

**Articles and Sermons :: Katz; Hosea****Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/22 15:12**

Hosea: A Word to the Church
Art Katz

The book of Hosea contains the heart cry of God for the apostasy and backslidden condition of His people Israel. My sense is that the Church at large today stands in very close proximity to the condition of Israel when it fell from relationship with their God. One of the marks of that apostasy, both in Israel and the Church, is a spirit and discernment so dulled that we are not even in a position to appreciate our own condition.

Ironically, in our fallen condition, we purport to celebrate God, and think that we are in a commendable relationship with Him. It is a condition that compels God to send prophets to convey things as He Himself sees them, which is often, if not invariably, different from the way that we see them. Truth is everything as God sees it, and it is often painful to make the adjustment from our seeing to His, but I can tell you, as a descendant of a people who failed to make that adjustment, the consequences for us have been exceedingly tragic.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/22 16:29

2. The heart of God is grieved while ours is not. We may be saddened, we may be disappointed, we may be perplexed, but we are not grieved. It is a deep grief that needs to come into us, a grief of the kind that God Himself feels as He looks upon the pathetic state of the Church. The fall of many of its prominent leading celebrities is only the symptom and the statement of a much deeper and extensive ill. In my opinion, our great sickness is due to the lack of the authentic knowledge of God, and if we lack that, then how authentic are we? The scriptures are given for our admonition upon whom the ends of the age have come. God's intention was that we, as the Church, should be instructed by Israel's experience, by His dealings with them, especially in the severity of His judgments, which are much harsher for those who are called and appointed to be sons of the Most High.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/23 1:24

3. The Church is at a place very close to experiencing the judgment of God, and if we are clucking our tongues over the fallen state of some of the evangelical and charismatic stars, and think somehow that their condition is unrelated to us, we need to look more closely at ourselves. These fallen stars are the visible symptom, sign and statement of the whole Church of which we, and they, are a part, and whose manner of life and lifestyle we have made possible, and have condoned and would secretly enjoy having for ourselves.

The world is absolutely vile and abysmal beyond every description. It is steeped in blood and violence. All of society has had a part in this; it is complicit; it is involved in the evil itself by the very nature of the thing. God commanded His priests to teach the people the difference between the holy and the profane, but if God's priestly people do not know the difference between the two, then what shall we expect of the world? We need to be reminded that God's judgments begin in His house before they will begin in the world. In many respects, the world is the statement of the Church's failure. There has not been an objective standard of truth made visible by God's people that the world can see; it therefore takes its liberty, for it has nothing with which to align itself and there is very little calling it to accountability.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/23 13:54

4. Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel, for the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky; and also the fish of the sea disappear. Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; for your people are like those who contend with the priest. So you will stumble by day, and the prophet also will stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children (Hosea 4:1 - 6).

How is this appropriate to us as the Church? One of the severest pronouncements against Israel, at one of the lowest points of her backslidden history, was that the knowledge of God had been rejected. Nothing will keep us or save us other than the true knowledge of God. God is holy, awesome, fearful and righteous! If there is no knowledge of God, then there is no knowledge of truth or mercy. God is truth and mercy. If we miss Him, then we have missed everything, and we can miss Him even in the very moment we are ostensibly celebrating Him. We can be guilty of the lack of a true knowledge of God while we are invoking His name and singing His praises. We can enjoy everything that we are doing, experiencing the euphoric lift, while that very thing betrays and conceals from us what, in fact, our real condition is.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/23 15:14

5. Their deeds will not allow them to return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry is within them, and they do not know the Lord (Hosea 5:4)

This is a statement about Israel, the same Israel who was given the commandments and the revelation from Sinai, the statutes, the ordinances, the prophets and the great King. God's indictment is that they have not known the Lord, but instead have followed after harlotry, and the two things, harlotry and not knowing the Lord, are in relationship. The spirit of harlotry can express itself in various ways to the degree that a person does not know the Lord; the one is the counterbalance and the antidote to the other. The knowledge of the Lord is the only thing that will keep us from the spirit of harlotry, which we will act out in exact proportion as we have ability and financial wherewithal.

Our human frames are vulnerable. It is one thing to be hit from the blind side, and that is why we need each other, to protect one another from that blindness, from that unexpected temptation that comes in the moment of weakness. That is one kind of falling and one kind of sin, and there is certainly not an excuse for being a partaker of that, but how many of our leading evangelists have become powers unto themselves with extraordinary wealth, pompous lifestyles, and have surrounded themselves with staff who dare not contradict them lest they lose their well-paid jobs?

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/24 2:14

6. If you want to guarantee a fall for yourself, then all you need to do is to live sensually, and that does not mean looking at erotic pictures. It could mean living in a house with 8,000 square feet of living space, believing that you have got it coming to you. We need to grieve over the celebration of charismatic personalities and performers whose lifestyles we have all condoned, if not helped pay for. If we allow our leaders a lifestyle that finally erupts into sin so visible that they are brought down, then what shall we say about ourselves? Is our condition better than theirs? What do we do with the measure of wherewithal that we have? What kind of sensuality and gratification are we allowing ourselves, thinking somehow that it is legitimate because we are serving God?

What is there in our hearts that has never yet been revealed because we have never chosen to let the Lord arbitrate and determine our lifestyle and bring us into that earnest and intensive relationship with saints by which we might have been found out? Holiness comes with a price.

