

Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

It is so reassuring in these days of great upheaval of all things traditional and Biblical to know that the Word of God does not change. It is unfortunate, though that fewer and fewer well known Christian leaders are speaking real truth when and where it is needed. And for those who do, they are increasingly ignored, maligned, and misrepresented in the public square in America. A case in point is the recent news that Pastor Louie Giglio, founder and pastor of Passion City Church in Atlanta, Georgia, **HAD** been invited by the Presidential Inaugural Committee to give the benedictory prayer at the upcoming Presidential inauguration.



AP Photo/lee Steffen

Pastor Giglio called Homosexuality a sin in a sermon some 20 years ago. Unfortunately, because of the growth of the wickedness in America, the radical pro-homosexual crowd with the help of liberal CNN and others, the demand went out for this pastor not to be allowed to pray at the Presidential Inauguration. Satan stirred up the anti-family, anti-life, and anti-Christ crowd to cry out in un-holy protest. So, Pastor Giglio, in what seems to be an attempt to take the high road in the matter, decided to withdraw himself from his participation in the event. I commend Pastor Giglio for the sermon he preached 20 years ago! It looks like it is high time to preach another one just like it! I believe that every Bible believing pastor in the United States should preach on what the Bible says about the sin of homosexuality this Sunday! The websites of these ministries and their blogs should ring out with the truth! Where God's truth is being attacked that is the breach in the wall where God's watchmen must stand. In the words of Martin Luther:

If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.

Of course, those who do not believe God's Word will stir up trouble for the Christians as many have in this case in an arrogant, demeaning and overreaching manner. They will call those Christians unloving and intolerant! Yet, there should be no surprise to see unbelievers act in this way. They are being consistent with their convictions, as wrong as those convictions are. But, it is too bad that so many of today's so-called "evangelicals" are all too ready to back down on this and other issues that are important to the Christian faith

and life. Yet, the Christian has the most loving, kind and merciful message that there is in the world! It is the message of salvation to all who believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Jesus said in John 3:16-21:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Pastors, like Louie Giglio, and thousands of other preachers and Christians, do not have to be at the Presidential Inauguration to pray for the President. We can pray for him any time. And we should! Pastor Giglio is to be commended for his clear statement that he will continue to pray for the President. But he and thousands of other pastors will need to continue to speak clearly on this issue of homosexual sin. And there are many other issues in our nation such as the horrible holocaust of abortion, our nation's war on children and families, and the growing intolerance toward Christians and Christianity. We are commanded to "***be strong in the Lord and the power of His might!" (Ephesians 6:10)*** The Lord told Ezekiel: "***Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel. Therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning..." (Ezekiel 3:17-21)*** So preachers, Bible teachers, ministries, and Christian media need to "***stand therefore" (Ephesians 6:14a).***

Paul told Timothy to "***Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap (gather) to themselves teachers (of lies) having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (man-made doctrines)" (2 Timothy 4:2-4).*** Let us pray that someone will rise up at the Presidential Inauguration who will pray a truly biblical prayer for repentance in America from the wickedness of homosexuality, adultery, lying, abortion, re-defining God ordained marriage, as well as persecution of Israel and Christians. There are many in America today that do not desire to see the wonderful blessings that God can and will bring to this land if we will only repent! Yet there are also still many Christians who do want to see God bless this land and who desire America to return to its biblical foundations.

The Bible shows us that those in rebellion against God will make every effort to keep Him from ruling over them. In Genesis 11 we see Nimrod's political and spiritual movement to build his own city and tower against God. Again, in Sodom, the citizens of that city set upon Lot and his family, and even the angels that came to visit him. They clearly announced their opposition to Lot taking a leading role over them in their city when they said:

"And they said, 'Stand back!' Then they said, 'This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.' So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door" (Genesis 19:9, NKJV).

Today we are witnessing a repeat of the days of Sodom, and of the days of Noah, just as the Bible prophecy foretells. (Matthew 24:37; Jude 1:7) In Jude 1:17-19 we are told to,

"...Remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit."

For Christians today, our calling is to continue in the Word of truth and to seek a moral walk. This will bring us into conflict with many in America and even in the Church today who want to compromise on Biblical truth in the interest of social and political prominence. So, we should not be taken by surprise by events that we are seeing today. But neither should we as Christians withdraw in frustration. We should continue to trust in the Lord and speak His truth when and where He calls us to speak. We should never waste any opportunity to make the love of the Lord known to all who will listen. There is an entire generation in this land who have not heard about the Lord Jesus Christ and who do not know His Word, the Bible.

The Bible predicts how people will grow more rebellious in the latter days and will even seek leaders who will lead them in greater and greater depths of social depravity and rebellion against the God of Israel and of the Church. Over time these trends will only increase. In the book of Daniel, a future political leader, the Antichrist, is described as "***the king (who) shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that that is determined shall be done***" (*Daniel 11:36*). Further, Daniel tells us that he will not have any regard for the one true God of the Jews, nor will he have any regard for the "***desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above all***" (*Daniel 11:37*). Do we see these trends even today? But the god of the Antichrist will be the "***God of forces***" (*Daniel 11:38*). So by any sort of manipulation, coercion and physical threat of destruction to life, freedom to worship and property, he will compel the world to follow him. And he will require the world to take his mark: 666 (See Revelation 13). It is sad to see the future pattern of the Antichrist being demonstrated in many ways through many leaders in America, and even in the Church today.

The Lord told Daniel after He gave him the prophecies of his book to "***shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end***" (*Daniel 12:4*). This indicates that the prophecies of Scripture would be preserved in their perfect wording and meaning ready to be made clearer as the latter days approach. Then God gave to the prophet Daniel this indicator of the "***time of the end: "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased"*** (*Daniel 12:4*). I believe we are living in those very times today. One of the closing verses of the Book of Daniel records God's sure promise to those who will not cave to the compromises of the latter days, but who will stand true to His Word in their witness for Jesus Christ: "***And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.***" Will you be one of those in these latter days who will "turn many to righteousness"?

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(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at prophecyinperspective.com. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; or his latest book, "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him.)