

A Soon Coming Revival Predicted

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1. Introduction	2
2. The Vision in 1964	6
3. The Fulfilment Begins	34
4. Forty Seven Years On	52
5. God's Prophetic Promise to Israel	91

The outpouring of the Spirit will come in direct fulfilment of Joel 2:28, when the Holy Spirit will be poured out on ALL flesh. Prior to that God will have poured out His Spirit on Israel (Isaiah 32:15, 44:3, 59:21, Ezekiel 39:29, Joel 2:27, Zechariah 12:10). God will not visit all humanity until He has visited Israel. We need to consecrate ourselves afresh NOW to be part of God's great End Time Harvest.

Introduction

As I write these comments in 2011, forty seven years have passed since I saw a vision of a revival coming to Australia and many things have changed dramatically since then.

In Sydney, where I had been a pastor prior to going to Adelaide in 1963, there were four relatively small Assembly of God churches at that time and now there are more than 200 of them in the greater Sydney area. In those days, Sydney was often referred to as “the preacher’s graveyard.” Now just one of those churches has some 18,000 members. At that time the AOG fellowship nationally was comprised of less than 100 churches and now has something in the region of 1,200 churches. The Klemzig Church in which I received the vision, later became the Community Church in Paradise which now has some 5,000 people attending regularly. This kind of transformation could only be wistfully dreamt of in those days. The vision came to me in three distinct phases. I believe that this spiritual refreshing was what I saw in the first two parts of the vision. However, the third phase of the vision has obviously not yet been fulfilled.

I did not fully understand at the time just what the real significance of that third phase was. However I did see clearly that it was transpiring in a time of great confusion and grave consternation. As I watched crowds of men marching and demonstrating, I could only presume that some great crisis had hit the nation. At that time, more

than forty seven years ago, I presumed that the social and political unrest had to do with a time of economic recession. I believed that local industries were undergoing down sizing and serious economic problems resulting in massive dismissals. These in turn caused many families to lose their homes and suffer extreme financial hardships drought and economic recession. However I had no clear understanding then of what were the exact causes of the unrest. Now, as I edit this article in 2011, I realise afresh that the vision does not only relate to Australia but to the whole world. I also realise as I watch the news on TV and see mobs marching through the streets in the Middle East, that these scenes could be part of what I saw happening. I have also seen large gatherings of protestors gathering in the streets of Australian cities.

In this the 21st century, it is becoming ever more evident that we are rapidly approaching a time of great crisis in world affairs. The situation in the Middle East relative to God's Holy Land and people is becoming more volatile with the passing of each day. The political situation is becoming increasingly more explosive and Israel, in her own strength, is becoming apparently more vulnerable. I believe that soon Israel will have no one to turn to for help and deliverance from the evil intent of her neighbours who seek her destruction. Pressure will increase on Israel to trust Almighty God Jehovah that He will fulfil His prophetic promise to come to her aid. By that time the whole world will be in a state of instability and unrest. Every nation on earth will be under tremendous tension as the anti-Jehovah nations pit themselves against tiny Israel. The direct, personal intervention of Jehovah through supernatural means will

become Israel's only hope of survival. Into the volatile chaos of earth, the Spirit of God will come as He did in the beginning of time when the earth was chaotic and void. (Genesis 1:2) As surely as God's Word spoke order into chaos then, God will again move across the face of the earth in sovereign splendid power and authority. From the vantage point we presently occupy, the world is a vastly different place to what it was forty years ago and the kind of volatile chaos we now see clarifies the kind of turmoil and fear that I saw in the vision. The environment in which I saw the outpouring of the Spirit was not simply a severe economic recession, it was one in which international terrorism had caused widespread fear that will bring all humanity on its face before the awesome holiness of God's power. The visitation will not be confined to Australia, it will have an international impact. With the present world situation in mind I want to re-visit the vision and then consider it again in the light of what we now perceive.

As we believers, prepare the way of the Lord through prayer, intercession and divine authority, the harvest of the nations will be reaped. Supernatural signs and wonders will finally convince the entire heathen world that there is truly a creator God who rules the nations. Whole nations will be ushered into God's Kingdom.

Zechariah 2:11

"Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. (NKJ)

The harvest of the Ages will be reaped in a time of

great worldwide revival. Australia will not be uniquely alone because the revival will be happening in many other countries around the world. However, it will also be a time of worldwide confusion, consternation and tension. Enormous spiritual powers will be unleashed and battles in the “heavenlies” will spill over into the scenes on earth. The time for which we now watch, wait, pray and believe, will ultimately arrive but it will be significantly different from what the majority of believers have ever anticipated. The nations of the world will insist on the division of Israel and Jerusalem and in doing so will incur God’s anger and judgment (Joel 3:1-2). The outpouring of the Spirit will come within direct fulfilment of Joel 2:28, when the Holy Spirit will be poured out on ALL flesh, but prior to that God will have poured out His Spirit on Israel (Isaiah 32:15, 44:3, 59:21, Ezekiel 39:29, Joel 2:28, Zechariah 12:10). We need to consecrate ourselves afresh NOW to be part of God’s great End Time Harvest. We also need to ensure that our understanding of Israel’s place in God’s prophetic plan is in complete agreement with His Word. The result of that understanding will mean that we must stand together with Israel. Any refusal to do so will mean an estrangement from God Himself. Who would have thought in 1964 that relationship with Israel would become so vitally important and would become a catalyst with the potential to divide the world Christian community? Seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is yet near.

Chapter One

The Vision in 1964

In the early 1960's I was the pastor of the Klemzig Assembly of God church in Adelaide, South Australia which was then a small congregation but which later grew into the large Paradise Community church. Following a brief tour of South Australia in early 1964, together with Rev Curtis Grant an American evangelist, we returned to Adelaide shocked to discover how feeble and meagre the true Christian witness was throughout our State. What churches there were had small mostly elderly congregations, for the most part with a form of Christian religion, but basically denying the power of God (2 Tim 3:5).

I immediately called some special weeks of prayer in our church for renewal and revival. Every night the small church was filled with people seeking God and earnestly pleading for a fresh move of God's Spirit in the land. One Wednesday night the power of the Spirit was with us in a remarkable way and halfway through the evening God gave me a dramatic vision. The vision lasted for some forty five minutes during which time I described each detail to the congregation. The vision was powerful and remarkable. As I stood at the front of the church facing the back of the building it seemed that someone had suddenly switched on a huge projector and powerful stereo sound. But the dramatic pictures I saw were also

three dimensional. During the first part, which was a desert scene, I could actually feel the searing heat. At other times I felt that I was being literally transported supernaturally like Phillip the evangelist and dropped into situations hundreds of miles away. Basically, it was a vision of coming renewal and revival. It initially concerned the State of South Australia and later the whole nation. In the vision I saw an outpouring of the Spirit that would affect people and churches of all denominations. Much to my surprise, this included numbers of Catholic Priests and Nuns. In the vision I saw them powerfully filled with the Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophesying. At that time there was no sign of any Charismatic revival in Australia and the Pentecostal churches were greatly despised and spoken against. Pentecostal churches were the Cinderella of the Australian church scene, so we were thrilled with what we saw in the vision that clearly intimated that numerous main line churches would soon embrace the Holy Spirit in a new dimension.

As I waited upon the Lord on this particular night, suddenly the Spirit of God came upon me in a way that really humbled me before the Lord. I fell to the floor and began to sob from the very depths of my soul. Soon my whole being, every part of my body, began to be torn with deep sobbing and weeping. As I cried before the Lord I seemed to fall lower and lower and lower before Him. As I fell low before the Lord, before the sense of His presence and His glory, I said to Him, "I feel like a worm Lord and not a man." God had brought me very low before Himself. He then seemed to speak to my heart and say "When a man truly becomes a worm I will

thresh a mountain.” This produced a feeling of encouragement within me, a spirit of rejoicing and victory and I began to loudly praise the Lord. Suddenly it was as though a projector had been turned on and I saw a vision whilst I was kneeling at the front of the church. There were people praying in the church and I was kneeling facing the rear of the building. I looked at this vision for a few moments and then the Spirit of God began to move upon me and I began to describe the things that I saw. This description became like the spirit of prophecy. It came forth in a very powerful manner and God began to speak about a Revival. God was telling us what would take place and how the Revival would come. We were told what some of the results of this Revival would be. I remember that the first thing that I saw was tremendous sunlight. I was almost blinded by the intensity of the light. Then I began to discern through the bright sunlight a landscape, an area of countryside. The whole of the landscape was so dry, so parched and so barren. There were cracks all over the countryside, because of the tremendous burning heat of the sun. There was hardly a blade of grass anywhere and the few blades that were there were brown, parched and withered through the tremendous heat. It was a scene of severe drought and so quiet that it seemed like a graveyard. It was so dry that it seemed to dry up my throat. I seemed to be in the midst of that brilliant scene and it made me literally parched and de-hydrated. Suddenly from out of nowhere, and yet from everywhere a wind began to blow. The Lord spoke through me and said “the Lord shall begin to move through the land like a wind. Like a whirlwind He shall move throughout the land.”

As I spoke I felt the wind increase in intensity and then felt it change into a whirlwind. The wind seemed to come from everywhere and it seemed to go everywhere. Immediately there was tremendous confusion. I wondered what was happening. I saw little communities everywhere in the countryside and the people were huddled together and they were in confusion and consternation. They were filled with wonder and with fear. They were full of trepidation because of this unusual wind and the whirlwind which was blowing. Then the scene shifted to towns and cities. It seemed to move swiftly across the land.

As I moved through country towns and cities the wind was moving before me, like a whirlwind from the presence of the Lord as God was going through the land. It seemed as though He was creating a vacuum wherever He went. It was stirring up the dust everywhere. As I looked at some of the towns, the streets were empty and they seemed to be spiritually dead. The great wind began to blow against some of the buildings that looked so solid and secure. Immediately the buildings came tumbling down with a deafening crash. The wind took hold of them and blew them down as though they were cardboard. The Spirit of God said, "These buildings represent the pride of men. These buildings are the security of men. They are the emblems of man's prosperity and represent his material security. They represent his defences and the protection that he builds for himself with his natural resources. This is how the Spirit of the Lord can treat all the defences and the security of man. In a moment He can bring them all to nothing." It seemed like the whole town collapsed and

became like dust. There were bricks everywhere and it was a scene of desolation, very much like some of the cities that I saw in Europe after the bombing raids of World War II.

Town Councils were getting together to try to form some policy and to determine what to do in the face of this strange phenomena which confronted them. As I looked it seemed that this was the judgment of God. God was moving through the land and causing great fear and consternation. Then the Spirit said, "This wind that is causing great fear and consternation, that is bringing to nought the things of man, is also carrying the seed of the Word of God. This great wind is wafting the seed and scattering it all over this dry land." At this stage the land was still dry, parched and barren. Then I saw that there was seed in the wind and the whirlwind was picking up the seed and scattering it for miles around. It was reaching the most unlikely places. It was falling in outlandish country areas. It was falling in little country communities that were cut off from the cities and from the major part of the population. Farm houses that were miles from anywhere were receiving the seed which was falling. It lay there on the dry, barren, parched ground. There was seed lying upon the ground everywhere. It was really amazing how this seed was spread in this remarkable manner.

Even now I am not sure how God spread the seed like that. I had the feeling that it was done in part by literature, radio and television, but beyond all this there was something new that God was doing. I had the impression that God was working supernaturally in a

way that He had not worked before as far as our own experience of spiritual things is concerned. I had a strong impression that God was using people in a mightier way than I had ever seen before.

Suddenly, in the vision, the heavens opened. In a moment of time there was a tremendous deluge and rain began to just pour down in great torrents. Within a very short while the whole landscape was converted from the dry, parched barren ground into floods and pools and rivers. The whole place was awash with this amazing downpour which had come from the presence of the Lord. The impression that I gained was that there had never been a deluge in Australia like this before. It was a greater outpouring than had ever been known in this land. It came suddenly without any apparent warning. It came swiftly from heaven. It was not of a long duration but whilst it was raining it came with tremendous intensity so that one could hardly see through the rain. It seemed that the whole sky was full of water and then the ground was turned into pools and rivers as the water poured all over the earth. Then again, suddenly, just in a moment of time the whole landscape was completely changed and everywhere was green and lush.

There were also fully grown trees suddenly appearing just in a moment. They sprang up suddenly and in the distance there were fields that were ready to be harvested. I remember wondering what kind of trees they were. I am not a country man nor well versed in types of trees etc. Before I received any answer or revelation the scene had passed away. I was looking on the trees. The sunlight was shining on them again. The harvest was in

the background and then suddenly the Lord Jesus appeared. He appeared in the background of the Vision and as He appeared with His arms outstretched, and in shining white, it seemed that the whole of the scene before me just collapsed and dissolved into Him and everything was gone and lost in Him.

A Biblical Confirmation

As soon as I had finished prophesying, as I knelt at the front of the church, I reached for my Bible. Whenever I receive any impression or vision, I always seek God immediately for some Biblical confirmation. This is something that we need to observe at all times. I am sure that there will be strange manifestations and there will be a need for people to KNOW the Word of God. Not the letter only but the SPIRIT of the Word. Our defence in these days that lie before us, to keep us from the confusion that will fill the world, will be the Word of God. My Bible was closed on the seat in front of me. I lifted my heart to God and said, “Lord, please give me some scriptural confirmation of this. Show me in your Word and confirm through your Word that this is a visitation of you to my heart. Let me know that this is something more than imagination, show me please if this IS your message to me.”

