THE LEVITICAL RESPONSE TO PERSONAL TRAGEDY

As I watched the news last night, and saw the horrendous images of the tsunami levelling Japan’s coastline, I was shaken by the words of Fox news anchor Shepard Smith: “The startling thing about this tsunami is that typically a wave, once it hits the shoreline, will retreat back into the sea. With this one, however, the water has stayed. This will forever alter the country...those houses, farms and buildings that were there will never be able to re-build. The country’s landscape is forever changed.” In a moment...in one day, everything these people knew was gone.

I see this as a prophetic picture of what is coming...when the landscapes of our personal worlds will completely change. Are we ready? But lest we fall into fear and trembling, the Word of God teaches that yes, one day great darkness will indeed fall upon the earth...but it will be our finest hour! If you resonate with being called as a Levite, this is no time to cower. Rather, this is a time to lean your spiritual ears into what is happening, and embrace this time of preparation.

When I ministered this past November in Japan, the Lord spoke to me in a dream. I saw a silhouette of a woman dancing and worshipping and a circular parting of the sky. I sensed that it was a portal...and that it was for Japan.

**First prophetic word to believers in Japan** (November 10, 2010)

“The enemy has kept you humble...but this is a time of great activity in the spiritual realm. Angelic visitations are coming...you will bring glory to the One who created you. As you have been faithful to bow before the Lord, He will exalt you to the positions He has for you in this hour.”

**Second prophetic word** (November 14, 2010)

“I saw an open heaven over Japan. When something is open, that means you can walk into the new place God has for you. Open is the opposite of closed. Right now there is no hindrance to what you have desired and been praying about doing. The door is open. This is a time to move, to walk into the new place. If you’ve been praying about something, now is the time to move.”

I was one small voice whom God may have used to prepare a few of His Japanese children for what was ahead. The Word of God teaches us that the Lord, full of mercy and compassion, will not allow horror to come upon His people without speaking into their lives from multiple sources and preparing them for what's ahead.

**Holy Spirit Prepares Us For Things To Come**

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. We are never to fear...rather, we are to take comfort in the fact that if indeed Holy Spirit lives within you, “He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will make known to you things which are to come in the future.” (John 16:13)
In late 1997 or early 1998 – long before I had any understanding of prophetic ministry – the Lord gave me an inner knowing that I was going to be an early widow. The only one I told was a dear friend [Glenda Anderson Leonard, Cofounder of the Paul Anderson Youth Home] with whom I had lunch the other day. Glenda asked, “Do you remember telling me you thought the Lord was going to take Mike (my husband) home early?” I did in fact remember. I certainly couldn’t talk with Mike about it...so I turned to one whose walk with the Lord I greatly admire...who also happened to be a widow at the time.

Admittedly, I didn’t really know how to pray about this matter, for I loved Mike dearly and certainly didn’t want to lose him. But I did take heed to what I had heard from the Lord, and when a subsequent opportunity arose in the course of a conversation he and I were having about his battle with depression – and a desire for God to take him home – I took the opportunity to ask him: Where are your insurance papers and other important documents? What kind of burial do you want? What do you want me to do for your children? Mind you, these were questions a wife rarely asks a husband...and yet the inner witness persisted, preparing me for what was to come.

Mike’s death came in an instant some 6 months later, at a very joyous moment for him, interestingly. He did not grab his heart, or express any pain whatsoever. He simply took his last breath...the sound of which I will never forget. It was the longest and loudest breath I have ever heard...lasting a good 30-seconds.

As I watched the paramedics try to revive him, I knew he was gone. The Lord spoke to my spirit, “I prepared you for this time. Do not fear. I am with you and will be with you in the days ahead.” That was October 25, 1998. God was faithful then. He is faithful now. And will continue to be faithful in the difficult days ahead.

The Lord has prepared us for this moment in history...and will continue to do so as it unfolds.

