

“In Quietness and Confidence Shall be Your Strength...”

Joseph Herrin (7-7-2000)

Isaiah 30:15

For thus says Yahweh GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

Most of the Christians I know would like to approach life from a position of strength. In our current state of prosperity and ease, however, pursuing such a place of strength in God seems optional and many choose not to expend the effort to arrive there. In soon coming days all saints will find that this position of strength is not an option. It will become a vital necessity. It will be required to survive in a world that is being shaken; shaken to the extent that men's hearts will fail them for fear.

The Bible has much to say about this place of strength that has quietness and confidence as its distinguishing characteristics. Indeed, the scriptures reveal that quietness and confidence should be the distinguishing characteristics of the life of every saint.

Throughout scriptures, the child of God is referred to as the temple of the Holy Spirit. Other images of the temple are also used to describe the people of God. The Temple of Solomon and the Tabernacle of Moses were merely types of what God had planned to bring forth in the lives of men and women. We are the fulfillment of what was symbolized in these Old Testament structures.

I Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Ephesians 2:19-22

But you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Yahshua Himself being the corner stone in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Understanding that the Temple and Tabernacle were merely types of the temple God is building today of living stones, we can discern some tremendous truths about how God wants our lives fashioned and ordered. One of the chief features of these structures was that they were to be places of peace and quiet.

1 Kings 6:1, 7

Now it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv which is the second month, that he began to build the house of Yahweh... And the house, while it was being built, was built of stone prepared at the quarry, and there was neither hammer nor axe nor any iron tool heard in the house while it was being built.

This is a most incredible thing. The Temple was a tremendous building that took great skill to construct. To add to the difficulty of its construction, the Temple had to be built without any noise of iron instruments at the construction site. This required that the stones of the temple and the wood used within it had to be cut to fit perfectly before they were brought to be assembled. This required great skill, but more importantly it demonstrated that the Temple, according to God's design, was to be a house of prayer and as such it was to be quiet, free of the noise of commerce and industry.

Yahshua again emphasized this design of God when He cleansed the Temple. We are perhaps given no greater sign of the emotion of Jesus than when He drove out the money changers and those selling animals in the Temple.

Mark 11:15-17

And they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves; and He would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple. And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a robbers' den."

In John's account of this cleansing of the Temple we are told that Yahshua made a whip out of cords and drove the merchants out with it. This was a violent encounter between man and God. Why was Yahshua so incensed about what was being done in the Temple? The disciples upon witnessing Yahshua's anger were reminded of the scripture, "Zeal for Thy house will consume me" (John 2:17).

Was it a physical temple built of stone and wood that Yahshua was so zealous for? We know it was not. Yahshua was demonstrating His zeal for the living temple built of the saints of God. Man was created for fellowship and communion with God, but man has taken the temple of his body which was to be a meeting place between the spirit of man and the Spirit of God and he has filled it with the traffic of the merchandise of the world. The temples of flesh which were designed to be houses

of prayer have become houses of merchandise.

It is not by accident that the living temple of God has become full of the noise and traffic of commerce. Satan has duplicated his own error in the lives of mankind. Ezekiel chapter 28 describes the fall of Satan in this way:

Ezekiel 28:18

"You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, **by the iniquity of your trading...**"

(NKJ)

Ezekiel 28:18

By your many sins and **dishonest trade** you have desecrated your sanctuaries...

(NIV)

Ezekiel 28:18

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, **by the iniquity of thy traffick...**

(KJV)

Yes, Satan brought traffic and trading into the sanctuaries of God and thereby profaned and defiled them. What was to be a place of worship and prayer became full of the commerce of the world. Even so, our bodies are the temples of God and they are to be places of prayer and communion with the Father. However, the majority of the saints of God have also profaned and defiled their sanctuaries. Their lives are lives of traffic and trading as they pursue the things the world has to offer. Rather than being still and knowing the God who has created them, they rush about trying to acquire the latest toy or trendy piece of merchandise. In all of their activity prayer and communion with God has been neglected.

Will not Yahshua deal as severely with these violators of their temples as He did in driving the merchandisers out of the Temple 2000 years ago? Yahshua is still consumed with a zeal for His Father's house and He still longs to see it function as a house of prayer. This speaks of you and I, the children of God.

The day is coming very soon when God's judgment will fall on this world and its system of merchandise and trade. Many will be caught unaware, including the majority of those who are of the household of God. Yahshua prophetically foretold of the suddenness of which His appearing would come on the world and the lack of readiness of even those who are called by His name.