As I said that, I picked up the Bible and opened it at random, it opened at the 41st chapter of Isaiah. My eyes fell immediately upon the 14th verse and I read: “Fear not THOU WORM.” As soon as I read that, something jumped within me for I remembered that before the vision began to unfold I had felt like a worm and had said to God. “I am a worm, and not a man.” God had

responded, “When a man is like a worm, I will thresh a mountain.”

I began then to read on. *“Fear not thou worm Jacob and ye men of Israel, I will help thee saith the Lord and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel. Behold I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument; thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them and THE WIND shall carry them away, and the WHIRLWIND shall scatter them; and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel. When the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord, will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine and the box tree together. That they may see, and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.”*

You may imagine how I felt as I read those words because the sequence of the vision was unfolded in these verses. I must have read these verses many times before but I had no vivid remembrance of them. Certainly I had no memory of any details. Yet as I read it the whole thing unfolded as a scriptural confirmation of the vision. First of all, God spoke about the worm. Then He spoke about taking the worm and threshing a mountain. Then He said the wind shall carry them and the whirlwind, just in the same sequence as the Holy Spirit had said.

The scripture then goes on to speak about the dryness and the barrenness, when the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue fails them for thirst. This is a picture of dryness and barrenness. God said, “I will open rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys.” In the last part of Verse 18, God said, “I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water.” This was remarkable because these were just the words that the Spirit had used. In the next verse He speaks about the trees. He mentions various trees and how He has planted them there. Finally He says that He has planted these trees that they may see, and know, and consider and understand together that the hand of the Lord had done this thing and the Holy One of Israel had created it.

The Sequence Of The Vision

The vision actually came to me was in three distinct parts. A clearer understanding of the sequence of the vision will undoubtedly afford greater insight into its significance.

In the first phase I found myself outdoors in the arid Australian Bush. There were many clear indications of a very severe drought. Everything was parched and covered in dust. I saw several skeletons of animals that had obviously died from a lack of food and water. Their bones lay bleached in the sun. As I surveyed the scene I could actually feel the blazing heat and my throat felt parched from the dry atmosphere. Everywhere there were indications of a previous prosperity that had been lost to the drought. Animal carcasses littered the paddocks. Broken fences and deserted farm houses indicated a

human exodus from the area, driven from a place of broken dreams by a drought that had sucked the life out of everything, including their livelihood.

I was still gazing at this scene of desolation when I was suddenly translated to phase two, on the outskirts of a small country town. I was deposited into a public hall filled with some 200 to 250 people. For what seemed to be several hours I was to observe a meeting the like of which I had never previously witnessed.

In the third phase, I was outdoors once again and in yet a third location. This time the sky was dark and foreboding, filled with black clouds and signs of an imminent impending storm. I was gazing at an Australian city that was blown apart as I watched. Let me go through the vision again in its proper sequence.

The Wilderness Transformed

Initially I was kneeling in prayer at the front of the church, facing the congregation, when the vision began. My initial reaction was to fall on my face in a position of prostration and humility. The more keenly I sensed God's presence, the more I felt my own unworthiness to be in that presence. I began to tell Him, "Lord I am a worm and not worthy to experience your presence in this manner." But His response was one of encouragement and I sensed Him saying, "When a man truly feels like a worm in my presence I will thresh a mountain."

This encouraged me greatly and I raised myself up and began to praise God with great enthusiasm. I was kneeling, with my hands raised high and my head

elevated. As I opened my eyes I was suddenly in the Spirit and a dramatic scene began to unfold around me.

I was back in the Australian outback again. The sun was shining with great heat and intensity. Everything around me was dry, parched and barren. It was obviously a time of great drought. The ground was brown and parched. Large cracks had broken the earth under the intense heat and dryness of the drought conditions. There was scarcely a blade of grass anywhere and the landscape was void of any other signs of vegetation. What vegetation there was appeared desperately dry and withered. It was a scene of utter desolation. I gazed at this scene for some time and felt that my spiritual being was as dry and thirsty as the landscape.

Suddenly a breeze began to blow and it quickly became a powerful wind. I realised that this wind was carrying seeds and scattering them everywhere until they littered the brown earth. Then the rain began to fall. Initially it came in huge spots as it often does before a tropical downpour. My nostrils were filled with the pungent smell that occurs when rain begins to hit the dry dust. Soon the drops became a shower and this continued for a considerable time until the ground had become moistened and softened. Once this happened the rain increased in tempo until the ground everywhere was obviously soaked and softened. The seeds that the wind had scattered lay in pools of water. Even though it had been raining, the sun was still shining, and the combination of the strong sunshine and the rain caused a dramatic change. Immediately the landscape was transformed like the wilderness that blossomed in Isaiah 35.

*1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose
2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. Isaiah 35:1-2 (KJV)*

Instantaneously the scene was transformed. Luxurious grass appeared everywhere. Shrubs, bushes and trees were instantly evident. The land, which moments before had appeared so dry and barren, was now clothed with the glorious garments of nature. The fields on either side were suddenly bursting with ripe harvests. The sun whose relentless rays had parched the ground was now shining with a radiance that cloaked everything with a natural glory. I experienced a tremendous sense of elation. It was the kind of excitement that occurs when a long and painful drought is finally broken. I still remember the glorious feeling of the rain falling on my parched being as I stood with my mouth open and the rain filled my mouth and saturated my whole being. Watching the glorious transformation of the landscape was also a most rewarding and exciting experience.

A Meeting With A Difference

In the second stage I had the impression that I was suddenly confronted with a congregation of people who were many miles from where I had originally been. I saw whole communities of people listening to the Word of God. I became aware of certain features that were taking place in the meetings. The first thing I noticed was that the atmosphere was charged with the power of God in a way that I had never known it in all my life.

The people's faces were just alight and aglow with the glory of God. The whole atmosphere was free and uninhibited. It was warm and spontaneous. It was not bound by tradition. It was unlike our traditional services, it was much freer, much more informal. The people were free before God and with one another, in a sweet, pure and uninhibited manner. I had a strong impression that no man or personality was greatly promoted by this move of God. God was only using people who would stay humble before Him and consequently nobody received any prestige or glory in this visitation. God was using some unlikely people too. I saw in the vision people being used by the Spirit of God. They were aglow with the Spirit. They unconsciously diffused the Spirit of God. A power flowed from them and filled the whole place with the holy and healing presence of God. I noticed amongst other things that women and children were being used by God. They were seeing visions and prophesying and the prophecies came forth with great power and anointing. It was so different from what we are normally accustomed to in our services. It was dynamic, just charged with the power of God. People hung upon every word. It was directive prophecy about things vitally related to the people at that time. It was God speaking to the people face to face.

I had the impression too that there were many unusual things taking place. Signs and wonders, that truly made people wonder! I had the feeling that many people stood askance and aloof from this move of God. Many people would not associate with it, because they did not understand some of the strange things that were happening. I did not feel that these things were

objectionable at all, but they were different and unusual and many did not understand them. Whilst many were entering and receiving and experiencing tremendous blessings, others had drawn aside and would not become involved in this move of the Spirit. It seemed as though many congregations were being divided by the issues involved in this move of the Spirit of God. Some of the people were moving towards God to receive all that He had for them, but others were withdrawing and refusing to become involved and they were missing out on the visitation of God. There were even some Pentecostal people who were not willing to be involved in this move of the Spirit of God. There were things taking place which were not objectionable, but they were not in accord with the traditions and the background and understanding of these people and they were not willing to enlarge their capacity to believe in or accept these things. They were therefore, being left out of this visitation of God. They refused to believe some of the things that were happening.

Some of the visions people were seeing were strange and unusual and needed a Word of Knowledge in order to interpret them. Some people, instead of seeking God for a Word of Knowledge and Wisdom, were refusing to have anything to do with it. Their intellect would not accept these things and their spiritual perception was immature. I remember feeling in my spirit "Lord, help me, that I will not miss the visitation of your blessed Spirit. Help me so that no matter how You may move I may discern the moving of Your Spirit and stay in fellowship and harmony with You." It is quite possible that many who read this message will miss the coming

move of God's Spirit. They will refuse to associate with it. It will not be within the bounds and confines of their preconceived ideas and concepts. It will not fit in with their traditional ideas about things spiritual. Some people are so proud of their spirituality but their very pride will keep them from receiving these things from God.

As I stood gazing at the various elements of the vision, suddenly I was translated to another place. The impression I gained was that I had been caught away by the Spirit. I sensed that I was now miles from where the vision had begun. I found myself in a country hall, much like a School of Arts, or a community hall that was part of every country town in those days. When I "arrived" a meeting was already in full swing. I was in a corner at the front of the hall, behind a piano and a small music group. My arrival was unnoticed and I appeared to be invisible for no one was aware of my presence as I stood quietly observing the meeting.

The hall was filled to its capacity and there was a great air of excitement and anticipation in the air which was alive and vibrant with the presence of the Spirit. The congregation consisted of people of all ages, young children, teens, young adults, middle aged and elderly, all were entering in and enjoying a unity and harmony that encompassed them all. Everyone appeared to be dressed quite casually and not in the typical "Sunday, go to church garb". The atmosphere was clearly one of informality and friendliness. There were no evidences of the rigid religious traditions that were so much a mark of

church gatherings. Nothing was stilted and stiff. The feeling was one of relaxed, joyful, excitement. The obvious features were informality, spontaneity and warmth. There was nothing cold, clinical or dead. Everything was alive, dynamic and vibrant.

The Holy Spirit Was In Control

Someone was obviously “in charge” of the meeting but their leadership was not obtrusive and obvious. It was exercised with a gentle sensitivity to the Holy Spirit that kept the people’s attention on God rather than on the leader. I realised that there was a team of leaders or elders but everyone was aware that the Holy Spirit was actually in control of the gathering and what was taking place. There was also a small group of musicians and several singers lending support to the leader, but they too were not projecting themselves or endeavouring to dominate the scene in any way.

Worship With Purpose And Direction

The worship ranged from joyful exuberance to quiet adoration and the whole congregation flowed as one, as though gliding the thermals of the Spirit’s presence. There was a remarkable sense of unity and harmony and the people were as one body. Although there appeared to be little pre-planned structure to the service, everything flowed beautifully. It was not simply a matter of singing choruses or hymns, one after another. There was a real depth and sense of direction about the worship, an awareness that it was really going somewhere. A realisation that the congregation had been gently, yet firmly led into the felt presence of God. Some of the songs had a very lively tempo, extremely joyful and

exuberant. Everyone, from the oldest present to the young children, entered into the worship with great enthusiasm and joyful abandon. Numbers of people had entered into the aisles to add physical expression to their vocal ones. A number were dancing joyfully, singly or in small groups. Others stood as though transfixed, hands raised high, faces aglow. Still others were clapping and swaying to the rhythm of the music. Everyone seemed remarkably free of religious inhibition. They were liberated “to be themselves in Jesus.”

Several times the singing and activities obviously moved from joyful celebration to deeper dimensions of worship. On several occasions a number of people prostrated themselves on the floor. Others knelt on all fours with their faces to the ground. There were also numerous periods of profound silence as the whole congregation expressed deep reverence.

People Of All Denominations

I clearly understood that it was an inter-denominational gathering and I was thrilled to realise that most denominations in that area were represented there. The people were Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists and Pentecostals. The thing that really surprised and thrilled me was the sight of a Catholic priest and several nuns who were lost in worship, their hands raised high, singing in languages of the Spirit. I noticed that their hands were raised in a slightly different manner to most of the other worshippers. I mention this because it was interesting in later months, when the renewal began, to see that they did have a slightly different way of raising their hands.

The Ministry Of God's Word

At one point a teaching was given. I say a teaching because it was without the formality of a “sermon” or a traditional type of Bible study. The talk was delivered in a very natural manner, the speaker being very relaxed and very much at ease. The teaching was so clear that even the children understood it, hanging on every word. Yet it was so profound in its spiritual maturity that even the most mature saints received food for their soul. The message came very much from the heart, rather than the head, and was received into the hearts of the listeners. It had good biblical content but was presented very naturally, in a down to earth manner and with a good deal of humour. The congregation received the word with obvious gladness. The theme was very basic and germane to the practicalities of living out a vibrant Christian life and witness amongst the unconverted.

Spiritual Renewal And Refreshing

It was quite clearly a “renewal” meeting and many were obviously being refreshed and renewed by the Spirit. There were many evidences of this as people responded in various ways to the fresh impact of the Spirit upon them. There were many different responses to the Spirit and yet the atmosphere was one of harmony and unity. Everyone was so taken up with worshipping God that they were not distracted by the various ways in which others were responding to the Spirit. In the opposite corner to where I stood, a group of children, some young people and a few middle aged persons were joyfully dancing together. They danced with simple steps, obviously finding great delight in each other and in God as they also sang in wonderful harmony.

