

## Gathering of the Prophets

By: Bishop Kenneth Sims

*And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Romans 13:11* The enemy has lulled many believers to sleep. There is very little interest in prayer. Sound truth is being aborted. Even in the body of Christ, there is a love of pleasures more than a love of God.

I heard the sound of an angelic trumpeter saying, **“It is high time to awake out of sleep. The night is far spent. The day is at hand. Let us, therefore, cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light.”**

In the second chapter of Nahum, verse one, the prophet was telling the people of God to prepare for the siege of the enemy. *He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily. Nahum 2:1*

The Hebrew word for munition is met-oo-raw’, which means fort, rampart of protection, fenced city. Then he says to them that they should watch the way. In other words, don’t be caught off guard. Make thy loins strong or be girded with truth. **Ephesians 6:14** states, *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.* Finally he tells them to fortify thy power mightily. He is saying to inspect your equipment! Check it out! Make sure that it is in good working order and go over it again. If our weapons jam in battle, we’re in trouble.

As I listened to the Holy Spirit, he said these words to me: “It is time to gather the prophets.” Then he said these words recorded in Amos 3:7, *“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”* Prophetic truth came by prophets of God in the Old Testament.

**2 Peter 1:21** declares, *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* God still speaks by the voice of the prophets, but many of the prophets of God have moved away from God. Some have sold out to the world. We need to come back to God so that he can reveal his secrets to us. The perfecting of the saints has suffered greatly due to a lack of purity in the leadership of the church.

Prophets were also known as seers. They saw things coming upon the people of God and gave warning. It was important for them to separate themselves unto the service of the Father. They were consecrated unto Him. They were able to advise kings. Remember when the Syrian king in 2 Kings the sixth chapter planned to ambush the king of Israel and Elisha informed him of it? The king of Syria thought that someone in his kingdom was conspiring against him; but it was the Spirit of God on Elisha, the seer, providing Israel’s king with the intelligence.

God wants us to know what’s going on in the realm of spiritual matters. For so long, it seems as if the prophetic office has been closed or become irrelevant. We are in the last days. We need to hear the voice of the prophets of God. The word says in **I Corinthians 12:28** that God has set or placed prophets in the church. *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles,*

*secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

The prophet has undergone much scrutiny and has been looked upon as doomsayers. Jesus said in **Mark 6:4**, “A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.” Having said that, it’s urgent that the prophets of God place their faces between their knees and begin to speak forth the word of God like Elijah did in **I Kings 18:42-46**. *So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,*

*And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.*

*And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down that the rain stop thee not.*

*And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.*

*And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*

We need fresh revelation from God. The church is built upon the revelation of God. Jesus said to Peter in **Matthew 16:13-19** that he would build his church upon the revelation that Peter spoke concerning who He was. *When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*

*And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*

*He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

*And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

*And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

When Elisha's servant, in **2 Kings 6**, could not see the mountain compassed about with horses and chariots of fire, Elisha prayed that God would open his eyes. *And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*

Our eyes must be opened to what satan is doing so that we can be warned against his tactics. Prophets are not relics of the past. They are vital instruments to the church. *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand. Joel 2:1* This was to warn against coming invaders, an organized foe – so disciplined that as they moved forward not one rank was broken. God wanted his prophet, Joel, to alert the people of God for battle. Battles in the supernatural often go unnoticed because the prophets have fallen asleep. When the true prophets of God come, they will bring a message of clarity - none of this mumbo, jumbo stuff. You can mark them at their word. **Prophets have been given jurisdictional authority** in the church. In Jeremiah chapter one, he was given territorial grids. These grids covered kingdoms and nations. His job was **to root out, to pull down, to destroy, to throw down, to build and to plant**. When one prophet came within the grid of another, they conferred with each other. **1 Corinthians 14:***Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.*

*If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.*

*For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.*

*And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

Paul, the apostle, was setting some things straight in the church. There were prophets present. He told them that they should respect each others' gifts and speak by order so as not to cause confusion in the church. Prophets are not to compete with each other. Their purpose is to confirm the word of God. Clearly, there must be total surrender to Jesus.

