

# SEEC Magazine

A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

VOLUME 20

ISSUE 4

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016

Arising Reformation  
Jim Hodges

Hands Off!  
Kathy Gabler

Apostolic Doctrines  
Simon Purvis

The Enemy Tries to  
Build Strongholds  
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A Guide for  
This Season  
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Jael and the Nail  
Marty Gabler

STRENGTHEN  
ENCOURAGE  
EQUIP  
CHURCH  
MINISTRIES

1Co 14:3; Eph 4:12

"He spoke to them about things concerning the Kingdom of God" Acts 1:3



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#### ON THE COVER:

God gave Solomon wisdom: keen insight and a mind as limitless as the sand on the seashore. (1K.4:29, GW)



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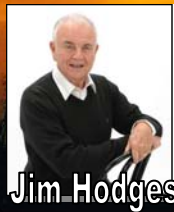
Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

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## Arising Reformation



**We have to live by the big picture because if we get bogged down in the little picture, we will get discouraged. The big picture has to be the Great Commission that Jesus gave to His Church. The Commission is great in its difficulty and greater in its fulfillment. The Great Commission is three things: 1) It is Jesus' mission to inherit nations, people groups and ethnicities. 2) It is a renewal of the Dominion Mandate given by God to Adam and Eve in the garden to reproduce and reach out on behalf of the Lord in heaven and rule on the earth. He has given the earth to the sons of men. [So, if we don't like what is happening on the earth, we don't blame God.] 3) It is a CO-mission. He has invited you and me into His mission. He said He would be WITH us in this CO-mission. We are invited in as covenantal partners and participators in His intended works in the earth.**

According to missiologists, today over 30% of humanity considers themselves Christian. Over 2600 people groups have become a majority Christian group. In the year 1900, there were 20 nonbelievers for every believer on the planet. The ratio today is 7 to 1. We are gaining ground. Currently, the majority of evangelical believers and missionaries are from non-western world nations. That is a truly remarkable shift from a hundred years ago when the opposite was true. Even the financial epicenter of missions has shifted to Asia. In this big picture, if we rivet in to where we are, it is a land of toughness. Economic recession has resulted in less



revenue for churches and ministry. We have daily revelations from an overreaching federal government to deal with. We have increasing documentation of corruption throughout the culture. We have doctrinal dumbing-down of the church. These observations put a greater challenge before us. We must live and minister out of revelation from God more than ever. In this tough place, we must look through the telescope once again to see the big picture and not live out of the conditions that surround us. May God give us eyes to see what He sees, the big picture, so that we do not get discouraged.

We live and minister in light, the light of revelation by spiritual sight. The fact that we have eternal life is because we have the revelation of who Jesus is. Our spiritual journey begins with spiritual sight and our journey must proceed with increasingly spiritual sight. Just as people without a vision perish, without a prophetic proceeding word of revelation we perish from discouragement, depression and disillusionment. Without vision, we go unrestrained and become purposeless. What we see in God gives us life and direction and purpose and strength. I love the Psalmist who cried out after magnifying the Lord for His awesome loving kindness and faithfulness and righteousness and justice, "In your light, we see light." God wants to increase the light that we are walking in. Walking by His light in the big picture makes us realize something simple yet profound: we must engage in the Great Commission by first seeing in the Spirit. We can see without being engaged, but we cannot engage without seeing. Revelation must have priority in our lives. Revelation engages us for the mission and causes us to not back down from its difficulty and the darkness that surrounds us.

Revelation leads to repentance and the good news is that there has been some repentance in the last several years in the Body of Christ. We change our perspective when we see what God sees. The Body of Christ has had some shifts of mindsets through genuine repentance. 1) We have shifted from Church-centeredness to Kingdom-centeredness. We are not diminishing Church but we are prioritizing the Kingdom over it because Kingdom transcends everything. People that stay Church-centered do not see the Kingdom much. Those that see the Kingdom will love the Church. 2) We have shifted from the entertainment model of ministry to equipping the saints for ministry, especially in the seven mountains of culture. 3) We have shifted from self-help techniques to discipling people into servant-leaders. Converts do not change the world, disciples do. It takes a disciple to produce a disciple. 4) We are shifting from revival to reformation. Most revivals are short-lived, but reformations last for generations. In 1517, when Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of the

church at Wittenberg, Germany, that loosed a reformation in the Body of Christ. It was painstaking, laborious and challenging, but it released something, not only in the Church, but for a dark continent. It was an awakening in every area of life to appreciate the truth of God beyond what is revealed in special revelation and scripture. It was only a hundred years later that Galileo built a telescope to observe Jupiter. Reformation in the Church advances the culture. Reformation is not a selfish agenda for it requires laying your life down for God's bigger, Kingdom purpose. 5) We have shifted from defending our group's favorite doctrine to developing a biblical worldview of all of life and reality. We all have doctrinal strengths and are still adjusting some of our doctrines, but the main thing is that we are not divided over a few pet doctrines. (There have been whole movements built on defending one or two doctrines and many were not even major issues.) 6) We have shifted somewhat from one generational leadership to multi-generational leadership in the Church and ministries. Instead of passing the torch, we are sharing the torch. 7) We are also moving from doing Church to building community among believers. This has to happen. Church must be community. 8) We have shifted from ignoring the culture around us to influencing it and eventually managing it. The meek shall inherit the earth. 9) We have shifted somewhat from 'I've got leaving on my mind,' to 'I've got changing the world on my mind.' We can go to heaven with deficient eschatology, but how we view the future affects what you do with your life, your finances, your ministry and your plans for now. Sure, we will see Jesus someday, but He is already with us by the Holy Ghost and has a mission for us to fulfill. I don't think He is going to come back until the mission is fulfilled. He will neither come back prematurely nor come back and do the mission for us when He has given you and I the earth.

As we live and minister by divine revelation, the next thing it will do for us is lead us into what we are crying out for in this hour, new structures, new strategies and some adjusted doctrine. As God's people, we are seeking these three now because though we have shifted some mind sets, we are lacking application and implementation. We need to know how to strategize to transform our communities and how to kingdomize the seven mountains of culture, family, religion, civil government, economy, education, media and arts and entertainment. Strategy comes out of maturity. In Matt. 28, when Jesus gave the Great Commission, He did not give us a strategy to fulfill it. He simply declared the mission, the commission. He prophesied its success because He is with us to the end, but there was no strategy. In Acts 2, when Father and Son sent the Spirit on Pentecost, there was prophecy about the Spirit being poured out on all mankind, but there was no reference to the strategy on how to fulfill the mission. However, the Wind of God blew the early Church into strategies. Though we do not find a strategy in Acts 2, we do find a structure or a wine skin through which these new believers could get strategies in Acts 2:42. It tells us they continually devoted themselves to the Apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. In the context of that wineskin structure, God began to work maturity in them and

that facilitated the mission of Christ being fulfilled in the earth. The strategy is in the Wind (Spirit) and the strategy is in the skin. While we look for methods, God looks for maturity. We do have to have methods, but they are not first. The Wind is first. In Acts 13, the Church at Antioch matured to such a level in one year that they sent out its two most prominent leaders, Saul and Barnabas, to pursue the Great Commission. They taught their disciples there daily for one year. That is how maturity preceded strategy. Later on in Ephesus, Paul trained disciples daily for two years. They matured enough to send out many teams to reach the entire area of Asia Minor.