What should determine the lifestyle of the people of God? The income which is theirs, the availability of goods and riches and the talents which they can employ, or what? Jesus had not a place to lay His head. Paul had no certain dwelling place. Apostolic poverty characterized the early Church. Peter and John spoke to the lame beggar, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have, I give to you: 'In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!'" (Acts 3:6). What they had was power, glory, great grace, and unspeakable richness in the reality and knowledge of God. What do we have?

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/24 12:09

7.
For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings (Hosea 6:6).

God actually desires for us to have the knowledge of Him, but that knowledge is not easily obtained; every force of hell and power of darkness seeks to prevent God's people from obtaining this knowledge. The whole world seems to be involved in a conspiracy against the knowledge of God. The phone will ring, the kids will cry, the dog will bark, our future plans, the job, marriage, the clothes that need to be washed, the machine that is broken, there is the roof that needs to be fixed. Things will crowd in upon our consciousness the moment that we set ourselves to seek the Lord so as to find Him. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts, and we have made the Christian walk too casual and too cheap. We are a generation that mistakes our concepts about God for the authentic knowledge of God, for if we knew Him, we would fear Him, and we would not so much as contemplate, let alone do, the things that have scandalized His name throughout the world.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/24 16:39

8. What men and women think, when free to think what they will in the privacy of their own minds, in the reverie and the fantasy that they will allow themselves, is the statement of where they are in God. It is what we do with our ability to do it that tells what we really are, even though the act, in itself, may not be patently sinful. Perhaps it is only an indulgence like buying two king-size hamburgers, and feeling as though maybe I should, but knowing that I do not need them; it is an indulgence to the flesh that will not benefit the spiritual life of the inner man, and yet I am financially able to afford it.

Do we predicate our conduct on the basis of what we are able to do, or what the Spirit is prompting? Are we in a position to deny ourselves things that are available? Are we resisting sin unto the shedding of blood, and do we recognize that the whole world is steeped in the evil one, the father of lies; it is bathed in deception, permeated with the spirit of sensuality, and it will take, on our part, a rigorous determination before God to resist it. Are we fighting that fight? The knowledge of God has much to do with the degree to which we are surrendering and succumbing to the spirit of the world. Heaven and earth are opposed to each other in every point and particular, and he whoever is a friend of the world is an enemy of God.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/25 2:12

9.
But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; there they have dealt treacherously against Me.
Gilead is a city of wrongdoers, tracked with bloody footprints.
And as raiders wait for a man, so a band of priests murder on the way to Shechem; surely they have committed crime (Hosea 6:7-9)

Do we see every sin as a treachery against the knowledge of God? Can you believe that the priesthood of God could ever come to the place where they themselves would become murderers, and engage in lewdness? That was Israel's experience and example before us, and who, today, thinks that he is made of better stuff than the Israelite priests of old? A

nd by what means does a holy priest come to a place of both lewdness and murder? Does it take place in one fell swoop ? Or does it come by a process, by degrees of corrosion and the subtlety of day-by-day condescension and compromise ? The Bible exhorts us to keep our hearts with all diligence, and to exhort one another daily while it is yet today. Are we in relationship daily with people who exhort us? This is something that cannot be put off; tomorrow could be too late. Is our privacy and time before the television more valuable than seeing the glory of God being made manifest in all the earth ?

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/25 10:37

10. Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, yet they have neither returned to the Lord their God, nor have they sought him for all this. So Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense; they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly. Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me. And they do not cry to Me from their heart when they wail on their beds; for the sake of grain and new wine they assemble themselves, they turn away from Me (Hosea 7: 10-14).

We are in trouble when insincerity passes for sincerity, and we cannot tell the difference. They have made a seeming show that impresses men, but it does not impress God.

They turn, but not upward, they are like a deceitful bow; their princes will fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.

Put the trumpet to your lips! Like an eagle the enemy comes against the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed My covenant, and rebelled against My law. They cry out to Me, "My God, we of Israel know Thee!" (Hosea 7:16 - 8:2).

They cry to Him when His judgment comes in proportion to the iniquity and sin of His house. Is it not pitiful that there is nothing like judgment to wake us up? There is nothing like calamity to break us from our slumber and to bring us to the understanding that our God is a jealous God.

How far will God go to judge His people, and to expunge sin, compromise and contradiction from their lives corporately and personally? He drove Israel out of its land and allowed six million of them to go through the labor camps, the gas chambers and the ovens of Auschwitz as a continuing statement of judgment for their unwillingness to turn to Him, and He says that these people are the apple of His eye. We should fear and recognize the goodness and severity of God! Paul warned us that if He did not hesitate to break them off, He would not hesitate to do the same to us. If we do not know God in His severity, then how can we know Him in His goodness? How can we know Him if we do not know Him as a God who will judge?

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/25 17:18

11.
Israel has rejected the good; the enemy will pursue him (Hosea 8:3).

That is what happens when our sin casts off the covenant-keeping God and He removes His protection and covering; we are open and exposed to the reaction and the counter-response of the enemy in exact proportion to our sin. That has been the history of Israel, and we need to be instructed by it. Do we think ourselves immune, that such things will not come upon us?