**What Is Going On Now? Is His Coming Close At Hand?**

The prophet Amos wrote, “Surely the Lord does nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets.” (Amos 3:7) Never has the genuine prophetic voice been more important. It’s not that the Lord loves prophets more than others. It is that prophetic people are genetically “wired” to hear the spiritual dimension. Thus, when you hear many prophetic people all saying the same thing, take heed.

**Signposts To Consider**

**Christian Leaders Speak Out**

- In a recent newsletter from 86-year old founder of the End-Time Handmaidens, Dr. Gwen Shaw, wrote: “As we stand looking into 2011, we all have a feeling of trepidation...especially after looking back at 2010.” Sister Gwen mobilizes intercessors from every corner of the globe, interceding from deep inside the levitical prayer closet. Her newsletter contained the following two sections:

**The Earth’s Foundations Shaken In 2010**

- January’s devastating earthquake in Haiti, killing over 200,000.
- February’s earthquake in Chile with 1.5 million losing their homes.
- April: an Iceland volcano erupted, sending clouds of ash across Europe.
- April: a 7.0 earthquake struck the northwest region of China.
- April: the BP oil rig in the Gulf exploded, destroying marine life, birds and animals.
- In May, the Cumberland River in Nashville became a torrential flood after 13 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period, causing at least a billion dollars in damage.
- Also in May, in Guatemala’s capital, a giant sinkhole suddenly appeared, about 60 ft. wide and 200 ft. deep, swallowing a 3-story building and a house.
- In August, the Chilean mine shafts collapsed, trapping 33 men 2,300 feet underground.
Beginning in November, Australia suffered terrible flooding, affecting some 200,000 people.
December recorded a magnetic pole shift of 40 miles toward Russia. The earth’s axis totally shifted.
Just last month a 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit New Zealand in the town of Christchurch.

**Creation Groaned In 2010**
- Thousands of birds fell from the sky in central Arkansas.
- 500 birds fell from the sky in Louisiana and 100’s more in Kentucky.
- Two million fish have washed ashore in the Chesapeake Bay area.
- 100,000 fish lie dead in the Arkansas River...99% of which are Drum fish.
- 100 tons of fish dead in the waters off of Parama, Argentina.
- Tens of thousands of dead birds fell to the ground in Manitoba, Canada.
- 40,000 crabs washed ashore in the UK on January 6.
- 10,000 antelope lie dead in Kazakhstan, representing one quarter of the total population of this species.
- Bees are dying out in unprecedented numbers.
- 8,000 doves fell over the skies of Italy.
- Other significant earthquakes in New Guinea, California/Mexico border, El Salvador, Sumatra, Fiji, South Pacific, and now this latest tragedy in Japan.

We must learn to view the natural against the backdrop of biblical revelation. What the above says to me is that there is great unrest underneath the earth’s surface and in the heavens, and this unrest cannot be contained. The whole of creation is crying out.

In Matthew 24, Jesus tells His disciples the various stages that comprise the Last Days. “...There will be famines and plagues and earthquakes in different places. But all these things are just the beginning of travail.” (Matthew 24:7)

But notice the stage that comes next: “Then they will deliver you over to be oppressed, and they will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.” (vs. 8) He is saying that there will be a definitive shift in how believers are regarded. They will no longer enjoy the divine protection they used to. I believe we have moved into this stage.

**The Hedge Of Protection Appears To Have Lifted.**
This certainly became evident on September 11, 2001 when we realized that our country is now vulnerable to enemy attack. In other words, there is an open door to enemy destruction that had not been there before. Likewise, consider events like those listed below. Such are occurring regularly, which underscores the present danger to believers.
- Four missionaries, who sailed 10,000 miles to deliver Bibles to remote areas in the South Pacific, were recently slaughtered by pirates.
- A longtime NASA scientist was recently let go for his beliefs in creationism.
- The “Fellowship,” the well-respected Christian organization responsible for the annual Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., was infiltrated by an informant who lived among them and subsequently published a bestselling “exposé” labelling this devout group of believers as the “Christian Mafia.” This story was the subject of national ridicule on MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow Show.