Luke 17:26-30

"And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed."

What was the focus of the people in Noah's day and Lot's day? They were focused on the pursuit of the things of the world. Missing from the description is any indication that they were praying, or communing with God, or pursuing the righteousness without which none shall see God. No, they were marrying, they were eating and drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building.

This describes the lives of those who are found in the churches that bear Christ's name today. The children of God are looking forward to the next food fest. They are focused on their next acquisition of the merchandise of this world. They are focused on selling their wares that they might generate more money to spend on their pleasures. They are focused on the next building project, whether in their own home or in the church itself. The sound of the hammer and axe and chisel is ringing violently within the temple of God today. The house of prayer has become a house of merchandise.

And Yahshua is soon to return.

Many of the saints of God are anticipating Yahshua coming back to take them from the pursuit of the pleasures here on Earth and to transplant them into the realm of heaven where they will know uninterrupted pleasure forevermore. When Yahshua came the first time He was anticipated to appear in a manner altogether different from the way in which He came. For this reason we are told that "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11). I am convinced that His second appearing will be no different.

The saints of God are anxiously awaiting the appearing of Christ, but they have not discerned that His appearing will be to the sorrow of many.

Amos 5:18-23

Alas, you who are longing for the day of Yahweh, for what purpose will the day of Yahweh be to you? It will be darkness and not light; As when

a man flees from a lion, and a bear meets him, or goes home, leans his hand against the wall, and a snake bites him. Will not the day of Yahweh be darkness instead of light, even gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies... Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps."

Joel 1:15-16

Alas for the day! For the day of Yahweh is near, and it will come as destruction from the Almighty. Has not food been cut off before our eyes, gladness and joy from the house of our God?

Joel 2:1-2

Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of Yahweh is coming; surely it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness.

Many today are saying that they long for the Lord's appearing, but they do not understand that He will come as a thresher of wheat to separate out the chaff; to make a distinction between the holy and the vile. Yahshua will come back and He will steal away those who have made themselves ready, those who have allowed Him to purify and refine them and clothe them in garments of righteousness. Those who were sleeping and who were pursuing the things of the world, those who have allowed the traffic of the world to defile and profane their sanctuaries will receive the scourging of the Lord. They will be left behind and endure the day of the Lord's wrath as He cleanses the temple once again. As it was in the days of Noah and the days of Lot, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

What are the saints today exhorted to do? Joel tells us,

Joel 2:12-13

"Yet even now," declares Yahweh, "Return to me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping, and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments. "Now return to Yahweh your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, and relenting of evil."

This brings us back full circle to the scripture we began with out of Isaiah.

Isaiah 30:15

For thus says Yahweh GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and

rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

Both Joel and Isaiah say "return." "Return to me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping, and mourning." Return to the place of quietness and confidence. Remove the traffic from the temple of your flesh. Do it voluntarily now that you might be spared the agony of the fiery indignation of the Lord. Still the raging voices in your soul that urge you to go out and acquire more and more things. Let quietness return to the temple that you might once again discern the voice of the Lord and fellowship with Him. The following passage in Revelation was written to the church, not to the lost.

Revelation 3:19, 20, 22

"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Incredibly, Yahshua is found outside of the door, outside of the temple of our bodies. He is desiring to come in, for the house of prayer and communion has become a house of merchandise and traffic. We must open the door. We must invite Him in. We must freely submit to His cleansing of the temple which rightfully belongs to Him.

I Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

As we do so, and the traffic of the world is removed from our lives, quietness will return and the temple will once again become a house of prayer and communion. As we hear the voice of God we will once again learn to trust Him and display confidence in Him. "In quietness and in confidence" we will find strength.

Many are deceived this day. They have entered into the error of Satan and have profaned their sanctuaries. Their lives are filled with traffic and noise and the purpose of their creation goes unrecognized and unfulfilled. These same ones are told by a myriad of ministers to look with eagerness to the soon coming day of the Lord. They have failed to discern that the day of the Lord will be a day of judgment upon wickedness and that this judgment will begin with the household of God.

Many are being led astray by ministers of greed and covetousness who believe that godliness is a means to acquire gain (I Timothy 6:5). The apostle Paul gives the church of Galatia this solemn warning.

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Yahshua is returning soon. Yahshua clearly foretold that His coming would be to many a day of weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Seek the place of quietness and confidence in Him. Cast off the pursuit of the world and all it has to offer. Enter into that quiet sanctuary where the voice of God can be heard. Allow Christ to make your temple into a refuge of quiet strength. The day of the Lord is fast approaching.