

Staying Connected 1

“In Continual Prayer”

I. SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 2:1-2 – “Then, first of all, that [our] petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people; for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness”

II. THE WAR FOR YOUR HEART & MIND

In today’s world, maybe even more intensely than in years before, there is a war... there are massive, constant battles that wage war for the control of your heart and for your mind. This is a daily battle: from the moment that you wake up... that lasts each and every moment of your day, until the very instant that you fall asleep at night. And for many, that war of multiple battles continues even well into the night... robbing many of precious sleep, causing insomnia... but also even infiltrating the dreams of many with chaos and temptation, turning what should be a blessing that “when you lie down, you should not be afraid... but that your sleep should be sweet” (Proverbs 3:24), into a nightmare situation, where one experiences a thoughts of a monstrous character, that often produce feelings of anxiety or terror.

For many of us, a life of anxiety and terror exists that is overwhelming us because we live in a world of chaos and temptation that is increasing exponentially every year, where seemingly every new year in our lives seems to have a new climax... both in frequency and intensity.

III. TODAY’S CHAOTIC WORLD

And this seems particularly so in this year – the year 2020 – where it seems that the world is filled with more chaos than in any other year before us. In an article published about 25 days ago, Mohammad Amin Hariri-Ardebili, who is with the University of Colorado at Boulder, writes that...

People of the world today are living in uncertainty, confronted by many risks: risks that range from various low hazard events... to extremely high hazard events. He says that the COVID-19 pandemic has added even more of its own set of additional unique risks, for not only has it caused a significant number of its own fatalities... but

when combined with other hazard sources... that it may be posing a considerably higher *multi-risk* as it comes in combination with several other lower-probability, but higher-risk scenarios.... by a combination of the COVID-19 pandemic risk together with other natural hazards (such as earthquakes or floods) and other complex [man-made] emergency situations (such as mass protests, police and military movements, et cetera).

Though this is true, as YAHUAH [God]'s people, should we really be surprised? There have been predictions, you know, both by man and by YAHUAH [God], that today's world would certainly be filled with more chaos and temptation

IV. PREDICTIONS OF OUR CHAOTIC WORLD

A. MAN-BREATHED PREDICTION

In a book published nearly 25 years ago, it was predicted that America would be hitting a great crisis that would be climaxing by our current 2020 year... it has been predicted "that up next is a millennial vs [baby] boomer standoff that will usher in a new world order". These same people who have already accurately predicted the great crisis of 2008, are now following with a prediction of an even greater one this year 2020. They predict that an "authoritarian, severe, and unyielding" leader from the baby boomer generation would resist a historic moment of change that would be afoot in the US in the year 2020. And what makes this prediction particularly interesting, is that this particular prediction is in a book that was written by Neil Howe and William Strauss, who are the guys who actually coined the term "millennial" that describes the generation that they are talking about when they predict the present "millennial vs boomer" conflict. They write that America sees a "turning" every 20 years as one generation displaces another generation, and the dynamic between one particular generation that enters "elderhood" and another particular generations that enters "young adulthood" creates a crisis every 80 years, according to a theory that they coined, called the "The Fourth Turning", that they use to make this prediction in their book.

My reaction to this book and their prediction is that it really doesn't take a brain surgeon... or should I say a Nostradamus... to predict that a generation born between 1980 and 2000, who are now coming into their prime, for whom these authors had created the "millennials" label... that it would be this "millennial" generation who are now entering into their prime "young adulthood" years would

be *supplanting* an aging “elderhood” generation, also known as the “baby-boomers”... those born between 1946 and 1964... who are now either dead or nearer to the graves... but who are still hanging on in their “elderhood”.

Even though the Howe-Strauss prediction may seem amazing, what seems even more amazing to me is what the Holy Bible has more accurately predicted, not just 25 years ago, but thousands of years ago.

B. YAHUAH [God]-BREATHED PREDICTION

For YAHUAH [God]’s word says that “all scripture is given by the RUACH YAHUAH [Spirit of God]...” (2 Timothy 3:16) and that we should “know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of YAHUAH [God] spoke as they were moved by the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit]” (2 Peter 1:20-21).

And the holy word of YAHUAH [God], breathed by the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] predicted years ago, says that... it "will give children to be their [country’s] princes, and babes shall rule over them. [And that} the people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor; the child will be insolent toward the elder (the aged), and the base (the despised, the lightly esteemed, the ‘cry-babies’ who have had their feelings hurt) [they will be insolent] toward the honorable.” (Isaiah 3:4-5)

And it was predicted further by the holy word of YAHUAH [God], breathed by the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] and spoken by no less than YAHUSHA [Jesus] Himself, that “**brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death**” (in Matthew 10:21) and again He predicted: “**do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.**” (Luke 12:51-53). And He continues...