Heb. 5:8 says of Jesus that although He was a son, He learned obedience by the things He suffered. Jesus in His humanity learned and matured. The Son of Man matured before He fully accomplished the Father's mission. I am not saying we do not pursue the mission at all until we are fully mature, but the most effective strategy for fulfilling the Great Commission is release through a mature, corporate son of God in the earth. So, we are not diminishing what we have now, we are simply saying greater strategies are coming with the Wind of God at our back and the right wine skin structure for people to mature in Christ. The Lord won't give His highest level strategies to an immature Church because He is working to bring many sons to glory in the earth (Heb.2:10) who represent Him and His purpose for the earth. Though we are accomplishing things now, the greatest impact for the gospel is yet to come. We are growing up according to Ephesians 4, not just individually, but as a corporate matured, unified man that measures up to the stature of Christ in a way that pleases the Father with many sons like His First Born.

In the big picture, the Great Commission will involve alignment and assignment. Our alignments should be relationally based. An apostolic-family-army must never be institutionalized. It must be organic, real and relational. Let's say it like this, if you have an apostolic relationship, you have one another's phone number. Our alignments need to be covenantal and reciprocal. Alignments will involve counsel, encouragement, intercessory support and ministry teams to serve one another and take on corporate assignments. The difference in an apostolic alignment and a denomination is the emphasis on the relational dimension of covenant and Kingdom mindset that seeks to converge with the larger Body of Christ in assignments from the Lord. This opposes isolationism and sectarianism. Alignments are rough and real because they involve people with all their frailties, but I am more excited about alignments than assignments. Jesus gets His assignment from His alignment at the Father's right hand. May we align likewise and keep it real rather than over-organize and institutionalize ourselves.

(Jim Hodges is the founder of the Federation of Ministers and Churches International, a relational, apostolic network of ministers, apostolic teams and local churches across the nation. Having ministered in over 40 nations, Apostle Hodges serves the Body of Christ internationally as a teaching apostle with a passion to see the Body of Christ fully established. Apostle Jim Hodges' latest book *WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE CHURCH TO DO?* This book and other materials may be found at his website: [fmci.org](http://fmci.org) or by calling the office 972-283-2262.)

## A Guide for This Season

### A Guide for This Season



**Melissa Gabler**

Here's what you need to know first and foremost: **YOU** are important, **YOU** have a piece that the rest of us need, **YOU** have a gift and skill combo no one else has, **YOU** will live and not die, **YOU** are created for His glory, and all of

these things are His original intent for you in 2016! Now that that is in the atmosphere let's talk about life in the season ahead.

There is a war in the atmosphere over our nation. It's like a virus that causes complete irrationality brought on by the stubborn refusal to take personal responsibility. This virus was released by an evil agenda to build a one-world dictatorship in the "land of the free and the home of the brave"! How? By coddling, and stroking the broken. By wooing them with band-aids, and promising them "Kool-aid". Instead of teaching people they don't have to be a victim of their circumstances, this virus took advantage of their emotional state for it's own selfish, ungodly gain. Well, guess what, "There shall be no end to the increase of His government and of peace, [He shall rule] on the throne of David and over His Kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from that time forward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9:7 AMP) It's happening folks!

It's interesting how we've had a zombie craze over the last 8 years. Hmmm, the virus exposed itself! We are surrounded by the broken that are driven by a poisoned inoculation. Here's the beauty, we have the antidote! So, "Do not participate in the worthless and unproductive deeds of darkness, but instead expose them [by exemplifying personal integrity, moral courage, and godly character]; for it is disgraceful even to mention the things that such people practice in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light [of God's precepts], for it is light that makes everything visible. For this reason He says, 'Awake, sleeper, And

arise from the dead, And Christ will shine [as dawn] upon you and give you light.” (Ephesians 5:11-14 AMP)

It’s happening folks! The intensity you feel right now is an evil agenda being de-throned. God has not, and will not take His hand off of this nation! We are a blessed people, and we GET to be a part of His Kingdom invasion. Come. On. Now. “The zeal of the Lord of hosts“ is accomplishing a miraculous transformation in the United States of America. Does it look like what most of us thought a miraculous transformation would? Probably not. Does it matter what we thought it should look like? Absolutely not.

Now, what is our part in this next season? Awareness. We must remember, at all times: the Kingdom of God is invading this nation. Each one of us has a piece of the Kingdom that penetrates and affects the region around us. We are going to WIN this fight. Hey, it’s not going to be pretty in the months ahead, but no matter what you see, hear, or face, it has no effect on what God has set in motion. After all, He has the last word! If you feel worried, afraid, or uneasy that’s your clue you are plugged into the wrong advisors. You may need to turn the TV off during this season in order to stay plugged into God’s agenda. Make sure you keep the air cleared in your vicinity. One great way of doing that is upping your prayer in tongues. Talk about an air purifier! Speaking in tongues is a beautiful weapon from Heaven for such a time as this.

Our stance in this season is standing—standing on the truth that our magnificent God is doing something BIG. He is establishing His plan for 2016 and beyond. Again, we GET to be a part of this. We GET to be a change agent simply by standing. Yes, YOU have what is needed for this moment. Now is not the time to throw your hands up. Now is the time to take a deep breath and watch the glorious show unfolding in the days ahead. Yes, there will be shockers. BUT all we need to know is that those shockers are proof that God is shaking what can be shaken (Heb. 12:27-28)! Thankful to be Your daughter, my King.

“The kingdom of God doesn’t come by counting the days on the calendar. Nor when someone says, ‘Look here!’ or, ‘There it is!’ And why? Because God’s kingdom is already among you.” (Luke 17:21 MSG) It’s time to wake up, and be who we were born to be. Let’s win this war, as God has intended.



## A Love Conquered Heart



Joe Bogue

**“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.” (1 John 3:20-21)**

We have a tough enough time in life without condemning ourselves. The Apostle John is putting his finger on something that is life-changing if we will recognize the problems that it will cause in our lives. He is identifying a symptom of our human condition and psychological make-up that was given to us by Adam. John declares the problem of self-condemnation that everyone of us deals with throughout life. Kathy Gabler has so eloquently defined condemnation for us in her article, *Offense: The Kingdom in Action*. Here is an excerpt:

“Condemnation is probably the #1 most successful tool against Christians because it causes people to live like yoyo’s—up one minute, down the next—vitally involved one month and feeling totally disqualified the next. Condemnation is deadly because it measures your salvation by your behavior and disqualifies you with every error, sin or failure. Here’s a key: condemnation can only do you damage when your focus is works and behavior instead of relationship. Sons know they don’t get into the family by being perfect, so they don’t fear being de-sonned because of imperfection. Condemnation always connects your behavior to your self-worth, but God doesn’t. So, mature sons must learn to think like their Father and not remain an immature son who is likely to disinherit himself.”(Kathy Gabler, *Offense: The Kingdom In Action*)

Wow! What a great working definition of condemnation. I would like to look at a few of the pitfalls that come with this merit-based tool

that the enemy uses to insidiously keep the people of God in a state of confusion, disillusionment, and disqualified despair. 1.) **‘I’m not good enough.’** This is a resounding theme that has been used by the devil and man to keep people in a state of manipulatable flux. This is where devils and institutions use the innate desire in every human being to be of worth, for their own devices and schemes. Righteousness is not achieved by what we do, but in Whom we believe.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Gal 3:27 KJV) The Message reads like this, “Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise.” God never intended us to work to be good or righteous enough for a relationship with Him. He provided the finished work of His Son to bring all of humanity back to His original intent: one God, one man, relationally walking in the cool of the day. Notice that this walk is in a certain atmosphere where there is no sweat. There is no strenuous effort to facilitate this demonstration of dominion and relationship. They are just being. Merit based emotional gratification is a powerful tool that can be used to bring us to what seems to be a value, but it can be taken away by the same puppet masters, if the desired behavior is not achieved. We must realize that behavior is only the tip of the iceberg of what we see in a man. This leads us to another weapon of the enemy.

