

THE PROPHETIC IN THE EXODUS

By **Rodney W. Francis**

“Thus says the Lord, Let My people go that they may serve Me.”

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This book is dedicated to all who carry a desire to see the prophetic ministry developed in their lives, but especially to those who have faithfully stood with us through the years, some of which have been very difficult times. Together we have come through into much greater things in God than ever before. And “The best is yet to come!” To Him (Jesus) be all the glory!

Forewords

WITH almost 50 years of ministry experience (full-time since 1974), Rodney Francis continues to be an inspiration to the body of Christ worldwide. A season of great change is facing the Church as it is re-imaged by the Holy Spirit for the 21st Century. The prophetic realm is the key to the Church and the Christian discovering their “glorious” countenance and inheritance.

In Rodney the Lord has given us a “prophetic specialist” who not only sees what is ahead, he is able to write about it, to teach it, and to impart it into the lives of the Christians and the Church. At 18 years of age the Lord promised Rodney, that ***“If you will listen to My voice and do what ever I ask you, there is nowhere in this world that we cannot go together and we not be successful.”***

“The Prophetic In The Exodus” is more than just a study of how the Lord moved the people of Israel from captivity and bondage to the Promised Land; it is a tool for all those passionate about hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit and doing what He says.

If you want to go places in God, and move into an adventure dimension with the Holy Spirit; if you have a passion for the 21st Century Church and want to be part of the final reformation before the coming of Christ, then don't just read this book ~ devour it!

The prophetic is all about partnering with the Holy Spirit, to have the right message, for the right person, at the right place, at the right time. Over the years Rodney has taught me this, and given me the opportunity to experience real Holy Spirit ministry. As a result, after many years as a Christian, I have never felt so close to the Lord, so fresh, so willing, and so able to do what God has called me to do. When you operate in the prophetic realm with love, you discover with clarity your own destiny and fulfilment.

In writing this Foreword I wish to acknowledge that partnering with the Holy Spirit to me is the essence of being a Christian; and to Rodney, you have inspired me, taught me, and released me to fulfil the plans and purposes of God for my life, the impact of which in days to come we will rejoice together. The Best Is Yet To Come! **“Amaze Us, Lord”!** ~ *Tony Donaldson* (Perth, Western Australia).

Rodney Francis is not only a father, but also a Spiritual mentor to me and many others here in Africa. Rodney has generously shared his heart and Godly fervor with the Church, and his teachings, through **International Training Schools** and **books** have always left a divine prophetic mark. Rodney has been a tool in God's hands to stir up Africa to move into the prophetic. **The Prophetic In The Exodus** is also a timely tool that stirs the Church to know her position in the Lord and move into the timely prophetic destiny. In this book the Lord has used Rodney to share God's heart and plans, and encourages the Church to move into its victorious destiny and enjoy the best in Jesus. Thank you, “Dad Rodney” for obeying the voice of the Lord and putting this into writing. There is no better time for this jewel of truth! ~ *Pastor Moses Muguro* (All Nations Gospel Church (PEFA), Nairobi, Kenya).

Only a man who lives and moves in the presence of the God of revelation could write such a book. Having been in ministry for 50 years, Rodney Francis writes from a life of practical experience with the Holy Spirit in and through him. **The Prophetic in the Exodus** is a book that will challenge every saint to step out of the boat of complacency and compromise into the river of the prophetic and fulfil his or her destiny in God. Men and Women of God who accomplished great things did so because they heard God's voice and believed Him enough to obey Him, as Peter obeyed Jesus' word **“Come”** and he walked on water.

I believe God has anointed Rodney for this hour and moment to help many of God's children ~ who have been in bondages of fear, witchcraft, manipulation, intimidation, timidity, compromise, “Pharaoh's and Egypt” ~ into their inheritance in Christ Jesus. In this book, Rodney says that many saints have been taught to pray for everything, but the time has come for us to demonstrate our love and obedience to God through letting God's signs, wonders, and miracles to operate through us, so that every "Pharaoh" would let God's people go free to start worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

In this book, Rodney helps us to know that the Bible and the prophetic are all about ministering with convincing evidence that God is with us. It is called signs, wonders and miracles. One cannot claim to represent a living, miraculous God above all gods if we do not carry some convincing evidence that we truly represent Him. It is time for the Church to partner with the Holy Spirit to bring to Christ a triumphant Bride that will cause the Pharaoh's and magicians of our day to acknowledge **“This is the finger of God.”** To Rodney and Jean Francis: You have been used by

God to help me walk in my destiny in a greater way through your writings, and I know *“The Best Is Yet To Come!”*

~ *Robert Elijah Nyongesa* (Pastor/Missionary, Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa).

Rodney's passionate desire to impart important principles and present sound Biblical truths continues to change many people's lives in many countries where his books are found. Rodney continues to amaze us with his passion to put in to book form his writings. His books have gone to many people in many places and have been put into the hands of people that he may never meet face to face. That is the value of printed material.

Some people build their ministry around their personality. In all the years that I have known Rodney, I have never seen this to be so. If the Lord should tarry, his books will continue to be read and will continue to change the lives of people in many countries of the world. For a person who had no formal training in writing books, his God-given ability empowers him to communicate in such a way, that any believer who takes the time to read and to apply to their lives the truths told, will find themselves not only being protected from falling into the traps that are everywhere, but establishing themselves as solid believers on good principals and truths.

This book; **'The Prophetic in the Exodus'** is another one of those books that will challenge us to not only find our destiny, and to understand God's purpose, His provision, and His protection in this journey through this life, but to help on our journey to our Canaan land. **The same God that led the children of Israel under the leadership of Moses is now among us as Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Deliverer.**

Rodney leaves us with the lasting impression; **the God that we serve is Great!! He knows best, and simply wants to be believed in, and obeyed.** Rodney, you have inspired me to put into writing more of the material that I have had just stored away in my files, memories, and experiences of life. ~ *Ross Monk* (Churton Park, Wellington, New Zealand).

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INTRODUCTION

THIS BOOK is about the place of the prophetic ministry in the lives of Christians, taken from the Biblical account of the Exodus ~ the delivering of the Israelites out of the hand of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. They had been slaves there for something like 430 years prior to that great event. It is also about the impact of the prophetic word amongst the Egyptians (typified as unbelievers). Furthermore, it gives us vital keys on the principles of how the prophetic word and ministry continues to work today in the lives of all those who will believe it.

My prayer is that the prophetic realm will be made much clearer, and its impact will become much greater in these days, and my heart is that the standard of the prophetic ministry will be raised to

the level of gaining the respect it deserves as a result of the reading of this book. May you receive it in the love, concern and spirit in which it is written.

~ Rodney W. Francis.

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THE PROPHETIC IN THE EXODUS

“Thus says the Lord, Let My people go that they may serve Me.”

The prophetic word that changed a nation!

CHAPTER 1

WHAT INITIATED THE EXODUS?

THE EXODUS started with a cry (Exodus 2:23-25); a cry of desperation from the hearts of a people in bondage. The cry came because they had no answers and no way of escape from their circumstances. God heard that cry and made a response. He did not respond to their cry because of their spirituality, but because they had reached such a state of desperation that they could accept the transformation they needed in order to receive the answer to their own cries (prayers). He responded also because He loved them and had made a covenant with their forefathers:

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession. The Lord did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath He swore to your forefathers that He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God: He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands. But those who hate Him He will repay to their face by destruction; He will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate Him. Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today” (Deuteronomy 7:6-11, NIV).

The above portion of Scripture was written after the event, looking back on why they were delivered out of the hand of Pharaoh. God is a loving, covenant-keeping God! We can trust Him!

A desperate cry touched the heart of a loving God and initiated the Exodus. From that touch God found a man who had been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, spoke prophetically into his life, and raised him up with a new call, vision, understanding and authority to go back to Egypt to lead the Israelites out.

At that time, even though they were the people of God with so many promises and a great inheritance, the Israelites were anything but “mighty men and women of God.” Their circumstances ruled, they lived under a foreign oppressor and they could see no hope of a change for their future. Not a nice place to be in.

In many ways we have a similarity with many sections of Christendom today. In spite of all the wonderful “programmes” and teachings that we sit under week after week, the reality is that many Christians are living weak, defeated and useless lives. Somehow we have lost the authority of God that should be operating in us and radiating out from us. We’ve learned to often say and do the right things but, without the authority of God in us, the right message is having the wrong results. When Christians (who for years have been taught the right way to behave and live) have more marriage break-ups than the atheists, that tells me the message has lost its impact and authority (statistics I’ve seen tell us 21% of atheists’ marriages break-up and 27% of Christians’ marriages break up!). The problem has to be addressed. When we look at the overly large numbers of men and women who have started off so well in Christian ministry, and then observe them now, we can only ask, “What is going on?” The resulting fall-out from ministry as a result of criticism, failure, immorality, marriage break-up, dishonesty, desire for more and more money, pride, false teachings, deception, etc., have left numbers of good people disillusioned, angry, bitter, broken, frustrated and anti-church. Some of those people have spent years of their lives preparing for the ministry, have “sacrificed” thousands of dollars (in fees and loss of earnings) to get that training, only to be “wrecked” a few years down the track. Those people have become slaves to the “Christian system,” **and need to hear the true prophetic word of the Lord spoken into their spirits from prophetic ministries that carry the authority of God to see them set free.** They should not be “written off.” Let us not forget that Moses would have come into that category if he had been living in our day.

God responded to the desperate cry of His people. He did not wait until they were “spiritual” enough and could say and do all the right things. The Israelites had been in their bondage for so long they had become accustomed to accepting life as it was. They had become so used to their negative circumstances it was their way of life! For any change to take place they had to come to a place in their own hearts where they were utterly sick of the way they were living. Change ~ the kind of change they needed ~ could not take place until they did! (And only God knows when we have reached that place.) All through those years He was watching, listening and waiting until He knew they had come to that place of real desperation. Their cry was real. Their cry was more than a wishful desire that things might change for the better for them. A change of circumstances does not necessarily change the heart, even when God is in it.

It is interesting to note that the Israelites were growing rapidly in number at that time (Exodus 1:7). Numerical growth in itself is not a sign of spirituality, nor does it automatically or necessarily make right whatever is attracting the numbers. Regardless of the numerical growth, the bondage cry from the heart continued to rise to God.

Israel was in such a condition that she had no answers for herself. She was beyond human help. Unless God broke through, her future was destined to remain as a “slave in and to Egypt.”

But God!

That's what makes the difference! **The God-factor! Israel had to rediscover the God-factor to life. And so do we! God is Supernatural and He works supernaturally to bring about His purposes in our lives!** For too long we have relegated God into the realm of logic, tried to contain Him in our puny little "pea-brained" heads, instead of allowing Him to have His way (God doesn't force Himself on anyone). **The Supernatural God lifts us out of the realm of the natural, and all its limitations, into the realm of limitless possibilities. He does this through the prophetic ~ through people who recognize and obey the voice of the Lord;** that voice is **"spirit and truth"** (John 4:23-24) and **"spirit and life"** (John 6:63). Whatever is conceived of the Holy Spirit has eternal consequences. It is dealing with "the bigger picture" that spans time and eternity. The Holy Spirit is more accurate, more powerful, more real, more everything than the natural, logical reasoning of our mind. But because the "Spirit Word" of God is outside the realm of the logic we struggle with accepting it, until we learn to know the truth and accuracy of obedience to that word. **That is the prophetic word ~ the word that is breathed on and made alive by the Holy Spirit Himself. That word is life-giving!** It does not produce bondage. It does produce opposition and persecution, but that is not bondage. Some will persecute us simply because they are jealous of the freedom we have found and the ministry we have!

That Spirit Word is truth. **God's Word is truth; it always was and it always will be!** (John 17:17). Jesus taught it was **"the knowing of the truth that makes us free"** (John 8:31-32). He did not say that it was the knowing about the truth, but the knowing of the truth.

- **That truth is Jesus alive in our heart, speaking to us by His Spirit, giving us prophetic words of truth. Every time we obey that truth we are releasing God to do what He wants to do in that particular situation. That word releases the eternal purposes of God in measure.**

One of the big issues we Christians struggle with is that we do not behave and act as if the Word of God is true. We have allowed our own natural reasonings and our generally low self-acceptance to weaken the Word of God to the point of it being subject to "our circumstances." Let me tell you: God is so much bigger than our circumstances and is in no way limited to working in us because of circumstances. If He was, then circumstances would be bigger than God, and they're not. Israel's circumstances were big. They were servants to Pharaoh, to Egypt and all her culture, customs, religions, ideologies, etc., and they themselves were working as slaves in the slime pits of Egypt making bricks day after day. What a pitiful existence! They were powerless to do anything about it. All they had left was a deepening heart burden, a cry. And that's what God saw and heard.

- **What is your cry?**

To move from circumstances to faith, from the logical to the prophetic, from the natural to the supernatural, takes a change ~ a major paradigm shift of the way we think, respond, talk, behave and act. Are we ready for that? Or, are we still content enough to remain as "slaves to Egypt"? **Until we get so desperate for change, we'll be content to stick with what we know, rather than trust God for that we do not (yet) know;** like Abraham, called of God to go out by faith, not knowing where he was going (Genesis 12; Hebrews 11:8-10).

- **The truth is very few Christians are willing to live like that!**

Logic has bound us into looking at it from a natural reasoning perspective rather than from a "What has God said about this?" perspective. All around the world people are praying for revival. But at this present point in time we do not see much evidence of a desperate cry. It is more of a "Wouldn't it be nice to have revival?" attitude. **Revival, like the prophetic word, re-arranges our lives, breaks our hearts and sets us going in a new direction, with a new hope, new vision, new effectiveness, new appreciation of the supernatural, a new love for God and people, new insight, wisdom and understanding of what we're here on earth for.** Let me remind you

again, God did not respond to the cry of Israel because of their spirituality, or numerical strength. He responded because they had become so desperate to be set free from their lives of bondage to the Egyptian system.

Egypt represents “the world” to the Christian. Let’s face it: we all have too much of Egypt in us. We’ve become too comfortable with what she has offered us.

- **But it has cost us the authority of God!**

We’ve sold ourselves out to Pharaoh. He rules too much of our lives, our decision-making, our thought processes. He destroys faith, and when faith is gone, we are left with a message that does not change lives! And that is where it is at for many churches and Christians right now (especially in the Western world). Faithful to a system, **but powerless!** No authority to face or stand up to Pharaoh.

It was the same in David’s day. When Goliath challenged Israel to **“Give me a man that we may fight together . . . and the winner take all,”** there was no man to be found. Every time they heard the challenge they ran away and hid in holes, caves and behind rocks. Why? They were serving under a leader who feared men more than he feared God (1 Samuel Chapters 15-17). All those men had been selected, called, trained; and had been through the system. They all could say they were in God’s army, **but when it came to “the crunch,” they did not have what it takes.** They fled from the voice and threats of a man rather than trusting their Supernatural God to do supernatural things through them to annihilate their enemies. God sent in a youth by the name of David to sort the situation out. He was one who had not become subjected to the fear of man; one who had not become tainted with Saul’s lack of Godly leadership and authority; one who had a different mind-set. David represented the prophetic word, the man who was in touch with the Living God and who knew what He wanted to do in that conflict. It was simple: take Goliath out. One man stood in the way. David removed him! The rest of “God’s army” either wouldn’t, couldn’t or didn’t. **They had become paralyzed by the fear of man!**

One man stood in the way of the Exodus ~ Pharaoh. Moses and Aaron took him out by a dynamic display of supernatural authority manifesting through their lives. They could do that because they knew God’s mind on the matter. **And God’s mind had been revealed to them through the prophetic word.**

When David first made his intentions known, it was his own older brothers who were cynical, who persecuted and rejected him. They tried to discourage him, not realizing that that young brother was the means of their salvation from extinction by the Philistines! **The first response to the prophetic word is often just that ~ rejection.** But because David believed God more than man, faith rose in his heart and he knew that Goliath was an “offense” to God. He rose above the discouragement of his own brothers and went before the king with his testimony of what the Lord had done in his life. Poor Saul, who would not face Goliath himself, tried to load David down with his own bulky armour. David wisely refused it and went out before Goliath virtually unprotected (from man’s point of view). Goliath was humiliated to see a young boy standing before him with a sling! The height of arrogance (so Goliath thought)! He despised the young man. **David was unmoved, his faith firmly fixed on the word alive in his heart.** We all know the results of that battle. Against all the logical odds, David returned, carrying the ugly head of an ugly enemy and, with it, turned the tide from defeat to victory for Israel that day.

Interesting, isn’t it?

- **At the end of the day it all came down to challenging and beating just one man!**

When Goliath was removed, and when Pharaoh was overcome, each time Israel (as a nation) marched forward into new victory. In the natural we think the odds are so great

against us. But in spiritual reality it all comes down to one. Taking just one key person out can change the history of a nation. Christian . . . we need to ask ourselves today,

- Who is the Goliath or the Pharaoh that is standing in our way?
- What are we going to do about dealing with him?

CHAPTER 2

THE PREPARATION

THE ACCOUNT of the deliverance of the children of Israel out of Egypt (Exodus Chapters Five to Fifteen) gives us some interesting insight into the way the prophetic ministry works to bring out God's desired purpose in the lives of His people. It was not a way that we would choose, and therefore we would opt to do it our way and not get the results that God is looking for. **The prophetic word of the Lord runs throughout the Scripture and is there to show us the ways of God, and to enable us to know His will for our lives.** When we live according to the prophetic we are not living a "hit and miss" type of existence.

- **God wants us to be totally fulfilled in the very centre of His will and the prophetic ministry helps us to get there and stay there!**

When I talk of "the prophetic," I am speaking of the ability to personally recognize and know the voice of God to us, and then to obey that voice. That is the "rhema" or quickened word of God to our hearts and it originates from the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit of God Himself. His ministry is to "**show us things to come**" (John 16:13-15). Those things are not always in the distant future, as prophetic events are now happening with increasing speed.

This section of Exodus in the Bible shows us that God is very much interested in the destiny of His people. In reality the Israelites were in bondage. Day after day they slaved away in the slime pits of Egypt. They were sick of their circumstances, their enforced work schedules, their lifestyles, everything. But they were powerless to do anything about them. They were captive to an Egyptian ruler called the Pharaoh. And he was not about to let go of his cheap labour, or his authority and dominance over them.

Many miles away God was preparing "His man," a fugitive from the Israelites for 40 years. He had been hiding in Midian because there had been a bounty on his head for the murder of an Egyptian all those years ago. At 40 years of age Moses had received the call of God to deliver His people from their bondages. Moses had actually responded to that call and had tried to fulfil it without the experiences of life having been worked deeply into his own life and spirit. As a result he did not know very good people skills, for when the Egyptian rejected his message, he responded badly and killed the poor chap, which, when it became public knowledge, caused Moses to run for his life. Down in Midian he had married, raised a family, and worked with his father-in-law's sheep, way out in the "middle of nowhere." It was very desolate and isolated, for the Bible records in Exodus 3:1: "**and he (Moses) led the flock to the backside of the desert** ("wilderness"), **and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb** (meaning "a waster" or "waste")." (Contrary to what we think, we often "meet God" in the most unexpected places and circumstances; in the "waste" and desolate times of our life.) For 40 years he had been separated from the Israelites, long forgotten. He could very well have been dead for all they knew, and for all they cared anyway. Their circumstances had engrossed them into negative living and they could not see their way out of it.

It was there ~ at the extreme backside of the desert ~ that God got Moses' attention through a burning bush. It just burned and burned, and was not consumed. The moment God got his attention He called to Moses out of that bush.

- **God got his attention!**

God had watched, listened and identified with His people as they, day after day, carried on in their slavery and misery. The time had come for them to be set free. At long last God got a man's attention and, through that man, He would bring deliverance to His people. That man was Moses.

- **Through the prophetic word of God into his own heart and spirit, Moses knew exactly what God wanted him to do, and where God wanted him to bring the people to ~ back to Himself ~ so He could give them an impacting, life-changing experience like He had given Moses.**

Moses had to experience it first before he could bring others to that same kind of experience that would glorify God. We likewise cannot take other people where we ourselves are not willing to go first.

- **The burning bush can be marked out as a place and a time when the prophetic voice of God broke through to a man and, from that man, to a whole nation!**

Just as soon as God got Moses' attention, He began to pour His heart out to him (not the other way round). God had longed to talk to someone, to His people. But none were in a place where they could hear and recognize Him . . . until that day. God talked and talked to Moses. He spoke out His heart's desire for His people and then commissioned the very man who was listening to go and do it in the name of the Lord, the **"I AM THAT I AM"** (Exodus 3:14). The name of our God is ever in the present "I AM."

We notice that the voice of God was silent in the Book of Exodus up until Chapter Three and Verse Four. Guess what happened in that verse? Yes, it was the burning bush! From that verse the whole book becomes a conversation between God and Moses, Moses and God, and God and His people. It's quite simple really.

- **When we listen to God and do what He tells us, things change!**

Listening to God is what Christianity is all about. Jesus said: **"My sheep hear My voice . . . they know Me and they follow Me"** (John 10).

- **Hearing the voice of God changes us!**
- **Hearing the voice of God helps us to change others!**
- **Hearing the voice of God makes us prophetic!**
- **Hearing the voice of God reveals the truth of God!**
- **Hearing the voice of God releases the life of God!**
- **Hearing the voice of God causes us to know the will and purposes of God for our life!**
- **Hearing the voice of God opens heaven to us!**
- **Hearing the voice of God ~ and obeying it ~ gives true authority to speak on behalf of God!**

So much depends on our ability to hear the voice of God! From Genesis to Revelation the Bible is all about seeing and hearing from God. The Bible is a Prophetic Book!

I find it interesting that, with all the teachings on spiritual warfare (in the past decade or so), few have said much about the strategy of the enemy that would best defuse the Christian. Let me ask you these questions: "If the world, the flesh and the devil were united in one thing that would render you powerless (and I believe they are), what do you think that strategy would be?" What would be the one thing that would "pull the plug" on you quicker than anything else? Think about this for a minute. What would it be? My answer is, **"To make you doubt the voice of God in**

your own life.” I’ve thought about it a lot. We Christians do not get activated until “we hear from God.” **Yet we doubt His voice to us far too often! Whenever we doubt we do nothing! In the Bible there was an enormous difference between those who heard and recognized the voice of God, and those who didn’t. Men and women who accomplished great things did so because they heard God’s voice and believed Him enough to obey Him. Whatever you do, do not doubt the voice of God to you!**

Getting back to the Exodus, one might ask, “Why did God have to call someone from outside of the Israelite camp? Someone outside of the circumstances? Why not a local man?” None of those Israelites were able to “see” what needed to happen. They had no answers that could bring about the changes needed to conquer their circumstances. They were locked into a negative mind-set that caused them to accept their present lot in life. It is interesting that Jesus said, **“a prophet is without honour in his own country”** (Matthew 13:57; Mark 6:4 and John 4:44). This is so true and still applicable today. “Your own” do not recognize the call of God on your life as others do. God could not use someone in the slime pits of Egypt ~ someone who could not get out himself ~ to lift the people out of the hopeless situation. He had to use someone who had a different mind-set to them: someone who could see the “bigger picture” and who had experienced more than they had, in order that he would be able to take them where they had not been before. This is not a pride statement; it is a fact. **So many of God’s people are not going anywhere because their leaders do not know where to take them!**

God had had to take Moses “out of circulation” in order to change him. He had been brought up in the best ways of Egypt for 40 years and God had taken a further 40 years to get Egypt out of Moses. Egypt was an absolute hindrance to what God wanted to do in and through his life.

- **“Egypt” in us is still a major “blockage” to the prophetic coming forth powerfully in our lives. We have been so conditioned, so influenced, and so educated by “the world and its ways” that we have become logical creatures more than spiritual creatures. The result has been that so many Christians live according to the dictates of the world, the flesh and the devil: to the voice of reason and logic, rather than by the voice of the Holy Spirit!**

In many ways, instead of being prophetic, we have become pathetic ~ pathetic in our powerlessness, pathetic in our lack of faith and ability to come up with God’s answers in the situations of life! We live and act like God has gone on a long holiday and we’ve developed belief systems that put all the responsibility back on to God! **The only way out of that is for the prophetic voice to rise up and speak the powerful, liberating Word of the Lord!**

Most prophets (with any sort of accuracy) have experienced banishment, rejection, setbacks or personal sacrifice of some kind. It has come from (or through) family, friends, church, workmates, demonic attacks, even from our own doubts, as to what God really wants to do in and through us to set others free.

- **Because people do not always understand the prophetic, they will easily dismiss it, especially when it starts to disrupt comfortable life-styles, even if those life-styles are negative and defeatist!**

I have learned that there is an unwritten principle that works in most people’s lives. It works like this:

- **Ignorance breeds fear, and fear causes people to reject what they do not know or understand!**

This is especially so in the realm of the prophetic. A prophetic person tends to see things long before others do. But when the direction or answer is given as to what to do, the prophetic person

gets laughed at, or mocked and made to feel stupid, or as though they do not know what they are talking about. Further down the track of time someone else comes up with the same answer and it becomes a marvellous idea! The prophetic person has to sit back and watch others get the credit for an answer he/she received maybe one to two years previously, but was rejected. The prophetic person continually sees how much time is wasted because others simply cannot, do not, or will not see what we see. **If only those “someone’s” would learn to recognize what is happening, they could save themselves so much time and expense in matters of the Kingdom of God!**

David so recognized the ministry of the sons of Issachar, **“men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do”** (1 Chronicles 12:32), that he released them to function and use their prophetic giftings effectively. He trusted his people who were committed to his leadership and released them to fulfil their destinies. Not only that, he recognized the giftings of God within them! He saw they were there to help (not hinder) him and his vision to become king over all Israel. That was also God’s purpose, and David needed gifted men functioning around him to enable him to fulfil that prophetic purpose.

One thing Moses did learn to recognize much more clearly in his time of “ex-communication” from the people he was called to lead was the voice of God to his own heart. **His call at the burning bush was so clear, so powerful, so life changing, so convincing that Moses would never be the same again. Everything he had longed to fulfil in his life was about to come to reality.** But what a different path to that he himself had tried to walk!

- **So, what about us?**
- **What is God’s purpose and call upon our life?**
- **Do we know what He wants of us, or are we vainly pursuing a direction that leaves us settling for “second best”?**
- **As you look back over the circumstances and happenings of your life, what have you learned from them?**
- **Even though they have given you heartache and despair, even the loss of close friendships, do you think that maybe God is using even those things to prepare you for something up ahead?**

Moses must have thought many times he had “blown” the call of God as he wandered out there in that dry and dusty wilderness. Cut off from the people God had called him to deliver those 40 years previously, there was most likely no great vision of it ever happening. Moses himself would not have wanted to make another “blunder” like that.

Many times in life we feel it is safer to stick with what we know, rather than to trust God to launch us into something new that we have never known before. But that is what faith is all about ~ trusting God and being very vulnerable! It is often so contrary to what our logic and senses tell us. If God could ~ and He did! ~ “resurrect” Moses from oblivion and turn him into one of the greatest leaders and deliverers in all history, **how much more can God do something every bit as powerful for you?** Stop and think for a moment:

- **What prophetic words have been given over your life in times past?**
- **How did you receive them?**
- **Did you test them to verify that they were accurate?**
- **What are you doing with them?**

As far as God is concerned, every true prophetic word continues to stand. They are still relevant. God doesn’t change His mind because we doubt His ability in us. We need to stir and activate the prophetic word over our lives through our acceptance and believing of them. Make a declaration, “I believe God! I believe God is ‘able to do far more exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, according to the power that works within us’” (Ephesians 3:20).

- **It is our own unbelief that robs us of so much that God desires for us!**

The prophetic word operates **“according to the power that works in us”!** Let us not overlook that part.

Consider also this passage of Scripture:

“Do not neglect the gift which is in you, [that special inward endowment] which was directly imparted to you [by the Holy Spirit] by prophetic utterance when the elders laid their hands upon you [at your ordination]. Practice and cultivate and meditate upon these duties, throw yourself wholly into them [your ministry], so that your progress may be evident to everybody. Look well to yourself (to your own personality) and to [your] teaching; persevere in these things ~ hold to them; for by so doing you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Timothy 4:14-16, AMP.).

Once that prophetic word has been imparted into our spirit, it remains there. But how effective it will be is determined by what we do with it. And please do not dismiss this Scripture by saying it is for ordained ministers. It is for all Holy Spirit-filled believers! Every born-again Christian has a ministry! We all carry a calling in God!

- **Do not neglect it!**
- **Practice it!**
- **Cultivate it!**
- **Meditate upon it!**
- **Throw yourself wholly into it!**
- **Your progress is determined by it!**
- **Others see that progress!** (either forwards, neutral, or backwards).
- **Look to yourself!** (Guard yourself so that which God has ordained can happen).
- **Develop a sound teaching base!**
- **It means the saving of yourself!**
- **It also means the saving of others!**

Do not neglect the prophetic word! It is much more important than you think. J.B. Phillips translation says this: “Keep a critical eye both upon your own life and on the teaching you give, and if you continue to follow the line I have indicated you will not only save your own soul but the souls of many of your hearers as well.”

The prophetic word has the potential to impact our lives greatly, especially when we give ourselves fully to it. In a sense it lay “dormant” in Moses for 40 years, until that day at the burning bush!

