

Session 1 The Early Days, Cairo, and the 1983 Solemn Assembly

WHY SHARE OUR PROPHETIC HISTORY

Roman numeral I. Psalm 78:2-7: “I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments.” These are the verses that I think of when I think of the eight sessions that we will cover about our prophetic history; the psalmist said in Psalm 78:2 that He will open my mouth with a parable. The psalmist instructs us to tell the to the generation to come. That is what we are doing right now. We are telling them of His wonderful works.

WE MUST REMEMBER WHAT GOD SAID AND DID, SO THAT WE PUT OUR HOPE IN HIM

Psalm 78:5: “For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children.” He established a testimony in Jacob. He commanded the fathers to tell the children the story of the wonderful works of God.

Psalm 78:6: “That the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children.” We are instructed where the generation to come may declare the works, even to their children. What is the purpose? Psalm 78:7: “That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.” David is saying this so that the fathers, the children, and everyone in between would set their hope in God; they would not forget the works of the Lord, but they would keep His commandments.

GOD SPOKE IN PARABLES TO MAKE TRUTH CLEARER

Some of God’s ways are parables, and as we tell this prophetic story, we will see that there are many parables. In Matthew 13, Jesus spoke in many parables. It says that He said many things in parables. Jesus does not change. He still speaks today in parables. Parables are a stumbling block. They are meant to cause us to struggle. They are given on purpose. Truth is given in the form of a parable. Parables have two purposes: to make truth easy and to make truth difficult.

You can read the study notes, watch the DVDs, and I want to encourage everyone to get the notes, because there will be more complete explanations of the stories. 1 Timothy 1:18: “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.” Paul charged Timothy to fight the good fight of faith according to the prophecies, because prophecy strengthens our resolve to obey God. It strengthens our focus in the things of God.

There is a vast, glorious story line going on. The Father has a grand story line in this generation; every ministry and every individual has his or her own particular little part of that story. I am going to tell our little part of the story; one of our purposes is that it would encourage other people in other places who have another ministry assignment. They have a part of the grand story line. When I hear their story, it encourages me. When we tell our story, the goal is that it would encourage them; so when we hear one another’s stories, we get a clearer view of the big picture, the puzzle, and that mysterious grand story line of what God is doing. So that is what we are

hoping will happen—that as people hear this, they will not necessarily all say, “Hey, I want to be a part of that,” but they would say, “Hey, if God is doing that there, what will He do here?”

MY PERSONAL BACKGROUND

It is going to take two minutes to give a little bit of my personal background. The reason I am doing this: this is how I processed the information in 1982, 1983, and 1984, as those were the years when the most dramatic experiences happened one after the other in that three-year period. So I want to give just a two-minute overview of where I came from, where I was at that point in time, and how I processed the information through this particular lens. I was born again in 1971. I was part of a Presbyterian church for five years, and I was radically anti-charismatic for five years. I preached against it.

BEFORE MOVING BACK TO KANSAS CITY IN NOVEMBER 1982

Roman numeral II. When I was asked to speak at a college campus or a high school Bible study, often I taught against the gift of tongues and why it was a heresy, or error. I was involved in my high school and college years in Campus Crusade for Christ, Navigators, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. My favorite Bible teacher for the last thirty years has been Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones from London. My other favorite teachers were A. W. Tozer, John Stott, Packard, and men like Stewart Briscoe, Chuck Smith, and, of course, Leonard Ravenhill. Guys like that. Some of those who are younger will not even know these names, but for those who are older, that is the framework in which I stumbled into this greater drama that was unfolding in my little life.

I have always read biographies; in my early days, in my teens and twenties, I was a biography fanatic. I read them many, many times, over and over. I want to encourage young people: read biographies, because they give you a picture of what God might do in your life. Of course, my heroes were guys like J. Hudson Taylor, David Brainerd, Jonathan Edwards, Wesley, Whitefield, Finney, John G. Lake, and Bernard of Clairvaux; some of you will not know those names. But, when you look at those heroes, all of them had a strong evangelistic anointing. My heroes were all evangelists. So when I met Bob Jones, and the Lord started talking about the house of prayer, I heard it through the lens, background, and the paradigm of an evangelist. I heard every story through the lens of how people could get to know Jesus.

In June 1982 the story picks up. I am in St. Louis pastoring, and a man named Augustine Acula comes through town. This man had a strong proven prophetic ministry, but I had never heard of him. He gave me a prophecy. He said that he had heard the audible voice of the Lord about my life. Of course, I had no way to interpret that. I had never heard such a claim. The long and the short of it was that God had a new direction and, in essence, He was sending me to Kansas City. That was a disturbing word. I did not know how to interpret a person who claimed that he heard the audible voice of God. No one in my background had ever heard the audible voice of God. He gave me four very important words in October 1982.

He said, “When you go to Kansas City”—we went the next month, in November, and, “I am going to tell you four things. There are going to be thousands of young people gathered from around the world. There will be a full manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in God’s timing. Watch out, as there will be a false prophet in your midst in the early days.” By the way, we discovered it; so there is no mystery about that. Then he said a strange word. He said, “There will be a resistance and a controversy. There will be people standing against you, and the Lord says, ‘Do not answer them, as the Lord Himself will answer them.’”

PROPHETIC EXPERIENCE IN CAIRO, EGYPT, IN SEPTEMBER 1982

Roman numeral III. My first dramatic, life-changing encounter related to this movement was in Cairo, Egypt in 1982. Now, we moved to Kansas City in November; so this is two months before we moved. I am in Cairo, Egypt, in a hotel room, and I had a life-altering dramatic experience where the fear of the Lord fell on me in a literal way. That was the only time that I have ever experienced the fear of the Lord at that level, or in that magnitude.

