

# Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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## Who Is There Among You...?

**W**ho is there among you . . . who will be a Daniel? . . . Who will be one of the three Hebrew Children? . . . Who will face the enemy on behalf of God's people?

The nation served the true, living god Almighty. God's favor was on the nation; He blessed, protected, and fought for His people. Many times His people drifted away from Him, but when they repented and returned to Him, He forgave their sins. They became lax in prayer and worship, in serving God; some married those of other nations. Soon it was accepted by society; after all, they could be tolerant of different religions – could they not? Soon it seemed right to join in the idol worship with the heathen; it felt comfortable. Their prophets spoke of the good life, not of such disturbing subjects as sin. Little by little God's people forgot Him, became steeped in the sins of the heathen, refused to listen to God's prophets calling them to repentance; they had their own prophets who told them what they wanted to hear and fed them farther from God in Christ Jesus. **Sound familiar?** Satan already had set up a stronghold in their country. He had used deception (Mt 24.11), disguising himself as a messenger from the Lord Jesus (II Cor 11.13-15), bringing an easy, comfortable lifestyle. They thought, "Sure something that good and that widely accepted must be right." **Sound familiar?**

God was merciful for hundreds of years, but Israel remained steeped in sin and idolatry. They did not honor nor obey God; they lived unto themselves doing whatever please them, accepting the false gods of the heathen. Finally, there was no remedy but judgment. God allowed the Babylonians to conquer Judah, devastate their country, and take them into bondage where, for seventy years, they suffered God's judgment pronounced on them through the prophets (Jer 22). They had waited too long to repent and avert God's judgment; they had to serve their seventy years (II Chr 36.14-21; Jer 25.11-13).

Their city was destroyed, their place of worship, their temple, was burned and reduced to ruins. Now they lived in a strange land, the territory of the enemy who knew not the God of Israel, the true and living God.

**Who is there among you** who will be a Daniel and face the lions – or a Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego and face the fiery furnace? What about the apostles who boldly preached the truth laying their lives on the line for the Lord Jesus Christ? Will you be one of them? There have been many through the years, and even now, who love Jesus Christ more than life itself.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (Rev 12.11).

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**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

The seventy years were now completed (Ezra 1.1). No doubt many of them had become complacent, having bonded with the enemy, settled in the ways of the heathen and satisfied with their godless lifestyles.

But God! God has always had a people; He had a remnant who were faithful to Him during those years of bondage and were longing for restoration (among them Daniel and the three Hebrew children, Dan 1). Now it was time to fulfil His promise to restore them, time in God's plans for the Holy Spirit to start stirring His people, calling them to return to the Lord (Ezra 1.3).

God through King Cyrus called His people to face a challenge beyond their natural ability – to enter into the enemy's stronghold and reclaim their inheritance taken away by the enemy. It would not be easy. They would have

To rebuild their place of worship, build houses to dwell in and the wall of defense around the city – this monumental task to be done while facing strong opposition, persecution, by the surrounding enemies. They did not have the strength, only complete reliance on God would enable them to succeed. Not all the Israelites had the courage to meet this challenge, that of putting total trust in God. But some were willing and were stirred in their spirits (Hag 1.14).

The decree(the command, if you will) from the Persian King Cyrus was,

Who *[is there]* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *[is]* in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he *[is]* the God,) which *[is]* in Jerusalem (Ezra 1.3).

What the Israelites faced, we face today. We need to reclaim the inheritance taken from us by the enemy in this country, and **IT WILL NOT** be easy! Satan has entered our territory and attacked us – those who love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. God's people have become lax and have drifted from their close relationship with Jesus. They have intermingled with different religions. We have been taught to be tolerant, after all, "Can we not worship alongside them?" No! We have polluted God's temple by setting our thresholds beside His thresholds (Ezra 43.8).

Church programs look so good, but are so counterfeit, so empty of the presence of the Lord Jesus. We have allowed Satan to bring his destructive forces and set up strongholds in our country (II Cor 10.4). Yes, we have allowed it. Satan has made one small change at a time while we, as the body of Christ, have failed to rise up and stand together against him. When walking with Satan, you cannot see him coming.

We must not wait until we see the majority Christians take a stand together; that will never happen – unless we, individually, and alone, if necessary, begin to seek the Lord and commit ourselves totally to our Lord Jesus and the work of His Kingdom, laying our lives on the line for Him. It begins with each of us, one at a time. And, women, you who know Jesus as

Lord and Savior, do not think you are exempt – as the Lord Jesus also calls you (Deborah, Huldah, Phoebe, Priscilla . . .)

God always raised up those men and women who spoke, "Thus saith the Lord," who stood before His people with the Truth, who loved God so much that they "loved not their lives unto the death."

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (Rev 12.10, 11).

As we see the work of Satan in this country and his attack on God's temple, the body of Christ, let us hear the call of the Holy Spirit, "**Who is there among you of all His people . . .?**"

The Holy Spirit is stirring His people to return to true worship of the living God, to rebuild, to re-establish worship and our relationship with our God, to stand strong against the work of the enemy.

Saints, you know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and you serve the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the living God (Jer 10.10; Mt 22.32); you make up the body of Christ. You – **we** – must support each other with intercessory prayer and encouragement. We must love one another. Not one of us can conquer the enemy alone; we each need strength from the body of Christ. If we know and serve Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, we must come together to edify one another and stand strong – together – to face the enemy: Satan!

**Who is there among YOU who will** sense the stirring in your spirit, know the hunger that burns in your soul to come into oneness with the Lord and the work of His kingdom? **Who is there among YOU who will** dare to face the enemy in the strongholds that he has set up in our country, in our families, in our churches – dare to rebuild that which he has destroyed, has burned with the fire of his fury? Yes, Satan's fury, he knows his time is short and has come against God's people with all his forces.

**IT WILL NOT** be easy! We are in the last days. Who is there among you who will fall on your face and cry out to the living God for forgiveness and mercy on this nation? Who will labor in intercession for your brothers and sisters, the body of Christ, until you see others being stirred by the Holy Spirit? Who will speak "**Thus saith the Lord . . .**", declaring the Truth of His Word?

Who is there among you of all His people?