

## ***The Prophetic Ministry in the End Times***

### **INTRODUCTION**

We're in the middle of this twenty-one day fast. We're using this occasion to ask the Lord to plumbline our souls, our hearts, and our thinking with what the Word of God says. We drift away from the ideals of Scriptures. The things the Scriptures present as normal, the mighty things, are normal to God, but they seem so dramatic to us. From the spiritual point of view, it's actually normal to believe these things; but to us they seem surreal and unreal, and we struggle to lay hold of these things that are written in the Word, these things that the Holy Spirit has promised us.

Last week we looked at the unprecedented measure of conviction of the Holy Spirit that's released in historic revival. We looked at the First and the Second Great Awakening in America as a prototype of what's coming in the days ahead. What's coming in the days ahead is going to surpass that measure of conviction we saw in the First and Second Great Awakening in America—where the spirit of conviction, the power of God, pervaded entire regions, and hundreds of thousands, millions came to the Lord in short amounts of time. Even without preachers, people began to weep and new believers were telling the message of the story they heard last night. Multitudes were getting saved in factories, in bars, all over a region. That happened all across America, in different places in America.

Tomorrow we want to look at the unprecedented healing anointing that the Bible promises, but the Lord has been generous and said, "I want to strengthen your resolve so you know that it's true." The Word should be enough, but we're slow of believing and slow of hearing. The apostles were slow of hearing; how much more are we? The Lord gives us supernatural encounters to bolster our faith in what the Word says. It's the Word in which we place our confidence.

There's going to be unprecedented release of finance as well in the generation of the Lord's return. That's my opinion; it's not a prophecy. I believe we're in the early days of that generation. I don't know if I'll see it with my eyes, but I believe my grandchildren's generation will see it. I believe there are people alive today who will actually see these things in their fullness. That's just my opinion by looking at the signs of the times in the Bible.

### **TWO TYPES OF PROPHETS IN THE BIBLE AND THE LAST GENERATION**

Tonight I want to look at the unprecedented measure of the prophetic ministry. The office of the prophet: how far is it going? There are two types of prophets in the Bible. There are what I would call the "signs and wonders prophets," like Elijah and Elisha. Then there are the end-time, or the eschatological prophets. *Eschatological* just means "the study of the end times." It's a fancy word if that's new to you. These are prophets like Daniel and Ezekiel and Zechariah. Daniel didn't operate in signs and wonders, that we know of. We have no indication that Elijah and Elisha, who did mighty signs and wonders, saw the end-time storyline.

### **THE BOOK OF ACTS AND THE BOOK OF EXODUS COMBINED AND MULTIPLIED GLOBALLY**

It's clear in the Word that the anointing for signs and wonders of Elijah and Elisha, and the eschatological prophetic anointing of Daniel, Zechariah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and John the apostle, will come together in fullness in one hour of human history. There will be men and women who will actually see in the realm of the spirit like the prophets of old, but even more clearly. Why? Because we're building off of the revelation that the former

prophets had. The Holy Spirit will tell the end-time prophets these things and give them even greater clarity about them. It will go beyond seeing the story line. There will be signs and wonders—dramatic signs and wonders. Not just in physical healings in people’s bodies, though yes, those will happen as well. But in addition to signs and wonders in terms of people’s deliverance from pain and sickness, there will be signs and wonders in the created order. There will be signs in the heavens and signs on the earth. In the book of Acts, individuals were touched with power. We’re talking about the miracles of the book of Acts combined with the miracles of the book of Exodus—where Moses prayed and food multiplied, the Red Sea divided, signs came from the heavens. Imagine the book of Acts and the book of Exodus combined in prophetic signs and wonders. Then put that together with the eschatological or the end-time revelation that Daniel had, combined in one package. That’s where the prophetic calling and the prophetic spirit is going.

### **“ELIJAH WAS A MAN WITH A NATURE LIKE OURS”**

The ideal, meaning the ultimate demonstration, is Revelation 11:3-6: the two witnesses. They will have end-time revelation and they will move in the same power as the book of Acts, Moses, Elijah, and Elisha. It’s coming together. The amazing thing is this: God is going to anoint weak and broken people like you. Really! That’s the only type that He has, by the way. We know that, and it’s cute, but the issue, is it’s real. There’s a real shocker in James 5:17, when James says, “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours” (Js. 5:17). He dealt with the same depression, the same sin, the same doubt; the same mundane, routine issues we deal with, he dealt with. He struggled, he questioned things. He didn’t feel the power. He felt lonely; he felt rejected. He felt afraid. He quit. He wanted to draw back and say, “Lord, I just want to quit,” and the Lord took him home.

