

***Now concerning Spiritual Things***  
an historical account of one man's walk with God

4305 Bretton Bay Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75287-6712

Copyright May 15, 2003  
Jim Ash letter No. 56

972.267.7187 Fax 972.267.7399  
e-mail: jimashsr@juno.com

**PROPHECY  
IN THE CHURCH TODAY**

For a number of years the Lord has dealt with me concerning my gifting in the prophetic. He has instructed me on a number of occasions to share with others words He has given to me, and although I have done this a number of times in the past, He has had to "prompt" or urge me to do so. On one occasion I was given a mild rebuke when He said to me, "My son those are not your words!" Or impliedly said, words given by the Holy Spirit are spirit and life and may bless others as they are shared. I have found this to be true. Holy Spirit given words are the basis of ministry in the Church. That is one of the exciting things about a personal relationship with the Lord. On more than one occasion, prophetic words He has given to me have blessed others with whom I have shared them. Accordingly, as I have been instructed, I will share with you in this letter a prophecy given to me on Christmas morning, December 25, 2002, along with some comments and words of explanation.

**INTRODUCTION**

Here are three areas of prophecy mentioned in the Bible:

1. The spirit of prophecy. An angel spoke to the apostle John while he was imprisoned on Patmos Island and said, "See that you do not do that [worship me]! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For *the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*."<sup>1</sup> The meaning seems to be that the *spirit of prophecy* is in general, testimony concerning Jesus, for He is the focal point of all scripture from Genesis 3:14 to the "Amen" at the end of Revelation. The scope and design of the whole of scripture is *testimony concerning Jesus*. All born-again believers have that testimony within themselves for it is transferred or transmitted by the Holy Spirit the moment of one's rebirth.

2. The office of Prophet. The apostle Paul lists five offices of the Church, including their purpose. These words are found in his letter to the Church at Ephesus:

"And He Himself [Christ] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."<sup>2</sup> One definition of a prophet is, "One who is divinely inspired to communicate God's will to His people and to disclose the future to them," while another definition is, "One who speaks for another, especially one who speaks for God." In the old testament a prophet is some times called a "seer."<sup>3</sup> The office of apostles and prophets in the Church apparently disappeared about 300 A.D. There were reasons for this, but I will not address that subject since that is not the purpose of this letter. Some Christians (including myself) believe these two offices will be restored to the Church prior to the Rapture.<sup>4</sup> One evidence of this restoration is noted in this letter in footnote #9. (Read all of my footnotes concurrently with each page of my letters for a clear understanding of my writing.)

3. The Gift of prophecy. This is one of nine spiritual gifts enumerated by the apostle Paul in his first letter to the Church in Corinth.<sup>5</sup> In this epistle he also admonishes *believers* to "earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially to prophecy."<sup>6</sup> The purpose of the gift of prophecy is to edify, exhort and comfort.<sup>7</sup> Through this gift today, one may prophesy the future or a future event and/or "tell-forth" God's word as revealed in scripture. Such prophetic words must line up with or not contradict scripture and may confirm something already known through the Holy Spirit. Scripture also confirms that "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets,"<sup>8</sup> meaning that prophecies today are to be judged by other

---

<sup>2</sup>Ephesians 4:11, 12, bracketed insert added.

<sup>3</sup>See 1 Samuel 3:20; 2 Chronicles 35:18.

<sup>4</sup>See Rapture scripture 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

<sup>5</sup>See 1 Corinthians 12:2-11.

<sup>6</sup>See 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1, 39.

<sup>7</sup>See 1 Corinthians 14:3.

<sup>8</sup>1 Corinthians 14:32.

---

<sup>1</sup>See Revelation 19:10, italics added.

prophets. Consequently, I invite any of you gifted in the prophetic to judge this prophecy as well as others I may publish in the future. You may do so by e-mail, if you so choose.

All nine gifts are available to the Church today and did not cease with the confirmation of the canon of scripture as some believe to be the meaning of 1 Corinthians 13:10. Since scripture admonishes *believers* to earnestly desire spiritual gifts (those given by the Holy Spirit), I have prayed for and received the spiritual gift of prophecy. I do not hold the office of prophet,<sup>9</sup> but through the gift of prophecy have received many prophetic words from the Holy Spirit that fall within the apostle Paul's definition of prophetic utterance through this spiritual gift. In some cases I have received spiritual revelation of scripture previously unknown to me, have been rebuked, exhorted, comforted, given a task I neither asked for nor wanted, told of a future event or events and given specific directions by the Lord concerning certain interaction with others. This should not be unusual in any of the Christian churches today. It is not uncommon in charismatic Churches, that is, where there is teaching on the Holy Spirit without restriction.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHECY

For several days before December 25, 2002, a Christmas song was on my mind. It may have been one of the old Christmas songs I play on the piano, such as "White Christmas," or "I'll Be Home For Christmas," or something similar. I do not recall being impressed with the lyrics. The impression was that of *Christmas* – the emphasis was on the word Christmas or Christmas day, but not necessarily on the songs themselves. Several days before Christmas I may have said something like this to the Lord, as I have done a number of times before, "Lord, I know it's there." Then I'd forget it until it would appear again. As Christmas day grew near, I sensed that the Lord might be calling my attention to December 25. I had no idea why. It is interesting to note in retrospect that the Sunday following Christmas, I was to teach a class in our Church on the New Covenant. In my lesson outline I had tied being in covenant relationship with God to (1) the practice of cutting a blood covenant prior to the writing of

---

<sup>9</sup>Once each month, Brad and Melba Burk, both of whom minister in the office of prophet, hold "Prophet's Meetings" at Hillcrest Church. At these meetings one or both of them may minister from the Word, after which they minister to individuals as requested, which usually includes a prophetic word for each one requesting ministry.

the Bible, (2) the blood covenant cut by God with Abram as recorded in Genesis 15 and (3) the "new covenant in My blood," that Jesus cut on the altar of the cross as recorded in scripture.<sup>10</sup> The prophecy treats the importance of being in covenant relationship with God through Christ and confirmed and supplemented my lesson in a very forceful way. This prophetic word is exciting to me because I believe there are those living in this generation (a bible generation is forty years) today who will not die because they will be taken in the Rapture. I believe it is that close – and I know I am not alone in that opinion.

Christmas morning, as Dale was making preparations for our dinner, to include our four invited guests, I went in to my usual place to pray. After I had prayed for a short while, I began to pray in the spirit and that continued for a longer period of time than usual. As I did so, I realized that the Lord wanted to say something to me. I then picked up my pen and wrote the following words. It is interesting to me to note retrospectively, that the Lord's blessings in this prophetic word included our four guests for the day.

#### THE CHRISTMAS PROPHECY

"My son I see your need. I have heard your cry. And my response is not overdue but on the way. For I await the timing of My response even as I awaited the timing of My coming as a babe in a manger, an unwanted place for My birth. Even as there was no room in the Inn, there is no room for Me in the hearts of many today and that is what grieves Me. I would that all of My servants would await My coming,<sup>11</sup> even as you, for it is that expectant awaiting of My coming that will hasten it.

So remain faithful. Continue to do My bidding one day at a time, one step at a time, for that, more than anything else, will usher into being My soon return.

As My servants *expect* My soon return, they will

---

<sup>10</sup>See Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25.

<sup>11</sup>The terms, "My coming" and "My soon coming" are used synonymously eleven times in this prophecy. These terms are used in scripture to prophecy **two different events**. (1) The *second coming* meaning the Lord returning to call His bride, the Church, **up to meet him in the air** at the Rapture as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (and many other scriptures), at which time He does not come to earth, and (2) **His return from heaven with His bride, the Church, to the earth** to rule and reign for one thousand years as described in Daniel 2:44, 45; Acts 1:9-11 (and many other scriptures). "My coming" and "My soon coming" as used in this letter refer to the Rapture.

be and will remain, expectantly waiting and watching for Me. It is *those* whom I will call up to Me in the soon to come Rapture. So be not dismayed, things are on course. You are on course. There is enough time to do all the necessary things in preparation for My soon return.

Remember to be watchfully expectant of My soon return. *For only those who are eager for My soon coming are chosen to be raptured.* The complacent, the slothful, the unexpectant will be left behind. That does not mean they will not be saved, it means they will remain until I call those who will receive Me unto Myself, My kingdom.

That is why you are to be diligently about what I have called you to do. As you obey My calling and election on your life, you are unknowingly preparing for and hastening My soon return. My son, I rejoice with you this morning. My peace I bestow on you and those whom you receive as guests today, says the Lord of hosts.

Remember, be of good cheer. I have overcome the world. *As you remain watchfully expectant of My soon return to claim My own, that is the sign of My soon coming.*

Those who are watchfully expecting My soon return are those who are being so qualified to serve Me – to prepare them to return with Me to rule and reign for a thousand years.

Remember to be watchfully expectant of My soon return is the sign. Teach this My son for blessings to you and those whom you shall teach and those for whom you write.

I am revealing to you secrets hidden from the foundation of the world, secrets that are now being made known to My servants, the prophets, of whom you are one.

So tell these words to others. Proclaim it as My truth to a weary, hungry, lost and indifferent world. A world I long to clasp unto My bosom in love, but this can only be done as they first receive Me – My Holy Spirit within to atone for sin. For it is only then that I can embrace them – have communion – fellowship with them, for if I should clasp them to Me now, the power and glory of My presence would destroy them for to them I would be a consuming fire. This is why the earth will need to be cleansed by fire – My consuming fire – to be cleansed and readied for the perfect eternal state. For only as I cleanse that which has been contaminated by sin is the earth prepared in its eternal state. The cleansing will be a cleansing of sin by the fire of My presence. This is the longing of My heart. So be of good cheer today. My peace I give you – I bestow upon you and your guests on this Christmas day. Enjoy My day for I am with you as

you do so, says the Lord.

My son warn those who are complacent. Warn those who take commitment to Me carelessly, inattentively. Warn them to turn to Me in total commitment so I may give them My covenant<sup>12</sup> response. Let your warning be given in love. For there will be believers in Me who think not concerning the seriousness of their covenant with Me. ***For My covenant is unto their death, if required, or it is not covenant.*** That is why Jesus said, “Let the dead bury the dead.” That is why some did not follow Me seriously – they had other things to attend to – worldly things to attend to – and so they missed My call.