The Lord said, “I will change the understanding and expression of Christianity in the whole earth in one generation.” Not this movement, or that movement, but God Himself will do this through all the thousands of movements and millions of ministries.

He said, “I am going to do this across the whole earth in one generation.” My spirit trembled, and the fear of the Lord fell on me. I will give some of the details on the notes that I am not going to go into. The Lord spoke clearly what I call four heart standards. These were four values the Lord cemented in me in Cairo, Egypt. Now some people have misquoted us. I mean there are many even in our midst, and they said these are our four values.

I said, “No. We have about twenty values. We do not have only four values, but these are the four that are the most neglected in church history. We have many more values besides these four. But, the Lord insisted on these four. The work must be built on these four values.” Everything is measured in terms of our faithfulness to believe God for the future. Are we holding the line on these four values in our individual lives and as a ministry? He said that the movement would be built on night and day prayer. He said that the movement would be built on holiness of heart.

This is essential: extravagant giving, offerings for the poor, and the activity of the Holy Spirit—we would have faith in what the Spirit is saying and what the Holy Spirit is doing. Believe it or not: that is the most challenging of all, to take a stand for what the Holy Spirit is saying and what the Holy Spirit is doing. I have some more notes on that here that you can read on your own.

“I WILL CHANGE THE UNDERSTANDING AND EXPRESSION OF CHRISTIANITY”

When the Lord said, “I am going to change the understanding and expression of Christianity in the whole earth in one generation,” my spirit trembled. The fear of the Lord came upon me. I had never had anything like this happen to me before. The Lord said, “I am inviting you to be a part of a work that will touch the ends of the earth.” This was my first insight into this young adult movement that Bob Jones would articulate so clearly when I met him some months later. I did not know anything about a young adult movement, but the Lord said, “I will do it, and I am inviting you here when you go to Kansas City to be involved in a work that will touch the ends of the earth.”

I said, “Yes.” I was crying and weeping. “Yes, Lord. Yes.”

The Lord said, “You have only said yes. You have not yet done it.”

I said, “Yes, Lord.”

He said, “Many times I have heard you say yes; I heard you say this crystal clear. Many have said yes, but they did not do it.” Then, He gave me one more word.

He said, “Beware lest your brethren steal these things from your heart.” They were the four standards in reality. Those were the things; in the twenty-five plus years since this experience, I have had constant challenges, in my own weakness and from the brethren, to lower those standards, to let go, and to quit being intense about them.

Even my own flesh and weakness challenges me just to back off, and the Lord says, “You cannot back off from these realities. Beware lest your brethren steal these from your heart.” That is one of the main reasons God raised up Bob Jones; he took a stand for these four things and spoke the word of the Lord over and over. That confirmed that in order to experience a move of God, we needed to maintain four values. The most neglected values would be paramount to this work.

MOVING TO KANSAS CITY, MEETING BOB JONES, AND THE SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

Roman numeral IV. We moved to Kansas City in November 1982. We start our church. We have a little home meeting the week before the church starts on December 5, 1982; in this little home meeting, just about fifty of us come the week before the church starts. It was a surprisingly significant gathering because the Lord redirected that gathering, and He spoke to us. It was unplanned. Prophetically, He broke in. He said, “You will be like Gideon’s army.”

There was weeping, and we waited on the Lord; a number of people—a good percentage of the room—were weeping. There was a tenderizing that came in the room, and the Lord spoke about Gideon’s army. I was a little bit mystified about that. Some years later, it would make a lot more sense. Our first Sunday on December 5, 1982, I spoke on Luke 18:7-8: “God will bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night.” I laid out night and day prayer in Isaiah 62—night and day prayer. I remember some guys came up to me afterwards, and they said, “We do not have a clue what you just said. We do not say this to be strange, but we could not understand what you were speaking about.” This is a testimony to God: I was not even preaching in a way that made sense to the people.

The brand new church with only a hundred people, and most of them said, “We do not even know what you are talking about. Night and day prayer, justice, watchmen on the wall—we thought this was going to be a family church. What happened?”

I said, “No. I preached this message as a statement to the heavens of what I was putting my flag on the hill in Kansas City about.” I meet Bob Jones on March 7. We will look at this in the next session more. We will look at the first encounter he had where the Lord sent him back from death in August 1975. Bob Jones died, he had a death experience, stood before the Lord, and the Lord said, “Go back.”

BOB JONES: A YOUTH MOVEMENT THAT WILL TOUCH THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

God said, “I want you to touch some of the initial leaders of a youth movement that I am going to raise up in Kansas City to touch the ends of the earth.” So Bob came back from death for this purpose. When I first met Bob Jones, that was one of the first things he told me.

Bob Jones said, “I came back from death to strengthen some young leaders for a purpose that would unfold over decades. There is so much you do not understand, and the Lord has set me at your side.” I am giving you a

summary of a couple longer meetings with Bob Jones. He gave me so many dreams and visions in the first meeting of two or three hours; but the essence of it was he said, “You are an intercessor. You are a youth pastor. You are going to lead a worldwide youth movement of singers and musicians. You are going to be used in this whole movement, which will result in power evangelism.” That power evangelism excited me.

Bob said, “You will mobilize people to pray for the nation of Israel.” I did not understand that, and he said, “There will be an abundant grace on intercession and prophetic. There is a banner over this movement that you have to unfold, as there will be an abundant grace in prophetic and intercession. Are you a singer?”

I said “No.”

He said, “Are you a musician?”

I said, “No.”

He said, “Do you ever pray for Israel?”

I said, “No.”

He said, “Do you know about this youth movement? You know you are a youth pastor, right?”

I said “No. I am not a youth pastor. I used to be one. I am not a youth pastor anymore.”

