

## 2021: THE YEAR OF EXPECTATION 03.01.2021

2020 was a year that no one will ever forget; doors closed on shops, Churches, sporting events, borders, and nations; never happened on a global base before. A year of hardship for many and prosperity for some; a year of loss for some and expansion for others. We can also look back and see in God in the midst; He is not surprised, and it will be revealed later on; hindsight is 20/20 I've heard it said.

**Anyone make a New Year's resolution?** Top 10 for 2020: exercise more, saving money, eat more healthily, lose weight, reduce stress, get more sleep, stick to a budget, travel more, learn a new skill, focus on my spiritual growth...

**Story of Noah:** Genesis 6:9-10 (NLT) *"<sup>9</sup>This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. <sup>10</sup>Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth."*

Context: Every inclination of man's heart was for evil at that time; the world was full of corruption and violence, yet Noah was able to walk in CLOSE fellowship with the Lord. It is possible to live a righteous life even if you are surrounded by those who do not know the Lord. Difficult but not impossible. No excuse; though Noah was the only blameless person living on the earth.

**The Flood:** God told Noah that there was going to be a flood. He told him to build an ark. And gave him the plans for it. Noah took ~90 years to build it and all the while warning people of what was coming. No one listened to him... God told Noah to take the animals into the ark as well as his family... God shut the door..... It rained for 40 days and nights and flooded the whole of the earth... **150 Days later the ark came to rest ...**

Genesis 8:13-14 (NLT) *"<sup>13</sup>Noah was now 601 years old. On the first day of the new year, ten and a half months after the flood began, the floodwaters had almost dried up from the earth. Noah lifted back the covering of the boat and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. <sup>14</sup>Two more months went by, and at last the earth was dry!"*

Ten and a half months couped up in a boat with all the animals and each-other. Noah looked out and saw dry land for the first time in nearly a year... "Thank you Lord" **He looked out with expectation at what the future held for himself and his family...**

Genesis 8:15-17 (NLT) *"<sup>15</sup>Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>"Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. <sup>17</sup>Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth."*

### Noah came out of the ark and built an altar and worshipped God...

Genesis 9:1-2 (NLT) *"<sup>1</sup>Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth."*

They had been through an ordeal that they had never encountered before. While there are some parallels, no reference is being made here to connect covid with judgment. Scriptures tells us we are living in the days of God's grace and favour and then comes the judgment. God said we will have these things in the end times... pestilence, floods earthquakes. It has been a season of turmoil and uncertainty.

**I believe that like Noah, God is wanting us on the first Sunday of the year, to peel back the shutter and look with expectation to what God has for us in 2021...**

## 2021 IS THE YEAR OF EXPECTATION

Noah stepped out of the boat on Mount Ararat..... You never go into the trial and come out the other end in the same place. Noah went in here and came out here... on top of the mountain. You always come out the other side and see growth... **Noahs expectation led to God's multiplication....** God blessed Noah and his family and said, "be fruitful and Multiply" and that's exactly what happened...

### **In this New Year 2021 What are you believing God for? Are you looking ahead with expectation?**

Expecting it to be a year of: New opportunities, new vision for the future, a year where your hopes, dreams are fulfilled. Prosperity and blessing in your business. New Adventures.... Fresh move of the Holy Spirit... Fresh revelation from the word of God... New worship, new songs written... New relationships formed... Fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit... Fresh anointing... New calling....

### **2021 IS THE YEAR OF EXPECTATION ..... Look at 2021 expecting God to do great things.**

expectation leads to multiplication... Excited about what God is going to do this coming year. Expect God to do something awesome this year. Expecting great church growth... Expectation to see souls saved, families restored, addictions broken.

Quote: "Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed." — **Alexander Pope**

***Are we coming into the New Year just the same as any previous year before?*** Do we start the new year going with the flow...? Do we have any expectations for the new year? Expecting something different this year than last year? If there is not an expectation for God to do something new in 2021, is it really a new year? Would it then be possible to miss out on what God has for us?