It was expedient that I leave first so My Holy Spirit could be sent. It is expedient now that My followers be about My Father’s call and election on their life for that will allow them entry into the blessed communion with Me in preparation to return to rule and reign with Me. To those who will be caught up with Me, the time will be spent in preparation for rule. Assignments will be given, training will be done by the heavenly hosts in preparation to rule and reign with Me. As the raptured return with Me, each will be trained for his assignment and will assume His or her post for the Millennium. That will be a glorious time for Me and for those chosen to come with Me.

So continue to be faithful. Say, teach, write what I say to you. Warn those who are not saved. Admonish those who take their commitment to Me lightly, for there is a price to pay in commitment that some do not wish to pay. To those who hear, it will be the greatest investment they can make – an investment that will bring exponential returns – beyond their fondest dreams.

*I will give you revelation as you ask as My covenant partner – I have no other choice. I must respond to covenant needs even as do you.* But covenant partners who understand and take covenant seriously are the most blessed ones.

My son I am obligated to respond to covenant partners with Me – even as they are obligated to respond to Me. For that is covenant. But covenant obligations are

---

<sup>12</sup>The word “covenant,” used nine times in this prophecy, is translated from the Hebrew word **bryith**, pronounced “ber-eeth.” Strong’s #1285 definition is “A compact made by passing between two pieces of flesh – confederacy – covenant – league.” The practice of “cutting a blood covenant” pre-dates the writing of the Bible and is directly related to what Jesus did in instituting the Lord’s Supper when He said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood.” An understanding of the relationship between what Jesus said and cutting a blood covenant is absolutely necessary to an understanding of the word “covenant” as used in this prophecy.

blessings to both. For in covenant response there is blessing for both parties. That is the purpose of covenant – blessings for both parties. **Tell this to My people.** Proclaim to them My warning and My blessing that they may be set free, thus says the Lord God to you today, the Lord of hosts says to you. Amen

There will be believers who are left behind [at the Rapture] who are not watchfully, expectantly doing what God has called them to do. Being born again is no guarantee of being raptured. Bring your tithes into My storehouse, says the Lord, tithes of your time, your money, your talents and your gifts. For only as you do so may I reach out and touch them, take them, bless them and return them to you exponentially blessed. For that is My desire for you. That is My call on all to respond to the blessings of My storehouse of treasures. For My storehouse is full to overflowing awaiting My response to your requests. Ask boldly, seek fruitfully, knock expectantly so as to receive in abundance, says the Lord.

My son I am mindful of your requests and they will come as you are able to receive them, thus says the Lord.”

#### COMMENTS

At least fifteen different items from scripture are mentioned in this prophetic word, including preparation for the rapture wedding call, the Millennium and the cleansing of the earth by fire in preparation for the final eternal sinless state of the earth. It is also noteworthy that in this prophecy the Lord speaks of His first coming as a babe in a manger and His second coming to claim His bride. That, to me, is very special.

Words in *the prophecy* concerning the Rapture are confirmed in the following parable of the Ten Virgins related by Jesus as recorded by Matthew.<sup>13</sup>

1 Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them., 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight a cry was heard, “Behold the bridegroom is coming, go out and meet him!” 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” 9 But the wise answered, saying, “No, lest there would not be enough for us and

you, but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.” 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also saying, “Lord, Lord, open to us!” 12 But he answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.” 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

This parable likens the rapture of the Church (the bride of Christ) to ancient Jewish customs surrounding the marriage of a young man to his virgin bride. In the parable, the bridegroom, the Lord and the Son of Man are all the same character: the Lord Jesus. The five wise virgins (representing some Christians today) spent their *time* wisely. Consequently they were excited – prepared and ready, watchfully, eagerly and expectantly awaiting the call of the bridegroom (the Rapture), as would any young bride, because they knew neither the day nor the hour of his call and didn’t want to miss their opportunity of a lifetime! The five foolish virgins (representing some Christians today) had not made preparation for the bridegroom’s call. They had frittered away their time, did not take their commitment (to Christ) seriously, and foolishly thought, “There will always be time for that tomorrow, but today I have other important things to do.” – and they were left behind – they were not raptured! Notice also that they *expected* to go into the wedding with the five wise virgins – they expected to be raptured!

The unidentified One in the parable is the father (God) who, according to Jewish tradition, was the one to announce to his son, “Now is the time to go get your betrothed.” Hence, the father was the only one who knew the day and the hour. In parallel fashion, according to scripture, only God, the Father knows the day and hour He will announce to His Son, the Lord Jesus, “Now is the time to go get your betrothed – now is the time to rapture your bride!” That is why we should be expectantly watching and waiting as Jesus woos His bride in preparation for the rapture call! Only the Father knows the day and the hour. *According to scripture, no other event must transpire in order for the Father to say to the Lord Jesus, “Now is the time!”* And *that* is why today is an exciting time to be alive.

---

<sup>13</sup>Matthew 25:1-13.