

Year of the Whistle

As I was worshipping at church last Sunday, the presence of the Lord felt heavy in the room. I felt the Lord whisper, "Blow! I am breathing now." I pursed my lips and exhaled. To my shock, from somewhere else in the room came a loud whistle. For a moment, I even stopped to make sure it wasn't me.

Throughout the rest of the worship set, even over the loud music, an intermittent whistle would sound. God said, "This will be known as the year of the Lord's whistle." The word "whistle," as we know it today, actually is derived from an old Norse word "hvīsla" meaning "to whisper."

I cannot hear the word "whisper" without thinking of Elijah in 1 Kings 19. He was hunkering in a cave, waiting to meet the Lord. First, a wind that literally shattered rock whipped through the mountains. Then the earth quaked. Then a raging fire broke out. Through all of these, Elijah waited.

Then came a whisper and, at the sound of a whisper, Elijah came out. In America, amidst the spiritual ripping winds, earthquakes and fires, God is about to release a "whisper" to call the Elijahs out. This year, the new level of warfare that has kept people in their caves is going to usher out a group of Elijahs that have been in the hidden place, waiting for the word of the Lord.

A new level of knowing His voice and returning with a passion to His written Word is going to break out like a whistle. American Heritage Dictionary defines "whistle" in several ways. Of the definitions, these three caught my attention: 1) "to produce a high-pitched sound by the rapid movement of air through an opening or past an obstruction." 2) "To summon, signal, or direct by whistling" 3) "To signal a rule infraction committed by" (a player).

In a rapid movement of God, there is going to be a "pushing

past" obstructions and a spiritual opening. God is summoning and decreeing, and He is "blowing the whistle" on the enemy. Enough is enough. As I turned to the Scriptures for references to whistling, I was stunned. Zechariah 10:8 (NIV) reads, "I will signal (whistle) for them and gather them in. Surely I will redeem them: they will be as numerous as before."

This verse occurs amidst a chapter that is a resounding call to prayer. Their world, at the time, was riddled with confusion as people worshipped idols, wanted to choose their own truth and morality and squandered their potential at fruitfulness. In response, God said, while crying out in prayer, that He would answer them, give them back the governing authority they had lost, help them overcome their enemies and restore peace and faith in their own country.

As this same thing happens in our world today, God's promises are the same. Isaiah 5:26 also mentions whistling, saying, "He lifts up a banner for the distant nations, he whistles for those at the ends of the earth. Here they come swiftly and speedily!" This verse is somewhat unsettling. The people in this passage were "wise in their own eyes," not wanting to listen to the Lord but thinking their own way was best.

Just as mayhem ensued and the Lord whistled to the nations, God then raised up Isaiah to be a source of clarity and for his own people. Just as with Elijah, the calamity came with a new prophetic release. Psalm 9:2-7 also speaks of whistling and reads in the Message translation: "I'm whistling, laughing, and jumping for joy; I'm singing your song, High God. The day my enemies turned tail and ran, they stumbled on you and fell on their faces. You took over and set everything right; when I needed you, you were there, taking charge. You blow the whistle on godless nations; you throw dirty players out of the game, wipe their names right off the roster. Enemies disappear from the sidelines, their reputation trashed, their names erased from the halls of fame. God holds the high center, he sees and sets the world's mess right."

We see in this passage both a whistle for joy and a whistle of justice. With one whistle, injustices that have been allowed to continue are called out and taken down. As I prayed into this year, I see a year of shaking as “whistles” are blown to bring justice where there has been neglect for the Lord. I also see a year of “whistles” awakening and quickly moving people out of places of hiddenness or immobility and into new, individual roles, as they prophetically carry the voice of the Lord into all sectors of society.

This new Hebrew year 5782 just began last month. I felt prompted just before writing this to look up in Strong’s Concordance for what biblical words were correlated with this year. “Ur” in the Hebrew means “to rouse oneself, awake, arise (in jealousy, in revenge).” As if that wasn’t confirmation enough, the first two verses that this word “ur” appears in are Deuteronomy 32:11 and Judges 5:12. Deuteronomy 32:11 (NIV) reads, “like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft.”

The eagle, a symbol often seen connected with America, is shown in this image as being “stirred up, caught, and carried.” The second appearance of “ur” is in Judges 5:12, which reads, “‘Wake up, wake up, Deborah! Wake up, wake up, break out in song! Arise, Barak! Take captive your captives, son of Abinoam.” This awakening of Deborah the prophet is exactly the kind of awakening the Lord is doing on a national level this year.

For this year, we are also on the cusp of 2022 in the Gregorian calendar and, in Strong’s concordance, 2022 is correlated with the Greek “epicheó,” meaning pouring oil on and the Hebrew “har” meaning “mountains.” While the word “har” is used many, many times, the word “epicheó” is only used once and the one use is very profound. We find “epicheó” in the parable of the Good Samaritan, in which he poured oil on his wounds. These wounds were from an attack by robbers in which

he was beaten and stripped.

In this next year, God is pouring the oil of anointing and healing on the mountains of society. Media, government, family, entertainment, ministry, education and business are going to receive anointing and healing where the thief has beaten and stripped them. Just as in 1 Kings 19, don't fear when the "wind rips through the mountains," the earth quakes or fires rage. Wait for the whistle. Then listen for the prophetic whisper of the Lord. {eoa}

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