Is. 43:18-21 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. <sup>19</sup>See, ***I am doing a new thing!*** Now it springs up; ***do you not perceive it? (Don't miss it) I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.*** <sup>20</sup>The ***wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, 21the people I formed for Myself that they may proclaim My praise.***"

**Isaiah** spoke of a move of God coming... Don't be looking back but look to the future with expectation. Doing a new thing.... Do you not perceive it? Don't miss what God has for you... God is going to make a way where there seems no way... Bring life to those parts where people have given up (the wastelands); My chosen: we, His chosen generation, His royal priesthood: - are we living in expectation for a move of the Holy Spirit? For streams of living water flowing in the desert.

Peter 1:3-4 (NLT) The Hope of Eternal Life: "<sup>3</sup>All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. ***Now we live with great expectation,*** <sup>4</sup>and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay."

Because of what God did for us in sending His son to die on the cross for us and then raising Him from the dead, **we now live with Great Expectation!!!!** Do we live with great expectation? Do we have great expectations in God for ourselves and others? William Carey said: "Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God." We can have an expectation that God is going to do something great, but He wants to do that great thing through you; expect God to do great things for you but also expect that He will work through you if just believe. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in you... Expect that God is able to work through you by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**EXPECTATION HAS TO BE PARTNERED WITH PARTICIPATION IN ORDER TO BECOME A REALISATION.**

The apostle Peter is a great example of this: Christ was betrayed and taken away to be put on trial. Peter struggled to be a witness for Christ. He was asked by one lady, aren't you one of those Galileans that followed him. Perfect opportunity to witness... Open door... But said, I don't know Him. He denied Jesus 3 times. **Now Jesus had been crucified and had risen from the dead and was with the disciples.** Peter had been restored and was among them; this was just before he was going to be taken back up to heaven...

Some of the last things he said to them...

- Acts 1:4-5 (NIV) *"<sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*
- Acts 1:8 (NIV) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

This must have had an impact on Peter as that was the area where he had failed in the past... Now he was going to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the power to be a witness... It says they all went to Jerusalem and went to an upper room where they prayed and waited on the Lord... Peter had his faults, but one thing about him was, he believed Jesus and trusted his word. Peter was the one who just believed Jesus and took him at his word. Peter walked on the water... Jesus said "Come" ... Peter stepped out.... Peter and the disciples heard what Jesus had said to them... that they would be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth.

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV) *<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost came; they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

**God poured out his Spirit on them all** then **Peter stood up and preached** and revival broke out....

Expectation combined with participation brought about the realisation... Peter waited in expectation of an empowerment to be a witness. He received what he was promised... Then stepped out in faith and preached the gospel. Then he became a witness in Jerusalem - 3000 added to the church...

**What are you believing God for in 2021? Expectancy is the opposite to Complacency...** We can live a life expectant because God is faithful to HIS WORD. Peter's approach ... You said that you **empowered me to be a witness** so I'm stepping out in faith and preaching the gospel... Our approach then:

- If we believe that we are living in **Salvation City**, lets live expecting to see people saved.
- If we believe that we live in the **great south land of the Holy Spirit**, is it too much to believe for an outpouring of His Spirit up all flesh?????
- If we believe that, **"By His stripes we are healed."** We should have an expectancy that God honours His word, and we can stand on it believe for healing for ourselves and others....
- If we believe that **"we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus"**, then you can stand knowing that the enemy has been defeated and you are going to get the victory....

The word of God says, **"Who the son sets free is free indeed,"** so we can give our lives to Jesus and have the expectation that he will deliver us from every bondage of the past.

1 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT) The Hope of Eternal Life: **"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, He defeated the devil and rose in victory and because of that we can live with great expectation that He will do exactly what He said He would do."**

**"EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD, ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD." WILLIAM CAREY**