

Unprecedented Times? Hardly. Unrehearsed Times? Absolutely.

History is Circular because Sin is Predictable.

2021: Resolution.Revelation.Readiness

Unrehearsed (Merriam-Webster)

Not practiced before a performance.

Synonyms: unplanned, unprepared, uncontrolled, unintentional, unintended, extemporaneous, unscripted

Unprecedented

Having no precedence; novel; unexampled

Synonyms: new, original, unaccustomed, unfamiliar

History is cyclic because sin is predictable! God is well acquainted with a nation turning its back on God, yielding wickedness and rebellion. We may see the times we are living as the most deplorable & dismal time – unrehearsed to us (unintended, unprepared), but not unprecedented. God is the true meaning of unprecedented – unprecedented in superiority, in action and time. No one precedes Him nor can anyone thwart His plans.

What we really mean, is that we see unprecedented events unfolding that are unknown to a particular generation. God continues to lead and empower Believers for events that are unfolding throughout all generations. We can trust Him! Man will never delete or replace God, regardless of how hard he tries to be god.

Like Noah, we will only prevail by the Holy Spirit's revelation and obedience to the Word of God. God specifically prepared Noah. No human reasoning or natural wisdom could have provided the necessary insight and strategic blueprint for survival. We can trust God! Our confidence cannot be drawn from our strength or wisdom, but from Him.

The late David Wilkerson penned a gripping, compassionate prophetic warning, to return to God. He saw America, Modern Babylon, greatly shaken and then suddenly destroyed by fire. The book, 'Set the Trump to Thy Mouth' (1985), not only described the prophecy, but clearly outlined how each of the OT prophets, as well as NT disciples also spoke of these days as well. God has judged nations that do not repent, while delivering those that are righteous. However, deliverance or rescue for the righteous may mean physical death because in reality, it is instant glorification. We can't be blinded or earthly minded. For the righteous, death is not the wrath of God but deliverance at the same time as the wrath of God against a nation that has rejected God (Psalm 76:8-9). In other words, we are to be encouraged that God does war against the wicked. The righteous are safe in His hands!

The greatest problem is not what you fear will happen, but in whom you place your trust. If your ultimate hope is in anything or anyone but God, you will stumble and shake in fear, rather than stand in faith (**Isaiah 13-14**). Fear causes one to do anything, thus succumbing to perceived comfort and security. Victory is clothed with Christ, making no provision for the flesh or for human arguments that would deny Jesus Christ as the resurrected Son of God, as the only Truth, the Way, and Life!

How Did We Get Here? People are being deceived: *Sorcery*.

Revelation 18:23 *The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.*

Interesting, why did God use the term sorcery, instead of lies, or bribery, or deception? The Greek word for sorcery is '*pharmakeia*' (compare with pharmacy; generally described as the use of medicine or drugs accompanied or assisted by magic; poisoning by drugs & magic). In ancient times, sorcery was used to manipulate living matter and elements of the earth evoking occult practices in order to change the appearances of things in an attempt to alter or extend life.

Foundational truth points have been rejected and over time we find ourselves on a trajectory path that God our Creator has been eliminated. For example, manipulating and resequencing genes/DNA strands and combining various species to enhance or preserve human life has consequences. We embraced evolution theory by believing the introduction of man-made kingdoms: Plant & Animal; a human is an animal. Wait! God said He made individual plants and animals each after its own kind. Men and Women were created after His likeness and image – the ability to reason and make decisions – set apart for Himself. I am not an animal and I don't belong to the animal kingdom. I am fearfully, wonderfully, and uniquely made. I belong to the Kingdom of God – not even of this world (**John 18:36**). People that reject God will disregard this truth. Subsequently, they will continue to experiment, kill babies to manufacture genetically engineered products, mix various species and not have a problem of violating what God had established, all in the illusion of saving lives.

The scope of rejecting God is so much greater than our elections – but praise God, He is exposing darkness. As in the days of Noah, corruption and violence were wide-spread. Corruption today (disregarding God's Word as the standard of authority) has breached into every aspect of governing and advancing our lives. Satanic enemies are on all sides attempting to eradicate Christianity. They hate you because Jesus is a reproach to them.