At 80 years of age most would consider Moses as being “well past it!” How often do we hear the catch-phrase (even in the church), “It’s a young person’s world”? Tragically there are far too many Christian leaders who have an attitude that once you hit around the 50 mark, you’re no longer relevant. This does absolutely nothing to inspire the “older generation” to feel all their years of faithful praying and giving to help fulfil a church’s vision have been worthwhile. If only we would wake up and realize that every person in the Kingdom of God has a worthwhile contribution to make. God has not finished with anybody who wants to be “somebody” in His purposes. The truth is that the older generation actually has so much more to give. If we do not believe that, why did not God call a dynamic young Israeli “star” to take the people out of their situation? **Moses had done a lot of learning out there in the wilderness in the last 40 years of his life. He gained something called experience. He grew into something called maturity. He discovered that there is something called authority that had to be worked into his spirit.** All those things take time (something which most of us do not have much of these days ~ to our loss). Moses learned

there was much more to life than what the Egyptians taught him. Likewise, we Christians have to learn there is much more to life than what the world teaches us.

- **Are we getting it (the world) out of our system?**

Do not feel that because you are now over a certain age that God has changed His mind about you. He has not. He is just waiting for you to discover the things that Moses had to discover! So when He does release you, you will have more than “nice words” or sermons to preach, and “nice prayers” to pray. **When He releases you, you will know you have power and authority over the Pharaoh who seeks to keep you down!** My personal conviction is that God is raising up a generation of “surprise packages” who will amaze and baffle people around the world. They will often be the “unlikely” choices of men, but the very chosen of God, **especially if they can flow in prophetic accuracy. That is what releases the Holy Spirit to work!**

We do need to mention here that the Bible and the prophetic are all about ministering with convincing evidence that God is with us. It is called signs, wonders and miracles. One cannot claim to represent a living, miraculous God above all other gods if we do not carry some convincing evidence that we truly represent Him!

- **What is your convincing evidence?**

Moses recognized he needed two things:

1. **Authority to go in the Lord’s name** (Exodus 3:11-15).

Moses needed the assurance from God that he had the authority to go in His name. God gave him a rod, a simple piece of wood from the branch of an ordinary tree. But God had breathed on it. Its natural life had been taken away by man, but God put supernatural life into it and it became a miracle that others could see. When Moses threw it on the ground the rod became a serpent! When he grabbed the serpent by the tail it then turned back into a rod again! A second sign given to Moses was that he put his hand in his own bosom (“lap, the outer front of one’s body” or “the embracing of the arms to the breast is implied” – Wilson’s). When he did that his hand turned leprous. When he did it again it became normal (Exodus 4:6-9). Moses was to take that rod with him wherever he went.

It is quite incredible how many Christians re-act to the signs, wonders and miracles part of ministry. Negativity abounds, and those seeking to walk in this realm of releasing a God of the miraculous, soon discover there are a lot of critics. If we think we can convince an unbelieving world of the reality of God without some evidence of the “God factor” in our lives and ministries, we are sadly mistaken. The tragedy is that while many sections of Christendom debate back and forth over the supernatural, the occult realm thrives. We then criticize them (the occultists) for their “evilness” in being involved in such things, yet we do not demonstrate that we have the greatest power and authority of all in Jesus Christ! **And where does Jesus Christ live? According to the Bible, inside the believer!** As we will see, the prophetic challenged the sorcerers of Egypt and soon exposed the limits of their power, to the point that they exclaimed the power of God was in fact **“the finger of God”** (Exodus 8:19).

- **If the Christians do not show them a better way, who can?**
- **If the Christians do not demonstrate a greater power, who can?**

2. **Acceptance by the Elders** (Exodus 3:16-22; 4:1-5).

Moses had another big concern, “What about the Israelites ~ and the elders”? How often we are controlled by what we think others, especially leaders, will think of us; by whether they accept us and our ministry, or not? Moses had that concern as well. Let’s face it: he had been “out of

fellowship” with the Israelites for 40 years! To suddenly turn up with the news, “God sent me to deliver you all” could be quite threatening for them. Their reaction could have been, “Who do you think you are to come and tell us things like that? . . . You’re the ‘new boy’ in town; you do not know what is happening here.” Do not always take it for granted that leaders are going to accept your call and ministry. A lot of wrong prophetic ministry has gone before you that has caused all sorts of problems for leaders. In those cases you are going to be responded to with caution and suspicion. What evidence do you have that you are not “another crackpot”? Why should you be accepted, let alone be trusted? This is a very important area for prophetic people. To be prejudged is not fair, but it happens because others ahead of us have brought a bad reputation against prophetic people. **Prophetic women especially have found it difficult, as they have to contend with those who still struggle with “where women fit” in public ministry. That is where prophetic team ministry made up of both men and women is so helpful, and which gives numbers of women a whole lot more confidence to function in their giftings.**

God assured Moses that they would listen to his voice and Pharaoh would eventually let the people go. **Moses knew from God that he was being sent to the right people, in the right place, at the right time, for the right results! Knowing God’s voice always helps us to get the timing right!** It is not much use going to the right place with the right message at the wrong time! How would we know if that was happening? That is where it is always good to have other sound prophetic people around you, having built genuine relationships where we can “speak into” one another’s lives and so prevent so much time-wasting in the Kingdom of God. There is still so much to be fulfilled in the purposes of God for all our lives.

- **Are you prepared for that which God has already promised you through His prophetic word?**
- **That word which holds the keys to your future effectiveness in God and His purposes for you?**
- **The prophetic word will always be confirmed by the written Word of God.**

Let us now take a journey with Moses as he releases the prophetic word to an unbelieving Pharaoh and to his own people, the Israelites, in their captivity.

CHAPTER 3

EXODUS FIVE

A NEGATIVE REACTION

THE PROPHETIC WORD came to Pharaoh through Moses and Aaron. That word was: ***“This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let My people go, so that they may hold a festival to Me in the desert’”*** (NIV). Pharaoh’s response was predictable: ***“Who is the Lord, that I should obey Him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go.”*** The prophetic word was rejected by Pharaoh. This was most likely the very first time he had ever heard or been given a prophetic word. The Israelites were in no fit state to be able to force the issue. He was the great Pharaoh, the ruling authority in the land, and he would see to it that people knew who that authority was and what it could do. He had never been told such a thing. The cheek of those two old men, Moses and Aaron! The fact they said, ***“The God of the Hebrews has met with us”*** was unconvincing to Pharaoh. The threat of judgment upon Israel, if they disobeyed the word of the Lord, was also unconvincing to him. Why should a foreign, unbelieving Pharaoh take notice of two old men making such statements? There were too many Israelites anyway, as far as Pharaoh was concerned.

Pharaoh had no personal knowledge or relationship with the God of the Hebrews. Nor had he seen any evidence that He was particularly active in his part of the world. If those Israelite slaves

were His representatives, then they were a pretty unconvincing lot; a bit of a motley crew. So he concluded they had too much time on their hands and ordered that they work even harder from then on. They had to supply the same number of bricks per day, but now also had to gather their own straw as well.

- **Once the prophetic word is declared, things start to stir in the spirit world. Because it is the word of truth ~ and truth always combats error ~ the invisible world is sent a clear signal that it is being confronted!**

Pharaoh's first reaction was to reject it as utter nonsense, but he also made an order to make things difficult for the people of God. He thought their problem was idleness, giving them too much time to dream up lies (v.9). Pressures were brought to bear through their circumstances that meant the Israelites could not produce what Pharaoh demanded of them. This led to all kinds of emotional pressures and outbursts that ended up in physical beatings.

The first response to the prophetic word was negative and caused the Israelites' circumstances to be made worse. That caused them to re-act against Moses. Since his appearance back on the scene, and his declared word to Pharaoh, things had gotten worse for them. "Leave us alone; you are making matters worse!" was what they were telling him. This drove Moses back to God for clarification on the prophetic word received.

The prophetic word was for the benefit of the Israelites. But at that point in time they could not see that truth, let alone understand it. They were so "blinded" by their circumstances of living under the authority of foreign rulers that they could not see any way out of their lot in life. They reasoned that things were worse since they received the news from Moses about God delivering them. They actually feared for their lives. **The prophetic word does stir up the powers that think they own our life. The prophetic word confronts those powers and a battle begins.**

- **Who is going to win?**

For some, anything that makes us uncomfortable is perceived as wrong and therefore rejected. We have become so used to living sheltered, comfortable lives, we have forgotten what the purpose of the call of God on us is all about. We are not here primarily for our own personal comforts. **We are here to represent the God of all the earth and to reveal His plans and purposes to a lost humanity, most of who are struggling for survival in "the slime pits of Egypt," eking out an existence which does not fulfil them in time, nor does it prepare them for eternity.**

- **The prophetic ministry is all about confronting those powers and systems that rob humanity of their God-given inheritance! Those powers (and every system) have a Pharaoh that sits at the helm, dictating what they can or cannot do, and keeping them away from the truth of a loving Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Who only wants the very best for us all.**
- **The prophetic is all about the breaking down of that authority which keeps humanity in the world's slime pits of discouragement, defeat and despair!**
- **The prophetic word is all about seeing God's victories revealed in the people and in the earth today!**
- **The prophetic word comes so we can be lifted above and out of those circumstances that stand between us and the will of God being fulfilled!**

The prophetic word came to Pharaoh, an unbelieving, ignorant Egyptian ruler who had every right to be where he was and making the decisions he was making (as far as Egyptian laws and policies went). **But God had declared His people were to be set free! No man, ruler, institution, ideology or creed has any jurisdiction over the God of all the earth!**

- The prophetic word is all about the pulling down of strongholds that resist the ways of God, causing them to acknowledge the living reality of the Living God! Let us not forget that God uses ordinary people like you and me ~ listening to His voice and obeying ~ to bring about these changes to godless structures that reduce humanity to slime pit dwellers. Listen to God's prophetic voice to your heart today ~ and obey!

Another thing we notice in this chapter. The Israelites were willing to accept the prophetic word if it all worked "in the now," i.e. ~ right now! Because there was not an immediate and mighty deliverance that "whipped them out from right under the Egyptians' noses," and their circumstances changed for the worse, they very quickly doubted the truthfulness of the prophetic word. People have no patience to wait! "If it does not happen 'now,' it's not for me," kind of attitude. That is the influence of an "instant pudding" world that has ingrained itself into our lives and thinking.

CHAPTER 4 EXODUS SIX AND SEVEN

GOD IS THE LORD!

EXODUS SIX:

MOSSES TOOK the negative responses back to God. God reassured Moses and gave him another prophetic word, telling him He had established His covenant with Israel; He had seen their burdens and He would deliver them out of Egypt into a promised land. Moses told the Israelites this, but they could not receive it because of their negative circumstances.

- The prophetic word is about the fulfilling of the covenant purposes of God.
- The prophetic word comes so we can know more of the heart of our Covenant-keeping God.
- God impressed a fresh revelation of Himself and His purposes into Moses' spirit. He told Moses He is a Covenant God and His Word can be trusted.

God renewed His plans and purposes for Israel in their deliverance from under the hand of the Egyptians.

When the prophetic word is being rejected, the carrier of that prophetic word has to keep going back to God, pressing into Him. The prophetic man and woman has to be convinced that the word he or she carries is right from the heart of God and is the truth of God for that situation. God delights to speak to those who will listen to Him. He teaches us to know the power of the truth of His Word. God reassured Moses, "*Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land*" (v.1).

It was important for Moses and the Israelites to see what God would do to Pharaoh. Pharaoh stood between Israel and their deliverance. God knew that more than the Israelites did. The promises of God must come through into the "seeing" stage, where the people see the evidence of what God is promising. Promises without fulfilment are not very faith-building, nor are they God-honouring. God wanted the people to see what He would do to that authority that stood between them and their hearts' cry. Even though (at that point) Pharaoh showed no softening towards the prophetic word, God promised that He would release them out of his grip.

God then spoke strongly into Moses' heart of Who He (God) is: "*I am the Lord*" (v.2).

As I have been writing this book, my thoughts have been drawn back to the statement God kept reminding Moses, the people and Pharaoh of: **GOD IS THE LORD!** The **“I AM THAT I AM” IS THE LORD!** He is above all powers and authorities, above all circumstances and limiting mindsets. It is through the prophetic word that God wants His people to know:

- **“I am the Lord!”**

We go through so many things in life unnecessarily because we have not become convinced within ourselves that GOD IS THE LORD! He is the LORD of everything in our lives: in your life, and in my life. Too often we try and work things through in our own efforts, with our own reasoning. It is time for us to learn this powerful truth: **GOD IS THE LORD!** And, as **LORD, HE IS FAR ABOVE ALL!**

How different we would talk and act if we would only be convinced of the truth that **“I AM THE LORD” lives within us!** The actions of the prophets of God in the Bible were to the end that the people would know that **GOD IS THE LORD!**

- **The prophetic word in us is for the same purpose!**

God then went on to reveal to Moses about His established covenant and the present condition of the children of Israel ~ groanings, burdens and bondage! Moses was instructed what to say to the Israelites and that He (God) would bring them out from Egypt to be a people unto Himself.

- **Who, or what, can stand against the Word of the Living God?**
- **Who, or what, can win over the Great “I AM THAT I AM”?**

When Moses spoke those things to the children of Israel, they would not listen to what he had to say. Why? They were blinded by their own circumstances of being in distress and in cruel bondage. **They could not receive, nor believe the very word that was the key to their deliverance from all their miseries!** How fortunate they were that their leader (Moses) was seeing things from a different mindset, **a prophetic mindset!** At that stage of proceedings they were neither a help nor an encouragement to Moses and Aaron. And they were there for their sakes!

God commanded Moses to go in to Pharaoh, but Moses was hesitant because the Israelites themselves did not believe him. The mission was very vulnerable at that point, especially as Moses saw it. God told Moses to **“speak unto Pharaoh all that I say unto you”** (v.29). *“Trust Me, Moses; I know what I’m doing. I won’t let you down. Just do what I ask you.”*

How simple, but what a challenge: to so live that all that matters is to do what the Lord asks us. **All of Christianity comes down to being so in love with Jesus that we are committed to “whatever He tells us” we will do!**

EXODUS SEVEN:

In spite of the negative circumstances surrounding them, Moses and Aaron kept themselves tuned into God, listening to His voice and obeying His commands. **Their task was to understand what God was doing, to know what their part was, and to see Him fulfil His promises to them.** God would harden Pharaoh’s heart (v.3). God would multiply His signs and wonders, but Pharaoh would continue to resist them. God promised to bring Israel (His army who were currently slaves in slime pits!) out of Egypt by great judgments (v.4). The Egyptians would know God is the Lord when they saw those things happening. The knowledge of God came through the acts ~ the signs, wonders and miracles ~ of God! The knowledge of God needs to be demonstrated, to come forth

with convincing evidence. Jesus taught that **“signs would follow the believers,”** not believers following the signs! (Mark 16:15-20).

