

The Years Unusual

Spoken to the Dream Centre Church on 23 January 2011 By Pastor Anthony Higginson

Isaiah 6:8-10 *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" He said, "Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving. 'Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."*

Isaiah 41:26-29 *Who told of this from the beginning, so we could know, or beforehand, so we could say, 'He was right'? No one told of this, no one foretold it, no one heard any words from you. I was the first to tell Zion, 'Look, here they are!' I gave to Jerusalem a messenger of good tidings. I look but there is no one —no one among them to give counsel, no one to give answer when I ask them. See, they are all false! Their deeds amount to nothing; their images are but wind and confusion.*

Ephesians 3:16-19 *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Recap on the above:

Isaiah 6 is a picture of hard and calloused hearts, hearts that have heard in times past, but have ignored what was being said. Whereby now they will hear but they will never understand and perceive, despite them seeing, hearing, touching the things of God.

Isaiah 41 is a picture of God giving a clear message of good tidings to Jerusalem. When there was no-one saying these things God gave them a good tidings message, yet despite this message no-one has understood it and more importantly no-one is available to counsel people through to the place of called understanding.

Ephesians 3 is a picture of an apostle praying for you and me and the church as a whole that this good tidings message, this mystery which is being unfolded in our generation and before our very eyes, will so empower the saints in Christ to fully grasp just how long, high, wide and deep, is the love of God.

Throughout these three scriptures, it has gone from a message to becoming a full personal encounter experience.

To understand means to know, fully comprehend, grasp and realise the meaning of something.

This I proclaim to you, that this will be the year called unusual, where you will begin to know, grasp, comprehend, and realise the impact of this message. For you will need this in the year of unusual.

Unusual means: Uncommon, extraordinary, out of the ordinary.

Ezra 1:1-2 *Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put in writing, saying "thus says king of Persia, The Lord, the God of heaven, he has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. (New Authorised Standard Bible)*

The years unusual: Now in the first year God was doing something so that the word previously spoken would be fulfilled.

Isaiah 55:11 *So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve, the purpose for which I sent it.*

Jeremiah 1:12 *The LORD said to me, **You have seen correctly**, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.*

The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia.

Psalm 45:1 *My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skilful writer.*

Illustrate: Whenever God brings His word to pass, He stirs up the hearts of His people. I can see some of you are going through unusual times in your thinking. You want to go one way, things are not working out in that direction because God is stirring you, so you can accurately see what He is doing.

So that a proclamation could go out throughout his kingdom.

Kingdom means territory and legal land. God is giving us (as a house) our own territory that must be guided, guarded and governed by you individually and by us as a house. It is this legal territory that continually must have the King's signature on it but the King's proclamation heard.

And also put it in writing.

I as a pastor not only speak the proceeding word to you, but along with others write songs that help us understand what God is doing and help us see how He is doing it. I write books that educate, **train and empower you the people**. These are materials which help you to **grasp, lay a hold of, enter in, upgrade**, as well as materials that encourage you to **let go, give in, and make a journey**. All these are in this house and why - because God has stirred a Cyrus in the house to speak.

He has appointed me to build a house in Jerusalem which is in Judah.

Jerusalem was strategic for God and still is today. The Dream Centre in Tameside is strategic for touching the nations of the world. We are strategically positioned to reach, teach, touch and change Tameside and beyond. Despite all the history and sufferings, trials and blunders, why has God allowed 'US' the Dream Centre to remain?

Revelation 12:7 *And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and **they lost their place** in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

Part of God giving us an extended territory is to remind a company of forces known as "**they**" that "**they**" no longer have authority or legal ground any more. In the years of unusual, we will rise up in becoming the...

1. Guiders

2. Guardians

3. Governors of kingdom rule and kingdom expression in the home, family, factory, marketplace.

Revelation 12:10 *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb*

and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Conclusion:

Always remember the quicker you can comprehend the word of the Lord, the quicker God can begin to do and accelerate the word in your territory. God said, He was watching over His word so that (1) you see correctly and (2) whether it is working as it is designed to do. To do is God's agenda, for by doing His doing you become like Him in His image and in His likeness.