We look at Elijah and say, “Wow.” We should, but I want to tell you that you don’t understand the Elijah story until you understand Elijah: “We’re men just like you right now.” It’s hard to imagine, because we place them in this out-of-reach realm, and then the stories are just fascinating, but they’re no longer helpful to us, because they’re no longer about real people. Beloved, the good news is this: it’s real people like you who will do this. I believe that what my children and grandchildren and their children will do, we can’t even imagine. I believe we’re in that time frame. I believe we’re in the early days of it. If I’m wrong, it’s not so much later than what I’m guessing. I believe strongly that there are people alive today who will actually see it.

### **GOD IS TRAINING UP ANOINTED MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE SENT FROM HEAVEN**

If that’s true, if we’re in that countdown, those decades that are going to unfold and culminate in intensity, that means some of us are going to witness this anointing of the signs and wonders of the book of Acts and the book of Exodus combined, and then the eschatological anointing of seeing the secrets of God’s end-time storyline. There are people alive on the earth, I believe, who will actually enter into that. The way God is going to train them and raise them up is just like He did in the days of old—the same simple, main-and-plain ways. They study their Bible, they choose obedience, they wrestle through boring prayer, they say no to lust and yes to righteousness, they stumble and fall, sign back up, stumble and fall, sign back up, break through, and stay steady. They get confused, they get perplexed, they sign back up, they stay steady, they get depressed for a season, they stay steady again.

That really is how it happens. We wish there was some super-saint status where all of a sudden you come around a corner and all the troubles are gone in the natural realm, and suddenly everything is perfect. But it didn’t work that way—not for the apostles, either. It’s the height of where God is taking the Church, but if you read the real human dynamics, it encourages you. It causes us to say, “Lord, we want to ask for these kinds of laborers.” Remember in Matthew 9:38, how Jesus said, “Pray for laborers to be sent”—sent ones (Mt. 9:38). We

don't just want volunteers, though we'll take them. Jesus said, "There are sent ones. Ask the Father to send the laborers." God anointed men and women who are sent from heaven.

### **WE'RE ONLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BEGINNING**

I believe we get a vision, not just for faithful workers, although that's the premier issue, faithfulness. It really is. The Lord says, "I have more on My mind than just faithfulness. I have an anointing for greater works than these." Jesus is the One who said it: "You will do greater miracles than the ones that I've done" (Jn. 14:12, paraphrased). That prophecy has never been fulfilled in history. That's an unfulfilled prophecy, yet to be fulfilled on a global level. Jesus combined it. He did the signs and wonders and He did the eschatological revelation. He was a prophet who put them both together, yea, and more than a prophet.

The point is this: I want to ask the Lord for this. Though we don't see much right now on the global level of too many operating in this, there are a few who are in the early days of this. After our breaks, I want to tell some stories of some things I've seen that have really convinced me. I've seen with my eyes some most remarkable things in the realm of the prophetic—in the realm of signs and wonders—and it's encouraging. When I really look at Scripture, I've only seen the beginning of the beginning. What I've seen is awesome. The Lord is whispering in our hearts, saying, "That's only the beginning of the beginning. That's not the ceiling; that's the floor. That's the place to begin believing for."

So as we hear the Scriptures, and we hear the testimonies, what I want it to produce in us is this tenacity to believe God for it in our own lives. Don't just ask for some other guy. Ask, "Lord, why not me? I'm a weak and broken person committed to go all the way. Here I am." That's all He's looking for: weak and broken people who, when they hit the ceiling, don't give up. They keep pressing through in terms of their obedience, in terms of hunger for the Word, in terms of breaking through in the Spirit.

Why not you? Why not you? I want to stir up a faith for this. Why not your children? Why not your grandchildren? Then we want to understand why God wants to give these kinds of prophets—both male and female, young and old. Some will be young, will be children, just like in the Bible.

### **SHIFTING THE CULTURE OF A REGION IN THE AWE AND FEAR OF GOD**

One of the reasons God wants to give the kind of prophets I'm talking about is because He wants to shift the culture, the spiritual culture in the Body of Christ to the awe and the fear of God. There is a level of prophecy which I appreciate—I really do appreciate it—that's for personal edification of individuals. A prophetic anointing is on a person and they help and an individual gets helped. They say, "Wow, I have more clarity!" There's a kind of healing that helps an individual. It's a miracle that touches an individual's life. That's powerful. That's what's common today. I love that. It mostly impacts the individual. The others hear the story and have a sincere, "Yes, Lord, thank You," but it doesn't overly move the others. They hear the story and say, "Good, I believe you, praise God," but we're not overly affected. For the one who was touched, it's great, but not so much for the others.

That's where most of the miracles and healings and prophecies are today. The compassion of God is touching individuals. The rest of the Body of Christ hears the story and says, "Wow, cool, that's good! Yes, Lord," and again we're unaffected.

There's a level of the prophetic anointing that shifts the entire spiritual culture of a region. It shifts the entire culture of a ministry to the fear and the awe of God. It's not just, "Wow, did you hear what happened?" Whole communities, large numbers of people are riveted by the presence of God when this other level of the prophetic ministry is released.