Moses was 80 and Aaron 83 years old! (v.7). **In today’s world we would say, “Old codgers!”** **But what courageous old codgers!** They were not “put off” by the circumstances of their ages, or by their personal inadequacies, nor by the negativities of the Israelites, nor the rebuffs of Pharaoh.

- **They were motivated by the prophetic word! That word which came from the heart of God Who was committed to bringing deliverance to a people who did not know how much they needed that deliverance!**

When Pharaoh challenged them to **“show a miracle”** they were to do it (v.9). They turned the rod into a snake. Pharaoh’s response was to call his magicians (sorcerers and occultists) who also did the same! (v.11). But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods!

- **The demonstration of the authority of God had begun in a visible manner!**

This brings us to a very important aspect of the need of the prophetic ministry today. While the Church is fearful and ignorant of so much of the spirit world, the occultists are allowed to make out they hold such great power. They do have some power, but they do not have power like God and like the Church should be demonstrating! Even though it was Moses, the man of God, who took the initiative, Pharaoh was quick to respond with his magicians. He really believed they could match anything the people of God could come up with. It looked like they could, too, but when the challenge came, they soon found their limits! They produced rods which must have looked very much like Moses’ rod, and their rods produced a miracle. But they were not expecting Moses’ rod to eat theirs up! That was a clear demonstration of a greater power and authority that they had not confronted before.

- **The prophetic challenges every authority not of God!**
- **The prophetic includes the exercising of the gifts of the Holy Spirit!**

Recently in a meeting here in New Zealand, while leading a prophetic team, one of the team discerned and saw in the Spirit a lady in the meeting “sitting at a table with a row of tarot cards before her and a curse being placed over her life.” No one on the team knew of her involvement in this, but what a revelation it was to the lady and those present (most knew her, we found out later) to have the situation pin-pointed in such a descriptive manner. The accuracy of this had the impact of enabling us to not only pray for her to be set free from that curse, but also to minister to her “leader” who was in the meeting with her. They had heard of the prophetic ministry of the team and had come to see what was going on. I believe there was a genuine seeking of the truth in their hearts and the Holy Spirit met them. We were able to pray specifically and personally for them both before that evening was over.

Moses was confronting an authority that Pharaoh legitimately held. That authority stood in the way of the purposes of God. So the prophetic ministry was launched in such a way that Pharaoh was left in no doubt what the will of God was for the Israelites.

- **The prophetic word should leave us in no doubt about the will of God for our life!**

Pharaoh did not accept the prophetic word, and the ensuing battle for the supreme authority commenced. His response to the rods of his sorcerers being eaten up was a heart hardened by God (v.13-14). That must have been a great shock to Pharaoh to discover that his “power men,” the magicians, were being humiliated by two old men holding an ordinary, wooden rod in their hands.

One of the things we learned in our dealings with those caught up into Satanism was their belief that they were supreme; that everyone and everything else had to bow to their authority. That is deception, but it has also been “encouraged” by the fact that very few Christians are prepared to challenge their authority. We have allowed ignorance and fear to stop us from standing firm against them in the name of Jesus. Today, in many parts of the world, churches are riddled with occultic beliefs, influences and practices, a counterfeit to the real Holy Spirit power that should be permeating every section of their ministry to a lost and needy world. Those beliefs stand as “Pharaohs” that hold the people in a powerless, useless and religious state of bondage.

- **It will take the prophetic word to bring the changes required!**

The next day Moses challenged Pharaoh again to let the people go to serve the Lord (v.16). The prophetic word came to Pharaoh that he would know that God is the Lord ~ the Supreme Authority in the affairs of mankind (v.17). The second plague was prophesied ~ the waters would be turned into blood, the fish in the rivers would die, the rivers would stink and the Egyptians would loathe to drink of the rivers (v.18). Aaron stretched forth the rod in his hand over the waters of Egypt ~ they turned into blood. Even water in cups and buckets turned to blood (v.19). The fish died in the rivers and the rivers stank. The Egyptians could not drink the waters. The magicians were called back to have another “go” with their enchantments (enchantments included the use of charms, magic arts, secret arts, sorcery, divination, observing of clouds and times) and they succeeded as well in turning water into blood (v.22). Pharaoh’s heart was still hardened. He would not listen to Moses and Aaron and would not let the Israelites go. How frustrated he must have felt. He was the Pharaoh with all the authority, yet, with all the swinging back and forth of events, he seemed to be losing control! He “dug in” even more with his authority to resist the prophetic word! The plague of blood lasted for seven days (v.25).

CHAPTER 5 EXODUS EIGHT

OUTDOING THE MAGICIANS

GOD SPOKE to Moses and Aaron again to go and see Pharaoh with the same message: ***“Thus says the Lord, Let My people go, that they may serve Me.”*** The challenge of the authority of God went up “another leap”: ***“If you refuse to let them go, I will smite your borders with frogs . . . Frogs will be everywhere, even in your bedrooms and cooking utensils”*** (v.2-3).

Pharaoh needed to recognize that it was God Who was speaking through Moses and Aaron. He was up against the God-factor! **Like so many of us today, he did not have the respect to the authority there is when it comes to “God speaking.”** God, down through the ages, has chosen to speak to us through holy men and women of God. Because the message has come through a man or a woman, many have not given proper respect to the message given. The message has often been “lost” or “overlooked” because we have looked at the messenger rather than weigh up the message. Today the ***“Thus says the Lord”*** has been so watered down that the respect and authority of the Word has been stripped of its authority and power. Pharaoh could handle a powerless message, regardless of whose name it was spoken in, but he could not combat the powerful signs, wonders and miracles that confirmed the Word that came from God. **Not one minister of God today can afford to minister without the signs, wonders and miracles of God bearing witness to the God-factor in us!**

Let us ask ourselves,

- **Why did the signs, wonders and miracles come to Pharaoh and Egypt?**
- **Did they need to be convinced of Who God is?!**

They needed to know that God was not anything like the gods they had ever known or served. **Our God is convincingly different**, over and above any and every other god in the universe. The signs, wonders and miracles came because they consistently refused to believe the Word of the Lord through Moses! Had they believed and done what God said, it would have been a totally different ending. The people had to know that God is bigger and better than every other god!

It is no different today. Teachings, theologies and sermons are not enough to convince people of the God-factor. The New Testament is very clear on the ministry of believers on the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers should use their hearts, hands and mouths to release the Living God into situations. It is not about forming another committee, or setting out another discussion paper. Someone once said, "If Moses had formed a committee he would have still been in Egypt!" That is true, because those things do not provide the necessary "punch" to cause the Pharaohs standing in the way to be moved aside to let the Word of the Lord be done! The signs, wonders and miracles came forth through Moses and Aaron as they simply obeyed what God said to them.

- **Why can't we get back to such simplicity and see our generation impacted by the Living God?**
- **We must learn to be obedient!**
- **Obedience! That is all it takes.**

Aaron stretched his hand with the rod over the ponds and rivers, and the frogs came forth in droves, hopping and leaping into every room in every dwelling place of every Egyptian (v.5-7). And for the first time, Pharaoh acknowledged God when he responded, **"Intreat the Lord for me . . ."** (v.8). Pharaoh had changed from, **"Who is the Lord . . .?"** to **"Ask Him to take away these frogs."** Moses and Aaron spoke with authority and the frogs returned to their natural habitats in the rivers. That was done so Pharaoh would know that there is none like the Lord (v.10-14), for until that happened there would be no bowing of his heart or will to God.

Frogs lay dead everywhere. The stench was overpowering. But again Pharaoh hardened his heart, just as God had said. The battle of, and for authority was on! Even though Pharaoh's heart was hardened, there were definite signs that the resistance was weakening. As the "power ministry" increased, the forces of unbelief in the heart were being cracked open. The conflict between the natural and the spiritual, the logical reasoning and the spoken Word of God, was creating huge conflict within Pharaoh. He was "hanging on for grim death" to that which he knew, rather than "let go" and move into that which he had never known before, that of trusting the Word of the Lord (a foreign God to him).

These same conflicts are going on in the hearts of men and women every day. The world we live in is so ingrained into natural, logical things, that it cannot conceive the realm of the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that **"There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever"** (2 Corinthians 4:18, "The Message"). J.B. Phillips Translation says, **"The visible things are transitory: it is the invisible things that are really permanent."** The natural is the seen realm and the spiritual is the unseen realm. God has ordained that signs, wonders and miracles help people to feel and see some visible results of the power of the invisible realm.

- **They help us to believe, to be convinced!**

In the New Testament, the way of ministry often began through a miracle or a physical healing. That miracle "earned them the right" to speak and give account as to what had happened. They then preached Jesus as being the Source of that visible manifestation of the love and power of

God, and many yielded their lives to Jesus Christ as a result. That is how the early Church grew. It is quite the opposite to how we seem to do things today.

- **They were surprised if nothing happened.**
- **We get surprised if something does happen miraculously when we pray!**

The challenge for the Christians is to be able to make the unseen spiritual realm relevant and real in the physical, natural seen realm. Unfortunately we have not realized just how powerful the spirit of unbelief is within us. It is quite saddening to see Christians arguing back and forth in Christian publications over the “pros and cons” of the healing, signs, wonders, miracles and deliverance ministries. We can “explain it away” if we want to, but we will finish up with very thin Bibles! And again I ask,

- **What is there to convince the Pharaohs of this world if we do not have a word from God that carries more authority than the authority they carry?**
- **Who are we fooling? (Only ourselves.)**

For the next plague, Moses and Aaron were to stretch out the rod and smite the dust of the land. And the dust turned into lice ~ Egypt was crawling with lice! (v.17). **The sorcerers were called to “match” Moses and Aaron ~ but they could not! They had run out of the ability to counter the power of God in Moses and Aaron. All spiritual power that is not of the Holy Spirit has its limitations.** It may make all kinds of impressive “shows,” but it is deception. It not only brings the anger of God against it, but it blinds people into a false sense of power and security. There is absolutely no way into the Kingdom of God other than through being **“born again of the Holy Spirit of God”** (John 3:3, 5). Without Him we cannot even see it, let alone enter it! There is only one way! That is the Jesus way! That is the Holy Spirit way!

I have personally seen numerous people whose lives have been wrecked because of their involvement in the occult and who have dabbled in witchcraft, tarot cards, Satanism, etc. They play with things that in the end “turn and bite them,” giving them a lonely, isolated existence in this life, and sadly, often followed by an eternity in hell. Why? Because every counterfeit spirit is anti-Christ in nature, and works to blind people from coming to the knowledge of the truth of God that is in Jesus Christ. Have you not noticed that so many things that are happening in our societies today are all anti-Christian and anti-Bible in what they are advocating? Their only answer to all of life’s problems is “Education ~ we must have more education” for every particular issue being discussed. But the real answers are found in our having a heart transformation that deals with the real issues of the heart. And that is a spiritual transformation, which the natural, logical thinking does not accept. They cannot “see it,” just as the Bible says:

Yet I do proclaim a message of wisdom to those who are spiritually mature. But it is not the wisdom that belongs to this world or to the powers that rule this world ~ powers that are losing their power. The wisdom I proclaim is God’s secret wisdom, which is hidden from mankind, but which He had already chosen for our glory even before the world was made. None of the rulers of this world knew this wisdom. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as the Scripture says, “What no one ever saw or heard, what no one ever thought could happen, is the very thing God prepared for those who love Him.”

But it was to us that God made known His secret by means of His Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, even the hidden depths of God’s purposes. It is only a person’s own spirit within him that knows all about him; in the same way, only God’s Spirit knows all about God. We have not received this world’s spirit; instead, we have received the Spirit sent by God, so that we may know all that God has given us.

So then, we do not speak in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, as we explain spiritual truths to those who have the Spirit. Whoever does not have the Spirit cannot receive the gifts that come from God's Spirit. Such a person really does not understand them; they are nonsense to him, because their value can be judged only on a spiritual basis. Whoever has the Spirit, however, is able to judge the value of everything, but no one is able to judge him. As the Scripture says, "Who knows the mind of the Lord? Who is able to give Him advice?" We, however, have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:6-16, GNB).

Make no mistake about it. There is a clear difference between the natural and the spiritual. The natural cannot understand the spiritual. That is why we have to be born-again by the Holy Spirit. There is no other way. The devil does not mind what anybody does with their life, just as long as they do not bow to the way of the Holy Spirit, which is THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST, the only doorway into the Kingdom of God! He does not mind religious people believing that there are "many ways" to God and that "if we live a good, moral life, God will accept us into Heaven." It is a lie! There is no Bible evidence to support those beliefs.

So many "Talk-Back Shows" today are dealing with spiritual needs and issues, yet you never hear any of them advocating the one true answer of "turning their life over to Jesus." They cannot "see it," that is why. They live in a natural realm and look for natural answers, or "New Age" answers. That blindness is a "Pharaoh" that has to be confronted with an authority that is greater. Christians should live in a spiritual realm (the Holy Spirit realm) and see the eternal, spiritual answers as God sees them. **There would not have been an Exodus if the authority of Pharaoh had not been overthrown! That was the key to the Israelites whole victory!**

The authority of God was gathering momentum. **The false sorcerers' power had been found wanting. They had been exposed as grossly falling short of being the power the people (and they) thought they were! What a shock! Once the sorcerers knew they were beaten, they spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "This is the finger of God"** (v.19).

- **What a confession!**
- **To acknowledge that was an admittance to the fact that there was a power in Moses and Aaron they had never encountered before.**
- **What an impact that had on the spirit world!**
- **The prophetic was gaining the ascendancy!**
- **God was being demonstrated as being Superior!**

How did Pharaoh re-act to that? He "dug his toes in" and resisted stubbornly! What turmoil must have been passing through his mind! What was happening to his authority? Nothing like this had ever confronted him before. Things were now outside the realm of his control. They were supernatural happenings, not natural ones that he was more than qualified to handle.

The next morning Moses and Aaron were to stand before Pharaoh and declare again, **"Thus says the Lord, Let My people go, that they may serve Me"** (v.20). The pressure was applied again, which was a direct challenge to his ruling authority. **"If you don't, swarms of flies will come upon you all, but none will be in Goshen where the Israelites are."** Pharaoh would know that God is the Lord. The invasion (or epidemic) of flies must have been pretty bad because Pharaoh began to relent, saying to Moses and Aaron, **"Go sacrifice to your God in the land"** (v.25).

The change in Pharaoh was now becoming apparent, but the fight was by no means over. Moses pressed him further. Israel would not sacrifice to God in the presence of the Egyptians, but go three days into the wilderness. Pharaoh yielded further and asked again that Moses entreat the Lord for him. Moses spoke to Pharaoh of his deceit and mockery regarding the authority of God (v.29). Moses sought God on Pharaoh's behalf. God answered and removed the flies (v.31). What was Pharaoh's response? He hardened his heart again and determined not to let the people go.