They have set up kings, but not by Me; they have appointed princes, but I did not know it (Hosea 8:4a).

They never consulted with God; they never asked Him; they acted on their own initiative. We do not know what it means to consult God. There is such a spirit of presumption in us, in exact proportion to the absence of our knowledge of God, and once the knowledge of God is found, its being found does not guarantee that we will never lose it. In this world, in all

that is vile, in every powerful pressure, temptation and force that wants to dishonor and defame God, and mock Him in every perverse way, you can imagine the kinds of things that are directed against us to dull us again to a place of ease and comfort in Zion. It is going to take something severe, something radical for us to maintain the knowledge of God once we have found it, and then to deepen it and grow in that knowledge. Is this foremost in our consideration? Do we feel that we presently have it?

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/26 1:26

12.

For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces; and Judah has multiplied fortified cities, but I will send a fire on its cities that it may consume its palatial dwellings (Hosea 8:14).

I fully expect to see a mighty coming down in the years ahead; we are going to see great cathedrals and church buildings standing absolutely empty, with whole congregations dissipating away. The world will see the mockery of churches that took millions of dollars from God's people standing as empty houses. We will see the great Christian recreation resorts rusting away and standing like ghost towns as mocking testimonies to the failure of people to take God seriously, turning the faith into an entertainment upon which God shall breathe His fire and bring it down.

Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations! For you have played the harlot, forsaking your God. You have loved harlots' earnings on every threshing floor.

Threshing floor and wine press will not feed them, and the new wine will fail them (Hosea 9:1-2).

It is happening already. We have become a manipulating people of technique and methodology, and the new wine has failed.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/27 8:44

13.

Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up, they will bear no fruit. Even though they bear children, I will slay the precious ones of their womb (Hosea 9:16).

We can bring forth, but is it His fruit? Is it eternal fruit? Or does it have only the seeming appearance of effectiveness and success? Do we even know the difference, and are we jealous for the fruit that only God can give, rather than what we are able to produce and fabricate because we are skilful and because we have the financial enablement? 'Fruit' is not the testimony of our right relationship with God, or the knowledge of Him, or even of His blessedness. His fruit is of another kind; it is fruit of the Spirit, and His Spirit is the spirit of humility and meekness, not arrogance, presumption, pride and a sumptuous lifestyle that contradicts the whole tenor of anything and all that we know about God and about His Church.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/28 1:03

14.

Israel is a luxuriant vine; he produces fruit for himself. The more his fruit, the more altars he made; the richer the land, the better he made the sacred pillars (Hosea 10:1).

Are we not guilty of exactly the same practices? Are we not motivated toward religious success, to building programs and every other kind of program to enrich the lives of our congregations and thus make them fruitful 'for the Kingdom'? Have we ever asked God what His design for the Church is? Have we met His conditions for true ministry to go forth? There are many self-fashioned, self-proclaiming men that bear ministry titles, but what grieves God even more is that the people out there do not even know the difference. They are so easily hoodwinked and impressed. Any glib character, anyone who has facility with the scriptures, makes a show, gives an impression, has been involved with churches, has trav

elled, is automatically assumed to be a man of God.

So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him (Malachi 3:18).

The ability to discern the true servants of God is given as the criterion of a people, finally at the end of the age, of whom God says, "And they will be Mine (Mal. 3:17a)." They came to the ability to discern by what took place in verse 16 of that chapter.

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who esteem His name.

Their speaking to one another was not cheap talk, or small talk, but an examination of our own lives, the condition of the Church, the word of God as we hear it proclaimed. They examined themselves to see if they were in the faith. They feared the Lord and that is why they did it. They were jealous for His name, His honor and His glory.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/28 13:23

15.

Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance to kindness; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you (Hosea 10:12).

It is long past the time to seek the Lord. Have we sought the Lord until He has rained righteousness upon us? Do we have a heart for this kind of sacrificial seeking, to break through the layers of film that stand between Heaven and us?

You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way, in your numerous warriors (Hosea 10:13).

You were impressed with the mighty men, with the princes, with the hotshots, their systems and their lifestyles. You mourned when they fell because you would have liked to see them continue. You thought that their ministry was appropriate and deserving. You secretly desired such a lifestyle for yourself. God has waited long and He has been silent, but if we allow these judgments that are falling now to pass unnoticed and merely cluck our tongues as if somehow we are not implicated and sharing in that same lifestyle and subscribing to the same values, then God's judgments have been in vain for us, and we will have to experience them personally, directly and more painfully. It is time to seek the Lord, to know Him.

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/29 2:58

16. We cannot know Him in a true way and bypass the issues of judgment. We have paid a high price for the loss of the understanding of God, both in judgment and in mercy, in severity and goodness. God's dealings with Israel, past, present and future are more or less absent from our consideration. We have thus voided the most profound revelation of God given us in Scripture because the greatest provision that God gives the Church is Israel, and His dealings with that people.

If the Holocaust was not just the consequence of the aberration of some crazy man by the name of Hitler, but in fact, the intent of God and the fulfillment of scriptures in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, of a judgment that would come in the Last Days, how much more should we be fearful of the dealings of that God for ourselves? The glib, unctuous and frivolous character of our Christianity has opened the door to deceptions of the most remarkable kind, and it has altogether to do with the absence of the knowledge of God and the fear and the awe of God, that would have been ours if we had been rightly instructed by what God has done to Israel and will yet do, before He restores them in His mercy.

