pour out His Spirit. Joel continues to say this manifestation would conclude *"before the great and terrible day of the Lord"* (Joel 2:31). In other words, there is a promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit after the restoration of Israel and before the great tribulation! This happens to be the time in which we are presently living!

The collision of the two rains began in 1993. Israel is now experiencing rain in areas where water has been rare. From 1993 to the present, there has been an "awakening" in areas of Canada, England and America. Revivals in selective areas are continuing for many weeks and months. In one town in Florida, a local church revival has continued for several years, drawing crowds of up to 10,000 a night and as many as one million visitors over the last few years. While the revival has its critics, the fruit of over 150,000 souls coming to Christ cannot be ignored nor denied. In fact, throughout church history, great revivals have always been criticized.

While in Israel, I asked a Jewish friend the difference between the "early and latter rains". He stated that during one rain season the clouds spread over the entire land, and a steady stream of rain follows. During the other, it is a "selective rain". It would fall hard and heavy in certain areas while other areas

would have little, if any, rain.

This pattern is revealed in a passage that states that God would cause it to rain in one city and not rain in another, so the people where it was not raining would travel to the city where it was raining and seek water (Amos 4:7-8). In the spiritual realm this is happening now! Christians are traveling from church to church and city to city looking for a place where the freedom and refreshing of the Holy Spirit can be experienced.

Less Dry Seasons

As the Holy Spirit begins His final work on the earth, the intensity of His presence and the awareness of His operations will increase in the church. Since the kingdom of God is "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost", then the joy, peace and anointing of the Spirit should increase in the Body of Christ. Therefore, the stale, dry, lifeless, liturgical church services should become less common, and the presence of God should increase! This means less dry seasons and more times of refreshing.

According to James, the fruit of the earth ripens because of the rains. The fruit is the souls that need salvation and the people who need God's touch in their lives! Without the Holy Spirit, church activity becomes mundane, formal and lifeless. The more "rain" there is, the more fruit! James said, *"The husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth and has long patience for it until he received both the early and the latter rain."* (James 5:7) This brings me to the year 1998.

Calendar Confusion

Before we discuss 1998 and its affiliation with Jubilee, I want to address the confusion that sometimes arises with the different calendars. First of all, we need to realize that there is a big difference between the Jewish calendar and the one we use, the Gregorian calendar. However, it would seem that there is a prophetic calendar as well. I believe that God uses all three. He uses the Gregorian calendar to speak to the Gentiles, the Jewish calendar for the Jews and the Prophetic calendar for everyone. The following demonstrates the reason I feel we need to address this.

Most sources cite the Jewish year 5754 (corresponding to our 1993-94) as the last Sabbatical year (Leviticus 25:3-4). What this means is that obviously, 1998 cannot be a literal Jubilee as far as the seven sabbatical cycles go. Yet, we know that the birth of the nation of Israel was a major prophetic event that initiated a prophetic calendar. The Gregorian year 1948 (corresponding to the

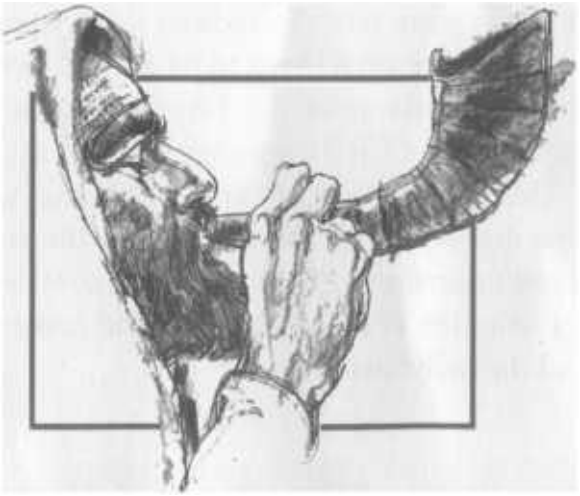
Hebrew year 5708) was the year that initiated that prophetic cycle. So, when we refer to 1998 as a Jubilee year, we are likening it as such in the sense that it has been *fifty* years since the rebirth of the nation of Israel and, Biblically, fifty has always alluded to the Jubilee.

1998 and Beyond

To be exact, May 14, 1998 will be the day to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the nation of Israel. The tiny little nation will experience its first Jubilee, in the modern era. Remember, the Jubilee is a time of freedom, release and rest.

Over the years, God's people have been sowing their financial seed, and now is the time to see the harvest come in. Ministers have been planting spiritual seed without seeing the results, but God is going to bring supernatural increase to your life! Others, like Samson, have been "grinding in the enemy's prison house". You feel blind and bound and have been going around in circles. Life is a bore, and nothing is making your efforts worthwhile or effective. But this is the time of Jubilee! It is time for you to be released from the very things that have controlled you and kept you in bondage.

God told the Hebrews that they were not to "oppress one another" during the time of Jubilee. The season of freedom from oppression and depression has now come! Remember, the promises of God do not work just because they are in the Bible. They work when they are believed and put in motion by our inner faith and our public confession.



Decreeing Your Personal Jubilee

There is an interesting Scripture recorded in the book of Job that says,

" *Thou shalt decree a thing and it shall be established unto thee, and the light shall shine upon thy ways."*

-Job 22:28

This statement was made by one of Job's friends during the worst crisis a human being could experience. Job had lost his possessions, his ten children and his health (Job 1 and 2). From a worldly perspective, there was nothing left worth living for. Job was sitting in a dirt pile scratching burning boils with broken pottery. Yet, in the midst of his troubles, his friend exhorts him to decree his jubilee!

The word "decree" means to make a proclamation. In Hebrew, the root word is *amar*, which means "to speak". So by extension, this verse could say, "Thou shalt decree a word." The Greek language has two words that are most commonly used for "word". One word is *logos*, and the other is *rhema*. There are several scriptures where the word *rhema* is used.

"And take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (rhema) of God."

-Ephesians 6:17

According to W. E. Vines, the Greek word *rhema* is "not the whole Bible, as such, but a specific word given by God for a specific situation at a specific time." We would call a *rhema* word one that God burns into your heart. Have you ever been reading the Bible when suddenly you saw a verse or a word in a verse that seemed to leap off the pages? Suddenly, God gave you an encouraging

word or a promise from that one verse. Faith was instantly placed in your heart, and you were able to believe God for the solution to your trouble or problem. What happened to you was that the Holy Spirit quickened a word to your spirit. This word, in turn, quickened your faith. At that moment, your faith was not a mental agreement of something God said, but a living active faith. When God gives a word such as this, it is up to us to decree it by faith.

In this verse, the word "a thing" is also interesting. The Hebrew word "thing" is *yesh*, and means "substance". When God give us a rhema word, it is a word of substance. This alludes to that thing God gives which burns in your heart.

The Word Must Be Revealed

Not everyone who hears the same message responds in the same way. Take twelve people and put them in a room. Open a Bible and begin to preach for two hours. You will discover they all respond in a different way. Some are soaking up every word. Others have other things on their mind. One or two may have a hundred questions on what you preached. The difference comes as a person allows the

Word of God to quicken their spirit, thus allowing the Holy Ghost to burn the word into their heart.

When Jesus walked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they did not recognize Him, because their eyes "were holden" (Luke 24:16). There was something that was restraining them from actually perceiving who was in their midst. Afterwards, they said,

"Did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us?" (Luke 24:32)

When the Word of God begins to "burn within you", it is tangible evidence that the Word is no longer a message from the paper, but the Word is now alive in your own heart and spirit! This is called the "revelation of the Word". The word "revelation" means the "unveiling of something that was hidden". The carnal mind cannot understand spiritual things. God is not trying to withhold spiritual truth from you, but spiritual truth must be discerned and understood by the Holy Spirit, requiring a "revelation" or an unveiling of the Word.

- Reading the word gives you knowledge
- The Holy Spirit gives you understanding
- Receiving and living according to the Word results in obtaining wisdom

Decreeing a "Thing"

Several years ago during the "Word of Faith" movement, there was a

message being preached across North America that placed a strong emphasis upon the power of confession. Ministers associated with the faith movement taught that you must "confess before you possess".

At the same time, I was in the early stages of my ministry as a teenage evangelist, traveling across the nation holding youth revivals. Therefore, I was spending a lot of my time studying the Bible as well as continuing my education through a Christian college. During this time, there was much confusion and contention in the body of Christ concerning the faith message and the importance of confession. Some went to one extreme and emphasized that confession was the only avenue to spiritual blessing. It was impossible to "get it unless you say it". On the other hand, others mocked the message as a "name it, claim it, blab it, grab it" message.

I have always been one to not take sides, but to search out the Scriptures for myself. I began to understand there was a confession principle in the Scriptures. You could not be saved until you believed with your heart and "confessed with your mouth" the Lord Jesus Christ. At the same time, confession without an understanding of grace is a mere religious formula.

