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Today's Scripture text says, "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit (unclean demons), and a cage of every unclean and hateful (detested) bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have commit-ted fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich (have become rich) through the abundance of her delicacies (luxuries)" (Revelation 18:2-3).

Needless to say, the world is becoming more dangerous and treacherous by the day. Recently, we witnessed Israel launch a full-scale onslaught of sorties against Iran. America joined in the bombings, using our B-2 bombers and 30,000-pound bunker-busting bombs. Most of us were expecting greater retaliatory repercussion from Iran, but it has yet to materialize. I believe there is more to this than meets the eye.

It is evident President Trump desires to increase the participants in the Abraham Accords. We could be entering a time just prior to the revelation of the Antichrist. Since the days of President Jimmy Carter, all U.S. presidents have sought to bring peace to the Middle East. We may very well be entering a time when you may begin to hear repeatedly the phrase, "peace and safety".

On September 13, 1993, on the White House lawn, Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat signed a treaty called, "The Peace and Security Agreement". You may recall, President Bill Clinton stood behind

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both men as they shook hands, agreeing to their purported peace agreement or covenant. When Bill Clinton stood behind both men, he had his arms around both men demonstrating he was confirming their covenant or peace agreement.

We witnessed that day a foreshadow of *Daniel 9:27: "And he* (the Antichrist) shall confirm (strengthen) the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" (Daniel 9:27).

Some prophecy teachers misrepresented the truth about the Antichrist regarding this particular passage of Scripture. They claim the Antichrist will make a peace treaty with Israel, but that is not accurate. The Scriptures declare He will only *confirm* or *strengthen* the covenant between Israel and what I believe to be Islamic nations. *Confirming* is a secondary or supportive action of something already existing or that has taken place.

After Rabin and Arafat signed the treaty, their handshake was a mere *confirmation*. The treaty had already been signed. Bill Clinton was also simply *confirming* it. That was nearly 32 years ago.

Some people believed that was the final seven years according to Daniel's prophecy of 70 weeks (see Daniel 9:25-27). I can understand how they came to that conclusion because the treaty was signed in September

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1993, the fall of the year. Adding 3½ years would place the Great Tribulation beginning on the Temple Mount in the spring of the year during Passover. What better time than Passover for the Antichrist to desecrate the Temple of God and declare himself to be the Messiah.

Jesus spoke of this event: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)" (Matthew 24:15).

For the past 31 years, I have believed the Great Tribulation will begin at the Temple Mount during Passover, which is in the spring of the year, in March or April. Adding the remaining 3½ years of Daniel's prophecy, the Great Tribulation would end in the fall of the year, in September or October, with Christ's Second Advent following, fulfilling the Feast of Trumpets and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Obviously, that never happened, as some expected, after the signing of the 1993 agreement. Notwithstanding, that mindset made a lot of sense because, according to the Gregorian calendar, this seven-year peace treaty would have brought us nearly to the end of the year 2000. This all seemed very reasonable because we would have entered a new millennium at the beginning of the year 2000.

Many Bible scholars believe America, for the most part, has been deemed insignificant, having little or no role in end-time Bible prophecy. However, I believe America fits the bill as modern-day Babylon because we are such an arrogant, bigoted,

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self-righteous nation.

We've allowed every pagan God to be brought into this nation by foreigners, we are a nation that sits upon many waters, and we do not believe God would ever judge America in righteousness.

America has fornicated with most nations and governments around the world. We are the only nation that has caused other nations to prosper so greatly by what they sell us. We are also known for our trafficking of the souls of men and, lastly, we have the greatest trade deficit of any nation in the world. You will find all these prophecies in Revelation Chapter 18.

I remember 9-11, as onlookers took photos from the other side of the Hudson River, as the Twin Towers came down in billowing flames and smoke. There were some who thought that event was the fulfillment of this prophetic verse: "And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!" (Revelation 18:18).

America believes she is impervious and will never suffer any loss whatsoever. The truth is, we are ripe for judgment due to the multitudinous, flagrant, and arrogant sins. In spite of our national sins and wickedness, the modern church hardly cries aloud against these sins or calls for national repentance.

I don't understand those who profess to be God's servants yet never say one word about the sins of America. Washington, D.C. has become so evil and corrupt it has become a stench to God Almighty.

The King of glory will not continue to overlook the sin, immorality, debasedness, and debauchery flooding this nation. It is sickening what we tolerate in America today. The filth allowed in our nation's pulpits has become so despicable it defies description. Demonic activity is flourishing because the church no longer desires the Holy Ghost to have preeminence.

I came to understand some years ago, when a church is full of the Holy Ghost, you will witness godly repentance along with sinners coming to the saving grace and knowledge of Christ. Because there is no evidence of the Holy Ghost in most churches today, you do not witness the salvation of souls. Any church operating without the Holy Ghost is merely, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Timothy 3:5).

If a church will not allow the Holy Ghost to have preeminence in their services, then they are bound by the chains of demonic spirits. The apostle Paul declared: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom)" (2 Corinthians 3:17).

If there is no liberty or freedom within your church, coupled with a manifestation of the Holy Ghost, then your church is dead and twice plucked up by the roots. When there is a loss of the Holy Ghost anointing within a church, then demonic spirits will fill that void or emptiness.

Years ago, Satan began filling churches with spirits of compromise and complacency. We have lost the Holy Ghost and fire; there is no anointing that only He can bring into the worship services and ministries. It is the presence of the living God that makes a church viable, fruitful, and productive, with souls being birthed into God's kingdom.

People indulge in the world on Friday and Saturday nights, then Sunday go to God's house and sing Amazing Grace when they know nothing about God's grace. Listen closely to this prophetic utterance by the apostle Paul: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12).

The apostle Paul is adamant that the grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness, worldly lust, drunkenness or getting high. It also teaches us to live a righteous life, one of godliness in this present hour. I'm amazed at the accuracy and commandment in this one phrase: in this present world.

No matter where one is in life, or in which dispensation of time one abides; the Scriptures declare we must live godly and righteously *in this present world*.

Too often I hear this is a different generation; thus, we need different methods to reach the lost. No one will ever reach the lost without the power of the Holy Ghost to convince and convict men of their sins and then lead them to repentance.

Once your spirit leaves your body, you're dead! Once the Holy Ghost leaves any church, that church is dead! We are living in an hour that demands godliness and holiness.

As we navigate these prophetic times, we are grateful and thankful for your love and support for this ministry. You have been so kind, faithful, and generous in helping us each month to carry out the Word of our Lord. We are greatly humbled and blessed that you help us.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

Please keep **September 26-28**, **2025**, open for our **Revival Meeting** in **Hickory**, **North Carolina**.

Bishop Jimmy Smith, Dr. Tim Hill, and I will be ministering the Word of our Lord during three services on Friday, three on Saturday, and one on Sunday morning. We are excited about what God is going to do and want you to be a part of it.

Until next month, please remain strong and enduring. We all need courage as we get closer to the end.

Serving with you,

David W. Lankford Pastor / Evangelist