Although the meeting was one of spiritual renewal and basically intended for believers, the joyful activities had also drawn numerous unconverted persons too. They were clearly enjoying every moment of the gathering, eagerly observing the many evidences of joyful enthusiasm amongst the believers. Several of these pre-Christians indicated their keen desire to become one with the believers and various Christians were sitting or kneeling with them, praying and sharing their faith with them.

Spiritual Manifestations

There were numerous instances of spiritual manifestations but these were not exercised in a pedantic, religious manner. For example, several “prophecies” were given. Not in a stilted, religious way and in archaic English, but in a simple, natural style. Several persons, at various times, slipped out to the front of the hall, faced the congregation and quietly delivered some message that they felt God had given to them. In a similar manner, others gave a word of knowledge or of wisdom, all of which were given humbly, quietly and naturally. Some of these revelations brought forth an enthusiastic response of joyful clapping and cheering. Others were received in reverent quietness.

Prayer For One Another

Several sick persons were ministered to in prayer, with the laying on of hands, but this was not done in some religious or ceremonial way either. It was accomplished with gracious informal dignity and many from the congregation were given opportunity to express their

genuine compassion for those seeking prayers. Considerable time was spent ministering in prayer to those afflicted and seeking healing and release. Some of them slid quietly to the ground and remained there for some time, calming enjoying the presence and joy of God. This was certainly not a “quick fix” approach but one that took considerable time and patience to accomplish. The appointed workers gave themselves unstintingly to prayer. Likewise, those receiving prayer did not move quickly away but lingered there, drinking and soaking in the presence of God.

There Was Opposition Too

Although everyone in the meeting was obviously excited and involved, I had a clear impression that there were numerous other ministers and churches that would not accept the phenomena’s taking place. Some were even asserting that such things were a “deception from the enemy” and were steadfastly opposing any contact with them. Even some ministers and churches that claimed to be Pentecostal and Full Gospel were standing aloof from what was happening. Their problem was one of intellectual pride and religious tradition. They had the foolish notion that God would never do anything that did not agree with their intellectual perceptions of what is right and proper. They were more concerned with upholding religious tradition than with opening up to a fresh move of the Spirit. But their opposition did not diminish or arrest the spread or growth of what God was doing.

Times Of Refreshing From The Lord

The impression I gained was that this was a fresh move

of God's Spirit to bring refreshing and renewal to the believers. It was not revival in the classic sense of the kind that powerfully impacts the non-Christian community. It was clearly a time for the saints to be refreshed, made more pliable and freshly anointed by the Holy Spirit. But it was a prelude to such an impact. It was the gentle rain of refreshing that softens up the ground for sowing and to accelerate the germination of seeds.

The Fire Of God

The meetings were aglow with a heavenly fire. Everyone and every thing seemed to be bathed in an aura of light and warmth. The whole atmosphere was aglow with a radiant light. It filled the halls where the people gathered but it also radiated out from there into the wider community. The fire burned brightly in every Christian community and it spread from place to place like a bush fire, jumping from one community to another until hundreds of fires dotted the whole landscape of the nation.

A Deepening Drama

The third part of the vision was the shortest, yet the most dramatic. I did not share the details of this phase at the time because I felt that the people were not ready to receive it. I saw a town severely damaged by a powerful wind. It was very much like watching the city of Darwin being destroyed by Cyclone Tracy some years later. Large buildings that had seemed so strong and secure, were blown down as though they were merely cardboard. Within what seemed moments, the town was almost demolished. Many people were crying in the streets and there was great consternation and confusion. I felt God

say within me, “These buildings represent the achievements, possessions and material security of men. They labour for years to build them and rest their hope for the future in the things that they themselves have made. They are like the heathen who worship gods and idols that their own hands have created. The material things of this life have become objects of their worship and completely consume the time, interest and energy of many. They worship their possessions, their homes, cars and leisure activities. But one small breath from my mouth can bring them all crashing to the ground.”

It was obviously a time of great consternation and confusion. Many people lost their entire fortune overnight. There was rampant recession, unemployment and despair. Many families had to leave their homes and possessions which were re-possessed. It was clearly a time of grave consternation. Huge economic problems gave rise to many social problems. This was certainly not the “lucky country” now but a country whose luck had run out, for whom the sweet cup of promise had become a bitter cup of loss. The previous hopes, ideals and ambitions of the nation had been lost in a morass of economic reversals. The nation was in political and social turmoil. It seemed as though the rug had been pulled from under the feet of the people. Everyone was blaming someone else and people began to realise that there was no human solution to the dilemma in which they found themselves.

Large groups of men marched in procession to the company premises where once they had been employed. They were angrily protesting the closure of the

companies. The sad fact was that in many cases it was their own unreasonably selfish ambitions and demands that had forced the closures and bankrupted the sources of their livelihood.

In one scene the police had turned out to deter the protesters. Many scuffles and fights broke out in the streets between policemen and workers. Other policemen were in sympathy with the workers and refused to challenge or restrain them. Strong feelings of hopeless despair gripped the hearts of many.

At the same time there were also people who were thriving amidst the challenges. Many of these were Christians whose lives had been refined and matured through the trials they had overcome through faith in God. Many non-Christians sought help and counsel from their Christian neighbours and associates, and many church congregations flourished as they forgot their religious rituals and began to minister with faith and authority to the real needs of people around them. It was clearly a time of harvest and ingathering but it was happening in a time of severe testing for the people of the land.

Following this brief scene, a vision of Christ appeared at the back of the church. He was so invested with an aura of glory that it was difficult to see Him clearly but He was obviously clothed in great majesty. He appeared in shining white, with His arms outstretched. It then seemed that the whole vision collapsed and disappeared into Him and the experience was over.

At the end of the vision I had the distinct impression that the third stage, which had been the briefest part of the vision, was the one in which the real harvest took place.

The first two phases actually dealt with the same phenomena, *the refreshing and reviving of the church*.

The first aspect had shown this in terms of the barren, drought ridden heart of Australia coming alive in response to showers of rain and the unusual heat of the sun. This was depicted outdoors in the vivid translation of a desert into a fertile garden. This clearly showed the stark and dramatic transformation that rain can bring to a natural setting. It illustrated the spiritual dryness and barrenness of Australia in terms that could be easily identified and recognised by Australians who know only too well the contrast between desert drought and flooding rains.

It is the difference between poverty and plenty, desolation and abundance. Whilst consecutive years of drought caused by the complete absence of any rain, spelt disaster and bankruptcy, the appearance of rain can quickly transform a wilderness bringing hope and rejoicing with it.

The second phase of the vision really spoke of the same visitation but this time in terms of people rather than the flora and fauna. Nevertheless I was sure that this related to the same phenomena, the refreshing and reviving of the church. The trip we had recently taken throughout most of South Australia had clearly revealed that the church was in a time of spiritual drought. Everything was

so dry and in consequence, so barren. But the vision held out the promise of an imminent visitation that would begin to change that. It was an impending time of renewal when the lives of many Christians would be re-vitalised and refreshed.

Although it seemed clear that a relatively small number of new believers had been added through this visitation, it was basically an “in-house” activity and not a classic revival that overflowed into and powerfully impacted the non Christian community. It was a visitation for the believers, to refresh, re-vitalise and renew them. It was a time for preparing them for things to come. One of the main objectives was to break down religious tradition and make the church more relevant, pliable and flexible.

The real harvest aspect came in the third phase, in the context of times of testing, confusion and extremity for the nation. It occurred at a time when the natural security of the people had been undermined and taken from them and they began to look outside themselves for fresh sources of encouragement and security. It was a period of national dilemma when materialism had been shown to be deficient to meet the real needs of man. I “saw” huge groups of workers, marching through the streets in protest marches demanding their jobs back. They paraded before city halls and parliament house with large protest banners, shouting out slogans. The atmosphere was tense and fights often broke out in the streets. The job losses and economic desperation also caused a turning to spiritual sources. Whilst many of them turned to occultism and satanic sources, and false religious systems, an even larger number turned to the Lord. When I related

the vision I did not mention anything about this. I felt a strong prompting not to do so. Even now I will not dwell on it except to repeat that the real revival and the true harvest will not occur in a time of ease and prosperity but one when the fortunes of the “lucky country” will be severely depleted and many Australians will experience the severest testing of their lives.

I feel confident that this thing is of God and that it will come to pass. My confidence is not just because God allowed me to see this Vision but because His Word so wonderfully confirmed the whole thing! God showed me that His people have to humble themselves before the Lord. They have to walk very humbly and very reverently before God. I saw that the fullness of the Spirit did not only bring fullness of joy but it also brought discipline into the midst. Although these people were uninhibited and spontaneous in their worship and devotion, they were disciplined as well. They had a holy fear and a reverence for God. There was a genuine, deep desire to truly know God personally and intimately. People were seeking God earnestly not merely mouthing words. They were calling out to God earnestly and passionately. The Spirit seemed to signify that the Lord’s people have to become as worms before Him. They must be humble before the presence of the Lord.

The message of the Spirit is “that no man shall glory in my sight, that the people shall know that I, the Lord, have performed this work.” In order to have the moving of God’s Spirit, we will have to remain very humble and reverent before God and be conscious of the discipline of the Holy Spirit.

The power of the Spirit was moving in a similar manner to the time when Ananias and Sapphira were discovered and judged by the Spirit and were slain of the Lord. These people in the vision were truly rejoicing in the Lord exceedingly but they were also filled with fear lest they should offend the Holy One in the midst of them. God said that He would bring a new threshing instrument to thresh the mountain. I believe that we are beginning to see something of this new threshing instrument in these days.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit amongst some of our denominational friends is part of the new threshing instrument. God is filling many with the Holy Ghost and power. Ministers and people in the various denominations who until recently would have nothing whatsoever to do with the baptism in the Holy Spirit are now being filled with the power of God. Hundreds are speaking with new tongues, laying hands upon the sick and casting out devils in the name of Jesus. Signs and wonders are bursting forth in the most unlikely places.

The Holy Spirit witnessed to something in my heart. For a long time I had been burdened about many of our country towns which had not been reached with the Full Gospel message and I wondered how we could ever reach them all. The time seemed too short for us to get into these towns and establish churches. How would we ever find enough workers to go in and take care of all these churches? The Spirit of God showed me there are Methodists, Anglicans, Baptist churches and people in these towns. These people are being filled with the Spirit of God, and they would proclaim the gospel message of

salvation and healing and deliverance by the power of God. It was not the task of the Pentecostal groups alone. What does it matter which denomination preaches the message as long as the message is proclaimed in these towns. These friends are part of the new threshing instrument which God is preparing today.

How I praise God because I can see that there is a healing for the sick Bride of Christ. There is a deliverance coming from carnality and fleshliness, from the desires and programmes of men. There is a visitation of God coming by the power of His Holy Spirit that will purge the Bride of Christ. It will cleanse and beautify her. It will array her in lovely garments that she might be ready for the coming of the Lord. I feel that the Church at this present moment, is not fit to meet the Lord. There is a sickness in the Body of Christ. I do not believe that when Jesus comes He will come for a Church that is bowed down, defeated and covered in shame. Twice in the prophecy of Joel, God says, "My people shall not be ashamed." I believe that this statement refers to both Jews and Gentiles who are part of the One New Man.

Chapter Two

The Fulfilment Begins

In the first few weeks, immediately after I had received the vision, some exciting things began to happen in South Australia. The first of these incidents of which I was aware, concerned a meeting of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. The meeting was convened at a motel on the outskirts of Adelaide and I had been invited to be the speaker. The subject that had been assigned to me was "The Ministry of the Holy Spirit."

I vividly remember arriving at the motel. As I was parking my car, I was surprised to see Howard Seidel racing towards me with a very excited look on his face. As well as excitement he was obviously experiencing some mild consternation too. He told me as I climbed out of my car "There are three *real* ministers here tonight. They even have their clerical collars on! What are we going to do?" I was somewhat amused at dear Howard's reaction. He was at that time the beloved President of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship in South Australia, and was doing a wonderful job in promoting the Pentecostal experience through this organisation. However, until that night, the meetings were attended only by people of Pentecostal persuasion. Now, the kind of thing for which he and many others had been praying was evidently beginning to take place. It was so new and unusual to him that he was in a state of consternation as to what he should do. He soon calmed

down after we had prayed together and went into the motel to greet the three Methodist preachers who had come along to the meeting that evening.

The more senior of them was Reverend Neil Usher who was at that time the senior minister of the Rosewater, Adelaide circuit. The Reverend Richard Jenner from Tanunda was also present, together with Reverend Ron Hoffman from Hawker. I greeted them all and spoke to them briefly before the meeting commenced. They explained that they had recently become hungry for more of the Holy Spirit than they had previously experienced.

They were all very cordial and extremely friendly and they enjoyed the meeting immensely. It began with a time of praise and worship and then I shared a teaching on the Holy Spirit and His current activities in the world. The three ministers were impressed with the talk and afterwards had prayer to receive the Holy Spirit in a new dimension. As it happened none of them appeared to receive the Spirit that night, or at least none of them showed the typical evidences that we perhaps anticipated. However, after the meeting we enjoyed a further time of fellowship and they went on their way assuring me that they would like to keep in contact with me to hear more about the activities of the Holy Spirit.