As I began to study the Scriptures, I felt I had seen three levels of confession that were Biblically based.

- Confess your sins to God, (1 John 1:9)
- Confess your faults one to another. (James 5:16)
- Confess the promises in the scripture. (Joshua 1:8)

When we speak about decreeing a thing, what "thing" is the Scripture talking about? Is it "anything" or "everything"? Do we randomly confess what we want? I am reminded of the Scripture, *" God shall give you the desires of your heart,"* (Psalm 37:4). Does this mean God will give you anything you want? Is every desire we have from God? In James we are told God will not answer any prayer where our desire is based upon a lust of the flesh.

"Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

-James 4:3

I heard of a case where a man thought he married the wrong woman and saw and desired another man's wife. He actually asked close friends to pray that God would kill his wife and the other woman's husband in order for him to "do God's will" and marry the "right woman". This was not God's will, nor would God answer this prayer of lust (James 4:2-3).

One man came to our revival years ago asking me to pray that the doctor

would find him unfit to work due to a major injury he had received on the job. Since he was unable to work effectively and had a large family, I prayed with him that his finances would be released.

He came to me a few months after he began receiving assistance and asked me to pray that God would completely heal him so he could get out and fish and work in the yard and enjoy his early retirement. I asked him if God healed him, would he give the money back and go back to work. He said, "NO", and I said, "I am not praying for you!" He became angry, but I felt if God healed him, and he was taking the extra income from an injury that was no longer there, he would be acting in a dishonest manner.

The "desires of your heart" that the Psalm refers to are desires that God places within you. When God places within you an idea, a dream or a thought, then God will give you, if you walk in obedience, the desires that HE has planted within you. When you "decree a thing", you must be in agreement with the revealed Word of God. You can decree, "My family will be saved," because you know it is not God's will that any perish, but that all come to God through repentance. You also know that *"you shall be saved, and your house"* (Acts 16:31).

You can begin to confess that God is your supply when you hear the Word say, *"My God shall supply all my needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19). Confession is the verbal acknowledgment of what has been placed within your heart and spirit. Confession is a public testimony that you agree with the promises of God.

The Decision Against Job

Job was in a mess. This wealthy man had lost his wealth, his health, his home and his ten children. Yet, in the midst of the trial, a word came saying that he would have "plenty of gold and silver if he would pay his vow and decree a thing". Was this a true word? If we examine the final chapter of the book, we read where the *"Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before",* (Job 42:10).

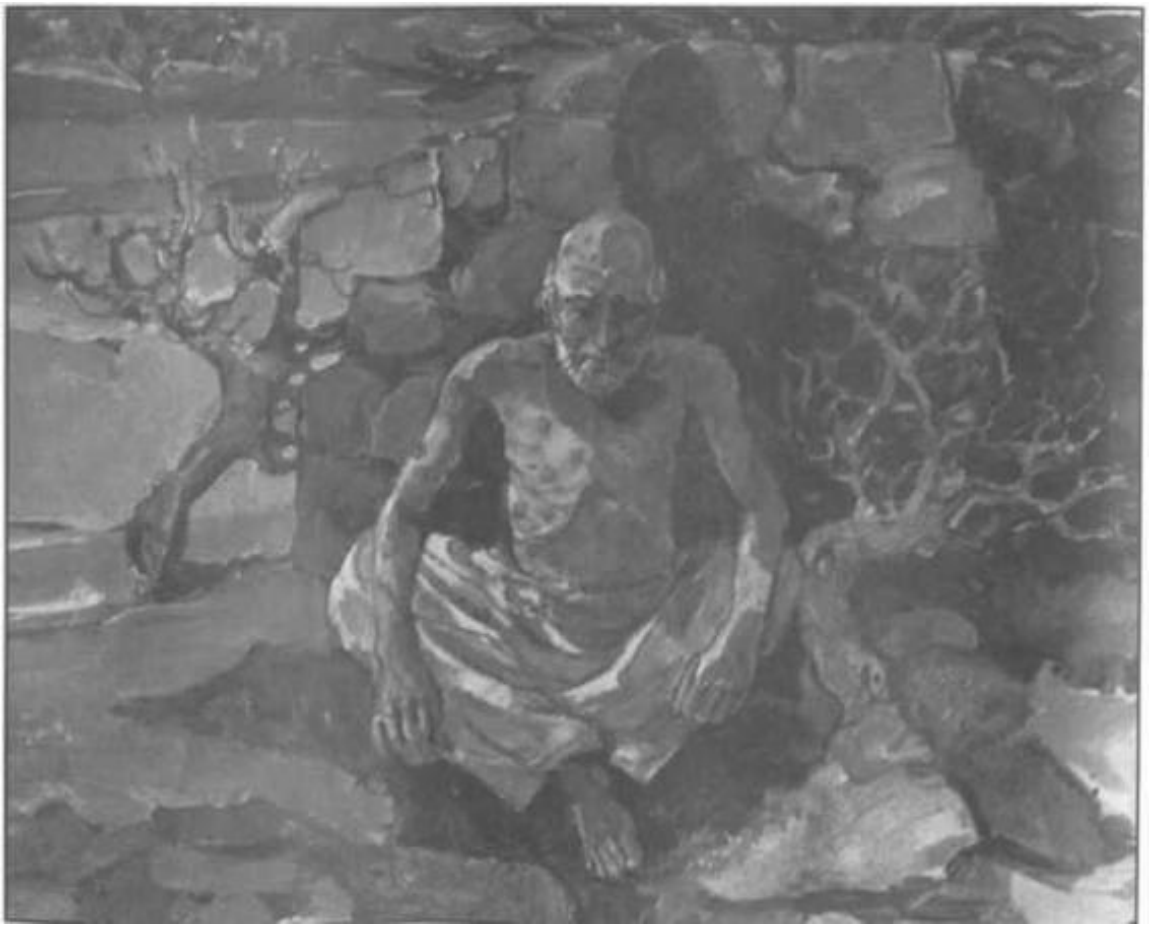
Job 42:11 reveals that Job's brothers and sisters came to him, and *"every man gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold."* This gold and silver became enough for Job to invest in livestock, and God doubled his blessing in the end of his trial and gave him twice as much in the end. This is interesting, because in the book of Job it says, *"Though thy beginning was small, thy latter end shall be greatly increased"* (Job 8:7). In the midst of the trial Job began to decree and believe that God was going to bring him out of this

difficulty. Job decreed in Job 23:10:

"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

-Job 23:10

Your DECREE can set the promises of God in motion!



Job's decree in Chapter 22 was the beginning of his breakthrough

Decreeing Your Season of Blessing

There are seasons in the lives of the people of God.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

-Ecclesiastes 3:1

Trials and blessings move in seasons. When Christ was being tempted of the devil, Satan departed from Him for "a season" (Luke 4:13). Since 1998 is a season to recognize a golden Jubilee in Israel, we, the body of Christ, need to experience a special Jubilee. We need to decree that the spirit of suicide and oppression will be broken during this season. We need to declare freedom for our family members who are lost and claim that the

chains that bind them will be broken. The Jubilee is a celebration established by God to bring refreshing and release to His people. If the natural seed of

Abraham (the Jews) is going to celebrate a Jubilee, then should not the church (the spiritual seed) expect to experience their own jubilee, as well?

A Season of Spiritual Rest

The Bible tells us that David had fought lions, bears and giants throughout his life (1 Samuel 17:36-37). As a teenager he ran toward Goliath (1 Samuel 17:48), and when he was older, a giant with a new sword almost snuffed out David's life (2 Samuel 21:15-18). Through the years, the battles and hard times had taken their toll. David once said, *"I am this day weak though anointed long"* (2 Samuel 3:39). Most of David's conflict was due to the long war between the house of David and the house of Saul (2 Samuel 3:1). The prophet Daniel reveals that the future antichrist will *"wear out the saints of the most high God"* (Daniel 7:25).

Gideon took three hundred men and defeated an entire army, After the main battle, Gideon's men continued to pursue the enemy for several days. Gideon said, *"We are faint, yet still pursuing"* (Judges 8:4-5).

The spirit of heaviness and weariness has settled over the minds of believers like a dark blanket (Isaiah 60:2, 61:3). People are saved, yet weary; anointed, yet drained. Saints are believing the Scriptures, yet are weak, being worn down by the "little foxes" who continually attempt to spoil the vine. God's people need a season of rest from the warfare. We need relief from the battles. We need to enter into His rest (Hebrews 4:1-3). The rest that I am speaking of is not, "When I die in the sweet by and by and get my home in the sky, my battle will be over!" God desires to give you peace and spiritual rest during special seasons in THIS life! We need a Jubilee miracle and a Jubilee release NOW!