2.) **Do and become.** Merit-based value is always rooted in the doing-to-become-something. The devil came to Eve in Gen 3 and tempted her by this, “If you eat of the fruit of the tree, you will become gods.” If you do, you will become. Whereas, the Kingdom message says, “Become and you will do.” In Christ, “all things become new” (2Cor 5:17), “now these signs shall follow them that believe” (Mk 16). We don’t do to become, we have become, then we do. It is because of Christ in me the hope of glory, that I can now do the “greater things” that Christ promised. I cannot create enough good things to become righteous. My efforts will always leave me short of the glory, but I can put my belief, hope, and trust in the Apostle of my soul to finish the work that changes me into the image of Himself. I cannot do to become, I must become to do.

We were never designed to handle all the intricacies of what is right and what is wrong. That is why God kept that for Himself. We spend much of our lives trying to discern what is the right thing to do or not do. I’m not discarding our necessity to distinguish good and evil, I am just saying that was not God’s original intent. He wanted us to have life and that abundantly. There are some things in my life I know are not necessarily good, but for the most part, life is full of nuanced decisions that can bog us down in swampy external judgment calls. Should I wear this or not, is make-up OK or not, can I eat this, drink that, listen to this group, support this company, or boycott that one? All of these daily decisions feed into a narrative that says, “If you don’t do everything exactly right and make every right decision, you will be in sin and God hates sin, so He hates what you are doing.” This mindset leads us into more significant decisions we

have to make in life like how to raise our kids or how to handle issues concerning my aging parents. I have found in my own life that it is better to ask, “What is life in the situation?” and not “What is right or wrong.”

I had a situation with a young man whose mother had died. He had come up in our church and his father was out of the picture. He called me on the phone and informed me that his mother had died and left requests of how she wanted to be buried. Her list of requests were quite intricate, expensive, and she made no provision for the arrangements. Her assumption was that her son would just accommodate her desires in her passing. He was torn by the thought of doing the “right” thing. As I listened to him struggle internally with the mindset of obligation and assumed responsibility a word of wisdom came to me. I asked him, “What would be life for you in the situation, not what is right or wrong?” The question turned on a light in his overwhelmed heart and mind. He then relayed what would be a life-giving decision for him and his family. He felt the weight of the condemnation lift off of him because he felt like he was doing the wrong thing as a son. Dr. Carolyn Leaf describes the two ways we think about things in these terms: life or fear. Is this decision made from a place of life or a place of fear? Fear is the emotional power within condemnation that holds people in a paralyzed or manic state. Fear has everything to do with timing in our life. We are either too fearful to move or so anxious that we jump too quickly. Don’t let the fear of always trying to figure out right or wrong throw you off of the timing of God. A better question will always be, “What is life for this situation”?

Another reason condemnation is so insidious is its ability to run underneath your desktop. What do I mean? Whenever my daughter comes over, she grabs my phone and checks if I have programs running that I don’t know about. And sure enough, there is always something that I have opened up and is running unaware to me except that my phone’s battery keeps dying faster and faster. I didn’t see these things on the surface of my phone but I was dealing with the effects of it. So too, condemnation runs underneath your subconscious affecting every decision, attitude, and paradigm that is on your desktop. These are some signs that you may have an issue of condemnation still in operation in your life. It can manifest through fear, inadequacy, insecurity, and a questioned identity. It can also manifest through regrets and a settled life.

I was having lunch with an old friend I hadn’t seen in nearly 30 years. As we talked, his wife confessed that she dealt with envy of people in her son's school that are seemingly perfect in appearance. She went on to describe what was, in her mind, a series of bad decisions that she had made, and so they are living in the consequences of those decisions. I looked in amazement at her because we were sitting in a beautiful four bedroom house with a pool. She was a professional, her husband was in law enforcement, their children were polite, well spoken, and drop-dead gorgeous. **WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!** They were a wonderful example of success, but because of past decisions, she believed that she had to settle for a life less than what God wanted for them. Condemnation will blind you to what is right in front of you. It will keep you

from seeing the hand of blessing from the Lord because of its constant need to look back in the past.

If you are stuck in past regrets of missed opportunities and settling for a mundane existence, you may have this tool of the enemy working in your life. Condemnation will keep you in sin but conviction will lead you out of sin. (Bill Johnson). The third marker that may identify condemnation in your life is the inability to dream anymore. "When the Lord turned our captivity to Zion, we were like them that dream." (Ps 126:1). If you are struggling with having a dream for your life from the Lord, if you no longer can use the God-given imagination to see yourself doing great things for the Kingdom of God, if you can't believe that God would use you in your state to accomplish His kingdom assignment, you may have condemnation at work.

So, what now? First of all, there is no condemnation for you in the Kingdom, none. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus." (Rom 8:1). We need to come into the realization that Christ does not condemn us. Even with all our faults, issues and shortcomings, there is no condemnation for those in Christ. Secondly, we must throw down any thoughts that lead us to a place of fearing relationship. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18). This is a definitive statement. There is absolutely, positively, existentially no fear in love. Take Him at His Word. Then, John goes on to say that "perfect love" casts out fear. What is perfect love? The word perfect means finished, completed, full grown, and mature. So that begs the question of what completes love? The answer is to complete the circle. Love given to us is only half of the love God wants to shed on us. It is only perfected, completed, finished, full grown and matured when it is in turn given to someone else. Freely you have received, now freely give. That's why another prayer line, prophetic word, hands laid on you will only begin the work, but not complete it without our participation in maturing the love that casts out fear. This word "cast" doesn't just mean to push away, set aside, or throw over there. It means to "throw down". There is a big difference in throwing something aside to come back again on the same level. It is quite another thing to throw something down beneath your feet into its new place of inferiority. Another way to put it, love is matured by giving it away and putting fear underneath your feet.

We do these things not by our own strength and ability, but by the finished work of Jesus on the cross. We must believe that what Jesus did is enough to provide all we need for life and Godliness. Can we add one thing to the righteousness that Jesus gave to us by His death, burial, and resurrection? I don't think so. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal 2:20) The only faith that can do anything is the faith of the Son of God. I can't whip it up, drum it up, speak it up, or spit it up enough to make lasting change in my life. It is the faith of Jesus Christ in me that allows me to accept and appropriate all the gifts He's given to us. I pray that the Lord will break all the chains of condemnation that plague each of us and that the faith in his Son be the catalyst that brings his love into

perfection in our lives. Love conquers all.

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A few weeks ago, a friend of Melissa's went to great lengths to prepare her birthday gift. The gift was a unique collection of items that connected promise and timing and encouragement specifically for Melissa in her plans for this year. The package was mailed from Mississippi to Texas and made it to the end of Melissa's driveway, but she never got the gift. Every step of the gift's route was traced, confirmed and documented by the post office from the sender to being set upon Melissa's mailbox. The mailbox was the threshold of fulfillment, however, there was an unpredictable, unprecedented and unreasonable culmination of circumstances at that point. The mailman said the driveway was too flooded to deliver the package to the porch and so he set it on the mailbox and honked to notify the man he saw on the porch. Spring rains had indeed flooded the drive, but there is no explanation for the "man on the porch," since there was no man on the premises (that had any right to be there).

This incident was interference becoming a weapon used in a threshold war. A threshold is a doorway of decision or choice, a place of entry into new potential and change, an opportunity for fulfillment or taking new ground or laying hands on promise or crossing a line of no turning back, but interference causes circumstances to collapse or go awry in war at a threshold. It is like standing on the shore seeing ships in the distance that are headed inland, but do to navigation errors or sudden weather or tide changes, they pass on by or disappear into the night.