How do we react in these, not unprecedented, but absolutely unrehearsed times? We have many OT & NT examples. When people repented and became *resolute* to follow, trust & obey Him, He *reveals* Himself and gives instructions to be postured for battle *readiness*. Whatever the issue, the answer is always Jesus. We choose!

Resolution.Revelation.Readiness Zoe Words: (Resolve; Rise; Resist)

2 Chronicles 20:1-37 King Jehoshaphat was in a dilemma. A great multitude of armies came to battle against him. He was fearful and set himself to seek the Lord. Jehoshaphat declared the greatness of God, their Father, ruling over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in God's hand there is power and might so that no one is able to withstand God. *Verse 12* he tells God, 'O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.'

God spoke, 'Do not be afraid or dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.'" God begins to give instructions. We see Jehoshaphat's reaction. He bowed his head with his face to the ground worshiping the Lord. Then he and all the people stood up to praise the Lord with their voices loud and high. The king then instructed the people to 'Believe in the Lord your God,

and you will be established. Of course we know that today, we believe God and have His Word through believing Jesus. In the OT, the prophets that represented and spoke for God. Today, people self-identify as prophets, but if truly representing God, their words will always confirm and line up with the written word of God.

So as the word reads, when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the great enemy multitude, and they were defeated. And it goes on to say, *'And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel'* (**2 Chron. 20:29**).

Isn't that what we have been praying? That we would see righteousness and justice reign? Rulers who fear God so that the whole world would see the glory of God and draw near to Him? We see many people throughout the Bible overwhelmed by the circumstances around them - calling out to God, and even questioning Him. Whether they went into physical battle or taken into captivity, God always answered regarding His Sovereignty. He moved according to His desires, plan and His deity. He is the great 'I AM'. At the end of their conversations with God, they are no longer anxious because their sight is set on the Lord God, not on the temporal of what is seen. We can rejoice also because we know and trust our God.

Let's take what God told King Jehoshaphat – **2 Chronicles 20** – **We can identify with these words today:** 1) Do not be afraid or dismayed. 2) The battle is not yours, but God's – You will not need to fight in this battle. 3) Position yourself. 4) Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord who is with you. 5) Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established.

1. Do Not Be Afraid.

- **John 18:36** Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might be delivered over to the Jews. But My Kingdom is not of this world'.
- **Ephesians 1:20-21** '... That He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come'.
- **John 14:25-27** 'These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27) Peace, I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

2. Position Yourself

- First is a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, Savior & Lord.
- Posture your heart in repentance and complete surrender to Jesus as Lord over every aspect of your life.
- Align ourselves in direct relationship with God as Commander and Chief.

Think of the military. As a nurse I had to go through basic training, to understand my role, assignment and to become 'battle ready' within a much larger theater of military operations and

purpose. A soldier doesn't join the military to find meaning in life or a purpose. Those things are established already – you choose to bring your life under the subjection of a greater purpose of defending our country and constitution. Unlike what most people think, unity doesn't come from 'rules and regulations to conform', it comes automatically by understanding and fulfilling your assignment to the best of your ability because your life, and others, depend on you playing your position well.

God's spiritual army is similar. There is only one Commander – Jesus is the only person qualified and can rightfully sit on the throne of your heart. When we are in right relationship with Him – unity with Him, we naturally walk in unity with each other. Anything else we call unity, is really co-existing and tolerance. This is what the world is promoting, but it is not God.

The body of Christ should be clothed with holiness and purity, and each stepping into an assignment – no titles, no competition – just following Jesus. The purposes of God are not our purposes – we have assignments. We are not purpose driven, we are driven by love and obedience to His instructions. Walking in unity is stepping into our assignments in rank and file under God's Command – it is His army! Without the power of the Cross – Christ crucified and we deny ourselves and pick up our cross to follow Him – we cannot walk in love, power, & the discipline of God (**1 Corinthians 2:3-5**).

