

Messengers of Reformation

I. UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

- A. We are living in a new season of time where God is raising up a new generation of revivalists and reformers to make a mark on History for His purposes. The Bible speaks of those who are touched by God and who are carriers of God's anointing for specific seasons of time.

"Of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..." (1 Chr. 12:32).

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him..." (2 Chr. 16:9)

- B. We were in Orlando this weekend for the Onething Conference and I was once again reminded about how important the days we live in are. It is important that we "seize the moment". There are 2 definitions of time: "Kairos" – The right, critical opportune moment, vs. "chronos" – the normal passing of time.

- C. ***Unique dynamics***: The generation of Jesus' return will have unique dynamics—unprecedented pressures (darkness) along with an unprecedented *outpouring of the Spirit* and revival.

²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isa. 60:2)

¹⁷"...in the last days...I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams...²⁰before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD." *(Acts 2:17-20)*

II. A WORD FROM GOD

- A. I normally don't dream dreams [God dreams] but the other night I did [1/22/18 – 5:30am]. The first part was very odd. I dreamt that Jeb gave me a \$6000 gift card. And he said, ***"You are highly favored! I am rewarding you because of your devotion and spirit of excellence!"***

- B. In the second part, God began to give me a download as I dictated it on my phone in notes [I could do that because Pam was away, watching the grandkids]. The Lord said: ***"Focus on messages of young people God used in the Bible; Joseph, Josiah, King David, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc. You are to raise up an army of children and youth who are passionate followers of Jesus and who are reformers, history makers, trend setters – people who set the standard for the next generation.*** Then He said: ***"And mother's and father's of the coming awakening [spiritual revolution] of righteousness of God-fearing youth!"***. There was more, but you get the idea.

- C. It seems whenever God does something new, he starts with the youth. Pam and I were swept into the Kingdom of God during a massive awakening called The Jesus Movement. Teenagers and young adults were turning to God in droves. I believe this next season will be like that, but will happen at even younger ages. 3,4, 5 year olds, 10, 11 year olds, etc.

III. JOSIAH LEADS A NATION AT 8 YEARS OLD

- A. Young Josiah became king after his evil father [Amon] was assassinated. He led Judah as one of the most godly kings (2 Chr. 34, 35). Josiah understood his place in God's timetable, and he wanted to honor the Lord with His life, even at a very young age.

"He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. For in the eight year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David... (2 Chr. 34:2-3)

- B. You are never too young to serve God and be a leader of revival and reformation. [Definition of revival: to restore to life that which is dead. To bring something back to its original intention. Reformation: the improvement or amendment of what is wrong, corrupt, unsatisfactory. To change to a better state. To cause to abandon evil ways of life and conduct. To put an end to abuses, disorders etc.

IV. THE ACTIONS OF KING JOSIAH

- A. **He sought after God:** He began to seek the God of his father David (2 Chr. 34:3). The word "seek" means to seek with care, to frequent [a place]. Awakening of the heart starts when we seek after God. We want to know Him in a deeper way, so we turn to Him, even if it means in little ways.
- B. **He repented of idolatry (2 Chr.34:3):** He began to purge the land of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images. Idols can come in many forms. Things that preoccupy our time and devotion instead of God.
- C. **He broke down the altars of Baal (2 Chr. 34:4-5):** Baal was a Canaanite god that was worshipped in the place of Jehovah. Josiah broke down the false altars, and made dust of them and scattered on the graves of those who sacrificed to them. He went throughout the cities to cleanse the land.
- D. **He repaired the house of the Lord (2 Chr. 8-13):** He sent the Governor of the city and several others to repair the House of the Lord (2 Chr. 8-13). Reformation restores worship to its rightful place in the House of the Lord. Focusing our attention on coming together for the purpose of worshipping and honoring Jesus because He is worthy. I have been in some houses of worship that are completely dilapidated and falling apart.
- E. **He honored the word of God (2 Chr. 34:14-21):** They found the "Book of the Law". *"Hilkiah the priest has given me a book. And shaphan read it before the king (v.18).* God honors His word above his name. They held the word of God in high esteem. They let the word of God speak to them and direct their lives.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)