In **Psalms 51:6** David says, *“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”*

When our lives are marked by purity, the wisdom of God can then flow from us into the body of Christ. As joints of the body, prophets are to supply a measure of strength to the church. Remember also that when our ways do not please the Father, He sends prophets to show us what changes need to be made in our lives – not to condemn us; but to keep us from the condemnation of the enemy. So thank God for the prophetic gift. Every person in the body of Christ should be aligned with a local prophetic voice through a local church and a local pastor. Sometimes prophets are geographically located in other towns, states, even countries who speak to churches miles away. **2 Kings 4:8-10** says, *Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And she said to her husband, “Look now, I*

*know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there.*

The word of the Lord says in **1 Thessalonians 5:12** that we should know them who labor among us, who are over us in the Lord and admonish us. **By: Bishop Kenneth Sims**

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### **How to Develop a Relationship with God By Evangelist Patrick Sims**

The Bible declares that the natural man cannot comprehend the things of God. Therefore, in order for us to develop a relationship with our creator, we have to:

- 1) **First be saved. Romans 10:9-10***That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- 2) *And have the indwelling Spirit who leads and guides into all truth.* **John 16:13**
- 3) Make a **commitment to study** God's word to show yourself approved of God.  
**2 Timothy 2:15**

**Commit** – dedicated to a long-term course of action.

**Joshua 1:7-8**, *Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

**Meditate** – think on it. Anything that you think on long enough, you will ultimately do. Meditate implies taking your time. It can be likened to a cow chewing the cud. He chews. His mouth and jaws rock back and forth until the substance is ground up enough to swallow.

Remember the hog and the chicken. One was involved – the other committed. The chicken was an egg donor – only involved; but the hog sacrificed his life for somebody else to have breakfast - life. Jesus sacrificed His life for the world to have everlasting life. Sell out to Jesus. He laid his life down for you. Now you must lay your life down for him.

4) Be willing to **obey** His word. **Deuteronomy 8:3** and **Matthew 4:4**, *Jesus answered, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

**Exodus 16:4**, *Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." Israel gathered manna daily.*

Manna is bread – angel food if you will. The word of God is bread (food) for our spirit man. Many people eat a full course meal three times per day, plus in-between snacks. If one fails to eat on a consistent basis, he/she will surely die. Therefore, we as born-again believers, must on a daily basis eat (meditate on) the scriptures. Search the scriptures daily as was done by new born Christians of Bere'a. *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 17:11*

We must know for ourselves what the scriptures say, what it means and how we must apply it to our lives. We must *be doers of the word and not hearers only* as stated in **James 1:22**.

Most are acquainted with God; but he wants us to develop a relationship with him after we are introduced to him at the point of salvation. There is a great difference in being acquainted with someone and knowing someone. Knowing about the Lord and knowing the Lord is not the same thing either.

**Acquainted** – familiar with, but not intimately; aware of; (I say, “introduced to.”)

Once we have been introduced, we can say that we are acquainted with each other. If we don't nurture that acquaintance, it will never grow into a relationship. The acquaintance will eventually fade into just a memory of someone you knew of or someone you met once.

**Know** – intimately acquainted with; resulting from careful study or investigation. (Your purpose to learn.) **Daniel 11:32b** *but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*

**Intimate** – most private or personal

**Understand** – to know thoroughly; comprehend; the power or ability to think, learn

In natural relationships, the more time you spend with that person, the better you get to know and **understand** that person. The same is true of our supernatural relationship with God. The more time we spend with him, the more like him we become.

**Proverbs 9:10** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy One is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.*

**2 Timothy 2:15** *Study to shew thyself **approved** unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* God cannot approve us for the work of the ministry until we get to know Him – until we get to know His Word.

**Study** – make an effort; labor; work. Get out your Bibles, dictionaries, commentaries, expositives, concordances, etcetera. Reading only - is not studying. Study to know and be **approved** of God. Don't study to show others how much you know. Study to be equipped for ministry to the world. Study so that you can pass the individual tests that are coming to you. When you know what's on the test, you can pass the test. When you fail to study, you fail. Failure to plan is planning to fail.