It is interesting to note that the prophetic word from God-to-Moses-to-Pharaoh had to be repeated several times. The word had to be clearly heard and understood. Once was not enough. Moses had to hear it a number of times from God, and Pharaoh had to hear it a number of times from Moses and Aaron. One reason for this is that the prophetic word has to penetrate through negative, resistant mindsets that have been “set” in their ways for years. **Those mindsets blind people to new possibilities!** They prevent people from being set free from the bondages they get themselves in to. At that point in time even the Israelites would rather have remained in their slime pits than believe for the possibility of a better life. Those entrenched habit-patterns kept pulling them back into what they knew, rather than causing them to take hold of a new challenge to arise to a new day in God. That is what faith is all about. It is a believing for God’s best, in spite of the prevailing circumstances. **To counteract those negative mindsets the prophetic word has to keep coming forth again and again.**

CHAPTER 6 EXODUS NINE

A CLEAR DISTINCTION

THE *“Thus says the Lord, Let My people go, that they may serve Me”* is repeated to Moses from God. Pharaoh was to be reminded again. But Moses needed to keep hearing it too, as the circumstances all around him were exactly the opposite to that which he was declaring. **Moses knew prophetically what others did not yet know. They** (the Israelites and the Egyptians) **could not comprehend the truth or the power of that word, neither did they understand that which was just ahead for them.**

Pharaoh’s authority was again challenged, *“If you don’t let them go, God’s hand will be upon your cattle and all the Egyptian livestock”* (v.3). God would make a clear difference between the Egyptians and the Israelites in that no Israeli cattle would die. A prophetic and specific time was given: *“tomorrow!”* It happened according to the Word of the Lord, and Pharaoh saw the Egyptians’ cattle lying dead everywhere while the Israelis’ cattle remained alive and healthy. Pharaoh’s heart was yet again hardened (v.7).

God has always wanted a clear difference between the Israelites and the Egyptians, the Church and the world. That is when She is at Her best ~ when She is separated in heart, when She is not influenced by the world’s ways. In recent years the Church has tried so hard to identify with the world She has become engrossed in it. The result has been a compromising of standards. The world no longer sees its need to turn from its evil ways as it often sees the Christians doing the same things that they do, except the Christians trot off to church on Sundays as well. That is not good enough. Christianity has to offer much more than anything the world can serve up! There has to be a clear distinction. It is one or the other. *“Choose you this day who you will serve”* (Joshua 24:15).

I remember being in a church in England where they had appointed a new Youth Pastor. After attending his first meeting, the Youth Pastor made a decision that the Youth Group would no longer be having the kind of music they were churning out. If the youth wanted that kind of music there were a number of other places, churches and clubs in the large city catering for that. But that particular church Youth Group was going to have a different style and make a very clear choice for the youth of that city to come to. It was to be a “full on for God” Youth Group. In something like four months that Youth Group grew from about 35 to 150. The youth themselves seemed relieved that at last there was a church giving a very clear choice of the difference between the Christian music and the world’s beat. Churches today have to get back to that same clear choice; it’s either

God or the world, but not both mixed-up together in a powerless compromise. God certainly put a clear distinction between Israel and Egypt. And you know what each of them represents. **If it took God 40 years to get Egypt out of Moses (after Moses had been influenced by Egypt's way for 40 years), how long will it take to get the world out of the Church? Out of you and out of me?**

When Pharaoh "dug his toes in" yet again, that meant the next sign, wonder and miracle followed. Moses took handfuls of ashes out of the furnace and sprinkled them toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. How do you think Pharaoh felt at that time as he knew Moses and Aaron were ministering in a power he was incapable of stopping? They were ministering in a power that was beyond anything that which his own spiritual gurus could combat. Moses and Aaron were in another league, just as the Christian Church today should be ministering in a realm that the enemy cannot combat.

Pharaoh watched as those two old men exercised their God-given authority over him, his magicians and all the land of Egypt. The ashes turned into boils as they lodged on the bodies of the Egyptians. Even the sorcerers got boils on their bodies. Wasn't that great! The Lord exposed the lies and deceitfulness of the sorcerers' false power that they had held over the people for centuries. **God exposed them as hoaxes, counterfeit powers and false remedies!**

The power of God was gathering momentum, while the authority of Pharaoh and Egypt were diminishing. How frustrating for Pharaoh! Pharaoh further hardened his heart. His strong will would not break. He would "hold out" to the bitter end, vainly believing he could withstand God (v.12). The **"Thus says the Lord, Let My people go, that they may serve Me"** word was repeated yet again (the seventh time).

A further plague of pestilence was prophesied upon Pharaoh and his servants (v.14-15). Pharaoh was getting the message loud and clear. **"Submit to God's authority or you will be destroyed off the earth."** Then God made an amazing statement. Pharaoh had been raised up to his position of authority by God so God could reveal in him His power! (v.16). Pharaoh would be used as a means to declare the mighty name and acts of God in all the earth! But at that precise moment Pharaoh was exalting himself against God and His people, determined not to let them go.

The next plague was then prophesied ~ that of grievous hail stones. Pharaoh was warned to gather his cattle to safety: a clear choice to believe or not to believe the word of Moses. Those who had been convinced by the power of God placed their cattle indoors and those who refused to believe did not (v.18-22). The rod was stretched out. The thunder and the hail came, accompanied by fire running along the ground. It caused utter financial disaster to man. Cattle, grass and trees were destroyed. Yet the Israelites in Goshen were untouched. Pharaoh this time showed signs of a softening heart. He even acknowledged his sin! (v.27). He testified to the righteousness of God and of the wickedness of himself and his people. He asked for prayer ~ he had had enough. But Moses knew Pharaoh was not yet fully repentant.

Moses caused the hail to cease so that Pharaoh would **"know the earth is the Lord's"** (v.29). Moses was right. As soon as the hail ceased Pharaoh hardened his heart yet again (for the eighth time), just as God said he would.

"The heart is the most deceitful thing there is, and desperately wicked. No one can really know how bad it is! Only the Lord knows! He searches all hearts and examines deepest motives so He can give to each person his right reward, according to his deeds ~ how he has lived" (Jeremiah 17:9-10, TLB).

As we ponder the actions of Pharaoh's heart and his response to the prophetic word, it leaves us in no doubt as to the subtlety of our human nature. It is capable of great resistance to the truth of the Word of God, the prophetic word. The Bible says our heart is the most deceitful thing there is.

That is a really hard-hitting and “no nonsense” statement; but life is a matter of the issues of the heart. **God’s Word is always directed at the heart!**

- **The prophetic word is sent to change the attitudes of the heart!**

Until the heart fully yields to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, it continues to resist the purposes of God and continues to refuse to believe what God is saying. The choice is all about whether or not we will believe God, or whether we believe “self” and the influences of the world system (Egypt) that sidetracks us away from the major issues of life. God’s signs, wonders and miracles are needed to impact and penetrate through that “brick wall” of the heart that keeps resisting those things that are of the Spirit of God. **We need to learn to “let go!” and simply trust God!** Trusting is believing: believing God more than we believe ourselves or anyone else.

Christian,

- **How much of “Egypt” is still within you?**
- **How much does “Egypt” still dominate your thoughts and life-style?**

“Egypt” is a “Pharaoh” and has to be broken by the powerful prophetic word of the Lord. Otherwise we remain in bondage; we remain weak in our faith and doubt the Word of the Lord to us.

CHAPTER 7 EXODUS TEN

WE CANNOT IGNORE SIGNS, WONDERS AND MIRACLES!

GOD REVEALED to Moses why He hardened Pharaoh’s heart: *“That I might show My signs before him”* (v.1). Moses and the Israelites would also have a great testimony to pass on to their children and coming generations; of how the Lord caused them to know that HE IS THE LORD.

Again Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh to speak to him in the name of the Lord: *“Thus says the Lord, How long will you refuse to humble yourself before God? Let My people go that they may serve Me”* (v.3).

It seems that God’s way of impacting hard-hearted and unbelieving people is via the means of signs, wonders and miracles. Those mindsets have to be impacted by “happenings” outside of the normal. All the way through the Bible we have recorded miraculous signs and wonders that reveal the power of God to convince people of His reality and presence. The New Testament Church was birthed in healings and miracles, convincing people that God wants to be closely involved in the affairs of our lives. The amazing thing is that it is always a section of Christendom itself that keeps challenging the miraculous and presenting a negative aspect to it. We need to seriously consider the following:

- **How can we expect to represent the God of the miraculous in a very convincing way if we do not believe and allow space for the miraculous to work in our lives and ministries today?**
- **If our God cannot do miracles, then what can our God do?**
- **If it is not His will to do miracles, where does that teaching come from?**
- **How will the Church ever convince an unbelieving world of the reality of the Living God?** (Quoting Bible verses and praying nice prayers certainly does not convict nor convince them.)

- **The place of signs, wonders and miracles demands a far greater place in Christianity than we have given them!**
- **The 21st century Church is a prophetic church and will know the supernatural demonstration of signs, wonders and miracles like we have never seen the likes of before!**

Don't you think it is time we gave credence to the teachings of Scriptures, faced the fact that we believers are more often than not "unbelieving believers" when it comes to the supernatural, and gave God His rightful place in our lives? Anything we say, believe and do that discredits the power of God, is relegating God to the size of the human mind (which is very small in comparison) and giving room for the exaltation of the enemy in the affairs of humanity. I say,

- **Let God be GOD!**

The next plague was prophesied if Pharaoh refused to respond: Locusts that would eat up everything in their path, and fill their houses (v.4-6). Pharaoh's servants had had enough. They were ready to release the Israelites. They could see the destruction of Egypt already taking place. They were humbled. Their hearts and authority were bowing to the signs, wonders and miracles done by the God of Moses through Moses. Pharaoh listened to his servants and called Moses and Aaron back. **"Go serve the Lord your God. But who will go?"** (v.8). The authority of Egypt was crumbling ~ even being physically seen to be happening! He released the people to go with a curse! Moses and Aaron were chased out of his presence (v.11).

It is a very sad day when the only thing people have left is a curse. To curse is a mean and miserable way of manipulation and control. It is a "below the belt" tactic of the devil and his hordes. We are not called to curse; we are called to bless in the name of the Lord! To those who have been on the receiving end of a curse (or curses) we have good news for you. **The prophetic word of the Lord gives us authority to break curses in the mighty name of Jesus!** Pharaoh was cursing as a last resort. He was a defeated man, yet he still tried to exercise authority over the people of God by provoking a curse. He was a bad loser! It is the kind of attitude many have in the world, "If I am going down, then I am taking as many as I can down with me." How much easier it would have been to listen, believe and obey the word of the Lord. That deceitful, human heart will believe anything and everything except the Word of God! Amazing, isn't it?

Let me reinforce something to you. The "Pharaohs" of this world's systems are crumbling. We who believe the Word of God and that which God speaks prophetically today (always confirmed by the written Word) are going to see some amazing "crashing out" of seemingly invincible things. All who resist God are going to come crashing down. There is a day of reckoning just ahead. We had better make sure that we are on the right side ~ God's side! If we are not, then we are in for real troublesome times ahead.

- **Face your "Pharaohs" now and let God's authority be established in your life!**

God commanded Moses to lift his rod and bring the locusts forth. And they did come forth, like nothing they had ever seen before (v.12-15)! There were so many of them that the land of Egypt was darkened. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron quickly and confessed his sin against God and against them. **Pharaoh asked their forgiveness!** In answer to Moses' prayer the locusts were taken away. They were cast into the Red Sea (was this a prophetic sign to the Egyptians of that which was to come?). Yet, after all that, Pharaoh's heart was again hardened and he changed his mind, refusing to let the people go.

Another plague came forth to demonstrate the power of God over the authority of the Pharaoh of Egypt. This time it was a darkness that was so thick it could be felt. It lasted for three days (v.22-23). At the same time the Israelites "enjoyed" normal light. Pharaoh's mind was changed again and he released the Israelites to **"go serve the Lord."** Moses then began to tell Pharaoh that he

(Pharaoh) would have to provide the sacrifices! The “tables would so turn” that Pharaoh himself would serve the Israelites in providing them with what they needed to serve the Lord!

Again God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, so much so that he threatened Moses if he dared stand before him again, he would kill him! The battle had come to a matter of life and death. Pharaoh was really getting rankled now!

We need to see that the battle in the spiritual realm is also a battle between eternal life and eternal death. The prophetic realm powerfully feeds the eternal truths of God into the hearts of His people, so they can rise to conquer the “death threats” we encounter along life’s journey. Having faced some of those, I know what it is like to have to make a choice between life and death ~ physically.

CHAPTER 8 EXODUS ELEVEN

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

We now come down to the final plague. There were eleven supernatural happenings altogether, including this one:

1. Moses’ rod became a serpent (Exodus 7:10-13).
2. The waters turned to blood (Exodus 7:17-22).
3. The plague of frogs (Exodus 8:1-14).
4. The plague of lice (Exodus 8:16-19).
5. The swarm of flies (Exodus 8:20-32).
6. The judgment on the cattle of the Egyptians (Exodus 9:1-7).
7. The plague of boils (Exodus 9:8-12).
8. The destructive hail stones and fire (Exodus 9:22-35).
9. The plague of locusts (Exodus 10:1-20).
10. Darkness over Egypt (Exodus 10:21-23).
11. The firstborn of Egypt slain (Exodus 11:1-10).

It is interesting to note that the sorcerers could “compete” with the power of God up until the fourth plague. At that point they acknowledged the power of God was greater.

- **Does not God want the Church today to demonstrate His power in such a way that those motivated by negative, false evil spirits will have to acknowledge that the power of God is far greater than anything they have access to?**
- **If She does not, then what kind of authority does She have?**
- **Surely we cannot believe that the authority of Pharaoh should rule over the purposes of God?**
- **Surely the Christian faith is not something that submits to every contrary and opposing power that defies its Leader, Jesus Christ?**

The prophetic helps us to know what strategies to apply against the enemy. In some cases we need to actually adopt his strategies against himself. For example, a major strategy the devil uses to split and divide (and therefore weaken) the Christians is to focus on the undermining and pulling down of Christian leaders. Whenever he accomplishes that, there is the resulting heartache and despair, a scattering of people to other churches (or out of churches altogether) and a general drawing back into one’s “shell.”

- **The devil goes for the ones who hold positions of authority.**

There is a Scripture in Zechariah 13:7 (which Jesus quoted in Matthew 26:31) and it says, **“Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered . . .”** (NIV). A similar verse is found in Jeremiah 51:23. Interestingly, the “striking” in these verses is done by the Lord, not the devil. God uses the strategy to bring judgment upon a sleepy and disobedient nation and/or church. Jesus was “smitten” by God at Calvary and the disciples scattered. It took Pentecost to bring them back together into a powerful force to overcome the devil.