He says, “Yes, you are. You do not know anything that I am talking about right now.”

I said, “No.” This is funny now, but it was not so funny to him.

He said this, and he meant it: “The Lord told me you would be dull, but I did not think you would be this dull. God said to me, God says at the first of spring, when the snow melts, they will accept me.” Now the first of spring happened two weeks from this initial meeting on March 7. Bob said, “The first of spring when the snow melts, they will accept me.”

I asked, “Who are they?”

He said, “You will accept me with your own lips around the communion table on the first day of spring when the snow melts.” Let me explain this: in Acts 2:17 it says: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.” God gives dreams and visions. I want to explain the principle: God will send signs in the heavens, comets, or weather patterns that are in the lower realm as signs in the heavens. The signs of the heavens are going to pick up far beyond that before the Lord returns. There will be signs on the earth.

What happens is the prophet will give you a vision, you will not be sure if the vision is true, but they will declare a sign in the heaven that God told them about, and then, when that sign in the heaven cannot be manipulated by anybody—when that sign takes place—then you will go back and say, “What was that vision

again, because the sign verified it?’ I am telling you a sign right now. Bob said, “There is going to be a snow that will come at the first of spring”—because it had been sixty or seventy degrees for about a week, and they were saying that the spring had already come. I did not think it was going to snow.

He had a winter coat on this day. It has been sixty and seventy degrees throughout the week for about seven or eight days. He said, “I am positive it will snow on the first day of spring. I will sit across the table, and you will accept me with your own lips. You will know the things that I am telling you are true.”

PROPHETIC SIGNS TO CONFIRM AND VALIDATE PROPHETIC VISION AND DREAMS

He went on to tell me in this meeting as well as subsequent future meetings—some of these words I am pulling together are from three or four different conversations, “This movement will have an intercessory ministry like Harry S. Truman.” I could not understand. Harry S. Truman—how did he get in this story? We were in Overland Park about fifteen or twenty minutes from here. Bob Jones said, “We are going to move to Grandview, next to Harry S. Truman.” Again, that was such a random thing to say.

He said that Harry S. Truman was a president of America, and that he stood for Israel. I have some notes as to why that is important. I will not go into that right now. He was talking about a larger movement and not just IHOP–KC. I am talking about a movement that is bigger than IHOP–KC. The movement is bigger than our influence. It is the people who say yes to these values that were given in Cairo. The movement is bigger than people who officially connect to us. It is God’s movement. It is not our movement. Our part in the movement is a smaller part than the contribution of many others.

THIS MOVEMENT WILL HAVE AN INTERCESSORY MINISTRY LIKE HARRY TRUMAN

This movement will have an intercessory ministry—like Harry S. Truman. For those who do not understand the significance of Israel, or of the generation in which the Lord returns, you can read a little bit on the notes, but I challenge you to study the notes. I knew nothing about this when Bob told me this.

Bob Jones says, “You will be next to him in Grandview. You will be next to Harry S. Truman. It will be a sign and a wonder when you are next to him that this movement really is an intercessory movement. It will touch the nation of Israel like Harry S. Truman did.” Harry S. Truman touched Israel in a political way. This movement will touch it in a spiritual way.

I told him one statement. I said, “Well, I do not know. You know we are in a very upscale side of town over in Overland Park. Our people do not really shop over in Grandview. I do not really see us moving over there.”

He said, “You will. Mark my word. You will be next to Harry S. Truman, that you can be sure of.” Most of you know January 27, 2008, we purchased the Harry S. Truman farm, 125 acres, exactly on the fifty-year day that he sold it to a Jewish family—exactly fifty years to the day that the Jewish family sold it to us, and of course you know the story. God raised up a man who paid it off, and we received it debt-free on the fifty-year day, on the jubilee celebration. So now, we are next to Harry S. Truman, after the word was spoken twenty-five years ago. And his farmhouse is just across the road from here [the Forerunner Christian Fellowship building].

THE FOUR CONFIRMATIONS FROM BOB JONES THAT MATCHED AUGUSTINE’S WORDS

Bob walked out the door. He stops, and he says, “Let me tell you one more thing that I almost forgot. The Lord told me that you like things one, two, three, four. So, I am going to tell it to you one, two, three, four. Number

one: there are going to be thousands of young people gathered to this movement. Number two: there is going to be a full manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Lord's timing. Number three: there will be a false prophet in the midst. Keep your eyes open. Number four: there will be resistance, and there will be a controversy. There will be a stand against you even in this town. You are not to answer it. You are just to let the Lord answer it."

He gave me the exact same four words that Augustine had given me about six months earlier. They had never met each other, and neither of them knew the other person's ministry, or prophetic words at all. So I walk out of the meeting and that jolts me and perplexes me. I do not know what to do with that. How did he know the same four words that a man gave me in another city that were not public words at all? They were private words; so how did Bob Jones know?

Well two weeks go by. Art Katz comes in town, and he asked if he could meet with Bob Jones at nine o'clock one night suddenly, because there was a change of plans throughout that day. It was not planned. I call Bob Jones between eight and nine at night, and I say, "Can we meet?" I had had that meeting with him and was mystified by him. He was interesting, but I was not at all convinced.

Art Katz said, "Could we meet with this prophet guy who I met earlier today? It was a Sunday morning meeting; now it is a Sunday night meeting." So I call up. I said, "It is late. You know it is almost nine o'clock at night."

So I call Bob, and Bob says, "I have been waiting for you all day to call me." So he came over to our house. There were six of us around the table. We met from nine or ten o'clock at night until four in the morning. Bob begin to tell stories, and the Spirit of the Lord descended three or four times; all six of us were weeping in the room. That happened three times or four. It was something remarkable and Art Katz looks at him, and Bob had given him a couple of words. Art Katz says, "You are truly a prophet of God."