**Approved** – **accepted, sanctioned** - implies both approval and **authorization**.

**Endorsed** – backed by a statement.

How do we know that Jesus was approved by God? First of all, because God said it. Secondly, because signs and wonders testified to the fact – miracles, healings, and signs followed Him – as they should us.

God sanctioned and endorsed Jesus when He said, “*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*” **Matthew 3:17b** Notice that Jesus was approved by God the Father prior to His ministry starting – immediately after his baptism, the Father said, “*I am well pleased.*”

Jesus was empowered. *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* **Matthew 28:18**

**Power** – the force or strength backed by authority; ability to produce.

**Acts 2:22** *You men of Israel, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man accredited and pointed out and shown forth and commended and attested to you by God by the mighty works and [the power of performing] wonders and signs which God worked through Him [right] in your midst, as you yourselves know—*

**Authority** – power delegated or given to act on behalf of another, given a right to act; the right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action, or make final decisions.

How do we know that we are approved? Just as **Jesus was approved of God, He places his approval on us. We refer to the Great Commission being Matthew 28:18-20 which states, Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** So we know by the word of God. He commissions us and sends us with signs following and testifying of that approval.

**Mark 16:20** *And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

The idea is to seek the approval of God, not the approval of men. We should have a fervent yearning to hear the Lord say, "Well done, **good and faithful servant**; you were **faithful** over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. **Matthew 25:21**

How do we get to know Jesus? It's simple really. Think about how you've gotten to know anyone in your life. You had to spend time with them. The more time you spent with your new friend, the more you learned about them and the closer you became. By the same token, once we are introduced to Jesus (at the moment of salvation) we have to spend time with Him in order to develop a strong relationship.

Determine within yourself to get to know God more intimately today through prayer, study of His Word, obedience, meditation, praise, worship, fasting, and commitment. \*\*\*\*\*



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**TESTIMONY:** Several young people dedicated their lives to the service of the Lord this month in one of our evangelistic meetings. We know that the angels rejoiced along with us.

### **CAN YOU FIND THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

I ONCE MADE A REMARK ABOUT THE HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. IT WAS A LULU. KEPT PEOPLE LOOKING SO HARD FOR FACTS, AND FOR OTHERS, IT WAS A REVELATION. SOME WERE IN A JAM. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NAME OF THE BOOKS WERE NOT CAPITALIZED. BUT THE TRUTH FINALLY STRUCK HOME TO NUMBERS OF READERS. TO OTHERS, IT WAS A REAL JOB. WE WANT IT TO BE A MOST FASCINATING FEW MOMENTS FOR YOU. YES, THERE WILL BE SOME REALLY EASY ONES TO SPOT. OTHERS MAY REQUIRE JUDGES TO HELP THEM. I WILL QUICKLY ADMIT IT USUALLY TAKES A MINISTER TO FIND ONE OF THEM, AND THERE WILL BE LOUD LAMENTATIONS WHEN IT IS FOUND! A LITTLE LADY SAYS SHE BREWS A CUP OF TEA, SO SHE CAN CONCENTRATE BETTER. SEE HOW WELL YOU CAN COMPETE. RELAX NOW, FOR THERE REALLY ARE SIXTEEN NAMES OF BOOKS IN THE BIBLE IN THIS STORY.

(A PREACHER FOUND 15 BOOKS IN 20 MINUTES, BUT IT TOOK HIM 3 WEEKS TO FIND THE 16th ONE.)

### **LAUGHTER DOES GOOD LIKE A MEDICINE**

**DEATH-** While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5 year old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: "Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes." (TRUE STORY)

### **SALVATION**

If you don't know Jesus, there is no time like the present time.

**Romans 10:9-10** *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

**Pray God's word:** Father I believe in my heart that Jesus is Lord and I confess with my mouth that you raised Him from the dead for my trespasses and sins. Forgive me, Father for all my sins and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Thank you now for saving me in Jesus name. Amen!

The Manna Ministries Team appreciates every letter, email and phone call of support from our Covenant Intercessory Partners. It encourages us to hear your testimonies! We pray for your continued blessings: body, soul and spirit. We love you all very much. Til next quarter...