Interference can be the machinations of both men and minions. Men under the influence of their own thinking (spiritual wickedness of their own high places) or men under the influence of powers of darkness can build blockages. It doesn't take a big devil to cause interference, just a cunning devil that thrives on timing and manipulating circumstances for the perfect storm. This birthday package loss exposed a pattern of a prevailing spirit that only shows up at threshold moments to cause chaos or loss. Of course, the purpose of this pattern is to thwart times of fulfillment or transition and purpose. If the hits of a prevailing spirit become a life pattern, that spirit often remains unchallenged because it is hidden in familiarity. Patterns that are familiar mold our expectations which become unconscious agreement. That is why people find Murphy's Law comforting. Their expectations agree with the pattern that whatever can go wrong will.

Realizing interference was deliberately used as a weapon of delay and disappointment explained a parade of experiences from the past for me, but I am declaring that pattern will no longer parade through my life like a norm. I wanted to ask the Lord why He allows this type of cunning interference, but I suspect it might be sons rather than Father allowing such operations to continue. So, I rephrased my question, "Lord, what do we do about interference that contradicts us when we are at key thresholds?"

The answer I heard was, "Pray this way, 'HANDS OFF'". That sounded strange to me and I wondered if I really could pray that way or if I had misunderstood. Then I found those exact words in The Message, Psa 105:14, "*He permitted no one to abuse them. He told kings to keep their HANDS OFF!*" So, I prayed confidently, "HANDS OFF!" That was a step of progress but the lesson was not over.

While writing this article, I was interrupted by the insurance lady. When I went back to the computer, this article file would not open again! Finally, after many attempts and maneuvers, it opened. Then, in broad daylight, a roach ran up the slick metal tube leg of my TV tray and on to my computer screen! You have to know me to fully appreciate the adrenaline implosion and the level of harassment that bodacious devil represented! (At that point I figured I must be on the verge of divulging one of hell's favorite operations with this threshold interference ploy!)

Of course, I had to stop writing to vacuum under everything that could be moved and then exterminate the house to build up enough nerve to go back to the computer. It was frustrating and the thought actually passed through my mind to put the whole subject down and walk away, but I suddenly realized the timing of this *personal harassment roach* was not a random coincidence! When I could breathe normally and was over my terror, I realized *personal harassment* and interference are like a double-barrel shot gun. Interference works on circumstances and harassment works on us. Both are fighting dirty in an attempt to condition our thinking and attitudes and opinions and conclusions with the ultimate goal of taking advantage of our superpower which is *agreement*.

Interference hits circumstances with intent to rob or sabotage. Harassment aims for emotions and attitudes. Both are ultimately aiming to keep us from crossing thresholds and getting to fulfillment. Interference usually becomes obvious at some point, but harassment often needs to be discerned, especially if it is to be countered before it contaminates. Interference and harassment are nothing new but their pattern of targeting crucial thresholds is an equipping discovery that brings focus and clarity.

I perceive it is time for overused weapons (interference and harassment) to backfire. Also, it is time for sieges to end and old patterns of defeat to be broken. We have been equipped with wisdom and awareness to refuse to be conditioned for delay and disappointment. A new thought for me is that the way to win some wars is to end them! Many wars lose their presence and meaning when we refuse to allow them to go inside our attitude and condition our life. Shutting them out shuts them down.

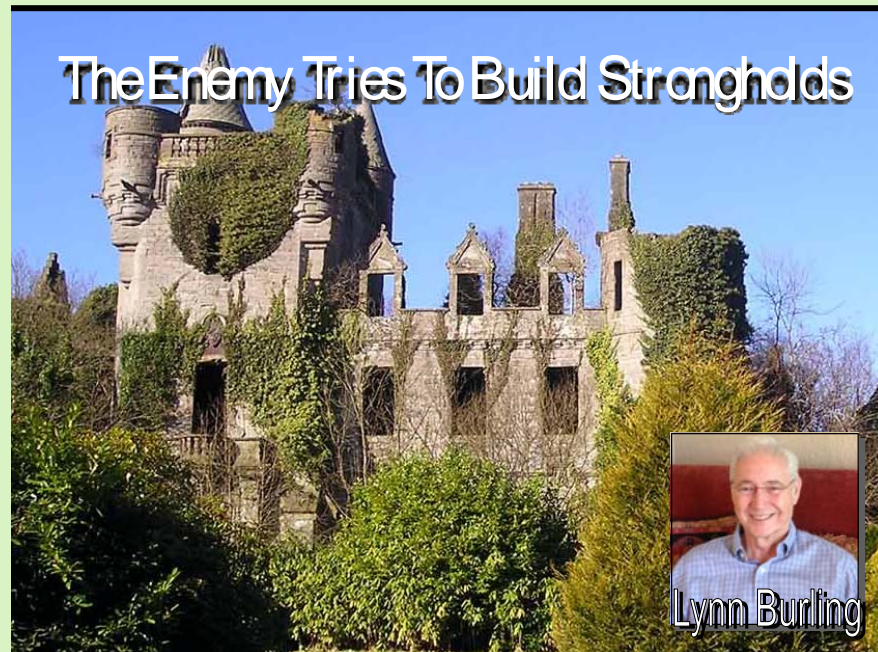
As a second witness to a time for these old patterns to be broken, a call came with a prophetic word for us, "The door of the ark is about to close." Marty said that word meant that harassment and interference was getting shut out and God's provision and strategy shut in, making us ready to move forward. As I went to record and date that word, for some reason I wrote, 6/15/92. I was shocked that year seemed to come, not to mind but to my fingers! It made me suspect the pattern of delay and deferral that is breaking has been at work in our lives for 24 years. Again, it is time for long-term sieges to end!

Another interesting thing happened that same week of discovery: an eagle flew by Melissa's window. An eagle symbolizes God's perspective, a prophetic view that reaches beyond what we can see and feel. That eagle pierced the current conditions and atmosphere as a prophetic reminder that God's original intent is still in view and no wars on the brink or patterns of interruption will keep it from coming to pass. That is the second eagle she has seen while looking out a window this year. The number "two" indicates a matter that is already determined by God and will soon come to pass. (Gen 41:32) It is pure encouragement to know God doesn't forget His original intent and that He intends to bring it to pass!

I had three more promptings to pray, "Hands off," in the weeks that followed. On one occasion, I had a vision as I prayed and I actually saw hands falling off at the wrist. I quickly said, "Lord, I was not thinking so viciously. That's not my fault!" However, the vision was not about any person being maimed, it was simply assurance that not only was the interference and harassment being stopped, but the ability to continue to interfere and harass was being cut off in that matter also. Thank you, Father.

Let me add just a remembrance that comes to me now. Back in the summer of 2008, I was praying for the election and had a vision of the future president's hands falling off. I did not understand the vision then but it opens to me now. Regarding the blatant interference and harassment that is attempting to violate

this nation's destiny and regarding the coming election, not only is the interference and harassment being stopped, but its ability to continue is being cut off also as we pray with all confidence, HANDS OFF!



There are strongholds that we may not be aware of. We must constantly be on guard about such things. You may ask, "How in God's green earth could we not know about a stronghold in our life?" After all, WE are anointed, WE are called, WE are led by The Spirit! Let me start by saying, *you will never see what you're not looking for.* Let me add this to that equation too: *any new revelation that does not bring us into a greater revelation of God is just making us more religious.* What you THINK you know, might be preventing you from what you NEED to know.

Let's look at the interaction between Jesus and Peter. It was the day and night before Jesus told Peter in Luke 22:31,32, "*Simon Simon,*" STOP right there. Jesus had ALREADY told him, "Your name is PETER" but NOW Jesus is referring back to his old name, Simon. When Simon replied to that great question, Jesus asked him in Matthew 16:15, "*Who do men say that I am?*" What an incredible revelation from God to this man. He answers, "*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*". Now Jesus is impressed because he knows that this information could have ONLY been revealed by his Father to this blessed man. Now watch how this builds from Jesus to Simon (Imagine for a moment YOU were hearing these words, to the extent that Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God has now

changed your name to PETER. Watch the escalation of verbiage from Jesus: *"On this rock I will build my church, and (still building) the gates of hell shall not prevail (still building), and I will give YOU the KEYS OF THE HEAVEN (still building) and whatsoever YOU bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and vice versa.* All of this was said to just one man—incredible.

