

COVER STORY: 8 Signposts Toward the Future War of the Church

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In 1986 I received a vision where the Lord revealed events of the following 40 years in 10-year increments. Much of what He showed me revolved around the church and a change in His kingdom's development. However, the nation He emphasized was China.

The 1986 vision revealed how China would rise to power. As I understood it, China would have a greater influence by 2006, and the eyes of the world would start turning in its direction. God showed me that, by 2016, China could be the most financially influential nation in the world. By 2026 they could rule the world. Russia would then align with China for a season and submit to its leading. America would have to resist with great effort or end up looking like China in the level of controls it exerts over its citizens in the days ahead.

At that time in the American church, anti-war sentiment was evident in the thoughts, actions and prayers of God's people. When I shared this vision regarding China, it stirred controversy, and by the year 2000, the church's resistance to warfare increased.

Let me explain what God showed me back in 1986—what I was praying and contending to see happen—and some of the events that occurred:

1986—This year marked a turning point for China, with student intellectuals calling for change, and the beginning of political and social reforms within the government. Student revolutions also arose to resist government oppression, which was evident throughout the nation—including within the Chinese church, which had long been pressured and controlled by the Communist government. I paid close attention to these developments, having established relationships with five key leaders of the massive underground church.

1989—The student protest movement culminated in the Tiananmen Square protests (April 15 through June 4), which resulted in a massacre that awakened the world to China's extreme control.

1996—The Chinese government appeared more open to the world. Yet, even as certain reforms continued, some controls remained firmly in place. I sensed that the government of the church needed to arise in a new way. An apostolic awareness would enter the earth, and new leadership would seek a shift from past church structures to a new kingdom movement. The church in China, with its remarkable leadership, would become an integral part of this move. Since that time, the movement has swept the world.

2006—China increasingly entered the global picture, demonstrating economic strength and actively participating in the global community. This activity aligned with China's desire to claim its presumed rightful place as a national power worldwide.

2008—The World Olympics in Beijing symbolized "China's ascension as a prosperous modern country and a great power." Such an event would have seemed unimaginable 20 years earlier.

2016—By Rosh Hashanah 2016 (September/October), China sought to establish itself as the most influential nation in the world economy, pursuing a developmental strategy to make its economy second to none. At this point, the United States began

to realign itself with China, which would ultimately prove dangerous. Conflicts arose, and by 2018, the two nations began to distance themselves from a more cooperative relationship.

2020—China made its most significant effort to gain world economic authority and bring nations under economic subjection, seemingly by any means possible. When COVID-19 first made headlines in 2019 from Wuhan—China's eighth-largest city by population and a prominent research center in Asia—I recognized the need to watch China very closely. I sensed this novel virus would not only affect China but sweep the globe. I also sensed that the virus would be a pawn in the world's economic chess match.

2026—By 2026 the goal of national China was to become the most dominant and controlling economic force in the world. The Lord showed me that an intervention in the 2024 election would be necessary to keep America from becoming subservient to China's economic rule.

As seen throughout these years, God was preparing me—and the rest of the church—for the future. The precision with which He did so was remarkable. Curiously, God revealed only 10-year increments up to 2026; I do not know why the vision stopped there, but that is the nature of revelation. One sees only what He is ready to reveal.

The Lord showed me in January 1986 (technically, the day before) that the government of God would start changing by the end of January 1996. Then He revealed that, by the end of 2006, the church government would be in a new, mature state. This meant that a new wineskin would operate, and the way church had been operated from 1966 to 2006 would come to an end.

The Lord showed me that, by 2006, lawlessness would find many avenues of operation throughout the world, which we have witnessed. He also revealed that, by 2016, many laws would be

established to control the chaos, but those measures would severely restrict our freedom.