I've seen a bit of that over the years. There is a difference between a culture-shifting miracle, a culture-shifting prophetic word or prophetic event, and one that's being released because of God's compassion on an individual. I love the individual compassion ministries. I love that. We want much, much more. I'm hungry to see more of that culture-shifting thing. There's another kind of prophetic word that isn't so much just compassion for an individual or shifting the culture, but it gives direction and perspective to a movement. Those are some of the things that the Lord spoke through Bob Jones back in 1983 and 1984. He gave perspective to a movement. It's nearly thirty years later and we're still gaining strength as a movement from that direction and that perspective. It doesn't create awe today, but it does bring clarity and alignment and perspective.

I want the compassion-type prophecies in healings. I want much more. I want the movement-directing, perspective-shifting prophecy, but I want miracles that shift the culture in the spirit—where the whole room, the whole auditorium, the whole movement, is captured with expectation and the fear of God, the awe of God, and we're just a bit afraid in the right way. We're saying, "Whoa, what meanest Thou this? What's all this about? Whoa!" I believe those are the kinds of miracles the Lord wants to add. There are a number of those in the book of Acts, where it grabs and shakes an entire region. Many believed and many did not, but those who did not were hostile. Almost no one was neutral; everyone was captured into the drama of that miracle. Lord, send those kinds of miracles.

### **"IT SHALL COME TO PASS AFTERWARDS THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT"**

Let's look at Joel 2. We know this passage, but I want you to read it like you've never heard it before. Don't look at this and say, "Yeah, I know this passage." No, there are so many levels of meaning and implications here in Joel 2 that are above and beyond what we grab just because of our spiritual capacity. As it enlarges, we will see more.

Verse 28. You'll notice that twelve times the words *shall* or *will* appear in this passage. "I will," says the Lord"; "it shall happen," says the Lord." Twelve times there's that emphatic declarative, "Yes, it will happen," dimension in these few verses here.

"It shall come to pass afterwards" (Joel 2:28)—in a moment, we learn that it's after the praying and fasting earlier in Joel 2. "It shall come about afterwards." A lot of folks skip the word *afterwards*. It's after the fasting and prayer in verses 12-17. He says, "This will come to pass after My people come before Me and cry out." There will be a global prayer movement that's growing quickly in the earth right now. It will mature in the decades ahead. The Body of Christ will have a prayer culture in the earth. The *afterwards* will take place.

There's a sense of, "What about now, before afterwards?"

He said, "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh" (Joel 2:28b). When He says "all flesh," He means this: every single believer in every nation: old and young, Jew and Gentile, male and female—every single nation. That's what "all flesh" means in this context: every single believer will prophesy.

I've been associated with the prophetic ministry for a number of years, so I run into people. They say, "I don't believe the prophetic ministry."

I say, "That's OK."

They say, "Where is that in the Bible? Prove it."

I say, "I don't want to prove it; that's too boring. I would rather talk about Jesus." I've had this conversation a number of times. I say, "It's so sure that you'll prophesy, I don't even want to argue about it. Let's talk about Jesus and enjoy each other and then you give me your prophecy when it hits you in the days ahead. I can't even get excited for the argument."

Then, I'm a little tongue-in-cheek; I say, "I hope your wife gets the dreams and visions first and troubles your household for a minute." It doesn't have to happen that way. The ladies are so eager and sensitive to these things, that's normally how it happens. The wife starts dreaming; the guy doesn't believe it. I've seen this story so many times. He's in a mess, thinking, "Ahhh!" Anyway, it's sons and daughters. That means old and young, male and female right there. We will prophesy; we will prophesy at many levels. The old men and women, we won't be left out. It's a young people's movement, but the Lord says, "I have an assignment for the older ones to move in the Spirit as well."

Some of the younger ones might say, "Yeah, but we're untrained, we're a little impetuous, we're a little this, that, and the other."

The Lord says, "I will give them open visions. I will do it just the same."

### **"TO THE ONE WHO HAS, MORE WILL BE GIVEN"**

Here's the key phrase, in verse 29: "On My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days" (Joel 2:29). The other translations say, "On My bondservants, both male and female." I like that word *bondservants*; it's the same idea. This anointing isn't just going to flow indiscriminately to every believer; it will flow to the believers who choose to live as bondservants to the Lord. It flows to the believers who choose to live as bondservants to the Lord. That's a really serious qualifier. Often that point is skipped. It's talking about the men and women who say, "My life is bound up in throwing myself into the will of God."

### **DON'T RULE YOURSELF OUT IN THE GRACE OF GOD**

I tell you, the *suddenly* of the Lord is going to break out. People are going to begin to operate in the prophetic anointing in the most amazing ways. I can tell you some stories—I don't know how many stories I'll get to in the second session—of people who never prophesied, ever. Suddenly it begins one night. The multiplication of dreams and visions begins. Suddenly, one day. They were the last one to think that would happen in their life. I don't know the number, but right off the top of my head I can name twenty or thirty people—I've never counted them all—who never prophesied, and suddenly it happened one day. Then, during the years to come, there was an amazing proliferation of prophetic revelation. They said, "I never thought I was one of them."

