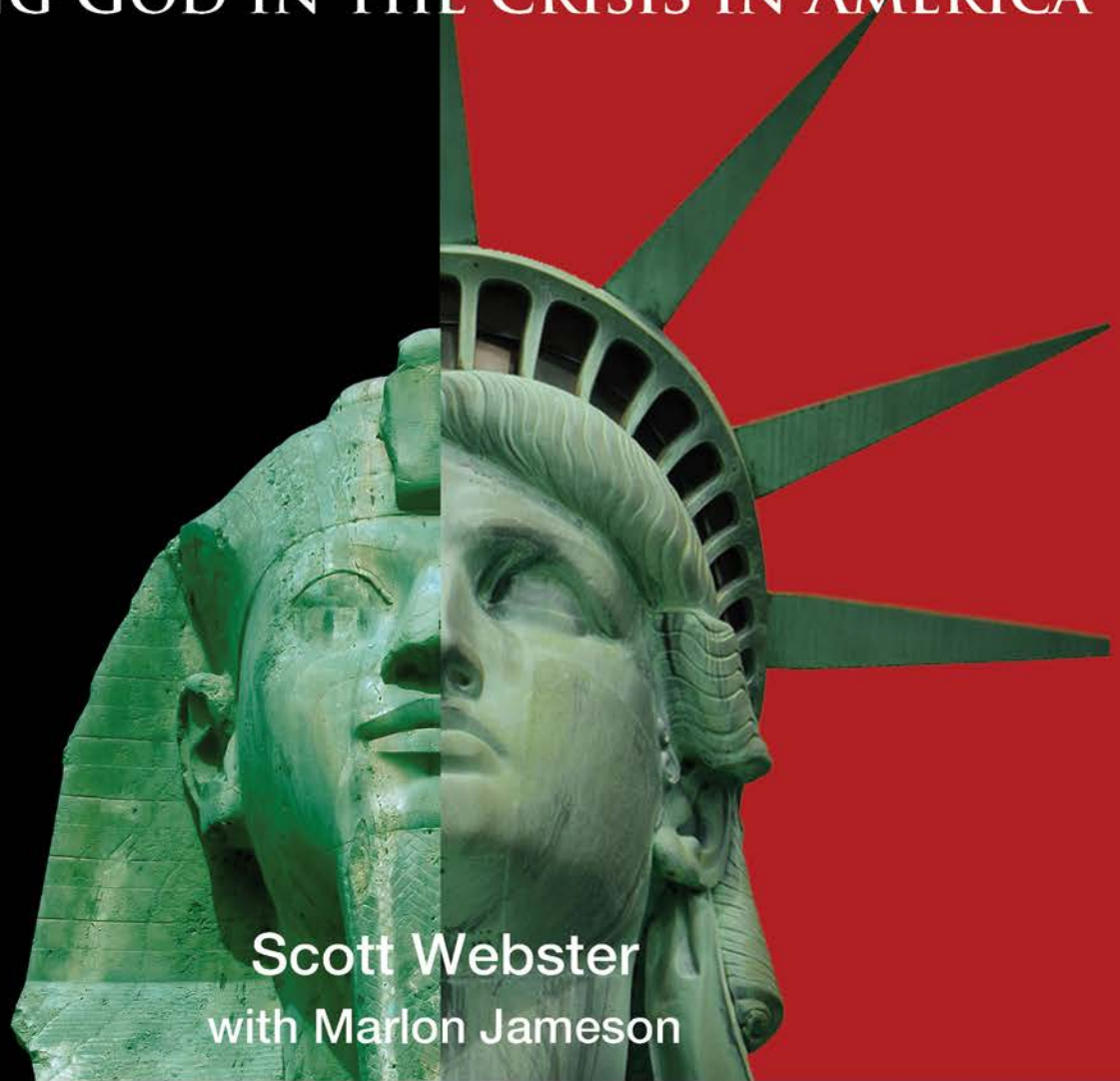


# THE ARC OF EMPIRES

SEEING GOD IN THE CRISIS IN AMERICA



Scott Webster  
with Marlon Jameson

ACCOMPANYING  
WORKBOOK

[www.scottwebsterministries.org](http://www.scottwebsterministries.org)

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## A Note from the Authors

Welcome to the Workbook for *The Arc of Empires*. From the first days of writing we knew this book would be one that requires diligent study and application. As one who has downloaded this Workbook, you recognize that and you want to dig deeper into the Word of God, much like those in the early Church who lived in Berea:

*Acts 17:11-12 '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. 12 Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.'*

What do we see in the Bereans that we can learn from?

- ✓ ***A Posture of Eager Receptivity.*** The Bereans received the message with great eagerness. The word used to describe their posture describes people who were eager and willing to hear the Word of God, and quick to receive it. They were not defensive nor were they passive listeners – or in our case, readers. They eagerly received Paul’s teachings and that must be our posture also.
- ✓ ***A Context for Inquiry.*** They heard something and that is what caused them to look into the Word of God to confirm it. Their searching of the Scriptures had a defined context – they were looking into what Paul taught them to confirm and affirm the veracity of it. Clearly they had taken note of the Scriptures he referenced and his points when he expounded on each one, and therefore their search was targeted and specific, just as our search in this Workbook is targeted towards the material in the book.
- ✓ ***Personal Commitment to Search.*** They ‘examined’ the Scriptures, a word which means to investigate or scrutinize. Examining requires thinking about the Scriptures, meditating upon them, looking to God for insight as we read and study them. The Bereans were committed to doing this because they recognized that hearing brings with it responsibility.
- ✓ ***Consistency of Pursuit.*** They examined the Scriptures ***every day***. They spent time in the Word of God daily, realizing that regular study is a building block of spiritual growth.

It is the result of their study we want take special note of: ‘*a great many of them believed*’ (v 12). Belief is personal and inward, requiring that we study the Scriptures, confront our own mentalities and heart positions, and make choices. When Jesus taught the people in parables, he told them to be careful how they hear (Mark 4:23-24), and we must be just as careful how we hear today. Some were offended and they rejected what Jesus said, but many others worked through their offense and wrong understanding and came to a place of authentic faith. As you read through the book and engage with the questions, watch the videos from the links or contribute to the forums, we want you to consider what God is saying to you personally. Like the Bereans, this may not have been a perspective that you had even considered before. Go back into the Scriptures and look at the character of God and how He has dealt with people and nations through time. Listen to the heart of this message and assess for yourself if this is consistent with the God of the Bible.

A few words about the layout of this Workbook. There is a chapter in the Workbook that corresponds with each chapter in *The Arc of Empires*. Some material is briefly re-stated and questions are included that allow you to consider how that chapter applies to your own life. We encourage you to take the time to consider each question, look at the Scriptures and allow God to probe your heart so you can extract full value from this important word from God.

Also, at the end of each section you will find two sections entitled ‘Connecting the Dots’ and ‘Looking Forward’.

### **Connecting the Dots**

These sections are designed to help you evaluate what you think about the three possible perspectives presented in the Preface of the book. As we work through the chapters and explore more questions, you will have a chance to consider how you may be seeing things differently. The Connecting the Dots section allows you to consider what you have heard.

### **Looking Forward**

The prophetic word examined in Part 2 of the book is powerful and revealing, but it is not the entirety of *The Arc of Empires*. Part 3 is crucial because it contains spiritual resource for how we should live in light of what God is doing. In the Looking Forward sections of the Workbook we will signpost some of the perspectives and answers that lie ahead in Part 3.

Click [HERE](#) to watch Scott Webster and Marlon Jameson discuss 'Introducing a Word from God'.

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video of Scott Webster describing why he wrote *The Arc of Empires*.

# Preface

## Chapter Summary

The authors introduce the purpose of the book and who they wrote it for, and they introduce themselves. One of the most important parts of the Preface is the statement of the fundamental truth about God's Sovereignty. The authors then explore three possibilities for how we can view the events happening in the world at this time.

*'Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.'*

*Amos 3:7*

## Key Points

- This book provides a spiritual explanation for the crisis in Modern America and the nations of the earth.
- This is not a political book; it is not simplistic or religious, and it is not a 'word of doom'.
- God is completely in charge, He has a purpose and He is leading the earth towards ultimate outcomes. He is working through the crisis.
- As God's people we have a right to know what He is doing, and therefore this book provides clarity, insight and faith into the purposes of God.
- This book is written to equip you to know what God is doing in the earth. It serves to prepare the Body of Christ for greater partnership with the Lord and His End-Time purposes.

*'It is not the will of God for any of us to be fainting in terror or in distress... as God's people, we have a right to know what God is doing.'*

## Background to the Chapter

### The use of the word 'religious'

In this Preface, the authors state that this book is 'not simplistic or religious'. The use of the word 'religious' here refers to the narrow ways of thinking that limit people in the Church. The authors contrast the negative religious platform with their approach, which is 'based on principles from the Word of God which we apply to believers who have faith in Christ'. The book's intent is to draw the reader into a deeper revelation of God and intimacy with Him, and to introduce in a greater way the nature of God Himself.

### God's Sovereignty

Possibility #3 states that if we believe God is completely in charge and everything is under His dominion and fits into His purpose, then everything that happens on the earth, be it darkness, famine, death, or crisis, is ultimately allowed and overseen by God. This is a key underpinning thread in *The Arc of Empires*, but this may be difficult to accept because our understanding of God's Sovereignty has been limited by wrong concepts. There are two videos that provide additional clarity in this regard – please feel free to view them.

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video of Scott Webster entitled 'There Must be an Explanation'

God is working in the earth through crisis. This knowledge produces internal confidence and strength as we know that the crisis, although it may be hard, is ultimately under God's dominion. He is in control, no matter how dark it may be, and His purposes are always redemptive.

## Personal Study Questions

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1. The authors state that God is redemptive and that this is a core part of His nature. What Biblical examples can you think of that demonstrate this? How have you seen this to be true in your personal life?

2. The authors provided three fundamental explanations for the crises. As you consider these three possibilities, can you now identify more clearly when the first two positions have been used by the church or in the wider media?

3. What was your initial response to reading Possibility #3 that God is completely in charge?

*‘The crises are not random and darkness, though it does exist, is not in charge. God is firmly in control and despite people’s misconceptions, He is working in the earth through the crisis.’*



**Part 1**

**Describing the Landscape**

## Chapter 1

# “Modern America is like Ancient Egypt”

### Chapter Summary

This chapter introduces the specific word from God and the context in which it was received. It describes general characteristics of a word from God and also the way this particular word can empower us.

### Key Points

- This prophetic word is captured in the insight that ‘Modern America is like Ancient Egypt’.
- A word from God is empowering – it looks beyond the surface of things and brings revelation.
- It gives sight of the future and enables us to be equipped and prepared to live in a future that God is speaking about now.
- The word from God allows us to see behind what is happening with the government, the economy and wider society, and to see the spiritual reality behind those things.
- The prophetic comparison of Modern America to Ancient Egypt unveils the nature of God as the Sovereign One.

*‘Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been; for God will seek to do again what has occurred in the past.’*

*Ecclesiastes 3:15 (NET)*

## Background to the Chapter

In embracing the God of Possibility #3 (God is completely in charge of the crisis), we understand that God is Sovereign (Isaiah 45:7) and therefore there is nothing outside of His purpose happening on the earth today. When we look at what is happening in the government, the economy and in wider society, we realize that behind that activity there is the purpose of God. What we see on the surface is not all there is – ‘It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings’ (Proverbs 25:2).

We see a Biblical example of this in 2 Kings 6:15-17, where Elisha’s servant saw only an army surrounding the city. In terror he looked at the crisis and was afraid. But Elisha prayed that God would open his eyes, and the servant then saw that God’s army far outnumbered the army that surrounded the city.