I also received advance understanding of what I call the "Sheep and Goat Nation Division," in which certain nations would align with the Lord, while other nations would oppose Him. The Lord showed me that a great change would occur in Russia by 2007, and the Russians would redevelop their plan of world domination. At the time I had a solid understanding of the former Soviet Bloc countries, owing to my work there throughout the 1980s. Yet I saw that they would have to realign with other nations this time, primarily in the Middle East.

Then the Lord gave me insight into England and showed me how the one-time driving force of the world would be "bought" by other nations, due to its own compromise. He indicated there would be a manifestation of this by 2016. But I must reiterate my belief that any of these negative outcomes can be changed by prayer.

God does not reveal such details to His people in order to cause dread or resignation. He reveals them so His church will be prepared to be the church in every circumstance. In all that He showed me, the nation He detailed most thoroughly was China, and His emphasis is undeniably significant. Of course, the United States was also on my mind, so I asked Him again, on May 31, 2008, "How will America survive in the days ahead?"

Of course, I continue to seek revelation on how to persist in prayer for the future. Because, whether we pay attention or not, the future is coming.

America Will Have to Play the Trump Card

In a visitation on May 31, 2008, the Lord answered the question I had asked Him about how America would survive in the days ahead. He told me, "America can change by learning to play the Trump card"; afterward, He revealed how a Triumphant

Reserve would arise. In my book *Redeeming the Time*, I first wrote about this encounter and what triumph would mean in the days ahead. I wrote, "An easy way to understand triumph is to think of a card played that takes all others (as in trumping and winning a hand or suit)."

I also shared this vision in *The Apostolic Church Arising* and *A Time to Triumph*. In this latest book, I wrote, "God has a kingdom of people, a nation above all nations. These people hold the 'trump card' of influence over the world, the flesh and the devil—oh my! Built within God's children is His covenant authority to be used in a timely manner. When we exercise God's authority within us, we will overtake every plan of the enemy and re-lease a strategy of fullness in the earth."

Somehow, I recognized in 2008 that Donald Trump had been chosen by the Lord to become a U.S. president. I don't believe that elections are about a person; in my view they are about changing a nation. I saw even then that God had begun to fully define the course for America. However, we would have to learn to play the "Trump card."

Donald Trump is an interesting, bold and abrasive person, so I wondered how the Lord would develop the "Trump card." I had prophesied in 2005 that the next president in America would be African American. Barack Obama came on the scene, and the Lord fulfilled this prophecy. Now God seemed to be presenting Donald Trump as a card Americans would have to play. Anyone who knows me knows that I am not a card sharp. But I know that, in card playing, there is a card that no one can beat. The question was how America would get this card.

The answer came in 2016, when Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton and became the 45th U.S. president. Oh my! Lots of changes and much resistance soon enveloped America. Steve Strang has written several books about the presidency of Donald Trump and all that transpired as a result. His

books—*God and Donald Trump*, *Trump AfterShock*, and *God, Trump and the 2020 Election*—explain more about the significance of President Donald Trump.

The Future Coming Soon!

Looking back, a certain detail from the May 31, 2008, visitation seems perhaps even more interesting than it did at the time: The Spirit of the Lord revealed that President Trump would have only three and a half years to influence and change the nation before being removed for a time. The Lord gave me a Scripture passage related to this: “Then He began telling them this parable: ‘A certain man had a fig tree that had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it, but did not find any; so he said to the vineyard-keeper, “For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground [depleting the soil and blocking the sunlight]?” But he replied to him, “Let it alone, sir, [just] one more year until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit after this, fine; but if not, cut it down”’,” (Luke 13:6–9, AMP).

The Lord impressed upon me in the fourth year of President Trump’s first term that He would determine whether America would be a righteous nation in the future. To do this He would remove Donald Trump for a season—allowing America to truly see what she had become. In November 2020, Joe Biden was elected president with much controversy.

The nation was enduring great conflict through the COVID-19 pandemic, a new uprising of “woke” mentality and the development of liberal theology—all in a dark attempt to make the America of 2026 look like what I had seen in 1986.

But God! Glory always has the final say. 

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