"Well, who are those 'one of them' people?" We're people like us. I tell you in our midst, our little, beloved Julie Meyer: thirty years ago, we were close friends. When I was twenty-five years old, she says she was nine; sometimes she says she was twelve! Julie was normal. I knew Julie a few years ago, and I never thought of Julie

in this way. She was just going for God and being happy. She's still happy, but I thought of Julie as fun and, "Hey, how you doing, Julie?"

All of a sudden, a couple of years ago, something happened. None of us can figure it out. It's called the grace of God. She began to get tremendous prophetic dreams. They started multiplying. If you had asked her when she was in her twenties and thirties, "Would this happen to you?" she would have said "No, no, no, I'm on the worship team, I'm a housewife, I don't do that. Bob Jones does that."

Suddenly it started happening to her. Again, I've never counted, but I know about twenty or thirty people, when I look back over thirty years, who were just going along for ten or fifteen years in the Lord and suddenly it happened. They looked back and it never stopped. Beloved, this may be the week. Next year may be the year. It's a whole new beginning. You may be nine; you may be ninety. You can't rule yourself out. The minute you think you're too young, suddenly you're a boy prophet. The minute you're too old, you're a Daniel or John the apostle who received their major revelations in their eighty or nineties. I say, "Let's go for it." It's bondservants. It's the people who want it. It's the people who can't live without it. Don't ever write yourself off on this passage here.

#### **"I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN THE HEAVENS AND IN THE EARTH"**

Look how dramatic it gets. "I will show wonders in the heavens" (Joel 2:30). I was just adding it up, and there are seven different times that I know of where a prophetic man—five with Bob Jones and two with Paul Cain—spoke a prophecy, and then they prophesied what would happen in the heavens. They would predict a weather pattern that was far enough away that there was no chance they could guess it right. They said, "Here's the prophecy; here's what's going to happen in the heavens, in the sky, in the weather patterns. When it happens exactly on this day, exactly on the day, you'll know the dream and prophetic message I'm giving you is true." Because no one can manipulate the sky: that's the point. I know of seven—and maybe even one or two more—that I've witnessed with my own eyes. I heard the prophecy and then later, exactly on the day, the wonder happened in the heavens or on the earth.

It will upgrade from weather patterns, although weather patterns will be involved. Again, no one can predict the weather or comets. You can't predict the precise day of such things. Someone, a scientist, might come along and say, "A few years out, maybe this will happen." I'm talking about things that were unpredicted by scientists.

Look at what's going to happen; look at where the signs and wonders are going. There are three very important categories. There's quite a bit in the Bible on these three.

I have a series on the book of Joel where I try and get all the verses in the Bible where blood, fire, and smoke are mentioned as signs of the end times—for example, in the book of Revelation, the book of Isaiah, and the book of Zechariah.

These are the three categories. The prophet will prophesy and then the blood will flow.

Of course the question you ask is, "Whose blood?"

There are several different answers. The prophet prophesies and the people say, “Maybe yes, maybe no?” Then the fire comes down and the people say, “Yes, that’s the true word.”

Smoke, pillars of smoke. Those are the three prominent signs. This will go beyond weather patterns, comets, and earthquakes to a whole new level. There’s an amazing amount of material in the Bible on those three categories of signs in the end times.

**“THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD”**

Then it will go beyond blood, fire, and smoke. It will touch the sun and the moon. Beloved, do you know how hard it is to make the sun do something it doesn’t want to do? But a man or a woman on the earth will speak to the sun under the anointing of the Spirit, give a word, and then the sun actually does what the word of the Spirit declares. It will cause the earth to shake and tremble. I’m talking about the peoples of the earth. That’s the level of where this is going. There are a number of verses that say the stars will be moved—but they’re not just going to be indiscriminately moved. The prophet will prophesy and then the sign will happen. That’s the key part. It will be spoken ahead of time—not afterwards, but beforehand.

Verse 31. “These things are going to happen”—look at the key word, *before*: “before the second coming, not afterwards” (Joel 2:31-32). These are pre-second coming demonstrations of power.

**“WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED”**

Verse 32 is the open invitation: anyone who calls out to the Lord in prayer will be saved. They’ll be brought into the family of God; their sins will be forgiven; but they’ll be delivered from harm as well. There’s salvation in the spiritual sense, but there’s deliverance in the physical sense. It’s not like just one day all of this begins. The early beginnings of these have been happening for 2,000 years throughout church history. Tokens of this promise have been happening since the day of Pentecost. Right now they’re happening in small measure, just a little here and a little there.