When God speaks to us, it allows us to have insight into His purposes behind the activity on the earth. Suddenly we have sight into His purposes, and we look at the social or economic realities on the earth in a different way. A word from God causes us to look past the natural activity and see God’s purposes behind that activity; it gives us access into the mind and purposes of God (Amos 3:7).

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video interview with Scott Webster describing the ‘Nature of the Prophetic Word’

*‘The prophetic has the power to prepare us for what will come.’*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. The authors describe how God spoke to them. Is this description of hearing from God something that you can relate to? What can you learn from this description that will develop your ability to hear accurately from God?

2. The authors describe a word from God as being ‘empowering’ – bringing discernment of the spiritual reality behind what is happening in America today, and containing the power to prepare us for what will come. What do you think about this definition of the prophetic?

3. ‘This prophetic comparison reveals that we don’t need to pray for God to get involved in the crisis. He is already involved and His purpose is redemptive.’ How does this statement impact your prayer life? If you are a church leader, how do you guide your people to pray?

*‘This prophetic comparison reveals that we don’t need to pray for God to get involved in the crisis. He is already involved and His purpose is redemptive.’*

## Chapter 2

# Defining Our Terms

### Chapter Summary

The authors begin to expand on the word of the Lord that Modern America is like Ancient Egypt. They explain that Modern America and Ancient Egypt are more than geographical or political descriptors – they give an overview of the influence that these empires have exerted on the whole Earth, especially economically. They go on to make the case that even within the middle of these empires, God has always had a people with identity and purpose.

### Key Points

- *Modern America* refers to the vast economic system and values that drive globalization and the present economic system.
- The term *Ancient Egypt* describes the system associated with Biblical Egypt and the interactions with Joseph, Moses and Pharaoh.
- The Israelites within Ancient Egypt serve to demonstrate that it is possible to live in the middle of crisis but be full of faith and strength.

*'We must prosper and grow in faith while living within an empire that God is assaulting and dismantling for His redemptive purpose.'*

## **Background to the Chapter**

### **Babylon**

The term 'Babylon' (or 'Babylonian') is used by the authors, not as a reference to a geographical location, but as a metaphor that is used throughout the Bible.

Genesis 11 is the account of the Tower of Babel (from which the word Babylon comes) and clearly shows the values that underpin the Babylonian system.

- Building with bricks and mortar demonstrates impersonal conformity to a system that uses human activity for its own gain – in contrast to God's people who build with hewn rocks and, indeed, the church, which is built with living stones (1 Peter 2:5).
- Building and elevating the name of man – in contrast to glorifying and lifting the name of God.
- The effort results in confusion and miscommunication – in contrast to the Kingdom of God, which stands in unity (Ephesians 4:13).

At the other end of the Bible, Revelation 18 shows the influence of Babylon over the earth and its ultimate destiny.

- Nations are subject to Babylon's system and values.
- God intends to raise a people from within the Babylonian system that will not share its values.
- The Babylonian system that underpins the values of the world's economic system will be destroyed.

Modern America, like Ancient Egypt, can be regarded as exemplifying a Babylonian system as can any organization or nation that demonstrates these values and characteristics.

## **Background to the Chapter ... cont'd**

### **The Church**

Many terms are used through the book to refer to God's people. Most of these terms are used interchangeably, giving insight into the multi-faceted way in which God views His people:

- The Church – in Greek 'Ecclesia', highlighting the aspect by which God's people are those called out in order to govern.
- People of God – a broad term used throughout Scripture - denotes belonging.
- Body of Christ – New Testament term that denotes the complexity, interactivity and unity between people and communities within the Church.
- Israelites – in the context of the book, a term to denote God's people of the Old Testament.

*'More than any other nation, America shaped the 20th century through its military strength, the power of its political ideals and the vast reach of its economy.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What examples can you think of where Modern America has exerted influence on the world beyond its physical and geographical boundaries?

2. Ancient Egypt represents many things including the structures of mortality itself that God ultimately will destroy. What does God's relentless desire and ultimate purpose to break His people out of bondage do to your sense of faith and hope?

3. The authors are optimistic about the hope that the people of God should have. Is that optimism something that you share? What is the basis for your outlook?

*'The last enemy to be destroyed is death.'* 1 Corinthians 15:26 (NKJV)



## Chapter 3

# Ancient Egypt as a Prophetic Metaphor

### Chapter Summary

God often uses metaphors to powerfully communicate complex ideas, and His Word is full of examples. The authors explain how we should understand the speaking of God when He declares that one thing is *like* another. Having established that Ancient Egypt can be regarded as a metaphor for Modern America, the similarities between the two empires are drawn out and the basis for understanding God's complex movement in the nation is laid out.

### Key Points

- Modern America is *like* Ancient Egypt; Modern America is *not* Ancient Egypt.
- The Bible, and Jesus Himself, use many metaphors to communicate God's dealing with people, nations and systems.
- Metaphors are one of the primary ways the prophets conveyed God's mind to His people.
- God is speaking because He wants us to know how to interact with the events taking place now, as well as what will come in the future.

*'Metaphors are powerful and they are Biblical.'*

## **Background to the Chapter**

### **Biblical use of metaphor**

There is rich variety to the type of language used in the Bible. The Bible contains text that is legislative (e.g. Leviticus), poetic (e.g. Lamentations), lyrical (e.g. Psalms) as well as prose, amongst other types. Metaphor is just one of the ways in which the authors of the Bible used language in a creative and nuanced fashion. Biblical authors used metaphor to build on themes and ideas that are already familiar to the reader.

Paul uses and explains this idea in Galatians 4:24:

*‘These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.’*

John uses the familiar image of Sodom and Gomorrah to make a powerful statement about the city of Jerusalem in Revelation 11:8:

*‘Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city – which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt – where also their Lord was crucified.’*

Jesus makes it very clear that He uses His language very carefully and creatively to make His message in John 16: 25:

*“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about My Father.”*

The authors build on this pattern as they seek to understand the metaphor spoken by God that Modern America is like Ancient Egypt.

*‘Embedded within the metaphor is a vast store of Biblical history, which is unchanging and eternal and which provides Biblical safeguards that guide us into full and correct interpretation.’*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. This chapter opens up the idea of a prophetic metaphor and gives examples of this from scripture. What other examples can you think of where God used a metaphor to speak to His people?

2. Why do you think God chooses to communicate with His people using metaphors?

3. This prophetic metaphor is embedded within the Scriptures, which – the authors affirm – provides us with Biblical safety, and full and correct interpretation. What does it mean to you to have clear Biblical reference points as we move towards the End of Time?

## **Connecting the Dots**

In the world of marketing there is a saying that decisions to purchase items are *made emotionally and then justified rationally*. We want to have a better way forming our beliefs than just basing them on emotions. We have to make sure that the loyalty to our beliefs is because of Biblical underpinning and not just because it is a majority view, or that we've always thought this way. You may already have some strong views and opinions about what is happening, or about the wider nation. But is it possible that God is working in a way that is just different to what we expected or that we're used to?

No one would argue that John the Baptist carried the word of the Lord, but he was not operating from the synagogue, nor was he dressed like a Rabbi – yet God was speaking through him. God was not trying to be difficult; He was just releasing a current message to the people, yet if you looked to the traditional religious systems you would have missed God. Many did.

Could it be that God is speaking to us very clearly, but we never expected Him to speak in this particular way? Are we 'looking for God in the Synagogue when He is speaking to us from the wilderness'? Our responsibility is to discover what God is doing. As we look at the views presented, let's explore each part and then 'connect the dots' to see the complete picture. Then we can assess fully what God is saying and how we respond.

## **Looking Forward**

As you move through this book you may find that you agree with the authors' train of thought even though you don't yet have a fully formed worldview. In Part 3 the authors share some very good descriptors of the values and the spiritual positions that this worldview is built on. Once you have read them, you may find it useful to go back and read Part 2 again, and imagine how having those foundations in place would change the way you face the crises and turbulence described.

**Part 2**

**A Prophetic Comparison**

## Chapter 4

# He Makes Nations Great

### Chapter Summary

In this chapter, the authors describe how God has directed natural events within the history of Modern America, thereby 'making' the nation great. This direct involvement resulted in Modern America having an expansive influence over the rest of the world and truly becoming an empire.

### Key Points

- It is God who makes nations great.
- Over time, He works to build up a nation, enlarging its capacity to exert influence beyond its national borders (Job 12:23).
- God allowed the emerging American nation to enjoy agricultural prosperity, political stability and uniting factors like common currency, law, language and culture.
- 20th century America emerged from the industrial revolution and World War II as the dominant economic and military power. God allowed the influence of its political and economic models to impact many other nations.
- The first phase of the Arc graphic is introduced: the Ascent.

### Background to the Chapter

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video of Marlon Jameson and Scott Webster describing the Sovereignty of God.

*'The phrase "God makes nations great" indicates that behind the natural events of America's growth, God was at work.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What are some characteristics, other than the ones already mentioned in the book, which have made America a great nation?

2. How would you describe your understanding of the verse, 'He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations and disperses them' (Job 12:23)? Do you believe that this verse could refer to nations in the world today?

*'God enlarged the U.S. so that American norms were spread over the earth, covering the nations like a blanket.'*

3. Aside from Egypt, can you think of other Biblical examples of when God directly involved Himself with the affairs of various nations, not just Israel?

## Chapter 5

# *Key Prophetic Similarity #1:* **Divine Wisdom to National Leaders**

### **Chapter Summary**

The authors begin to describe the prophetic similarities between the ascent of Ancient Egypt and Modern America. Specifically this chapter looks at the ‘divine wisdom’ given by God to the leaders of both empires in their developmental stages.

### **Key Points**

- The scriptures about Ancient Egypt help us see behind the façade of the political, social and economic realms to see God’s shaping of events in line with His purpose.
- Joseph was strategically placed by God inside Egypt as a ‘father to Pharaoh’. Pharaoh understood God’s hand upon the nation through Joseph.
- God used Joseph to tutor Egypt’s leaders to manage a vast and global enterprise. He worked through economic prosperity and good financial strategy.
- God gave wisdom and favor to the Founding Fathers in the building up of America. Biblical principles and patterns are found throughout thousands of documents and principles that underpin the architecture of the nation.
- It is important to acknowledge God as the source of blessing and favor in the founding of Modern America as we continue to seek prophetic insight.

*‘America’s founders recognized that God had granted them wisdom, blessing and favor and positioned America in a unique place among the nations. We have to know it and acknowledge it if we are going to come to a place of true prophetic insight.’*



## **Background to the Chapter**

The example of Joseph in Egypt used in this chapter is one of a number of Biblical examples of God bringing influence and wisdom to national leaders. Some further examples include:

### **Daniel in Babylon**

Daniel praises God:

“Praise be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons: He deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.” Daniel 2:20-21

‘The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.” Daniel 2:47

### **Elisha with the Kings of Judah and Israel**

Elisha was a prophet who was used by the Kings of Judah and Israel to hear from God whether they would defeat their enemies. His prophetic record was accurate, and the kings directed their military strategies in accordance with his speaking. The account is given in 2 Kings 3, while similar example with the prophet Micaiah is found in 1 Kings 22.

### **David inquires of God through Nathan the prophet**

King David in the Old Testament inquired of God in many ways. On numerous occasions he asked for the counsel of the prophet Nathan. One such example is 1 Chronicles 17 in which Nathan’s insight influenced David’s decisions and brought significant direction to the future of the nation.

*‘So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all of Egypt.’*

*Genesis 45:8*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What do you think about the authors' description of God's involvement in giving wisdom to the Founding Fathers and the impact of this on bringing America to the place it is today?

2. Can you find other instances in the Bible where God granted wisdom to leaders?

3. In Ancient Egypt God used Pharaoh, an unbeliever, for His purposes. Do you believe it is possible for people in political power who are not believers to be used and led by God today?