END

Re: Katz; Hosea - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/5 21:08

Hosea: A Word to the Church
Art Katz

Malachiah: When Art Katz writes a Word to the church we must remember that he is a Jew. The church from the nations is the holy bride of Israel even as Israel is the bride of Yahweh. There is a relationship that is holy and can only be seen and known in holiness.--

The book of Hosea contains the heart cry of God for the apostasy and backslidden condition of His people Israel. My sense is that the Church at large today stands in very close proximity to the condition of Israel when it fell from relationship with their God. One of the marks of that apostasy, both in Israel and the Church, is a spirit and discernment so dulled that we are not even in a position to appreciate our own condition.

Malachiah: Two thousand years ago Israel was awaiting the coming of Messiah. A small remnant was prepared to see and understand. The larger part was not. The Jewish scholars saw the conquering coming but failed to see the suffering one. Such a partial seeing was total blindness. They missed the coming of the Lord though they preached about it. While they looked off to a conquering coming they missed the Present one. This allowed a way for the church to be grafted in. Today the reverse is true. The "church" looks for an open coming of the Lord on the clouds. They look to the great and open victorious coming. And yet as Israel two millennium ago, they only have partial truth and thus total darkness. They fail to see the secret, hidden coming that we are commanded to watch for. Only the watchers can see this coming. This secret coming is a period of time wherein the watchers see but the world cannot. The church that cannot see becomes seven times more demon possessed than Israel was. And thus those that see become the glory upon the remnant of Israel that arises in the coming of the name of Jesus Christ.--

Ironically, in our fallen condition, we purport to celebrate God, and think that we are in a commendable relationship with Him. It is a condition that compels God to send prophets to convey things as He Himself sees them, which is often, if not invariably, different from the way that we see them. Truth is everything as God sees it, and it is often painful to make the adjustment from our seeing to His, but I can tell you, as a descendant of a people who failed to make that adjustment, the consequences for us have been exceedingly tragic.

Malachiah: this is why, o dear brother Art, that you are now called to separated yourself from the harlot "church" into the bride who is the new covenant presence of your Lord.--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/6 12:06

2. The heart of God is grieved while ours is not. We may be saddened, we may be disappointed, we may be perplexed, but we are not grieved. It is a deep grief that needs to come into us, a grief of the kind that God Himself feels as He looks upon the pathetic state of the Church. The fall of many of its prominent leading celebrities is only the symptom and the statement of a much deeper and extensive ill. In my opinion, our great sickness is due to the lack of the authentic knowledge of God, and if we lack that, then how authentic are we? The scriptures are given for our admonition upon whom the ends of the age have come. God's intention was that we, as the Church, should be instructed by Israel's experience, by His dealings with them, especially in the severity of His judgments, which are much harsher for those who are called and appointed to be sons of the Most High.

Malachiah: I believe this is a true confession of brother Art. It is not the confession of all the church though. Brother Art writes of a "we" he is among and sees. That "we" does not grieve over the churches condition but rather is able to use it and move in it and claim a position of "we" in a negative testimony. Again, this is why you are called out of her. Brother Art rightly confesses that the problem is a lack of genuine knowledge of God and thus places a question both on his and the "we" his is among as to how authentic they are. When the authentic grieve they soon find the Word at hand that leads them out of that ungrieving "we". Then blessed are they that mourn for they find the Holy comforter near.--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/6 12:28

3. The Church is at a place very close to experiencing the judgment of God, and if we are clucking our tongues over the fallen state of some of the evangelical and charismatic stars, and think somehow that their condition is unrelated to us, we need to look more closely at ourselves. These fallen stars are the visible symptom, sign and statement of the whole Church of which we, and they, are a part, and whose manner of life and lifestyle we have made possible, and have condoned and would secretly enjoy having for ourselves.

Malachiah: come out of her my people. Stop trying to change her or build her up. O how you need the revelation to overtake you! To see you are in HIM and to see the oneness of the church apart from the unending divisive works and names incorporated into the world.--

The world is absolutely vile and abysmal beyond every description. It is steeped in blood and violence. All of society has had a part in this; it is complicit; it is involved in the evil itself by the very nature of the thing. God commanded His priests to teach the people the difference between the holy and the profane, but if God's priestly people do not know the difference between the two, then what shall we expect of the world? We need to be reminded that God's judgments begin in His house before they will begin in the world. In many respects, the world is the statement of the Church's failure. There has not been an objective standard of truth made visible by God's people that the world can see; it therefore takes its liberty, for it has nothing with which to align itself and there is very little calling it to accountability.

Malachiah: truly the children of Israel are the priest of the kings of the nations. The great king is hidden in the gentile kings. He awaits the Israel priest to come and sanctify Him there. He awaits them to be distinct from the kings as a priest is. For this Israel must have a circumcised heart! And for this circumcision the church is formed! The church is an experience going on inside the heart of Israel. The church is the living new covenant to Israel. The church is called out from the nations to be a priest to Israel so that Israel can be a priest to the nations. Herein is the blueprint that saves the world. The church brother Art sees and writes of is not priestly to Israel but has gone directly to the kings and is seven times more blind than Israel. Nevertheless, the true church is hidden from the world and line upon line is beginning revealed to the remnant of Israel.--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/6 12:53

4. Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel, for the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky; and also the fish of the sea disappear.

Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; for your people are like those who contend with the priest.

So you will stumble by day, and the prophet also will stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children (Hosea 4:1 - 6).

Malachiah: Amen.--

How is this appropriate to us as the Church? One of the severest pronouncements against Israel, at one of the lowest points of her backslidden history, was that the knowledge of God had been rejected. Nothing will keep us or save us other than the true knowledge of God. God is holy, awesome, fearful and righteous! If there is no knowledge of God, then there is no knowledge of truth or mercy. God is truth and mercy. If we miss Him, then we have missed everything, and we can miss Him even in the very moment we are ostensibly celebrating Him. We can be guilty of the lack of a true knowledge of God while we are invoking His name and singing His praises. We can enjoy everything that we are doing, experiencing the euphoric lift, while that very thing betrays and conceals from us what, in fact, our real condition is.

Malachiah: this is the condition of the "church" that has not the revelation of the UNSPEAKABLE gift of the mystery of the Word in hand. The oracles of living scripture were given to the children of Israel as the advantage of God. Romans 3: 2. These oracles are the living scripture as the saints write even as Abraham before the Bible was written. Note Galatians 3:8 The scripture announced the gospel to Abraham. Since the Bible we have was not yet written the scripture that announced to him had to be that he wrote. What made Israel holy was the Presence of the living Word branching hand to hand

d. Our real condition is not that which brother Art sees among the "we" he writes of but is that we are In Christ. Here the anointed Word we write teaches us to abide in Him. This gift must be brought back to Israel by the church for the church is the body of Messiah. Blessed be the broken ones that discover their holy hands.--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/6 14:04

5. Their deeds will not allow them to return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry is within them, and they do not know the Lord (Hosea 5:4)

Malachiah: Amen--

This is a statement about Israel, the same Israel who was given the commandments and the revelation from Sinai, the statutes, the ordinances, the prophets and the great King. God's indictment is that they have not known the Lord, but instead have followed after harlotry, and the two things, harlotry and not knowing the Lord, are in relationship. The spirit of harlotry can express itself in various ways to the degree that a person does not know the Lord; the one is the counterbalance and the antidote to the other. The knowledge of the Lord is the only thing that will keep us from the spirit of harlotry, which we will act out in exact proportion as we have ability and financial wherewithal.

Malachiah: Thus only the ground that the living Word from our hand measures is not harlotry. The saints walk hand in hand with the Word. At each writing they are more sanctified. (John 17:17-20). There is no other separation. The great harlot speaks but has not the fact in hand. Thus she makes the whole world drunken with her preaching. Only the brokenness that causes the Word to branch in the hand as a staff of God can separate from the harlot mouth. The harlot worships the bible but does not see it as a witness. The harlot sees saints of old wrote but fails to see the meaning of this. The harlot will boast of being in Christ but knows not the Word in hand. Somehow the Word was in the hands of the saints of old but cannot be today. Surely such a church is seven times more demon possessed than the Israel that also stumbled over the Word. Now a remnant from each must join in this gift and be so holy that they see God face to face.--

Our human frames are vulnerable. It is one thing to be hit from the blind side, and that is why we need each other, to protect one another from that blindness, from that unexpected temptation that comes in the moment of weakness. That is one kind of falling and one kind of sin, and there is certainly not an excuse for being a partaker of that, but how many of our leading evangelists have become powers unto themselves with extraordinary wealth, pompous lifestyles, and have surrounded themselves with staff who dare not contradict them lest they lose their well-paid jobs?

Malachiah: Come out of her. Stop Identifying with the harlot. "our evangelist", "our" who? It is not so in your bride O Israel. Awake to holiness O Jew! How are you paid?--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/6 14:33

If you want to guarantee a fall for yourself, then all you need to do is to live sensually, and that does not mean looking at erotic pictures. It could mean living in a house with 8,000 square feet of living space, believing that you have got it coming to you. We need to grieve over the celebration of charismatic personalities and performers whose lifestyles we have all condoned, if not helped pay for. If we allow our leaders a lifestyle that finally erupts into sin so visible that they are brought down, then what shall we say about ourselves? Is our condition better than theirs? What do we do with the measure of wherewithal that we have? What kind of sensuality and gratification are we allowing ourselves, thinking somehow that it is legitimate because we are serving God?

Malachiah: this is the extreme. The fall goes much deeper. Do you receive pay from the harlots? I mean to do enter the divisions and speak in their names and receive money from them. Do you make further christian groups and live by their prostitution? Such is not the way of a holy Jew in the sabbath millennium of the son of man!--

What is there in our hearts that has never yet been revealed because we have never chosen to let the Lord arbitrate and determine our lifestyle and bring us into that earnest and intensive relationship with saints by which we might have been found out? Holiness comes with a price.

Malachiah: the price is "take up your cross daily and follow me". If the discovery of the hands that handle the holy Word is not made then a man is broke as to the price of holiness. When you write is it as the world? Do you know the Word as God in hand when you write? If not your preaching is of the harlot source. So let the Word examine you and work His way from your heart to your arm.--

What should determine the lifestyle of the people of God? The income which is theirs, the availability of goods and riches and the talents which they can employ, or what? Jesus had not a place to lay His head. Paul had no certain dwelling place. Apostolic poverty characterized the early Church. Peter and John spoke to the lame beggar, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have, I give to you: 'In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!'" (Acts 3:6). What they had was power, glory, great grace, and unspeakable richness in the reality and knowledge of God. What do we have?

