

WHY IS SUCH A SHAKING GOING ON?



Isaiah 13:13 *Therefore I will shake the heavens and the earth shall remove out of its place in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of His fierce anger.*

The present crisis we are experiencing is really not about the guilt or innocence of the Presiding Bishop or the credibility of the accusers. Speaking prophetically, this crisis is about whether we are going to risk profaning the name of God throughout the global village by foolish choices as the largest Classical Holiness-Pentecostal body in the world. Heretofore we were revered by ecumenical and cross denominational enclaves. Unfortunately we are losing our voice due to posturing and infighting over worthless positions and plain idolatry within our ranks. Where are the spiritual Fathers and Mothers who were founts of wisdom, mother wit and plain common sense? Why are we listening to card-carrying, money seeking false prophetic clowns who are merely saying what we want to hear? It has become a fad to call oneself a prophet in our current religious environment. Pastors why are you having a feeding frenzy with this kind of foolishness in your church? Why are you looking for another religious “fix”? Can you imagine Isaiah, Elijah, Ezekiel or Amos being invited to a modern day Prophetic Conference? They would have been averse to a gathering of so-called prophets renting a fancy upscale hotel simply to falsify the truth to each other about their present and future situation. God forbid that we as a church fall victim to this kind of gamesmanship, deception and veiled witchcraft. When are we going to stop playing with God?

Authentic prophets (nabi) saw as God saw and they alone were prepared to declare the whole counsel of God. **Amos 3: 7** *“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.”* For

counsel we are invited to listen to Ezekiel for admonition and warning in **Ezekiel 36:22- “Therefore say to the house of Israel, thus says the Lord God: IT IS NOT FOR MY SAKE, OH HOUSE OF ISRAEL, THAT I AM ABOUT TO ACT, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF MY HOLY NAME, WHICH YOU HAVE PROFANED AMONG THE NATIONS, AND WHICH YOU HAVE PROFANED AMONG THEM. I WILL VINDICATE THE HOLINESS OF MY GREAT NAME.**

Walter Bruggeman, retired professor of Old Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, remarks “*that this is one of the most dangerous and stunning texts in the bible.*” Is it not interesting that our founding Chief Apostle, Bishop C.H. Mason (COGIC) often preached that “*God swore by His holiness.*” Bishop O.T. Jones, Jr. would often say, “*Holiness is not a denomination, but rather a way of life found in Scripture.*” Holiness is the very character of God that allows His reputation to hitch a ride on His very essential Being. Holiness is derived from God’s very nature. While holiness deals with God’s character, it is not an ethical term, it is theological.

Ezekiel is addressing an errant Israel in Babylonian captivity. In exile there are restraints and limitation on one’s freedom. It is possible for a denomination to end up similarly in captivity. You are in captivity when money and sexual scandals abound; you are in captivity when programs and plans are constantly in a failure mode; You are in captivity when everything is for sale, including positions; you are in captivity when people are treated like things and objects; you are in captivity when conferences and events are no more than fund raisers; you are in captivity when bishops are not held to the highest standards of accountability for heinous violations, while people of lesser rank are treated like dirt; you are in captivity when holiness is symbolic and mentioned only in the past tense, (what God did in the past) but dishonored in the present; when God’s name is profaned and made a laughingstock before the world, you can be sure God will protect His name, even at our expense. ***Because of the holiness of God, God will protect God; “God is not for us as much as God is for God’s self. God refuses to stay where God is not honored.”***

David the great King of Israel , a man after God’s heart committed adultery and planned the murder of Uriah. God sent Nathan the prophet and confronted him with a “*thou art the man* “ message. A careful reading of the narrative reveals that it was not adultery and planned murder that warranted the wrath of God. God could have encountered David in private and resolved those issues. The fundamental problem for God was that the combined acts committed by David “*gave the enemies of the Lord an occasion to blaspheme His name.*” There are issues that will prompt the absence of God because God cannot be mocked. When a well known pastor from Dallas tells the world that we can (co-exist with homosexuality) in an immorally volatile climate, it is profaning God’s name. When we through our ideological commitments assign

our deepest loyalties to our own vested interests, it is idolatry of the highest order and competes with the honor due God. God can easily leave our well planned conferences almost unnoticed when there is a mismatch between what we espouse and the behavior we are displaying. Regime politics and gestapo tactics of attempting to silence anyone for holding leadership accountable is a bad chapter from the past and has no place in the church. Our **First Amendment Rights** and freedom of speech must be protected. Whether you dislike the message or hate the messenger, it is the right and godly thing to stand up for one's right to speak.

In **Isaiah 13:13** God announces that he is going to **“shake the heavens and the earth.”** Carefully listen to the Presidential debates and you will readily conclude that *“a lot of shaking is going on.”* The world order is threaten by imminent war. With conviction I believe that Armageddon has come to the Church. More scandals will emerge, worse than what we have seen. The shake up is imminent. Tension and infighting has reached its apex. I am taking the liberty to caution everyone writing character reference letters of support, to consider joining several of us before sunrise to pray for our Zion. **“If my people who are called by my Name will humble themselves and pray...” II Chronicles 7:14 ff.** The God of wrath and mercy will not read character references...but He will answer prayer should we return to holiness. Should you continue to profane God's name through abuse and misuse of power by deceptive practices, God will protect God by removing any one of us without a vote from the General Assembly or any other committee. A woman from the West Coast told me about a dream where Bishop CH Mason was seen standing on a hill as though he was looking in the far distance. Someone approached him and asked, *“Bishop what are you looking for?”* Bishop Mason's reply was very caustic and candid...*“I am looking for my Church.”* Oh by the way, I am looking hard for anyone who is willing to write a letter referencing the character of God and the true purpose of His Church.

Notes: See Walter Brueggeman, ***Hopeful Imagination: Prophetic Voices in Exile***, this small volume was helpful in stimulating the prophetic witness in my soul and providing invaluable insights in shaping a portion of this brief narrative. The Holy Spirit has persistently persuaded me parallel to our holiness forbears to be vigilant and stand up for holiness.

Diligently follow me on www.theagora.net *“Where truth is spoken and never compromised.”*

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