*‘The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”*

*Genesis 41: 37-38*

*‘Egypt’s ascent was not an accident of history, nor was America’s. God was behind the growth and development of both empires and there was a conscious awareness of God’s providential hand upon the nation.’*

## Chapter 6

# *Key Prophetic Similarity #2:* **God Blessed the Economy**

### **Chapter Summary**

Here the authors consider the ascent of Modern America, and explain how the American economy became the most powerful in the earth. The chapter sets out the similarities with Ancient Egypt and the resource that God brought to both economies. It goes on to explain that God's intention was to use that blessing to connect the nations of the Earth for His purposes.

### **Key Points**

- Ancient Egypt was prepared for the famine because of the foreknowledge God had given them through Joseph. These preparations meant they were positioned to prosper greatly as a result of the global economic downturn.
- Ancient Egypt's economic power caused them to have a global influence that dominated the Earth at that time.
- The direct blessing of God upon America's free markets caused the expansion of the nation into the global influence it is today.
- God used the famine in Ancient Egypt to connect the nations of the world and he had the same purpose when He blessed the American economy.
- As nations strive for economic growth they have followed America's model of capitalism. The adoption of these patterns by all nations who want economic growth has led to globalization.

*'God empowered America to become the leading economy in the earth and then used its strength to create a global system of trade.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What do you think about the prophetic statement that God prospered the American economy for His purpose?

2. Where have you seen examples of how God ‘tutored’ America to steward the increase His divine favor provided?

3. What was your response as you read how God empowered America to become the leading economy in the earth?

*‘Divine favor was on Egypt, not only giving them seven years of abundance, but tutoring them on how to steward the increase in order to build the nation into an economic powerhouse that dominated the earth. So it was also in America.’*

*‘When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.’*

*Genesis 41:56-57*

## Chapter 7

# *Key Prophetic Similarity #3:* **Sanctuary and Shepherds**

### **Chapter Summary**

Ancient Egypt provided sanctuary to Joseph's family as they fled famine, and Modern America provided refuge to believers fleeing from persecution in Europe. This produced a strong basis of faith in each nation. There was a time when God's people were esteemed in America, bringing shepherding and a redemptive force to the nation. But over time this declined and American society has become more secular and increasingly hostile to the Spirit of God.

*'When God sent Joseph's family into Egypt - a family of shepherds - He was strategically inserting a spiritual component into secular society.'*

### **Key Points**

- God's people bring virtues from Him that guide and preserve the society in which they live. In this way, God's people are 'sanctuary' and 'shepherds' in their context.
- Sanctuary is the creation of refuge to preserve life for those fleeing persecution.
- Shepherds provide guidance and protection, keep unity and cohesion, and they point to the value of every life.
- Ancient Egypt was not concerned about people as much as money and power, and it was this missing spiritual aspect that Joseph's family brought to the nation.
- Many believers found sanctuary in the US as they fled persecution from the church in Europe.
- Believers in America's formative years exercised a strong shepherding function. Like the children of Israel in Ancient Egypt, they brought to the empire an emphasis on spiritual values, care for human life and the nearness of God to the nation.

*'In America the Church was esteemed and received for hundreds of years, serving as a redemptive force that God had embedded deeply within the fabric of the nation.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What ways do you see that the church has shaped American society throughout the nation's history?

2. What did you think and feel when the authors compared the saving of many lives by Joseph in Ancient Egypt with John Winthrop's assertion that, 'God has provided this place (America) to be a refuge for many'?

3. The authors say that early believers in America provided a strong basis for faith in the nation. Do you agree that faith was a significant building block for the nation of America? How did the faith of believers influence American society, its political policy and its standing among the other nations of the earth?

*'To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.<sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.'*

**1 Peter 5:1-4**

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

**Genesis 50:20**

## Connecting the Dots

Biblically we read that, *'God makes nations great and also destroys them; He enlarges them and disperses them'* (Job 12:23). We can heartily nod in agreement as we look at the way God dealt with the empires in the past. Consider the rise and fall of Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Rome and Greece. In fact in Daniel 2:31-45, Daniel describes how God gave the secular king, Nebuchadnezzar, dominion for a time – but it was all part of a larger plan of which God was fully in charge. Daniel's vision reveals to us what is going on behind the scenes. God tells the prophet how the story is going to unfold. Yes, Nebuchadnezzar is king, but only because God put him there and because he served God's purpose.

Babylon was not a strong empire because it made itself great; God caused its rise and fall. Are you willing to consider that God's plans are similar for America too? America is not great because the nation made itself great. God caused America to grow because it suited His broader purpose. He enlarges and disperses the power that *any* kingdom has. In God's thinking His Kingdom has always been His ultimate purpose – illustrated in Daniel as the rock striking the statue becoming a mountain and filling the whole earth (Daniel 2:35). Our assertion is that God will establish His Kingdom, not a political empire. His desire is to display the superiority of a nation of priests of which He is the King.

If you are willing to consider this, can you see that it is not wise to invest our loyalty into a political nation which is not God's ultimate objective?

- *'Dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations'* (Psalm 22:28). *Dominion or God's Sovereignty is tied in to His ruler-ship over the nations. God expresses Himself in His ultimate power as the One who rules over the largest sociological entity known to humans: nations.*
- *'God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne'* (Psalm 47:8). *God has ultimate ruler-ship and His dominion is over the nations of the earth. His power is expressed as His holy throne, the ultimate center of power; His throne is described as "holy" and it is from God's good and holy purposes that He deals with nations.*
- *'You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can withstand You'* (2 Chronicles 20:6). *When God wants to exalt a nation and use it for His purpose nothing can stop Him. No human authority or empire can manipulate or change the will of God.*

## **Looking Forward**

When talking to Pilate in John 18:33-36, Jesus explained that His Kingdom was not built on the same philosophy as the kingdoms of this world. His ways, laws and ethics were different from the culture of His time. Pilate did not understand this. Jesus was showing that just because He was ethnically Jewish and had authority, this did not mean He was spearheading the national cause of the Jews at the time. In contrast, Barabbas was. Barabbas was a freedom fighter for the Jews; Jesus was not. Jesus did not need earthly force or political power. His Kingdom didn't rely on the infrastructure of human governments and politics. He knew that sooner or later God would judge the system along with all the abuses and inequalities that came with it.

When we come to Part 3 you will see that the values of God's people do not belong to or originate from any one political nation. They are 'from another place'. Those values may be partly found inside aspects of American culture, but the source of those ways are found in God's Kingdom, and those who truly adhere to them are citizens of God's Kingdom first and foremost.



## Chapter 8

# He Disperses Them

### Chapter Summary

This chapter introduces the second part of the Arc – the Decline. The authors describe God being involved both in the ascent and the decline of a nation and that He uses both for His redemptive purpose to bring people back to Himself.

### Key Points

- Whilst God made America great for centuries, the nation's decline is also of the Lord.
- God's nature is to make 'everything beautiful in its time'. This is not just through the rise of a nation or times of blessing, but also through downturn and hard times.
- We can only understand this redemptive purpose if we look through God's eyes. Both rise and fall are a seamless part of His plan to bring mankind back to Himself.
- The Decline within the Arc graphic starts before the empire reaches its highest point. In America the authors point to the mid 1970's as the start of economic and moral deterioration.
- Whilst the Arc graphic depicts the nation starting to decline, the purposes of God are shown as always ascending and moving forwards.

*'He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and disperses them.'*

*Job 12:23*

## **Background to the Chapter**

### **Other Scriptural References to God Using Events for Ultimate Good**

This chapter references Ecclesiastes 3:11 to identify how God makes everything beautiful in its time—even events that on the surface may seem to be negative. The following Biblical verses can be used as further references for this aspect of God's nature.

- Romans 8:28
- Romans 5:3-4
- Habakkuk 3:3-19
- James 1:2-3

Click [HERE](#) watch a video with Scott Webster and Marlon Jameson about God's Redemptive Nature.

*'He has made everything beautiful in its time'*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What evidence do you see to suggest that America is in a state of decline today? What do you think about God's involvement in this seemingly downward trend? Can you identify instances in the Bible and in your own life where you have seen God work redemption through seemingly negative circumstances?

*'Nations rise and fall...in the mind of God it is one seamless plan of redemption that is unfolding and bringing mankind back to Him.'*

2. Church Leaders: How do members of your church respond when they see decline in American society – morally or economically? Do you feel equipped to lead them to see God is still at work and give them strength through it?

*'Even though the nation is in Decline, the purposes of God are moving forward.'*

3. How do those around you – believers and non-believers – respond as they witness the decline in US society today? Do you feel that this chapter could help to shape their perspectives regarding this?

## Chapter 9

# *Key Prophetic Similarity #4:* **From Shepherds to Slaves**

### **Chapter Summary**

This chapter identifies the fourth prophetic similarity: that God's people in Egypt and America go from a place of influence to a place of slavery. Their influence and esteem within the nation diminishes.

### **Key Points**

- The influence of Christianity in America is decreasing; much like God's people in Egypt lost favor.
- Despite God's historic blessing on the nation of America, society has largely abandoned the original Christian values and morality to which it once held.
- The authors state that this is not a recent turn and cannot be attributed to a single politician.
- The church in America has become enslaved by materialism and carnal success; weakening people's faith and ability to hear from God.
- We must stand firm and not let our 'love grow cold' in the middle of increasing wickedness; our hope is in God and not in political solutions.

*'Darkness may have marginalized our influence upon society, but nothing must ever corrupt our hearts, shrivel our faith or cause our love to grow cold.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What are your thoughts on the authors' stance about the nation of America and 'God's people' being clearly distinct from each other?

*'Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.'*

*Matthew 24:12, 13*

2. Church Leaders: How can you consistently encourage members of your church to stand firm in faith and hope in Christ, instead of succumbing to materialism and the drive for carnal success?

*'God is using the hostility and the change of fortunes to purify His Church in the nation and to deliver us of the false hope that the nation itself has the answers.'*

3. The authors described love as 'growing cold' as: a) putting our hope in political solutions while our confidence and faith in God's purpose wanes; b) becoming discouraged because the prevailing trend of society is towards more and more wickedness; c) compromising our faith because the wider environment doesn't receive us with joy. Are you aware of any areas where your love is 'growing cold' according to these descriptions?

*'So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.'*

*Exodus 6:9*

## Chapter 10

# *Key Prophetic Similarity #5:* **Federally Authorized Genocide**

### **Chapter Summary**

The authors draw a comparison between the authorized genocide instigated by Pharaoh in Ancient Egypt and the legalized practice of abortion in Modern America today. In both we see the sanctity of human life diminished. God is Sovereign over both light and darkness and so He will continue to accomplish His purpose even in the middle of evil on the earth. This is what we saw in God's preservation of Moses in the middle of genocide in Ancient Israel.

### **Key Points**

- The practice of abortion in modern America and the killing of children made legal by Pharaoh in Ancient Egypt have clear parallels.
- The fetus, from the moment of conception, is a spiritual being whose life has been written in God's book.
- God is forgiving and redemptive, and therefore for those that have aborted a child there is forgiveness available and no condemnation placed upon them.
- God also works through things that appear to be very dark in nature. He is Sovereign over the light *and* the darkness.
- This prophetic comparison shows how the sanctity of human life was diminished both in Ancient Egypt and Modern America.

*'God is Sovereign. He is over light and darkness and even when evil is being propagated God is able to accomplish His purposes in the midst of the carnage.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. The comparison between the practice of abortion in America and the legalization of killing children in Ancient Egypt is clearly stated by the authors. What is your initial response to this comparison?

2. Does reading through Psalm 139:13-16 (extract below) give you a new sight of God's Sovereignty in the process of a child's development?

*'For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.'*

*Psalm 139:13-16*

3. In the middle of the decline of an empire, the authors state that God is still Sovereign and completely in charge (Possibility #3 from the Preface). How does this statement impact how you see the issue of abortion?