A couple hours pass, and Bob says, "Let me tell you what the angel told me last night." Then Bob Jones told me the most intimate piece of information that any person could give me: Bob Jones told me the sentence that no one knew. I had made a covenant before God to my father just before my father died. I spoke a specific sentence, which was very important in my life. My father died suddenly. We were the only two who knew that sentence besides God. He looked at me, and he said, "The angel of the Lord visited me last night, and he told me that sentence."

My wife Diane said, "What? I have never heard this sentence."

I said, "Nobody has ever heard this sentence." I looked at Bob, and I said, "You are truly a prophet of God. No man could have known this."

Bob Jones answers, "Today is the first day of spring." He says look out the window. The snow had come just that one day and was melting. He said, "I told you when I met you that at the first of spring, when the snow melts, we would sit around the table, and you would accept me with your own mouth. You have done it just now."

August 13 is three weeks later. We are meeting every night for prayer meetings from seven to ten every night; this is something the Lord has put in our heart from the beginning because He said in Cairo to build it on night and day prayer, so we said, “Three hours a night” is a beginning.

He said literally, “Build it on night and day prayer”—not that every church is going to have twenty-four-hour prayer. Together, we connect with others in their area, so that the prayer will go up morning, noon, and night at least. At one of the evening prayer meetings on a Wednesday night, the Holy Spirit spoke to me. It was not the same drama, but the same level of clarity that He spoke to me in Cairo, Egypt. I call it the internal, audible voice of the Lord.

DANIEL 9 AND 10: A 21-DAY FAST

I have heard that several times in the last thirty plus years; there have only been a small amount of times where I heard the exact phrase from the Lord. The Lord spoke about Daniel 9 and Daniel 10 in this prayer meeting to me directly. In Daniel 9 and Daniel 10, the angel Gabriel appeared and spoke to Daniel about the end times. There was a twenty-one day fast, and the Lord said to call a twenty-one day fast, as it is related to Daniel 9 and Daniel 10. The angel Gabriel went on, and there was clarity in my heart.

I will not go into all the details. It was a remarkable concept to me. It was so presumptuous to utter such a thing publically and to announce this to a church. Of course, I had only been in the church for four or five months. I said, “Lord, I cannot even think of saying what You told me last night to people.”

The Lord instructed me from Daniel 9 and 10 about the angel Gabriel, telling me to start a twenty-one day fast, and we set the dates: May 7 to 28. I only now believed that Bob was from the Lord for a few weeks now, so I called him on the phone the next morning. I said, “Bob, I really need to hear from God.”

He says, “I have already heard it.”

I said, “No. You do not know what happened.”

He said, “I do know what happened. Come over.” Wow. That was just for a few seconds conversation. I did not tell him. I was going to ask him. I was going to tell it to him and ask him for counsel. I had no idea how this was going to work. I put a couple guys in the car. I said, “I need some witnesses. Last night at the prayer meeting, God talked to me about Daniel 9, the angel Gabriel, and doing a twenty-one day fast starting on May 7. He spoke about something that would end up leading to the return of the Lord one day. I do not know when.”

Their eyes got really big. I said, “I am not really asking you for counsel. I am asking you to be a witness.” We got to Bob’s house and walked in; Bob says, “Sit down. Let me tell you.” Now remember that I had not said a word.

“GIVE THE YOUNG MAN DANIEL 9”

He said, “I saw the angel Gabriel. He said give the young man Daniel 9, and he will understand.” I mean it was like I lost my breath, and so did the two guys with me. It was stunning.

And he said, “You are to begin on May 7.” The prophetic confirmation was inconceivable to me. I mean the snowstorm. That was pretty intense. A snowstorm on the first day of spring was astounding. Bob Jones told me

the secret that I had told my father. That was really intense. But he saw Gabriel. He said Daniel 9 and told him to tell me Daniel 9. Bob said, “It is more than that.”

He said, “On May 7, when you start, there will come across the nations a comet unpredicted by scientists, one who nobody can know about at this point in time, but it is coming. That comet will come, and it will verify the truth that I have really seen Gabriel, and you are really supposed to do Daniel 9. God is really going to birth a youth movement of singers and musicians that will touch the ends of the earth.”

I was so touched just by the fact that God told Bob Jones to tell me to do Daniel 9. So I call the fast, and it creates a bit of a stir in the city because I have only been in the city five or six months. I am twenty-seven years old. I have no credibility with anybody, and I am calling a fast, talking about a comet, Gabriel, and the Lord’s return. I mean that is intense. That is why I needed Bob Jones. I could never ever have had the courage, or even the confidence to say such things. On May 7, we gather. We have got about a 700-seat sanctuary in our new little church. It is packed with people from all around the city.

A COMET UNPREDICTED BY SCIENTISTS CAME ON MAY 7

Bob Jones brings the newspaper on May 7; the newspaper says, “Comet unpredicted by scientists comes across America.” He says, “This is the comet that I told you about three weeks ago.” You can read a little bit of the details on that here in the notes. Well, we are in the twenty-one day fast. The Lord gave us two main prophetic words that, twenty-five years later, are still very important. About ten days into the fast, we have the Solemn Assembly.

We call it the Solemn Assembly. We always refer to it as that. We met from six in the morning until twelve at night—eighteen hours a day. We cried out for the breaking in of God—what was on my heart for revival for America. No. We were not just praying for revival for Kansas City to overflow a bit in America. I was locked in saying, “Lord, if our church could see 1,000 new converts by the power of God, with souls getting saved, I would be the happiest guy. I am happy.” I told that to Bob.