The Bible says God will keep us in "perfect peace" if we keep our minds "stayed" on Him (Isaiah 26:3). In the Hebrew text it reads "shalom, shalom". Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace. So this verse infers that we can receive a double portion of peace. In the English translation it would not be proper to say, "He will keep you in peace, peace." Therefore, the translators used the words "perfect peace". If our mind is "stayed" on the Lord, we can have absolute peace. The Hebrew word translated as "stayed" comes from a word used to describe the center pole of a tent that bears all the weight and responsibility of holding the tent up. The center pole is strong enough to hold the pressure of the entire structure. The implication there is that the Lord is the center pole. We must lean

on the Lord with our mind, body and spirit. We must rest in His presence and allow Him to bear the weight of our problems and circumstances. We must trust Him! I have learned that even when the battle is overwhelming, God is working behind the scenes to give me rest in the midst of the struggle.

Lessons From the Honey Forest

When Saul was battling the Philistines, he commanded his army not to eat anything. This is the worst thing a general could do. Not only do men grow physically tired in battle, but war brings mental stress, as well. Under mental stress a person will either loose their appetite totally, or the desire to eat consumes them as never before. The brain uses more energy when it must reason and think under stressful circumstances.

Saul's son, Jonathan, did not hear his father's command to fast. In the middle of a forest of trees Jonathan found one tree with a swarm of bees buzzing around the bark. It was full of honey. Jonathan took his staff and dipped it in the honey. After tasting it, the Bible says his *"eyes were opened"* (1 Samuel 14:27). Saul was unaware that while Israel was fighting, God was making honey! God had been providing for His army months in advance when the queen bee made her home in that particular tree. God knew that was where the Hebrew soldiers would march through months later! Likewise, God is preparing a weapon and a victory for you in the midst of your circumstances.

When Your Donkey Drops Dead

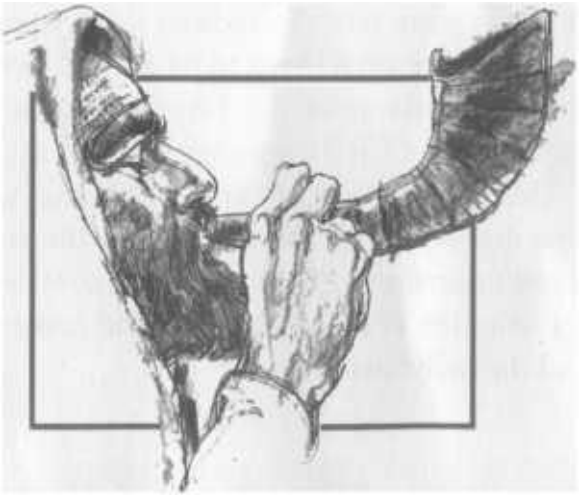
Many years ago, a certain man was walking his donkey. Somewhere along the way the donkey just dropped over dead. I am sure the man was angry and couldn't understand why his animal died in the middle of the road. Regardless, he left the carcass for the buzzards and went his way. The fellow didn't know that months later a mighty man of God would encounter one thousand Philistines in this area, and the only weapon in his hands would be the bleached jawbone of a dead donkey! Don't get mad when your donkey dies. Someone may need the jawbone to whip the devil!

After the battle, Samson thought he would die of thirst. He was weak and tired. God then carved a hollow spot in a rock, and water began to gush out (Judges 15: 16-20). God brought the man of God refreshment in the very place where he had destroyed his enemies.

When the donkey dies and the bees leave your bee hive and head for the forest, remember, God is preparing what you need before you need it!



Samson slays one thousand Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey



The Restoration of All Things

In Acts 3:18-21 we read:

"But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled."

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

"And he shall send Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you."

"Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

This prophecy is a great revelation concerning God's plan for this final age. In Christ's time, the disciples were consumed with the idea of the coming kingdom of the Messiah. Before Christ ascended to heaven, His followers asked, *"Will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"* (Acts 1:6) Remember, John the Baptist had preached, *"Repentfor the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* After John's death, Jesus continued the theme "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". Jesus began to preach the famous "parables of the kingdom" in Matthew's gospel. After hearing about the coming kingdom for over three years, the disciples must have thought Christ was about to set up His kingdom on earth and that they would rule with Him from Jerusalem. After all, this was the vision given to many of the major and minor Hebrew prophets.

Jesus didn't rebuke His followers for asking Him about the restoration of Israel and the coming kingdom. He simply said, *"It is not for you to know the*

times or the seasons the Father has put in his own power" (Acts 1:7).

Jesus knew that Israel would one day be free from Roman and Gentile occupation. He knew that the Jews would have liberty to build Jerusalem, and the streets would be filled with children and old people singing and laughing, but the time was not yet.

By the day of Pentecost, they must have had a better understanding of God's timing. Peter relates, in his prophecy, a phrase of great significance. He says, *"The heavens will receive Christ until the times of the restitution of all things which God hath spoken of by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began.*" The Scripture here infers that Christ will return and He will be "released" from heaven after there is a time of "restitution of all things". What does this word restitution mean?

The Coming Restitution

The word "restitution" is the Greek word *apokatastasis* and has several meanings. The primary meaning is to "restore something back to its original state. It can also mean to return an estate (or land) back to its rightful and original owner". In other words, "restitution" alludes to Jubilee.

We have seen:

- The land of Israel restored in 1948
- Jerusalem restored as the capitol of Israel in 1967
- Jews from other nations returning to Israel
- The return (restoration) of the latter rains

This present generation is in the heart of the restitution of all things! We feel that it is safe to conclude that we are the generation that will experience the return of Christ! Remember, the Hebrew prophets spoke of times of refreshing and restoration! Many who have left church wounded will return and be healed. Many families that have been divided will be reunited. Many who have lost their jobs will see a restoration of their jobs. Ministers who have fallen will be restored into the harvest field to complete the assignments that were interrupted by satanic attacks!

You Can Have It All Back

From the prodigal son running from the pig pens into his father's arms, to the restoration of Peter's faith after denying Christ, restoration is a theme that runs the avenues of the entire Bible. God is in the business of restoring.

Many years ago, as a teenage evangelist, I preached a revival at a church in a mid-western town. The pastor was a dear friend and enjoyed a great ministry

of reaching the lost. He eventually moved to another state, and that's where things began to fall apart. In the process of time, he became discouraged and lost his marriage. It seemed from that point on that he became bitter and was "turned off" to "religion". This condition continued for many years.

I lost contact with him until a few years ago. One day he called my office and shared a powerful testimony with me.

He had been given a video-taped session where my father and I were talking about the miracles we had seen in our life and ministry. On the tape I began to talk about one of the great campmeetings we experienced in Roanoke, Virginia, when I was first called to preach. During this particular meeting, several people, including myself, saw the visible glory of God. This man, who had been a part of those meetings, said he began to remember what it was like to feel the presence of God. Faith rose in his heart and he began to weep. He said he suddenly became spiritually hungry to experience God's glory in his life. He told me that it was then that the Holy Spirit whispered to him and said, "You can have it all back!" He jumped to his feet praying and crying out to God. Suddenly, the conflict, confusion and chaos of the past ten years began to fade as he remembered the many wonderful works he witnessed God perform in years gone by. At that moment, God restored his faith and his walk. Since that time he has been witnessing to people and winning souls to the Lord.

Did you know you can have it all back? What has the enemy tried to take from you? Has your home been destroyed and your marriage ruined? Has the enemy assaulted your integrity and attempted to destroy your name? Have you lost your job and don't know how you will make ends meet? The good news is that when God moves on your behalf, He can accomplish the work "suddenly" and do more in a short period of time than you could accomplish in a lifetime.

God said, "I will restore to you the years..." How quick can God restore what has been lost? In the Bible, a woman with an issue of blood for twelve years was cured by simply touching the hem of Christ's garment (Mark 5:28). In another case, a woman who had been infirm for eighteen years was cured by the touch of Jesus' hand (Luke 13:13). A maniac possessed by 2,000 evil spirits was instantly delivered when Jesus spoke eight words, *"Come out of the man thou unclean spirit!"* **(Mark 5:8). People born blind have their sight restored after just one encounter with Jesus! We often feel, "We didn't get into this mess over night, and we can't get out of this mess over night!" This may be true in the natural, but it isn't true in the spiritual! You CAN have it all back.**

Blind, Bound, and Going Round and Round



It is time to claim our family's salvation

The book of Judges records the life of Samson, who was ordained by God to deliver the Hebrew nation out of bondage. It is believed by some that samson came along about the time of a Jubilee in Israel. Samson was a Nazarite, not a Nazarene. A Nazarene was someone from the town of Nazareth. A Nazarite was a person who took a vow of dedication before God. According to the law of Moses, there were three parts to a Nazarite vow:

- A Nazarite could not drink wine or any strong drink
- A Nazarite could not shave the hair on his head
- A Nazarite could not touch anything dead

Samson kept the vows from an early age. As he grew older, he became careless with his personal life. On one occasion he touched the carcass of a dead lion, (Judges 14:89). On another occasion he was at a seven day wedding feast telling riddles (Judges 14:10-14). Then Samson found a woman with a "hair salon". He kept sleeping in her lap and allowing Delilah to play with his hair. Finally, through his carelessness, the Nazarite vow to never cut his hair was broken. As a result, his covenant with God was broken, and he became a prisoner to the Philistines. Samson ended up in a prison house grinding grain for his enemies. He was blind (they put out his eyes); he was bound (they tied him to a millstone), and he was going round and round (grinding the enemy's grain).

