

Releasing End-Time Messengers in Power - Isaiah 40:3-5

- I. BHOP vision #3: To see the Lord release forerunners who proclaim a message that is confirmed by signs and wonders; preparing the nations for Jesus' reign on the earth and the days leading up to it. (Ps. 89:14, John 14:12, acts 1:4,8,13)**

*The voice of one (forerunner) in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God...The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh (all nations) shall see it together (at Jesus' Second Coming). -Is 40:3-5*

A. Isaiah prophesied about end-time messengers that would prepare the way of the Lord's return. John the Baptist was a deposit that pointed to an army of forerunner messengers at the end of the age.

B. We believe that BHOP will be a place where God cultivates a message in the hearts of those who will abandon themselves fully to Him, and at the proper time He will release many of them in power.

*"John the Baptist stayed in the wilderness until he had something to say. My desire is to be someone, and raising up others that have something to say, with the lifestyle and power to back it up."-Dave Horsman*

**II. Gathering and cultivating**

A. Gather the people and rend your hearts (Joel 2)

1. The Holy Spirit is emphasizing to the church that now is the time to gather because a great crisis is coming.

- The wisdom of Noah's ark was not apparent until it began to rain.

2. We believe it is the wisdom of God in this hour of human history to partner with God in the building of a house of prayer (BHOP) here at Bethany for this region of the earth.

*"...For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."- Is. 56:7*

B. A forerunner voluntarily consecrates oneself for the sake of love to the Lord, by committing to a life of prayer, fasting and radical obedience. (Num. 6:1-21; Judg. 13:7; Is. 40:3-5; Luke 1:15)

1. First commandment in first place (Mt. 22:37-38)

2. Costly and radical devotion to Jesus (Mary of Bethany breaking the alabaster flask- Mk. 14:3-9)

3. Intentionality *"...The violent take it by force"* (Mt. 11:12)

*"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray."- 1 Peter 4:1*

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**III. Friends of the Bridegroom**

## A. Defining a forerunner: John the Baptist

*"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."- John 3:29-30*

## B. Nameless and faceless generation

- A forerunner's purpose is not to be "successful" in the Christian culture of this age, but to be loyal to God's heart and His ways while setting his or her heart on the age to come.

*"And I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before My anointed forever."- 1 Sam. 2:35*

C. Living the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle for REAL!

- The culture of the kingdom (normal expression of Christianity)
- The lifestyle must match the message.
- Two-fold reward: (1) God Himself, (2) Ruling with Him in the kingdom to come (Meekness pays well-Mt. 5:5)

## D. Humble, contrite and one who trembles at His word. (Is. 66:2)

*"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit.'" -Is 57:15*

**IV. God releases the messenger**

*"There is a seminary of God, where the Spirit reveals the true doctrine of Christ and gives power which no man can give. Men are not able to confer upon other men the power to preach the gospel. Only Christ can send a man to preach. In the seminary of God, Christ alone confers the degrees. As wise Peter said, 'If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth.'" -John Clark*

A. Forerunners stay in the secret place of the wilderness until God sees fit to promote them and back up their message with power. (Luke 1:80)

*While they were worshipping and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'. Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. - Acts 13:2-3*

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*"Many are called, but few are chosen."-Mt. 22:14*

- B. In a Christian culture where so many go; very few are truly sent.
- God is raising up a generation of messengers whose default is to first pray, and then when God sends them to go praying.
  - We still do the works of the kingdom and proclaim boldly now but we at BHOP believe a day is coming when many will be released out of the wilderness as end-time messengers who move in apostolic power.

*"...The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."- Luke 10:2*

**V. The message.**

*"True authority in the kingdom of God always comes out of the place of intimacy."  
-Nita Steiner*

- A. What is the message?
- The unpopular message that a divine King who is a Jewish man is coming to judge the nations, restore righteousness and establish His empire upon the earth forever and if you want to be part of His empire you must repent and be saved.
  - This is not a partial gospel that leads people only to the message of the forgiveness of sins.
  - Paul said, *"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."*- Acts 20:27
  - When we preach the whole counsel of God (the gospel), He will back up that message with power!
- B. This message is offensive
- This message will be offensive, because His coming means earthy kings and the power brokers of society will need to submit to His authority or face His wrath.

