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We continue our series on: “The Need to be Sober and Vigilant” with our Scripture text: *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).*

Our nation is at a very grave and dangerous tipping point. As a minister, I cannot overly emphasize the necessity for prayer and the Holy Writ. We need to understand that both God and His Word are cyclical, as seen in His sovereign creation and design where He repeats His patterns over and over again.

The Scriptures clearly teach of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, decades, centuries, and millennia continuing in perpetuity. The seven Feasts of the Lord are also cyclical, repeating themselves year after year. Solomon decreed, *“That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth (searches out) that which is past” (Ecclesiastes 3:15).* One Hebrew translation reads: *“What is happening now has happened before, and what will happen in the future has happened before, because God makes the same things happen over and over again” (Ecclesiastes 3:15 NLT).*

It saddens my heart to say this but our nation is in a backslidden condition and apostatizing ever so quickly. I have said for more than three years that America is ripe for divine judgment. Any time a nation continues to embrace sin and fails to repent, God will ultimately judge that nation for its sins.

The prophet Amos saw this truth

**THE NEED TO BE SOBER
AND VIGILANT! – PART 2**

regarding Israel: *“Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit. And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more. And the songs of the temple shall be howlings (wailings) in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence” (Amos 8:1-3).*

The next time America sings as a nation on the steps of Capitol Hill, like they did following 9-11, the songs they sing will not be *God Bless America* but rather funeral dirges, elegies, and burial hymns.

Since September of 1998, I have been teaching God’s judgment will come upon America in the fall of the year. The vision Jehovah gave Amos establishes a natural timeline. The ripe fruit Amos was shown symbolized Israel was ripe for divine judgment. Israel’s end, or the time of Israel’s judgment, would soon follow the summer harvest. Jeremiah also alluded to this identical time frame concerning the time of divine judgment: *“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved” (Jeremiah 8:20).*

In the natural, we understand, once the harvest has passed, the summer has come to its close and the next season, naturally, is the fall of the year. The vision Jehovah gave Amos fully demonstrated the harvest was now past and fall would soon follow. The basket of summer fruit signified to Amos the harvest was

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past and the time of divine judgment was imminent.

As I previously stated, it was in September of 1998 when I discovered the “fall scenario” and the meaning and significance of the word fruit: *“And the fruits (3703, New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible) that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee” (Revelation 18:14).*

The Greek word *opōra* translated here to *fruits* speaks of eventide or the end of summer, the “dog days” of summer; which speaks of the hottest time of the year, when the shadows of the days are beginning to lengthen; known as the fall equinox.

Again, the God we serve is very cyclical in nature. We read: *“Prepare ye war against her (Israel); arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe unto us! for the day goeth away (the sun is setting), for the shadows of the evening (twilight) are stretched out (lengthened)” (Jeremiah 6:4).* Another translation says: *“They shout, ‘Prepare for battle! Attack at noon!’ ‘No, it’s too late; the day is fading, and the evening shadows are falling.’” (Jeremiah 6:4 NLT).*

As believers we are to strive in understanding the Old Testament, because it reveals so much to us concerning the New Testament: *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning (to teach or instruct us), that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).*

If one understands the past, it will help them navigate the future. The apostle Peter gives affirmation focusing on the past to see what

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Jehovah will do in the future: *“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow (catastrophic event), making them an ensample (an exhibit for imitation or warning) unto those that after should live ungodly (wickedly)”* (2 Peter 2:6). Peter authenticates that God is cyclical and the same events concerning judgment will also be repeated again. Simply put, as followers of Christ, we are to learn from the past!

In the **Amos 8** passage, Jehovah declares Israel will sing songs but their songs would not of worship but rather songs of wailing and profuse lamentations.

Some weeks ago we witnessed the passionate expression of grief, sorrow, and weeping from those devastated by Hurricane Helene. Needless to say, destruction, calamity, and judgment bring people and nations to their knees. What happened, here in western North Carolina, will never be repaired or fully restored.

The prophet Jeremiah was able to see through the lens of the Holy Ghost regarding Israel’s impending judgment and it caused him to weep profusely: *“Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”* (Jeremiah 9:1) One translation of Hebrew reads: *“If only my head were a pool of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, I would weep day and night for all my people who have been slaughtered”* (Jeremiah 9:1 NLT).

Divine judgment has a way of making everyone sober and vigilant; however, once judgment begins, it is too late to become sober and vigilant. Being sober not only allows us to be keen to those things surrounding us but soberness makes us aware of what is about to transpire. If you abide in the Word of our Lord and walk in the Holy Ghost, then you

sense the presage of foreboding events filling the air. Calamity and severe destruction is even at the doors of America.

Sadly, today there are very few watchmen on the wall crying aloud and sparing not. The church today is only producing diminutive “Christianlings” from listening to the many sermonettes. Most sermons today are placebo sermons having no efficacy in dealing with the souls and spirits of men.

We must quit playing mind games with worthless, trifling, powerless sermons that are feckless and inept. We need to start dealing with the many who are deceived and led astray because *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give (reward) every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings”* (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

Lamentably, there are far too many deceitful, wicked hearts throughout the land. So many today are at ease in Zion, but most cannot discern the hour because they are neither sober nor vigilant.

Old-fashioned repentance is the only thing that will avert divine judgment. Repentance is demanded by God and not some worthless, anemic choice: *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing (revival) shall come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19). However, very few are truly preaching repentance because they are afraid they might offend someone. Whatever and whenever we compromise to gain, ultimately, we will certainly lose.

This is an hour for straightforwardness with no room for error and compromise. It is time to stand and wield the sword of our Lord and decree His Word without fear or favor.

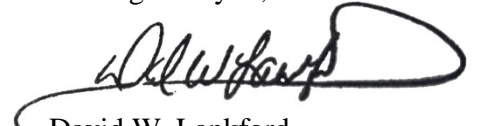
I implore you, as you read this

newsletter, to please partner with us in agreement that an old-fashioned Holy Ghost revival breaks forth across our nation. You were born in America and you were born for a time such as this. Though our citizenship is in Heaven, we must work for our Lord while it is day for, as our Lord said, *“the night cometh, when no man can work!”* (John 9:4) We are still the salt and the light in this present world.

As I write this newsletter, the Presidential election has not taken place. I must be very candid and pointed here: our nation is terribly divided and Satan wants civil unrest, chaos, and destruction. I encourage you to get all the temporal supplies you need to get you through the tempest until the unrest comes to a halt for *“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished”* (Proverbs 27:12). Those who are unprepared will not suffer corporal punishment but rather will suffer needlessly because they failed to prepare for the impending evil.

Thank you so very much for your love and support for us here at *The Voice of Evangelism*. We will give an update as soon as possible concerning the DVDs from our revival meeting in Hickory, North Carolina. I earnestly implore and beseech you to please pray and vote for our nation. We are going to need the help of the Chief Shepherd as never before. We know and trust He is eternally faithful.

Serving with you,



David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist