

**Scott Webster**

## **“My Burden for America”**

Writing the Arc of Empires is a recent activity, but the sense of burden and mission I have felt for America is not new at all. I have known since my very early days of walking with the Lord 30+ years ago that I was called to speak specifically to America – it was an intuitive sense that God placed within me and I have prayed about it and carried it within me from the beginning.

That is not to say I felt God called me exclusively to the nation of America, because he hasn't. It has been my joy to travel to many nations over the decades, and I am blessed to have deep and committed relationships with brothers from all across the earth. As an apostolic leader within Congress WBN I am afforded both a broad global perspective and also friendships with leaders and people across 95 nations. That is very enriching and fulfilling, yet as I said there is something specific I've carried for the United States for a long time.

The burden has steadily increased in weight and density over time. I like describing it as a burden because that is a Biblical concept as it relates to the prophetic. The word “burden” was used by the prophets to describe God speaking to them and them carrying insight, revelation and care within their hearts for those God sent them to.

The Hebrew word for “burden” is *maśśā'*; it is a masculine noun meaning a burden or load; by extension, a burden in the form of a prophetic utterance or oracle. It is derived from the verb *nāśā*, meaning to lift, to bear or to carry. Ancient prophets used the word “burden” to identify how they mapped out the authentic word of the Lord from the midst of other concerns, motivations and perceptions. This could be called the Evaporative Process since the true burden of the Lord does not lift or evaporate. The word of the Lord carried weight inside of the prophets – it had density - and the weight would not dissipate until “proclaimed”. Jeremiah said that if he failed to obey it was like having fire shut up in his bones – it was a burden!

### **Some Prophetic Words**

My sense of calling to America has intensified over time as I have grown and matured, and over the years it has been addressed through various prophetic words. More than twenty years ago one prophet said to me *“I see you involved in the governmental affairs of the nation, in politics and government, it doesn't mean you won't be in ministry, you will be a prophet, but I also see a national involvement...Congressmen will call you for advice.”*

Another prophetic word declared God was going to *“give you a governmental authority like never before, and you're going to be speaking to many in government in other nations, but also in this nation, I've placed a mantle of government and politics on you and you're going to see things through new eyes... I've placed this mantle on you and released you as a sent one to speak my word, deliverance is the children's bread and will be in your mouth and when you speak it will be with authority...get ready!”*

A quick word about the phraseology used in these prophecies. Speaking to political leaders may be fulfilled literally, and in fact I have spoken to various governmental and business leaders. However, I don't think it is correct to count how many politicians one has spoken to, as if a prophet is like an old west gunfighter who notched his gun with each shootout. Man is much more impressed with human authority than God is. What these words are really saying is that the core systems of the nation will be spoken to: leadership, economics, political, etc. The reason these systems exist is to provide context for the people of the nation to live within – so when I hear this prophetic word I recognize the motivation behind it: God wants to influence and redeem the people in the nation. That is underscored by the words *“deliverance is the children's bread.”* Can you hear God's heart for the people in that statement?

A potent phrase in the prophecy is *“I've placed this mantle on you.”* It is repeated twice and it is a strong indication that the burden must come from the Lord. Being called to speak to people/nations must not find its origin within our human strength, personal desires or deep convictions – a calling must be a summons that comes from God. In one of the words I was told ***Get Ready!*** We must always respond to the call of God with preparation – acceptance of the burden involves a radical transformation process.

God told Jeremiah the same thing: *“Get yourself ready!”* (Jer 1:17). Jeremiah started out as one who was immature, afraid and unable to speak but God told him he had to move away from his childish stature – *do not say I am only a child!* That process totally transformed Jeremiah and it was a process of development that God validated when He said *“This day I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall”* (Jer 1:18). There had to be a “making” of Jeremiah, a deep internal process of change so that he became more like Christ. New architecture was built within this prophet, he became internally more robust and spiritually complex, able to carry load in the spirit realm.

## **Get Ready!**

The process of development in my own life has gone far beyond just “learning how to prophesy” or the development of a gift, it has involved a multi-faceted process, including:

a) ***Undergoing a continual process of personal migration, growth and development.*** To put it simply, I had to grow and change. I had to become mature enough for God to speak to me and discharge the burden correctly. This is not just growing in the prophetic gift, what was required was an entire life of maturity and development. I had to have correct identity and know who I was in God. My family covenants had to be strong and tested by time and circumstances as I grew and matured as a husband and father. I had to deal with personal deficiencies like the fear of man, pride, deficient self-concept, etc. I have had to become more Christ like because my natural strength and native personality were insufficient. We have a saying within Congress WBN that “there is no reformation without a personal process of transformation”. Reformation is not a doctrine in a church; it is a personal journey towards wholeness. Jesus said that many are

called and few are chosen, and we must go through the personal development process that validates God's calling and allows Him to choose and utilize us.

b) ***Ensuring relational strength through correct placement in the body of Christ.*** A declaration such as “Modern America is Like Ancient Egypt” cannot be a singular activity. It must be a proclamation that comes forth from a context of strong and sustained relationship building. The prophetic utterance was never intended to be a “stand alone” ministry event – it must be the point of a spear that has behind it spiritual mass and the weight of correct building that validates the spoken words. A prophetic order that is primarily focused on speaking and blessing but without a strong and authentic apostolic building dimension is what Jude described as *clouds without rain* (Jude 11) and Peter said were like *wells without water...they mouth vain, boastful words* (2 Pet 2:17). A significant part of “get ready” in my life was His placing me into a global order of relationships built on apostolic impartation. Through that He has given the burden powerful global strength which, though proclaimed by one, is backed by the lives and sacrifices of many.

c) ***Moving away from nationalistic paradigms that would taint the word or put on it a wrong angle of sight.*** I grew up in America and though I have traveled quite a bit and feel “home” wherever God sends me in the earth, I have never lived anywhere else. The forces and mentalities that shaped me are particular to this region – including a strong connection with the Armed Forces which was central to my childhood years. But you cannot prophesy to a nation from a political or parochial platform – that would make you an employee of the State Department, not a prophet of God. Objectivity is seeing things as they actually are, the way God sees them, and to gain that impartiality we have to move towards God and away from the subjective definitions learned in our culture and nation. Far too many cannot hear what God intends for America today because they begin in the wrong place – for example with the assumption that God wants to restore the nation; or the idea that America as a strong nation is essential to God's end-time purpose. I had to go through a process where those assumptions were examined and filtered in light of the Word of God and God's purpose.

We have to begin our prophetic inquiry with God, not our desires, convictions or hopes. It is the starting point that can make us either true or false. Jeremiah said that Judah faced severe economic judgment: *I will take away their harvest, declares the LORD. There will be no grapes on the vine. There will be no figs on the tree, and their leaves will wither. What I have given them will be taken from them* (8:13). But other voices were more loyal to their nation's interests and unable to discern the severity of the situation; *they dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace* (Jeremiah 8:11). Time and events proved Jeremiah true, and validated his movement away from the limitations of nationalism.



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d) ***Waiting for the right timing and release from the Lord to proclaim what has been known for some time.*** Knowledge of something is not permission to declare it; the two things are separate transactions before the Lord. The Lord revealed some things I'm writing here years ago, but it is only now that I have permission from Him to declare it. The issue here is not only my readiness, but also the culmination of events that have brought people's minds to a place of greater willingness to hear, as well as the maturity of the building strategies we are engaged in which "back up" the utterance. Situations had to become ready, and life had to be arranged to provide a basis for the declaration.

e) ***Letting the burden gain density and mass through prayer and enlargement of internal capacity, etc.*** We must have internal weight and spiritual mass. The prophet himself must move away from frivolity and develop internal gravitas. That enlargement of our inner man usually comes from things like suffering unjustly, being misunderstood, deep searching of God's mind through prayer and internal agony, being faithful to God over a long period of time, etc. A prophet who is frivolous is useless to God; they might have correct words through the power of their gift, but their words don't carry weight in the spirit realm and therefore they can't shift things. When Daniel prayed princes flew in the heavens; and Jeremiah's prophecies mobilized the armies of empires who didn't even know they were obeying words he had spoken. The idea of a burden means we have to be spiritually robust so we can carry load. I like the description of Jeremiah as a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall because it describes the building of his inner man and the enlargement of his capacity (Jer 1:17).

f) ***I needed to gain clarity and wisdom to discharge the burden.*** God can call you to say something, but you must go through a process of learning, searching and inquiry to determine the most effective way of discharging it. Solomon understood this when he wrote "*The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true*" (Eccl 12:10). Nathan was sent to reprove and redeem David who was caught in sin, and he fashioned a parable about one man with many sheep stealing the one sheep of his neighbor, asking the king his view of justice – the only parable in the Old Testament (2 Sam 12:1ff). He found "just the right words" and they produced God's intended result – David repented before God.

### **Why Discuss My Burden?**

I have included a description of my process for two reasons. First I think it might help to clarify where I am coming as I discharged the burden, at least in part, in writing *The Arc of Empires*. This word from the Lord may have come in a moment and taken about a year to carefully process and write out, but the development and journey that led to this place is extensive. Having sight of that process might help you understand and more fully receive. But there is a second reason for sharing my personal process – and that is to open a door of invitation for you to take up this burden and share it with me.

I believe it originates in the heart of God and wasn't meant just for me. I am certain that a great many of God's people have been given a genuine burden for this nation, and that reading *The*

*Arc of Empires* and interacting with the spiritual reality within it will cause that burden from the Lord to grow and intensify. For others perhaps this is a burden that God wants to place within you. We know it is possible to distribute a spiritual burden because Jesus said we should take on His burden as our own (Mt 11:29). It is possible to activate, by faith and conscious acceptance, the spiritual reality that God gave to one person as our own.

It is not copycatting nor is it a shortcut to spiritual development; it is a way God has intended to equip His people. Paul was very clear about this when he said “*Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you*” (Ep 3:2-3). There was a supernatural impartation from God into Paul, what he called “grace”, but it wasn’t intended for Paul but for those he was in relationship with. He talked about it and he expected them to know about it because the purpose of what God gave Paul was so that they would grow.

As you read *The Arc of Empires* I am asking God to distribute the burden to you. That distribution is not primarily informational; it is not acquired by learning more about a nation or studying its history. It is heart based and it can be received in your spirit through a conscious decision to interact with God as you read and study. I invite you to do that. Let’s share in God’s purpose together, and see Him move in the lives of many across this great nation.



## Talk about this Topic

Scott believes his burden for America originates from the heart of God and was meant to go beyond him.

- a) How has sight of this God-given burden impacted you?
- b) How has reading the book *Arc of Empires* increased your burden?

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