... that “**whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, ‘a shower is coming’; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say, ‘There will be hot weather’; and there is. Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time?**” (Luke 12:54-56). Yes, Brothers and sisters! There is a cloud rising out of the west today!

And now, about the coming days and years in our time now, YAHUSHA [Jesus] tells us that you should **“take heed that no one deceives you. [For] you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. [But] you are not troubled; for all these things [will] come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences [“fatal epidemic diseases”], and earthquakes in various places. All these are [just] the beginning of sorrows. [But] then THEY [say who “they” are] will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended (they will feel insulted, they will have their feelings hurt), [and] will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many ... will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he [or she] who endures to the end will be saved.”** (Matthew 24:4b, 6-13) Brothers and sisters, are you enduring today?

V. WHAT ARE WE TO DO NOW? HOW ARE WE TO LIVE IN THESE TIMES?

If you and I want to live a peaceful and quiet life in today’s world of violence, of chaos and clamor, then today’s scripture gives us a very simple idea of what we, His “saints”, should be doing: we should be praying! We should be petitioning YAHUAH [God]! We are to be interceding on behalf of today’s world! On behalf of its people! We are to be thankful that we yet have an opportunity to bring some of them into a right mind! Into salvation! Yes! We are to be praying! We are to be petitioning YAHUAH [God]! We are to be praying for our kings! Praying for our prime ministers! Yes, even praying for the US President who is widely hated... Yes! Praying for *ALL* those in authority! The apostle Paul urges us, “then, first of all, that [our] petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people; for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (I Timothy 2:1-2). That... dear brothers and sister, is what you and I should be doing!

The Holy Scripture does not say that we should be praying... petitioning YAHUAH [God]... interceding and being thankful *ONLY* for those that we love... that we admire and support... BUT for “*ALL* people” and “*ALL* those in authority”! Whether you agree with them... agree with their politics... agree with their lifestyle... or not! We are to pray for *ALL* of them: whether good or bad; reputable or despicable, or whatever...

whether they make you feel good or not! Pray! Petition! Pray and petition YAHUAH [God]! Let’s intercede on their behalf! Be thankful that YAHUAH [God] will hear and answer your prayers for them. If you want their behavior to change, PRAY continually for *ALL* of them.

If you don't like, or agree with the way the world is heading... then remember what YAHUAH [God] promised his King Solomon: when He "appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: 'I have heard your prayer... when I shut up heaven and there [was] no rain [but wildfires], or [I] command[ed] the locusts to devour the land, or [I] send [fatal epidemic disease] among My people: IF My people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and 1) Pray and 2) seek My face, and 3) turn from their wicked ways, THEN I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.'" (2 Chronicles 7:12b-14)

Today, YOU can solve all of the world's problems today, IF we:

1. PRAY,
2. SEEK YAHUAH [God]'s FACE, and
3. TURN FROM YOUR WICKED WAYS.

Yes, you heard it right! IF claim to be His people... (are you His person? His son? His daughter today?) For if you who call yourself His... if you will humble yourself! If you get over yourself? Get over your anger about today's world and its leaders! If you get over your anger about today's COVID-19 pandemic and how that is affected you! If you get over your anger that others are not in agreement you about your politics, and which person or political party is the right one! If you get over your anger, or your hurt feelings about how you are being treated by others... in your friendships... at your workplace... if you are angry or disappointed about how your life isn't quite going the way you think that it should be going... if you are discontent about anyone... anything... about whatever... that you have discontent and hatred in your life... [But] then...

1. IF you Pray...
2. IF you seek YAHUAH [God]'s face, and
3. IF you turn from your wicked ways,

THEN, and only THEN, will YAHUAH [God] will hear you... will He forgive you... and will He will heal your land! ...and will He give you the peace and the quiet in your life that you desire. For as it is promised, if "my son [daughter] doesn't let sound wisdom and discretion depart from [their] eyes, ... that they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. [And you will] then walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble, [and] when you lie down, you will not be afraid [and] Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. [That you will] not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when [not if] it comes, for YAHUAH [the LORD] will be your confidence, and [He] will keep your foot from being caught." (Proverbs 3: 21-26)

And if all of this starts with Prayer, as Step 1, then how should we be praying? The Word of YAHUAH [God] says, that bible “pray continually” (NKV) (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Other bible translations say that we are to “pray without ceasing” (NIV), “never stop praying” (NLT), and to “pray at all times” (GNT).

