

The Revelation of the Kingdom of God

The longer I spoke, the stronger the vision came. I was in  Jakarta, Indonesia, in July 2007, and I was preaching at three services back-to-back, beginning on a Saturday evening. While I was focused on speaking to the people who were present and sitting there in the congregation, something strange was happening.

It was as if I was someplace far away. I seemed to have tuned into something far beyond this gathering. The audience was attentive, hanging on to every word. Even as I spoke, I found myself wondering, questioning.

I kept seeing this supernatural picture, which the Bible calls a vision, superimposed on what I was viewing with my physical eyes—the people sitting there. Where was I? What was I seeing? What did it mean? How should I respond? How did it affect the people? Did it affect them at all?

Here I was, preaching on the fact that God was doing a “new thing.” I felt almost embarrassed because I had expounded on this topic so many times before. A few years earlier, there had been a season when I had not been able to preach anything else. I had preached on it so often and for so long in the past that now I felt as if I were beating a dead horse—except I couldn’t *not* preach it again this time. I couldn’t get away from this driving message in my heart: *God is doing something new.*

This time at least the scriptural focus was not Isaiah 43:18-21, as it had been in the past. It was Isaiah 42:9: “Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I

now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them" (*The Amplified Bible*).

What in the world was God saying? Why could I not get away from this message? It was frustrating, particularly because the message was so indefinable, intangible, veiled. Furthermore, the more I preached it, the stronger the vision became that stood between the people and me. Here was this "other world" picture superimposing itself on top of the crowd in front of me, an overlay of a vision. It was worse than having a fly continuously landing on my nose and diverting my attention.

What was the vision? As I preached, I saw a mountain that was beginning to arise out of the waters of the sea. Just the tip of the mountain was out of the water. I knew that the rest of the mountain was there, still submerged, but it was no longer hidden from my awareness. It was in the process of being unveiled.

I was captivated by this picture. As I progressed through my message, I also pondered the vision's meaning. Some Scriptures came to mind.

I realized that the mountain was speaking of a kingdom—the kingdom of God. I remembered that the mountain or kingdom the prophet Daniel spoke about to King Nebuchadnezzar had started with one stone, one person, one leader. It went on to become the one that overcame every other kingdom:

“‘You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

“‘And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold-the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure'” (Dan. 2:31-35,44-45).

This mountain that represents the kingdom of God was set into motion with the one stone, Jesus Christ. As each member, each living stone, is added to Christ's kingdom, the mountain (the kingdom) grows. The greater the revelation individuals possess of Jesus Christ and His kingdom, the greater the power of the kingdom.

Seas often represent people. In the vision, the mountain was beginning to arise out of the sea in a visible way. Just the tip was observable, yet I knew the rest of the mountain, the kingdom yet to be uncovered, was there. In other words, the people, represented by the sea, are beginning to experience and release a revelation not just of Jesus Christ but also of His rulership as King of kings and Lord of lords, the King of the kingdom of God.

They know who He is and what He rules. They know that He has birthed a kingdom that will overtake in time every other kingdom. That means we, the people of the remnant church, are in the time of the revelation of the kingdom of God—not just as a spiritual reality but also as a reality that will visibly transform the world.

We are in the day when the church is arising and releasing the kingdom of God. As we carry out our first and primary mandate, to evangelize and disciple new believers, the kingdom will grow both numerically and authoritatively. These disciples, people like you and me, will be transformed. Movements will arise and spread throughout the earth in a wave of transformation that will revolutionize society.

How will this happen? Not through great ideas coming from men's minds. This rolling-out of the kingdom of God and this rolling-over of every other power will happen as you and I listen to what God is saying to us and then do what He tells us to do and say what He tells us to say.

Our actions will begin to change us as well as our families, neighborhoods, churches, cities, states, and nations. True leaders will arise who do not use their newfound positions for self-aggrandizement but who will begin to release the anointing without arrogance, power without pride and boldness without brashness.

This means that you and I are on the forefront of the emergence of the last great move of God, the releasing of His kingdom in the earth today. This kingdom begins through our capturing God's heart for the people who do not know Him. It begins with the Great Commission.

Then we continue to listen to God and obey Him, and we begin

to release the kingdom of God everywhere we go. Our actions, big or small, significant or seemingly insignificant, are all part of the rolling-out of the kingdom.

Everything the kingdom of God touches becomes transformed. That is the thesis of Daniel 2: God's kingdom overtakes every other kingdom.

Jesus came as the King of kings and Lord of lords. He overcame every power and principality. He came to disrupt the powers that be. He came to unseat thrones and kingdoms.

He didn't come with a secret agenda; He announced it to all. His agenda was not a destructive one. Instead, He brought back to life those who had died, released into freedom those who were bound, and restored sight to those who were blind. He healed the crippled so they could run, skip and leap like calves let out of a stall.

Jesus came as a revolutionary. He started a revolution when He came and gave away His life. He furthered it when He sent His Holy Spirit to empower each one of His followers.

Yes, Jesus was a revolutionary, and His revolt was over Satan and his kingdom. He came to unseat the devil and all his works. This is what Jesus said about Himself:

“‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord'” (Luke 4:18-19).

Warriors, awaken your revolutionary nature and passion! You have been invited to perceive this kingdom vision and to come into this kingdom mandate. The mountain of the kingdom of God is beginning to be seen. It is on the move. It is arising out of God's church and moving through His people. This kingdom will overcome every other kingdom, bringing passionate love for God, passionate love for people, and absolute and utter hatred of the devil and his works.

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