

# God's "Wake-Up" Call

In 'The Lord's Prayer' Jesus Christ taught us to start by thanking and praising God for all that He has done for us, but the very next thing He asks us to pray for, is the coming of His Kingdom, when at last God's will will be taught and brought about here on the earth, as it is in Heaven.

The question is, are we praying for God's Kingdom to come, but failing to carry out His End-Time instructions which, *according to His word*, must *precede* the Kingdom's arrival? It can be very hard for *us* to accept that *we* might actually have an active role to play which is specifically prophesied in the Bible!

For those of us who seek God's word, it is hard to miss the many warnings about the "latter days", eg. Jeremiah 23:16,20, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes." 'They speak **visions of their own minds**, not from **the mouth of the LORD.**' The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. **In the latter days you will understand it clearly.**' Not one of God's ministers can claim to be infallible and have all the Truth. We **all** make mistakes if we stray from the totality of God's word!

So, we must beware of those who have failed to bring the *whole* of God's word, but rather have built false scenarios of the End-Time on just *some* of the scriptures, which can prevent us from accepting God's very clear End Time instructions!

Instead, at this time, we should look to God's *plain words* and *commands* for this time, which have never been mentioned or included by the churches, quintessentially summed up in Jeremiah 31:6-7, and the rest of that vital chapter. 'For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon **the mount Ephraim** shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God. For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and **shout among the chief of the nations**: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, **save thy people, the remnant of Israel.**'

Now obviously this is yet future, but why have we not heard about this clear instruction from God in His churches, for this is required *prior* to the Millennium, but to be delivered *after* the fall of the US and UK, as these verses show. How could we have failed to recognise this as an instruction that we should acknowledge and begin to prepare for, as a required stage in God's Plan? Or is it that we just cannot accept that *we* are called upon by God to actually *act*, that what we have read about so often in God's word is not just something to pray about, but something to DO! Could it relate to the fact that all the major prophetic churches are now based in America, while **Ephraim** (Britain, though not all of her Commonwealth) has largely rejected God, and only a very few faithful watchmen still remain there?

Matthew 24:14, 'And this gospel of the kingdom **will be proclaimed throughout the whole world** as a testimony to all nations, and **then the end will come.**' This event will actually be fulfilled by an angel, (Revelation 14:6-7). *Then* takes place the fulfilment of God's instruction to His watchmen of Jeremiah 31:6-7, 'For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and **let us go up to Zion** unto the LORD our God. **For thus saith the LORD;** Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel,' *the planning of which* which must have occurred prior to its proclamation, soon to be followed by the fall of the US and Britain.

The broadcasting of that life preserving message of hope will be vital. For example, Isaiah 40:9-11, just part of that message, will take some of God's servants right out of their home comfort zone and the logistics of the proclamation of the message will take much previous planning and organisation....

You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"  
**See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,**  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.  
He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young. NIV.

...as will Isaiah 62:6-7, 'I have **posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;** they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give Him no rest **till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.**' NIV. We cannot deny this is about the End-Time!

As we will see, God says the lack of acceptance of these scriptures is because His watchmen "**have no understanding**", but *the preparation of these commands* nevertheless falls to us as *our End Time responsibility* to Israel and Judah. That omission has shown **how unwelcome these commands are**, just as God predicted in the prophetically dual book of Hosea, 9:7-8, '**The days of visitation have come; the days of recompense have come; Israel shall know it. The prophet [who brings God's commanded proclamation] is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and hatred [of God's plain command]. The prophet is the watchman of**

**Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.'**

This rejection of the watchmen of Ephraim's message has been a common experience among the prophets and watchmen of old called to carry forth God's word, and it has been witnessed by the *silent* response to this message delivered personally to some of the very few faithful ministers, and on the ozwitness website now to people, churches and nations around the world. Of course the Protestant churches teach a gospel, but it is message *about* Jesus Christ, rather than the message He brought, so there is little chance that *they* would ever deliver this Kingdom of God related instruction! Luke 4:43, "but he said to them, "I must preach the **good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.**" As are we!

Today, more than ever, it is not popular to speak *all* God's words, even, it seems, among God's people, Isaiah 30: 10, 'Which say to the seers, and to the prophets, **Prophesy not unto us right things, speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.**' The uncomfortable truth of some of God's words makes them unacceptable to our ears, but just as in days gone by, the Spirit of God moves His servants so that they cannot help but to repeat the instructions God has given; so even today we must speak His words without calculating the consequences to ourselves. 2 Timothy 4:3, 'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears And they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables.'

