



As Soon As Zion Travailed...

*“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: **the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times**” ([Daniel 9: 25](#)).*

*“And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, after this I will return, **and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up**: that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things” ([Acts 15: 15-17](#)).*

*“**For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God... for we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the spirit, even ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body**” ([Romans 8: 19,22-23](#)).*

*“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: **and she with a child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered**” ([Revelation 12: 1-2](#)).*

*“Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Saith the Lord: shall I cause to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? **For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children**” ([Isaiah 66:8](#)).*

Our Present Condition

The season that we are in are seasons of great pain and great distress. The entire world has been reeling back and forth under the deadly attack of an unseen enemy. Virtually every nation of the

earth has felt the pangs of this evil and devastating enemy. The whole of creation is groaning and travailing in pain as it were. Nations of the world are greatly troubled on virtually every side. The effects of climate change are biting very hard in almost all regions of the earth. Nations are rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: we see famines, earthquakes, and pestilences (pandemics) all over the places (**Mathew 24:7**). Yet all of these are the beginning of sorrow.

The nations of the world Nigeria inclusive have witnessed wanton, unrestrained and vicious destruction of innocent lives and property in the recent times. The church of God is besieged by assailants, God's people are delivered up to be afflicted, and killed. They are hated of all nations because of the name of Christ. Many also shall be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and deceive many. Iniquity will abound, and the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved,for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **And except those days be shortened, there shall no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened** (**Mathew 24: 8-13, 21-22**). Darkness indeed shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but God shall make a way for his people, he shall arise upon thee, and the glory of the Lord shall be seen upon the people of the Lord (**Isaiah 60:2**).

Apart from the challenge of the pandemic and economic hardships, the Nigerian nation has been invaded literally by unrelenting killer herdsmen, bandits, kidnappers, religious extremists, and terrorists. The share magnitude of the mayhem unleashed upon the country is totally unprecedented with hundreds of school boys and girls kidnapped at once at different times. Some of them were raped, tortured and killed. Life is no longer safe in most parts of the country. The nation and its government appear totally helpless in the face of these army of interlopers. The nation appears to be gingerly drifting towards a failed state. Things have never been this bad, and the nation has never been this divided. These are indeed troublous times for this country. The whole nation is groaning and is travailing in pain. Yet the Lord's promise concerning our nation shall be fulfilled, this nation shall be restored. God has promised that because of the elect in this country the days shall be shortened, the Lord surely will make a way for the the elect of God to be saved and delivered.

God Has A Purpose In It All

Does God have a purpose for his church in this nation in the midst of this very troubling times. Can we look into the scriptures and draw strength to face these difficult times that we live in? Does God have a plan for his church in these very troubling times that we live in? The true church of God is with a child travailing in birth waiting to be delivered. It would appear that in the midst of this tremendous stress that we may be going through, God wants to renew our strength and realign his own people to his purpose. He wants to bring forth a people who shall be caught up to the throne of God. God wants to bring forth a new nation. As soon as Zion travailed she brought forth. The creations are troubled and are in deep groaning waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God.

As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise (**Proverbs 27:21**). The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts (**Proverbs 17:3**). It is only in the midst of the fining pot that the silver is purified, so also the gold is only purified when subjected to the fiery furnace. God's people shall be tried with fire and only after then shall they be in a position to offer true praise to God Almighty. David declared" thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress" (**Psalms 4:1**).

These are trying times but we shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, and the Lord shall prepare us and get us ready to be revealed in these last days, though now for a season, things might be difficult and we may be in heaviness through manifold trials and

temptations. The wicked, even our enemies have encamped against us to eat up our flesh. The pressure all around us is palpable and intense, and the pressure of the battle is daily rising against us in our minds and in our physical bodies, but our hearts shall not fear. The Lord shall lift up my head above mine enemies. In this troubling times he shall hide me in his pavilion, and in the secret place of his tabernacle, and he shall set me up upon the the rock (**Psalm 27**). The trial of our faith is much more precious than gold that perisheth, though we may be tried with fire, we shall be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of our Lord (**I Peter 1:5-7**).

Who Shall Abide in the Day of His Coming?

“Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth **for he is like the refiner’s fire, and the fullers soap; and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver**, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness” (**Malachi 3:1-3**).

Who shall abide in the day of his coming, who shall stand when he appeareth. Who shall stand in these difficult times. And the Lord shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver so that he may produce a people who will offer unto the Lord and offering in righteousness. The Lord is in the process of appearing in his people, and when he appears he will come like a refiner’s fire, and like a fuller’s soap. Challenging and difficult situations will develop around us as the Lord seek to prepare us to bring forth and manifest his glory. The birth pangs shall increase and it shall increasingly become painful as the baby is about to be delivered. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (**James 1: 2-4**).

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And with his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (**Revelation 12:1-9**).

The church is faced today with a fierce looking dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head. This dragon is so forceful and powerful to the point that with its tail (its deceit), it is able to pull down a third of the stars of God to the earth (from the realm of heaven to the realm of the flesh). This dragon represents the present world order typified by the socio-economic and political systems of the world. This dragon is standing before the church that is in pain ready to deliver to devour her child as soon as it is brought forth.