In my own story—meaning what I’ve witnessed with my own eyes; what I’ve seen with my eyes and heard with my ears over the last thirty years—I’ve seen a number of small, but startling events. I mean, it’s this on a small scale, but it shook us when it happened. It was so unusual in that hour. That’s what we’re believing for: signs and wonders that show the compassion of God in healing and prophecy, but signs and wonders that shift the culture of the Body of Christ to the awe of God, with a terrifying expectation of God breaking in, in a glorious sense. I mean *terrifying* in the right sense.

Paragraph B. *Afterwards*. That’s a key word. It’s after prayer and fasting. That’s what Joel says: it’s after the fasting and praying of verses 12-17.

**THE APOSTLES IN ACTS 2 FOLLOWED THE TEMPLATE OF JOEL 2**

Paragraph C. In Acts 1 and Acts 2, the 120 disciples in the upper room followed the Joel 2 pattern. Jesus, the resurrected Messiah, told them, “I will release a tremendous ministry of the Spirit.” It’s the Joel 2 prophecy that’s clearly in view. We don’t know that Jesus said, “Joel 2,” but that’s the main prophecy. I can’t imagine it not being a major part of that dialogue that Jesus spoke for forty days to the apostles. With a resurrected body, He gave them teaching for forty days about what was coming. I have no doubt that Joel 2 was a primary issue.

What did they do? Well, they followed the pattern laid out in Joel 2. They went into the upper room for seven days. I used to say ten days, but Wes Hall corrected me. He's right; it was seven days. You can do the math later. I said, "Are you sure? I've always said ten."

He said, "That doesn't make it right."

I said, "That's a good point." He was right. He did the math. I said, "You're right; it was seven days. All these years..."

What happened in Acts 1 is that they went into the prayer room for seven days. Then the Joel 2 anointing of prophecy broke out. Here's the point: it only broke out in a small measure. It wasn't fulfilled in a complete way. What happened was only a token—a small down payment.

We look at Acts 2 and say, "That's small? That looks pretty exciting." Yes, it's more exciting than what the Body of Christ has been experiencing. When we look back when it's all done, we will see it's just a small part of Joel 2. It's not a big fulfillment. It's a fulfillment, but only a partial, beginning fulfillment. The reason—paragraph D—the reason that there was such a dramatic visitation is because it was a *kairos* time. Most of you know that phrase. It's that strategic time on God's calendar, like the first coming of Jesus. He died, rose from the dead, and ascended to the Father. It was the most dramatic moment of human history. It was the *kairos* moment of salvation history. It was a very strategic time.

I have news for you: there's another really strategic time coming soon—when He stands in the clouds. The strategic time at the first coming, the seven days of prayer, released a down payment of the book of Joel, the Joel 2 anointing.

### **GOD IS STIRRING UP BY THE SPIRIT THE PRAYER MOVEMENT OF THE EARTH**

Paragraph D. It was the combination of two things. It wasn't just a strategic time, although that's critical. Jesus, God in the flesh, offered Himself on the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended to the Father. There's no time like that in human history. The only time that parallels it is the second coming which is approaching quickly. Beyond it being a strategic time, there was also a long history of prayer leading up to that hour. It wasn't just strategic and that was it. There was a long history of prayer. We know Anna spent sixty years crying out. The prophets in the Old Testament, Jesus Himself, John the Baptist, Simeon, were all praying; but beloved, God is stirring up by the Spirit the prayer movement of the earth. I see this thing crescendoing in the next two, three, and four decades. We don't know if it's longer or shorter. It could go on a little longer; it could be sooner than that. The prayer movement is building rapidly in the earth.

From my point of view, that's like the Lord shouting, "Do you know what's coming afterwards?" It's the Joel 2 anointing; that's what's coming: the Joel 2 prophetic spirit—where the signs and wonders and the eschatological prophetic anointing come together in the same people all over the earth. It will happen all over Asia, Africa, and the nations of the earth. It's the fruit of the prayer movement.

There are two things you can't separate, prayer and the prophetic. If you pray, the prophetic will happen. If you prophesy, the people will start praying if they respond rightly.

Someone says, “Which is it? Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Is it prayer that releases prophecy, or the prophetic that releases prayer?”

I say, “Both.”

I believe there was prayer that released the early prophetic anointing that touched us in the early 1980s. I believe prayer fueled that, but that prophetic deposit fueled the prayer room and kept it going all those years. So which is it first? I don’t know. They’re both first.

### **THE TIMING OF THE LAST DAYS AS DISTINCT FROM THE END TIMES**

Paragraph E. Joel said, “In the last days” (Joel 2:28, paraphrased). Well the last days began at the death and resurrection and ascension of Jesus. In the New Testament, that phrase is used five times. It refers to two time frames: the entire 2,000-year period and the final decades leading up to the second coming. The last days actually refers to both of those time frames. I don’t use “the last days” for both time frames, although it’s biblical. People tend to get confused. I talk about the last days as beginning from the cross and resurrection of Jesus. I talk about the end times as the final decades of the last days. The last days have been going on for 2,000 years. At the same time, it’s biblical to say “the last days” meaning the final decades.