Malachiah : the church has the name of Jesus and the riches of the Word as His living presence. She is poor other than this.--

Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/6/6 14:43

A true prophet never turns his back to a straying church—he delivers a pointed word.

A prophet's word never carries an undertone of exclusiveness.

Holiness is not harsh.

Holiness has no tendency of haughtiness.

A true prophet identifies with the straying church, carrying the burden and pain of the necessary judgment.

He is a broken man.

He stays with the people to the bitter end.

He leaves sin behind, but never the sinner.

A true prophet is indeed sharp and to the point.

He never sways, he does not waver, giving in to dreaminess or flattery.

He cannot claim to have a final word. God works to fulfil His own purposes which are of eternal quality.

We therefore propose a reconsidering of Mr. Katz's position for the sake of salvation and maturity in the church of our day. She will not find any attraction in a small band of separatists. She will find herself attracted to the servanthood of those who, like the Lord, pray for a recovered testimony.

L. W.

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/7 1:41

7.

For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings (Hosea 6:6).

God actually desires for us to have the knowledge of Him, but that knowledge is not easily obtained; every force of hell and power of darkness seeks to prevent God's people from obtaining this knowledge. The whole world seems to be involved in a conspiracy against the knowledge of God. The phone will ring, the kids will cry, the dog will bark, our future plans, the job, marriage, the clothes that need to be washed, the machine that is broken, there is the roof that needs to be fixed. Things will crowd in upon our consciousness the moment that we set ourselves to seek the Lord so as to find Him. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts, and we have made the Christian walk too casual and too cheap. We are a generation that mistakes our concepts about God for the authentic knowledge of God, for if we knew Him, we would fear Him, and we would not so much as contemplate, let alone do, the things that have scandalized His name throughout the world.

Malachiah: such is the way of the unarmed. but they that have the word in hand can dominate their immediate environment

ent through the strong hand fo the Lord upon them. --

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/7 1:44

8. What men and women think, when free to think what they will in the privacy of their own minds, in the reverie and the fantasy that they will allow themselves, is the statement of where they are in God. It is what we do with our ability to do it that tells what we really are, even though the act, in itself, may not be patently sinful. Perhaps it is only an indulgence like buying two king-size hamburgers, and feeling as though maybe I should, but knowing that I do not need them; it is an indulgence to the flesh that will not benefit the spiritual life of the inner man, and yet I am financially able to afford it.

Malachiah: and for sure it is the indulgence of speaking what you have not measured by the Mystery of the Word in hand. The mystery of the Word might sanctify two hamburgers, but only eating one will never make up for not have and practicing the Word.--

Do we predicate our conduct on the basis of what we are able to do, or what the Spirit is prompting? Are we in a position to deny ourselves things that are available? Are we resisting sin unto the shedding of blood, and do we recognize that the whole world is steeped in the evil one, the father of lies; it is bathed in deception, permeated with the spirit of sensuality, and it will take, on our part, a rigorous determination before God to resist it. Are we fighting that fight? The knowledge of God has much to do with the degree to which we are surrendering and succumbing to the spirit of the world. Heaven and earth are opposed to each other in every point and particular, and he whoever is a friend of the world is an enemy of God.

Malachiah: why ask these questions? I use to ask them. But then the Lord answered and I do not have that defeated position anymore nor do I see the church as such. Surely there is a battle to fight. the question to ask isdo i just talk a good fight or has the Lord entrusted Himself as the Word into my hand so I can fight that which I have talked about? Ps 76:5 declares that the men of might have not discovered their hands. Blessed is the man so broken that they discover their hands and the Word in them.--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/7 1:54

9.

But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; there they have dealt treacherously against Me.

Gilead is a city of wrongdoers, tracked with bloody footprints.

And as raiders wait for a man, so a band of priests murder on the way to Shechem; surely they have committed crime (Hosea 6:7-9)

Do we see every sin as a treachery against the knowledge of God? Can you believe that the priesthood of God could ever come to the place where they themselves would become murderers, and engage in lewdness? That was Israel's experience and example before us, and who, today, thinks that he is made of better stuff than the Israelite priests of old? And by what means does a holy priest come to a place of both lewdness and murder? Does it take place in one fell swoop? Or does it come by a process, by degrees of corrosion and the subtlety of day-by-day condescension and compromise? The Bible exhorts us to keep our hearts with all diligence, and to exhort one another daily while it is yet today. Are we in relationship daily with people who exhort us? This is something that cannot be put off; tomorrow could be too late. Is our privacy and time before the television more valuable than seeing the glory of God being made manifest in all the earth?

Malachiah: Nothing is more valuable than the glory of God manifest on earth. --

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/7 1:59

10. Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, yet they have neither returned to the Lord their God, nor have they sought him for all this. So Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense; they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly. Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me. And they do not cry to Me from their heart when they wail on their beds; for the sake of grain and new wine they assemble themselves, they turn away from Me (Hosea 7: 10-14).