This child that the church is about to bring forth is meant to rule among the nations with power and authority but Satan wants to stop this. This is the reason for the conflict. It’s an age long conflict. “And the dragon was wroth with the woman (the church), and went to make war with the remnant

of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (**Revelation 12: 17**). The LORD said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth (**Psalms 110: 1-3**). “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force” (**Mathew 11: 12**). But this dragon shall fail because this woman (the church) in the midst of this troublous times shall bring forth her child, who shall rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and this child shall be caught up unto God, and to his throne (**Revelations 12: 5**).

The Streets Shall Be Built Again, And The Wall, Even In Troublous Times (Daniel 9:24)

The Lord will heal and restore the relationships of his people, and also protect his people by compassing his them about with songs of deliverance (**Psalms 32:7**). The Lord will bring back the ability of his people to connect and relate with one another in transparency and pureness of heart. Streets are meant to connect people and places. The Lord will build the streets again; he will unite his people. The Lord will bring back true “koinonia” (fellowship) to his house. The pressure of the times will draw the people of God closer together as never before.

There will be a binding together of the hearts of God’s people. “if we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin” (**I John 1:6-7**). We shall walk in the light of his word, opening ourselves to God and to one another, nothing shall be hidden. The entrance of the word of God shall give light to every darkness in and around us and darkness will dissipate “Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: **because the darkness is past, and the light now shineth**” (**I John 2:8**). Deep shall truly call unto deep, and iron shall sharpen iron (**Psalms 42:7; Proverbs 27: 17**).

As we fellowship with one another the blood of Jesus Christ his Son shall cleanse us from all sin, and sin shall not have dominion over us. “**And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire:** and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, **stand on the sea of glass, having harps of God**” (**Revelation 15:2**). The sea of glass here indicates a people who are connected with each other, walking in truth and having transparent relationship with one another. These are a people who have passed through the furnace, their lives have been mingled with fire and as a result they have victory over the beast, and over his image and his mark. Their qualification is their transparent life and relationship. They are seen standing on the sea of glass (transparency) having harps in their hands singing the praise of our God.

No Longer Time To Dwell In Our Cities

“So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porter, and the Nethinims, **dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities**” (**Ezra 2:70**). The people of God dwelt in their own cities There were no connecting streets between the cities. Every man did his own thing. The barrier of partition is strong dividing God’s people and preventing true fellowship. The denominational fortifications built by men for selfish reasons have eradicated true fellowship among God’s people, and so the power of God is not made manifest in our midst as it should be. This dividing line between God’s people is sharp and palpable, but the Lord is set to break down the walls of division and build again streets to connect the cities (the people of God) in these troublous times.

“And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel **were in the cities**, the people gathered themselves together as **ONE MAN TO JERUSALEM**” (Ezra 3:1).

This was during a very troubling time in Israel. The children of Israel were just coming out of captivity. Many of them have been carried away by Nebuchadnezzar the king into captivity in Babylon. They were returning with a lot of physical and emotional wounds, and they came to Jerusalem everyone dwelling in their own cities (Ezra 2:1). True fellowship was missing because everyman dwelt in their cities. This will not do. This situation had to change for Israel to move ahead and receive total healing and restoration. God’s people must come out of their individual cities. We all have to come out to ‘Jerusalem’ as one man.

Our cities could be our career, it could be our businesses, it could even be our wealth and possessions. It could be our ‘gifts’, our ‘ministries’. We need to lay everything on the alter and be found in Him alone. Some in the church have been held bondage to the things of this world, the fashion and trends of this world, these are cities that we must come out of. We need to come out of the many cities that has held us captive. The things that are gain to us we must count them as loss for the sake of Christ, we must count them loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. We must come out of our different cities and be found in Him and Him alone, not having our own righteousness. That we may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto His death (Philippians 3: 7-10).

The streets must be built again, the people of God must come out of their different cities, and come to ‘Jerusalem’ as ‘one man’. The streets will be built again so that God’s people can connect and fellowship in true ‘koinonia’. The people of God must gather as one man. “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; **and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be**” (Genesis 49: 10). It shall be a gathering together unto Him not unto any man or any denomination or any systems of man. Unto to the Lord shall the gathering of his people be.

“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. **Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made covenant with me by sacrifice**” (Psalm 50: 3-5). The Lord is moving by his spirit to gather unto himself his saints from all over the world who have made covenant with him by sacrifice. It is time to gather as one man to ‘Jerusalem’. “For as the lightening cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **For whosoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together**.....And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, **and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other**” (Mathew 24: 27-28, 30-31).

We have to abandon our comfort zones and reach out to one another, we have to open the door of our hearts and our physical doors to people who don’t look like us, or belong to our church/fellowship. The Lord will build the streets again and secure his people. With all lowliness and meekness, and with longsuffering we have to forbear one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Recognizing that there is only one body, and one spirit, even as we are called in the one hope of our calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in us all (Ephesians 4: 4-5).

Source:

www.eveningtime.org

April 2021 Newsletter Edition