*'Whatever one's view of the modern abortion debate, this prophetic comparison provides another clear parallel between how the sanctity of human life was diminished in Ancient Egypt and Modern America.'*

## Chapter 11

# *Key Prophetic Similarity #6:* **Movement Towards Socialism**

### **Chapter Summary**

The authors describe God's plan in bringing the economic and political realms into confluence in order to affect His purposes in the earth. Behind the economic chaos we can see the purposes of God unfolding.

### **Key Points**

- Within both Modern America and Ancient Egypt we see growing entanglement and unification of the political and economic realms that leads them to become more fragile.
- From our perspective today, we do not see 'socialism' in Joseph's intervention in the Ancient Egyptian economy, we see the purpose of God.
- In the same way, God has a purpose for America (and all nations) which are bailing out their economies in our day.
- Life at the end of time is driven by economics above all else – the pursuit of money defines life above all other priorities.
- In order to survive, nations are developing a new economic order that combines the worst aspects of Capitalism and Socialism: it is both intensely greedy and grossly inefficient.
- We are commanded to rejoice when Babylon (the global economy) is judged by God and begins to fall.
- We must see that the economic chaos in the earth as an indication of the Sovereignty of God.

*'The nations are moving closer towards the End Game - a combustible economic system that is both intensely greedy and grossly inefficient.'*



## Personal Study Questions

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1. Are you aware of a trend within America for a merging of the governmental and economic realms? Can you think of any examples of a movement in that direction?

2. What are your thoughts on the description in the book of the economic system as being both 'intensely greedy and grossly inefficient'?

*'When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!" The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore.'*

*Revelation 18:9-11*

*'We must see that the presence of economic chaos in the earth is an indication of the Sovereignty of God.'*

3. Are you able to rejoice when God judges Babylon? What do you think that might look like and what impact could it have on your world? What would you need to see of God in order to rejoice in that context?

*'Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you.'*

*Revelation 18:20*

## Chapter 12

# He Deprives Leaders of Reason

### Chapter Summary

This chapter outlines that the first stage of hardening is that God actively deprives leaders of reason as part of His Sovereign purpose. The depriving of reason causes leaders to lose their conscience and moral character. They lose their competence and ability to think correctly, and they are unable to navigate their way through the crisis coming against them. They are left staggering and stumbling in the darkness.

### Key Points

- God initiates the whole process of downturn, deterioration and destruction.
- God deprives leaders of reason – the removal of the moral compass and conscience that enables them to make ethical decisions, and weakening their ability to work find solutions to problems.
- In the middle of crisis, God has removed the roadmap, the financial resource and sight of the way forward. They grope around in the darkness looking for solutions but do not find any.
- As a result they do not make progress or purposeful movement forward.
- In Ancient Egypt the hardening of Pharaoh's heart was part of the unfolding of God's purpose, and the same is true of the hardening we see in Modern America today.

*'The earth is in crisis and desperately needs answers but the leaders in the nations have been deprived of their reason.'*

## **Background to the Chapter**

### **King Nebuchadnezzar Dramatically Deprived of Reason**

King Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful ruler in Babylon. When he received a dream that troubled him, it was Daniel, an Israelite, who was able to bring the interpretation. The fulfillment of that dream was a dramatic and visible removal of reason from the most powerful man of the era. Daniel 4:33 describes that he *'ate grass like an ox. His body was drenched with the dew of Heaven until his hair grew like feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird'*.

*'He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and disperses them. He deprives the leaders of the earth of their reason; He sends them wandering through a trackless waste. They grope in darkness with no light; He makes them stagger like drunkards.'*

*Job 12:23-25*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What situations can you think of where America is 'going round in circles' and leaders are active, but lack 'reason'?

2. Why do you think that highly educated and experienced leaders can find it so difficult to get solutions to the problems that America faces?

3. In what ways can you see the financial resources and economic abundance of America drying up? What do you think is God's involvement in this?

*'Although things are devolving and become darker, God's purposes are advancing and escalating just as they were in Ancient Egypt.'*

Chapter 13

***Key Prophetic Similarity #7:***  
**More Than a Cry for  
Deliverance**

**Chapter Summary**

The people of God in Ancient Egypt prayed, groaned and called out to God. God heard the prayers of His people, but His response was quite different and far more significant than they could have expected. The modern Church is also engaged in consistent and fervent prayer. The authors encourage us to have expanded sight into how God is responding to those prayers so that we can partner with Him in His ultimate purpose.

**Key Points**

- God's people were in bondage within Ancient Egypt, paralleled by the current situation of the modern Church in America.
- Both have groaned and cried out for God to deliver them with countless prayers, yet this resulted in a worsening of physical conditions.
- In the context of Ancient Egypt, God heard a deeper cry that reminded Him of His unbreakable covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the people of God (and not with the nation of Egypt).
- The result of this was that God's people didn't get what they expected. They didn't receive a new and improved Egypt. Instead there was a higher purpose and what they actually received was freedom from Egyptian bondage.
- In the same way, God has heard *more* than a cry for deliverance from His Church today. He is enacting ultimate events to deliver us from bondage also – the bondage of mortality.

*‘Then the children of Israel groaned because of their bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.’*

*Exodus 2:23b-25*

## **Background to the Chapter**

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video of Scott Webster discussing ‘Simplicity vs Complexity’ and the impact of this on how we pray.

*‘They were praying for political deliverance, but God’s response was to remember His ancient covenant to bring them into their Promised Land.’*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. Church Leaders: You and your church may have joined together with many believers praying for a restoration of America, yet in spite of all your prayers things continue to get worse. How did this chapter bring you insight and encouragement?

2. Do you believe that it is possible that God will respond to our prayers through a different sequence of events than you may have expected?

3. This chapter describes how a passion and prayer for renewal of American society is 'too nationalistic' and 'too bound by pride in the history of the nation'. In what ways can you see that this mindset is not in line with the ultimate destiny of the church?

*'Our ancient brothers did not receive a "new and improved" Egypt and we will not experience a restored America. We must move from a passion for renewal of American society, because that is not our ultimate destiny. It is thinking too small, too nationalistic, too bound by pride in the history of the nation.'*

*'What God spoke to Abraham was going to be fulfilled and nothing could stop it. It was like a juggernaut steam-rolling through time towards the point of fulfillment.'*

## Chapter 14

# *Key Prophetic Similarity #8:* **A Hardening Against God's Authority**

### **Chapter Summary**

In this chapter the authors define the hardening that God is initiating. They describe how God hardened the heart of Pharaoh and how God is doing this same thing within America. The hardening is against God's authority in the spirit realm, but it also manifests in the nation in natural ways. Through this process God is Sovereign. He is glorified through the Hardening and it will not be reversed because His purpose requires a final confrontation.

*'He utilizes all things for His purpose. The hardness is not a triumph of evil. It is part of God fulfilling His purpose as He Sovereignly deals with the Earth.'*

*For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden.'*

*Romans 9: 17, 18 (NIV)*

### **Key Points**

- The rise of Ancient Egypt led to a sense of invincibility, pride and hardening of heart, which made them incapable of hearing God.
- This position is repeated in Modern America with a sense that answers to the current crisis will come from past experience and accumulated wisdom.
- God is responsible for this hardening and is glorified through the hardening. In the spirit realm, God is pronouncing to the whole Earth His mastery over natural kings and the principalities that rule in the darkness.
- The hardening will not be reversed because God's purpose requires a final confrontation and ultimate deliverance.



## Background to the Chapter

The subject of God hardening people's hearts may be a difficult concept for us to grasp. Sometimes the Bible describes how individuals have hardened their *own* hearts. However, there are also clear instances in both the Old and New Testaments of *God* initiating hardening the hearts of individuals and nations. In every case this is part of a wider purpose of God. These include the following:

- **Joshua 11:20** 'For it was the LORD himself who **hardened** their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that He might destroy them totally.'
- **Isaiah 63: 17** 'Why, LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and **harden** our hearts so we do not revere You?'
- **John 12:40** 'He has blinded their eyes and **hardened** their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn and I would heal them.'
- **Romans 11:7** 'What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were **hardened**.'

*'No-one is considering that the crisis we are experiencing is unprecedented.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. Hardening represents the effect of pride and arrogance that produces an unresponsiveness and dullness towards the authority of God. It has happened in all historic empires without exception. What examples can you see of this happening in America today?

*'[Ancient Egypt] inadvertently become blind and deaf to everything except its own imperatives and therefore sealed its own demise. This is the path of all empires.'*

2. The authors describe how the hardening of Pharaoh's heart was linked to a much bigger display of God's power in the heavens and on the earth. As you assess the American political and economic scene today, can you see how God is hardening people and systems? Knowing that hardening is linked to much bigger realities, how does that change your view of what is happening in the nation?

3. Church Leaders: Have you considered before that you and your church are living within God's ultimate purposes to bring judgment against the systems of Babylon in the earth and to release us from bondage to mortality, or is this a brand new thought? What impact does this have on your leadership?

*'The hardening of the Spirit realm is for the purpose of God's power being declared both in the heavens and in the Earth.'*

Chapter 15

***Key Prophetic Similarity #9:***  
**Deliverance Comes in the**  
**Fullness of Time**

**Chapter Summary**

This chapter explains that, although there was a long period of slavery for the people of God in Ancient Egypt, there comes a point in time for liberation and deliverance. A similar parallel exists today where, although we don't know the exact day or hour of the Lord's return, we are in the season of His return.

*'We are living in an era when God is dealing with the nations just as He dealt with Ancient Egypt.'*

**Key Points**

- The children of Israel were in bondage for 400 years before God acted decisively and suddenly to bring about their release.
- Several factors needed to come to confluence at one time to initiate God's action. First was the cry of the people accumulated before the Lord. Second was the raising up of leadership in the form of Moses. Finally, the readiness for judgment of the iniquity and wickedness in the land.
- We do not know exactly when deliverance will come but we know that it will, and this is the season of the Lord's return.
- We will not be taken by surprise because we are aware of God's dealing with the nations, and we are coming into new levels of partnership with Him.

*'So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring My people the Israelites out of Egypt.'*

*Exodus 3:10*

## **Background to the Chapter**

The authors write that 'It is plainly stated that no one knows the day or the hour, but it is also authoritatively declared that we will know the season of the Lord's return'. Whilst we don't know the exact date or time, we are able to understand the nature of the different seasons of God's movement in the earth. In Titus 1:1-3, Paul describes that there was an appointed season in the earth for Jesus to come:

*'...the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and which now at His appointed season He has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior...'*

This shows us that God has 'appointed seasons' in which His purposes will be fulfilled.

We also can see in 1 Chronicles 12:32 that the tribe of Issachar were 'men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do'. This verse shows us that it is within the authority of man to understand and discern the times and seasons, as well as to know how to act in order to partner with God.

*'It is plainly stated that no one knows the day or the hour, but it is also authoritatively declared that we will know the season of the Lord's return.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. 'We are living in an era when God is dealing with the nations just as He dealt with Ancient Egypt.' What picture starting to build up in your mind of how God is dealing with the nations today, as you consider what you have read in *The Arc of Empires*?

2. What situations can you think of (either in the Bible or in your own experience) where there has been an apparently long wait for God to act, and then He does so decisively and suddenly?

*'God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.'*

**1 Peter 3:20**

3. What does the waiting of God, prior to acting, show you about God's character?

*'We will not be taken by surprise because we are aware that not only is God dealing with the nations but He is making us mature and wise and elevating us to new levels of partnership with Him.'*

## **Connecting the Dots**

When God's people cried out in prayer, they didn't fully understand that they had stumbled upon something very big that triggered a long term divine objective. God heard and answered their prayers, but not in the way that they expected. If you were a Hebrew slave living in ancient Egypt, the first symptoms of your answered prayer were that life got harder. This would not have made sense unless you knew where God was ultimately heading. The plagues and more oppressive working conditions (e.g. bricks without straw) were the immediate answer to your prayer. God hearing and taking action meant that things may have seemed worse, not better.