He said, “That is not even it; you are not even thinking in the right direction. He made that clear to me. It is so much more than what you are thinking.” So in one of these prayer meetings, we had maybe 1,000 people involved in it in various ways, for this twenty-one day fast, which was 500 times more intense than the other 500. So one day about the tenth day into it—we are here 6:00am to 12:00am at night, eighteen hours a day for long days. There was not a lot of the presence of God in the room. It was a pretty oppressed, difficult time to be really honest, but we had two high marks. Maybe there were another one or two main high marks.

GOD SPOKE TWO MAIN PROMISES ABOUT THE FUTURE YOUTH MOVEMENT

One day, I am in the prayer room which is the church sanctuary, and I am pacing back and forth, and the Lord puts in my spirit Psalm 27:4. Now, I do not pray that on the microphone. I pray on the microphone—it is eighteen hours a day, so I pray on the microphone five or ten times a day. I did not count, but you have got to keep the thing going all day long.

I never prayed Psalm 27:4 on the microphone because I asked everyone to pray revival prayers and that seemed like a devotional prayer to me. So all day long, I had this unusual gripping and was just praying: “I will do this one thing all the days of my life; this one thing I will do all the days of my life—this one thing, all the days of

my life.” I said it throughout the day. It was just resting on my heart. I was so gripped by this prayer in Psalm 27:4. Bob Jones comes to me the next day, and he said, “Let’s go in the back room.”

He says, “I heard from the Lord, the audible voice of the Lord. He told me the answer is yes.”

I said, “Yes, to what?”

He said, “Yes, to the prayer you prayed.”

I said, “Well Bob, I prayed five or ten prayers yesterday on the microphone.”

He said, “I am not talking about those. I am talking about the one the Lord gave you”—I am not connecting. I am not following—“Mike, God said Psalm 27:4: this one thing all the days of my life.”

I said, “Oh wow. Yeah. I prayed that all day.”

He said, “I know. The Lord spoke to me and said He put it in your heart, and the answer is yes.”

I said, “Good. Now, what does that mean? I am going to see His beauty. I love that.”

He says, “No. You see the Lord will touch you. This is talking about twenty-four-hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.” That was the oddest phrase.

TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

He said that the Lord said, “Twenty-four-hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David—that is what He is saying yes to. That is what these twenty-one days are birthing. It is birthing a youth movement that will touch the ends of the earth, that will be twenty-four hours with singers and musicians who will mobilize people. Of course, many ministries will do this for the nation of Israel, and they will have power evangelism. You will be next to Harry S. Truman.”

I said, “Twenty-four-hour? What will we do all day? I do not even know what we would do.” I am an evangelist in my thinking. My heroes are evangelists.

Bob said, “I saw the angel of the Lord. He says, ‘When you get to 500, you will go to 5,000 over night by a flood of the Holy Spirit.’”

I said, “When we get to 500, then what?”

He said, “There will be full-time intercessors. We will have 500 full-time intercessors. No. You will have 5,000 full-time intercessors.”

I said, “Full-time —like it is their job?”

He said, “Yes.”

WATCH THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AS A SIGN

That is when I said, “What will we do?”

He answered, “You will sort that out when you get there. Watch the Mississippi River. Watch Mississippi, that is a sign.”

I said, “What does that mean? I do not know what that means.”

Bob answered, “The angel, I saw him with my eyes. He said, ‘Watch Mississippi. Here is the word: 5,000 people will come, and you will have to relocate; find a new home in Kansas City because there will be a flood of the Holy Spirit. Watch Mississippi.’ Within a week or so he brought the newspaper in, and the article tells the story: 5,000 people moved overnight because of a flood hitting Jackson, Mississippi. Bob said, “This was what I was telling you about a week ago. The angel said that when this sign happens, you will know for sure. It may be decades from now before this 500 turns to 5,000, but one day, you will know with certainty that there is a flood of the Holy Spirit coming, and there will be a sudden growth to 5,000.” That is critical for God’s purposes for this youth movement.

He said, “But do not be too encouraged, because when you go to 5,000, there will be more conflict than you can imagine when that happens. It will be glorious on one side, but it will bring more trouble and conflict than you have ever imagined in your life.”

NO DISEASE KNOWN TO MAN WILL STAND BEFORE THIS PEOPLE, IN JESUS’ NAME

The second word, and I will give more details on this in one of the following sessions. We are doing eight sessions. This is just the first one. He promised a healing anointing by saying that there would be no disease known to man that would stand before this people. Now, so that you know this: that anointing of healing will be upon the Body of Christ across the nations, those who are pressing into the Lord. I have heard some people through the twenty-five years, they stress the phrase *this people*.

Here is how they say it: “no disease known to man will stand before *this people*.” Here is how it is supposed to be: “*no disease known to man will stand* before this people.” The point is that no disease will stand before the authority of Jesus on the end-time church, and this anointing will be on many streams that say yes to the purposes of God with all of their heart. Some people said, “I am moving there because of that anointing.” I said, “No. That anointing will be wherever these people are pressing into God. You do not have to move here for that.”

At the end of the twenty-one days, Bob Jones stands up. Now, this is where things turn up; so far, everything has been extraordinary, with the audible voice of God, the comet, Gabriel, Daniel 9, Mississippi flood predicted a week ahead of time. I mean this same number is 5,000 people. I thought, “This is really neat.”

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

Bob stands up at the end of the twenty-one day fast, and he said, “I have good news, and I have bad news.” We were exhausted after a twenty-one day fast. He said, “Here is the bad news: the revival is not coming right away, but there is a spiritual drought that has been on this nation for a long time. That spiritual drought over America is going to continue for yet another season. But, God has determined a day where He will break the drought over this nation—the spiritual drought. I am talking about the lack of full revival. There is refreshing

here and there, and there are pockets in the Body of Christ who are experiencing revival. I honor that. I want to receive more from any place where God is moving. The Lord is moving in other places more than He is moving here in our midst, and I want to receive from them. No matter where He is moving, it is nothing compared to what God is saying that He is going to do in the Church around the world.