You’ll always have some guy who knows this one verse that says, “Hey, the last days has been here for 2,000 years.”

You say, “I know.”

They say, “No, you’re using the verse wrong,” so they win their little argument.

I skip all that and I use the phrase—which isn’t a biblical phrase, by the way; it’s a biblical idea, but not a biblical phrase—“the end times,” meaning those final decades of the last days which have been going on for 2,000 years. There’s a big difference between what happened in Peter’s day on the day of Pentecost. The Joel 2 thing didn’t happen in Peter’s day—only a bit.

Paragraph E. The sun and moon didn’t grow dark. Joel said the sun and moon will grow dark. It didn’t. Is Joel a false prophet? No, Joel is not a false prophet. Only a bit of it happened. Fire, blood, and smoke didn’t appear. The outpouring of the Spirit to all nations didn’t happen. As a matter of fact, the Spirit touched 120 people and then 3,000. That’s hardly Jews and Gentiles, old and young, all nations. That’s 3,000 people. Now, that’s awesome, 3,000, but the Spirit will touch one or two billion—not 3,000 in one city. It will be one or two billion in every nation of the earth. That’s what Joel talked about.

Peter was right in saying, “This is what Joel said.”

It’s also right to say, “This is what Joel prophesied and it’s a down payment. It’s a beginning of a beginning. It’s not a complete fulfillment by any means.”

If the day of Pentecost is fullness, that means Joel prophesied a lot of wrong things and Joel is a false prophet. Praise the Lord he’s not. It’s just a down payment.

## **HEREAFTER YOU WILL SEE ANGELS ASCENDING AND DESCENDING**

Paragraph F. I give you a few verses for the end time prophets. Beloved, there will be prophets—not just prophetic people, but prophets. The office of the prophet will be functioning on the earth in the generation of the Lord’s return. In Revelation 18:24, as well as other verses, one of the things that the harlot Babylon religious system does is kill the prophets. They want the prophets silenced. Why? Because the prophets are not only exposing their deception and motivating the people to resist the harlot Babylon; the prophets are declaring things and signs and wonders are happening in the heavens that are disturbing harlot Babylon. It’s like Ahab and his wife Jezebel. They wanted to kill Elijah because he was prophesying and bringing drought and miracles. This troubled the kingdom. They said, “Let’s kill this guy. Let’s not just shut him up in terms of his message. He’s releasing power on the land that’s disturbing us.”

They’ll kill the prophets, but my real point is, the prophets exist. People have said, “The prophets passed away in the first century.”

I say, “No, they’re killed in the final decades. They’re killed then.”

I believe what Jesus prophesied for the apostles in His day, we will see at a far greater level, on a global level. In John 1:51. Jesus said this. He’s prophesying: “Assuredly I say, you shall see the heavens open and the angelic activity ascending and descending” (Jn. 1:51, paraphrased)—going up and down. He says, “You’ll see the realm of the Spirit opened up. You’ll see the interaction of angels with natural events. You’ll see it with your own eyes.”

It’s been going on throughout history, but some of the disciples got to see it with their own eyes. Beloved, when you study the book of Revelation, it’s clear that there will be a global, open heaven before this thing is over, with ascending and descending angels.

This is an interesting thing: that the ascending is noted first. You’d think it would be the other way around, where angels are coming down and then going up. Jesus said the opposite: “They’re going up, then coming down.” What does that mean? I’m not sure.

I think the angels are involved with us. In Revelation 8, the angels present a bowl of prayer to the Father. The angels are carrying something, and then something is coming down in response to them going up. I believe it’s related to the prayers of the saints. There’s a going up before a coming down. There’s an interactive relationship, I believe, with the prayer movement. I’m guessing that’s what that means.

## **THE RADICALNESS OF JOEL’S VISION IN THE DAY IT WAS GIVEN**

Top of page two. Well, I’ve already said paragraph A: “all flesh.” Don’t write yourself off. There will be ten-year olds like Jeremiah as a youth prophesying, set apart from his mother’s womb (Jer. 1:5). Children will be prophets. There will be the old men like Daniel and John the apostle in their eighties and nineties, and older women. There will be men and women prophesying—men and women, old and young, in every nation.

This was really radical when Joel said it. When Joel said it, only Jews prophesied. Only men prophesied. Well, you have to throw in Deborah. But otherwise, only the old guys prophesied. Joel comes along and says, “The paradigm is going to be totally different.”

They said, “The young? Well that’s a stretch.”

“The women.”

“OK...”

“Worse than all, Gentiles. *Goyim!*” You. Gentiles, will prophesy.

That was the most troubling one of all. They said, “How can they prophesy? They’re like heathens. How can Gentiles prophesy?” That was the hardest of all.