God's people were destabilized because they lacked discernment. In Matthew 16:13, the Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign, or some kind of proof to validate who He was. Jesus tells the Pharisees that they have no discernment of the times and that they don't even know the right questions to ask. They can predict the weather because they know how to interpret their immediate environment, however, they do not know how to look beyond what they see in front of them. Jesus uses that natural example to make a spiritual point, explaining that they ought to be tracking spiritual trends, not just meteorological ones.

The Pharisees couldn't see beyond 'today and tomorrow'. Their focus only on their immediate environment stopped them from considering the bigger picture of what God is doing. How do we ensure that our nation or our culture doesn't distort our discernment? How do we look beyond 'my job' or 'my life' to begin to grasp God's bigger purpose? For ancient Israel, God's liberation of them was never about an individual blessing. God is our Savior, our Healer, our Deliverer and our Provider, but He is also Judge, Sovereign, King and Ruler.

Unless we are liberated from a perspective that is just about my nation, my life, my political beliefs, even my church, we will never see God's bigger purpose. God is bigger than all of these limited realms of life, and if we don't reject smallness and embrace God's transcendence we will be blind to His purposes. For those in ancient Egypt, they became a part of a history-making moment. But this only happened because they learned that what God required of them was partnership in fulfilling His divine objective. If they had not seen this, the crisis would have filled them with fear and not hope.

## **Looking Forward**

It is encouraging to consider that the qualities of life described in Part 3 are part of God's long term divine objective. These are not just fashions or spiritual trends, but characteristics that God has wanted to see formed in a nation that represents Him.

*'God is patient and merciful. He waits for developments to occur and He never brings judgment prematurely.'*

## Chapter 16

# The Man He Imprisons Cannot be Released

### Chapter Summary

In this chapter the authors describe the final section of the arc graphic – Confrontation. God is not confronting a political party or a particular idea on how to fix the crisis we see today. This is a war in the spirit realm where God is dealing with the spiritual powers behind the nations and systems on the earth. The Confrontation brings about the complete victory of Christ over all principalities and powers, and ends the enemy's authority to oppress and rule in the earth.

### Key Points

- God is not primarily concerned with the decline of a natural empire. We are experiencing a spiritual war which is breaking through into the mortal realm, expressed as crises and destabilization. This spiritual war is the 'Confrontation'.
- God is confronting nations and systems, but the primary purpose is to assault the satanic spiritual powers that sit behind them.
- Our warfare is not against those leading the nations and systems but is instead against the satanic spiritual powers behind them. Because the war is primarily spiritual, our focus is not on politicians, economists or other secular leaders.
- The conclusion of the confrontation has only one outcome – complete and total victory of Christ over all the principalities and powers. God's plan is to end the enemy's authority in the earth.
- The Confrontation is the highest level of God's purpose within the arc –while the nation is being broken down, God is executing His ultimate purpose.

*'What He tears down cannot be rebuilt; the man He imprisons cannot be released.'*

*Job 12:14*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What was your initial response as you thought about the reason God is attacking nations and systems?

2. Have you previously considered the link between crisis on earth and a war in the spiritual realm? Do you have conviction that there is a 'spiritual realm' behind that which we can see with our physical eyes?

3. Have you been putting your faith in politicians and global economic leaders to solve global crises, or in the hope of electing new leaders who will take the nation in a different way? How successful do you think they have been to date?

*'In the natural we see that God is dealing with nations and systems, but beyond that He is going after the spiritual princes behind those systems and that is the primary purpose of the Confrontation.'*



Chapter 17

*Key Prophetic Similarity #10:*  
**The 'First-born' is  
Targeted**

*“This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, ‘Let My son go, so he may worship me. ‘But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.”*

*Exodus 4:22-23*

### **Chapter Summary**

Here the authors identify the reason behind the crises we see in the earth. While God launched an attack on Pharaoh’s best, He is doing the same today in Modern America. The authors describe the ways in which God is launching these attacks and how God is sending a message through this activity.

## **Key Points**

- In Ancient Egypt God specifically targeted the firstborn. In a similar way God is going after firstborn nations and systems of the earth.
- We can describe 'firstborn' in our time as nations, systems and expressions of earthly power that have great prominence and importance in global society.
- Crisis on the earth today is not arbitrary or accidental. God is deliberately targeting the strongest (firstborn) economies and systems that are essential for life, as the spiritual powers behind them continue to oppose God's purpose and oppress His people.
- The United States and the EU are the largest economies in the earth, representing 'firstborn nations'. Currently both are in deep distress. They are riddled with massive debt and extremely slow economic growth, despite government bailouts and international attempts to improve the situation.
- Energy resources represent a 'firstborn system' which is essential for life. In recent years we have seen oil, coal and nuclear energy systems all coming under attack. Natural disasters are ravaging the environment and, despite man's best efforts, they cannot be stopped.
- In both these 'firstborn' systems – global economics and energy – God is overwhelming the best systems of the world.
- He is making it plain that the best of man's solutions are completely inadequate to solve the crises. God is sending a message and He expects us to understand.

*'The crises today are not accidental or arbitrary; God is targeting the best systems of the earth.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. The authors give several examples of God overwhelming the 'best systems' in the world as He targets the 'firstborn' of the world's system. Where else can you see this happening?

*'God is going after these firstborn systems and nations because the spiritual powers that rule them will not let His Firstborn Son go.'*

2. The authors offer an explanation for how the crises on the Earth relate to God's purposes. Does seeing God outwork His ultimate purpose help you make sense of crises in the Earth?

3. The authors say that God is 'sending a message' to us through the various crises that we have to discern. How does that change your view of the crises?

## Chapter 18

# *Key Prophetic Similarity #11:* **An Empire Besieged by Crisis**

### **Chapter Summary**

This chapter compares the plagues in Ancient Egypt with the crises we see happening in our time. God brought judgment in Egypt by performing 'wonders'. These wonders were a display of God's power beyond the ability of the empire to fix or control the judgment God brought. This was God exerting ultimate control. Today we see parallels of the plagues that came against Ancient Egypt in the crises that come in our time. Jesus was clear on the nature of crisis as a marker of our movement to the end of time. Now we can see crisis for what it really is – God is bringing all things back under His ruler-ship as the ultimate expression of His care and redemptive nature.

### **Key Points**

- There is disaster on every side that continues to get worse, despite man's best efforts. This is like the multiple plagues in Ancient Egypt that brought disease, health problems, environmental concerns, natural disasters and economic meltdown.
- God is separating and distinguishing Himself as the One who does what no other is capable of doing, and what no human or spiritual being can stop.
- God separates Himself by surpassing man's ability to govern – every aspect of society is targeted because it has all been constructed on man's wisdom, not on obedience to God.
- Jesus described many aspects of crisis that will come in the end times, including attempts to deceive us, an unstable international environment and an increase in natural disasters. They will increase in frequency and intensity – like birth pains.
- The crises in our time are the final act in God's redemptive work, bringing all things back under His caring and righteous ruler-ship.

## **Background to the Chapter**

### **Habakkuk as a Pattern**

At first it may be difficult to believe that God uses ‘wonders’ like these to bring about His purposes. The prophet, Habakkuk, struggled with this too as he asked God, “*Why you do tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.*” (Habakkuk 1:3)

It certainly sounds like a nation besieged by crisis. The prophet was waiting for God to do something and wondering why He appeared to be complacent. As we follow the account, we hear God answer him, ‘*Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.*’

God described the wonders He was doing and went on to say that all of the things the prophet was worried about were in fact His power at work. God went so far as to say that the marching Babylonians – the enemies of His purpose – were His feet marching through the land.

In the end, Habakkuk’s eyes were opened and his theology (his understanding of God) was enlarged. His new sight of God caused him to worship in the middle of the struggles. As you read the examples and scriptures in this chapter, you can ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and to construct a new level of worship in your heart even as God does His work by bringing crisis to the earth.

*‘So I will stretch out My hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.’*

*Exodus 3:20*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What was your initial response to reading in the passage from Exodus that God 'struck' the Egyptians with 'wonders'? Does it change your view of the plagues you read in Exodus when God describes them as 'wonders'?

*'We have to see the crises for what they really are – the final act in God's redemptive work in bringing all things back under His caring and righteous ruler-ship.'*

2. Does God's use of 'wonders' to besiege the world systems differ from your view of God's nature? Are there aspects of your view of God that must be adjusted in light of this?

*'He is separating and distinguishing Himself as the One who does what no other is capable of, and what no human or spiritual being can stop.'*

3. In what ways can you trace God's caring nature in your own life, using difficulties to ultimately work for good?

*'You will hear of wars and rumors of wars... Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.'*

*Matthew 24:6-7*

Chapter 19

***Key Prophetic Similarity #12:***  
**We Must “See it”**

*‘[God will]swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces;  
He will remove the disgrace of His people from all the earth.’*

*Isaiah 25:8*

### **Chapter Summary**

This chapter focuses on a core issue of our understanding of who God is and His purpose in the middle of the crises on the earth. In order to see correctly, the Israelites had to overcome two types of incorrect perception. Firstly, they had wrong concepts about God which meant they could not see that He would bring crisis. Secondly, they responded from an emotional basis, which prevented them from aligning to God’s wider purpose. However, the people of God confronted these false perspectives and came into awareness of God’s intentions and plans. We too must be confronted with any false perspectives or limitations of our view of God, and come to a place of understanding of God’s redemptive purpose.

## **Key Points**

- The authors recognize that a redefined view of God was a challenge to the children of Israel and it presents the same challenge to us today. They had to reconcile their understanding that God would initiate crisis and interrupt daily life in the course of His plans and purpose.
- This view of God may be a challenge to our understanding today but, without a correct view of God and an understanding of His Sovereignty, we will not be able to decode the crises we are living in.
- God's heart is always redemptive; in crisis we see His ultimate act of mercy and redemption.
- God is going after that which has assaulted every human life since time began – death itself.
- The people of God responded from an emotional basis to the crisis they were faced with. An emotional response could lead to God's people praying for an end to the events that are actually determined by God to achieve His wider purposes of bringing judgment and release.
- Increased sight of God's purpose moves us from despair to hope, and equips us to live differently within the crisis.

*'But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.'*

*Genesis 15:14*



## Background to the Chapter

### Understanding Divine Sequence

This chapter underlines that there is a divine sequence of events that must take place and that cannot be stopped. This is true throughout scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, where God has a plan that must be followed; we can also see it in the specific stories and examples. In John 11, Jesus boldly declared that Lazarus's 'sickness will not end in death' but Jesus didn't immediately go to heal him.

Lazarus was required to die so that God might be glorified through raising him back to life. What seemed like a mistake and suffering was in fact for the greater glory of God and a power over death itself. Jesus understood the divine sequence that had to take place and His actions were not based in His own personal desires. He declared that He could do only what He saw His Father doing.

In Acts 5:34-39, Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, advised the Jewish Council that if the Apostles were part of a divine sequence of events then trying to fight them would be fighting against God. Gamaliel understood that God's complete Sovereignty coupled with His redemptive heart put in place a set pathway toward the end of time where everything would be brought to a conclusion.

Click [HERE](#) to watch Scott Webster describe Issues of Nationalism.

*'The ramping up of crisis in the Earth is not an act of cruelty by a heartless God who doesn't care how many are crushed by crisis. It is the ultimate act of mercy and redemption.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. Are you living in an active pursuit of God, to discover and become like Him? Have you consciously put your own life to death and become alive in Christ? If so, how has your concept and understanding of God changed and expanded over time?