His life was going in circles (Judges 16:20-21). When people are in bondage, they live their life going around in circles.

Samson grew his hair out again. As it grew, he remembered his covenant with God. He had been a captive to the enemy for months. His strength and sight were gone, and they were mocking him (Judges 16:25). Samson faced heaven and said, *"Oh Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes,"* (Judges 16:28). After this 26 word prayer, the Spirit of God fell upon Samson, and he *"slew more enemies in his death than in his life"* (Judges 16:30).

Don't miss the point. Samson fell into sin, lost the anointing and severed his covenant with God as a Nazarite. For months, he was in chains and bondage, but when he cried out to God, his relationship with God was restored and deliverance came at that moment! God has promised us in His word, "I will restore unto you the years of the locust!" He remembered this promise with Samson. He will remember it for your sake as well.

Restore the Years

As we noted earlier, the Hebrew prophet Joel foresaw a time of great restoration that runs parallel with the restoration of the things concerning Israel and the Jews. However, preceding Joel's announcement of restoration in chapter two, is a discourse about the destruction of the land and its fruit.

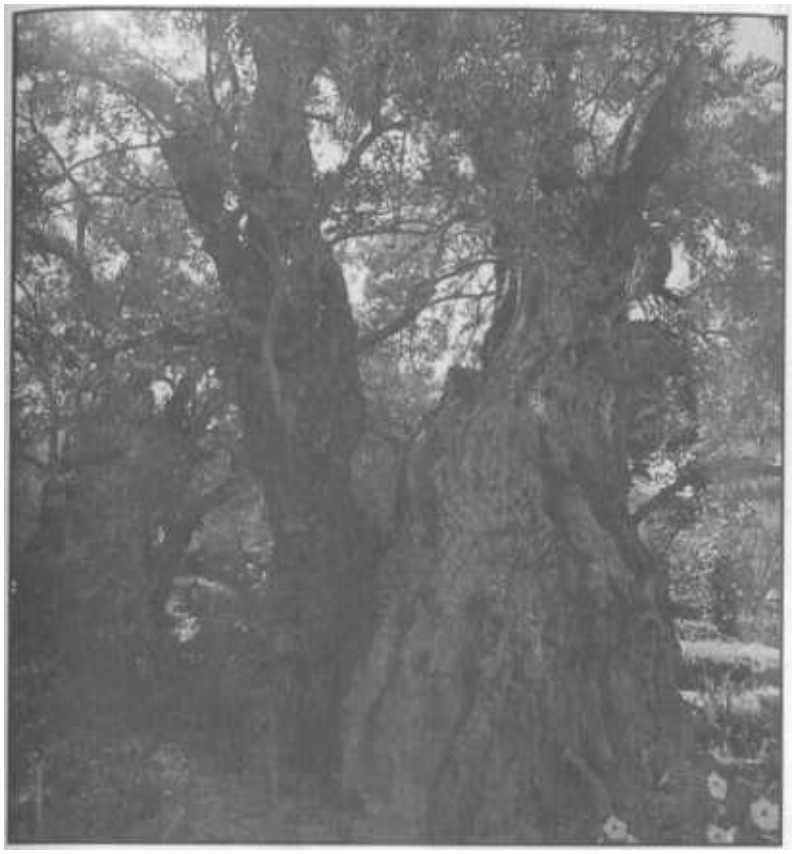
"That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left the cankerworm hath eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left the caterpillar hath eaten."

-Joel 1:4

The four insects mentioned here don't just eat a certain part of the tree. They leave total destruction when they are finished. One eats the fruit on the tree; one eats the leaves; one eats away at the bark; and one digs near the root. When these four types of locusts are finished, there is nothing left except a dead tree. Yet, God reveals through Joel that if the people will fast, pray and call a solemn assembly (Joel 2:1217), He will "restore the years" that the locusts have robbed. This picture in the natural also reveals a spiritual principle. If God's people today will fast, pray and repent, then God will restore the things that have been stripped from us. He will rebuild what the enemy has devastated. Some people have been in their spiritual ruts and bondages for a long time, yet one encounter with Jesus will free them in a short time from what they have carried for a long time!

Mark 5 records an example of this in the story of the wild man of Gadara.

He had devils for a long time, but Jesus drove them out in a short time. The woman with the issue of blood had tried doctors for a long time and was growing worse. In desperation she reached out to touch the hem of Christ's garment. Twelve years of sickness left with one touch! Recall the story of the woman in the synagogue who had been bound for eighteen years. When Jesus laid His hands on her, He loosed her in just a few seconds (Luke 13). You may have been a prisoner in the house of Satan for the past forty-nine years, but that was before the fiftieth year. That was before the Jubilee trumpet was sounded and God declared freedom to your life! Remember, Jesus is the Jubilee. You don't have to wait to receive your spiritual help! The fact that Israel is 50 years old is only a natural demonstration of what God is doing on a large scale in the spirit!



The oil in the menorah came from olive trees like this one.

The Story of Three Eagles

Years ago, I heard a minister tell a story about three eagles. As a child, he and his family went to a large zoo. While touring the facility, he came to a large wire mesh cage which housed three large eagles. He observed the beautiful surroundings inside the cage. There was grass, water, rocks and large trees

growing inside. Two majestic eagles were perched high in a tree. They seemed well fed and content as they carefully watched things around them. In sharp contrast, another eagle was grabbing at the edge of the cage with its claws, violently flapping its wings and occasionally beating the side of its head against the wire mesh cage. Two seemed happy, but the other seemed to be "losing it's mind".

As the man heading up the tour came to the cage, everyone seemed to notice the bird that was grabbing the cage as though it were trying to get out. Someone asked the man, "Why is that bird acting like that? Is it sick, or is something wrong?" The man replied, "I guess it is clear to see the birds that were born in captivity and the bird that was born free!"

Those who have never experienced freedom from their bondages, nor freedom to worship God, are more content in their situation, because it is all they have ever known. But, if you have ever experienced salvation, freedom from bondages, oppression and depression, and you become entangled again in a former bondage, then you will never be content to return to that way of living. Jesus has been given the "keys" to your prison house. You must believe and decree your freedom from bondages!

The Seasons of Restitution

According to the Biblical prophets, a great time of restitution and restoration is coming prior to the return of Jesus Christ. As we have already noted, this theme is found in the prophecy of Joel where the destruction of the enemy is exposed.

"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm."

-Joel 2:25

This verse was written at a time when Israel had experienced destruction at the hand of the Babylonians. The land was lying empty. The vines had not been pruned. The roofs of the houses were falling in, and the insects had destroyed all of the fruit trees in the land. Great oppression was upon the people, and they were in captivity. In fact, Israel was allowed to go into Babylonian captivity because they did not keep the Jubilee! God's command was that the land was to rest every seventh year. Israel neglected to allow a time of "rest" in the land, and soon they were slaves in bondage! Yet, in His mercy, God told Joel that He would "restore the years" that the locusts had robbed.

If we do not allow God to send a Jubilee into our lives, we too can go into captivity. We may become bogged down and burdened with the cares of life so

that we become oppressed, depressed, burdened and ineffective for the Kingdom of God! Yet, God has promised that if we will turn to Him, He would restore the years that these insects had eaten. With the return of Jesus Christ being so close, I feel that now is the time of restoration and liberty.

Destruction sets in over a period of years. It doesn't just happen over night. Problems we have today began as small seeds planted years ago, yet God said that when He begins the restoration process, it will not take as long to RESTORE you as is did for the devil to DESTROY you! Drug addicts and alcoholics will be delivered instantly from years of bondage. Restoration in your family will happen overnight. The restoration will be a quick work.

Joel 2:19 reveals that during this restoration God will also restore three blessings:

- I WILL SEND YOU CORN.
- I WILL SEND YOU WINE.
- I WILL SEND YOU OIL.

These three items in the natural represent the blessings of God that will be bestowed upon the believer! The "corn" is the "bread from heaven". The bread is the Word of God! As manna fell in the wilderness, likewise God will bring forth corn, or fresh bread, during the final restoration! Those who hunger after righteousness shall be filled (Matthew 5:6).