THREE-MONTH SPIRITUAL DROUGHT

Bob said, “We are in a spiritual drought. We have been in a drought for some many decades. This has been a prolonged condition, but I want to tell you that there is a moment in time where the drought will break into this nation—the spiritual drought I am talking about—and there will be an outpouring of revival that will be dramatic. That is going to happen. Here is a sign: there will be a three-month natural drought in this city. That natural drought is going to happen, and it is going to convince you of what I am telling you about.”

The spiritual drought is true because when Bob was speaking, in May, there was an appointed day. He said this publicly, with several hundred people listening: “Thus, says the Lord: ‘On August 23 the rains will come.’” I thought, “That is bold.” Well, you can look at the handout. There was a drought going on when he said this. We were experiencing the worst drought minus one year in recorded history in Kansas City for just three months plus a week. On August 23 on a Tuesday night, we gathered. It was several months later because this was the end of August, but he said this in May. In August, we gathered, and the rains came. It was a downpour. It only rained about a third of an inch, but it all came down in twenty to thirty minutes. It came like a storm at seven o’clock, right when we were meeting. We were gathering before the Lord, and this downpour came so powerfully that people had to stay in their cars. So at the very time of the meeting, this torrential downpour came for ten, fifteen, or twenty minutes.

We were shouting. We were happy, because if Bob Jones heard so precisely at the end of May that on August 23 the rains would come in the midst of a drought, then it meant that if that sign happened in the heavens, then the vision and the dream were true as well. The vision that the rain was backed up was simply this: the revival is not coming yet, but be of good cheer, there is an appointed hour when God will break the drought in this nation. That can be said of the nations of the earth. Every nation has its own time calendar with God.

I do not know when that day is coming, but beloved, do not get used to business as usual, because there is going to be a radical breaking in of God. Not just power demonstrations, but a requirement of abandonment in our private lives to the Holy Spirit. I am talking about obedience at a new level. Some folks get excited about the revival, but the revival has meaning to it. The Lord will be jealous for radical obedience in our inward life and private lives.

UNUSUAL SNOW, COMET, FLOOD, DROUGHT, AND RAIN

Between March and August, there was an unusual snow, a comet, a flood, a drought, and rain. There were five things that this prophetic man said, and it did not look like any of them would happen when he said them. He attached a vision or a word from the Lord with each one of them; of these different signs in the heavens, five of them happened in about a six-month period of time.

There has never been a time like that since that six-month period of time. I mean that was a one-time deal, but Bob has told me throughout the years, “You are going to see this kind of thing happen at a far greater level, as we get closer to the coming of the Lord—the signs in the heavens.” But, these five things are not just good

stories. They speak of great responsibility. They speak of being faithful, not backing away, and staying true to the purpose.

HOWARD PITTMAN: GOD WILL BEGIN TO RECRUIT THIS ARMY IN EARNEST

Let's go to November 7. Bob Jones comes to me on November 7. Now it has been six months now since this twenty-one day fast that began on May 7 where the comet came; it has been six months. It has been a pretty weary six months, but we did have the rain of August 23. The rain that came was predicted. It bolstered our confidence. But still it is pretty rough. The prayer meetings are really dull. The church is dull. Nobody is excited. It was almost as if what happened in May six months before was already a faint memory to some of the people.

November 7, 1983, Bob comes to me, and he said, "On November 15, in eight days, you are going to have a revelation directly from the throne of God. When you have this revelation, you will never doubt again that this twenty-one day fast that started on May 7 was the birthing of an end-time move. A youth group of singers and musicians will move in power evangelism. You doubt it right now. You will never doubt again after November 15."

I asked, "A direct revelation from heaven?"

He said, "Yes."

I asked, "Then, that means I am going up, or somebody is coming down."

He said, "Exactly."

I said, "Really? This is real?"

He says, "Yes." Well, Bob Jones' credibility was so great; the last six months the things that God had done through him—he uttered and they came to pass—were so astounding. I was excited. Well November 15 comes.

11:15 PM ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 15

The whole day passes. It is 11:15 at night. Nothing has happened yet, but Bob's track record was astoundingly accurate in that season. He moved in astounding accuracy, not just his prophetic ministry but his message as well. The part that I care about is the message behind the accurate sign. So it is 11:15 at night, nothing is happening. It is November 15; I have forty-five minutes to go. I am at my office. I am going to go ahead and wait until midnight.

I am thumbing through the mail, and I look at a book that I had never heard of by a man named Howard Pittman. It is just a little fifty-page book called *Placebo*. Somebody sent it to me. Some woman from out in Kansas said to read this. I thought, "Place . . ." I did not know what a placebo was. "What is this?" In the description, it said that the man had had a near death experience. I think, "That is interesting. I have got forty-five minutes to read fifty pages. I can do that in forty-five minutes." I am just kind of scanning through it reading. It is kind of interesting.

Howard Pittman: we have the book in our bookstore. You really want to get it. Howard Pittman in August 1979 had a near death experience. It was four years earlier than when I was reading it in my office.

He was a policeman from Louisiana who had had a near death experience four years earlier. He hemorrhages, bleeds, and dies. He stands before the Lord, and God gives him five messages. You really want to read this little book *Placebo*. In these five messages, the Lord tells him that the church in the Western world is in the Laodicean hour. That is not a popular message. He says, “I heard that message. I was in the presence of God directly. The Lord told me to go back. The Lord said, ‘I am sending you back.’” Howard had a very negative experience because the Lord rebuked him for his lifestyle.