When we see a trend such as this occurring in multiple places all over the globe – and especially in our country which has always enjoyed blessings of divine favor, we must take heed and realize that this is a time to exercise extreme caution for you and your children. The days are evil. Remember, Jesus said that as the final day approaches, wickedness would multiply, and the love of many will grow cold. (Matthew 24:12)
“The Power Of Darkness Is At Hand”

When the multitude came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, He made a poignant statement: “I was with you every day in the temple, and you did not even point your hands at me; but this is your time, and the power of darkness.” (Luke 22:53) Think about it. Jesus lived for 33 years, and no one could touch Him. He enjoyed a divinely appointed hedge of protection 24 hours a day...until the very last week of His life...until this very day when Satan was given “his time...the time of the power of darkness.”

I believe we are at this time. If I am correct, then the things that happened to Jesus from that point on is what we will begin to see more and more of: persecution, mocking, imprisonment in many different forms, and perhaps death. This period may take the form of being let go from work because you don’t fit in with your belief system...being ostracized...being accused of something you are not guilty of...seeing close friends turn their backs on you, etc. Remember, because we have chosen to follow Christ and drink His cup, we carry about in our bodies “the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.” (II Corinthians 4:10) The servant is not greater than the Master. What He experienced, we may experience too in one form or another. (Matthew 10:24)

But...as we identify with His suffering, His life will shine through us in this ever-darkening world, which is why He said, “You are the light of the world...let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Financial Prognosticators

Our fiscal leadership has continued to ignore biblical principles of monetary stewardship. As a result, the U.S. is on the precipice of economic disaster. Many Christian and secular leaders have clearly stated that very soon, the piper will have to be paid. We need to take heed to these warnings.

• According to a recent interview, Christian broadcasting pioneer Rev. Pat Robertson warned that the U.S. has only about two years to get its financial house in order until it could face a Greek-style economic meltdown. (http://www.newsmax.com/PrintTemplate.aspx?nodeid=389074)
• Prominent New York University economist Nouriel Roubini predicted there will be $100 billion in municipal-bond defaults within the next five years. That means that countless numbers of cities will go broke and not be able to pay their bills (which fund our basic infrastructure and social services).
• Billionaire hedge-fund manager Carl Icahn is returning outside investor’s capital saying, “I do not wish to be responsible to limited partners through another possible market crisis.”
• Other well-known hedge-fund managers, such as George Soros’ protégé Stanley Druckenmiller, recently returned their investors’ money.

When wealthy financial managers refuse to make money with other people’s money, clearly they see something on the financial horizon more powerful to avoid than the desire to make money. This is a red flag for us to ponder.

Prepare Yourselves For A Financial Crisis

This is something I have been doing for about two years now: getting my house in order, paying off debts, storing up food and water to last at least 30 days, putting my nose to the grindstone day after day and steering clear of any “get rich scheme” out there that promises quick profits. “Wealth hastily gotten will dwindle, but he who gathers little by little will increase it.” (Proverbs 13:11) Where you choose to invest your time and money now is critical. If you are currently unemployed, consider what sectors are likely to continue during hard times.

If you are involved in a financial venture where you win but someone else might lose, please re-consider this prayerfully and bring it before the Lord. I have many close friends – sincere believers – who have hopped on the bandwagon of pyramid type investments, loan modification promises, etc. The financial landscape is filled with unwise ventures and
out-and-out shysters...many, in fact, who use church contacts and personal friends as pawns. As a result, believers are experiencing more and more foreclosures and bankruptcy. This trend is likely to continue as unemployment increases, the dollar is devalued, city budgets suddenly shrink, social services cut to the bone, medicare and social security dry up, and people continue to borrow and live above their ability to pay. This is what is coming...but God’s promise is: “He who tills his land will have plenty of bread.” (Proverbs 12:11) The focus now needs to be on the basics (food, clothing and shelter) and keeping our eyes on our own ground we have been given by God to till and steward...not someone else’s, nor some entitled figment of our imagination. God’s promise is that we will have plenty of that which is needed for basic survival. It is in this supernatural provision while others are in a state of panic and confusion where our finest hour awaits.