The next thing I knew, I received an unexpected phone call from the Reverend Neil Usher. He was the senior minister in charge of several churches in Adelaide. The main church was at Rosewater. He phoned me one morning in a state of great excitement. He recounted an

incident which had just happened to him in the church that day. He had set aside some special time to seek the Lord during a day-time period. He was alone in the church, kneeling at the front and seeking the Lord earnestly for an added and fresh dimension of the Holy Spirit. As he knelt before the Lord he suddenly became aware of smoke around him and for a moment was fearful that something was on fire in the building. He opened his eyes and looked around and saw that there was a cloud of smoke around him at the front of the building. It was not a normal type of smoke and for a few minutes he was unable to understand what was taking place. But then the words of the Lord came to his spirit, as recorded in the book of Isaiah. He remembered that on an occasion when Isaiah sought the Lord, the place where he prayed was “*filled with a cloud of smoke*”. As he pondered upon this thought, he looked at the wall behind the pulpit and to his amazement saw an image of Christ there. He was overwhelmed with excitement and began to try to speak to the Lord. He discovered that he was talking in a strange language that he had neither heard nor spoken before. He continued to wait upon God for several hours, speaking in tongues and hearing heavenly music which seemed to fill the church.

The following Sunday morning was the monthly united meeting of the parish. Neil was still very excited about what happened and eagerly told the people what had transpired that week in their church. He recounted his testimony of how he had been visited by the Holy Spirit and had spoken in tongues. He told me, on the phone, that in his excitement he had become carried away

somewhat, and had announced a Healing Service the following Sunday evening in that church.

This was evidently the real reason for his phoning me. He said “Pastor Gerald, you must come over and preach for me next week because I have never conducted a Healing Service and I really don’t know what to say or do”. I told him that I was unable to go over to his church because I already had a commitment but I assured him that the way God was leading him at that time I felt very confident that if he would go forward in faith, the Lord would be with him and undertake for him.

I often laugh when I think about the report that he gave me on the Monday morning. He said that the church building was filled to capacity that evening. Some of the people had come in faith and expectation and many others had come out of curiosity. The meeting began in the traditional manner with the singing of several hymns and the reading of scripture. After this Neil preached the first message on healing that he had ever given. Following this he invited all who desired prayer to come to the front.

His dear wife was immensely excited about what was happening and full of faith for what God was doing. She had driven some sixty miles to collect a lady who had for many years been confined to a wheel chair. This lady was placed at the front of the church and while Neil was preaching he was very conscious of the challenge that she and her wheel chair represented. Neil was not at all sure that he was happy with his wife for going to such

lengths to bring this lady so far in order for him to pray for her!

Whilst he was still preaching, his mind was working out what he might do about this situation. He had more or less convinced himself that he would pray first for the people with whom nothing was conspicuously wrong. He would pray for people with headaches, migraine and all kinds of internal conditions which were not visible, leaving the wheelchair case to the end, just in case nothing happened.

However, when the time came to pray for the people, he left the platform to come down to the healing line and instead of leaving the wheelchair lady to the end he strode over to her first. He laid his hands upon her and began to fervently call upon the Lord to bring healing to this unfortunate woman. Having concluded his prayer, he quickly moved on from her and began to pray for other people in the line. As he moved across the front of the church he suddenly became aware of a stirring that was happening around the wheel chair. He looked back to see the lady being helped out of the wheelchair and taking the first steps that she had taken in many years. He immediately went back to her, and together with his wife, stood on either side of the woman and helped her as she began to walk across the church. After a few minutes her strength had returned to her in considerable measure and she was able to walk without their aid.

Neil was tremendously excited and told me “Pastor Gerald, something happened then that I had never

experienced in all my previous ministry.” He said that as the congregation saw this woman healed and realised what had happened, they spontaneously stood to their feet as ‘one man’ and began to sing “To God be the glory, great things He has done.” It was certainly an exciting night for Rev. and Mrs. Usher, but it was the first of many such times as they launched into a new ministry, empowered by the Holy Spirit and bringing healing to the minds and bodies of many people.

The next news item that I received concerned the Reverend Dick Jenner. He also contacted me in a state of excitement to tell me that he had been baptised in the Holy Spirit and spoken in tongues and had experienced a tremendous release of new authority in his ministry. He began to pray for people and they also were baptised in the Holy Spirit. Some time later the annual conference of the Methodist Church was convened and Reverend Jenner was posted to another charge in the bush. It was felt by many that he was really being ‘put out into the wilderness’ in order to minimise the effect that he might have on other ministers and churches. He was posted to a parish in the country where six small congregations comprised the circuit. However, he told me that the spiritual life of the community was so low that even when the six congregations were combined, they could not fill one church building. After Richard had been baptised in the Holy Spirit he began to minister with a new anointing and greater authority. Many wonderful things began to happen including about 100 people receiving Jesus as Saviour and Lord in the first twelve months. Others were baptised in the Holy Spirit and numerous others were healed of various conditions and complaints. It was the

beginning of a new and wonderful phase of the ministry for Richard. The congregations began to grow until the buildings were almost too small to accommodate them. A new spirit of revival and enthusiasm gripped the people.

Soon afterwards I also received word from Reverend Ron Hoffman. He also had been baptised in the Holy Spirit and was enjoying a new realm of spiritual activity in his ministry. I went out to his parish in Hawker to hold some meetings with him in the church. We had a great time of fellowship together and saw many of his congregation blessed by the Holy Spirit. It was whilst I was staying in his home that week that a visiting Anglican clergyman called at Ron's house. This brother had the spiritual oversight of a large area of the countryside and visited Hawker every two months. He always came for morning tea on the Wednesday that he was in their town. At the tea table Ron introduced me to this dear brother and encouraged me to tell him about the Holy Spirit. I did share with him something of what the Holy Spirit was doing at that time and then offered to pray for him that he too might receive the Holy Spirit. In those days I always used to close my eyes to pray, and I did so on this occasion. I closed my eyes and began my prayer, planning to move over towards him and lay hands upon him for the blessing of the Spirit. However, when I opened my eyes to walk towards him I found to my astonishment that he had disappeared. He was nowhere to be found.

I never met him again until several years later when I

was visiting the Anglican Cathedral in Singapore. Whilst I was talking to the Bishop, a tall Australian in clerical garb walked up to us and asked me if I remembered him. I had to admit that I could not recall who he was but then he recounted the story of how I had wanted to pray for an Anglican priest in Hawker and how the priest had quietly slipped out of the house to avoid being prayed for. A big grin came over his face and he said “I am that Anglican priest. Eventually I came all the way to Singapore where God was waiting here for me and baptised me in the Holy Spirit.” Now he was a Spirit-filled priest assisting at the Cathedral.

Our old friends the A.S. Worley’s were conducting a crusade at the C.R.C. church in Elizabeth, Adelaide. What was to be a one week crusade was extended at twelve weeks as more than 1,000 denominational people, mainly Methodists, were wonderfully baptised in the Holy Spirit. These were among hundreds more in every part of Adelaide and South Australia who were experiencing a new charismatic dimension. Many of these people began to attend our church in Klemzig. However, as I prayed about what was happening I sensed the Lord instruct me to minister to them but not to encourage them to leave their own congregations. I would tell them from the pulpit, “We are delighted to see you here and trust that God will bless and enrich your life. However, if you are a member of some other church in town, please do not attend here when your own church has a service.” The result of this was that the people took the Holy Spirit back to their own churches and in many cases numerous others in their congregations began to receive the Spirit. Also, the pastors of those churches

were impressed with our integrity and began to come to see me. Every Monday morning I would conduct a meeting for ministers in which I would teach on the Holy Spirit and other charismatic subjects. We had many tremendous times of enrichment and many churches were revived and enlarged. In some cases real revival broke out among them.

Revival In Klemzig

Meanwhile, our small church in Klemzig began to experience a revival too. Just prior to our going there, Pastor John and Beryl Job had built a fine church building on the Main North East Road at Klemzig. They had actually erected the neat building on TWO blocks of land which in those days represented a huge step of faith! Most Pentecostal churches in those days were so small that one ordinary house block was usually considered adequate to contain a church and certainly required as much of the church funds as they could afford to spend. The Job's had done a fine job for several years and the congregation in their smart new building was in good heart. Membership in those days stood at about 70, but there were more than this in actual attendance. The building had a unique and imaginative design that incorporated a small sanctuary and a "fellowship hall" that could be used for an overflow from the main sanctuary. When the overflow was open, the church would accommodate somewhat more than 350 people. We soon had to open the overflow room every Sunday. In the ensuing years, under the leadership of Andrew Evans, the congregation out grew the facility and moved to the suburb of Paradise where it has developed into a

mega church with a congregation of several thousands.

Visions And Revelations

During this same period in the 1960's, I had numerous visions and revelations from the Holy Spirit. Each of these visions came to pass in remarkable ways. I will briefly relate a few of these to validate the authenticity of them.

One of the most remarkable concerned Johnny O' Keefe probably the best known entertainer in Australia at that time. Nicknamed "The Wild One" Johnny was a well known rock and roll singer who symbolised for young Aussies the wild life of drugs, alcohol, sex and wild parties. He was often called "Australia's Elvis Presley."

One Wednesday evening in the regular weekly prayer meeting we were receiving requests for prayer from various people. One lady said, "Pastor, can we please pray for Johnny O'Keefe. He is in Adelaide, performing at a night club and I feel it would be opportune to pray for him." I actually knew little about him except what I had read in the media but willingly agreed that we should pray for him. As I began to lead in prayer I was suddenly part of a three dimensional vision once again. This time I was in fact giving a performance in a night club. I was actually Johnny O'Keefe! The overwhelming feeling I had was of tremendous despair. Several hundred people sat in the nightclub. They had all come for a good time and my task was to provide that feeling. I felt that I was desperately trying to bring happiness to hundreds of people, but there was no happiness inside me. I literally had nothing to give. I was going through a performance pretending to be the wild one, concerned about nothing. Yet inside I was deeply disturbed and distressed. As I participated in the vision, perspiration

ran from all my pores. My mind was in a state of near desperation. I felt ready to collapse at any moment. It was an utterly taxing and exhausting experience. In the next phase of the vision I was at the hotel with Johnny. He took me up stairs to his private room. I could see a vivid yellow wall. I sat on a silver coloured lounge in front of which was a large TV set. Johnny came and sat next to me and I began to share Christ with him after which I prayed the sinners prayer with him.

After what seemed to be hours but was probably fifteen minutes, I virtually collapsed with exhaustion and had to be almost carried from the church into my office. Someone else concluded that meeting for me. The following morning I woke with the deep conviction that I was to see and talk with Johnny that day. I immediately dressed and left for the hotel where he was performing and staying. Presenting myself at the front desk I asked to see him. I was informed that his schedule was completely full and he was not seeing anyone that day. He had even cancelled a scheduled media conference. I asked to see the manager of the hotel, with the same result. So I sat in the foyer and told the manager I would stay there until I got to speak with J.O.K

Eventually he got tired of me being there, contacted J.O.K and evidently explained the situation. The response was that Mr. O'Keefe would see me for coffee for fifteen minutes in the dining room. When we were both seated he asked me my business. I told him I was a Minister and he immediately thought that I wanted him to do a charity performance of some kind. Assuring him that this was definitely not the case, I quickly began to tell him about my experience the previous evening. I told him of the vision and how I had felt

as I tried to perform for the audience. As I talked his face became serious and white. He said, “Reverend you are describing my feelings more accurately than I have ever been able to. How much do you know about me?”

I explained that until the previous evening I had scarcely known anything personal about him. I had read a little about his career. I had seen him occasionally on TV and I had once read that he had sustained a bad car crash some years earlier in Wyong, N.S.W. That was basically the full extent of my prior knowledge. However, Johnny told me that he had received a great deal of psychiatric care. I have often been asked to describe my feelings and emotions to the doctor he said, but I have never been able describe them as accurately as you have described them. We finished our coffee and Johnny said, “Can you spare some time to come to my room please and talk with me?” Obviously I agreed to do so. This was why I had come. He led me upstairs, opened the door of his suite and immediately I saw the vivid yellow walls I had seen the previous night. I walked over to the silver coloured lounge suite and sat down. He quickly sat next to me as he had in the vision and then he began to pour out his heart.

He spoke of his Catholic boyhood in Sydney. His parents were staunch Catholics and he was raised in that tradition. He had an early fear of purgatory and hell which evidently stayed with him all his life. Even when he developed the reputation as the Wild One, it was still sub consciously with him, brooding beneath the surface.

Then he began to tell me about his accident in Wyong some years before. He was racing back to Sydney in a fast car.

Driving through Wyong the car went out of control and left the road. Johnny was fearfully injured. In fact those early on the scene thought that he was dead. However, he was rushed to hospital where he later regained consciousness and subsequently underwent several serious operations. Eventually, though permanently scarred, he regained a measure of health and was able to start performing once again. Unfortunately, the scars in his mind had not healed like those on his face. In his mind, he believed that he had actually died in Wyong. He further believed that he had gone to purgatory and was now desperately trying to pay for his sins. This constant mental struggle and his consistent failure to atone for his sins plunged him into severe mental disorders that surfaced spasmodically. In London, for example, he plunged into deep despair and had to be hospitalised gaining unfair media coverage that clearly inferred that his wild life style had put him there.