The Lord was not pleased with him, and he asked for mercy to have another chance.

The Lord said, “Yes. But here is what I am going to do: I am going to give you a five-point message. You are going to go back.” He was in pain over the rebuke he received. He said that he was literally right outside the city gates and the thunderous voice of God came over the walls of that city. The Lord rebuked him several different times, and it was painful. But then, the Lord healed his heart at that time and said, “Go back, speak this word. There is going to be a Gideon army raised up in the end times.” That got my attention. I thought, “I like that.”

A GIDEON’S ARMY WILL BE RAISED UP WHICH WILL MOVE IN SIGNS AND WONDERS

God said that they would move in signs and wonders beyond what the early apostles did and even some beyond where Elijah operated in power. God would raise up a Gideon army. At the very end of the book (there are several different editions, so you might not end up with the right one; this was written in May 1980), the Lord said on May 7, 1983 . . . Now that is the day we started the fast—that is the day the comet came across the sky. May 7, 1983: that was the day with the twenty-one day fast when Bob Jones said, “God is going to talk to you about May 7, 1983. When you stand, a direct revelation from heaven is going to come, and God will confirm that.” That day was really an important day to Him. So I am reading this in the book. It says in the book: May 7, 1983. I am going to summarize it and not quote it.

Howard came to visit us two or three times, and we talked many hours. I talked to him for an hour on the phone just a couple days ago. We were rehearsing it all again. I was reading this in my office; it said that on May 7 there would be a heavenly sign in the sky, and on May 7, 1983, the Lord would begin to recruit in earnest His Gideon army for the return of the Lord.

I said, “May 7?” I looked at the book. I said, “This was written three years before May 7, 1983. How did God do that? What? He wrote this book in 1980. How did he know what would happen on May 7, 1983, three years ahead of time?”

Howard answered, “Well, the Lord made it clear to me that on May 7, 1983, He was going to begin to recruit in earnest His Gideon army that would lead to the return of the Lord. God said that there would be a sign in the heavens.”

I said, “What is the sign?”

Howard said, “I do not know.” I never knew what the sign was. So I finished the book. I was so excited. I looked at the clock. It was one or two minutes until twelve. It is true. I heard from heaven on November 15 at two minutes until twelve, or one minute until twelve. I called up Bob Jones. He said, “Did you go up, or did somebody come down?”

I said, “Somebody came down.”

He said, “Well, that is just as good. It is the word of the Lord.”

I said, “A man had a death experience in 1979. Throughout the entire experience, the Lord made it clear to him. He wrote a book on it the next year in 1980. He said that on May 7, 1983, God was going to recruit His Gideon army. We are part of that Gideon army. This is the word the Lord gave us.”

Bob said, “I told you that you would hear from heaven on this day.”

I said, “This is impossible that this guy could get this. It has to be real.”

Bob said, “I think you have it. You have got it now.”

SIXTEEN YEARS LATER: JANUARY 1999 AND MAY 1999

Roman numeral V. Sixteen years go by, it is now January 1999. Again, we have got more detail on the notes here. A man came to me on Sunday morning, on January 24, 1999, and he gave me Haggai 1:2. Let’s read it: “This people says, ‘The time has not come, the time that the Lord’s house should be built.’” It says: these people say in their heart that the time has not yet come that the house of the Lord should be built.

He looked at me, and he said, “Don’t say in your heart, from Haggai 1:2, do not say . . .” He opened the Bible, pointed, and he said, “Don’t say it is not time to build this twenty-four-hour house of prayer.”

I said, “Well, I don’t think it is time.”

He said, “Yes, but you are not supposed to say that.”

I said, “Well, it doesn’t really work that way, though I appreciate your sincerity.” I was thinking of just the immense amount of work, labor, and I decided to say no. “In the future for sure, we are going to do it.” We had a sign on the wall for most of the sixteen years that said “24-hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.” We had it on the wall, and everybody saw it for years and years. He said, “It is time to build it.”

I said, “I don’t know. I don’t think so.” Then, I got on the airplane that day and went to Colorado Springs, and there was a prophetic conference. On Wednesday in Colorado Springs, a man named Kingsley Fletcher came to me. I did not know him. I had heard of him, but had never met him. He came up to me, and I was with a group of guys talking. He points his finger at me, and he is smiling at me as if he knows something I do not know. I know that he is prophetic, and I am smiling, as he is smiling. He closed his eyes; he says, “Do not say in your heart it is not time to build the house of the Lord, Haggai 1:2.”

I said, “Oh!” Now, I was just in consternation about it. I thought: these guys do not know each other; this is too random.

THREE CONFIRMATIONS: A BUILDING, SENIOR PASTOR, AND TELL NOEL ALEXANDER

So I asked the Lord, and told him that I needed three confirmations. The Lord will not always honor these requests that we ask for, but sometimes He does. I said, “Lord, I am asking You to provide a building for me, but I will not say a word to anyone that I am looking for one. Just have somebody give me a building.

Number two: I am pastoring a 3,000-member church, so I need a senior pastor. I need you to send one who all the leaders will like, and one who they will be in perfect unity about; I need 100 percent unity. I am not going to recruit one. I am going to do nothing.”

Number three: I said, “Lord, my partner, Noel Alexander, tell him”—we will talk more about Noel. We labored in prayer together for years and years. I said to God, “Tell Noel in a supernatural way. Just tell him.” I told this to the Lord in Colorado Springs. In the month of February, all three of them happened without me doing anything.

THREE ANSWERS

Bob Hartley came to me and said, “Hey, I want to make available a building with the trailers. If you want prayer, training, outreach, meetings, or whatever you want to do, I just want to make it available to you.”