Let those who deny that these His words apply to us, remember Satan's deceptions and recognise that God has always released understanding according to the appropriate needs *of the time*. Daniel 12:9, 'And he said **Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**' Always there has been opposition to new truth exposed at the appropriate time, but who dares to say that any part of God's Truth is not essential to the believer?

Nevertheless, despite rejection, it is **vital that these words be taken once more** to God's servants because, were they to *remain* unacknowledged, the time will come when those same major nations, by then defeated and in slavery, will be *without* God's comfort and encouragement when only a small remnant remain, and even *they* in grave danger of perishing, without hope of deliverance, Isaiah 6:13, "If even a tenth—a remnant—survive, it will be invaded again and burned. But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down, so Israel's stump will be a holy seed." NLT. This catastrophic situation, when it comes about, will be regarded by God as blasphemy, as we will see, for He is the God of Israel and it is inconceivable that His key plans for Israel in His Kingdom could be defeated by *those asleep to His words!*

So, God will not allow His words to be ignored without consequences, Ephesians 5:6, 'Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the **wrath of God upon the children of disobedience**' (margin: unbelief). There is **No**

excuse for ignoring God's Commands because of deception, or lack of diligence, and so, in His patience, we find God devoting one more chapter to awaken His slumbering servants – Isaiah chapter 52.

Isaiah 52:1, '**Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength! Put on your garments of splendour, Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.**' The chapter begins with God's urgent cry to His slumbering Church. Even the brief notes in the King James version at the head of the chapter, or virtually any of the commentaries, all recognise Zion of the Old Testament as His Church in the New. The Church should clothe herself with the strength of her priestly garments **of God's word**, for here 'Jerusalem' is personified as *being* redeemed from captivity.

From Isaiah 40 to the end of the book we find God's prophesied message of comfort and love to a captive Israel, which is for us to apply at the time just before Christ's return for His Bride. Lets look again at Isaiah 40:9-11, and note that we must not be afraid of this seemingly difficult task, as some have been:

**'You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid.....**

**Are we so timid**, so unbelieving, **so lacking in love** and afraid to step out of our comfort zone in the accepted scenarios of men, that we will fail *to prepare* to do God's work because of our lack of faith? Look at our God given faithful examples in Hebrews 11, who were not afraid to step out in faith, some at the cost of their lives! Do we, without such faith, expect to receive the same reward?

Isaiah 52:7, '**How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."**' They are beautiful to God because *these* watchmen accept and obey His words, while others, who have also been invited to the marriage of God's Son, find excuses to decline [**compare Matthew 22:1-14**] to bring the good news to captive Israel: Isaiah 11:11, '**In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea**'. This is vital hope and life giving news to the then world-scattered and perishing Israel!

What has Israel gained by their rejection of God's Laws? Isaiah 52:3, '**For this is what the LORD says: "When I sold you into exile, I received no payment. Now I can redeem you without having to pay for you."**' Only future slavery in defeat, and captivity – They brought about their own bondage and for their liberation He will pay no ransom.

So, by Isaiah 52, God intends to provide the hope that the future remnant of Israel will so desperately need in order to survive their coming captivity, which God calls the source of blasphemy upon His Name, v5. Many will gain strength from His promises, for He will rescue them just as certainly as He did from Egypt and Assyria. These quoted instances in Isaiah 52 will show the captives that nothing can prevent Him from being able to deliver His people **from the captivity of the religious 'Babylon' of the latter days.** So the remnant will at last come to know their God! Isaiah 52:4-6,

“My people went down at first  
Into Egypt to dwell there;  
Then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.  
Now therefore, what have I here,” says the Lord,  
“That My people are taken away for nothing?  
Those who rule over them  
Make them wail,” says the Lord,  
“**And My name is blasphemed** continually every day.  
Therefore My people **shall know My name;**  
Therefore they shall know *in that day* That I am He who speaks: ‘Behold, it is I.’”

‘Babylon’, is that Satanic world system that rejects God’s Laws at the End-Time, as it has down the ages. Revelation 17 pictures a spiritual or religious form of Babylon which will partner with a 10 nation combine to become a great power and seek world domination at the End-Time. *That same evil system of oppression and depravity* is pictured in Revelation 18 by a great *commercial* power which has oppressed many people to enrich herself at the expense of others. That nation is Biblical Jacob, the US, and previously, the UK - Manasseh and Ephraim, the two leading tribes and now nations of Israel, chosen by God for a special role, but who have instead most clearly fulfilled those words above, and are already beginning to suffer God’s punishment.