### **PEOPLE WHO ARE FULLY ABANDONED, EVEN IN THEIR WEAKNESS**

Paragraph B. We will touch just a bit in the next session, Misty has had three or four dreams, very strong dreams, that make this point. He said, “On My bondservants, My menservants, My maidservants,” there’s a responsiveness that’s required. It’s still grace.

Someone says, “Well, if God requires us to be responsive, it’s not grace.” No, our responsiveness is still so fragile. Our wholeheartedness at what we call radical, when all the truth is known, is pretty fragile and pretty weak and broken.

God says, “I will take your wholeheartedness, but the wholeheartedness is real. It’s not strong, but it’s real.”

In other words, it’s not some guy saying, “Ah, by the grace of God I’ll prophesy and take what comes.” It’s talking about people who are fully abandoned in their pursuit of God. That’s what He is talking about. Even then, the fullness of their pursuit of God is still fragile and frail.

God says, “My grace will make up the difference.” The abandonment must be there. Don’t let anyone give you a false doctrine of grace that says you’re earning it if you’re abandoned and wholehearted. You’re not earning it; you’re lining up in agreement, posturing yourself to receive. No matter how abandoned you are, it’s still fraught with all kinds of weakness and frailty. It’s still grace.

### **“I HAVE REMOVED YOUR INIQUITY . . . I WILL CLOTHE YOU WITH RICH ROBES”**

Paragraph C. This is a verse that has moved me over the years. Zechariah 3. I remember Dee Bennett had a really powerful dream about this some years ago. The reason it touched me is because the Lord had given me this verse. I had said nothing about it. Then Dee came along and spoke this verse directly to me about what was going to happen in the years ahead.

Here’s what’s going on. Joshua was the high priest. He was in the same generation as Zerubbabel. Back in Zechariah 3 and 4, they were the two leaders building the house of prayer in 536 BC. A lot of you know that date. They were the two main leaders building the house of prayer. Joshua had some big, unsettled issues in his life. The Lord said, “I will forgive you. I will cleanse you. I will put a white garment and a new turban on your head. I will cleanse your mind. I will cleanse your body” (Zech. 3:4-5, paraphrased).

The devil was accusing him, saying, “This man can’t prophesy; he’s disqualified.” The devil was accusing him and the Lord said, “Stop. I will qualify him.”

That's in verses 1-5. It's a great passage. If you feel you've been disqualified, you need to read Zechariah 3. It's a very strong, affirming passage. Look at verse 6. Just because you're forgiven, that doesn't mean you can be casual with the forgiveness He gave you. Notice that the angel of the Lord uses the word *admonished*. Here Joshua is having this very dynamic prophetic experience. The angel of the Lord warns him; it has a tone of correction in it. He said, "Listen: you've been forgiven. You have a brand-new beginning. What you did to be disqualified, God has canceled out. You're now qualified. Now listen." That's what an admonishment is. "You need to walk in My ways. You need to obey. You can't be careless with My commandments."

### **ACCESS TO THE REALM WHERE THE ANGELS ASCEND AND DESCEND**

Joshua is shaking his head. Look at the grand promise. "If you'll do this: if you'll take your new forgiveness, your new beginning, your fresh start, and join it to radical obedience, I'll give you places to walk among these." When He pointed, He pointed at the angels. "Not only will your disqualification be cancelled out. Not only am I giving you a new beginning. If you'll mix obedience with it, I'll give you, Joshua, access to the angelic realm" (Zech. 3:7, paraphrased)—in other words, the open heavens realm where the angels ascend and descend.

Beloved, this is what the Lord is calling us to. I'm talking about the Body of Christ everywhere. I want us focused in on it. He is calling us to enter into that realm where the angels ascend and descend. We see the invisible realm and the interaction of the spiritual powers with natural events and with the prayer movement.

### **THE HOUR OF GREATEST TEMPTATION IS THE HOUR WHEN THE PROMISES COME TRUE**

I have six things here I would like to say really quickly. When we want to posture ourselves to do God's ways, there's no area like the anointing. Whenever the anointing is on a man or a woman, there are so many temptations to compromise. There's something about the anointing. You'd think it would make people sober-minded, but it stirs up whatever pride they have in them. It comes to another level. A bit of anointing takes a pretty decent guy or gal and brings out their pride. They can't contain it. They get a little anointed, and they get what I call "helium highs." They float to the top with a big head saying, "I'm the one!"

The Lord says, "No, I will pop your balloon and show you that you're not." One of the things the Lord has pressed me on over the years is this: "When the things I've promised happened, hold the line on these issues."

We must pursue the Lord; not this false grace doctrine where we're passive, saying, "Oh, the grace of God." No, it's wholeheartedness. We have to live righteously, pursuing God. I'm talking about fasting, praying, and going after Him—living righteously. We must live righteously. This isn't negotiable. So many men in the past get a little anointing. In a decade or two, they start dabbling with the unrighteousness they were living in before they were anointed. They quit seeking the Lord. Now they're famous, and everyone wants their autograph. They quit obeying. You say, "Why? You were seeking God and obeying. You finally got an answer and quit." Why do we do that? That pride is lodged in the heart.