- **Pentecost represents the power of the Holy Spirit, the prophetic realm, the life style of living by hearing what the Spirit was saying to them.**

When leaders are not leading according to the purposes of God, there is an undermining, a spiritual decay taking place. That causes the people to lose vision, direction, purpose and energy in the pursuing of the fulfilling of God’s will. Ezekiel 34 talks about the affects of shepherds who fail to adequately “feed the flock” and who indulge themselves in their own self-interests. The result of that is the flock becomes a prey; they become “meat” to the wild beasts (evil spirits) of the field (v.8).

- **The enemy seeks to pull down the shepherds!**

Jesus knew the strategy of Satan, and in Luke 11 He gave us some keys to defeat him. He said, **“Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?”** (v.17-18). The **“smite the leader and the people will be scattered”** statement is a tactic that has destroyed many great men and women, and brought disrepute and distrust to thousands and thousands of Christians around the world.

Maybe this will help us to understand why Moses and Aaron were to focus on Pharaoh. Pharaoh was the major ruler and authority who stood in the way of the Israelites getting free of their bondages. If Pharaoh could be “divided,” if his power and authority could be “broken,” then the people could be set free. **“For when Satan, strong and fully armed, guards his palace, it is safe ~ until someone stronger and better-armed attacks and overcomes him and strips him of his weapons and carries off his belongings”** (Luke 11:22, TLB). The Holy Spirit wants to give us the strategies and abilities to be that **“someone stronger and better-armed”** who knows the devil has had far too much influence in the affairs of the Christians. For too long we have been content to concentrate against the peripheral, lesser things, rather than listen to God and get the strategies that will overthrow “Pharaoh” himself. It is a bit like trimming the hedge, when, what really needs to happen, is to pull it out ~ total eradication! It is like sweeping the cobwebs, but leaving the spider alive. I say: Uproot the hedge, and kill the spider!

The prophetic ministries are being restored so Satan can be divided against himself. The prophetic ministries are being restored so Satan’s power over the human race will be weakened. Anything that can no longer stand has to fall over. **He is the enemy and he must fall!**

Jesus “played the devil” at his own game. He came and died on Calvary’s Cross (where the devil thought he had won over Jesus), but on the third day Jesus rose triumphantly and “divided” the devil’s authority to the point of utter defeat. **Jesus accomplished that for us. We now have to apply it in such a way that the enemy knows without doubt we have authority over him, and that we are free from his “slime pits of sin”!**

- **We must face and conquer the ruling authorities that seek to keep us down!**
- **Moses and Aaron faced Pharaoh ~ and conquered him!**
- **David faced Goliath ~ and conquered him!**
- **Jesus faced Satan ~ and conquered him!**

They all were victorious. Their victories all brought freedom for nations. **They all did it through the prophetic ~ listening to God's voice and word.**

Let us return to the Exodus. By the time the eleventh supernatural happening came, Moses had gained much respect in the eyes of the Egyptian people (Exodus 11:3). That did not prevent them from suffering the loss of their first-born! All the Egyptians would bow the knee to Almighty God! They would know that God is the Lord! (v.7-8). Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened by God. Again he refused to let the Israelites go!

By that time the Israelites' faith in the prophetic word was taking root within them, and they were believing more and more that they had a better future. When Moses told them to borrow jewelry from the Egyptians they were willing to do so. Moses and the Israelites were now in favour with them. Nevertheless the word went out that some time around midnight the judgment of God would pass through the land of Egypt and all the first-born of man and beast would die. Egypt would know without a doubt that God is the Lord and that God does put a difference between the Israelites and the Egyptians. God would so judge Egypt that they would bow before Moses, telling the Israelites to leave! **Moses' declaration of the Word of the Lord was not an easy thing to do. He knew what was coming and he knew there would be a very bitter cry coming forth from those who had come to respect them.** Again God told Moses that Pharaoh would not yield. That gave yet another opportunity for God's signs, wonders and miracles to be demonstrated in the land. The KJV uses the terminology, ***"that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt"*** (v.9-10). Moses and Aaron did those mighty acts of God, while Pharaoh resisted with all his might.

The prophetic word and ministry is very much on the rise today. Accompanying that word are supernatural signs, wonders and miracles. The Church must demonstrate the reality and the power of God. It is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural glorifying of God that puts a difference between Bible Christianity and all other religions. New Testament Christianity is *"Christ in you the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27). That is the risen Christ ~ He Who has been raised triumphantly from the dead and Who lives inside every blood-washed, born-again, Holy Spirit-filled believer today!

According to John's Gospel Chapter 14, those who love Jesus keep His Word: that is, **we demonstrate our love by our obedience!** When that happens, we are told God the Father, Jesus the Son and the mighty Holy Spirit take up residence inside of us.

- **The Holy Trinity lives inside us ~ NOW!**
- **That means that wherever we go God goes with us!**
- **The Living God living in us!**

Meditate on this! **Therefore He wants us to let Him display His majestic presence and power through us: that which carries the mark of God, His supernatural happenings!** Most Christians either do not believe this truth or do not believe that Jesus wants to walk in and work through us to reveal Himself to a lost generation of "Egyptians" ~ those without the life-changing love of Christ in their lives.

The next few years are going to be tremendous as we are partakers with Christ in the gathering in of the end-time harvest. While the world flies apart with crises after crises, terrorism, earthquakes, floods, disasters, etc., the Church is finally getting Her act together and is starting to release the manifest presence of Jesus amongst the people.

- **The impact of this Prophetic Church will be scores of people brought into the Kingdom of God.**

Even as Isaiah of old declared: **“Nations being born in a day”** (Isaiah 66:5-14)! **Already we are hearing and reading of massive numbers of people coming to a personal salvation in Jesus Christ in several countries. As the prophetic word arises and comes forth, there will be a modern exodus in the earth, a spiritual deliverance from the world by signs, wonders and miracles that bring people into the Kingdom of God; lives so radically changed by the love, forgiveness and power of God that many will be amazed at the transformations of those they know. Like the Exodus of old, those who do not believe God’s way of escape will face His judgment. There will be a bitter cry when unbelievers realize their mistake, see their loss, and face an eternity without Christ.**

CHAPTER 9 EXODUS TWELVE

THE BLOOD COVERING

AS WE move into Exodus 12 we read of the importance of the blood covering. To protect themselves from the angel of death the Israelites had to **do** something. They had to sacrifice a lamb for every household and sprinkle its blood on the door posts of their houses. Wherever the blood was applied the people were protected from the judgment of God. The judgment of God was going to be poured out upon the Egyptian people and their gods. The blood was the sign. As this teaching is traced through the Bible we see that it pointed toward Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, Who came to shed His blood on Calvary’s Cross, so that whoever believes on His sacrificial death can experience the spiritual cleansing of all their sins by the application of His blood. **Those who believe, accept, and apply, find forgiveness of sin, acceptance from God and a new life of faith in Jesus Christ His Son.** Those who do not believe, accept, and apply the blood of Jesus, are totally without protection against the coming judgment of God. Those people will suffer utter loss and destruction, exactly as the Bible says, there will be **“weeping and gnashing of teeth”** (Matthew 8:12).

We need to be reminded again that it is God Who has set the conditions for peace in this life ~ and the one to come ~ not us (nor any religion). God has declared that the only way to Him, true peace, forgiveness, joy, etc., is to acknowledge His Son, Jesus Christ; that He died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sin; that His blood was spilled out so we could know true cleansing from all our rebellion against a Holy God. When we consciously make a decision to call on Jesus to forgive and cleanse us, His blood cleanses and covers us. We become born-again by the Holy Spirit and enter His Kingdom where we are safe from the judgment of God.

- **How important is the blood?**

So important that it is the only thing the angel of death looked for. The angel of death was powerless against the blood. If the blood had not been applied, the judgment of death fell on the household. But whenever it was seen that the blood had been applied, the angel of death passed over and the household was safe.

God gave the Israelites time to prepare themselves. They had to decide whether to believe the prophetic word or not. They had to decide whether to believe Moses or not. They had to decide whether they would apply the blood or not. Indecision and inaction at that vital point of time would mean either life or death. It was one or the other.

- **Today it is no different. The blood of Jesus stands before us as the only one true authority that determines whether we eternally live or die. We need to face this fact.**

Yours and my eternal destiny is determined by whether or not you and I apply the blood of Jesus Christ over our lives. There is nothing else! To ignore it does not change God's stance one little bit. That only invites the angel of death to "take us out." Do not delay! Believe Jesus today! Apply His blood over your life by repenting of all your sin, rebellion and disobedience against God. Ask Him to forgive and save you from the judgment of the angel of death, so you will be assured of eternal life in the presence of the Lord.

The Israelites prepared themselves against the coming judgment by applying the blood of a sacrificial lamb over the door posts of their houses, according to how they were instructed by God and Moses.

Then came the midnight hour!

"At midnight the Lord slew every first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the first-born of the prisoner in the dungeon, and all the first-born of the livestock. Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. He called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, 'Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites; and go, serve the Lord, as you said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone! And [ask your God to] bless me also.' The Egyptians were urgent with the people to depart, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, 'We are all dead men'" (Exodus 12:29-33, AMP.).

Exactly as the prophetic word had declared, the angel of death came sweeping through the land of Egypt and the first-born of every unprotected Egyptian was slain. **It affected everyone!** From Pharaoh at the top, to the man languishing in a prison cell, all were affected by the judgment of God. No one could escape it, unless they had applied the blood according to the commandment of God. Every home in Egypt was plunged into grief and despair as the first-born child was found dead in their bed and the cattle dead in their stalls. The people were powerless to do anything about it.

Did you notice how Pharaoh acknowledged the prophetic word? He said, ***"Go, serve the Lord, as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone!"*** The ruling authority in all Egypt is saying to 80-year-old Moses, "I yield to your word, to your authority"; ***"as you have said."*** He was acknowledging that there was a power, an authority in Moses that was greater than his authority! **The prophetic word had prevailed! It had to, for it had the power of God behind it, and a man who believed it! One man, or one woman and God is a majority when we are moving in the realm of the prophetic.** God wants each of us to experience the joy of hearing others yield to the Word of God in us, especially those who have opposed the love of the Lord we serve.

- **The prophetic word reveals His glory!**
- **The prophetic word shows the power of our God!**
- **The prophetic word shows the power of His word!**
- **God is greater ~ and the Church is called to not only declare it, but also to demonstrate it!**

Pharaoh snapped. At long last his stubborn, obstinate will had been totally broken. He called for Moses and Aaron and told them to get out: ***"Go serve the Lord as you have said"*** (Exodus 12:31).

- **The prophetic word had prevailed!**

The ruling authority had succumbed and bowed to every demand of Moses. The children of Israel obeyed the word and borrowed jewelry off the Egyptians. At last the Israelite slaves were coming

out of their slime-pit existence. They turned their backs on their bondages, gathered together and began to march out according to the prophetic word.

- **Destinies were about to change!**
- **History was about to be rewritten!**
- **The prophetic word proved its effectiveness and power over every ruling authority that tried to stand in its way!**

That's the Word of the Lord! The very same Word you and I are called to receive, believe and deliver today! The reason? To set the captives free so they can fulfil their destinies to the glory of God!

CHAPTER 10 EXODUS 13

ON THE MOVE!

THE WORD came from God to Moses to sanctify all the first-born of the people of Israel. Those who had been spared from death because of the blood of the sacrificial lamb having been applied to their houses were then to be sanctified unto God. That is, they were “to be holy, consecrated to God, of things destined for sacred uses; to be regarded and treated as holy . . . glorious in bestowing favours or inflicting judgments; set apart” (Wilson’s). God had saved them from certain death so He could use them for His own praise and glory. They were to be set apart for Him. They were to carry a testimony that He, by His strength, had brought them out of the bondages of Egypt. He (the Lord) was the only One Who could have done it ~ and He did it! He did it exactly as He had promised through the prophetic word! God was proving to all He was THE LORD!

The children of Israel were now on the move. After 430 years of being slaves to the Egyptian system, they began to march out, carrying with them a little bag, box or casket that contained the bones of Joseph. Joseph was a prophetic man who “saw in the Spirit” that great event numbers of years before it happened. Twice he prophesied, **“God will surely visit you”** (Genesis 50:24-25). He did not want his final resting place to be in Egypt and so he left a command that when that great day of deliverance took place, they were to take his bones out with them (Exodus 13:19). He wanted to be buried outside the land of bondage. He wanted to be buried where the promises of God were being fulfilled!

Even when the children of Israel were marching out of Egypt, the signs, wonders and miracles of God continued to go with them. As they marched on out of that land **“the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people”** (Exodus 13:21-22, KJV).

- **God gave to them very clear guidance and protection.**
- **It was supernatural and it remained continuously with them by day and by night.**

That cloud would have blinded the enemy by day as to the exact whereabouts of the Israelites, and the fire by night would certainly have kept them at bay. **The pillar of cloud and fire were also visible evidence to the Israelites that God was with them in a powerful, protecting and yet comforting way. All they had to do was to remain in the cloud and follow the fire! They were experiencing the prophetic in their exodus! It was no story. They were not dreaming. It was real!**

Let me share with you the account of the Exodus from Psalm 105:23-39:

Then Jacob (Israel) arrived in Egypt and lived there with his sons. In the years that followed, the people of Israel multiplied explosively until they were a greater nation than their rulers. At that point God turned the Egyptians against the Israelis; they hated and enslaved them.

But God sent Moses as His representative, and Aaron with him, to call down miracles of terror upon the land of Egypt. They followed His instructions. He sent thick darkness through the land and turned the nation's water into blood, poisoning the fish. Then frogs invaded in enormous numbers; they were found even in the king's private rooms. When Moses spoke, the flies and other insects swarmed in vast clouds from one end of Egypt to the other. Instead of rain He sent down murderous hail, and lightning flashes overwhelmed the nation. Their grape vines and fig trees were ruined; all the trees lay broken on the ground. He spoke, and hordes of locusts came and ate up everything green, destroying all the crops. Then He killed the oldest child in each Egyptian home, their pride and joy ~ and brought His people safely out from Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; there were no sick and feeble folk among them then. Egypt was glad when they were gone, for the dread of them was great. He spread out a cloud above them to shield them from the burning sun and gave them a pillar of flame at night to give them light (TLB).

- They knew the prophetic word through Moses and Aaron.
- They knew the power of God because of what was happening to them.
- They knew they were being delivered from a very long-term oppressor!
- They knew God was with them in a supernatural way!
- They were seeing the power and authority of the spoken Word of God concerning them!
- What had been impossible had now become a living reality!