You might be thinking, if this is about strongholds, I'm not seeing it yet. This does not bring me much comfort to see Peter, Simon, I mean Peter in this position, but watch this: JUST THREE VERSES LATER (count them 1,2,3), this man of revelation, this declaration over him by Jesus Himself of his future and great success, takes Jesus and says to Jesus' comments about how he must be delivered up and be killed. Verse 22, *"Then Peter took him and began to REBUKE him, saying, no ,no, never Lord, this shall never happen to you."* What was Peter thinking? That's just it. He wasn't thinking or just maybe the enemy is cleverly deceiving him about: what if this really does happen then what happens to MY ministry?

Jesus turns to Peter and said, "GET THEE BEHIND ME SATAN. Watch the words of Jesus: *"You are a stumbling block to me. You are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men."* Ouch! Is this the exact same man whom Jesus just touted as a pillar in his church? *If God is more than we think, then let's change the way we think.* Honestly, Jesus was not taken by surprise. He knew that once chosen by Him to do great things, the enemy is lurking to find ways to build strongholds.

Jumping ahead for a moment, Peter got worse before he got better. Luke 22:31.. "Simon, Simon Satan has desired to have you [pause and reflect]. He wants your gifts, your callings to not come to fruition, your anointing to be questioned. In fact, as soon as Jesus GAVE, Satan came to STEAL what Jesus said he was and what he would do and become. So don't worry it's all going to turn out for Peter because Jesus says in vs. 33, *"I have prayed for you that your faith fail not."* He went on later to deny Christ. Oh he wasn't guilty of playing hooky from church or not paying his tithes or of not forgiving someone. After all, he was the one told that you should forgive not 7 times but 70 times 7. He told Jesus, "I'll die with you and for you and when the rooster crowed the 3rd time, Peter fell hard. He went out and wept bitterly. Peter had left a door open through the flesh.

Peter had "perceived strengths." STRONGHOLDS OFTEN DEVELOP IN THE SHADOWS OF OUR STRENGTHS. Peter had

tested this new revelation, this new promotion (been there), these new gifts. It's hard to swallow that *we only mind the things of the flesh (of men) and not of God*. What was fuzzy about his stronghold is now more clear. When we perceive our strong points we tend to relax. We're constantly aware of our weaknesses, so we keep a close watch on them, making it more difficult for Satan to use the element of surprise but NOT SO with our strong points.

It's the same with us as Peter in both matters. Jesus has "guaranteed our faith won't fail," BUT, we can fall flat on our face as well. The enemy seems to move freely in our self-confidence. *It is along the line of our strengths that we're more vulnerable*. We tend to double our guard on our weaknesses. It's when we become a little more self sufficient: "Oh I can handle this" because we know we've done OK in these areas before. Where we've been historically strong is where we don't have the same frame of reference to recognize the work of the enemy. Most believers fall/fail in the area they least expected it. Many tend to think, "I've always been strong in that area. What Happened To Me?" Answer: Satan crept in and hid in the shadow of your strength and, when you blink, he adds more mortar and brick to the stronghold.

Let's fast forward to the seashore, Christ is risen and Peter and the rest are there, but this time Peter is more subdued, less impetuous. He's full of humble pie (been there). He's always the one who speaks first, pulls out a sword, volunteers information. However, Peter is somewhat quiet now. Even the conversation Jesus had with him with the three questions, he barely comments. THIS IS THE ONE WHOM JESUS GAVE THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM! THIS IS THE ONE WHO HAS HAD A HISTORIC NAME CHANGE. THIS BORN LEADER IS NOW SHYING AWAY. Jesus had told him in scripture, "*You da' man Peter*". But when Jesus told him you will betray me, he argued back with a haughty display of self assurance. (I have put this part of the conversation in my words.) "Lord you know and I know I'm strong and loyal and I'll never let you down." Evidently he left Satan out of the equation. Satan knows how to take advantage of over confidence. May we be reminded that the church of Laodicea was controlled by a stronghold so severe it lost touch with reality. They thought "lukewarm" was better than "cold," when they knew hot was the real deal. Scripture says, "We're not ignorant of His devices," but ignorance is bliss if we have not gained any understanding. Jesus' thoughts, words and intercession for Peter was what brought him to completion, for Jesus told him, "*and when you are converted, strengthen the brethren.*" Saints, be alert. The devourer is lurking but Jesus **trumps** the enemy with His "*ever living to make intercession for us.*"

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## *Your Power and Might Prevail!*

Your Power and Might Prevail!  
by Jean Hodges



Jean Hodges

“I call My people into travail  
For the times are dark and I must  
move to light the spark,  
To bring My Holy Fire.”

Wait - I say - Wait for Me  
Do not think I tarry in vain  
For My arm will be bared and  
My voice be heard - to -  
gather My sheep into the fold,

To sift the nations - one by one-  
until My work is eternally done.

I will judge the goats and lay them bare,  
feed My sheep with loving care,

Bring My Kingdom to fullness and power,  
so wait I say, wait for Me—for I come  
with a spark to light the blaze,  
the fire of My Spirit to enlighten your days.

To mantel you with power and might  
so that in Me you overcome the dark,  
walk in light, carry the blaze, and yes—  
Prevail”.



**Simon Purvis**

In the second chapter of Acts, there were 3000 saved after Peter's preaching and it says they continued steadfast in the Apostle's doctrine or teaching. We have heard a number of strong prophetic words that God is restoring apostles and prophets to the Church. As apostles are restored, we will get clearer understanding of apostolic doctrine.

After His resurrection, Jesus spent forty days with the apostles that He had appointed. In those forty days He spoke with them about things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. The heart of apostolic doctrine is the Kingdom of God. Jesus then instructed them to go to Jerusalem and tarry until they received the promise from the Father. He told them when the promise of the Father came they would receive power and be His witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit is Christ's delegated authority on the earth to advance His Kingdom, to advance the rule of God.

They went to Jerusalem and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. As an introduction to apostolic doctrine consider the message that Peter preached. *Acts 2:22-30 "Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus from Nazareth was a man accredited to you by God through miracles, wonders, and signs that God performed through him among you, as you yourselves know. This very man, after he was arrested according to the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up and destroyed the pains of death, since it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says about him, 'I always see the Lord in front of me, for he is at my right hand so that I cannot be shaken. That is why my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices, yes, even my body still rests securely in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or allow your Holy One to experience decay. You have made the ways of life known to me, and you will fill me with gladness in your presence.' "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and that his tomb is among us to this day. Therefore, since he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him with an oath to put one of his descendants on his throne.*

Notice we are not waiting for a future date for Christ to come and sit on a throne. In the next verse, we see this happened at His resurrection a. *Acts 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ: He was not*

*abandoned to Hades, and his flesh did not experience decay.' Acts 2:32 It was this very Jesus whom God raised, and of that we are all witnesses. Acts 2:33 He has been exalted to the right hand of God, has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, and has poured out what you are seeing and hearing. Acts 2:34 For David did not go up to heaven, but he said, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, Acts 2:35 until I make your enemies your footstool."*

*Acts 2:36 Therefore, let the entire house of Israel understand beyond a doubt that God made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!" Acts 2:37 When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"* Note, they did not ask, "What must we do to go to heaven when we die?" They were asking how to be saved out of a crooked, perverse generation. We are grateful to God for the gospel of redemption that we have been taught, but it is mostly about receiving Jesus so that you will go to heaven when you die. That is not the gospel of the Kingdom. The gospel of the Kingdom teaches the government of Christ to save us out of the twisted-thinking of a generation that hates the government of Christ. Apostolic doctrine saves us from the crooked, perverse thinking in a generation. Galatians 1:4 shows us the reason Jesus forgives us of sin is to deliver us from this evil age and make us part of the age to come. So when we talk salvation we are not talking heaven but being saved out of twisted thinking that hates the government of God. People who want to run their own life like they want and then go to heaven when they die have not received the gospel of the Kingdom. Living life my own way comes with the mindset and spirit behind evil and corruption and perversity, and that is called antichrist. People are waiting for a person in the Middle East to arise as THE antichrist instead of understanding that the scriptures speak of antichrist as a spirit that opposes the government of God. It is a spirit that works through people. The problem is that if we think it is a man someday to arise, we do not deal with that spirit here and now. It was present in John's day and it is present today. Apostolic doctrine centers on the gospel of the Kingdom and saving us out of that crooked, perverse generation thinking that is a product of the antichrist spirit.