I said, “OK.” That was the easy one of the three. I told Bob Hartley, “If it happens, if I need it, I will let you know. Thanks.” Then, a friend brought Floyd McClung to my house unplanned in February—on Friday night, unplanned. He is sitting across from me in the living room. Floyd McClung is a powerful man of God. He said, “Well, I am in a transition.”

I said, “Wow” because he is a man whom I have great respect for. He is mature in the Lord, mature in leadership, and I said, “Well, what is your transition?”

He said, “Well, I am going to build a church.”

I said, “Where?”

He said, “I do not know, but I believe it is going to be in a major city. I do not have one picked out.”

I said, “What are your key ideas?” It is not even on my mind yet. So I am talking to him. I was not connecting with this instantly as to what is going on.

He said, “Well, I want a church that loves missions, prayer, and cell groups,” and he listed a couple of things.

I said, “Wow, that is perfect. Where are you going?”

He said, “I do not know. I am open to go anywhere.” It became clear that he was coming here. Our leadership team was in full unity. That happened suddenly. I did not ask him to come to my house. It happened. Somebody brought him to just come by to say hi.

Then on February 20: Noel Alexander. I went to be with him to speak to his men's group on Saturday morning. I took Ed Hackett. I said, "Ed, I am going to go talk to Noel. I have a private thing between God and me that nobody knows about, but I want to tell you about it. I am thinking of starting the house of prayer."

Of course, Ed said, "Wow. That is awesome."

I said, "No. Let's not be excited yet. It is looking ominous. It is looking like it is really going to happen." It made me nervous. It was exciting after I settled it, but I was not quite ready. I do not know that you are ever ready for a transition.

So I told the Lord, "You have to tell Noel Alexander." I had not talked to Noel in a couple of years, and he just randomly called me.

Noel says, "I have got to tell you something: I was just in England, and I was doing a conference and a man came to me." (I have some of the details on the page here as to where, who, what, and when.) Noel said, "A man came to me who I did not know and said he had the word of the Lord. This man told me to go home, call Mike Bickle, and tell him, 'It is time to build the twenty-four-hour house of prayer.' You know that I would not bother you with a prophecy because I went somewhere, and someone gave me a prophecy to give you. I would not even bother you. But the next day, I went to a different city far away. They did not know each other. A man I did not know came to me after I finished preaching and said that he had the word of the Lord. He also said, 'Go home and tell Mike Bickle that it is time to build the house of prayer.' I am here to tell you: it is time to build the house of prayer."

I said, "It is February." I have only had those three conditions out for less than thirty days. They have all been met (even though the senior pastor took a little while to land; it was looking pretty clear that it was going to land, and it did.) I said, "Oh my goodness."

THREEFOLD COMMITMENT TO HONOR THE LORD

There were three commitments or agreements that I made to the Lord, and I will end with this. Here are my three commitments.

Number one: here is my commitment: I am not going to travel to go recruit leaders. I am not going to get on an airplane and go recruit people. I am not going to do it, and this is my first requirement.

Number two: I am not going to go raise money. I am just not going to do it.

Number three: I am not going to stress and strain to come up with creative ideas. I am not going to stress out over where we are supposed to move, how it is supposed to happen; I am not even going to think about it, to be honest. I am not going to do any of those three things. I mean, I think it is important to have leadership meetings, but I will not try to get next to Harry S. Truman. I am not even going to try.

I said, "Here is what I will do. I will work long hours. I will say really unpopular things. If You say things to me to tell people, I will preach them. I may grimace, but I will say them. I will not quit in the pressure, growth, pressure of resistance, or criticism, I will not quit. So that is the deal. You send me leaders. You send me money. You give me great ideas. I am not going to do those three things. I work long hard hours, I say

unpopular things, and I do not quit. You do your part; I do my part. If that is the deal, I will do it. If IHOP dies of starvation, I am not going to go raise money. I am just not going to ever do it. If You care about leaders, money, and divine ideas, send them. If You do not do send them, it will not work. I will say unpopular things, and I will not quit.” I felt the pleasure of the Lord as I said this, and He has honored that for ten years.

GOD WILL DO HIS PART, AND WE WILL DO OUR PART

So we are all here tonight. I will say one more thing, and then we are going to have a Bob Jones video. Then, we will have worship. We are going to be back here tomorrow at nine o’clock in the morning to jump right into another session. I am just going to say one more thing. I have had people over the years who come to me, and they said that they saw that sign on the wall for twenty-four-hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David. We had that sign for nearly sixteen years. People would say, “What is that?”

And for ten or fifteen years, I would say, “I really do not know. Twenty-four-hour prayer. It is just what it says it is.”

They would say, “What does it mean?”

I would say, “I do not really know: singers, musicians, or something. I cannot picture it in my head.” So when IHOP started, and when it began to get established throughout the years, people would come to me during the last couple of years saying, “Wow. Your dream is happening. Look, it is what Bob Jones said twenty-five years ago. It is what the angel of the Lord said would happen. Your dream is coming to pass.”

I said, “No, it is not.”

They said, “What do you mean? IHOP is full, the Lord has blessed it economically, and there are excellent leaders. There are people with humility.”

I said, “No, IHOP–KC is not my dream. IHOP is my assignment. The dream of my heart is what happens between my heart and Jesus. No one can touch the dream of my heart. What I dream about at night is not a big IHOP. What I dream about at night is the anointing to connect with God’s heart in the deepest way that God will give the human spirit. That is my dream, and if IHOP gets really big, my dream does not get helped at all. If IHOP disappears, my dream is not hurt at all. This is not my dream. This is my assignment. God will do His part, and I will do my part: I will work very hard, but I am not going to recruit leaders, raise money, or think all night about what to do. I am going to connect with God.”

Amen. I will end with that.