2. Church Leaders: What wrong concepts of God do you see in the American Church today that prevent God's people from partnering in His purposes for the earth?

*'At its core this word is a redefined view of who God is.'*

3. How have you understood the apparent tension between judgment, death and suffering along with God's redemptive purpose prior to this? Is it changing in light of this book? How does knowledge of the outcome for the Israelites in Ancient Egypt enable you to interpret differently the context of Modern America today?

*'[God] has demonstrated His love and care for every human in that "while we were yet sinners Christ died for us".'*

*Romans 5:8*

## Connecting the Dots

Having come this far, we can review again our three possible explanations for crisis. These are summarized in the table below:

Possible Explanation	Underlying Worldview	Primary Focus	Response Required	Key Question
Crisis is Random & Arbitrary	There is no God, or if there is He is not involved in the affairs of nations.	Puts man at the center, since he defines what is important.	None is required; all will return to normal soon enough. This leaves people passive.	Has there ever been a time like this, when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Nations were so connected?</li> <li>b. Political leaders have so few answers?</li> <li>c. Crisis was so prevalent?</li> <li>d. Man was so darkened?</li> </ul>
All Hell is Breaking Loose	God exists but is not really Sovereign over light and darkness.	Puts darkness front and center, producing fear and uncertainty.	We have to pray that God gets involved to 'fix it'.	How can God be Sovereign if all these things are happening outside His will?
God is in Charge and Has a Purpose	God is utilizing crisis and is leading the earth towards ultimate outcomes.	God and His purpose are our primary focus and they can be clearly discerned.	We must be transformed so we can partner with God in the End Times.	What is God's Purpose?

Does it seem to you unlikely that all the crises are happening by chance? What have you concluded from the Biblical examples that have been presented? Does it seem to you that the fight between darkness and light is finely balanced and that things could go either way? Or are you becoming convinced that God is totally in charge even over the darkness and that He has a purpose?

In Ancient Egypt, the liberation of God's people meant more than just moving them geographically out of Egypt. God was dealing with the powers and systems that had dominated and oppressed them. Through the process of leaving their place of slavery, they grew in their faith and understanding of God's larger purposes. They shifted from simply experiencing harsher living and working conditions, into understanding God as the One who was both the source of crisis and the One who would lead them out of crisis. Through the Passover, they grew in partnership with God; the whole community could take relevant action and work in tandem with God's strategy. They could respond differently because they understood their actions fit within a plan God had determined many years before. They understood the meaning of the crises.

As we come to the end of this section, can you see the parallels between Modern America and Ancient Egypt? Can you see that, if they are parallel, it completely transforms how we respond to the world that we are living in today?

## **Looking Forward**

The people of Israel were in slavery before God liberated them and formed them into a nation. In their first weeks God helped them understand 'freedom' from His perspective. God took them out of incorrect enslavement in order to help them discover the wisdom and beauty of His divine order. God showed them that they would find perfect freedom as they obeyed His ways. As we move to our next section we will describe ways and patterns that have given us a sense of freedom, liberation and partnership with God as His sons. As you read these perspectives you will want to be tracking what impact they have on you. Consider what a community of people might look like who put these principles into practice in their lives.

Chapter 20

# Responding When God Speaks

## Chapter Summary

This chapter provides a moment to pause and consider our response to what we have read so far. It sets out a pattern of how Jesus and the disciples contended with the purposes of God in the Garden of Gethsemane, and how this is a template for our response to this word from God. We must lay aside personal preferences and passions in order to discern the will of God, and the authors exhort us to remain spiritually engaged as we walk through the crisis. This is a time to walk in obedience to His purpose and refuse to 'take up the sword' in acts of rebellion or human initiated action. Instead, God calls us to engage in transformation to come into full Christ-likeness and become a nation ready for exit.

*'We have to remain engaged in the spirit realm, praying and having a rich and spiritually fertile internal life that remains strong as the weight of the crisis increases.'*

## **Key Points**

- When God speaks we must respond. He commands us to incline our hearts to Him and turn our minds towards what He has spoken.
- This is not an easy word to hear – there are questions to wrestle with. For example, ‘What about the nation being restored?’; ‘Could all crisis and difficulty really be God’s purpose?’
- Jesus gives us a clear Biblical pattern in how to respond to a word from God in the events of the Garden of Gethsemane.
- The disciples’ emotional response and personal preferences caused them to fight against God’s purpose; however, Jesus wrestled with His personal desires and came to embrace the will of the Lord.
- Jesus recognized that God’s total and complete Sovereignty meant that even darkness worked for His purpose.
- We have a choice: to respond to the darkness and crisis as Jesus did, or as the disciples did. Jesus gives us a pattern to follow –don’t allow crisis to de-activate you but engage more earnestly, recognize that obedience is an essential part of the unfolding of God’s purpose. Refuse to take up the sword against natural authority.
- We must move more fully towards living in Christ’s image, and God is summoning us there – this is our place of refuge in the crisis.

*Jesus understood that darkness hates God, but in the realm of God’s complete and total Sovereignty in which He is over ALL THINGS even darkness works for His purpose.’*

## **Background to the Chapter**

### **Living in Partnership with God**

God speaks to us because He wants us to partner and join in with what He is doing. In Genesis, He spoke with Adam in the cool of the day and there was partnership and relationship as Adam ruled the land and named the animals. This was the whole purpose of creation: for God to be in relationship with people.

God is still looking for this. In John 15:15 Jesus said, “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.” We face a choice to partner with God and not to react to our natural circumstance or material needs even though these ‘voices’ may be loud. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says we need to live ‘by faith and not by sight’ to accurately partner with God and be in a seamless relationship with Him.

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video with Marlon Jameson and Scott Webster discuss our response to the crisis – ‘A Secure Place to Stand’

*‘Darkness is reigning now but God has a purpose and He will triumph.’*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. In Luke 22:53 Jesus says, “This is your hour – when darkness reigns.” What is your response to this? What does this show you about God’s Sovereignty?

2. Can you identify any intense desires, passions and strong personal preferences that would need to be laid aside in order to partner with God and what He is doing?

3. How did Jesus’ instruction to pray more earnestly impact your approach to living in the middle of crisis and darkness?

*“But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.”*

*Matthew 26:56*

*‘The Kingdom does not accommodate man. Instead we have to make room for His Kingdom in our hearts and lives.’*



**Part 3**

**Transformation and Our  
Ultimate Destiny**

## Chapter 21

# Arise and Shine

### Chapter Summary

In this chapter the authors look at a more hidden aspect of the crisis in Ancient Egypt – the transformation of the Israelites. Whilst Ancient Egypt was being fractured and dismantled, God was bringing the people of Israel into light and life. It is the same with the Church today – God is releasing light and glory into the Church as crisis sweeps across the earth. This chapter also introduces the Transformation Imperatives, which describe how transformation takes place by looking at patterns from the Word of God as well as looking at how God has transformed the saints of Congress WBN over the last 20 years. The authors' intention is to offer and make available the resource they have gained from that journey.

*“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and His glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”*

*Isaiah 60:1-3 (NIV)*

## Key Points

- While God was destroying the eternal structures of Ancient Egypt, He was transforming the people of Israel; He was causing them to arise and shine.
- Both the darkness (crisis and destabilization) and light (intense resource and protection) are managed and orchestrated by God.
- There are two perspectives of the crisis. One is where an Empire is totally devastated and torn apart, while the other is a people given hope, a new identity, deliverance and a future.
- This is not just an historical account of the transformation of the Israelites. God is actively engaged in the process of building and transforming His Church in the earth today. The authors describe the transformation journey that has taken place in Congress WBN – a collection of Kingdom initiatives in 95 nations across the earth.
- We have to engage with the Transformation Imperatives in order to fulfill God's design to have a powerful Church at the End of Time.

*'The Church has been advancing and progressing throughout the entire spectrum of the arc, growing in Christ-Likeness as God restores truths and eternal realities within His Body.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. If both light and darkness are being managed by God, how does this shape your response to the circumstances of your life?

2. Think of a current difficult situation in your life and/or in the nation. Describe the response of someone who believes in the Sovereignty of God and the response of someone who does not.

*'In a time of great darkness (crisis in the nations), it is time for the Church to shine more brightly than ever before.'*

3. The authors describe an imperative as an 'unavoidable requirement'. How does this description challenge how you will deal with the remaining chapters that identify specific requirements for change?

*'Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.'*

*Exodus 14:19-20*

## Chapter 22

# A Word about Slavery

### Chapter Summary

This chapter looks at the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt and shows how we are all enslaved in a similar way – Adam’s sin has enslaved us all inside of Time and separated us from God.

God did not design us to live this life we think of as normality, but to experience the true freedom of a life with full, unrestricted access to Him. His heart is to release us from slavery, and in His Sovereignty He is orchestrating events to bring us to a place of freedom and perfect life with Him.

The authors go on to explain that there must be a desire and ‘groaning’ within the people to be released from slavery and brought back into freedom and relationship with Him. The people must desire the freedom of a fuller life with God and respond to God by hearing, obeying and being transformed.

*‘For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from Heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.’*

*2 Corinthians 5: 1-5*

## **Key Points**

- Slavery has been present in the earth from the fall of Adam to the current day. Enslavement is something that every human lives in, within their normal everyday context.
- The enslavement of humans on the earth causes bondage to Time and separation from the Father in eternity. God's purpose is to bring about our release through violent spiritual confrontation with this system of slavery.
- God is calling from Heaven and thundering in the Earth to wake His people. He is coming close to guide us in complete transformation towards greater Christ-likeness.
- This section gives the opportunity to discover what it means to groan for a fuller life with God. Transformation requires consistent obedience, effort, commitment and desire.
- The Israelites are a pattern for the human responsibility to hear and obey, in order to change and find freedom from slavery.
- Our groan is for transformation from slavery to son-ship in the warfare of the Last Days.

*'There must be a righteous discontent with our current state of life in Time and on Earth. We must see its limitations and its restrictions for what they are. We must feel the burden that Time has placed upon us and we must desire freedom unto Him more than anything else.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. This chapter states that, 'Nothing in this Earth will fill the void left in Adam's life by being torn away from a life with God.' What things do you see people filling their lives with in an attempt to fill that void? Are there areas that you can identify in your own life where you have sought to fill that void with things other than God?

2. What is your response to the authors' view that 'we are all enslaved' by mortality?

3. Do you agree we must have a 'righteous discontent with our current state of life in Time on Earth'?

*'We are the Israelites enslaved in Ancient Egypt. We live in bondage to Time, separated from our Father who is in eternity.'*

4. The authors state that, 'We must feel the burden that Time has placed upon us and we must desire freedom unto Him more than anything else.' How strong is this desire inside of you? Do you long to be with God in the way Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 5:1-9?

*'Coming out of slavery requires both a physical departure and a mental departure. The latter is much harder than the first and takes much longer but it must be done.'*

5. This chapter challenges us to respond to this word from God with consistent obedience, effort, commitment and desire. We are required to embrace our responsibility towards transformation. We cannot do this alone but need God to help us. Spend a few moments asking God to show you what this means for you in preparation for the chapters to come.

*'So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.'*

*Ephesians 4:11-13*



Chapter 23

# Searching it Out

## Chapter Summary

God wants us to search Him out and discover who He is and how He operates. The authors examine some of the evidence that clearly shows that the Israelites underwent significant transformation during the plagues in Egypt.

The chapter introduces the different Transformation Imperatives – the architecture behind the Israelites' transformation. As we understand the massive spiritual work that God did in changing their hearts, then we too can access that transformative power for our own hearts and lives.

