

12032023 pass out the Elements There is a God principle given to the prophets
The principle is this...God tells us what he is going to do before he does it...but we even like the prophet Habakkuk...have a hard time believing it.. until it becomes History!

Amos 3:7 Indeed, the Sovereign LORD never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets.

*****God reveals to his prophets to share with God's children a recording of what he is going to do before he does it...minus the times and circumstances...**

- **We are incapable of finding out the times and circumstances of how God will accomplish his will ...in fact ...**

*NIV 1 Peter 1:10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted **the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.** ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached **the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit** sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

- Scripture from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation...tells us what God is going to do...**minus the time and circumstances and the prophets and others searched with great care to find out and could not...when the Messiah would come..and how he would suffer...and the glory of the Resurrection to follow...and everything which follows that**
- And The fullness of this plan of Salvation has come to us in the writing of the NT
- as directed by the Holy Spirit hundreds of years after the closing of the old testament...**even the angels don't know...***Even angels long **to look** into these things. Verse 12 the word **look** ...that word is used of the angels looking as scripture...it means to stoop to a thing in order to look into it...to study intently...to inspect curiously... you see the angels can read!*
- **which also means the enemy Satan and his demons...who were once angels...now fallen...they can read too...**
- **You see The good angels and God's people need only trust his salvation plan...knowing he must conceal from the enemy the exact strategies until his designated time...**

- So the changes that come about as a result of God's timing and circumstances...can be very stressful and a relatively long time in manifesting in the natural..... and they don't appear when or as we would think they ought too...
- but this is part of his strategy...to keep the enemy off balance...and us living by faith in his Character..
- And all of it hidden in plain sight....how do you hide something in plain sight....you become invisible, overlooked don't fit the profile! You must possess all the skills and know-how necessary to navigate in public undetected except to those you want to know what you are doing....
- Why does someone want to become invisible in public situations? Simple because they are hiding...and they are hiding for reasons...spies have to work in the public but don't want to be noticed....famous don't want to be bothered...someone on the run doesn't want to be discovered..etc
- **So How do you this? First your appearance...** You become invisible in everyday clothes while walking around like an entirely normal human being. Their hair? Their outfits? **disassociate yourself from your distinguishing appearance characteristics. Long hair/short hair expensive clothes/normal clothes.. if you are clean shaven normally grow a beard etc. don't wear hats/ wear one...don't wear glasses/wear glasses**
- **Second ...Creating Characteristics that don't match what people who are looking for you expect...** for example people expect famous people to act certain ways...so if you are famous... drive yourself in a Toyota Rather than a chauffeur in an expensive car... Putting a couple of pebbles in your shoes to change your gait... Sticking to large crowds not an entourage...
- **This is how God hides his great work in plain sight**
- **So God is hiding in plain sight keeping the enemy off balance and does this in very clever ways...**

Now remember Satan has seen Jesus in his Heavenly Glory... He has seen scenes like this...

NLT Isa 6:1 It was in the year King Uzziah died^[a] that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ² Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth

is filled with his glory!”⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

So when Jesus came to earth... though the same prophet foretells what he will appear like...Satan expects something akin to heaven...he was fooled ..Listen

NLT Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows^[a] that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.⁸ Unjustly condemned, he was led away.. ...**what kind of savior is that one who is led away to death!**

The disciples could not believe it ... Peter even reprimanded him

NLT Mark 8:31 Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man^[a] must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

But the religious would not believe it! Nor Satan...for if they did they would not have killed the King! Their belief if we kill him we win ...but they lose for the king who is savior must die...but he will resurrect..

As Paul tells us...

NLT 1 Cor 2:7 No, the wisdom we speak of is the **mystery** of God—his plan that was **previously hidden**, even though he made it for our ultimate glory **before the world began**.⁸ But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord.⁹ That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.

And he has told us to keep reminding ourselves that he did what he said he would do..... our sins are forgiven....all of them for all time...Past present and future...

And that the resurrection of our bodies to eternal life ..will happen for he is the first fruit of that.... And he is coming back to bring Justice for his people...and to live with us...

So today as we celebrate communion remember everything God said he would do ...He will...

NLT 1 Cor :11 23 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread ²⁴ and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you.^[1] Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.” ²⁶ For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.

So it is advent season...those same principles apply to the Christmas story of Jesus coming to earth... though foretold hidden in plain sight...and as usual God hides his work in plain sight people so could not fully grasp it.... God, Who is the Creator of the Universe, comes to us in smallness, weakness, and hiddenness....who would believe that?

The supernatural colliding with the natural...

This is how he hid Jesus in plain sight...

- **Born to a young woman, who would be morally suspect...pregnant and betrothed...but not officially married? Not as one would expect...we would expect the King to come with great pomp and circumstance...to the most godly married couple the husband successful, royalty from the tribe of Judah the phi beta kappa of his theological university ...**
- **No... But too a carpenter...who had already planned months earlier on divorcing his unfaithful bride? Living in Nazareth a hillbilly town**
- **And on and on as we will examine in the next month...all this only makes sense when we understand God intentionally does things in a way, a time and in places where it is not expected and therefore is overlooked until he is ready for it to be revealed...absolutely Brilliant**

- **He misleads whom he wants to mislead and for those he has called it requires patience and faith to await is fulfillment....**
- **Though lying in wait.... Satan missed the birth of Jesus...**
- **So we start with the timing and circumstances...after four hundred years of silence...the time is right...**

NLT LK 1: 5 When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. ⁶ Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