**We Are To Be Lights During The Dark Days Ahead**

I attended a seminar recently in Las Vegas. One of the speakers was a soft-spoken man very few had ever heard of, yet he held the audience of 150 spellbound. Herewini Jones is from New Zealand...a humble man of indigenous ancestry. He inspired us with spiritual principles taught him by his Polynesian forefathers. What most impressed me about Mr. Jones was this: never have I heard such an anointed prophetic word given in a secular setting. He put his hand on his heart and said, “When the plane landed here, I felt in my spirit the dark days that are coming upon this nation. But remember your great calling, and do not compromise the principles and values on which this nation was founded.”

Though this was a secular business conference, there were many believers scattered throughout the room. We heard the clarion call of the Lord loud and clear. He is mustering up His army of end-time warriors...and preparing His Bride, no matter where we find ourselves.

**When Personal Tragedy Hits You**

When I woke up the morning after the Japan earthquake, I asked, “Lord, what should my response be if I woke up one morning to find my entire world obliterated and covered in mud?” He reminded me of a truth He taught me years ago. In 1970, He called me to join the Music Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. I was thrilled that I had been chosen at the auditions...but there was something that weighed heavily on my heart: my mother was dying of cancer. Following staff training, I went home to raise my support, and the day was soon approaching when I was to move to the CCC headquarters in Arrowhead Springs, California. I kept praying for a miracle. I did not want my mother to die. The family decided to call in a nurse to stay with her. When the nurse arrived, she took one look at Mother and said, “This woman is in a coma and needs to be in the hospital.” We were all shocked, and guilt-ridden that we hadn’t recognized a coma. I thought to myself, “Well, this must be it. The Lord’s going to take her home.” After a couple of days in intensive care, Mother came out of the coma, looked into my eyes and whispered, “How much longer?” I could only answer, “I don’t know...but I’m not leaving you. I’m staying here.” With every ounce of strength, she said, “Absolutely not! The Lord wants you in California...and that’s where you’re going.” The hardest thing I have ever done in my life was to be obedient to the Lord and to my mother, and leave her bedside knowing I would never see her again on this side of eternity.

A week after getting settled in California, my father called and said, “Your mother just passed away.” I went off by myself and began to cry. That’s when I heard the Lord’s voice, “In everything give thanks.” (I Thessalonians 5:18) I responded, “What do You mean ‘Give thanks?’ How can I possibly thank You for taking my mother?” I heard Him a second time: “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I struggled for perhaps a minute...then bowed my head and thanked the Lord that in His providence He took my mother to live with Him, that He gave me such a wonderful mother who loved and cared for me, that her pain and suffering was over, and that He promised to be with me and watch over me.” I can’t remember the exact words...I mostly remember what happened next.
The peace that Jesus promised to give to His disciples (John 14) suddenly flooded my being. Flying back to Georgia for the funeral, I was taken to a different place with the Lord, for He began pouring out revelation from His Word while I was sitting in the airplane reading my Bible. It was as if He were sitting right next to me, pointing out different phrases. Being a very new believer (only a year old), I had never experienced His presence and revelatory download before. It was so powerful, that I began giggling to myself. “Gee...the Lord is real! He is speaking to me!!” That empowerment carried me through the entire funeral. The Lord met me in this time of unbelievable sorrow.

The Power Of Thankfulness

We read in Psalms 100:4 “Come into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.” Holy Spirit is giving us a very clear directive of how to come into His presence when we experience intense sorrow or catastrophe. The Hebrew word for “thanksgiving” is “towdah” which is an extension of the hand as in adoration. It is yielding to the Lord. It is a sacrifice of praise. When we give Him an invitation to come into our grief, He gives us an invitation to come into His presence. Even more, He promises that we will enter a “gate,” a portal specially formed to lead directly to Him. As if that weren’t enough, He says when we continue to walk through the gate and towards Him in a deeper way, we will find ourselves in the very courts of the Most High, filled to the brim with praise. That is exactly what I experienced following the death of my mother: first the gates (thanksgiving)...then His courts (my heart was full of praise).