We are in trouble when insincerity passes for sincerity, and we cannot tell the difference. They have made a seeming show that impresses men, but it does not impress God.

Malachiah: "we" . again who is we? We being Israel? or we the harlot church. If you write as Israel I accept your confession, but if you write as the church, I call you out of the harlot. Leave the confession of unbelief behind by coming forward to the reality of the church.--

They turn, but not upward, they are like a deceitful bow; their princes will fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.

Put the trumpet to your lips! Like an eagle the enemy comes against the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed My covenant, and rebelled against My law. They cry out to Me, "My God, we of Israel know Thee!" (Hosea 7:16 - 8:2).

They cry to Him when His judgment comes in proportion to the iniquity and sin of His house. Is it not pitiful that there is nothing like judgment to wake us up? There is nothing like calamity to break us from our slumber and to bring us to the understanding that our God is a jealous God.

Malachiah: we are already judged. The Spirit of truth comes to bring judgment. He comes to convict of Sin, because they do not believe into Him. Is there sin in Him? No! So be believing into Him. All confession outside of Him is Sin. And He convicts the world of righteousness. For we are going to the Father line upon line as we write in the righteous measures of the Word. And He convicts of judgment because the prince of the world is judged. Stand in this judgment and be not judged.--

How far will God go to judge His people, and to expunge sin, compromise and contradiction from their lives corporately and personally? He drove Israel out of its land and allowed six million of them to go through the labor camps, the gas chambers and the ovens of Auschwitz as a continuing statement of judgment for their unwillingness to turn to Him, and He says that these people are the apple of His eye. We should fear and recognize the goodness and severity of God! Paul warned us that if He did not hesitate to break them off, He would not hesitate to do the same to us. If we do not know God in His severity, then how can we know Him in His goodness? How can we know Him if we do not know Him as a God who will judge?

Malachiah: Yes, we know Him thus and are in great peace in Him. He drove Israel from the land because the Word was no longer recognized in hand. The severing of the Word was no longer keeping the land holy. So the land cast you out of Ben Israel. You are cast out into the nations in order to come to the lessons and revelation of the Word that makes the ground holy under your feet. You are to learn this at the ends of the earth in the nations and return in local churches. This is the revelation of Zechariah 2-4 and Revelation 1-3.==

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/7 11:15

11.

Israel has rejected the good; the enemy will pursue him (Hosea 8:3).

That is what happens when our sin casts off the covenant-keeping God and He removes His protection and covering; we are open and exposed to the reaction and the counter-response of the enemy in exact proportion to our sin. That has been the history of Israel, and we need to be instructed by it. Do we think ourselves immune, that such things will not come upon us?

Malachiah: us who? Surely Israel has done this and the harlot more so. All were baptised into the age of the death of the anointed one. But now is the third day. These things already have come. To fear they might just now come upon you is evidence that you have not come out. --

They have set up kings, but not by Me; they have appointed princes, but I did not know it (Hosea 8:4a).

They never consulted with God; they never asked Him; they acted on their own initiative. We do not know what it means to consult God. There is such a spirit of presumption in us, in exact proportion to the absence of our knowledge of God, and once the knowledge of God is found, its being found does not guarantee that we will never lose it. In this world, in all that is vile, in every powerful pressure, temptation and force that wants to dishonor and defame God, and mock Him in every perverse way, you can imagine the kinds of things that are directed against us to dull us again to a place of ease and comfort in Zion. It is going to take something severe, something radical for us to maintain the knowledge of God once we have found it, and then to deepen it and grow in that knowledge. Is this foremost in our consideration? Do we feel that we presently have it?

Malachiah: yes we have it, but not that "we" you write of. O bless you dear brother Art! Bless you in the revelation that is pursuing you. May you be found in John on atonement day and hear the trumpet behind you so you can look back and see the Work the son of man has been doing in the local churches! --

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/8 12:07

12.

For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces; and Judah has multiplied fortified cities, but I will send a fire on its cities that it may consume its palatial dwellings (Hosea 8:14).

Malachiah: this Word "maker" is really plural"makers"--

I fully expect to see a mighty coming down in the years ahead; we are going to see great cathedrals and church buildings standing absolutely empty, with whole congregations dissipating away. The world will see the mockery of churches that took millions of dollars from God's people standing as empty houses. We will see the great Christian recreation resorts rusting away and standing like ghost towns as mocking testimonies to the failure of people to take God seriously, turning the faith into an entertainment upon which God shall breathe His fire and bring it down.

Malachiah: hallelujah. Blessed be those that leave these evil places now!--

Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations! For you have played the harlot, forsaking your God. You have loved harlots' earnings on every threshing floor.

Threshing floor and wine press will not feed them, and the new wine will fail them (Hosea 9:1-2).

It is happening already. We have become a manipulating people of technique and methodology, and the new wine has failed.

Malachiah: the whole world is drunken upon the wine of christianity. --

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/8 12:09

13.

Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up, they will bear no fruit. Even though they bear children, I will slay the precious ones of their womb (Hosea 9:16).

