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The Church in Cape Town in 2060

What the Church needs to understand about prophecy:

- A flimsy understanding of the prophetic in which a word is given and it lies on a dusty shelf with the assumption being that it is going to come to pass no matter what.
- This is a far cry from how prophecy was interacted with throughout the scriptures. We have the example of Hezekiah in Isaiah 38, we have Timothy being told to wage war using the words spoken over him (1 Timothy 1:18), and we have Daniel praying for the fulfillment of Jeremiah's word from 70 years previously (Daniel 9).
- Prophecy is conditional. It is an invitation into a discourse and adventure with God.

What the bible says about society and the church in the end time:

- There will be false doctrines and a move away from biblical truth (1 Timothy 4:1-2)
- There will be a falling away from the church (1 Timothy 4: 1)
- There will be an increase in lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8)
- Growing violence (Matthew 24:6-8)
- The love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:13)
- War and rumors of war, famine, earthquakes and false prophets (Matthew 24)
- Globally there will be a hatred of Christianity (Matthew 24:9)
- Christians will be killed as 'a service to God' (John 16:2)

So will Christ return
to a weak, helpless,
defeated bride
cowering in corner?



The Bible also says.....

- The Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (Revelation 19)
- They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful (Revelations 14)
- The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory (Isaiah 62)
- The Holy Spirit will be poured out on all flesh and the gifts of the spirit will be fully restored to the church in all of their glory (Acts 2:17)
- The gospel will be preached to all nations (Mark 13:10)
- The bride will yearn for Christ (Revelations 22)- Love and intimacy
- There will be a mighty end time revival culminating in a revival amongst the Jews (Romans 11 etc)

- The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14)
- The people who know their God will be strong and do mighty exploits (Daniel 11:32)
- Will do greater works than Jesus (John 14:12)
- God's house will be filled with his glory (Haggai 2:9)
- And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers...(Malachi 4:6)
- And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)



The days ahead might be darker, but the true bride will be more glorious!

For the health of the church in 2060 we need to help her to stop the pendulum swinging and return to the plumb line!



Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken. I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness....” (Isaiah 28: 16-18)

How are we currently building the church in Cape Town? Are we inheriting our vision, values and doctrine from previous generations (At the risk of playing broken telephone with God?)....or.....Are we building IN REACTION to the error of the previous generation without finding our own blueprint and conviction?

A Scenario of Three Churches

- The Liberal church (under the control of the Political Spirit)

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (2 Timothy 4)

- The Legalistic church (under the control of the Religious Spirit)

Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. **You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.** (Galatians 5)

- The Church Jesus yearns for

	The liberal church	God's heart for the church	The legalistic church
Spirit in operation	Political Spirit "I must try and please others"	Holy Spirit: As a Christian, I am a beloved child of God- Already fully loved and accepted.	Religious Spirit: "I must still do something to please God. My acceptance is based on my actions"
Gospel message	Universalism or preaching of a flimsy gospel without the laying down of self	Believers saved by grace through faith. Full understanding of grace (Forgiveness of sin, but also teaching us to say no to ungodliness)	These are the rules you need to obey to insure salvation
	Strongest emphasis is on the goodness of God	God is 100% good in his holiness and 100% holy in his goodness (can't be separated out).	Strongest emphasis is on the holiness of God
	Holiness is reduced to emotional happiness and fulfillment and is dealt with through humanistic means.	Holiness (not to be confused with positional righteousness) is brought about through an ongoing process of sanctification that is worked out at the level of the spirit and heart. Deals with the root	Holiness is sought through policing actions. Cuts off the fruit
	Searing of conscience (Create a God who thinks exactly like I	Obedience to the logos and rhema word of God. Weighing of the	Obedience to the word of the law. Pharisaical controls put in place

Interpretation of scripture	Scripture used out of context to back up humanistic message. Only parts of scripture are preached	Scripture is the plumb line. Literal holistic interpretation. All of scripture preached	Scripture used to manipulate and control based on an agenda. Only parts of scripture preached.
	Scripture is seen as adaptive and progressive and is interpreted figuratively	Scripture is deemed to be the word of God, but with an understanding that my interpretation may be subjective. Seeks out other perspectives but weighs them with integrity and wisdom	MY interpretation of the scripture is the right one and I am not willing to listen to anything that might challenge it
	Find your own truth. No mediator between man and God	We will teach you to discern truth by teaching you to read the bible and hear God for yourself. Christ as only mediator	I will tell you what to think and believe. Leader as mediator
	Truth is not deemed to be objective	Space for discussion and discourse on areas of disagreement	Disagreement is seen as a challenge of authority