VI. PRAY! PRAY CONTINUALLY!

Often, we don't come to YAHUAH [God] in prayer until after something is already messed up, right?! Rather than looking at ourselves first, when life isn't treating us right, when we are down and out... we begin by looking at others: our friends, our relatives, others in the church, others in the community, others in the nation and in the world. It's their fault! Not mine. They aren't living the right way! Their religion, their politics (often the same thing) are all wrong! My boss, the local leaders, the national leaders, their policies and actions are the reason that my life is really messed up, short of its full potential. And as you blame others, your ADONAI [Lord] and Savior commands you: **“Love them!”**: Yes, He commands that you are to

“love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him [her] who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him [her] who takes away your cloak [suit coat], do not withhold your tunic [vest] either. (Action) Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him [her] who takes away your goods, do not ask [for] them back. And just as you want men [women] to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”
(Luke 6:27-31)

Often, we don't look at A ROAD map, or turn on the navigator until we realize that we're losing our way, right? If this is not your heart today... if you do not have a genuine love for others at this time in your life... if you are not humbling yourself... if you are not supplicating... if you are not praying with a right heart and right mind for all others. If you are angry toward the President... toward the Speaker of the House.. toward any or all the politicians... If you are angry toward your boss... toward your coworkers... angry toward your neighbor... angry toward everyone or anyone... then you need to start praying for them. For their salvation. For what is truly best for them? For if you want to change your own life for the better, then you should start by praying for them. For “if you “forgive not men [women] their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive you your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15). Yes, if you begin by praying for all those others that you don't like, then it transforms you into someone who becomes unselfish toward them! And then you begin to find your own peace and quiet... find your own salvation: gained through this heartfelt prayer exercise.

VII. FINDING FREEDOM THROUGH OUR DEPENDENCE

Brothers and sister, there are day-by-day, moment-by-moment battles that are raging on inside of us to gain control of our hearts and our minds. The battles are continual... and they are between the flesh – doing life my way – and the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] – by being dependent on and doing it YAHUAH [God]'s way. Your flesh, my flesh seeks to meet our own needs by our *independence* from YAHUAH [God]; the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] encourages us to meet our needs through our dependence on YAHUSHA [Jesus]. Yes, you and I can find our freedom from chaos and temptation, from our feelings of anxiety and terror, if we love others. “For you, brethren [sisters], have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself’. But, if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the RUACH [Spirit], and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the RUACH [Spirit], and the RUACH [Spirit] against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” (Galatians 5:13-17)

Yes, there are battles with you, for dominance. Both Satan and the RUACH [Spirit] have a fervent passion to control you. And you stuck squarely in the middle. “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12) This is not easy, because both spirits are irreconcilable. Our flesh asserts our independence from MESSIAH [Christ]; the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] asserts that we are to be dependent on MESSIAH [Christ]. It's hard, for there is physical pleasure in sin. But we assert ourselves, realizing that there is pleasure in sin, BUT only for a season... and we choose to yield OUR wants, OUR desires, OUR pride... our hearts and minds over to YAHUSHA [Jesus]. Yes, and so we CHOOSE to trust the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] for Grace, and we choose to dedicate ourselves... ALL of our members – our mouths, our eyes, our ears, our hands and feet, and all our other members to YAHUAH [God]. For if we don't, then for this reason YAHUAH [God] [will give] us up to [our] vile passions. And [if we don't] not [want] to retain YAHUAH [God] in [our] knowledge, then YAHUAH [God] [will give us] over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting [but that which we have chosen]. (Romans 1:26,28)

So let's choose now to Connect with YAHUAH [God] through the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit], as is made possible by the loving sacrifice of YAHUSHA [Jesus] for us.

So, brothers and sisters, “do not quench the RUACH [Spirit]. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. [And] may YAHUAH [God] Himself, YAHUAH SHALOM [the God of Peace], sanctify you through and through. [And] may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless [until] the coming of our ADONAI YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Lord Jesus Christ]. [For] The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it [if you choose Him] (1 Thessalonians 5:19-23).

And now as we close, I pray that “the grace of our ADONAI YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Lord Jesus Christ] be with you” (1 Thessalonians 5:28) as you remain stay connected, that you are in continually prayer for others, and for yourself... that you turn from your wicked ways... that you continually seek YAHUAH [God]'s face.

Amen.

References & Credits:

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