As he retold his nightmares to me, the tears poured down his face and his whole body trembled violently almost to the point of convulsion. I quickly laid my hands on him and prayed and soon the trembling stopped and he was able to talk coherently again. We sat side by side on the lounge, the huge TV set in front of us. I told him, “Johnny, I want to tell you about Jesus and the price He has paid for all your sins. The price was tremendous and it has paid the debt for every sin we have ever committed.” I then asked him to listen carefully and imagine that he could see everything I described on the huge TV screen before us. I then began to vividly describe Christ’s crucifixion. The extreme agony He experienced, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. I described the crown of thorns, the nail prints and the spear wounds. I read to him a portion of Isaiah 53,

describing the intense sufferings of Messiah. Throughout this talk, Johnny looked towards the TV screen and saw the whole scene in his mind. He was sobbing the whole time. Finally, I told him, “That should have been you suffering Johnny, but Jesus took your place. He paid the whole price for your salvation and deliverance. There is no need for you to pay it too. All you have to do is believe that He died in your place, paid for your sins and bought your salvation. Believe that and receive Him as your personal Saviour.”

We then prayed together the sinner’s prayer and suddenly his sobbing subsided. He began to say, over and over, “Thank you Jesus, I do believe it! I gladly accept what you have done for me. Please enter my life, my heart and mind. Please heal my mind and release me from the tormenting thoughts. Give me your peace. I receive You now. Amen.” A wonderful peace came over his whole being. A big smile came over his face and he began saying, “It’s happening, I can feel it! The peace is filling my mind.”

I then explained to him more about salvation through faith in Christ and the Grace of God. I encouraged him to start talking to Jesus every day, just as simply as he had talked to me. Share with Him all your fears and thank Him for His peace. Realise that He will never cast you out and honour Him as your best and closest friend. I then borrowed his guitar and taught him a couple of choruses that we sang together over and over. It was late in the day. My wife wondered where I had gotten to. When I recounted the experience of the day she laughed and said, “You are a character. Who else would borrow Johnny O’Keefe’s guitar and teach him how to sing a song!”

I talked with him numerous times after this, mostly on the phone. He frequently asked me to pray for him and we also talked about the Lord. I know he still had many struggles. Nevertheless, he had sincerely prayed the sinner's prayer and the Bible says that "Whosoever calls on the Name of the Lord, shall be saved." He did meet Jesus that day and learned to talk with Him and unburden his soul. Only the Lord knows those that are His.

A Tragedy Averted

Another remarkable vision related to Pastor George Forbes though I did not know this immediately. Again it occurred during a public prayer meeting at Klemzig. It was a Wednesday evening about ten days before a national Conference of the A.O.G. was due to be held at Windsor, N.S.W.

During the meeting, I suddenly had a vision which I began to describe to the congregation. I saw a car and caravan heading for the Conference. A pastor and his family were in the car. Suddenly another car coming towards them, swerved across the road and a severe head on collision looked inevitable. I knew that Satan wanted to destroy this pastor but that if we really interceded for him the tragedy would be averted. We all began to pray fervently and intensely. After about one hour of intercession, the burden suddenly lifted and we knew that the incident would be avoided.

In the meeting that night, were Pastor and Mrs. Harold Ridd. Harold was an elderly, blind preacher and retired A.O.G. pastor. The Ridds planned to attend the Conference in Windsor the following week, travelling to it by train through Melbourne where they planned to spend the weekend en

route. Sunday morning found them in the Preston A.O.G. where George Forbes was the Pastor. When invited to greet the congregation, Harold Ridd told them about the amazing prayer meeting in Klemzig earlier that week. As he described my vision, the colour and make of the car and caravan, George realised that he was describing his vehicle. He further realised that he had his family were evidently the ones in the vision, so as he drove to the Conference he was constantly alert to the possibility of a car swerving into his path.

Between Sydney and Windsor, after driving defensively all the way, suddenly a car, on the other side of the road, was forced across the road and right into their direction. A head on collision seemed inevitable. But because George was pre warned he was able to take swift action to avoid the collision. The other car, clipped the back of Forbes' caravan, causing relatively minor damage, but no one was injured. A veteran Police Sergeant examining the site later said, "I cannot understand how you managed to avoid a fatal accident. All the measurements I have taken suggest that this would have been a fatal accident." George then told him of the vision and prayers. The old Sergeant replied, "I don't really believe in miracles Reverend, but I do believe that one has happened this morning." Later, at the General Conference, George Forbes was elected as the Director of the World Missions Department. A position he held for many years with great distinction and effectiveness. It appeared that Satan had not wanted George at that Conference or in that role, but God defeated his intention.

“Let Me Take Over”

I well remember speaking at a large inter-denominational rally in Sydney where some 1,000 leaders had gathered. I had been asked to speak on the subject “Evidences of the Holy Spirit baptism”. I had prepared a talk which might have taken me an hour to deliver but I had only been speaking for about 15 minutes when I sensed the Lord quietly say to me, “If you will step to one side I will demonstrate the evidence you are speaking about”. Ignoring this quiet voice within me, I continued to speak for a further 10 minutes but the voice within became more insistent. I stopped teaching and told the congregation, “God has told me that if I will step to one side He will demonstrate the evidence we are speaking of”. I literally took three or four steps away from the rostrum and immediately the Holy Spirit fell upon the whole gathering. Beginning at the back of the hall and moving like a wind towards the front, the Holy Spirit began to fill scores of people with His power. Amongst the crowd that day were numbers of pastors from many denominations.

Crisis In The Camp

In my own denomination, the Assemblies of God of Australia, there were many divisions of thought concerning what many were calling the “New Move.” Some of the events and emphases that were happening did not sit well with the older more traditional church men. At one period the denomination seemed almost ready to fragment, so deep were the feelings of those opposed towards those who were embracing the new move. The hierarchy generally was basically opposed to embracing the new charismatic emphases, whilst many of the younger men were eager to experience whatever God had for them. A special emergency national presbytery conference was convened in Victoria to discuss the controversial issues. At times the discussion and

debate became quite heated as both factions presented and defended their positions, neither side willing to concede to the other. It became evident to many, even those with a more neutral stance, that the differences could easily cause a real split completely dividing the existing denomination. Although I personally was strongly on the side of those supporting the new move, I knew that it was not God's desire to see such a split eventuate. I also knew that the move and its ongoing implications were here to stay. What was needed was some time for the newness and "novelty" elements to subside somewhat. This awareness kept me awake for several nights as I prayerfully sought God for His solution. This actually came to me during the night as a Word of wisdom which I presented to the conference the following day as a proposal, namely "That both sides should abstain from promoting or denigrating the controversial issues!" This was voted upon and passed. We then entered a period of peaceful truce which eventually led to a wide spread acceptance of the new emphases of the Spirit. The eventual result of this period of truce was manifested at the next annual general conference when a radical change of leadership and direction was approved. From that time the whole denomination began to move into an unprecedented time of growth and expansion.

Chapter Three

Forty Seven Years On

In the forty seven years since all this transpired the church situation in Australia has changed considerably. Several churches have grown into mega congregations and the number of churches throughout the land has increased in an encouraging manner. However, we have definitely not yet seen the kind of visitation that was envisaged in the third aspect of the vision. We need to ask ourselves before God, “What has happened in respect of such a revival? Will such a phenomena really happen?” And if so, “When will it happen and what will be the circumstances and environment in which it will happen?”

I am now personally convinced that the revival will not come in the form of a nice little quiet repetition of the “Charismatic Renewal”. I believe that it will come in the midst of a period of international turmoil, confusion and consternation such was we have never seen before.

God’s Prophetic Promise to Israel

At the time that I received the vision I was totally insensitive to the important role of Israel in the prophetic purposes of God. I unwittingly ignored the fact that the “Old Testament” scriptures apply initially to Israel and are still valid to them. In those days I was very church centred and Israel did not even appear on my radar screen. When I began to read from Isaiah 41:14, I unintentionally ignored the immediate context and applied the words directly to my interpretation of what I was seeing in the vision. I interpreted the scriptures solely in relation to the scenes I was witnessing in respect of Australia.

It was only some years later whilst I was living in Africa that I began to see the vital importance of God's unique relationship to Israel and of His promises to them. It was then that I began to realise the essential application of this passage to the nation of Israel. From the immediate context of the chapter I suddenly realized that what I was blithely applying to the church was actually in the first place a prophetic promise to Israel concerning the End Times. I also began to realize that the fulfilment of the prophecy that I was seeing was vitally related to God's prophetic intention for the nation of Israel. Mountains and hills in scripture often refer to nations and kingdoms as the context of this passage makes clear. Though an alliance of nations would come against Israel, bent upon destroying her, they would be beaten small and blown away like chaff. This amazing victory would be so remarkable that the entire nation would rejoice in Jehovah and glory in the Holy One of Israel.

Among the people who anticipate a great End Time harvest, one of the scriptures they most frequently quote to substantiate their belief is

Joel 2:28-29

"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. NKJV

Once again this scripture is usually quoted without any reference to the context of the whole prophecy, including the immediate context of the chapter. Even a cursory glance at

the book of Joel clearly shows that this is a prophecy intended originally for Israel. Therefore the prophecies must be fulfilled initially to Israel and then to the church. It is vitally important to realise the significance of the word “afterward”. This word relates the prophecy specifically to the preceding verse. The clear implication of these verses is that Yaweh will be *in the midst of Israel* before He pours out His Spirit upon all flesh.

Joel 2:27

27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. NKJV

Jehovah’s presence amongst His people, “in the midst of Israel” will finally deliver them from the shame that has so often been their lot whilst dispersed among the Gentile nations.

The prophecy of Joel contains numerous statements of assurance to Israel that “in the latter days” He would perform marvellous things on their behalf. E.g.

Joel 2:21

21 Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvellous things! NKJV

Jehovah God has already done many marvellous things in regard to His ancient covenant people and their land. The rebirth of Israel as a sovereign nation in 1948 is in itself a tremendous miracle. Their ongoing survival despite several serious efforts to destroy and annihilate them has convincingly demonstrated God’s supernatural aid and

protection. But God's promises are certainly not yet fulfilled in their entirety. He has also promised to revive them spiritually and to manifest among and through them the awesome power of The Holy One of Israel.

Joel 2:23

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; NKJV

The manner in which God entices and welcomes the people of Israel back into their land would go completely against all we know of the merciful, faithful character of God if He were not bringing them back to do them good and not evil. God's words of loving assurance as He warmly encourages them to "be glad and rejoice" at the prospect of being back in their promised land, would totally resonate against His essential character if He were in fact drawing them into an ambush that would precipitate their destruction.

Joel 2:32

32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls. NKJV

Joel 3:16

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem;

The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. NKJV

17 "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be

holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."
NKJV

Joel 3:20-21

20 But Judah shall abide forever and Jerusalem from generation to generation.

21 For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; for the LORD dwells in Zion." NKJV

In this amazing prophetic book of Joel that predicts such a powerful visitation upon Israel in the last days, God also speaks of a gigantic battle in which Anti Jehovah forces will attack Israel but will be utterly defeated by God's direct intervention.

Peter interprets these scriptures as referring to "the Last days."

Acts 2:17 And it will come about, in the last days, says God, that I will send out my Spirit on all flesh; and your sons and your daughters will be prophets, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams:

Many modern "Bible scholars" and commentators have denied that Joel's prophecy has any significance beyond the Day of Pentecost. However, the events foretold by Joel have been described by Jewish Scribes as related to the "Days of Messiah." It is the Jews themselves who understood this reference to belong to the world to come. Some of their commentators say that it specifically refers to "the time to come"; by which they frequently mean "the times of the Messiah".

The fact that the prophecy is initially clearly directed towards

Israel is usually completely ignored. In the previous verse God plainly states “I AM in the midst of Israel.” (I AM is one of the names of Jehovah – the God of Israel)

Joel 2:27

27 Then you shall know that I AM in the midst of Israel: I AM the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. NKJV

The final verse in chapter 2 puts the prophecy in even clearer light. God is speaking of a prophetic time of deliverance and says specifically that it will occur “in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem.”

Joel 2:32

32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls. NKJV

The prophet Joel further states within the context of the prophecy that the events foretold will occur at a time in history when an alliance of nations will seek to invade and possess Israel with the intention of dividing the land of Israel. The land that God regards as “His land.” The response of God to that attempted invasion is clearly foretold in chapter three.

Joel 3:1-2

*"For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,
2 I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with*

them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. NKJV

God's response to the invading armies will be to cause the destruction they plan against Israel to come back upon their own heads.

Joel 3:14-17

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness.

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."

NKJV

The great outpouring of the Holy Spirit falling as the former and latter rain together, will occur in the context of God's great work of grace towards His ancient covenant people. It will not be a neat and tidy little church revival with the choir singing "Just as I am without one plea." It will descend upon a volatile world experiencing the judgments of God for their sinful Godless deeds and their evil treatment of the people of Israel.

This great phenomena will cause the greatest spiritual harvest in history, greatly eclipsing and superseding all previous harvests. This is the prophetic harvest into which God will send the “Joel generation.”

