

A Call to Repentance – To ‘Light a Candle in the Darkness’ – Passover 2023

At Pentecost 2022 a group of intercessors and Christian leaders from across England gathered together to meet over three days at the geographical centre of the UK. During that time the Lord revealed a very serious and sobering message for the British Isles, a summary of which was then circulated widely via Christian networks and various forms of media. If you are not aware of it then please use this link to read it now: <https://www.prophecytoday.uk/study/prophetic-insights/item/2606-pentecost-gathering-may-2022.html>.

That message left us with a challenge: as the world becomes increasingly dark and godless, with the removal of our traditional rights and freedoms under more controlling and authoritarian government, God is looking for a people who will be His Light of Life – to ‘light a candle in the darkness’ – secure in Him and allowing Him fully to be their King; putting Him first and living wholeheartedly for Him in every aspect of daily life and service. In simple terms to become the people of God we are called to be in order to play our part in fulfilling the Great Commission ahead of Jesus’ return.

The Call

Key scriptures: Joel 1 & 2; Amos 5:11-15; Nehemiah 3; Ezekiel 2 & 3.

Seeking to interpret these passages for today, at a time of unprecedented societal upheaval in the Western world and the British Isles in particular, I conclude that the ‘foreign force’ we have been invaded by, or rather have welcomed in, is the spirit behind the increasingly evident, secular, globalist ‘one-world system’. Over the past 70 years new laws have been introduced and existing laws changed or weakened the result of which is that we have, as a society, roundly rejected our centuries old Judeo-Christian heritage. This was the foundation of our laws, and system of government. It is now clear that alignment with this ‘one world system’ is now well established in our islands. Our neo-pagan society has embraced much of what this system stands for socially, politically and economically but, more importantly, to a large extent so has the church. **It is the state of the church that grieves the heart of God.** Why so? Because we are meant to be different, a distinct, holy people shining the Light of Life in an increasingly dark world. Largely we are not so because many of us, in our personal or corporate lives are compromised with the world’s system. This means that the community of believers is often barely distinguishable from the rest of secular society.

It may be that ours could be the generation that sees the return of Jesus. Whether that is the case or not, scripture tells us that He will return for a spotless Bride that has prepared herself beforehand; one that is holy and pure but wears army boots beneath her wedding clothes because she understands that there is a spiritual battle to fight. Our ‘weapons’ are not those the world uses and our primary weapon is the radical, beautiful, lavish love of Jesus. God is calling His children to ‘come out of her’ i.e. the system [2 Corinthians 6:17], and become the distinctly different people He calls us to be.

In 2012 a small group of us spent part of a week’s retreat on Lundy, a small remote offshore island in the Bristol Channel. On the evening before we were taken off-island Nick Szkiler, now the Chair of Issachar Ministries, and I shared an unforgettable experience. We were both in the lamp room of the former lighthouse known as the Old Light, at sundown. Nick had brought two

candles and some matches in his breast pocket (as you do!!) He placed the candles on the lamp platform and lit them. What happened next was an utterly breathtaking spectacle: reflected and multiplied in the lamp room by the many angled windows, we saw those two tiny lights spread outwards, not just across the whole island but out across the Bristol Channel and by 360 degrees in every direction two by two, stretching out into infinity. In just a few seconds we saw an exponential explosion of tiny lights pierce through the darkness - there were literally hundreds upon hundreds of lights, so many that it was impossible to count them. That experience was so profound that its impact is etched in our memories as one of the most important moments of our Christian lives. Recently God reminded me of that picture and tasked me with making this call to action which I am laying out before you here.

That call is to individuals, small groups and churches to:

1. *Engage in Heartfelt Repentance:*

- Set aside some personal time **PRIOR** to Passover i.e. **Good Friday 7th April**, to prepare our hearts; to take steps to deal with any remnants of selfishness, sin, unforgiveness, fear and ingrained patterns of negativity or ungodly habits, in order to be as consecrated, set apart to God, as we are called to be.
- On Passover to gather with others in twos, threes or small groups to stand in the gap before God in repentance for our failure as the people of God to corporately be the church He intended us to be. *Please see the final page of this document for some hints as to how we have failed God's original objective for the church. This might also include compromise with the world system during Covid-19.*

2. *Enthroned Jesus as King over our nation:*

- Consciously to rededicate ourselves, our homes, small groups and churches to God - to enthrone Jesus as our King, firstly in our own lives - mind, body, heart, soul and strength - then, through an extended time of worship, to invite Jesus to come and take up His reign as King over the villages, towns and cities where we are gathered.

Why Passover?