Should you enter a time of intense sorrow in these coming days, three things are needed: cry and grieve, for your body needs it...give thanks in the midst of the circumstance, for your soul needs it...seek Him deeper, for your spirit needs to be filled to overflowing with praise. In the midst of the darkest hours, you will be lifted to a new dimension with the Father.

A Different View Of The Book Of The Revelation

Sister Gwen Shaw closed her newsletter to the End-Time Handmaidens by saying, “When I was in Brazil in December, the Holy Spirit prompted me to read the Book of Revelation two times from multiple translations.” Following her advice, I have been reading, and re-reading Revelation over the last couple of months. I encourage you to do so as well. It contains the last words of our Lord, given to prepare us for the Last Days.

What has touched me about this book was the urgency of the Savior’s heart to prepare His chosen for the times we are now living in. Here are a few things I found especially meaningful:

- **He chose John to receive this vision and to write it.** Why? John was one He dearly loved. He knew John’s heart...He entrusted him with the care of His mother after the crucifixion...He saw John seek times of closeness with Him after the resurrection. He knew John shared His mercy and compassion for His people...and He trusted implicitly that when He gave him an assignment, John would do it. How much He longs to trust us like that. Will we have ears to hear Him in these last days? Will we turn off the TV, Blackberrys, internet, and cell phones and cloister ourselves away with the Lord? It is only in these times where we position ourselves to hear from the Lord at all. He will not come to us screaming over a loud football game.

- **His desired audience for Revelation consisted of 7 small churches.** Jesus’ focus was on His Levites, the remnant, the Bride...those who had made a commitment to walk with Him and stay true to the course. This should be our focus as well. Concentrate your energies preparing those whom God has given YOU, ones who regard what you have to say, ones who are teachable and open to growing closer to the Lord, ones who are hungry for the things of the Lord and look to you to speak into their lives, ones who sense the Day of His Coming draws nigh.
John was old and feeble and received the biggest assignment of his life. John wrote Revelation in about 95 A.D. He outlived all the other disciples. He was the “last man standing.” He was old...exiled on some remote island...living out His days...when all of a sudden a vision from God changed the course of his life...and he was given his final assignment: “Write what you see, what is and what is to take place hereafter.” (Revelation 1:19) Merrill F. Unger, in Unger’s Bible Dictionary, described the apostle John at this final chapter of his life this way: “When all capacity to work and teach was gone – when there was no strength even to stand – he directed himself to be carried to the assemblage of believers, and simply said of a feeble voice, ‘Little children, love one another.’ The longing of his soul was gathered up in his cry, ‘Even so, come, Lord Jesus.’

Picturing this feeble, yet faithful soldier...I wept. He was the last one standing, and entrusted with one final assignment by his precious Lord. The doing of that task was hard, for he was old and physically frail. He died shortly after completing this book and 1, 2 and 3 John. He holed up in his cave and spent his last days pouring out what was on Jesus’ heart. I pray we will be able to do the same.

For those of you who feel “ancient of days,” open your ears...you might just receive the assignment of your life!

Concluding Thoughts
What was it which burdened our Savior so, which inspired Revelation? “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” (Rev. 19:9) Jesus was not giving an evangelistic message to unbelievers. No. His heart was singularly focused preparing His Bride for His coming. His last thoughts for the final book of the Word of God were on His Levites...those appointed and chosen before the foundation of the world to undergo the hardship of refinement and cleansing so that we can serve Him when He returns. He needs us. He chose us. He longs for us.

Be encouraged with the personal promise that He will never leave you or forsake you...never fear, for He will lead you safely through the valley of the shadow of death...and remember that no eye has seen or ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him. (Deut. 31:6; Psalms 23:4; 1 Cor. 2:9)

The True Bride of Christ knows when the Bridegroom is right around the corner. We don’t need a headline in the New York Times or the Elijah List. We know by the Spirit that the time draws near.

May we be found faithful!

Candace Long
Founder