

Days of Wonder, Days of Dread

“Days of wonder and days of dread, these are the days that lie ahead.” These words bubbled up in my spirit recently as a prophetic song. I could not take them lightly as this is the second time in the last few weeks God has given me a song with the exact same theme and message. The first song started, “Great and grave things will be happening / all at the same time—intertwined.” I believe God is speaking through these songs and confirming to us what lies ahead.

Covering Up

Proverbs 28:12-13 In recent years we have seen in our own country what happens when we try to cover up our sins. There was Watergate, and then the unfaithfulness of a president. There is a verse in the Bible that says that everything done in darkness will be brought to light.

Love and Pleasure

We can't do one thing to make God love us any more than He already loves us, and we can't do anything to make Him love us any less. However, we are responsible for how pleased God is with us.

The Manhattan Declaration

☒ Last Friday I was privileged to stand with Chuck Colson, Jim Daly, Robert George, Archbishop Wuerl, Tony Perkins, Alan Sears, Cardinal Rigali and over 20 others to represent the first 150 signers of a document called The Manhattan Declaration.

Why the name? The group met a few weeks ago in Manhattan where we read a draft of the document. It was there we concluded that we had to bridge the huge historic chasms separating the major branches of the Christian faith. The famed Chuck Colson along with co-initiators issued a call to all Christians that we must remain true to our core convictions, based upon the scriptures. The group also came together to let the secular community know that increasingly Christians from Catholic, evangelical and orthodox traditions will work together and speak with one voice.

Billy Joe Daugherty Dies at 57

☒ Megachurch pastor Billy Joe Daugherty died early Sunday morning after a brief battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was 57.

A memorial service will be held Nov. 30.

Daugherty, founder of 17,000-member Victory Christian Center

in Tulsa, Okla., announced last month that he had been diagnosed with cancer, spawning a global prayer chain for his healing.

In a statement released Sunday, church leaders said Daugherty “experienced his ultimate healing by entering into the presence of God.” They said the pastor passed away peacefully at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, surrounded by his family.

“We are sad to lose the presence of our pastor, shepherd, father and brother,” the statement said. “We are thankful, however, for his life, love and influence on the individuals and ministries he inspired for the last 30 years.”

Although known for his teaching on faith, health and prosperity, Daugherty avoided much of the controversy that has surrounded many Word-Faith preachers, including his mentors Oral Roberts and the late Kenneth Hagin Sr.

Committed to world missions, Daugherty helped plant ministries around the world. He founded the International Victory Bible Institute, which has campuses worldwide, and Victory World Missions Training Center.

In Tulsa, Daugherty founded Victory Christian School and the Tulsa Dream Center, which provides food, clothing and medical services to those in need. He and his wife, Victory co-pastor Sharon Daugherty, also host a television show, *Victory in Jesus*, that is broadcast worldwide, and the couple have written more than a dozen books.

“I am certain that to his very last breath he affected millions of lives for the gospel,” said Bible teacher Marilyn Hickey, who befriended the Daughertys more than 30 years ago. “It is a great grief to me to think he is gone. ... He was like a rock to the body of Christ, but in leaving he left a lot more rocks, solid believers.”

Kenneth Copeland, a longtime friend who has spoken at Victory's annual Word Explosion conference, said Daugherty was a man of utmost integrity. "He and Sharon are people of character and quality," Copeland told *Charisma*.

"Of course, we do not enjoy seeing him leave, but two things we know for sure: His place with Christ Jesus is assured. The second is that Sharon Daugherty is a powerful woman of God who will continue in the high standard, excellence and uncompromising ministry of the Word of God."

Bishop T.D. Jakes, who was scheduled to speak at Victory Dec. 20, said the global church has lost a treasure. "Pastor Billy Joe Daugherty was an extraordinary pastor whose leadership was only rivaled by his love for people of all walks of life," Jakes said. "The body of Christ has lost a general and a treasure of mammoth proportions. Our loss is heavens gain."

Born in Magnolia, Ark., Daugherty was raised in the United Methodist Church and married the daughter of a Methodist minister. He eventually became associated with independent charismatics after being baptized in the Holy Spirit while a student at Oral Roberts University (ORU), where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1974.

He and wife Sharon attended classes at Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas before returning to Tulsa to serve as youth ministers at Sheridan Christian Center.

Daugherty became senior pastor there in 1976 when the pastor retired, according to the *Tulsa World*. The church grew from 300 to 2,000 under his leadership, but a disagreement with church leaders caused Daugherty to leave in the early 1980s and start Victory. In 2007, the church moved into a \$32 million, 5,000-seat worship center, built debt-free.

Daugherty served on the Board of Reference of ORU, and stepped in as interim president in 2007 when former president Richard Roberts resigned amid allegations that he misused university

funds.

“The Oral Roberts University community mourns the loss of a truly gracious and generous kingdom leader,” said current ORU President Mark Rutland. “Billy Joe Daugherty was not just a landmark in Tulsa, but a spokesman for the gospel beloved around the world.”

In addition to his wife, Daugherty is survived by his mother, Iru Daugherty, and his four children, all of whom are in ministry: Sarah Wehrli, Ruthie Sanders, John Daugherty and Paul Daugherty.

The memorial service is to be held at 1 p.m. Nov. 30 at ORU’s Mabee Center.

Normal

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Reflecting the Lord's Bountiful Love

I opened the front door and came face to face with a rather large gift basket wrapped in clear cellophane with a gigantic velvet orange and brown bow. It was so big that it blocked the face of the deliveryman.

The sight of such a gift was too wonderful for words! As a young married couple, Terry and I were going through hard times, with little money for extras, much less the basics!

The arrival of this surprise basket of goodies was not only timely, but a miracle!

Just who was behind this?

Living Stones

1 Peter 1:14-2:10 Peter compares believers in Jesus Christ to living stones that are built into a spiritual house. So many people come for a season to our church and then move on to another church. Such people never have the beautiful experience of forming a spiritual house. I have heard some refer to such people as rolling stones instead of living stones. If we are always hopping from one church to another simply because things just do not suit us, we run the risk of never maturing in our walk with the Lord. It takes living stones rubbing other living stones even the wrong way for a season to bring each stone into the position where they fit into the building of a spiritual house. If we leave one fellowship before we have found our place of service there, chances are we will never fit into any other spiritual house or body of believers as the Lord wants us to do. Love is not easily offended, and if we run away every time we are offended without dealing with the situation, love will never be perfected (matured) in our lives. As living stones we have to learn to fit together and work together to build a spiritual house.

A Great Inheritance

1 Peter 1:1-13 My mother died last year, and I received a small inheritance of \$1,000. This inheritance has already been spent. Imagine having an inheritance that never disappears. I had a friend who wanted to leave her precious antiques to her

daughter. Some of these antiques dated back to before the Revolution. They were priceless. Her daughter, however, said she did not want these pieces of furniture. I have heard stories where people received the contents of their mother or father's home, and in the process of cleaning the homes to sell them, they found thousands of dollars tucked in mattresses and cracks in walls. I have seen items given to sons and daughters by their beloved departed that have been allowed to mildew, dry rot and become worthless. If these people had taken care of those things they inherited, they probably could have sold them for a good price.

A Conversation at the Garden Tomb

During my trip to the Garden Tomb in Israel, I felt God's Spirit in a way I had not experienced Him before. I could hear Him saying: "I love you. I sent my only Son to die for you, so you can spend eternity with me." The revelation of His feelings made me weep when it was time to board the bus. But God's love is not confined to a rock-hewn grave. It abides in the hearts of people who accept Yeshua. To learn about the Garden Tomb, watch videos below.