## Key Points

- God delights in people who seek Him and pursue His knowledge and wisdom. He wants us to look deeply into His nature and ways – to ask, seek and knock until we find.
- God caused massive transformation in the hearts of the Israelites in the middle of the crisis in Ancient Egypt.
- The Israelites were transformed from a disordered and fragmented people into an ordered and unified nation, who followed Moses and had faith for God's promises.
- It is the same with His people today. We can engage with massive transformation in the middle of crisis.

*'It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.'*

*Proverbs 25:2 (NKJV)*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. Proverbs 25:2 describes God's delight in those who go beneath the surface of His communication in order to access the fullness of His mind. Do you find yourself 'going beneath the surface' of God's communication to you? Church leaders: how can you build and restore this sense of spiritual quest in your church?

2. Do you think that the Church is too easily satisfied with a superficial understanding of Scripture and God's nature?

3. The authors states that, "The promises of God had been relegated to mere historical accounts incapable of ever becoming relevant to their present-day reality.' Can you see this in the Church today, where God's promises have been forgotten or disregarded as irrelevant?

*'We have to engage in active inquiry into God's purpose. We must go beyond what is on the surface of God's communication. We have to inquire into the mind of God for greater spiritual insight and understanding.'*

4. 'They all prayed, but no one expected that deliverance would happen in their lifetime' (p.120). How does this challenge you to pursue God for deeper insight into His will and faith for what He is doing today in the earth?

*'God delights in people who seek Him and pursue His knowledge and wisdom.'*

5. Look again at the different 'exhibits' in this chapter and the ways in which the Israelites were transformed during the course of the plagues. In which of these areas would transformation bring strength to you, your family or your church?

*'Ask and it will be given, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.'*

*Matthew 7:7*

Chapter 24

*Transformation Imperative 1:*  
**Identity is Key**

*'Without a correct identity there can be no journey forward.'*

**Chapter Summary**

In this chapter, we see that God is moving His purposes forward in the Earth by calling forth His people through crises. He declares our identity to us and He equips us to view the current Earth condition with an eternal, Heavenly perspective. God's declaration causes our concept of ourselves to shift – if we choose to embrace it.

*'Thus you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD: Israel is My son, My firstborn."*

*Exodus 4:22*

## Key Points

- The Israelites had to reject the false identity that came from generations of slavery in Ancient Egypt. This is a metaphor for our enslavement in Time and flesh until God brings release.
- Breaking the strongholds of a wrong identity and the establishment of God's identity for us is the first step to exit. Embracing God's identity for us is the core of the battle for exit.
- We have to know what is God's declaration of our identity. We must reject the definitions pushed on to us by circumstance and the forces of the Earth such as ethnicity, socio-economic background, achievements and career.
- This requires us to go through a personal process to reject who we used to be, and embrace who God says we are.
- God uses crisis as the context both to smash the systems of the Earth and to set apart and bring identity and elevation to His people.
- 'Firstborn' brings status and supremacy. We need to redefine our position in the world according to God's declaration and live above the darkness.
- Our liberation into our true identity must translate into a desire to be with God forever.

*"On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel..."*

*Numbers 3:13*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What does it mean for the 'day of crisis' in Modern America to be a 'day of identity'?

2. How has our enslavement inside of Time blinded us to the true reality of our identity in God, the reality that we are firstborn sons of God?

3. Does it ring true for you that the Church has not come into its true identity? What about you personally – how do you feel about being identified as God's firstborn?

*'The first transformation imperative is the need to embrace God's identity for us. This is the core of the battle for exit.'*

4. We read that the Israelites had to endure an increase of press (burden, harshness and violence) imposed by Egypt to stop them from taking the first step towards liberation. Can you recognize areas of your life where things of this earth press against you as you are coming into identity defined by God?

5. Are there current 'reflexive loyalties, desires and motivations' (p.122) that you see in yourself, your family, your church or your nation? Are these responses that come from an identity in Christ, or from an earthly perspective?

6. Do you see yourself as having been defined by any of the things referenced on page 124 (ethnicity, socio-economic background, family or national ethnicity, career and educational achievements, etc)? Describe their impact on your perspective of yourself and your identity, and how these things might be replaced by God's declaration of who you are.

*'Being defined by God and coming into identity sets us free from the things that would otherwise define us.'*

## Chapter 25

# *Transformation Imperative 2:* **Faith for Fulfillment**

*'God is ready to fulfill His word in our day. All He requires is a people in the Earth to synchronize their lives with Heaven's intent just as Israel did in their day.'*

### **Chapter Summary**

In this chapter, the authors describe how we must be like Peter. He was, by faith, able to see past the ordinary and declare the truth of the spiritual reality that lay behind the external and physical. In Peter's case this was that Jesus was 'the Christ, the Son of the living God'.

God's promises must come to pass within time, and both Peter and Jesus had the faith to declare that they were the fulfillment of prophetic scripture. We need to have the same faith, posture and response in our day.

We also see that despite having been in slavery and having followed the same daily patterns for 400 years, the Israelites were able to see beyond the external reality and understand that they were a generation who would fulfill God's promises in their day.

*'Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.'"*

*Luke 19:41-44*



## Key Points

- We have to look past the ordinary to see the true spiritual reality.
- All God's prophetic promises have to come to pass, and prophetic fulfillment does not only occur by Sovereign power, it requires human faith, conviction and response.
- Jesus demonstrated a posture of readiness to take responsibility for the fulfillment of prophetic scripture, and we need to have the same faith and posture for prophetic fulfillment in our day.
- Despite having lived in slavery for their entire lives until that point, the Israelites became able to see that they were a generation who would fulfill God's promises in their day.
- The Israelites had to be dressed and ready to leave even before Pharaoh had released them. This was part of their act of faith which enabled them to walk through the crisis.
- The crisis in Modern America is a call to God's people to stand in faith – not faith to avoid the crisis, but faith to live through the crisis until God brings release from mortality and the promise of eternity with Him.

*'The escalating crisis around us is not just a message to Modern America. It is more critically a clarion call to God's people to stand in faith at this time. Not faith to avoid the crisis, but faith to live through the crisis unto fulfillment of God's promise of eternity with Him.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. Church Leaders: The people of Israel had to come to a place of internal conviction that the promises God made in the past were actually going to come to pass through them. What can you do to build faith and understanding in members of your church that God's intent is to fulfill His promises through His Church in the earth today?

2. What things could hinder a belief in the fulfillment of God's prophetic promises? Have you personally come into faith and conviction that you are part of God's purposes for the earth?

*'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.'*

*Exodus 12:11*

3. The Israelites were commanded to be prepared 'wearing a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hands'. How does this translate into practical adjustments to how you build your marriage, family life and community in this season?

4. How does knowing that God wants to fulfill His word through us change your personal walk with Christ?

5. To what degree do you think you are able to look with faith beyond the natural and see things from a Heavenly perspective?

*'Prophetic fulfillment does not only occur by Sovereign power. It also requires human faith, conviction and response.'*

6. How convinced are you (deep down) that God has called you to be a part of an ultimate generation right now?

*'It takes sight, courage and faith to say, "It is here. It is now. It is me."'*

## Chapter 26

# *Transformation Imperative 3:* **Authentic Leadership**

### **Chapter Summary**

This chapter describes the requirement for authentic leadership to lead people towards God. It looks at the characteristics that God built into Moses to enable him to hear God at all times and respond accurately throughout the crisis in Egypt.

Authentic leadership is absolutely vital in the Church today. There are many instances in the Church where leadership has fractured or failed and caused damage within the Body of Christ, but leadership is a crucial part of God's design. We see that at the core of authentic leadership is a personal pursuit and growth in Christ.

### **Key Points**

- God has a design for authentic leadership, and there are specific things that must characterize the lives of leaders in the Church.
- Moses provides a pattern that leaders must be stripped of nationalism. Loyalty to the nation in which we were born must come second to loyalty to God and His people.
- Leaders must operate in the power and authority of the Spirit of God, never their own strength and carnal power.
- They must identify with and steward the people they lead. This produces love for the people.
- Authentic leadership requires whole and healthy family life.
- At the core of authentic leadership is a leader's own relationship with God. Leaders should point people towards God by the way they have built their own relationships with Him.

## Personal Study Questions

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1. The authors describe 'authentic leadership' as being 'stripped of carnal power', based on 'identification with the people', an 'ordered family life', and 'effective stewardship'. What did you think about these as principles of authentic leadership? Can you describe how God has been dealing with you in these areas?

2. What do you think that God requires of an authentic leader?

3. Church Leaders: From your experience, which of these factors would you think leaders would want most support in developing? Which one would you most value encouragement and support with?

*'Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.'*

*1 Corinthians 11:1*

*'By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.'*

*Hebrews 11:24-25*

4. God's intent is to strip us of our own carnal strength so that we rely on His power working through us. Can you identify times when you have relied on your own strength rather than the authority and power of His Spirit?

5. The authors state that nationalism can lead to 'severe warps in interpreting and understanding God's purposes'. Can you see this occurring in the Church today? Are there elements of nationalism that impact how you lead?

*'Ministries that exist in the power of a leader's gifting, energy or ability will not be able to withstand the assault of the spirit realm against the Church in the day of crisis.'*

*'Nationalism can be a toxin to spiritual leadership because it can build a false system of loyalty which will affect a leader's ability to hear God accurately. It can create a filter that presumes the correctness of the national standard which leads to serve warps in interpreting and understanding God's purposes.'*

Chapter 27

*Transformation Imperative 4:*  
**Complete Obedience**

**Chapter Summary**

As crisis deepens in the earth and God brings things closer and closer to a point of completion, the Church must become increasingly accurate in its obedience to God. We can clearly see this happening in the Israelites as God broke them out of Egypt.

In order to operate in complete obedience, we must abandon self-based lifestyles and our personal preferences. We have to come into a knowledge and awareness of God's purposes and His command to us. And we must be able to trust in the leadership that He has appointed over us.

*"No longer do I call you slaves, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."*

*John 15:15 (NKJV)*

## **Key Points**

- As the crisis increases in the earth, so the precision and accuracy of the Church's obedience must increase.
- We must prioritize God's purposes; our personal preferences cannot determine or dilute our response to God's speaking and command.
- God wants His people to be prophetic; He wants us to know and understand what He is doing in the earth.
- God wants to partner with all of His people. God has called us friends and He is revealing His plans for us to search them out.
- God's view of perfected society is one with leaders walking in absolute agreement and alignment with Him such that they are worthy to be followed. Our responsibility is to trust God-ordained leadership. God Himself will deal with those He has placed in authority.
- His intent is to identify and build strong, faithful and trustworthy leaders inside of His Body. This will heal and strengthen His Church.



## Personal Study Questions

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1. The authors write that for us ‘the Finish is the point of ultimate accuracy’. What are your thoughts around this statement? Is this way of thinking about the End Times and Christ’s return something that you are used to?

2. Where do you see that the responsiveness and obedience of the Church to God’s speaking has been diluted by personal preferences and ‘self-based’ lifestyles?

3. ‘Any doctrine or ministry that promotes the pursuit of self-generated life preferences is in fact condemning God’s people to certain destruction.’ This is a very strong statement, but it is one that we see clearly backed up by Scripture and the story of the Israelites being freed from Egypt. What is your initial response to this?

*‘At the LORD’s command they encamped, and at the LORD’s command they set out. They obeyed the LORD’s order, in accordance with his command through Moses.’*

*Numbers 9:23*

4. Consider situations in your life where you might have only given God partial obedience. Can you identify what held you back from offering complete obedience?

*‘The key to our successful arrival at God’s intended destination is the voice of God. We must become prophetic and walk in complete obedience to His commands.’*

5. Have there been instances in your life where the moral and ethical failings of leaders in the church have created cynicism, fear or withholding towards other leaders in your heart? What do you think are some first steps you can take with God to begin to resolve and bring restoration to these issues?

6. The authors illustrated why total obedience was necessary for the children of Israel in their time of crisis. What impact can you see in the Church if it followed God in the way that the authors describe?