The Growing Importance Of Kingdom Commitment

We have certainly entered that period predicted by God when “Everything that can be shaken will be shaken.” - Heb 12:27. It is a time of world-wide uncertainty and insecurity never previously experienced. It is described as a “Day of dark clouds.” Everything that man has attained and achieved will be shaken. Every institution he has built will be rocked. The economic systems of the world will falter and fail. Social problems will flood the world. Previously unknown diseases will plague mankind. All manner of disasters will be experienced. There will also be an alarming increase in earthquakes, floods and natural disasters. Human governments will fall because they can no longer cope with fearful phenomena shaking the earth. The only things that remain stable will be those things planted by God. Amidst all the chaos and confusion, the Kingdom of God will emerge in a new purity and power. Every human effort of man will ultimately fail, but God’s glorious Kingdom will prevail. From the smouldering ruins of humanism will arise the Phoenix of God’s Kingdom rule. Every human government will acknowledge ultimate failure and declare that “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

*10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NIV)*

I have been exercised of late and numerous people have asked me concerning when the third aspect of the vision might be fulfilled. I have prayerfully asked God what that phase was all about and just what it meant. I certainly have not received another vision about it but I do believe that God has shown me some further details of what He desires to take place. I firstly found my attention directed to

Hosea 6:3

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth. (KJV)

I began to see that in the midst of the renewal that our nation has experienced since 1964, we sadly neglected to “follow on to know the Lord” in a deeper dimension. I was not in Australia during those days (My family and I had followed the leading of God to go to Africa in the 1970’s) so I cannot say what actually happened from first hand experience. However, my sense is that the churches and pastors enjoyed and appreciated the time of refreshing and the fresh growth it caused but never actually followed on to know God intimately in the deepest dimensions He desires. Churches grew and increased considerably and in some respects a new day dawned but it has lacked the deeper heart searching and repentance that would have led into a far greater

and richer experiences of God's presence with all that can mean. If I might paraphrase Hosea 6:3 it might read like this

“Then shall we truly experience God in His fullness, if we follow on to know Him at the deepest level, that His consequent arising will be as the dawning of a new day and God will come to us as the latter and the former rain in one great deluge.”

The original prophecy which Hosea delivered was actually in respect of Israel as a nation. Because Israel had sinned and failed to seek God earnestly and fervently in repentance and tears, God had withdrawn His presence from His people. In the preceding verses, because of Israel's spiritual disobedience and barrenness God had said,

Hosea 5:15 I will go and return to My place, till they acknowledge their guilt, and seek My face; in their trouble they will seek Me earnestly:

In response to this action the prophet says in Chapter 6
Hosea 6:1 'Come, and let us return unto the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us, He hath smitten, and He will bind us up.

Hosea 6:2 After two days will He revive us, on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His presence.

Hosea 6:3 And let us know, eagerly strive to know the LORD, His going forth is sure as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter rain that waters the earth.'

I believe that the church in Australia is presently enjoying a greater measure of God's favour and blessing but our appropriation and experience of it is shallow and superficial. In order to experience the latter and former rain as promised by Joel, we need to return to the Lord in genuine humility with fasting and prayer that He would visit the land in a powerful and awesome manner. We need to move from "programs" to prayer and to really seek the face of God. Unfortunately it seems that we will have to experience times of severe testing to bring us to our knees. God said in Hosea 5:15. "*in their trouble they will seek Me earnestly.*" We also desperately need to see the bigger picture of God's prophetic agenda. God's purpose at this time is not simply to enlarge the church. His vision is not wholly church. It is also the salvation and restoration of Israel and the literal establishment of His glorious kingdom on earth with its throne in Jerusalem to benefit all nations.

With the benefit of hindsight I can also see something extremely important that frankly did not occur to me 47 years ago. I refer to the unleashing of religious terrorism around the world and the great crises which this will bring upon us all. I can better understand the concern and consternation I saw in the vision when I realise the effect that such global terrorism will yet bring upon our world. The whole world is heading towards a time of tribulation and testing never before known on earth. It will eventually have an effect on and impact every nation. In the context of that time of fear and uncertainty, when Almighty God will manifest His awesome power before all mankind, there will also come a tremendous outpouring of His Spirit on all flesh. The scenario in

which the visitation will take place will be much more frightening than a mere economic downturn. It will transpire in a world that is threatened with possible annihilation when the hearts of people everywhere will be filled with fear. Jesus predicted, in Luke 21:26.

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

A further vitally important aspect is that when we “return unto the Lord and come to more fully know Him” we will understand His heart and prophetic plans for this day. One of the most vital keys to experiencing a last day revival is to fully recognise the prophetic plan and purpose of God at this time and to cooperate with Him. Among the numerous things we will then understand is God’s End Time plan for Israel and how the destiny of the church is essentially linked to it. I believe that the 3rd day resurrection that God spoke of in Hosea 6:3 refers to the End Time visitation that God will bring upon Israel which will also coincide with the fulfilment of Joel’s prophecy concerning the former and latter rain in the last days. In the book of Joel God speaks of both the church and Israel. The vine speaks of the church, the fig tree of Israel.

Joel 1:7 He has laid waste My vine, and ruined My fig tree; he has stripped it bare and thrown it away; its branches are made white.

Joel 1:12 The vine has dried up, and the fig tree has withered; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and

the apple tree-- all the trees of the field are withered; surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

Both the church world wide and the Jewish nation though restored to their ancient land, are in a withered state of spiritual drought. However, in such a circumstance God challenges His people and promises restoration to a repentant nation.

Joel 2:15-19

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;

16. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room.

17. Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

18. Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.

19. The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations. (NKJ)

For Israel, this restoration will prove to be “Life from the dead” -a glorious resurrection of God’s ancient covenant people to a living relationship with Jehovah.

Romans 11:15

For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (NKJ)

Events transpiring in Israel today are evidently leading towards the direct intervention of the Messiah to rescue and redeem His ancient covenant people from their enemies. (Zechariah 12) This intervention will lead to the recognition by Israel of their promised Messiah.

Zechariah 12:8. "In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.

9. "It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (NKJ)

It will also bring men and nations everywhere to their knees before Jehovah God and His Messiah as they recognise His supreme and unquestionable authority over all mankind.

Three of the major signs that will herald the return of the Messiah will be

1. The re-birth of the nation of Israel and her restoration to the Promised Land, i.e. the land of

Israel. Amazingly this has been fulfilled in our own day and generation. Against all apparent odds the world community through the auspices of the United Nations in 1948 declared the formation of a new State named Israel. In 1967, once again in a miraculous manner, the city of Jerusalem including Temple Mount, came under the direct control of Israel. These amazing events, fulfilled in accordance with ancient Bible prophecies, announce the imminence of the Messiah's return to earth.

2 The second prediction concerns a world in which peace will be upon everyone's minds and lips.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-6

2 *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.*

3 *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*

4 *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*

5 *You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.*

6 *Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.(NKJ)*

World peace is the number one topic of concern for most people throughout our world today. Our world is currently threatened with massive destruction through terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations professes to be vitally concerned with this

issue. Leading nations throughout the Western world espouse various so called “Roadmaps to peace.” Prominent leaders such as Barrack Obama and David Cameron are constantly said to be pursuing world peace through their various activities. It is an extremely sad commentary upon a godless society that they are pursuing peace through the very thing for which Almighty God will finally judge the nations, i.e. dividing the land of Israel and the ill treatment of Jews. (Joel 3:1-3) There will be no world peace until the Prince of Peace comes.

3 The third sign I will mention is in some ways the most alarming of all, namely an attitude of sceptical disbelief on the part of people who profess to be Bible believers.

*2 Pet 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (KJV)*

The amazing and sad truth that we learn from this particular scripture is that one of the very signs of the imminent return of Christ will be the appearance of scoffers decrying the very idea of the imminence of Christ’s return. These scoffers are not the ungodly who have no biblical knowledge of His possible return. They are evidently people who know something about the prediction of His return, or they would not even be talking about it but scoff at the idea that it be imminent. Like the people of Noah’s generation they continue their normal lives as though nothing was

amiss.

God's Prophetic Promises to Israel

At the time that I received the vision I was totally ignorant of the important role of Israel in the prophetic purposes of God. I completely disregarded the fact that the "Old Testament" scriptures apply initially and inviolably to Israel and are still valid to them. When I began to read from Isaiah 41:14, I unwittingly ignored the immediate context and applied the words directly to my understanding of what I was seeing in the vision. I interpreted the scriptures solely in relation to the scenes I was witnessing in respect of Australia. It was only some years later, whilst I was living in Africa that I began to see the vital importance of God's unique relationship to Israel and of His promises to them. It was then that I began to realise that the initial application of this passage is to the nation of Israel. From the immediate context of the chapter I suddenly realized that what I was blithely applying to the church in Australia was actually in the first place a prophetic promise to Israel concerning the End Times. I should certainly have given more attention to the verses preceding and following the verses I had read as a confirmation of what I had seen in the vision. I also began to realize that the fulfilment of the prophecy that I was seeing was vitally related to the time when God's prophetic intention for the nation of Israel would take place. I firmly believe that whether or not we participate in the End Time harvest will depend to a large degree on our having the right attitude towards Israel. Allow me to intersperse the verses I read in Isaiah with some brief commentary. In 1980, whilst living in Southern Africa, God suddenly spoke to Elizabeth and myself concerning Israel. He said in essence, "I want you to get your attitude towards Israel into right perspective. From now on the effectiveness of our ministry will depend to a large

degree on your having a right attitude towards Israel". Prior to this time, as missionaries to Africa, we were totally church oriented. Our lives were dedicated to winning the lost to Christ and they are still. However, we had little or no awareness of Israel or her importance in the mind and prophetic purpose of God. He also clearly intimated that I would soon be invited to speak at a conference in Jerusalem and that were to remain in Israel for several weeks while God spoke His words concerning Israel into our hearts. It was when that visit eventuated that we received our new awareness of God's heart for the people and land of Israel. Since then we have returned to the land many times and each time God has enlarged our love and concern for His people there. Being watchmen for Israel has become an important aspect of our lives since that time.

Isaiah 41:8-16

8."But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend.

9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away:

This passage is specifically addressed to Israel whom God calls "His servant" and to Jacob and the physical descendants of Abraham through Isaac. God is obviously speaking to His ancient people Israel.

It was addressed to Israel after God had re-gathered the people "from the ends of the earth" which can only refer to the end of the major Diaspora during the 20th Century, which occurred in the late 1940's with the establishment of the Jewish homeland. God emphasises strongly that He has NOT

rejected (cast away) Israel. In the End times of this Age they will certainly have an important role to play in the redemptive purposes of God.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

God is obviously referring to the help He has extended to the Jewish people in the establishment and development of Eretz Israel. Although their task has been an arduous and almost impossible one, they did not need to fear the challenge, for God would strengthen and uphold them by His strong and mighty arm.

Isaiah 41:11"Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; they shall be as nothing, and those who strive with you shall perish.

Here is a clear prediction that many nations would be incensed against Israel and her presence in the Promised Land but those nations would be ultimately ashamed and disgraced and would utterly perish.

Isaiah 41:12You shall seek them and not find them-- those who contended with you. Those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a nonexistent thing.

Israel's enemies, who would be fanatically incensed against her and contend with her, would become as nothing – a non-existent thing.

Isaiah 41:13For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right

hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'

Isaiah 41:14"Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you," says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

In likening Israel to a worm, God is clearly requiring Israel to be utterly humble before Him and completely dependant upon Him. (I believe that He is also requiring this of the church today). Only in response to such humility will God reveal Himself as her Redeemer the Holy One of Israel whose very righteousness, holiness and integrity is partially predicated upon His unfailing loyalty to Israel.

Isaiah 41:15"Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, and make the hills like chaff.

Isaiah 41:16 You shall winnow (scatter) them, the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; you shall rejoice in the LORD, and glory in the Holy One of Israel. (NKJ)

Mountains and hills in scripture often refer to nations and kingdoms as the context of this passage makes clear. Though an alliance of nations will come against Israel, bent upon destroying her, they would be beaten small and blown away like chaff. This amazing victory would be so remarkable that the entire nation would rejoice in Jehovah and glory in the Holy One of Israel and the whole world would see that He is Lord and Master of the universe.

At present the church worldwide seems to be largely oblivious and disinterested regarding the significance of what is happening in the Middle East and specifically in

relation to Israel. Current world events are happening in line with Bible Prophecy which predicts that a huge spiritual “beast” will arise in the form of an alliance between Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. (See Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 13) This beast will be dedicated to the destruction and conquest of the Jewish nation Israel and the subjugation of all mankind. The world scene is obviously now being set for the final confrontation between the powers of darkness and the kingdom of God. At the same time God is preparing to gather in the greatest harvest ever. When mankind sees the awesome power of God displayed as He steps on to the scene to rescue and redeem Israel, they will all recognise that Jehovah God is truly the only true and living God. Multitudes from every religion and those with no religion will then respond to His Gospel and be swept into God’s glorious Kingdom. It is interesting and important to note that in Isaiah 41, the scripture that seemed to confirm the vision, it says clearly that it was “The Lord God, The Holy One of Israel who would perform it to show us things that will happen at the latter end.” The title, “Holy One of Israel” links God irrevocably with Israel. The validity of God’s holy nature and character is inevitably linked to His faithfulness to Israel.