Have you experienced the great Bible teachings that this generation is enjoying? My grandfather, who was 84 when he passed away, attended our major camp meetings each year. He once told me, "Perry, I have been in the ministry over 60 years, and I have never heard the powerful preaching that we are hearing today I have never heard the Bible expounded with such fresh understanding." There is a fresh understanding of how to apply the Scriptures to our everyday lives. Men are no longer just preaching the stories from the Bible, but they are showing us the practical everyday application that is hidden in them!

God is going to send the wine! Wine represents the joy of the Lord. During the restoration, God will have a joyful people. The *"joy of the Lord is our strength"* (Nehemiah 8:10). The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but it is *"righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost"* (Romans 14:17).

God will also bring a restoration of oil. Oil comes through the crushing of olives. It was used in the seven branched golden candlestick in the Temple. Oil was used to anoint both the kings and priests in the Old Testament. The oil represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit! During the restoration, men and

women will be anointed by the Holy Ghost!

We are also told in the New Testament WHEN the greatest time of restoration will occur. Peter stated in Acts 3:19-21:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached to you;

"Whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

Peter begins by speaking of repentance. He reveals that repentance leads to times (or seasons) of refreshing. The word "refreshing" can imply a "recovery of breath". The word picture is a person running a race at full speed. He is tired, hot, and out of breath. Suddenly he gets a "second wind" and catches his breath to finish the race. The revivals currently moving in America are "seasons of refreshing" that God is sending to the Body of Christ. Likewise, similar revivals are breaking out all over the planet!

Peter goes on to reveal that Christ will return to the earth again. He further states that Christ will not return to earth until there is a *"restitution" of all things spoken of by the mouth of all the holy prophets"* . What "restitution" is Peter speaking of?

The Hebrew prophets recorded visions, dreams and revelations from God concerning the future of Israel, Jerusalem and the Hebrew people. They prophesied of a king-messiah who would reign from Jerusalem and establish it as the city where the saints would rule the world *"with a rod of iron"* (Revelation 19:15).

During the past fifty years, we have witnessed the early stages of the restoration "of all things".

- Israel was restored as a nation on May 14th, 1948
- Jerusalem was restored as the capitol of Jerusalem after the Six Day War in 1967
- The Jews began returning to the land from the north COUNTRY IN 1989
- The latter rains began to return to the land in 1993

The desert is blossoming again, in some areas for the first time in the history of Israel. Ancient rabbis taught that when the desert begins to blossom, it is a sign of the soon coming of the Jewish Messiah! Prophecies such as Isaiah 35:1, foretell the restoration plan of God.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the

desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

-Isaiah 35:1

The Hebrew word for "desert" in this passage is *arabah.* The Arabah is an area in Israel below the Dead Sea. It extends for 120 miles and ends at the Gulf of Aquaba. Since creation began, no vegetation has grown in this area. It is barren and desolate, yet, over twenty years ago, Israel found water gushing under the Arabah. Today, this water is used to irrigate farms that produce thirty times more produce than any farm in America!

I have been to Israel at least 16 times and have seen, with my own eyes, the prophecies such as Isaiah 35:1-7 come to pass! I have stood on Mount Nebo in Jordan and viewed a large deserted area consisting of rocky rolling mountains with only one small oasis in the valley below called Jericho. Now there are hundreds of farms that are growing every known type of plant and vegetation. We are the generation seeing the restoration!

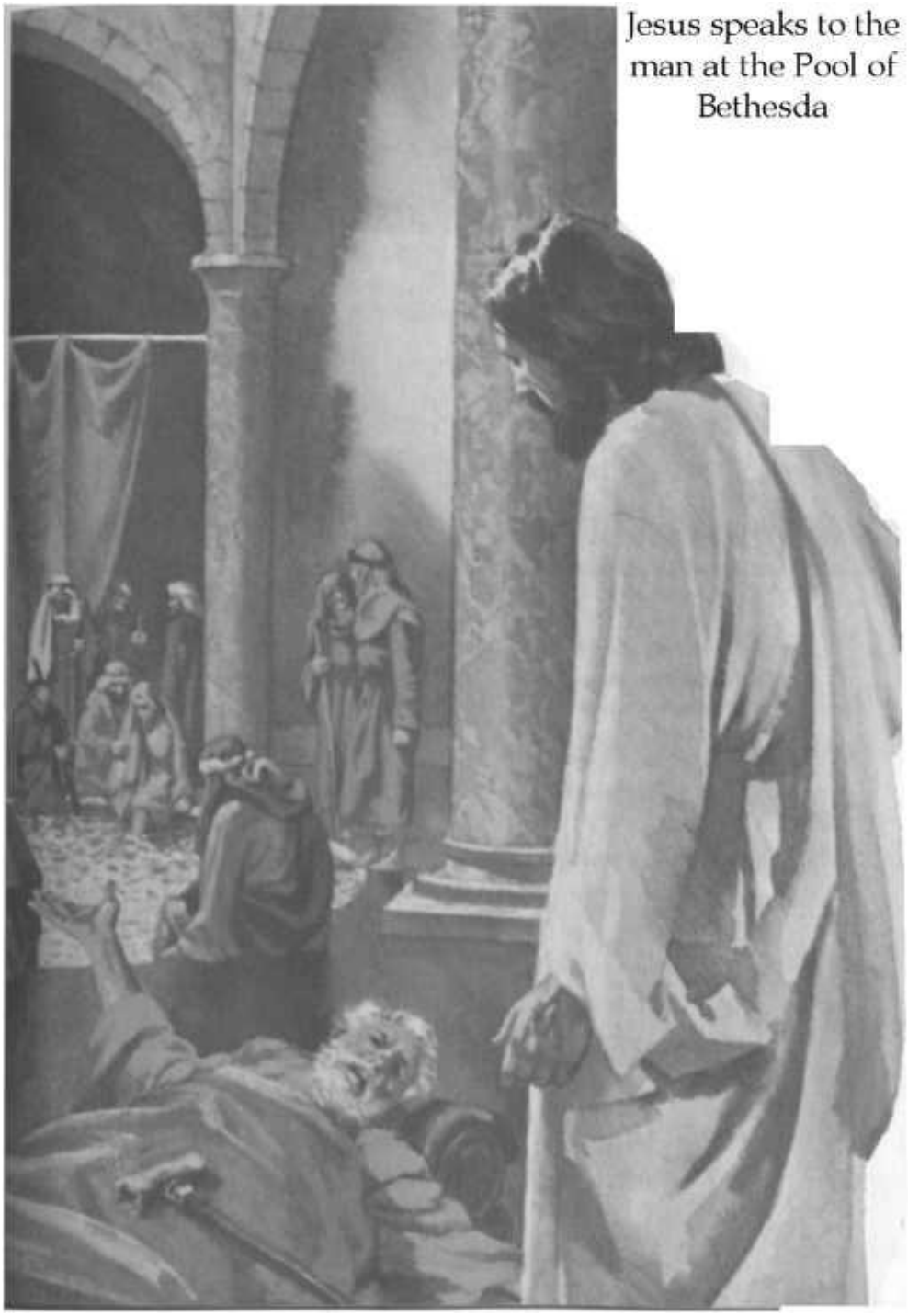
As we have already shared with you, what happens in the natural must happen in the realm of the Spirit. Spiritual Zion (the church) must experience this time of restoration!

Getting in on the "Stirrings of God"

The blessings of God move in seasons. The Bible speaks of God sending *"rain in due season"* (Deuteronomy 11:14), *"meat in due season"* (Psalm 145:15) and *"blessing in due season if we faint not"* (Galatians 6:9). At the pool of Bethesda, an "angel would come down at a certain season" and trouble the water. The first person to get into the water would be healed (John 5:1-8). There were three physical keys involved in receiving a miracle at the pool. The first was to be at the right place at the right time. The second was to be close to the edge of the water when the angel came, and the third was to be able to discern when the water was troubled!

The story of the "troubled water" has a direct application to the believers who are seeing a restoration of what the enemy has tried to take. We can also learn from this story, three important spiritual principles. They are:

• You Must Be At The Right Place At The Right Time



Jesus speaks to the man at the Pool of Bethesda

Single young adults often tell me, "I am waiting for God to send me the right person." You may be missing the right person by sitting at home and waiting for them to knock on your door. You should attend revivals, camp meetings, and singles events in order to meet people. Timing is everything. You can get ahead of God and miss His will, or you can drag your feet and miss His blessing.

When Jesus said, "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven," what was He saying? In order to be in God's will, you must be where God can use you and speak to you. You must be at the right place to hear from God and follow His leading. At Bethesda, multitudes of people needed healing, but many didn't want to wait in line at the pool for the Lord to show up. Their attitude was, "Tell me when the action starts, and I'll be there." The only problem was that the action was over right after it started, and the last one in was too late for the blessing.