There are three reasons:

1. The Lord gave the word 'synchronize'. This is to cause something to happen in a planned way at the same exact times; to make a synchronous operation i.e. to work together. As the Body of Christ we are synchronous when we are together in the unity of the Spirit in the unison of worship and prayer. **Nehemiah 3** outlines the synchronous rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem without people being together in one place; each being responsible for their own territory. This call is about doing something together whilst being geographically separate in our differing locations; setting apart this particular time with God whilst being synchronous with each other. Passover is one of the three appointed Biblical feasts where God promises to meet with His people when they intentionally gather together before Him [Leviticus 23:1-2].
2. Passover is our annual opportunity to consider afresh at what great cost God demonstrated His love for the world by giving His one and only son to carry the punishment and weight of our sin. He did this in order that we might have the right to

become children of God with all that means. In Christ we have been given so much: the ability to live in freedom from slavery to sin and contrary to the pull of the world system; to have the power and authority to live as torch-carrying overcomers in a world of increasing darkness; in Jesus' name to heal the sick, raise the dead, open eyes that are blind, ears that are deaf; to see all manner of captives set free. All of this demands our humble response to live as those offering ourselves daily as living sacrifices which should be our repeated spiritual act of worship [Romans 12:1].

3. Many have recognized that the death of Queen Elizabeth II marked the end of an epoch in the history of our nation. Whilst personally she was a godly woman of real faith and life-long sacrificial duty it cannot be denied that over the 70 years of her reign the Crown (not her personally) placed its seal on more ungodly, unbiblical laws than ever before in the history of the British Isles. The result is that Britain today is a very different nation morally and spiritually from the one our late Queen inherited and our new monarch, King Charles III, is a very different prospect in a great many ways to his mother. So, Passover provides an opportunity ahead of the coronation of our new monarch to enthrone Jesus as King over all kings and Lord over all lords right across our nation from north to south and east to west.

In the musical Daybreak, Paul Field wrote the lyrics of a song *"It only takes a spark to get a fire going; then soon all those around are warmed up by its glowing..."* This is, I believe, what God intends us, His Body, to be and do in this season; to humbly confess our failings and then by submitting and rededicating ourselves to serve Jesus as King, allow ourselves to be set on fire and burn with His love in a fresh way across these islands. This 'burning' to be threefold. To be willing to:

1. Nurture a deeper desire for God Himself – for His Word, His ways and the honour of His Name – in essence to fall in love with Jesus all over again;
2. Live out our lives daily with a genuine love for one another;
3. Have a passionate consuming love for those all around us who do not yet have a relationship with Jesus.

If we take this call to heart then, in this way, His Light will shine brightly through us and many will be led to safety, security and refuge in Him through the stormy dark days ahead. What do you do when the house is in darkness? Turn on the light! All it takes is a tiny candleflame to begin driving out the darkness and that candleflame is in my heart and yours. As Garth Hewitt wrote in his song about martyrdom: *"Light a Candle in the darkness, Light a candle in the night. Let the love of Jesus light us; Light a candle in the night."*

Please weigh this call. If it resonates with you then please do **CIRCULATE it as widely as possible amongst your own networks** and get involved. I believe God wants a church that is willing to be led by Him and to simply do what He says, so for that reason I do not intend to be prescriptive in how to work the call out in practice. **Joel 1 and 2 outlines what is required**, the rest is between you and the Holy Spirit. *If, however, you feel you need a little help with some personal prayers then please get in touch because I have specific prayers that may be useful.*

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When the original church was founded in the British Isles by the Celts it looked very like the left hand column below. I believe this is still...

...God's Heart for His Church in Britain

TO BE...	NOT...
A living organism.	An organisation.
Living and dynamic.	Stagnant, dead.
Following the Holy Spirit.	Ritualistic, bound by traditions.
Fluid and changing.	Rigid, static, unbending.
A people of pioneering spirit.	Bound by conformity.
Without decentralised control.	Having centralised control.
Permeated by the Spirit of God.	By a spirit of religion.
Distinct from the world around us.	Compromised with the world system.
Mature disciples, changed in character and lifestyle.	People trying to behave for appearances sake.
Disciples who truly know they are sons and daughters of the King of kings.	Just members.
Involved in ministry that is open to everyone.	Professional clergy or a particular team.
Following God's plan.	People's good ideas or ambitions; the pattern of the world.
Primarily focussed on relationship.	Religion or fund raising.
Also focussed on heart issues in the Body.	Structures or positions.
Characterised by anointed, powerful works.	Dead works.
Powerful, life-changing, impacting society.	Powerless, having a form of godliness.
Under God's control; doing things His way.	Under human control; doing things their way.
Focussed on anointing, function.	Focus on titles, positions.
Characterised by transparency, honesty, mutuality, interdependence and vulnerability.	People wearing masks, hiding, dishonesty, independence and self-protection.
Led by servant leaders, facilitators of what God is doing.	Autocratic authority figures.
Motivated by God's love, mercy and compassion having His heart for those outside the 'family'.	Motivated by duty, obligation, finance or targets.
Based on the authentic biblical Hebraic roots of Christianity.	Based on inherited traditions from the years of Roman Catholic governance.