Isaiah 41:20-22

*20 That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this and **the Holy One of Israel** has created it.*

*21 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong reasons, **says the King of Jacob.**" (Israel)*

22 "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen;

let them show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare to us things to come. (NKJ)

Here are some further thoughts from Hosea 6:3 (a paraphrase)

Hosea 6:3. Then shall we know, (experience) if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth (emergence) is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

The Bible always portrays rain as a special blessing from God. Deuteronomy 11:14

...then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

However, God has expressed specific conditions for the breaking of national drought. This verse applies to both natural and spiritual drought. The principle remains the same. Throughout the Bible, God's promises to both Israel and the church are interspersed with the "Ifs" of conditional consequence. Probably the best known of these is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14. which clearly spells out the conditions God makes.

God's Prescription For Restoration

2 Chronicles 7:13 If I ever shut off the supply of rain from the skies or order the locusts to eat the crops or send a plague on my people,

2 Chronicles 7:14 and my people, my God-defined people, respond by humbling themselves, praying, seeking my presence, and turning their backs on their wicked lives, I'll be there ready for you: I'll listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land to health. (The Message)

The prophet describes a situation of drought caused through lack of rainfall. God has chosen to withhold the rain. In addition to the scarcity of crops, the arid conditions also give rise to plagues and pestilences. The situation described is a desperate one of famine, hunger and plagues.

“If” My People Who Are Called By My Name

We have been called by God into His Kingdom. We are not called to religion but real relationship in which God is not ashamed to call us His brethren. (Hebrews 2:11) As His special people we should be utterly devoted to God making Him the first and final priority in our lives. We should be recognized as Children of God through our Godly character and family likeness etc

The first inescapable condition that God makes is that we must humble ourselves before Him. God gives (His) grace to the humble but He resists the proud and self sufficient. (James 4:6) It is interesting to note that God does not specify simply the exercise of faith but true humility. He does not say “If my people will just speak the word of faith.” The condition He makes is to genuinely humble ourselves and admit and confess our sins and the consequent needs we have. In so many ways the church today, particularly in the Western world has become self sufficient, dependant upon skill and personality rather than on God Himself. Much of the church today seems to resemble the church of Laodicea.

Revelation 3:14 Write to Laodicea, to the Angel of the church. God's Yes, the Faithful and Accurate Witness, the First of God's creation, says:

15 "I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot--far better to be either cold or hot!

16 You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit.

17 You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless.

18 "Here's what I want you to do: Buy your gold from me, gold that's been through the refiner's fire. Then you'll be rich. Buy your clothes from me, clothes designed in Heaven. You've gone around half-naked long enough. And buy medicine for your eyes from me so you can see, really see.

19 "The people I love, I call to account--prod and correct and guide so that they'll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God!

20 "Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you.

21 Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors!

22 "Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches."

Only after we have genuinely humbled ourselves does God admonish us to pray. He obviously wants us to petition Him from a genuinely humble and contrite heart. Reviving is promised to the humble in spirit. Sadly, much of the church

today is living in material comfort and pride and God is calling for our repentance and humility.

Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (NKJ)

This kind of humble, persistent prayer seems to be in very short supply today. Very few churches emphasise the need for such prayer. In most churches the prayer meeting is the least attended gathering of the week. It is obviously much harder to pray than to preach or sing. Prayer has become the last resort of many churches.

In the third instance God requires of us "Seek My Face." This is what He required of David,

Psalm 27:8-9

8 *When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."*

9 *Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; you have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. (NKJ)*

The important thing to realise here is that God wants us to seek His face not His hand. He demands that we seek Him, not His blessing. His hand is the instrument by which He dispenses His blessing whether it be rain or revival. When we seek the face of God we seek His personal fellowship, intimacy and communion. When we seek His face we look

directly into His eyes. We develop a deep intimacy with Him. Too many preachers today, particularly in the Western world, are urging their listeners to seek God's hand and what He can supply in terms of health, wealth and success. They are preaching a Gospel of success and personal achievement rather than humility and true spirituality.

Finally, when we have humbled ourselves, prayed and sought God's face, God demands that we repent (turn away from) our wicked (selfish, carnal, disobedient) ways. He made this demand upon Israel that they repent of their great wickedness in that they had rebelled against His commandments and walked in disobedience.

1 Samuel 12:14-18

14 "If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God.

15 "However, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

16 "Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes:

17 "Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking a king for yourselves."

18 So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. (NKJ)

The Promise God Makes

This is the kind of attitude and prayer that reaches the throne of God's grace and causes him to say "I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land." In accordance with Hosea 6:3 there are at least three ways in which God wants us to know Him.

1. From His Word in a much deeper and richer way, studying it with our hearts rather than our heads.
2. Experientially, through personal spiritual intimacy, prayer and intercession.
3. Reproductively, as Adam "knew Eve" and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "*I have acquired a man from the LORD.*" Genesis 4:1 God wants us to know Him in an intimate reproductive relationship through which He will birth the Kingdom.

The years of renewal we have experienced undoubtedly came from the Lord. No humans became exalted for their role in it. However, its results have not (yet) led to the revival for which we hope.

What Happened To The Renewal?

1. We failed to follow on to know the Lord much more deeply and intimately.
2. Many Pastors became like CEO's conducting their churches on business principles instead of Biblical ones.
3. Worship became largely spiritual entertainment.

4. We settled for better results rather than the best.

What can be done now?

We need to earnestly seek the Lord of the Harvest

1. Follow on to know Him. Paul in Philippians said “That I might truly Know Him.”

2. Earnestly “chase after Him” -to know His heart, see through His eyes. To discern His Will.

What will happen as we follow on to know Him?

We will develop deeper intimacy with Him. We will know His Mind and feel with His heart.

In accordance with Joel’s prophecy, (Joel 2:15) the church and especially its leaders need to blow the trumpet in Zion to “sound the alarm.” Christian radio and TV is ideally positioned to “Sound the Alarm” reaching the church AND the un-churched, believers and non-believers.

What Might God Tell Us At This Prophetic Moment?

Joel has some tremendously encouraging prophecies for Israel in the Latter Days calling upon them to “Fear not. Be glad and rejoice.” E.g. Joel 2:21. *Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done marvellous things!* (NKJ)

In Joel 3:1-2 God foretells a time when all nations will gather together in the Valley of Jehoshaphat against the nation of Israel. There will be a tremendous battle, eclipsing all previous wars. In view of the strong words of encouragement (Joel 2:21,23) that God has given to

Israel I cannot possibly believe that He has wooed them back to Eretz Israel to allow their destruction.

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. (NKJ)

God is going to give a miraculous resounding victory to Israel in the sight of all nations. However, these wonderful promises are all conditional for Israel, as indeed they are for the church too.

Joel 2:12-19

12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.

14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him-- a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room.

17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, weep between

the porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.

19 The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations. (NKJ)

Let us look again at what God promised Israel (and the church) in Hosea 6:1-3

1 Come, and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; he has stricken, but He will bind us up.

2 After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.

3 Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; he will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth. (NKJ)

What Is It We Need To Do?

1. "Come, and let us return to the Lord, v. 1

This involves an acknowledgement that we have strayed from the true righteous paths of the Lord and from intimate personal relationship with Him. We have fallen short of His best.

2. We need to earnestly and diligently pursue the personal relationship and intimate knowledge of the

LORD. When we do this it will produce in us genuine spirit of humility and of complete dependence upon God.

3. Eagerly anticipate God's favour as a promised consequence.

"He that has torn will heal us, he that has smitten will bind us up,"

4. They (Israel) realised that deliverance out of their troubles would be to them as "life from the dead" (v. 2): (Romans 11:15)

5. Then, shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord. "Then" when God returns in mercy to his people and pours forth His favour upon them, He will give them more of the knowledge of Himself; the earth shall become full of that knowledge. (Isaiah. 11:9).

6. All Shall Know God. Jeremiah 24:7

And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart. (KJV)

Jeremiah 31:34

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (KJV)

7. His going forth is prepared as the morning, that is, the return of his favour, which he had withdrawn from us when he returned to his place. (Hosea 5:15)

His emergence (Coming to earth) will be as the dawning of a new day as surely as the return of the morning after the darkest night. He shall also come to us as the latter and former rain upon the earth, which refreshes it and makes it fruitful.

His Going Forth Will Be As The Dawning Of A New Day (Hosea 5:15)

A new day has been prepared and secured for us as surely as the return of morning after the darkest night. He shall also come to us as the latter and former rain unto the earth, which refreshes it and makes it fruitful. Now this projects much further than their deliverance out of captivity, and was to have its fullest accomplishment in the coming of Messiah Christ. We are as those who wait for the morning after a long dark night, and are sure that it will come at the time appointed and will not fail. The light of his countenance will be both reviving to us and growing upon us, unto the perfect day, as the light of the morning is. His appearance shall be as the morning, the dawning of a new day after the darkest night, as Messiah appears as the sun of righteousness and the Day-Spring from on high to visit us.

As predicted by Joel, the former and the latter rain in the last days will produce a glorious harvest for both Israel and the Church.

Joel 2:23-24

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the

LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you--the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.(NKJ)

The End Time harvest is not going to happen in the same kind of neat and tidy relaxed atmosphere as that of the Charismatic renewal. It will be birthed in the turbulent erratic times that lie ahead when all the nations on earth will be caught up in a maelstrom of anarchy, terrorism and destruction. The great harvest will be associated with the predicted Day of the Lord, when His judgments will be plainly manifest in the earth.

It has often been said that "Israel is God's time piece" and that prophetic time piece is nearing the midnight hour. It is time for the whole world to wake up and realise that we are currently living in an unusual period of history never before known to man. It is especially time for both Israel and the church to wake up and realise that we are heading for apocalyptic times when the world system will be brought to its knees before the manifest might of Jehovah God the ruler of the universe.

It is imperative that we begin to read the Scriptures and also to see the prophetic events presently happening in our world through the eyes of God. He told Israel that they were the apple of His eye which means the lens through which He sees.

Zechariah 2:8-9

8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after

glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

9 For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me. NKJV

There are three important things to notice in this verse.

Firstly, Israel is the “apple” of God’s eye. It is the lens through which he sees Israel, all mankind and all of history. The eye is also the most sensitive part of the whole body, an organ that one will reactively defend from any and all intrusions and dangers.

Secondly, Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Heavens Armies, is going to judge and punish all nations that seek to harm Israel and to plunder her. He will “shake His hand” against them and they will become spoil for Israel.

Thirdly, Israel and all the nations of the world will ultimately recognise and acknowledge that Jehovah Sabaoth (The military name of God) has set Israel in her place in the Promised Land and no enemy will ever again drive her from that place. Israel today by the grace, mercy and providence of God occupies a place of great prominence and will continue to do so, come what may.

Events are being played out before our eyes that have been predicted for centuries. At last, the time is almost here. The destiny of the nations is about to be fulfilled just as foretold in the ancient prophecies contained in the inspired Bible. The

war against Israel is really a gigantic battle between the forces of Satan and the armies of Yaweh, will soon take place. Godless humanity has thrown down the gauntlet to Jehovah, the Lord of eternity and he will soon accept the challenge and reveal to all mankind the immensity of His powers.

“Apocalypse now” is not the name of a Hollywood movie, it is a catastrophic happening that will soon shake the whole world and powerfully rearrange its systems both human and divine. Planet earth and all its population are going to bow before the Lord of glory and announce that God's Messiah is truly and incontestably King of kings and Lord of lords.

How incredible and frightening it is that for millions of people, including Jews and Christians, it appears to be almost business as usual. People seem to be almost totally unaware of how critical the world situation has become. How much more incredible that the church that professes to believe the Bible is burying its head in the sand and trying to persuade itself that nothing is amiss and that we are going to carry on as usual for the next one thousand years. The many Bible predictions concerning the last days and the arrival of Christ to exercise His rule over the nations is no longer in the dim and distant future. Suddenly, surprisingly, catching millions of people completely unprepared, eternity is about to invade time and the mighty Messiah will dramatically appear on earth. Not this time as a tiny baby lying helplessly in His mother's arms, but as a mighty warrior let loose to totally destroy all the enemies of God, Israel and the true church of Jesus Christ. He is not coming again as the innocent vulnerable Lamb of God but this time as the powerful Lion of the tribe of Judah.

As predicted by Joel the former and the latter rain in the last days will produce a glorious harvest.

Joel 2:23-24

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you--the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. (NKJ)

God's Promises Must Be Claimed

Throughout the Bible it is glaringly obvious that God's promises, however they are given, whether in the Bible or through some form of dream, vision or prophecy, must be claimed by faith and according to all the conditions that may accompany the promise. Moses is a clear example of this.

Exodus 3:17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. (KJV)

Despite the fact that God had told Moses that He would bring him into Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey, Moses did not in fact enter that land because of his disobedience. This was also true of the generation that left Egypt with Moses. Though God had promised them entry into Canaan they actually perished in the wilderness because of their unbelief.

Exodus 12:25. And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as

he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.(KJV)

Moses and the people of the Exodus are not unique in this regard. In Hebrews 11, the Apostle speaks of many other men and women who did not inherit the promises that God had made.