In 1980, I was preaching a two week revival in Alabama. The pastor and I felt impressed to extend the meeting another two weeks, but I had a conflict. I was scheduled to be at another church for a revival. One day, before I was to leave for the other church, I called the pastor informing him of how I felt. I told him the Lord was moving, and I felt impressed that I must stay where I was. The pastor said, "No, you must come because we have advertised your meeting in this area." I submitted to his request and planned to go to his church as scheduled. On Saturday night at 9:45, I was praying for people at the altar at the church in Alabama. The Holy Spirit said, "Did I tell you to leave this church?" I replied, "No Lord, the pastor where I am going tomorrow told me to come to his church." The Lord said, "I am not finished with your ministry in THIS church!"

I left the service, ran to a phone and called the pastor at the other church, "I cannot come yet, because the Lord will not release me from where I am", I told him. Needless to say, he was upset, but we continued the revival at Northport, Alabama, for two more weeks.

The timing of God is perfect! The revival did continue, and during the third week, I met Pam Taylor, who later became my wife! Had the revival not continued, I would never have met Pam, and would have missed God's perfect will for my life!

- **Get Close To The Edge Of The Water**

Water represents the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39). The angel touched the water at the pool of Bethesda and when a person stepped in he or she was healed. The person closest to the edge was the first one in, and the first one in was the one who was healed! There are too many perimeter Christians! They hang out on the "fringe" of what God is doing, afraid to get "too close".

For several years, as I traveled the nation preaching, I saw something that always puzzled me. On an average Sunday morning, I would look over the congregation, and 98% of the congregation would not sit on the front rows. In fact, they sat as close to the back row as possible. Often, the front rows were empty, or only a few people sat near the front. It was as though the folks in the

back sat near the door so they could get out faster.

I have always liked the front, because it is "close to the spout where the glory is coming out"! You have to get near the edge of the water to experience the blessing that is flowing in the water. Restoration and blessing comes in the Presence of God. The closer you can get to His Presence, the more likely you are to be one of the first to enjoy the benefits of restoration when the anointing begins to flow! When the Holy Spirit begins moving, get in on the move!

- **Discerning When The Water Is Troubled**

This seems simple, but is more difficult than one may think. People are often divided over revivals and the moving of the Holy Spirit. They question, "Is this from the Lord? Is that from the Lord? Is this the flesh? Is this real?"

Many years ago, a great man of God had incredible results when praying for the sick. In fact, there were astonishing miracles that happened when he prayed for the suffering. A newspaper reporter interviewed him and asked, "Are these miracles real?" The minister replied, "Don't ask me. Ask the people who are receiving them."

We must determine who is stirring up the water. When the Lord comes down and the water is stirred, there will be great results. People will be blessed and encouraged, and great joy will be present.

The man in John 5:4 was sitting and waiting for the moving of the water, because it happened "at a certain season" (remember, restoration and restitution comes in seasons). Yet, the man had a major problem. He was crippled and had "no man to put him in the water" (John 5:7). He said, "When I plan on getting into the water, someone always gets in before I do and gets the blessing!" (John 5:7).

Many are frustrated because they are always hearing someone else give the report. They have been praying for their family to be saved. It seems everyone around them is seeing a "stirring at the pool", and they are always late getting in on the blessing! Others are jumping in the pool and coming out shouting, "I'm healed. I got what I came for. The Lord is good! Look what He has done!"

Have you ever felt like everyone else but you was getting a touch or an answer from God? Often, we need someone to help us get into the flow of God —someone to "put us into the water"! As a minister, I lead people to the water. I lead them to Christ. After I minister the Word, there are three types of people present:

- **Those who stand back and won't get near the water**
- **Those who come to the water but need help getting in**

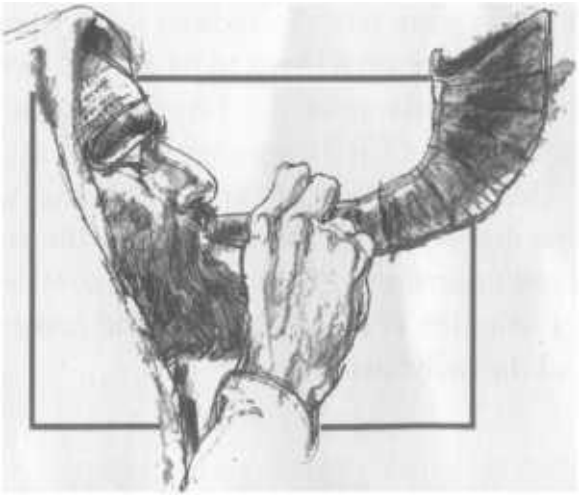
- **Those who are at the edge of the water ready to jump in**

You must choose to allow the Lord to bring a season of refreshing into your life. Do not resist because of religious tradition or fear.

Get in While the Water is Still Stirring

Don't let this prophetic season pass you by! Don't let others get in front of you while you sit back and say, "Whatever will be will be." You must realize that God is moving in this season. If someone is praying with an anointing, it is easy for them to release their faith. On the other hand, someone who is not praying with an anointing may find it difficult to believe for something from God. The point is, if this is an ordained time to step out in faith and declare restoration and jubilee, then do it. When the season passes and you have not acted, you may regret it.

Prophetic Scripture is fulfilled during seasons. This is referred to as "times and seasons" in Acts 1:7. Moving in a prophetic season increases your faith level, because when you believe God is moving in the natural, you can expect that He will also move on your behalf in the spiritual. Understanding this season will increase your faith level to believe for a total restoration for you and your family. There will be a restoration before the Lord returns. In fact, the restitution of all things is the key to bringing Christ back!



Flowing in the Jubilee Blessing

There are certain terms found in the Scripture that have a unique Hebraic meaning. In other words, one must have an understanding of the historical setting of the day in which the Scripture was recorded, or an understanding of certain Jewish customs and traditions in order to comprehend the full meaning of the words or phrases. For example, in Jewish thought, the sounding of the silver trumpet of Jubilee was called "the joyful sound" and was also termed "the acceptable year of the Lord". If we understand these concepts, we can learn how to respond when Jubilee is proclaimed and how to flow in the Jubilee blessing.

Hidden Prophecies in the Psalms

When you open your Bible to read the Psalms, you can see each psalm has been given a chapter heading and divided into sections based upon the theme of the text. We have, in our Bible, 150 Psalms, even though we know many more were written. In fact, according to several scroll fragments discovered between 1948 and 1952 in the area of Qumran (the Judean Wilderness), David is said to have composed 4,050 psalms, subdivided into songs for the daily offerings, songs for the Sabbath sacrifices, songs for festivals and songs for exorcism. This "spirit of singing and writing" was also upon the son of David, Solomon, who in 1 Kings 4:32 is accredited with writing 3.000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. The Septuagint, (the Old Testament written in Greek, says Solomon wrote

3.000 proverbs and 5,000 songs. The Jewish historian, Josephus, attributes to Solomon 1,005 books of poems and 3.000 books of parables (Antiquities VIII,

44). On display at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem is a scroll fragment called Psalm 151a and Psalm 151b, which deals with the election and call of David from among his brothers as a shepherd boy.

According to some researchers, the book of Psalms has a definite prophetic pattern encoded in the text. It is not too hard to imagine that since David and Moses, both prophets, wrote the Psalms. Scholars have noted that certain years, in which strong prophetic movements relating to the Jews and Israel have occurred, will be paralleled in the actual text corresponding numerically to that year. For example, the holocaust began in 1939 and continued through 1945. During these seven years, the Jews experienced the worst tortures and agony of almost any time in their history. When a person examines the words of the text in Psalm 39 through 45, they can clearly see the holocaust, almost cryptically encoded, in the actual text. In these Scriptures, we read of cries of desperation and despair. We read of an agonizing appeal to God for help and deliverance from enemies that are saying to the Jews, *"Where is thy God?"* (Psalm 41:10) Psalm 44 declares, "... *they that hate us spoil themselves. Thou givest us like sheep appointed for meat; and hast scattered us among the heathen .... Thou makest us a byword among the heathen, a shaking of the head among the people."* The chapter continues, *"Yea, for thy sakes are we killed. All the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter ...."* The chapter concludes by saying, *"Arise for our help and redeem us for thy mercy's sake"* (Psalm 44:10-26).

Other prophetic patterns can be seen in Psalm 67 (1967), Psalm 73 (1973), and Psalm 91. Psalm 91 is the Psalm of protection from war. This Psalm correlates with the year 1991, the same year of the Gulf War. Notice the Scripture predicts, *"A thousand shall fall by thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh to thee"* (Psalm 91:7). During the Gulf War the allies lost about 1,000 soldiers while the Iraqis lost 100,000! Then in Psalm 93 we read about floods (Psalm 93:3-4). Oddly enough, 1993 was the worst year on record for worldwide flooding!