Leadership	Weak leadership/ apathetic leadership	Servant leadership and genuine discipleship. Leader with the people. Relational leadership with genuine love for the sheep.	Leads by control using manipulation, punishment and fear. Leader over the people. Discipleship used to control. Strong hierarchy
	Led by Ahabs often with a Jezebel behind the scenes (a pastor who wants to keep someone/ everyone happy). Often led by a pastor operating in isolation.	Team leadership made up of different giftings. Like we see in the trinity, there is a deference to each other. Apostolic/ prophetic foundations and ALL gifts in operation	Dominant one man leadership who operates outside of genuine relational team (or a team of 'yes' men). Often led by a teacher or prophet operating in isolation.
	Democracy	Team Leadership 'Theocracy' (will of God genuinely sought through prayer).	Autocracy
	Strong feminism (Jezebel belittling men)	Relationships between men and women modeled on Christ's relationship with the church.	Strong patriarchy (or the spirit thereof- can operate through women too). 'Boy's club mentality.'
	Success is measured by it's popularity	Success is measured by faithfulness	Success is measured outwardly by size of ministry/ church

Family/ Community	Shallow reflection of family- All on our own mission. No commitment and loyalty. Sons released prematurely	True family recognizes and celebrates individual callings and seeks to release and support rather than restrain.	Sons in the house not released to be fathers. All serve the vision of the leader without personal authority or responsibility (Spiritual eunuchs).
	A sense of community, but based on relational connections not spiritual conviction, so easily broken. (Petty offences) Ironically 'exists for community'	True community based on revelation of communion in the Spirit. Disunity with other believers is not an option. Genuine vulnerability and love. Exists as the body of Christ.	A sense of communion is created through fear of stepping out of line, but no space for true vulnerability (Put on our Sunday masks)
Unity	Multi-faith/ ecumenical one world church. Forced unity	Unity in the Spirit with other believers. We honour each other and work together but don't have to all be the same. Finds the strengths of each individual and 'tribe'	Uniformity. Sticks to itself and members are suspicious of other parts of the body of Christ

Interaction with the world	Adapts to become like the culture of the day. Becomes like the world	Interact with culture like the yeast in bread. Lives in the world but not of it	Afraid to interact with culture. Escapes from the world. (My friends all go to my church and look and think like me)
	Emphasis on Kingdom now (Making earth a 'better' place)	The glorious church with her eyes fixed on eternity, but knowing she is already seated in heavenly places (kingdom within) and is mandated to spread the glorious fragrance of Christ across the earth	Emphasis on 'my church' and/ or 'my personal kingdom'.
	Imposes worldly values on the church	Understands that true transformation can only happen at the level of the human heart so genuine transformation requires salvation. Brings light into society.	Imposes Christian 'rules' on the world. Constantine model
	Gospel becomes predominantly a message of social justice. Apathy	Carries God's heart for the poor and extravagantly generous but without becoming a zealot gospel. Works are compelled by faith and love. Running the race from a posture of rest	Little heart for the poor as success is deemed to be entirely self-created. (Often linked to prosperity gospel). 'Works' centre around growing the church and are often guilt-driven ('I need to do this'). Striving
	Commiserates with the	Holds out genuine solutions to the	Judges the poor, lost, sick and

<p>Response to the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>If it's spiritual it must be of God (No discernment). Holy Spirit grieved over time and less evident in the body</p>	<p>Holy Spirit has freedom to move and spiritual gifts are encouraged and released. Spirits are tested. Move of the spirit persists over generations</p>	<p>It is only of the 'Spirit' if I am comfortable with it. Holy Spirit may be allowed in controlled environments. (think water restrictions in CT- The taps are opened, but controlled). Holy Spirit grieved over time and less evident in the body</p>
	<p>Moves of the Spirit are superficially embraced for the sake of novelty and experience, but rejected if they bring criticism or conviction. If embraced, brings the church back to plumb line</p>	<p>Moves of the Spirit bring freedom, a revelation of the goodness and glory of God and go deep to bring greater holiness and passion for God and the gospel.</p>	<p>Moves of the Spirit are only embraced if they originate in my church or church movement. I try and dictate the movement of the Spirit and it's outcomes. If embraced, brings the church back to the plumb line</p>
	<p>Anything that looks spiritual is released.</p>	<p>Spiritual blessings and gifts are wisely released into wider body of Christ (Kingdom mindset).</p>	<p>Spiritual blessings and gifts are cautiously released in MY church if they serve MY</p>

Structure and vision	Follows the latest spiritual fad	Builds to Christ and hears God on direction	Leader builds to himself
	No church discipline- anything goes	Loving discipline (for clear instances of persistent sin) with genuine aim of restoration	Discipline to punish and shame. Disciplined for petty reasons and for differences of opinion
	Against any form of structure, or structures are inherited without any thought	Structures that are biblical (elders, deacons, 5-fold gifts etc.), guide and serve the values and vision of the church	Rigid structures. The values and vision serve the structure
	Emphasis on personal expressions of worship. How does it make you feel? Worship about self-gratification. Love as a mushy feeling	Space for personal and corporate worship. Worship is intimate, Spirit-led and God-focused. Love is expressed through heart, soul and mind and motivates obedience	Emphasis on meetings. Worship veers towards performance. Love is all about obedience to the exclusion of deep intimacy
	Unstated (subconscious) vision of the church is the happiness of its members	Church genuinely exists for the glory of God	Unstated (subconscious) vision of the church is the promotion of the leader/ church/ movement