A school teacher friend of ours told us his concern over many in his youth group that seem to have the same values and twisted thinking as those without Christ. Their mindset was not changed with their conversion experience. If the belief system does not change, then behavior does not change. We have strongholds or mindsets in this age affecting people's beliefs. Whether we realize it or not, there are generational strongholds through cultural mindsets handed to us that are contaminated with the spirit of antichrist that opposes Christ. This is why there is a need for Apostolic doctrine in this generation. Apostolic doctrine confronts any mindset that does not surrender to total obedience to Jesus Christ.

As the apostolic and prophetic graces are released, they will confront the strongholds in the Church where the Church needs deliverance from this present evil age. The heart of salvation is saving us out of this perverse world. The issue is not going to heaven but who or what is ruling our lives.

Peter was given the keys to the Kingdom in Matt. 16, where Jesus said He would build His Church and hell would not prevail against it. He gave His Church the keys to the Kingdom, enabling them to change kingdoms, coming out of a cultural kingdom into His Kingdom. 1John 5:19 says there is a kingdom of darkness and mindsets of Satan that set people into a social order that is against the government of Christ. The key focus of Peter's preaching was repentance, faith in Jesus Christ, water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit. You cannot enter the Kingdom of God without being water baptized and without being filled with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is Christ's delegated authority in the earth and here to govern our lives.

The reason we receive the Holy Spirit is for the purpose of coming under the government of God. Many Pentecostals make receiving the Holy Spirit about speaking in tongues. I speak in tongues, but receiving the Holy Spirit is coming under the government of Christ's delegated authority in this life, to lead my life, to convict my life, to give me revelation, to give me understanding. So, when we say people are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are talking about being governed by the Holy Spirit. It is possible to speak in tongues but not be governed by the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues is just the start of the journey.

Notice the keys of entering the Kingdom of God. In John 3, Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again to SEE the Kingdom of God, meaning we must be born again to understand the Kingdom of God. Then He said you must be baptized of the water and the Spirit to ENTER the Kingdom. Water baptism is entering into a covenant that is changing governments. This is not optional. In Acts 2:38, Peter said to them, "*Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins,*" Baptism is obedience. Redemption by faith in the name of Jesus is receiving Christ to be redeemed, but entering the Kingdom of God demands obedience. Some people believe this verse is about how you get saved to go to heaven and they believe you have to speak in tongues to go to heaven, but this verse is about changing governments.

*"And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."* Notice in the Kingdom of God that salvation is always generational and includes the household. Acts 2:40 *And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"*

Perverse generation is a reality in our world. This generation is under the mindset of Satan who is the god of this perverted world. He is not the god of the age we live in if we have been saved out of this evil age. (Gal 1:4 tells us: *Jesus Christ gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age according to the will of our God and Father.*) Satan is only a problem where we try to run our own lives instead of submitting to God's government. Satan is not a major issue in the Kingdom of God. In the Kingdom, you can't blame stuff on Satan when it is a matter of self-will and disobedience. Before the fall, man was God-conscious and obedient to God. After the fall, man was self-conscious

and running his own life. Receiving Christ and His government means I no longer run my own life. Apostolic doctrine lays a foundation of Christ in your life (Gal 1:4, *according to the will of our God and Father*), until you are not the focus of your life and you are free of the generation's perverted and twisted thinking and pressure of being self-conscious. Galatians 1:4 does not say He forgave my sins so I would go to heaven when I die. It is part of the package to have a greater experience with Jesus when we die, but the gospel of the Kingdom is that our lives have been part of a twisted, perverted, crooked thinking generation and the gospel confronts those mindsets to deliver us out of them.

(This article was taken from a teaching given by Simon Purvis. He is the lead teacher at the Word of Life Teaching Center in Lufkin, TX. Training is at 10:00am each Sunday. To contact him about speaking engagements or to purchase his 160 page study manual on the Kingdom of God, call Word of Life Teaching Center at 936-639-2000; Email: wol-luf@consolidated.net)

## THE COVENANT OF SONSHIP



**“It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found” (Luke 15:32).**

My testimony as a new believer may be similar to many who are reading this book. When I received Christ and became born again, I joined and became a member of the local church. I became a servant in the Lord's house because I wanted to please the Lord and give something back to Him for all He had done for me. I did not realize how my work of service would soon become my identity. My identity and worth became directly tied to what I did. Whenever my service assignment changed in the church, I would go through a period of crisis. I would feel like I had failed or somehow wasn't good enough for the job. My self-worth was fragile because my identity was tied directly to my job performance. So many are like that in the church today: take away their job and you rob them of their identity. I had multiple crises as a church worker because I never realized my true identity was actually that of a son.

Jesus encountered the same thing with His disciples. He knew that they con-



nected their identity and worth to their works. Clearly this was evident when the disciples debated among themselves about who would be greatest in the kingdom (Luke 22:24). No doubt they rehearsed all their great accomplishments as they debated the issue.

On the night of the Passover before His crucifixion, Jesus assembled the twelve disciples to partake of the Passover meal. He is quoted in Luke's Gospel as saying, "With *fervent* desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (Luke 22: 15-16). This was not a casual statement from Jesus. He was intensely passion-ate about the Passover. He could have also said it this way: "I have been waiting My entire existence to eat this meal with you." It was on that particular night that Jesus released the new covenant revelation to His disciples and inaugurated it with communion. A new covenant relationship was established that continues eternally.

The Passover was also important to Jesus because a divine shift was coming to the disciples in their relationship with the Father. In John 15: 15, Jesus told His disciples, "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for *all* things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (emphasis added). The terminology identified a relational shift from that of servant-master to one of son-father. Up to the night of the Passover, the relationship of the disciples to Jesus had been strictly business. However, after the Passover meal, that changed! In the new covenant, the disciples were no longer held by the Father as servants, but sons! That night was a divine appointment that had been in the making before the beginning of time!

The love of the Father was exponentially released to the disciples that night. They experienced the deepest love imaginable in their relationship with Christ. Their master had become their brother even as Jesus' Father had become their Father. Paul said it like this, "And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the [Holy] Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba (Father)! Father! Therefore you are no longer a slave (bond servant) but a son; and if a son, then [it follows that you are] an heir by the aid of God, *through Christ*" (Galatians 4:6-7, AMP).

### **The Strength of Covenant Sonship**

In Luke 15: 11-32, we read the story of the prodigal son. The story is about two brothers and a father. The younger brother was confused and had a wayward spirit. He asked his father for his inheritance, and in response, the father gave it to him. The younger brother took off from home, traveled far away, and immediately squandered his inheritance on wine and women. Before long, he was broke and took a job feeding pigs in order to survive. He became so destitute that even the pig feed began to look good to him.