God's word says, "These men (and women) of faith, though they trusted God and won His approval, (notice: they trusted God, and won His approval!) none of them received ALL that God had promised them (prophetically)." (Hebrews 11:39)"

The Bible clearly teaches that prophecy speaks to potential, and to possibilities, to what we call Kingdom options or choices. It does not necessarily express certainties, guarantees, or inevitabilities. Prophecy expresses God's best, His ideal, His ultimate desire, His perfect purpose whether realized or not. Or to put it another way, some prophecy expresses the conditional will of God, not necessarily the unchangeable will of God. For example, God spoke prophetically to the children of Israel that ALL would possess the promised land, and He also knew only two out of two million actually would. Still, God spoke; He expressed His intent.

God also spoke prophetically that Saul was to be king, and He also knew his reign would end disgracefully, prematurely. Still, God spoke; He expressed His intent. God spoke prophetically that Hezekiah would die, and God also knew he would live. Still, God spoke; He expressed His initial intent, and then He extended mercy to Hezekiah and granted him fifteen more years. God spoke prophetically that Nineveh would be destroyed,

and God also knew He would spare it. Still, God spoke; again, expressing His original perfect intent in prophecy. God promised prophetically that the priesthood would never leave Eli's household. He expressed His intent. Yet God also knew Eli's sons would forfeit this promise by the very next generation. Still, God spoke, expressing His perfect, prophetic intent.

God Speaks His Perfect Intent in Prophecy--Whether Realised or Not

If personal prophecy only expresses inevitabilities, then all the children of Israel would have possessed the land regardless of their (unbelieving) hearts. Saul would have continued his reign as king indefinitely, regardless of his (disobedient) actions. Hezekiah would have died--there could be no other option. Nineveh would have been quickly destroyed, and the priesthood would have remained indefinitely in Eli's (evil) household. Yet, none of these prophetic things happened! Why?

God Is Never Limited Even by His Own Perfect foreknowledge!

The truth is that prophecy is a limited gift with a limited application. God speaks to prophets on a strict need-to-know basis. He does not always reveal His hidden prophetic purposes. The Bible says, "God has glory in what He conceals." (Proverbs 25:2) "The secret things belong to God." (Deuteronomy 29:29) Elisha said, "The Lord has hidden it from me." (2 Kings 4:27) Paul said "we prophesy (only) in part" (I Corinthians 13:9) .

God sometimes conceals things from His prophets. He

has certain secrets He does not reveal to them. He hides things from them. He only allows them to see and speak "in part" on a limited need-to-know basis. In this sense, prophecy is a risk for everyone involved. It's a risk for the God who initiates it, and it's a risk for His representative, the prophet, who speaks it.

For all who sincerely want to know "What time is it?" It is time to seek God's face as never before.

Hosea 10:12

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you. (KJV)

Israel, God's faithful time piece, says that it is almost the midnight hour. God is about to draw the curtain on this particular phase of humanity's existence. The Day of Grace is almost at an end. The Kingdom and rule of God will soon be manifest across the earth. We have only a limited time to prepare ourselves for eternity. Only God Himself knows just how long. Regardless of when the hour may strike, it is certainly time to be ready.

Chapter Five

God's Prophetic Promise To Israel

At the time that I received the vision in 1964 I was totally insensitive to the important and essential role of Israel in the prophetic purposes of God. I ignorantly disregarded the fact that the “Old Testament” scripture promises and predictions apply initially to Israel and are still valid to them. In those days I was very Church centred and Israel did not even appear on my radar screen. When I began to read from Isaiah 41:14, I unwittingly ignored the significance of the immediate context and applied the words directly to my interpretation of the church scene I was seeing in the vision. I also interpreted the scriptures solely in relation to the scenes I was witnessing in respect of Australia. It was only some years later whilst I was living in Africa that I began to see the vital importance of God's unique relationship to Israel and of His promises to them. It was then that I began to realize the intrinsic application of this passage to the nation of Israel. From the immediate context of the chapter I suddenly realized that what I was blithely applying to the church was actually in the first place a prophetic promise to Israel concerning the End Times. I also began to realize that the fulfilment of the prophecy that I was seeing was vitally related to God's prophetic intention for the nation of Israel. Though an alliance of nations would come against Israel, bent upon destroying her, they would be beaten small and blown away like chaff. This amazing victory would be so remarkable that the entire nation would rejoice in Jehovah and glory in the Holy One of Israel.

A Vital Proof Text

Among the people who anticipate a great End Time harvest, one of the scriptures they most frequently quote to substantiate their belief is

Joel 2:28-29

"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. NKJV

Once again this scripture is usually quoted without any reference to the context of the whole prophecy, including the immediate context of the chapter. Many modern “Bible scholars” and commentators have denied that Joel’s prophecy has any significance beyond the Day of Pentecost.

However, the rendering of Acts 2:16 in the Amplified Bible is interesting and significant. It attempts to take both word meaning and context into account in order to accurately translate the original text from one language into another. The Amplified Bible does this through the use of explanatory alternate readings and amplifications to assist the reader in understanding what scripture really says. Thus the statement “this is THE BEGINNING of what was spoken through the prophet Joel.” The Day of Pentecost was not the total fulfilment of Joel’s prophecy it was simply the beginning of the fulfilment that will continue on throughout future generations.

Pentecost Only Partial Fulfilment

Peter interprets this scripture as referring to “the Last days.” -Acts 2

16 But [instead] this is [the beginning of] what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*17 And it shall come to pass **in the last days**, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream divinely suggested] dreams.*

18 Yes, and on My menservants also and on My maidservants in those days I will pour out of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy telling forth the divine counsels and predicting future events pertaining especially to God's kingdom]. (Amplified Bible)

What happened in Jerusalem that day did not fulfill the fullest dimensions described in Joel's prophecy. Peter did not claim that what was happening was the complete fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. He intimated that it was the beginning of its fulfillment. One aspect of difference is the extent of the outpouring. Joel described as a worldwide outpouring in which the Spirit would be poured out “on all flesh”, (i.e. all mankind) not just a local outpouring upon Jews in Jerusalem. Another issue is the timing. It was to be “before the coming of the day of the Lord”. That “day” is the Second Coming of Jesus the Messiah. The revival in the first century happened just after the First Advent of Messiah, whereas this revival is to happen immediately before His Second Coming. So what did Peter mean when he said, “this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel”? He meant that what had happened in Jerusalem would eventually take place in the End Times, encompassing the whole world.

Visitation Begins In Israel

The outpouring in the End Times revival, that begins with an outpouring upon Israel (Zechariah 12:10) will be a far greater manifestation of spiritual power. It will be like a spiritual nuclear explosion. There are two kinds of nuclear power. One is called fission – based on the splitting of the nucleus. The other is called fusion – based on the merging of the nucleus. The first century revival was like fission, in which the disciples were scattered out from Jerusalem to evangelize the world. The last century revival will be like fusion, which will bring Yeshua back to Jerusalem to set up His kingdom on earth. The nuclear power of fusion is stronger than that of fission. Likewise the revival of the End Times will be more powerful than the first Pentecost. The greater power of the End Times revival is connected to the Messianic Jewish remnant in Israel.

Joel 2:32 There will be people on Mount Zion in Jerusalem who escape, just as the LORD has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called. NLT

The Connection Is Also Referred To By Paul

Romans 11:12

12 Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the Jews turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when the Jews finally accept it. NLT

The End Times Messianic revival will not just be more powerful than that of Acts 2, it will be “incomparably more powerful”. As the first century revival began in one place and launched the gospel all over the world, so the End Time outpouring will commence in Jerusalem to the ends of the world. Apostle Paul describes this happening as “life from the dead”.

Romans 11:15-16

*15 For since the Jews' rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, how much more wonderful their acceptance will be. **It will be life for those who were dead!***

16 And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their children will also be holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too. NLT

By comparing Acts 2, Romans 11, and Joel 2:32 we notice that the Messianic Jewish community in Jerusalem – the so called “remnant” – will be the catalyst for the End Times revival just as it was for the Pentecost revival.

Salvation On Mount Zion In Jerusalem

Joel 2:32 (AMP)

³² *And whoever shall call on the name of the Lord **shall be delivered and saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the remnant [of survivors] shall be those whom the Lord calls.***

Why is it necessary for the Messianic remnant in Jerusalem to be the centre of this world revival? Why couldn't it just be a world outpouring with no focal point or central location at all? The answer is that the very purpose of the End Times revival is to usher in the Second Coming of Jesus and He is coming back to Jerusalem. Therefore the revival must be focused on Jerusalem. The first century outpouring sent the power out from Jerusalem. The last century will bring the power back to Jerusalem.

And why does this worldwide revival have to be connected to Messianic Jews? Why couldn't it just be a universal outpouring on the Church, with no connection to “Jew or Greek”? (Galatians 3:28) The answer is that Yeshua has promised that He would

only return when the Jews in Jerusalem would be ready to welcome Him in as King.

Matthew 23:39 For I say to you, you shall by no means see Me from now until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "

How could there be an End Times revival to usher in the Second Coming if there were no Jewish believers in Jerusalem to receive Him back?

The focus of international prayer on behalf of the Messianic remnant in Israel is therefore also a prayer for world revival and for the return of Yeshua. The Messianic remnant, the world revival and the return of Yeshua are all connected and interdependent one upon the other.

Revival Precedes The Harvest

One more proof of this “remnant-revival-return” connection is found in the very prophecy that Peter quoted from Joel. Actually Acts 2 records all but the last verse of that prophecy, which explains that the worldwide End Times revival will happen on one specific condition.

Among those Jews in Israel who have survived the Holocaust, the Islamic Jihad and the End Times tribulations, there will be a Messianic remnant of faith. It will be “because” of the Lord’s “calling” upon them that the conditions for the End Times revival will be set. When they are in position, the great outpouring on all flesh will be released. That is one of the reasons that we are all called to “pray for the remnant that remains.”

Nearly 2000 years ago the Holy Spirit fell on the 120 disciples gathered in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit came down in a glorious manner. On that very day on the feast Shavuoth, the Day of

Pentecost had fully arrived. It was fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits. At nine o'clock in the morning, the Feast of Pentecost emerged into its New Covenant fulfilment.

The outpouring came on the same Hebrew calendar day, that former epic day of trembling and visitation happened on Mount Sinai. It had been the 7th day of Sivan when Moses brought down the Torah or the Law from the mountain. Both these events occurred on the very same Hebrew calendar day. Thus the Day of Pentecost on the 7th of Sivan was the birthday of Israel. Now on this same holy day, the Feast of Pentecost became the birthday of the Church.

This shared birthday of Israel and the Church should not come as a surprise to us. The Church back on that epic Day of Pentecost was not a gentile/heathen company. In its historical context the Church is easily seen to be the launching of the global expansion phase of the Congregation of Israel, or what the Apostle Paul termed the Commonwealth of Israel. (Ephesians 2:12) This was a direct fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Messiah's Commission

Isaiah 49:6

6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'" NKJV

The emergence of the Church was a new phase of God's redemptive plan in its international expansion. The "Church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38) became the church on the main street. But the salvation came from the same source i.e. through the Jews.

*John 4:22 You Samaritans know so little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for **salvation comes through the Jews.** NLT*

Although the Church in its earliest stages was wholly Jewish it soon began to spread across the world with many Gentiles joining with the Jewish apostles and forming a body that consisted of Jews and Gentiles who were meant to become “One in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:26-29

26 So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him.

28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians — you are one in Christ Jesus.

29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and now all the promises God gave to him belong to you. NLT

Interpreting Joel’s Prophecy

The fact that the original prophecy in Joel 2:27 is initially clearly directed towards Israel is usually completely ignored. In the previous verse God plainly states “I AM in the midst of Israel.” (I AM is one of the names of Jehovah – the God of Israel and of Yeshua).

Joel 2:27

27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. NKJV

The final verse in chapter 2 puts the prophecy in even clearer light. God is speaking of a prophetic time of deliverance and says specifically that it will occur “in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem.”

Joel 2:32

32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls. NKJV

The prophet Joel further states within the context of the prophecy that the events foretold will occur at a time in history when an alliance of nations will seek to invade and possess Israel, the land that God regards as “His land” which He has promised to the House of Judah. The response of God to that attempted invasion is clearly foretold in chapter three.

A Violent Attack Upon Israel

Joel 3:1-2

1"For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel,

Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. NKJV

God’s response to the invading armies will be to cause the total destruction they plan against Israel to come back upon their own heads.

Joel 3:14-17

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness.

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from

Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again." NKJV

The great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, falling as the former and latter rain together, will occur in the context of God's great work of grace towards His ancient covenant people. It will not be a neat and tidy little church revival with the choir singing "Just as I am without one plea." It will descend upon a volatile world experiencing the judgments of God for their sinful Godless deeds and their evil treatment of the people of Israel.

Isaiah 62:11-63:1

11 The LORD has sent this message to every land: "Tell the people of Israel, 'Look, your Savior is coming. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.' "

12 They will be called the Holy People and the People Redeemed by the LORD. And Jerusalem will be known as the Desirable Place and the City No Longer Forsaken. NLT

This is a message that every nation will hear.

Tell the people of Israel, "Your Savior is coming

His reward is with Him

Israel will be called a Holy people.

They will be a people redeemed by the LORD

Jerusalem will be a desirable place

It will be a city no longer forsaken