A pattern seems to be found in Psalm that especially relates to Israel and the Hebrew people. This brings me to Psalm 98, which relates to the year 1998!

The Psalm of Jubilee

Psalm 98 contains nine verses that present an admonition to worship and praise God! In verses four through six we read:

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth: make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise.

"Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp and the voice of a psalm."

"With trumpets and sound of coronet make a joyful noise before the Lord the King."

-Psalm 98:4-6

In this Psalm, the term "joyful noise" is related to the joy one experiences when the silver trumpet of Jubilee is sounded. The noise of the trumpet brought joy because the Hebrews knew that freedom and release were moments away! They knew the oppression was about to cease and God had prepared a release from burdens and debts during the year of Jubilee! This Psalm allows us to again see God's sovereign patterns. Psalm 98 seems to correspond to the year 1998, the year of Israel's fiftieth anniversary and Jubilee

The Seventy Generations

Several years ago, I heard a Hebrew scholar tell a story about a former Israeli leader, Menachem Begin. When he was a boy, he was being trained by his father to be a leader. Young Menachem would question his father about Palestine (later to become Israel).

He asked his dad, "If you are an avid Zionist, why aren't you returning to the land?" His father replied, "You will return and be a leader because I am the sixty-ninth generation, and you are the seventieth generation from the captivity of Babylon." Begin became one of the first religious prime ministers in Israel. He was, according to his father, part of the seventieth generation!

Because God works in prophetic patterns and cycles, we must understand the significance of being a part of the first Jubilee in the history of modern Israel! What is the Lord saying? What is this all about? I believe that we are a generation of prophetic fulfillment.

When Truth Meets the Fact

We are consumed and overwhelmed by the facts. The FACTS are, the doctor told us we don't have long to live. The FACTS show there is a disease on the X-ray. The FACTS are, the divorce is final. The FACTS are, the job is ending next week. Those are the facts, but they may not be the truth. Something can be a fact without containing the truth. For example, the FACT is that Satan exists, that he is evil and seeks to *"kill, steal and destroy"* (John 10:10). It is a fact that he exists, but the truth is not in him!

On the other hand, Jesus is a FACT. We have a list of facts in the Scripture concerning Jesus, but we also know He is the *"way and the truth and the life"* (John 14:6). Jesus is more than a fact. He is truth, and truth can always conquer

the facts!

It is a fact that men born blind will never see; that is, until truth walks into their life and opens their blind eyes! It is a fact that when you are dead, you are dead. But truth came to a cemetery and conquered the fact!

Jesus, the Jubilee man, is not moved by the facts. He is moved by the truth. Facts can be altered, but truth never will be! You shall *"know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). Jesus has declared your Jubilee!

The Final Revival

There are many events which occurred at the beginning of Jesus' ministry that were also repeated at the end of His ministry. For example, at the beginning of His ministry there was a Joseph, a Mary and a Herod. At the end of His ministry (about thirty-four years later) there was a Joseph, a Mary, and another man named Herod. He began His ministry with forty days of fasting and ended His ministry with forty days of fellowship with His disciples. He ascended from the Mount of Olives and will return to the Mount of Olives. He was crucified in Jerusalem and resurrected in Jerusalem. He ascended from Jerusalem and will return to Jerusalem. For

1,000 years He will rule from Jerusalem! I call these unique "coincidences" prophetic parallels and patterns. They are prophetic patterns that repeat themselves at various points in history.

For example, in Genesis 11, we read about the tower of Babel and the table of the Gentile nations that was formed out of the separation which occurred at the tower. In the end of days, another "Babylon" is mentioned in the Scriptures. Time began with a "Babylon", and the age will end with a "Babylon" (Revelation 17).

The announcement made in Nazareth at the beginning of Jesus' ministry was a proclamation that a Jubilee was beginning. For forty-two months, the greatest revival the world ever witnessed occurred inside of Israel as Jesus the "Jubilee Man" ministered freedom, deliverance and healing to suffering and hurting people.

I believe we are now entering the climax of a final revival! Within the next forty-two months, the seventh empire (global government) should begin to form, and with it will also come an emphasis on religious unity, namely, a one world religion controlled by and subjected to laws created by the United Nations.

Doors to nations, once open to the Gospel, are slowly beginning to close. It is only a matter of time until missionaries are expelled and banned from preaching the Gospel. In some areas, the spread of radical Islam is making it

difficult, if not impossible in some countries, to reach people with the message of the Gospel.

I believe God is giving us a "sign" through the Jubilee. As Christ presented forty-two months of powerful ministry to the nation, likewise from now to the year 2000 we will have a door of ministry unlike any other generation! I am not saying Jesus will return at the end of this time, but I am saying I see a "prophetic pattern" developing in this time frame.

I desire for you to see that decreeing your Jubilee is not just a limited blessing. God works through "times and seasons". The season of Jubilee is upon us, therefore what unfolds in the natural has a repercussion in the Spirit! In this final revival, God desires to set multitudes free from the bondages of oppression and sin.

Building During Jubilee

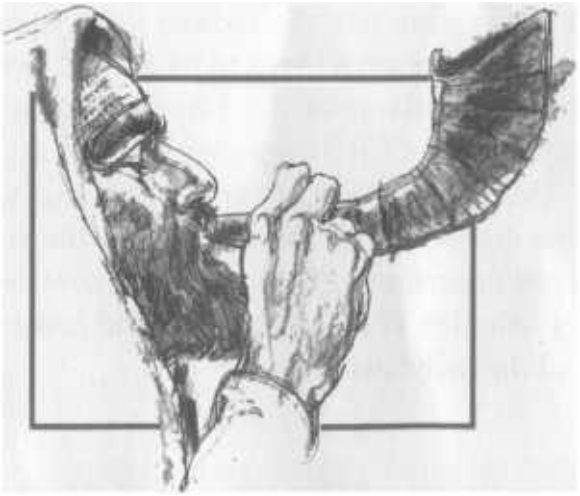
During the past fifteen years, our ministry has expanded from a one room apartment to a lovely 8,000 square foot ministry center. We began with one full-time worker and now have up to fourteen people working in or affiliated with the ministry. For several years, we have been out of space in our ministry center. I have prayed and believed God for many months that He would open the right place, either a large building or the perfect location where we could build.

Several years ago, the Lord brought us to fourteen acres of property valued at $220,000. We purchased the land for a little over $180,000, and it was soon paid for. As we began plans for the Global Ministry Center, we learned that the

25,000 square foot office complex would cost about 1.3 million dollars. When you only have about $100,000 to begin the project, and you wish to avoid a major bank loan, then you must KNOW the Lord is directing your plans.

I was anxious to begin the project, but in my spirit I could never get a clear picture of what the building should look like or how it should be laid out. When I am unclear about something, I simply wait upon the Lord. I actually waited for about eighteen months. Finally, during a trip to Alabama, the Lord gave me the entire plan while I was praying in a white chair at a woman's house! That day, I drew a rough sketch of the new offices in the back of my Bible!

We have built the building one phase at a time. Just when we needed the money to pay the bills, the finances, at times almost miraculously, were there! Our building will be completed and dedicated to the Lord on the same week that Israel celebrates her fiftieth anniversary. We are claiming "debt free in Jubilee".



Your Set Time Has Come

If we share vital information with you and do not reveal how to apply the information to your personal life, then we will have fallen short of God's purposes for this book. For that reason, we want to take the time now to explain how you can use this information practically and apply it to your Christian walk.

Your Set Time Has Come

It is clear that God's prophetic cycles operate during appointed "times and seasons". The Bible tells us that "when the fullness of time was come", that God sent Jesus! Paul reveals that Christ will return in the "dispensation of the fullness of time" (Ephesians 1:10). The appearing of the Antichrist comes *"when the times of the transgressors comes to full"* (Daniel 8:23). Major prophetic events seem to fall in line with seasons God refers to as the "fullness of time!"

It is very easy to miss the timing of God's special visitations. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for missing the wonderful visitation of the Spirit that God was sending through Christ's ministry.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ... how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

-Matthew 23:37-38

"And (enemies) shall lay thee even with the ground, ... because you knew not the time of your visitation."

- Luke 19:44

I believe this is a season of revival, restoration and recovery. Since January 1998, I have received many letters and phone calls testifying that God has restored marriages, families and brought back lost sheep into the fold. You may ask me, "Perry, how do I apply this Jubilee cycle to my own personal situation?"