In the midst of this horrible mess, the son came to his senses and remembered his father. He recalled that even his father's servants had enough to eat and a better work environment than he did. So he decided to return home, repent of

his sins, and ask his father to hire him as a servant. In the son's shameful heart he said, "I am no longer worthy to be called your son" (verse 19). It is important to note that in his destitute state, the son knew the true character of his father. The son had a history with his father. He knew his father's nature; and in the son's deep despair, he knew that if he were repentant, his father would likely receive him and give him a job.

**When the son returned home to seek mercy and ask his father for a job, the father offered him something much better—a home.**

When the son returned home to seek mercy and ask his father for a job, the father offered him something much better—a home. While the son was yet a great distance from his father's house, the father saw the son walking toward home. This suggests that the father kept a daily vigil, hoping for the moment that his son would return. As his son approached from afar, the father was moved with deep compassion and ran to meet him. The father embraced his son, hugged his neck, and kissed him even before the son had a chance to say one word. The father did not rebuke his son nor demand an explanation of his son's whereabouts. The father simply opened his heart and arms and welcomed the lad home!

Not only did this father embrace his wayward son, but he also reaffirmed to the young man the honor of sonship. He first summoned his servants to bring his best robe and put it over the son, symbolizing his covering and blessing. He then placed his ring upon the son's finger, symbolizing both his covenant with his son and confirmation of the young man's renewed authority. He then called for shoes to be placed on his son's feet, symbolizing protection and a renewed ability to walk out his ordained destiny. Instead of rebuking his son, the father blessed him and restored to him the full rights and privileges of covenant sonship!

If that were not enough, the father further called for the fattest calf to be slaughtered and a feast be made to celebrate his son's return. He said, "For my son was dead and now is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry" (verse 24). Now *that* is a true father!

**The Older Brother**

It is important to note that when the younger son asked for his inheritance, the father gave both sons their inheritance. By law, the older brother was to receive a double portion. We know that the younger son blew his inheritance, but what about the older brother? He obviously let the father keep it for him because the story goes on to say that the older brother was working in the fields when the prodigal returned home.

The older brother heard the noise of a celebration going on at home, and he asked one of the servants what was happening. When he learned of his brother's return and the ensuing celebration, he became very angry. He confronted his father, disturbed that in all the years that he had worked for

his father there was never a party given for him. It is unfortunate that the older brother was a son by birth, but an orphan by paradigm. Even though he was a

son, he had no understanding of what it meant to be a son. He merely worked in his father's field as a laborer along with the other servants in order to earn his father's favor. He was performing in order that he could gain the acceptance of his father. He had no idea that the heart of his father held this sentiment: "All that I have is *yours*" (verse 31, emphasis added).

The older son is the picture of the majority of churchgoers today. He represents the religious system of servanthood that is aimed at getting the approval of the Father in heaven but has no true heart connection with the Father at all. Rather than seeking the Father, churchgoers become caught up in the paradigm of the church system. When a need then arises, they expect the church to provide for that need. When the church fails to measure up to their expectations, these church people blame those in the church system who represent God and abandon that system in search of a different church that promises to do better. Their view of life becomes skewed and full of resentment toward those who wear the robe, the ring, and the shoes of true sonship. These individuals are like the older brother who refused to receive his inheritance, choosing rather to earn it. They are orphans seeking genuine identity and purpose in life but never finding it.

Years ago, I conducted a funeral service for a fine Christian man. He was a faithful believer and a good moral man. Before he passed away, he looked at his wife and said, "I hope I was good enough to make it in." He was referring to his acceptance into heaven. While his words were those of true humility, I immediately saw the orphan heart in this precious man. We have to know that none of us is good enough to be received into the Father's kingdom. As sweet as they sounded, his words reflected both the error of his understanding and the flaw in the church system that promoted and supported his orphan mind-set.

### **Our kingdom service is the reflection of our love for Him as sons!**

We are not received by the Father because of our goodness and kind deeds. We are received because we have been granted sonship through our repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The works that we do as sons and daughters are not to gain favor with God or to prove that we are worthy of His love and favor. Our kingdom service is the reflection of our love for Him as sons!

We must come to an understanding of covenant sonship through Christ. We must don the robe, wear the ring, and put on the shoes given us by our Father. We must demonstrate to the world and the church the reality of true sonship so that generations to come will not live as orphans.

(Larry and Kathy Burden are the founders of KingdomLife. This article is an excerpt from Larry's newest book *The Orphan Heart*. He is also the author of *Kingdom Life Finding—Life Beyond Church*. In that book you will discover why current church models are failing in America, why your church experience often leaves you empty inside, the true freedom and blessing that is found in the kingdom of God. Contact info: [www.kingdomlife.org](http://www.kingdomlife.org))


**Marty Gabler**

# Jael and the Nail



The large male lion, tipping the scales at 400 pounds, rushed in upon the antelope that had been separated from the herd. With one powerful pounce the antelope was down for the count. The lion and his sibling ate their fill and lay down in the shade to allow their big, round bellies to digest a hearty meal. As they sleepily rolled on their backs they were unaware of the scrubby, scarred young male that had been roughly thrust out of the pride the week before. Just at the edge of the brush he began shyly inching forward glancing at once at the scarce remains of the antelope and then at the sleepy pair of dominate males. His skinny frame, lowered head and dragging tail all spoke of missed meals and low self-esteem. Not having eaten for four days, he is desperate for what little remains of the kill. It would only be a scant portion compared to what he really needs. Yet, he must survive and the possibility, which this dangerous circumstance threatens, will only be one more weight he must bear simply to partake of, at least, *some* sustenance. He portrays only the slightest semblance of the feline ferocity which he was born to bear. This golden cat has become merely.... a survivor.

We are moving from a position of mere survival to a position of command. Our environment, our circumstances have pressed upon many of us so that we are continually in a posture of attempting to do what is necessary or compromise so that we may just survive. Celebration is the order of the day if we have just survived the most recent set of circumstances or we have been able to, once more, avoid a domineering personality's words or physical brandishments that make us feel totally defeated. Some people only portray a slight semblance of the son/warrior they were born to be.

Our posture is changing from lowered head, dragging feet and drooped shoulders to head erect, shoulders back and feet stepping high. The old viewpoint that we are present on earth in this age to be a ball of yarn for the big bad "hell-cat" to slap around is history. No longer will we crouch under the brush while the "big boys" burp and loll around digesting the lion's share. We are going to take our position and stand the ground God Almighty has appointed for us to stand on. We will not be silent and we will not go quietly! There is a plan and a design already in place and we will align ourselves with the Kingdom purposes of God and we will be victorious as God gives our spiritual enemies over into our hands to dispatch with clarity of purpose.

One significant reason that we must move from a survival posture to a command posture (where we take action) is that this is a model-building year. We are building a model for what is going to take place over the next ten years. What we build and how we build will determine the outcome of the methodology of that

model. If your model is round, you will go in circles; if it is square you are going to go forward, back, right and left, etc. If we have a model that is set up to just help us survive, there is no productivity going to come out of that model. If our model does not require certain parameters of commitment to God and His Kingdom purposes, we will not be open to the possibilities of that which we have never experienced. In ten years we will look back and say, "What is happening right now, the results I am getting right now, were formed and set ten years ago." We will be saying, "I built a model ten years ago for what is now happening in my life." We are building financial, family and ministry models this year. There is a need for more productive five-fold models, apostolic and transformation models. The relevant question is not, "*Is there a model I am operating by?*" but "*What kind of model is it?*"

We are not just going through a series of events this year; the way we act and react and who we connect with are all part of the model-building process. We are building regional transformation models this year. We are not just having an effect upon us, we are having an effect on the region and beyond. This year, we must be where we are supposed to be, doing what we are supposed to do when we are supposed to do it. Being out of place this year is the model that we will reap from in ten years. Being *in* place is the model we will reap from in ten years. The model we must build this year is one of legislating, commanding, declaring, decreeing and posturing for victory. At the very least, we should be transitioning to a more productive model. We are being transformed in our minds that we may transform cities, regions and nations. Presently, models must be formed and present models must be transformed. What price victory?