- *Positioning yourself* also means to be resolved to be knowledgeable and obedient to the instructions given. Your life and others around you may depend on it. *Therefore, position yourself in truth*. Be resolved that the Holy Scripture is God's standard and authority for your life. If you don't believe God's word is absolute truth and has authority for your life, everything else will be based on lies that lead to death and eternal separation from God.
- *Being in position* means no other gods! Blessings can become gods. Titles can be self-exalting. Comfort and convenience often cause tension with obedience – you must choose to obey.
- *Being in position* also means you have proper fitted and tested battle dress and equipment. **Ephesians 6** – the Armor of God. It is good to get very acquainted with these. You will be tested on them as discipleship training – equipped, skilled, and proficiency is the goal. The enemy has already been defeated – but he knows very well if you know he is defeated, *or not*.
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit. 'And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit'. **Acts 13:52**. Being separate, distinct, called out – denying the flesh to live in holiness.
- *Psalms 91* and *John 15* describe beautifully abiding in Christ.
- Jesus Christ must be your life line. Only those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High can abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Then this person can say that the Lord is my refuge and my fortress – My God in Him will I trust.
- *Psalms 91* – goes on to qualify – those that have made the Lord their refuge and dwelling place; those who have set their love upon Him; those who have known My name, will they call out to God and He answers, delivers, honors, and saves.
- *Rejoice always*, acknowledging every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 6, Philippians 4, Philemon 6)

Psalms 37 is a whole chapter of battle dress readiness instructions for life.

- God tells us to do several things: Don't fret, trust in the Lord; Commit your ways to Him; Feed on His faithfulness (His Word); Delight in the Lord; Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Cease from anger, depart from evil, forsake wrath; Speak wisdom; Keep God's Words in your heart.

- God says these things He does: *Laughs* at the wicked who plots against the just – *He sees* that his days are coming – they will perish.
 - *God knows* the righteous
 - *He provides* food; *Orders* their steps, *Upholds* them
 - *He loves justice* and *will not forsake* the righteous
 - *He gives* peace, strength, help, and *He rescues*.

'But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him'. Psalm 37:39-40

3. Stand Sill and see the salvation of the Lord who is with you.

- *Guard your position. Posture yourself in a stance of readiness* –brace yourself; be found alert, focused, watchful (don't get blindsided, pushed off balance, lose your weapon, or become an unnecessary casualty). *Be sober* (not under the influence of a substance). **1 Thess 5:6; 1 Pet 5:8**
- **Ephesians 6:10-13** 'Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11) Put on the whole armor of God, you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- **Ephesians 6:13** 'withstand' – Greek 'antihestemi' – From 'ante'- against and 'hestemi' to cause to stand.
 - Therefore the verb suggests vigorously opposing, bravely resisting, standing face to face with an adversary – standing your ground.
 - Just as anti-histamine puts a block on histamine (substance released in the body when there is a foreign invasion and causing allergy symptoms), 'antihesteme' or withstand tells us that with the authority and spiritual weapons granted to us through Jesus Christ, we can withstand evil forces!
- 'Now then *we are ambassadors for Christ*, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God'. **2 Cor 5:20**
 - Ambassador – Greek 'presbeuo' – representing a ruling authority
 - Ambassadors are chosen from the ranks of mature, experienced persons.
 - To be an ambassador of Christ necessitates spiritual maturity (*Word Wealth, New Spirit Filled Bible*)

4. Believe in the Lord

- *Hebrews 3:19, 4:1-2*. Rest is also a promise but many are not able to enter because of unbelief.
- *John 14:1* 'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me'.

Acts 13:40-41 Paul quoting Habakkuk.

40 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: 41 “Behold, you despisers, marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, though one were to declare it to you’.

God does marvelous works – we need to trust Him. Like Joseph ‘what you meant for harm, God turned to good so many people could be saved’. Like Job, ‘I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You’ – meaning ‘I now see what you mean’ -understand what He is saying. Like Habakkuk, positioned himself for correction and began to rejoice in the Lord.

Acts 5:39 ...‘but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight against God.’

Corruption through deception and sorcery have infiltrated every aspect of our society. Satanic enemies are on all sides attempting to ‘reset the world’ eradicating God – Jesus is a reproach to the wicked.

How do we respond? The same today – the battle is not ours. God has given revelation of understanding and instructions to live. He has provided each person an opportunity to be equipped and take a position as a Christ ambassador. In His army, we lay down our lives for the cause of Christ and point others to Him. The disciples prayed as they had resolved to be ambassadors for Christ:

Acts 4:29-30 ‘Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30) by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus’.

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Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings forever!

“... Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s”. Romans 14:7