*‘Trust cannot be demanded. It must be earned through consistent lifestyle and sustained accuracy of leadership.’*

Chapter 28

*Transformation Imperative 5:*  
**Family is Everything!**

**Chapter Summary**

This chapter describes how families are the core unit upon which God builds a nation. The Israelite nation escaped slavery in Ancient Egypt when each family was mobilized. This was only possible because the men rose to a place of leadership and obedience as the head of their families. In our time, God is now summoning men across the Earth to take their place and lead their homes into His purposes.

**Key Points**

- The family is the core unit upon which God builds a society.
- It was the activation of spiritual headship in the home that was at the core of Israel's deliverance.
- The emasculation of Israel was part of the strategy by the enemy to keep them enslaved. This attack on manhood continues in our day.
- The spiritual state of the head determines the spiritual state of those under him.
- God requires that men live to serve Him, to follow Him intently and to hold their families and marriages sacred.
- It is important to note that the issue of headship does not deny the critical role women have to play in the home and leadership of the family.
- God is summoning men to take their place and lead their homes into the purposes of God.

*'The nation [Israel] was mobilized for exit by families, the core unit upon which God builds a society.'*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. What has been your experience of seeing an attack on family life and manhood in the Church?

2. How does the society you live in define the role of husband and father? Does this agree with Biblical definitions?

*‘This responsibility to help one’s family to find their accurate place in the structure of God’s purposes and to deliver to them the word of the Lord should inflame the heart of every man in the Kingdom. It is our highest call and most sacred responsibility.’*

*Just as God called for men to take their place at the height of the crisis in Ancient Egypt, He is summoning men today to take their place. Men across the Earth are standing up and leading their homes into the purposes of the Lord.’*

3. Do you think the headship and responsibility that God placed on the Israelite men in Ancient Egypt still applies today?

4. In what ways do you find leading your family in spiritual matters difficult? What hurdles do you face in leading them?

5. Is there anything in your life that distracts you from your marriage or family, meaning that they do not hold the central place in your life that this chapter describes?

*'For if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?'*

*1 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV)*

6. Church Leaders: The authors describe how the men were required to lead the reconstructive process that rebuilt the nation of Israel. What kind of reconstructive process could you begin to build that would strengthen manhood and family life in your church community?

*“Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.”*

*“Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourself according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.*

*“And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two door-posts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.”*

*Exodus 12:3, 21, 22 (NKJV)*

Chapter 29

## *Transformation Imperative 6:* **Community & Oneness**

### **Chapter Summary**

God used the crisis in Ancient Egypt to bring community and oneness to His people in order to deliver them out of slavery. God is now using the unfolding crisis in the world today to bring oneness and community to the Church, and deliver His people out of mortality.

This chapter examines how and why we need to embrace key patterns used by God to build the Israelites from a broken people with deficient community life into a nation of true community and oneness. We must pursue 'complete Christ-likeness' and we must recognize that we are aliens in the land – mortality is not our 'home'. God has set eternity in our hearts and we groan for immortality.

### **Key Points**

- The current state of the Church is fracture and brokenness. God desires community and oneness.
- The Israelites' release from Egypt gives us patterns for how God wants to bring authentic community and oneness to the global Church today. This is not organizational oneness, but rather a commitment to uphold the same standards and walk in a common spiritual perspective.
- Complete Christ-likeness is a key component of community that God is building into the Church today. Christ-likeness takes us beyond human personality and culture into oneness in Christ.
- The purpose of the five-fold ministries is to represent the full nature and character of Christ inside the Church, making us one before the Lord.
- The Israelites' oneness also came from their understanding that they were aliens in the land and God had called them into a different identity in Him.
- As God's people, we too must understand that we are aliens inside of the mortality and darkness of the earth. Our true and complete identity is in Christ and eternity with Him. Our oneness gives us the ability to journey with God together as the Body of Christ.

## Personal Study Questions

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1. Where can you identify breakage of oneness, and lapse of community in the Church today? How has this impacted you?

2. Is God highlighting any areas where you need to embrace forgiveness for harm caused to you, or by yourself towards the Church? If so, take time to inquire further of God for sight into this. Pause to consider how God is calling you to respond.

3. The authors describe that God is looking for oneness that is not based on organizational structures, or physical meetings and proximity, but on a commitment to walk in common standards and spiritual perspective. What do you think of this perspective of oneness?

*‘The single definition of Christ fits every human personality and culture, so that in our diversity we are unified and made whole.’*



4. The Israelites went through a process in preparing for the night of the Passover which resulted in them learning selflessness, the value of sacrifice and shared identity. They became more Christ-like. What characteristics of Christ do you think are required for someone to function well within a community?

*“Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father; a lamb for a household.....Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.”*

*Exodus 12:3-6 (NKJV)*

*“And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORDS Passover.”*

*Exodus 12:11 (NKJV)*

5. What does it look like for you to be dressed and ready to journey with God, expecting God’s powerful deliverance to you and the whole Body of Christ?

6. If full Christ-likeness is only achieved through being equipped by all of the five ministries, can you identify a need in your personal life or your church community for any of those five to resource you further (i.e. apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher)?

*'As God assaults the Earth with crisis, He is leading us towards true Community and Oneness just as He did with our ancient brothers.'*

*'As Ancient Egypt was falling apart and fragmenting through their resistance to the word of the Lord, Israel was being reconstituted by God into wholeness, oneness and community. The same crisis which took Egypt apart, made the people of God one.'*

Chapter 30

*Transformation Imperative 7:*  
**Ultimate Partnership**

**Chapter Summary**

In this chapter, the authors describe characteristics of Israel's partnership with God in the time of ultimate crisis in Ancient Egypt. These characteristics form the pattern for our engagement with crisis today, and must be built within us as we partner with God in the Last Days.

**Key Points**

- Sight and understanding of God's purposes form the basis of our partnership with Him.
- In the time of crisis, active participation with God's mission replaces passive observation of the events on the earth.
- It is our understanding of our spiritual context which will either give us confidence to move forward, or paralyze us with fear and uncertainty.
- There are no political solutions to the crises assaulting our societies on every level, and divine direction must replace political solutions.
- God must see a rising faith amongst His people for the purposes of the Lord – even amidst the fear and uncertainty gripping the nations of the Earth.

*"Every man in Israel was made the partner of God."*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. Do you have the faith that if you keep asking God for wisdom and revelation on decisions, circumstances, etc, He will actually give it to you?

2. In your life, do you feel like you stand in ‘passivity and mere observation’ in the middle of events in the Earth, where you don’t currently – or have never – partnered with God in His purposes? What would it take for you to begin to partner with Him and develop ‘diligence, thoroughness and effort’?

*‘...That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.’*

*Ephesians 1:17-18*

3. This chapter explains how there are some things that God only wants to do if everyone actively participates. How could this impact the way you view your commitment to your church community?

4. In discovering God's character and purpose through this book, what changes in your thinking can you already notice that point towards a replacement of fear with confidence in God?

5. Are there any areas where you have an optimism or false confidence in your nation that needs replacing with faith in the purposes of God?

*'Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.'*

*Exodus 12:28*

*'Sight and understanding are the basis of partnership with the Lord. With them, we can effectively follow Him and act appropriately in the context of His plans. The desire for understanding should be the foundation prayer of every believer.'*

6. Political negotiation and reasoning could never leverage Israel out of their crises because God wanted His people to turn to Him for a solution. How has this chapter caused you to look afresh to God for insights and solutions to the problems the Church is facing today?

*'They were being moved by God away from debating over government programs and towards the spiritual agenda which was the real cause of the conflict.'*

## Chapter 31

# The Sovereign Lord Does Nothing, Unless

### Chapter Summary

Throughout the book, we have explored the spiritual context we find ourselves in today, and our response to the increase of crisis on the earth. We have come to an understanding that God wants an active and intimate partnership with every one of us. We now have to ask ourselves the questions: what do we do with the insight gained through this book? How will we rise to walk in partnership with God?

### Key Points

- God's preference is to execute His purposes in partnership with His people.
- God is after you. He wants you to participate with Him in His End Time purposes.
- It is impossible to change and be like Christ, or to effectively inquire of the Lord, without the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The responsibility to change as a result of God's speaking lies with us. The Holy Spirit helps us, but we have to commit to growth and development.

*"Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you."*

*John 16:7,13,14*

## Personal Study Questions

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1. God is actively looking for partnership with us on the Earth. What does this tell us about His nature? How do you feel about God's strong desire for intimacy and partnership with you personally?

2. How does understanding that God is actively looking for *your* response change your engagement with the Biblical principles described in this book? How will you pursue the outworking of these principles in your own life?

3. Church Leaders: Reflecting on the verse, 'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build labor in vain' (Psalm 127:1), what do you think is the difference between human effort, and effort that is originated in Christ? How will this reality change the way you partner with God to build your church community?

*'Why did God speak this word to us? He is after people. We can personalize it and say God is after you. He wants you to participate with Him in His End Time purposes.'*

4. Now it is in your hands. What will you do with the word of the Lord? How will you rise to walk in partnership with God?

5. The crisis that we are living in is not random. It is the work of a Sovereign God leading us back to Himself. Do you find yourself agreeing with this statement more now than before you read this book? Do you now see a way to walk with sight and confidence through the crisis?

*‘If we are closer to the end than any other generation, then the readiness of the Holy Spirit to make us God’s functional partner is greatest in our time than ever before.’*

6. By this point you have read through the whole book and you engaged with the questions given to you in this workbook. If you were to summarize your response in just a few sentences, what would be the thing that has impacted you most?

*“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”*

*Amos 3:7 (NKJV)*



## Connecting the Dots

God's actions caused two different processes to take place. The crises devastated the Ancient Egyptian empire and yet built hope, identity and deliverance into the hearts of the Israelites. We hope this gives you encouragement as you stand in the middle of crises in your situation. The movement toward the exit from Ancient Egypt was designed to build the people of God, not crush them. So what about the crises we see around us now? Is it really possible that they produce strength in God's people, and not collapse and fear?

The authors describe how crisis facilitates identity, and they describe the different dimensions of strength that God has actually built into a community of people who live right now. Whether the dimensions are faith, leadership, obedience, family, community or partnership with God – all of them are built like Noah's ark before the rain came.

Our experience has been that understanding the purpose of crisis has allowed us to discover strength and purpose. Doesn't it seem to line up with the heart of God that He would equip His people? He says that we are no longer servants, but friends, because we know our Master's business (John 15:15). Does it not make sense that, as God shakes this world to leave only that which is unshakable, He also equips and builds that immovable core inside us? Biblically the plan has never really changed. God has wanted a people for Himself – a Bride who will make herself ready. God desires a people who do not feel located in this world as their home. He has put eternity into our hearts. It makes sense therefore that we have to leave the slavery of mortality behind if we are to enter fully into the life that God has for us. Can we see that? Are we still entrapped by this world? Do we see this form of life as deficient compared to God's original plan? Our conviction is that God wants to bring His children into the fullness of their spiritual inheritance, and in order to get to the 'Promised Land', the exodus is worth it.

## Looking Forward

It may be helpful to understand that these seven Transformation Imperatives are not just abstract principles, but are rather dimensions of life that God revealed and built into a global community of people over the past 20 years. You are not reading mere concepts – these are living letters, descriptors of case studies from communities all across the earth. We have found that God built these imperatives in order to equip His people to deal with crises around them. We hope that they will be a source of encouragement to you too.

To interact and discuss issues raised in this book, go to: [www.arcofempires.org/interact](http://www.arcofempires.org/interact)

You will be able to ask questions, engage in dialogue, leave comments and discuss any issues that you have in more detail.

Click [HERE](#) to watch Scott Webster and Marlon Jameson describe 'The Collaborative Process'.