All of us should be quite able to see by the order of events in Revelation 14:6-20, that commercial “Babylon” of *Rev.18* falls *early* in those last 7 years, v8, **before the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection**, vs 14-16, and **before** the Great Tribulation, v19, while the “religious Babylon” of *Rev. 17* falls **near the end** of the Great Tribulation, the last 3½ years (Rev.17:16). Have *you* placed your trust in a man or woman’s scenario, and so been deceived and **diverted** from this important truth?

At the moment, a spiritual slumber predicted by Jesus Christ has engulfed God’s Church, Matthew 25:5, ‘**The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**’ NIV. They are comfortably deceived, by versions of the End-Time which nowhere include these clear demands of God’s word which we have read. In Isaiah 52, God twice repeats His call that His servants, ‘**awake awake**’ to take on the role Isaiah 52 contains! Thus our Lord *still awaits* the fulfilment of His commands, and if we fail Him, He will raise up those who **will** respond, and **we** cannot expect their glorious reward!

The pilcrow marks, ‘¶’, in this chapter, as elsewhere, indicate where the King James editors believed a new paragraph should start, because, though the theme throughout is comfort to Israel, the different paragraphs present different aspects of its emancipation, and are not all smoothly consecutive. The first pilcrow mark, at Verses 7-8, **are the central message** of this important chapter;

**‘How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to [captive] Zion, “Your God reigns!” Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.’** NKJ version.

These watchmen are those who *do* awake and are faithful enough to carry out God’s instructions and *plan* to leave the ‘Babylon of Revelation 18’ if it unexpectedly becomes *their* responsibility, *after* the First Angel of Revelation 14’s message marks the start of God’s intervention. There will be no mistaking that miraculous future event. It signals the start of those last 7 years and is the sign to God’s watchmen to act! Revelation 18:4 is a general warning to God’s people to escape before God brings the US and UK down. **‘Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people,' so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues.** NIV. (We have an article, ‘What is Babylon’ on Page 1, ‘Articles’).

Of course the command we have seen in Jeremiah 31, Isaiah 40, Isaiah 52 and 62 etc. is not something we have to do more than *plan* for now, for we will be warned *when* to *proclaim* that departure by the miraculous fulfilment of Matthew 24:14, through the First Angel of Revelation 14:6-7, **‘Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth - to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."**’

This miraculous event, the final worldwide warning from God to repent, marks “the end” – the end of this age, and the start of God’s intervention and the seven years of Tribulation. (Cf. Daniel 9:27) At that point, the commercial ‘Babylon of Rev.18’, the rebellious nations known biblically as Jacob (Jeremiah 30:7) have not yet been invaded and enslaved. That fact enables God’s faithful servants in those nations, who *will have*, by then, fully prepared, and so are able to put their God given instructions into effect and leave ‘Babylon’ for Jerusalem, to organise the broadcast publishing of the **“Glad Tidings”** of Isaiah 52:7, Jeremiah 31:8, and Isaiah 40:9-11 etc. Within months, (for more detail see the time charts in the END- TIME series) the US and UK (‘Babylon Rev.18’) will fall, and as a result, world war will spread, prohibiting international travel, and the Israelite **“company of nations”**, (Genesis 35:11) will shortly follow them into captivity.

However, it is apparent from Daniel 11 that Judah, the land of 'Israel' in the Middle East, will not be fully invaded [compare Dan.11:23's token force, with verses 40-42] by "the Beast" or "King of the North" until "the midst of the week", Daniel 9:27, 11:23, 40-42. The faithful watchmen who reach Jerusalem will begin to broadcast God's message of comfort and encouragement to *captive* Israel, the vision of God's Kingdom needed to carry the captive remnant through the "tribulation of those days", the first 3½ years (Matthew 24:29), until the Two Witnesses take over, Revelation 11:3, "And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, [during the "Great Tribulation"] clothed in sackcloth."

Though today most of God's watchmen are sadly fast asleep to His words, following false End-Time scenarios which do not allow time for God's broadcast message of hope, we know that some of them *will* awake in time to carry out His commands, Isaiah 52:6 & 8, "Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is **I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.**" "Listen! **Your watchmen lift up their voices;** (as in verse 7, teaching the 'mysteries' of the Kingdom) **together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.**' (face to face).

Those who remained asleep will realise that they have been misled by man-made scenarios and their own lack of faith, and have neglected to obey God's plain words, Jeremiah 23:28, 'Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has **my word** speak it faithfully. For what has **straw** to do with **grain?**" declares the LORD.' They will only understand their folly when God brings the Great Tribulation upon them, Jeremiah 23:12, "Wherefore their ways shall be as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the Lord."