- **Herod the Great ruled Palestine from 39bc to around 4 some say 2 BC.. he was an amazing architect and builder he constructed Aqueducts and built up the temple in Jerusalem...but his leadership was stained in blood ... he was ruthless to perceived enemies and was very insecure killing members of his own family in fear...it was said you had more security as his pet than as his child..**
- **The times were not necessarily good for the Jews...but the time was right for God...**
- **Zechariah and Elizabeth didn't merely go through the motions in following God's laws; they backed up their outward compliance with inward obedience. Unlike the religious leaders whom Jesus called hypocrites, Zechariah and Elizabeth did not stop with the letter of the law which man could see....**
- **Their obedience was from the heart, and that is why they are called "righteous in God's eyes."**
- **They were both from the lineage of Aaron...a prestigious badge of honor for a priest to have his wife from the line of Aaron also...**
- **Yet they were childless...which was considered a curse from God and also a valid reason to divorce... they would have paid dearly socially...**
- **Yet they carried this burdend and neither rejected eachother nor abandoned God...**

NLT LK 1:8 One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. ⁹ As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying.

- **All of Zechariah's preparation ...came down to one day!!** A Jewish priest was a minister of God who worked at the Temple managing its upkeep, teaching the people the Scriptures, and directing the worship services.
- At this time there were about 20,000 priests throughout the country—far too many to minister in the Temple at one time.
- Therefore the priests were divided into 24 separate groups of about 1,000 each, according to David's directions (1 Chronicles 24:3-19). So other lots would be drawn to determine which number of priest would serve...
- Zechariah was a member of the Abijah division, on duty this particular week. Each morning a priest was to enter the Holy Place in the Temple and burn incense. This great honor could only be done once in a priest lifetime...
- Lots were cast to decide who would enter the sanctuary, and one day the lot fell to Zechariah.
- But what appeared to be chance was not by chance ... Zechariah was on duty and that he was chosen that day to enter the Holy Place—
- Incense was burned in the Temple twice daily. 9am before the morning sacrifice and 3pm after the evening sacrifice...
- The priest would be told when to light the incense and afterward would pronounce a blessing on the people from the balcony
- When the people saw the smoke from the burning incense, they prayed. The smoke drifting heavenward symbolized their prayers ascending to God's throne along with the sacrifice...

God was guiding the events of history to prepare the way for Jesus to come to earth. Hidden in plain sight

- We see in the beginning God uses people with passion...
- And one of the character qualities God looks for in a person he use's is passion...

Zechariah had what Jesus looks for in a person "Countability"... though his life had ups and downs...When it counts he was there...because he learned God is the shot called...his job is to serve..and serve he did

NLT LK 1: 11 While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. ¹² Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. ¹³ But the angel said, "Don't be afraid,

Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. (quit praying that prayer 20 years ago... God did not forget) Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. ¹⁴ You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.^[b] ¹⁶ And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children,^[c] and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”

- **"Angels are spirit beings who live in God's presence and do his will. Here, Gabriel (1:19) delivered a special message to Zechariah. This was not a dream or a vision. The angel appeared in visible form and spoke audible words to the priest.**
- **God had heard his prayer for a son...why the delay in answering?...once past the childbearing age ...spiritual enemies would not be looking at you any more...**

God worked in an "impossible" situation—Zechariah's wife was barren—to bring about the fulfillment of all the prophecies concerning the Messiah. If we want to have our prayers answered, we must be open to what God can do in impossible situations. And we must wait for God to work in his way, in his time.

******The angel not only tells him he will have a son but what name to give him..**

- *John* means "the LORD is gracious," and *Jesus* means "the LORD saves." Both names were prescribed by God, not chosen by human parents.
- John was set apart for special service to God. He may have been forbidden to drink wine as part of the Nazirite vow, an ancient vow of consecration to God (see Numbers 6:1-8). Samson (Judges 13) was under the Nazirite vow, and Samuel may have been also (1 Samuel 1:11).

What is the wisdom of the Godly? Faith in God more than what happens timing wise and circumstance wise...it has been 400 years Since The last verse of the last book of the Old Testament prophesied that before the Messiah would come his immediate predecessor...would be a prophet with the power of Elijah...

and many years since his wife menstruated

- Also this is Luke's first mention of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity; **this work would only be accomplished by the empowering of the Holy Spirit....We need the Holy Spirit's help to do God's work effectively.**

LK 1: 18 Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.” “(impossible bad timing and circumstances)

LK 1: 19 Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! ²⁰ But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”

- **Notice...the Spiritual strategy...the information given to Gabriel ...in the presence of God...no demonic entities present to hear the message**
- **Relayed to a priest in the Holy Place of the Temple...no demonic entities present** So they do not know.
- **Zechariah do you know who I am? I stand in the presence of God... I spoke with Daniel hundreds of years ago..... I know exactly what time it is and the circumstances...it is exactly the right time...and you are the right people...**
- He Renders Zechariah mute ...he is not telling anyone...and if He does...enemy will not believe...pride will not allow him to be told anything, he cannot figure out himself...
- Sometimes we just have to be quiet...and see God work... sometimes we just need to shut up
- **So we know that whatever is happening here in the natural in our lives...that there is a strategy working its way out in the supernatural and natural realm.**
- And when the timing is right and the circumstances are perfect in God’s plan ...it will be revealed...until then ...
- ***NLT Galatians 6:9*** So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.
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- So the heavenly strategy working is always working its way out in the supernatural and natural realm ...and there is a time and circumstance always involved... Past present and future!!

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