Faith without works is dead (James 2:20, 26). Today we would say "Faith without ACTION is dead". When Christ healed the sick, He often required the person to demonstrate their healing both before and after they were cured. Terms such as "Stretch forth thy hand", "Rise, take up thy bed and walk" and "Go, show thyself to the priest" are commands from the lips of the Master Physician Jesus. He required something from the one being healed. What would we think if someone said, "I believe God can and will do this, but don't ask me to do anything".

Remember, God sees our actions and hears our words. When the men lowered the paralyzed man through the roof of the house (Luke 5:18-26), Scripture reveals that Jesus recognized their faith (Luke 5:20). Their faith was demonstrated by their actions.

Likewise, I believe we must do more than have a mental agreement with the Word. The Word of God must enter into our inner spirit and be allowed to stimulate our faith. We must, in turn, exercise that faith, or in other words, turn our faith into action by showing God that we believe His promises. Below I have listed a "faith procedure" to help you to "decree your Jubilee".

Decree in Writing Your Desire

The Bible tells us to "Write down the vision and make it plain". In one of my old Bibles, I have pages of notes written down. These scribblings are inspired thoughts and messages that the Holy Spirit has given me during times of fervent prayer. On these pages were promises, prophecies and warnings of pending danger. I kept them written in the back or front of my Bible in order to keep the word of God before me. By the way, over the years I saw everything come to pass that the Holy Spirit revealed to me.

Writing down your decree and desire helps to keep the desire before both you and God. You may say, "But God already knows my heart". That is true, but it is an act of faith to write it down and God is pleased when He sees faith in action.

For example, my decree would be:

"Heavenly Father,

In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, your Son and my Lord, I recognize a special season of Jubilee is in the earth. Father, based upon the spiritual

principles and Holy patterns of your Word, I make my personal decree that we will finish our building and be able to dedicate our new Ministry Center free of all debt. I ask this as a testimony to your name and that you may be glorified in it."

I will then keep a copy of the decree in my Bible, a copy to carry in my wallet and a copy to take with me in prayer. I am confident that many people will see a breakthrough as they hold this letter up before God. Remember, if you don't see immediate results, it does not mean God is not working on your behalf. Begin to thank God for His answer before you actually receive it.

Decree with Your Mouth

The Bible has much to say about the words of your mouth. It reveals the power of the tongue, in both a positive and negative manner. It is confession of sin that leads to the act of forgiveness from God. It is confessing your faults that engages the power of inner and emotional healing (Romans 10:10; James 5:16).

The words of your mouth contain the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21). Jesus said, *"My words I speak; they are spirit and life"* (John 6:63). The power of Jesus' WORD healed the sick, delivered the possessed and caused a man to walk on water!

Human beings are going to say *something.* They are going to speak life, death, complaint or compliment. Our tongue will build up or tear down; bless or curse. Why not agree with a revelation from the Word of God? Why not utter the promises of God? Quit speaking *about* the mountain and speak *to* the mountain (Mark 11:23). We can do the following in relation to using our voice to decree our Jubilee.

- When you pray, pray in an audible voice
- When you speak about your Jubilee decree, speak in faith and do not doubt

Decree Until You Sense a Release

Is it wrong to pray for the same thing more than one time? Years ago I was told, "If you ask for something more than once in prayer, it is not faith." Then, I read where Jesus prayed for a blind man twice. Jesus asked the man, "What do you see?" He answered, "I see men as trees walking". Some ministers would have said, "Praise God, go in faith. You're getting a gradual healing". This poor man would have been bumping into trees for the rest of his life if it had been left to some of us. But Jesus prayed twice. He prayed until the answer came (Mark 8:24).

How long should you decree something and make your prayer known to God? I believe you should continue your petition until you have PEACE and an inner assurance that God is moving on your behalf. When God promised Abraham a son, the Bible says Abraham was *"strong in faith giving God the glory"* (Romans 4:20). Abraham was thanking God for this son, years before the child was born! Abraham could thank God in advance because God's Word was true and Abraham knew that. Often, I will pray until I sense a release in my spirit. Once I sense that release, then I begin to thank God for the answer.

As you write down your decree and begin, through your prayers, to confess with your mouth what you are believing God for, then continue to do so as long as you sense in your spirit it is necessary. The prophet Daniel could pray the mouths of lions shut. His Hebrew friends could pray their way through a fiery furnace. Yet, in Daniel 10, the prophet was hindered for twenty-one days. Receiving no discernible answer to his prayer, he continued to hold on and bring his petition before God until the answer came.

You may experience "spiritual static" in the atmosphere as you begin to pursue God's promises and your personal decree. Continue to hold on UNTIL you feel an assurance in your spirit that the answer is on the way.

• Write Down Your Decree
- Speak Y our Decree
- Pray Until Y ou Have A Release
- Thank God For The Answer

In The Years To Come

As we have stated earlier in this book, according to the Gregorian calendar, the year 1998 is the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel. In effect, it is a Jubilee year. This prophetically significant year began on Yom Kippur 1997 and will continue until Yom Kippur 1998. According to the Sabbatical cycle, the literal year of Jubilee will come some time shortly after the year 2000. If this is so, why shouldn't we declare our special season of Jubilee from now until Jesus returns? God answers prayer at any time because Jesus is our Jubilee. However, given the prophetic hour, we are expecting God to answer prayers with major revivals, healings and deliverances as never before. During this special season, spiritual results are going to take place in a great way. These are the "times of refreshing" in the Presence of the Lord! Let us make it personal. Jesus did!

In Closing

Jeremiah 30:18 (NAS) says, *"Thus says the Lord; Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob, and have compassion on his dwelling places."* Suddenly, and quite ironically, eight and one-half billion dollars of Nazi gold, stolen from the Jews by the Third Reich, is about to be returned to Holocaust Jews. This restoration will affect both Jews in Israel and outside of Israel. I am reminded of the Scripture that says, *"The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just"* (Proverbs 13:22). Only time will tell just when this money is returned, but just think of the spiritual parallel. This serves to illustrate that God restores during the time of Jubilee and if He has chosen this time to restore that which was taken from the Jews, He must be planning to restore to you those things that the enemy has stolen. Be encouraged and be confident—God is working on your behalf.

If this book has been a blessing to you, please write us and let us know. When God answers your prayer, we want to hear from you. If you would like me or my prayer partners to agree with you in prayer, then write your Jubilee request on paper and mail it to us. Step out in faith and "DECREE YOUR JUBILEE!"

Five Great Promises of Answered Prayer from God’s Word

"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

-Isaiah 65:24

"Call upon me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

-Jeremiah 33:3

"Yea the Lord will answer and say to his people, behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therein: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen"

-Joel 2:19

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God."

-Philippians 4:6

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

-James 5:16

Wisdom Keys I Have Discovered Concerning Prayer And Receiving Answers From The Lord!

1. There are two ways of praying: with and without the anointing (an unction). The most effective prayers are prayed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit—(1 John 2:20, 27)

2. Your prayer is also more effective when praying with a "prayer burden." When you sense a heaviness in your spirit, it is time to pray!

3. Target your need. Don't just say words like throwing darts at a dart board. Be focused on your desire and your burden. Don't pray a general prayer, but a prayer that "gets to the root."

4. Don't resist the Holy Spirit praying through you. You may weep and feel broken in your spirit, but remember, a broken heart God will not refuse.—(Psalm 34:18)

5. Don't be discouraged if the answer is delayed or seems long in coming. Daniel was hindered for three weeks, but the angels said, *"from the first day ... God heard your prayer!"* — (Daniel 10:12)

6. God is faithful to hear and answer! Don't waver, just keep decreeing until you feel peace! — (James 1:6)



And thou shalt cause the trumpet of Jubilee to sound on the tenth , day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make I the trumpet sound throughout the land. ” - Leviticus 25:8-9

In ancient Israel, every fifty years marked a year of Jubilee. In that year, slaves were freed, debts were forgiven and lost inheritances were redeemed by the original owner. Several blasts on silver trumpets signaled the onset of this time of freedom and joy even as the High Priest was entering the Holy of Holies to perform his ominous task - to make atonement for Israel’s sin.

It was during one of these Jubilees that Jesus of Nazareth declared that the acceptable year of the Lord had come. His atoning sacrifice made it possible for every believer to celebrate Jubilee, not every fifty years, but every day.

In *Decreeing Your Jubilee*, Perry Stone will teach you how Jesus has decreed freedom and restoration for all time. Perry will also show how key events in the history of modern Israel have spiritual parallels within the church and how this year is the year to decree your Jubilee!



Perry Stone is founder and president of The Voice of Evangelism Ministries in Cleveland, Tennessee, tie has authored over twenty-books and booklets, produced over 100 teaching-albums and has over 600 sermons in his tape library available to the public. Perry publishes The Voice of Evangelism Magazine which is distributed across the nation and' around the world: He has also produced numerous videos and is active in television outreach. He resides in Cleveland, Tennessee with his wife and son.