*"He has...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."- Rev. 19:16*

- C. This message will be declared with boldness and authority because it will come from a place of not just mere intellect, but living understanding birthed in the place of encounter.

*"If I say, 'I will not mention Him, or speak any more in His name', there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot."- Jer. 20:9*

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D. We have become accustomed to preachers and teachers in the western church that are skilled and articulate speakers, but have little or no power and authority upon their words. In our own lives we have also settled for having a message with no power or authority.

E. We need messengers who are willing to stand in the counsel of the Lord and speak what he tells them.

*"For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and hear His word, or has paid attention to His word and listened?"- Jer. 23:18*

F. We need a message birthed out of a living understanding of the counsel of God that causes the hearts of the hearers to tremble.

- This will only come out of the place of hiddenness and encounter (i.e. Moses, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, John the Baptist, Paul and Jesus)
- Examples of praying men who preached with authority: David Brainerd, Charles Finney & John Wesley

### VI. Confirmed by signs and wonders (power).

*"So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders."-Acts 14:3*

A. We have forgotten that this should be normal in the preaching of the gospel.

B. Signs and miracles testify of the age to come.

C. BHOP believes that God will raise up many forerunners from this house of prayer that will be released to the nations to proclaim a message confirmed by signs and wonders.

*"...If it does not dwell in power in us, it will not pass in power from us."-John Owen*

### VII. A new breed of missionaries: End-Time Messengers

A. The coming together of the message (prophetic voice birthed in the wilderness), lifestyle (meekness & holiness) and power (The Holy Spirit confirming it and testifying of the age to come).

*"Because our gospel came to you not only in word (message), but also in power (signs and wonders) and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men (lifestyle) we proved to be among you for your sake."- 1 Thess. 1:5*

B. Lives marked by the character of Christ.

- Love and honor

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- Mercy and justice
- Meekness
- Servant heart
- Happy Holiness
- Thankfulness
- Radical Obedience

*"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."- 1 Cor. 13:2*

C. The Holy Spirit is beginning to blow a season of change upon the church, calling forth end-time messengers to give themselves fully to the first commandment and declare to the church and the nations that a King is coming to establish His kingdom upon the earth.

D. We bless and honor those who have gone before us in answering the call to the nations, and in no way do we seek to prop ourselves up as ones who are better, stronger or more spiritual.

- We are broken and weak, but with a "yes" in our hearts
- This is not about comparisons, but all about being obedient to the call of the Lord on our lives in this generation.
- We covet the blessing of those who have broken up the ground before us (Abraham blessed Isaac, Isaac blessed Jacob, etc.), and we want to run together with them.

E. We at BHOP believe that God will raise up many fiery messengers here that will be sent to the nations with a message burning on the inside and will call many to repentance and salvation as they declare that the Lord is returning to judge and reign over the nations of the earth (the glorious gospel).

### **VIII. Prophetic Words for Bethany.**

*"Make room for worship and intercession in your institution in this hour for the mission's movement. It's going to raise up an army of missionaries like you've never seen."  
- Allen Hood*

*"That from their midst would go out some of the finest quality of apostolic ministry in many varied ways, through many avenues, throughout the world."-Paul Cain*

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*"I prophesy that out of this room, not just thousands, but millions will be impacted for the Kingdom of God. The destinies in this place will change the world forevermore, the destinies in this house. The Lord says to you, Bethany House of Prayer, the Lord says to you this day, Do not despise the day of small beginnings for I will do a work in your day that even if I told you, you would not believe; for I will send them out to all nations, to every nation and they will make a proclamation of My glory and of My gospel to all tribes, to all peoples and to all tongues of the earth. And the Lord says to you today, I will raise up a house and this house will be a house of prayer and it will also be a house of mission and when it goes forth, it will touch the farthest corners of the earth, and the Lord is raising up a new standard, a new standard, a new standard. Many of you in this room will pioneer new prototypes and new churches; God says that out of this room I am releasing new wineskins..."- Jaeson Ma*

*"Wisdom will be justified by her children."-Mt. 11:19*