All the previous promises, words of encouragement and struggles were now culminating in a history-making and history-changing journey that came about directly as a result of the prophetic word coming forth from God to Moses and Aaron, and then from Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh and to the people. The cries of the Israelis, their prayers of many years that had touched the heart of God, were being answered before their very eyes as they followed Moses on their walk of faith. Think how they must have felt. Think of the emotions that gripped them as they marched out together. They may not have looked “all that flash” in their clothes that showed the signs of many years of bondage and slavery, **but they had heard from God! God had heard their cry! He had come down to deliver them, exactly as He told Moses at the burning bush.**

They were marching where they had never marched before. They had left behind the old and were walking into the new! The “new” had never been experienced before. Right then that did not matter, for they had convincing evidence that Almighty God was with them, for them and on their side! If anyone had any doubts at all, all they needed to do was look again at God’s mighty signs, wonders and miracles all around them.

***“Thank God! He deserves your thanks.
His love never quits.
Thank the God of all gods,
His love never quits . . .
The God Who struck down the Egyptian first-born,
His love never quits.
And rescued Israel from Egypt’s oppression,
His love never quits.
Took Israel in hand with His powerful hand,
His love never quits.***

*Split the Red Sea right in half,
His love never quits.
Led Israel right through the middle,
His love never quits.
Dumped Pharaoh and his army in the sea,
His love never quits”*
(Psalm 136:1-2, 10-15, “The Message”).

Thank God!

CHAPTER 11 EXODUS 14

THROUGH THE RED SEA!

AS WE move into the Fourteenth Chapter of Exodus, stop and consider how nearly all the Chapters from Four to Fourteen ~ the period of the prophetic word that saw Israel released out of her bondage ~ start with the same statement: **“And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying.”** It is right there in a nutshell. **The prophetic word!** That word that God speaks, and which man should listen to and obey. That is Christianity in a nutshell, too, really.

- **Listen to what Jesus says, and OBEY!**
- **Can we get it any simpler than that?**

We seem to have made it so complicated and confusing for ourselves. We make rules and regulations to live by; we conform to programmes and systems, yet we still remain powerless. Why can't we get it down to a simple:

- **“Whatever He tells you to do, DO IT”!** (John 2:5)?

One answer is we simply do not believe it can be that simple! All the men and women of the Bible who became great did so because they all learned to hear the voice of God. **They learned to recognize how and when He spoke to them. When they did what He asked of them, He made them great.**

It is no different for us today. To accomplish great things that will last throughout time into eternity (and that is what we should be about), **we also need to hear the Word of the Lord clearly enough to DO what He tells us. No more and no less! Living that way makes us prophetic and it makes us successful in the fulfilling of the purposes of God for our life! That is faith, and faith believes God** (otherwise it is not faith at all, only presumption)!

The journey ran into obstacles. Pharaoh decided he had made a big mistake in letting the Israelites go and so set out in pursuit to bring them back to their slavery. Meanwhile the Israelites found themselves hemmed in. The wilderness was on two sides, the Egyptians pursuing from another and the Red Sea in front of them. The obstacles that created the difficulties were all part of God's plan to display His handiwork and glory amongst them. Fear gripped the Israelites. Panic set in. Negativity rose up like a mountain. Thoughts of death, resignation to having to return to the slime pits, all came gushing out of their faithless hearts and mouths. In the midst of it all, Moses rose up and declared:

“Don’t be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch, and you will see the wonderful way the Lord will rescue you today. The Egyptians you are looking at ~ you will never see them again. The Lord will fight for you, and you won’t need to lift a finger!” (or, “you will be speechless with amazement”) (Exodus 14:13-14, TLB).

Wow! That was quite a statement. The circumstances showed no signs of that happening that day. Moses went to prayer. But, an amazing thing happened.

- **God rebuked him for praying!**
- **It was not a time to pray and cry out to God!**
- **It was a time to stand firm!**
- **It was a time to speak to the people to go forward!**
- **It was a time for Moses to lift up his rod over the sea!**
- **It was a time to exercise his God-given authority over the natural elements!**
- **It was a time to demonstrate that God was with them!**
- **It was time for more miracles!**

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying unto Me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff (rod) and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry land” (Exodus 14:15-16, NIV).

Here is something to consider. We are taught to pray in everything. Yet Moses was rebuked by the Lord for praying in that situation instead of acting. **He was praying instead of demonstrating his God-given authority.** Please do not misunderstand what I say here. For many Christians prayer is a very effective communication with God that sees many things accomplished. But for others it can become “a cop out.” We pray when we should be demonstrating our love and obedience to God. Prayer is not a substitute to obedience. Prayer is made useless in our lives if we do not do what God tells us. The simple truth is that if we do not obey God, it is likely that we will have very few prayers answered anyway. Too many have the idea that if we pray everything will automatically fall into God’s will. That is not so. One example of this is the worldwide call to pray for revival. Christians everywhere are praying for revival. But have we ever stopped to consider how revival will happen? **In the Bible things happened because of obedience to the revealed will of God (the prophetic word).** One can pray and be in disobedience. One can pray and be full of unbelief. **God moves when His people obey Him; when they demonstrate their faith by their actions. As I understand the Bible, obedience comes about as a direct result of hearing from God.** If we do not know when God is talking to us, there will be no corresponding actions to obey, especially when that obedience cuts across logic and reasoning. Prayer is not an automatic “magical answer” that God is bound to honour. **He responds to faith and obedience!** Revival comes the same way. God promised Abraham: ***“Every nation of the earth would be blessed because he had obeyed the voice of the Lord his God”*** (Genesis 22:16-18). He did not say it would happen merely because he prayed.

Have you ever sat in a prayer meeting and listened to the content of what is often prayed? So many people pray such negative prayers. In a nutshell, they often are an expression to God of their own unbelief of what the Bible teaches. They keep asking God to do things that He has already done, or what He has already told us to do. We have become “experts” at putting it back onto God and absolving ourselves from any stepping out in faith and obedience. There is a very real need right now for many Christians to study afresh the New Testament, especially the paradigm shift that took place on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Once the Holy Spirit came into the lives of believers, He became the voice of God to them. He taught them to take the initiative and to do things in the power of His Spirit. They did not sit around praying, but doing nothing else. Their prayer meetings were focused on their receiving more boldness to proclaim Jesus in an unbelieving and hostile, religious world (Acts 4). In Mark 16 we read of Jesus giving the command to His unbelieving, hard-hearted disciples to ***“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature . . . these signs would follow them that believe,”*** etc. Jesus departed the scene

before they responded to that command. In the last verse of Mark's Gospel we read, ***“And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”***

- **What caused such a dramatic change in those disciples?**
- **What made them change from unbelieving, hard-hearted men and women, into becoming “fire brands” for Jesus?**

Something happened within them. In obedience to the Word of Jesus, they waited in Jerusalem until they personally received the power of the Holy Spirit. They waited until He came to live inside of them. And He came! He came on the day of Pentecost. Their lives were so changed and so charged with the reality and power of Jesus that they rose up to obey the Word of the Lord. After Pentecost they did not “sit around” waiting for God to speak, or waiting for God to do something. They took the initiative. ***“They went forth”!***

- **They made a decision to OBEY the Word of Jesus to them!**
- **They put His Word into action!**

And, what do you think the Lord did? ***“He went with them”!*** Did you notice that? **HE went with them** ~ not, they went with Him. God honoured them and He worked with them!

God broke in on Moses' prayer and told him it was a time of declaration and action ~ for **saying**, not for **praying**! It was a time to take the initiative, to release God to do what He had promised. God assured Moses that the Egyptians would not overcome them. The pillar of the cloud went between the Egyptians (putting them into darkness) and the Israelites (who enjoyed light). Moses stretched out his hand (with the rod in it) over the Red Sea.

- **His obedience released God to work!**

God caused a strong east wind to blow all that night and it made the sea to part. What a sight to behold! The God of miracles again came through for His people! There before them was a huge divide. Even the ground of the seabed was dry! God showed them He was a God of detail. He likes to put the “finishing touches” on the work He does! The Israelites marched into the provision of God! He made a way where (to them) there was no way. Just as the prophetic word had declared, they marched out by signs, wonders and miracles.

By the time the Egyptians realized what had happened, the Israelites had had a good head start. Pharaoh's army went charging into the divide, believing it was safe for them as well (little did they know the fate awaiting them). God had them just where He wanted them. He made havoc for them. He caused the wheels to fall off their chariots, causing things to go disastrously wrong for them.

Once the Israelites were all passed over to the other side, God spoke to Moses to hold his hand out over the sea and command the waters to come together again.

- **Moses obeyed and God fulfilled His promise!**

The Red Sea came crashing together with an almighty roar and covered the entire Egyptian army. They perished! The God of miracles had again displayed His handiwork, His awesome power, His ability to deliver His people out of impossible situations, His delighting to show the enemy He is not one to be “fooled with.” The “happenings” of that day put the fear of God into the Israelites and gave them a healthy respect for Moses the man of God, the carrier of the prophetic Word of the Lord. The people had not only heard the promise of God from the mouth of His servant, but they had seen a demonstration of the truth and power of that Word. They saw how the authority of the prophetic word could break down the authority of the mighty Pharaoh and reduce him to ruins

because of his refusal to submit to that prophetic word. They saw the fulfilment of the promise ***“That you may know that I am the Lord.”***

We have to know the Lord like that also, especially if we want to see the authority of the “Pharaoh’s” of this world come crashing down. We have to know the voice of our God and learn the strategies that show us the way to handle every individual situation. We cannot afford to rely on “I did it that way before,” or “It worked for someone else, maybe it will work for me?” That achieves nothing. We must listen to the Shepherd’s voice and, ***“Whatever He tells us to do, we are to DO IT!”*** Things can really happen when we do what God asks us.

CHAPTER 12 EXODUS 15

THE VICTORY SONG!

LOOKING BACK over the Exodus one cannot help but be amazed at the events that took place. We see the hopelessness of man to extricate himself out of the bondages of Egypt, and their inability to rise naturally out of their “slime pit” existence. Their initial reaction to the prophetic word through Moses was one of negativity and wishing to remain as they were, even though their existence provided no answers that could change them. They had come to accept their situation, even though it was far below that which God desired for them. It continued like that until God came via the prophetic word in Moses. Then things began to change. The forces that kept them bound were confronted through the prophetic word and the accompanying signs, wonders and miracles. God “stamped” His presence with them in a miraculous way. The more those events gathered momentum, the more the hand of God was clearly seen. It went beyond all natural ability, all natural logic, and showed the realm of the supernatural is far beyond anything man can come up with. The whole exodus shows us something of the awesome hand of God in the affairs of people who genuinely cry unto Him.

It is no wonder, then, that the victory song in Exodus 15 broke forth from the hearts and mouths of the Israelites (it was the first time it is mentioned they sang).

- **They had something to sing, praise and shout about! They were part of an undeniable, God-glorifying, history-making “happening” that has blessed, inspired and impacted people ever since!**

It is a clear example of the prophetic in the Exodus and its power to change circumstances, powers, authorities and people. Let us never underestimate the ***“Thus says the Lord”*** when it comes from God, for there is sufficient power in His Word to overcome every obstacle that would rise to stand in the way of the will of the Lord being done. Moses and the children of Israel heard, saw and experienced the power and authority of the prophetic word in and through their own personal lives. **It was no longer theory. It was reality! It was awesome!** So much so that Moses and the people burst forth into song! A glorious song of triumph, praise and thanksgiving! A song that glorified God for His dealing with the Egyptian enemy (drowning them in the sea)! Here is that song for you to rejoice in and meditate on:

***I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted.
The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise Him,***

My father's God, and I will exalt Him.
The LORD is a warrior;
The LORD is His name.
Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has hurled into the sea.
The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea.
The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power.
Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of Your majesty You threw down those who opposed You.
You unleashed Your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.
By the blast of Your nostrils the waters piled up.
The surging waters stood firm like a wall;
The deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.
The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them.
I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.'
But You blew with Your breath, and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
Who among the gods is like You, O LORD?
Who is like You ~
Majestic in holiness,
Awesome in glory,
Working wonders?
You stretched out Your right hand and the earth swallowed them.
In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed.
In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling.
The nations will hear and tremble;
Anguish will grip the people of Philistia.
The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
The leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,
The people of Canaan will melt away;
Terror and dread will fall upon them.
By the power of Your arm they will be as still as a stone ~
Until Your people pass by, O LORD,
Until the people You bought pass by.
You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of Your inheritance ~
The place, O LORD, You made for Your dwelling,
The sanctuary, O Lord, Your hands established.
The LORD will reign for ever and ever."
When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea,
The LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them,
But the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground
 (Exodus 15:1-19, NIV).

What a song! But what a victory!
 A song that declared the Lord is:

- **My strength!**
- **My song!**
- **My salvation!**
- **My God!**
- **My father's God!**

Their song declared:

- **They would exalt Him!**
- **The Lord is His name!**

- **Pharaoh and his army being thrown in the sea!**
- **Pharaoh's choice captains drowned in the Red Sea!**

Their song lifted up God:

- **His right hand being glorious in power!**
- **His right hand dashing the enemy into pieces!**
- **The greatness of His excellency!**
- **The sending forth of His consuming wrath!**
- **The blast of His nostrils that brought the sea back together again!**
- **The blast of His nostrils that sank the enemy like a stone!**
- **Like lead!**

Their song asked the questions:

- **Who is like the Lord?**
- **What gods could stand up before Him?**
- **Who is like His glorious holiness?**
- **Who is like His fear and praises?**

Their song exalted the power and works of God:

- **His right hand "swallowed" up the enemy!**
- **His mercy led His people!**
- **His people had been redeemed for Himself!**
- **His people had been guided in His strength!**
- **His people had been brought to His holy habitation!**
- **His people would hear and fear before Him!**
- **The surrounding countries and leaders would tremble before the God of Israel, because of the greatness of His arm!**

Their song was about the future:

- **Enemy nations bowing to the mighty God!**
- **God bringing them in and planting them in the mountain of His inheritance!**
- **God bringing them to the place where He dwells, in His Sanctuary!**

Their song included exuberant and emotional celebration:

- **Miriam the prophetess playing the tambourine.**
- **All the women going after her, playing tambourines and dancing.**
- **Miriam the prophetess inspiring and exhorting them to sing to the Lord for His mighty triumph!**
- **Miriam inspiring them because the enemy had been defeated!**

My spirit stirs within me as I put myself in to their shoes: the great wonder of being delivered, set free, from a life of bondage, and slavery, and Egyptian slime pits! Letting the reality of it all sink in, one just gets caught up in the words of the old hymn:

**"How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be ~
How marvellous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me."**

The true song of the Lord comes forth from the heart when we know the fulfilment of the purposes of God for us. Those things all happened because the Israelites were led by prophetic people ~ Moses, Aaron and Miriam. They were exercised in developing their discerning abilities to hear the voice of God into their spirits. They were committed to obey that word they heard! And what they heard was ***"Thus says the Lord!"***

- **What are we hearing today?**
- **And, what are we doing with that which we hear?**

The Exodus is a wonderful type of what takes place spiritually when one yields their heart and life to the claims of Jesus Christ. Without Him we are just like the Israelites were when they lived in Egypt. It is not until we start to cry to God with a genuine desire and desperation that we will see or experience a real change of life. Coming to Christ is not about learning Scriptures or attending church (although that is involved), but having an encounter with Him that sees Him taking over the reins of our heart. While we are in control, Jesus can only take second place ~ but that is not acceptable to Him. Until Jesus is Lord (in us) we will never really experience His transforming power in us, nor will we see the fulfilment of the prophetic word. Until Jesus is “Number One,” there will always be a “Pharaoh” who is “lording it” over us, and keeping us subjected to what he/she wants, instead of our living for what Jesus wants. And He (Jesus) wants the very best for us! Life here on earth is a journey ~ a journey that is preparing us for all eternity. Where we finish up in eternity depends entirely on what we do about the claims of Jesus Christ on our life.