We can bring forth, but is it His fruit? Is it eternal fruit? Or does it have only the seeming appearance of effectiveness and success? Do we even know the difference, and are we jealous for the fruit that only God can give, rather than what we are able to produce and fabricate because we are skilful and because we have the financial enablement? 'Fruit' is not the testimony of our right relationship with God, or the knowledge of Him, or even of His blessedness. His fruit is of another kind; it is fruit of the Spirit, and His Spirit is the spirit of humility and meekness, not arrogance, presumption, pride and a sumptuous lifestyle that contradicts the whole tenor of anything and all that we know about God and about His Church.

Malachiah: His fruit is the Word become flesh. His fruit is Israel arising from the dead as the incarnate Word. The church is raised up and seated in the heavens and blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 2:6, 1:3). This is for the purpose of redeeming Israel (Ephesians 1:14) Israel is the acquired possession and the church is to redeem it.--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/8 12:13

14.

Israel is a luxuriant vine; he produces fruit for himself. The more his fruit, the more altars he made; the richer the land, the better he made the sacred pillars (Hosea 10:1).

Are we not guilty of exactly the same practices? Are we not motivated toward religious success, to building programs and every other kind of program to enrich the lives of our congregations and thus make them fruitful 'for the Kingdom'? Have we ever asked God what His design for the Church is? Have we met His conditions for true ministry to go forth? There are many self-fashioned, self-proclaiming men that bear ministry titles, but what grieves God even more is that the people out there do not even know the difference. They are so easily hoodwinked and impressed. Any glib character, anyone who has facility with the scriptures, makes a show, gives an impression, has been involved with churches, has travelled, is automatically assumed to be a man of God.

Malachiah: this is your confession brother Art. I pray that you be delivered into those that stand the ground of the church and do not adulterate the Word.--

So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him (Malachi 3:18).

The ability to discern the true servants of God is given as the criterion of a people, finally at the end of the age, of whom God says, "And they will be Mine (Mal. 3:17a)." They came to the ability to discern by what took place in verse 16 of that chapter.

Malachiah: this requires that the Mystery of the unspeakable gift be in your hand so that the names can activate in the book as you write.--

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who esteem His name.

Their speaking to one another was not cheap talk, or small talk, but an examination of our own lives, the condition of the Church, the word of God as we hear it proclaimed. They examined themselves to see if they were in the faith. They feared the Lord and that is why they did it. They were jealous for His name, His honor and His glory.

Malachiah: their speaking was new wine measured by the bread their hands wrote forth. They walk hand in hand with the Word.--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/8 12:17

15.

Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance to kindness; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you (Hosea 10:12).

It is long past the time to seek the Lord. Have we sought the Lord until He has rained righteousness upon us? Do we have a heart for this kind of sacrificial seeking, to break through the layers of film that stand between Heaven and us?

Malachiah: Yes!

You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way, in your numerous warriors (Hosea 10:13).

You were impressed with the mighty men, with the princes, with the hotshots, their systems and their lifestyles. You mourned when they fell because you would have liked to see them continue. You thought that their ministry was appropriate and deserving. You secretly desired such a lifestyle for yourself. God has waited long and He has been silent, but if we allow these judgments that are falling now to pass unnoticed and merely cluck our tongues as if somehow we are not implicated and sharing in that same lifestyle and subscribing to the same values, then God's judgments have been in vain for us, and we will have to experience them personally, directly and more painfully. It is time to seek the Lord, to know Him.

Malachiah: such you were but no longer. Now the righteous Word is in hand and at every writing righteousness is being practiced.--

Re: - posted by Malachiah (), on: 2004/6/8 12:21

16. We cannot know Him in a true way and bypass the issues of judgment. We have paid a high price for the loss of the understanding of God, both in judgment and in mercy, in severity and goodness. God's dealings with Israel, past, present and future are more or less absent from our consideration. We have thus voided the most profound revelation of God given us in Scripture because the greatest provision that God gives the Church is Israel, and His dealings with that people.

Malachiah: Amen! The church has great gift in Israel. Israel is the church's proof! God desires that the church bring Israel as offering. This requires rightly dividing the Word so as to sanctify Israel. Israel is the lamb of God in the hand of the son of man. Think not that Israel's sacrifices will forever seem to be meaningless. The Holocaust is just that! It is the sign of the times from God. Hitler had a vision of a thousand year reign. He went down to Rome and served Caesar there. He became a prophet of evil and sacrificed 6,000,000. The Lord stopped him before the sabbath million. That six million is now a whole burnt offering that we sanctify and use to sanctify the remnant of Israel.--

If the Holocaust was not just the consequence of the aberration of some crazy man by the name of Hitler, but in fact, the intent of God and the fulfillment of scriptures in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, of a judgment that would come in the Last Days, how much more should we be fearful of the dealings of that God for ourselves? The glib, unctuous and frivolous character of our Christianity has opened the door to deceptions of the most remarkable kind, and it has altogether to do with the absence of the knowledge of God and the fear and the awe of God, that would have been ours if we had been rightly instructed by what God has done to Israel and will yet do, before He restores them in His mercy.

Malachiah: the son of man walks with his feet in the Holocaust fire. The Word of the cross in his hand sanctifies the Holocaust under his feet and brings forth its holiness. Not only was God in it but it is Holy. The heavenly priest uses the coals of it to open the way of the holy of holies. This fellowship we are called into. We walk in local churches, taking command of the holy angel of each city and bringing them to the John Jews. So is the revelation of Jesus Christ. BEGINNING.--

END