The next pilcrow mark links verses 9-10 and pictures for the captives the time of God's redemption of His people, so that even the ruins of Jerusalem would sing for joy if they could. 'Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.' As God's remnant people are gathered to Jerusalem from captivity, the world will see our Lord's miraculous powers revealed, despite the absolute chaos in which the nations of the world remain.

The final pilcrow mark is for verses 11-12, 'Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, **you who bear the vessels (spiritual armour) of the LORD.** For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.' These two verses return to the time just before 'Babylon of Rev.18', falls, see Revelation 14:6-8.

Let us recognise then, that Revelation 18:4 will reveal 2 separate groups. Those who obey God's commands and come out, and those who are so settled in 'Babylon, Rev. 18', in spiritual slumber, that **God's word is meaningless to them**, so that they will enter the Great Tribulation. Of course there will be the old and infirm who are *unable* to respond, despite their wishes, whom Christ will reserve for His marriage, but sadly, as we have seen, only a small fraction of Israel survive to become the remnant who enter God's Kingdom.

The vast majority of these sinful nations do not respond to God's command of Revelation 18:4-5, 'Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities."

The majority are like their *shepherds*, the majority of whom who will **not** respond to God's words in Jeremiah 50:28, "A voice! They flee and escape from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his temple." When? Before verse 33 occurs, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah with them. All who took them captive have held them fast; they refuse to let them go." Israel and Judah have never yet been oppressed together, though they will be during the last 3½ years of the Great Tribulation!

Those who **do** obey, on the other hand, are warned in Isaiah 52:11-12, to purify themselves, for they are to wear the whole armour of God in their holy mission (Ephesians 6:11). They need not rush, for they have prepared for this, and God will go with them and protect them, as Isaiah shows. In fact, we don't need to agree on the prophetic details of the End-Time to recognise that God **commands** this message of the Kingdom of God to be proclaimed *in order to preserve the remnant of Israel*. **We cannot use our prophetic** disagreements as an excuse to ignore the importance of God's clear, life saving commands, when in fact we all agree about the Kingdom!

This then, has been the message of Isaiah 52. This is not a small matter, for one or two ministers, or any one church. It is complex and will need the combined efforts of *the faithful* within the Churches of God, especially the wealthy larger fragments of the Church of God, with much humility, co-operation and preparation. It is, I think, our greatest challenge, and our *final* test, 1 Corinthians 3:13, 'Every mans work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.'

We who hope to be in God's Kingdom, and marry Jesus Christ on the Sea of Glass, cannot afford to shirk from or dismiss those verses, for our God is a Great God who does not lightly forgive his servants who delay or neglect to carry out his instructions, cf. 1 Samuel 15:26. But the process has to start with the few of God's faithful people who *will* listen and *hear* the watchmen of Jeremiah 31:6-12!

God does not mince His words about His End-Time watchmen who *are* asleep, and puts their dismissal of HIS WORD bluntly, in Isaiah 56: 10-11, ‘His watchmen are blind; they are all without knowledge; they are all silent dogs; they cannot bark, dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber. The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds **who have no understanding**; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all.’

We have read God’s command to “Awake”, and we have read just some of the “good tidings” which will then be so desperately needed and proclaimed, so, *if* it falls to us as God’s servants, for we know not when the First Angel of Revelation 14 will fly, will we *have planned and prepared* and then shortly after the first angel’s miraculous message, be found *proclaiming* that message of hope from Jerusalem, or be *receiving* it, in slavery and captivity?

Those leaders who have claimed to know God’s will, but never mentioned His End-Time commands need to repent and make the moves to bring this delay to an end. It will take love, humility and co-operation, as well as financial and logistical resources which they alone possess to carry out those commands, but ALL God’s servants, even those without such resources who have failed to proclaim those commands, also need to repent and dedicate themselves to doing whatever they can to correct their failure, even if at this stage it is just by spreading God’s commands widely, by forwarding God’s words in this article to as many as possible! But will they have the humility to hear God’s words?

None of us want to be counted as the hypocrites who figure in God’s words in red above, or His servants about whom He said, “The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy”, Matthew 22:8.

In conclusion, we can now see why the only group of God’s people He mentions during the End Time time (Matthew 24:16-20,) are those who flee from Jerusalem after preaching the Kingdom of God to captive Israel, into God’s protection and nourishment for the duration of the Great Tribulation!

Take courage, my brethren, it is not too late to remedy this failure. It is my prayer and hope that when Jesus Christ returns, we will have earned the words, ‘His lord said unto him, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord”’. Matthew 25:21.

May God bless you and keep you safe in these dangerous days. With love in Jesus Christ’s Name, Gerald Kirby, ozwitness.net

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