### **DON'T MISREPRESENT THE SPIRIT WHEN HIS PRESENCE IS IN YOUR MIDST**

Here's one; you've heard me talking on this over the years. I really care about this—anointing with humility. There's something about pride that wants to draw attention to ourselves with hype, exaggeration, and as you know, I detest exaggeration and hype in the name of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. I detest it. What it is, is misrepresenting the Holy Spirit. We're trying to tell the group watching us, "This is the Holy Spirit!"

He says, “It’s not Me. Don’t misrepresent Me when My presence is in your midst.”

Then we have to honor the Scriptures. People get anointed and they start coming up with revelations that aren’t in the Bible. “What happened to the Bible? You were so committed to it?”

“Well, an angel told me...”

“I don’t care what an angel told you. If it’s not in the Word, don’t run with it. Stay in the boundaries of the Word.”

“No, I’m anointed. Two angels told me!”

“I don’t care who told you. We stay in the boundaries of the written Word of God.” Finances: “Well God told me to take the money from the anointing and do these things with it.”

“He didn’t. He told you to help the poor and to finance the gospel with the anointing, with the money.” Because millions will come when the anointing increases—millions and millions. We need to bear the stigma. I tell you, Paul the apostle found this out in 2 Corinthians 12. He said, “I got anointed; I got a thorn in the flesh and said, ‘Lord, help me.’ He said, ‘No, no. Your pride will get out of control if the thorn doesn’t stick you’” (2 Cor. 12:7-10, paraphrased).

If a mature apostle would get out of line in pride, where do we stand? I say, “Lord, yes, wholehearted. I want to seek You with a great anointing. I want to live righteously. I don’t want hype. I don’t want to exaggerate. I don’t want to add things. I don’t want to draw attention to myself in ministry style. I want to keep the Bible. I want to use finances. Ooo, but this stigma thing, Lord, could You just let me do those five things without that stigma? Just trust me, Lord, I’ll obey You.”

He says, “No.” Even Paul needed the thorn. We get helium highs. A man gets a little anointing, and in another few years he’s become a different person. I’ve watched it over the years and I say, “What’s this about?”

“Well, I have five people falling down in the prayer line. I’m the man of God.”

“Bro, get your head back into reality! Go wash the toilets. Go pray and fast and live in hiddenness. So what if five people fell down? You pushed three of them! Who cares?”

Anyway, I’ve been playing this one-string fiddle for thirty years, and I’m not going to stop. Some of the folks think, “Boy, he’s really into that.” I’ve been into this for around thirty years. The folks who have known me know I didn’t just figure this out in the last five years. I’ve been disturbed by this, by how much hype there is related to the subject of the anointing: how much falsehood and misrepresentation that comes when people get one ounce of anointing. The way they carry on is just bizarre to me. It’s about Jesus and it’s about helping people. It’s not about telling people how awesome and anointed we are. It’s pretty easy to stay in the boundaries as long as it’s a one-inch anointing, whatever that looks like. When the big stuff happens, I tell you, we must be grounded in these things. We absolutely must.

### **NATIONS WILL BE CAUGHT UP IN ANGER OVER SIGNS AND WONDERS**

Roman numeral III. Signs and wonders. This isn't just normal stuff; this is stuff that arrests the attention of cities, regions, and nations. Nations will be caught up in anger over these signs and wonders. Awestruck, perplexed and stirred in faith. Every emotion imaginable will happen with these end-time prophets and prophetesses. Look at what Jesus said in Luke 21:11: "Fearful sights and great signs from heaven" (Lk. 21:11). Not little signs; terrifying sights. The hearts of believers will palpitate.

He goes on in Luke 21:25-26 and adds a little more. "The heavens" refers to the sky. It will touch the sun, the moon, and the stars. Men will faint from fear, because the signs will be so awesome. They won't be random. The prophet or prophetess will speak them, and then they'll happen. The people will say, "Whoa, what was the message that went along with that sign?" Then they'll want to hear the message.

### **WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED**

Paragraph B. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord—that's prayer. The prayer movement will be dynamically connected to the great harvest. It will be a salvation movement. It's also connected to supernatural safety in a time when the whole earth is being shaken. If there's anything we want to go for—well, there are about ten things we want to go for, but we want to believe Jesus for this level of power. We want to walk in His ways like the angel told Joshua, so that we would have access to that angelic realm of power for all the right reasons. We want to do it for the right reasons, for the fame of His name, for the gospel to go forth in the nations and the body to be built up in strength. Not so we can establish a neon sign over our life saying, "I'm the one, I'm the one, I'm the man of God." That's not why we want it. We don't want neon signs pointing at us. We want His name. We want the nations coming to the Lord. Amen and amen.