- **Will we believe and receive Him as our Personal Saviour?**
- **Will we believe the declaration of the blood covering, and apply it?**

We cannot afford to ignore this very important issue. Until we align ourselves with Jesus and His sacrificial blood, we will remain in the spiritual wilderness, the “slime pits” of sin, without God and without hope. A person without hope has nothing to look forward to and so sinks back into the past and lives a “below par” existence. Jesus came to give all of us life more abundant (John 10:10). Make very sure you receive that abundant life of Jesus today.

- **Why not make that decision NOW?**

If you are really desirous of knowing Jesus as your Personal Saviour and Friend, knowing the joy of sins forgiven, knowing the power of being accepted by God, wanting to enjoy a new life, then please pray this prayer out loud to God:

“Dear God, I come to You in the Almighty name of Jesus Christ Your Son. I ask You to come into my life, and to forgive me for all those things that have not pleased You. I am sorry for living for myself and shutting You out of my life. I confess I am sick of living that way. Please, Lord, come into my life in a very real way today. I thank You for hearing my prayer, for accepting me, and cleansing me from my sin. Right now I accept Your forgiveness, Your love, Your grace and Your mercy into my heart. I also forgive myself for all those things that I have sinned against You, and others. Thank You for hearing my prayer. Praise You, Lord Jesus! I pray this in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.”

If you have meant this prayer, let me encourage you to seek out a Holy Spirit-filled Christian or minister, and tell them what you have done. Ask them to help you to grow in your new faith in Jesus Christ. Also, share your good news with someone else. I gave my heart to Jesus way back in 1959 and have enjoyed an adventurous life serving Him in many parts of the world. For me, I still believe the best is yet to come! May you also know the joy of serving Jesus Christ through the hearing of His voice to your heart. **He knows exactly what is best and right for you.** God bless you!

In drawing this book to a close, let us look at the Exodus from a different perspective.

CHAPTER 13

WHO IS YOUR PHARAOH?

THE EXODUS ACCOUNT of the deliverance of the Israelites out of Egypt is very challenging indeed. God had made great promises to Israel, called the fugitive 80-year-old Moses from the land of Midian and sent him back to Egypt to lead the people out of their slavery (we are never too old for God!). Together, with Aaron, he set about fulfilling the call of God on his life ~ a call he had carried for more than 40 years.

But there was a Pharaoh in the way! Pharaoh was an ungodly and proud man in a position of authority that made him ruler over the Egyptians, as well as the Israelites (who were reduced to slaves).

Pharaoh represented the “stumbling block” to the release of the children of God. When Moses and Aaron petitioned him to let the Israelites go **“to sacrifice to God,”** he thought it was a big joke. He reckoned they had too much time on their hands and needed more work to do. He ordered they make the same tally of bricks per day but also that they were now to gather their own straw, which previously had been supplied (Exodus 6). **Pharaoh had no reason to grant Moses’ request. He had seen no evidence of a living God amongst the Israelites. They were religious, but powerless! They believed in the Living God, but lived in slavery.** In reality Pharaoh was their “god,” for he had the authority to control their daily lifestyles and their future destinies. And he was not about to give up that power to a “returned fugitive quoting a few sayings from God.”

What a picture we have here of life itself for the Christian. We have all the promises of God, have access to the “dunamis” power of God (Acts 1:8), have authority in the name of Jesus to fulfil our destiny in the purposes of God yet, far too often, we live like the Israelites of old ~ in slavery to a Pharaoh. The big questions have to be asked:

- **Do you have a Pharaoh in your life? Someone who stands between you and the will of God?**
- **If so, Who is your Pharaoh?**
- **Have you identified the true enemy who stands against you to keep your life in slavery to an ungodly authority or system?**

IT’S A QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

As the story in Exodus unfolds, it becomes apparent that the battle is one of **“Who is in authority? God (in Moses), or Pharaoh?”** The existing authority was Pharaoh, but God had declared, “Set My people free. Bring them out of Egypt to the place where Moses had encountered Me at the burning bush” (Exodus 3:1-12). Moses had received divine revelation on God’s desire for Israel. He knew God’s heart on the matter. He then put that knowledge into action by his obedience to God’s Word of revelation. It was then he discovered **there was a Pharaoh in the way! Someone with authority stood against him. Someone who wanted to keep God’s people slaves in the slime pits of Egypt!**

The Christian message is all about authority:

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn” (Proverbs 29:2, KJV).

Life’s conditions improve or decline according to “who” is in authority! That happens in the world, in politics, the work place, in the home, the church and even our own life. We must ask ourselves:

- **Who is the authority in the circumstances of my life? God (in me), or Pharaoh?**

For the Christian the Supreme Authority should be God.

- **Is He?**

If He is, we will be very content walking in the centre of His will for our life ~ with opposition of course! **But the opposition does not have to be the ruling authority of our life!** And we do not have to keep living in the slime pits of Egypt!

- **We have to demonstrate a greater authority!**

When Pharaoh stood against Moses and Aaron, he was merely defending his position of authority. He had not yet discovered that Moses' God was more than "someone religious quoting some Scripture verses at him."

- **For the ruling authority to be overthrown there has to be a greater authority demonstrated!**

That is why Moses had to perform the mighty miracles that outsmarted the best magicians Egypt could find (Exodus 8). When they had reached their limitations, the power and authority of God through Moses flowed on.

- **Who are we fooling?**

Pharaoh had to see a demonstration of authority greater than anything he had ever seen or experienced before. And he did. Not just once, but again and again. There was such hardness in his proud heart that one demonstration was not enough. **It is no different today.**

- **If Christians cannot demonstrate the reality and power of the Living God in our current secular, humanistic society, then who are we fooling? Ourselves! The Church of the 21st century is a signs, wonders and miracles one. So,**
- **What's the hindrance?**
- **Who, or what, is the Pharaoh in your life?**
- **Who does Pharaoh represent?**

Pharaoh can represent different things to different people. The obvious one is Satan, who is opposed to any of us exchanging his authority over us to that of submitting ourselves under the mighty hand of God. He certainly wants to keep us in slavery, trudging through life under the dictates of **"the world, the flesh and the devil"** (1 John 2:15-17).

But Pharaoh can represent other things to the Christian. He can represent a relationship, a business partner. **Pharaoh can actually be a church system that keeps you so "submissive and loyal" that you have no authority of your own in Jesus' name. Pharaoh may be your own belief system, believing things that bind you more than release you into the purposes of God.** This is a big one for many of us. We far too often are waiting for God to do something for us, when already He has given the command to go and do it! We struggle to be obedient to God (because of a Pharaoh)!

- **Obedience must come first ~ it is the New Testament way!**

Pharaoh stops us from being ourselves, from being free! Pharaoh is "anyone" or "anything" that prevents us from being free in the purposes of God in the here and now! There is a line in a song that says, "For it's only in Your (God's) will that I am free; For it's only in Your will that I am free . . ." How true that is. Think seriously about that statement. Your Pharaoh may not necessarily just be the devil. **We need to know that Christianity is all about our rising up to exercise the authority that God has given us in Jesus Christ through the**

power of the Holy Spirit. The overcoming life (where we live in the authority of God) is not something that “just happens.” It is ours when we have seen the authority of God within us conquer the opposing “Pharaohs” in or against our life. Every victory we win, every trial we come through, has something to do with the increasing of the authority of God working in and through our life. That does not happen if Pharaoh is bowed to and we let his unbelieving hard-heartedness “dominate” our actions.

The name “Pharaoh” means “sun” or “his nakedness.” Pharaoh’s effects and dominance in the affairs of our life scorches and burns us in the wrong way. He strips us bare, leaving us destitute and naked, exposed and defeated. He reduces us to slaves in a slime pit!

- **God’s will is that we are in His Son (Jesus Christ), and personally know the truth and power of being covered and clothed by the precious blood of Jesus!**

When we submit to the authority of God, we discover that He is far above every other principality and authority on the earth (Ephesians 1:15-23; Colossians 1:9-20). In fact God’s authority is so great that He uses every other authority to work out His own purposes to His own praise and glory. God used even the Pharaoh that Moses encountered to show forth His power:

“For Scripture says to Pharaoh, ‘I have raised you up for this very purpose, to exhibit My power in My dealings with you, and to spread My fame over all the world’” (Romans 9:17, NEB).

How humiliating for Pharaoh! The very thing he tried the hardest to resist, God took and used it to demonstrate how superior He is to puny man’s positional authority. I mean, **who ever outsmarted God?** It is good to know that God laughs at such actions in times like that!

- **We Christians need to rediscover the glorious truth that God is totally committed to those who are in His will! He turns everything to good when we stand according to His purposes!** (Romans 8:28). **He removes the obstacles and causes the Pharaohs to know that God’s people carry an authority that is “out of this world”!**

As Moses continued to declare the purposes of God and not be intimidated by Pharaoh, he saw the breakthrough come. As he continued to release the miraculous (at God’s command), he saw the authority of Pharaoh being broken down. The Word of the Lord in Moses’ mouth kept undermining Pharaoh’s authority until the time came when Israel marched out of their slime pits, out of their slavery, out of Egyptian bondage, through the miracle of the Red Sea, to the place where God told Moses to bring them ~ **to Himself!**

- **That is authority! God’s authority!**
- **That is seeing the promises of God worked through into practical reality!**
- **That is when God is glorified ~ when people see the evidence of our believing that God is in the midst of His people!**

This is a day when the authority of Pharaoh is being brought down. He has ruled for too long. He has kept us down for too long. He has robbed us of our Godly inheritance and it is time for change. Whoever your Pharaoh is, do not let him bluff you any longer into believing you have no rights to rise up, that you cannot be any different to what has always been. **Jesus Christ is our true authority!** He lives in the hearts of all true believers and He has told us to use the authority of His All-Powerful name! Even Pharaoh has to bow to the mighty name of Jesus as it is genuinely and sincerely exercised by you!

- **Who is your Pharaoh?**
Whoever he is, his time is limited, and his “number” is up!
- **Jesus came to release us all from the tyranny of Pharaoh and to give us power and authority in His name to release others from their Pharaoh-produced bondages!**

He has already given us that power and authority. **It is yours ~ NOW!**
Rise up, speak out, and walk on into more of His complete victory for you!

- **Pharaoh is finished!**
- **We are free in Jesus Christ the Lord!**

The Exodus contains lessons and principles for us today. It shows us what God is prepared to do for His people who are committed to Him. Several times the Scriptures remind the Israelites to recall what happened back there. Let me share one or two with you:

In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?" tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. Before our eyes the LORD sent miraculous signs and wonders ~ great and terrible ~ upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. But He brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that He promised on oath to our forefathers. The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us, that will be our righteousness" (Deuteronomy 6:20-25, NIV).

"You must love the Lord your God and obey every one of His commands. Listen! I am not talking now to your children who have never experienced the Lord's punishments or seen His greatness and His awesome power. They weren't there to see the miracles He did in Egypt against Pharaoh and all his land. They didn't see what God did to the armies of Egypt and to their horses and chariots ~ how He drowned them in the Red Sea as they were chasing you, and how the Lord has kept them powerless against you until this very day!" (Deuteronomy 11:1-4, TLB).

It was on the plains of Moab that Moses restated the covenant that the Lord had made with the people of Israel at Mount Horeb. He summoned all Israel before Him and told them, "You have seen with your own eyes the great plagues and mighty miracles that the Lord brought upon Pharaoh and his people in the land of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 29:1-3, TLB).

"There has never been a prophet in Israel like Moses; the Lord spoke with him face to face. No other prophet has ever done miracles and wonders like those that the Lord sent Moses to perform against the king of Egypt (Pharaoh), his officials, and the entire country. No other prophet has been able to do the great and terrifying things that Moses did in the sight of all Israel" (Deuteronomy 34:10-12, GNB).

Then Ezra prayed, "You alone are God. You have made the skies and the heavens, the earth and the seas, and everything in them. You preserve it all; and all the angels of heaven worship You.

You are the Lord God Who chose Abram and brought him from Ur of the Chaldeans and renamed him Abraham. When he was faithful to You, You made a contract with him to forever give him and his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites; and now You have done what You promised, for You are always true to Your word.

You saw the troubles and sorrows of our ancestors in Egypt, and You heard their cries from beside the Red Sea. You displayed great miracles against Pharaoh and his people, for You knew how brutally the Egyptians were treating them; You have a glorious reputation because of those never-to-be-forgotten deeds. You divided the sea for Your people so they could go through on dry land! And then You destroyed their enemies in the depths of the sea; they sank like stones beneath the mighty waters. You led our ancestors by a pillar of

cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night so that they could find their way” (Nehemiah 9:6-12, TLB).

My prayer is that the message of this book has challenged you to seriously consider more of the claims of the prophetic word. It is the “life line” to enabling the Church in the 21st century to accomplish its divine mission. Without it we have failed. Without it in the future we will fail again. We must face the challenges of what it means to recognize the five-fold ministry giftings of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), plus every Holy Spirit-filled believer (men and women) functioning in the nine spiritual gifts of 1 Corinthians 12. These ministries and gifts bring the revelation of the mind of God to us in the now, and help us to release the supernatural signs, wonders and miracles of God in the midst of an unbelieving, hard-hearted generation, that has been manipulated and controlled by numbers of different “Pharaohs.” These gifts bring the necessary supernatural healing from the damage caused by Pharaoh and again raise the standard and authority of ***“Thus says the Lord, Let My people go that they may serve Me.”***

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In 1986 he became an ordained minister with the “Elim Pentecostal Churches of New Zealand,” and served on the National Executive of that Movement for over 10 years (1987-1997). He resigned from that Movement at the end of 1999 to become fully involved and focused in “The GFM” Ministry. He is credentialed with “The GFM” Ministry in New Zealand and the “Elim Church Incorporated” (ECI) in Great Britain.

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