

# Leaving Babylon Behind

Two years ago this past August, I had a night I will never forget. I was sleeping soundly when, around 3 a.m., I felt something tap gently on my shoulder. I am still unsure whether it was a realistic dream or an event that occurred while I was awake, but nevertheless, it seemed as real as could be to me. That night, I was visited by a messenger angel.

My first reaction was fear. I was startled and unsure as to what I was even experiencing, yet only seconds afterward, I felt a peace come over me. I knew this visitation was holy and of the Lord. The angel spoke to me a simple yet powerful word: "Consecrate yourself" and "Come out from among them." That was it. Then he departed.

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Little did I realize at the time that the angel's word was a word not just for me but for the church overall, setting forth a blueprint and road map for us to return to our first love, Jesus Christ.

Still startled by what had just happened, I was wide awake. My wife and daughter were sleeping in the room next to me. I left the room so as not to startle them, went into my prayer room and started to weep and pray. What I had just experienced was so impactful. I was undone. I knew this was from God. I was so moved by what had just taken place that I didn't go back to sleep for hours.

In the days and months that followed, I couldn't help but think about this encounter often. The only other experience even remotely close to this was 22 years ago when I was

stabbed nine times and almost died. My testimony shows that this first experience in God's presence was what led me to where I am today as a minister of the gospel, still very much on fire for the Lord. Since that time, I had never again had a supernatural visitation until this night.

Why had God sent one of His angelic host to visit me? The message was so simple, yet I couldn't stop thinking about what the angel said.