Jael, in Judges 4:17-22, was found to be (1) where she was supposed to be, (2) when she was supposed to be there, (3) doing what she was supposed to do. When God put opportunity before her, she did not hide in the back of the tent and faintly squeak out her unvictorious chant of "Woe-is-me. If only I could get off the planet." She stepped through the door of the tent, spoke to the enemy of Israel, put God's plan into action and won the day for a nation. She set up a model of action and victory for her children and her children's children. Where was mom when Sisera, the enemy of the people of God, was looking for a tent to hide in? She was at the door in alignment with a plan that was formed in the throne-room of heaven; a plan that required alignment with *heaven's* timing; a plan that required weaponry and methodology born in the heart of heaven's wisdom; a plan that required a model of battle-winning strategy the likes of which had not been written down in *any* journal of *any* general to date. This heaven-formed model was looking for someone in their place to do what only they could do at the time that it required to be done. By that day's standards of battle and fighting, this was one unconventional person and one unconventional weapon (nail) used upon one unconventional battlefield (tent). God has always championed in the use of the non-typical. A model is needed; a model is required for observation, identification and for replication. The typical model is becoming obsolete by virtue of its impotent limitations. There was a time when the anointing of God moved from Gibeon to Zion but the Gibeon model continued to function in powerless ritual which basically served only to keep a lot of people busy on "worship days".



There is a model in heaven that God is wanting to get into the earth. God called Moses up out of the atmosphere of the present age when He called him upon Mount Sinai (Ex.24). He called Moses up and away from the people so that He could show Moses a model of what He wanted on earth. There Moses received a model for the wilderness tabernacle and with skilled, anointed craftsmen began to build what he had seen in that place with God. There was a plan and there was order. The tribes were named in the plan and there was a place for each of them to be and a function for each of them to perform and it was all at specified times. The heavenly model replaced the destructive model of the molten calf that had the people drunk with its sense of the ideal. The molten calf model facilitated the wanton desires of the flesh and carnality but the heavenly model facilitated the Presence of Jehovah. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven.... Thy Kingdom come." The model has Kingdom order: order for each person, for them to be in their place doing what they are supposed to do when they are supposed to do it. Recently, Sam Brassfield prophesied, "Find your place and get in it."

The danger of a model fashioned after survival is, there is no provision for the future. It cannot accommodate the future because its entire mechanisms are set for "hand-to-mouth" only function. It leaves nothing for the future; nothing for coming generations. A telling portion of scripture reveals to us the corruption of a wrong model: *You ask and receive not because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts (Js.4:3)*. Vincent tells us that the problem with the "consume" part of it is that what we have desired is consumed "under the dominion of" what we are already under. A corrupt model will consume the good things of God if He were to release them to us. Standing under the dominion of our lusts is posed in direct contrast to the rule of God in our lives. The Kingdom model is "seek ye first the Kingdom of God." The lust model (Js 4:3) is "seek me first." If I build a house with nothing but rafters for a roof and no windows, and next year I and my family members are dying of pneumonia, it is no one's fault but mine. **The model we build now, we live in tomorrow.** The model we build now will have an effect on us in the coming years.

Correct models are built by being in the right place, doing the right thing at the right time. Jael is mentioned in scripture two times, Judges 4 and Judges 5. The story in Jud.4 is what she did, how she went about it and the result she got. She is mentioned in her story and then Deborah praises her in Judges 5. Those are the only mentions of Jael in the Bible. In Jael's culture, in her time, her place was in that tent. Her duties were something on the order of: taking care of the tent, keeping things neat and clean, seeing that everything was in its place and preparing food. Jael is not out somewhere seeking a greater meaning for life. She is not tending to someone else's business in someone else's tent hoping to find affirmation outside her place. It has nothing to do with her being male or female; it has to do with her availability to function in a timely manner within her assigned metron (Gk.: sphere of influence). God sets the members in the body as it pleases Him (1Co 12:18). We are each set in the place God determines, not for ourselves and self-fulfillment but for the city, for the region and, as in Jael's case, for the nation.

The weapon Jael used was a nail (Jud.4:21). In scripture a nail can represent, in type, a prince or a counselor. The nail, such as the one Jael used, was driven down into the ground to stabilize the tent and to maintain its shape. It holds the tent firmly and keeps it upright. That is a function of government. If the princes of a kingdom run amuck, forsake absolutes and place themselves just any old place and do *whatever* comes to their minds to do, the kingdom will fall apart. If the counselors do the same thing, the result will be the same. The princes bring stability and hold firmly a kingdom. **Jael's picture is one of being in order with government.** God's Government will pierce the reasoning of the opposition. Jael drove the nail through the temples of Sisera piercing his very mechanism of reasoning. God's Kingdom government in our lives, shaping and stabilizing the tent (the model) will pierce the reasoning of the enemy.

We are royalty. We are part of a royal family (1Pe 2:9). We are the kings Jesus is King of (King of Kings, Rev 19:16). What we do matters. What we do not do matters. We are princes and counselors. We have an effect on our surroundings. Joseph was a counselor to Pharaoh and saved the Hebrews as well as Egypt in time of famine. Though his road to the throne room of Pharaoh was not very desirable it, nevertheless, placed him in the right place to do what he was supposed to do at the time he was supposed to do it. Even when he was in prison, he was where he was supposed to be, doing what he was supposed to do so that he could interpret the dreams of the prisoners, so that he would be ushered into the presence of Pharaoh when Pharaoh's model failed him. It did not take the rough road of Joseph to get Jael into position. It is not likely that all the stages of getting Joseph into position will be required to get the rest of us into position.

This woman was not a large, muscled-up, famous fighter. There were large muscled-up fighting men in Israel who did not make it on the hero list of Israel like Jael did. But in contrast, the big, seasoned military commander who was not in the least afraid of Jael and who had killed many, many men in fierce combat and had led armies to great victories on numerous occasions was completely taken out by a woman who aligned with the government and timing of God. You may not be convinced that powers and principalities are afraid of you. But if you are in alignment with the Kingdom government of God, you can take His provisionary weaponry and topple the enemy.

You are not just going to church and just praying and just trying to be faithful. You are governmentally involved in heaven's model coming to earth and that model and that government are superior to any model of earth's origin. That model coming to earth is impacting a great deal more than just you. It is impacting the region and the nation. The forces of darkness are being accosted, are being pushed back by Jael's who will align with the government nail of God and use His government to impact a region. Sisera's reasoning, criticism and cynicism are being pierced by princely nails who have Wisdom's counsel. We can position ourselves like Jael who got into her place and did what she was supposed to do at a crucial moment in the history of Israel and impacted the nation.

\*Thank you for praying. After each issue is mailed, more dates get added to the calendar. Bless you for praying for us.\*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Call before traveling.  
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We have been putting dates on the Calendar after the magazine goes out. Please check Marty's FaceBook page and [martygabler.com](http://martygabler.com) for dates. We also serve on presbyteries, councils and prayer groups during the week that we don't post. Thank you for your prayers as we travel.— Marty & Kathy

**Aug. 14 \* Seguin, TX**  
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**Aug. 24 \* Jacksonville, FL**  
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**Aug. 25 \* Jacksonville, FL**  
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**Sept. 11 \* Lufkin, TX**  
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