

Chapter 4: A Change in Destiny

For those who believe that the Lord is still speaking to us today, there is an issue which the Lord would like me to explore, to help us understand the nature of prophetic words.

Many Spirit-filled believers and leaders operate in the realm of the prophetic. It is common in churches and conferences for people to wait in line to receive a personal word from someone who is ministering prophetic words. It is also common for us to “hear” inner words or impressions in our private prayer times with the Lord. Sometimes, we see inner visions; at times, though not as often, we might see “open” visions right before our eyes.

These words may be general, biblical words of correction or encouragement, which would not cause us any confusion. However, at times we get a specific, directional word about our destiny or our future. These words can either be gloriously productive or confusing and disruptive in our lives. My purpose in this chapter is primarily to deal with **true** prophetic words which do not seem to “come true,” or which are changed at a later time in our lives. However, I must first address the issue of false prophetic words.

A Lying Spirit

The wicked King Ahab was surrounded by hundreds of Israeli prophets whose guidance he liked and trusted. In 1 Kings 22, we see an account where he asked these prophets if the Lord would bless a military campaign against Ramoth Gilead. They all assured him that the Lord would grant him a great victory.

However, the Judean king Jehoshaphat was visiting Ahab at this time, and he suggested that Ahab inquire of one of the Lord’s true prophets before proceeding into battle. They brought in Micaiah, whom Ahab despised, because “he never prophesies anything good about me.” Although Micaiah prophesied a disastrous defeat, the other prophets mocked him cruelly, and insisted that Ahab would be successful. Before being dragged off to prison, the righteous prophet said this:

“Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne with all the host of heaven standing around Him on His right and on His left. And the Lord said, ‘Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?’

“One suggested this, and another that. Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will entice him.’

“By what means?’ the Lord asked.

“I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said.

“You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the Lord. ‘Go and do it.’

“So now the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The Lord has decreed disaster for you” (1 Kings 22:19-23, NIV).

Most people wonder if this “volunteer” lying spirit was an angel or a demon. I’m not sure; it could have been a righteous angel, merely lying for God’s good purposes to destroy Ahab. But it could have been a demon as well, since God may have permitted this

evil spirit to serve His good purposes. Paul writes that God Himself will send a “strong delusion” into the earth in the latter days, and thus, I can’t be sure which type of spirit it was (see 2 Thess. 2:11).

Another troubling biblical account is found in 1 Kings 13:1-25. A prophet from Judah was sent with a rebuke to the idolatrous king Jeroboam. The Lord had warned this prophet not to eat bread or water after delivering the word, nor to return by the same route on which he came.

On his way home, an elderly prophet found him and enticed him to come to his house to eat and drink. At first, the Judean prophet refused, due to the fear of the Lord. But the elder prophet told him:

“I am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the Lord: ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.’” (But he was lying to him.) So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house (1 Kings 13:18-19, NIV).

While they were eating and drinking, the true word of the Lord came to the lying prophet, and he decreed that the disobedient prophet from Judah would be killed by a lion on his way home, because he had disobeyed the word of the Lord. Indeed, the young prophet was killed by a lion for his disobedience. I always felt sorry for the deceived prophet, who was killed.

In this case, a false prophet gave a false word to a true prophet. However, this false prophet also delivered a true word of the Lord after he had enticed the young prophet. The lying prophet was used by the tempter to entice the godly prophet. However, the one who lied had a genuine prophetic gift, since he could also hear a word from the Lord, as could Balaam (see chapter 11).

After the death of the young prophet, the elderly lying prophet was seized with remorse for his role in this man’s death and mourned for him deeply. He had a conscience, despite having lied. Why he lied is not entirely clear; it seems he did not expect the prophet to get killed because of this lie. Not everything is black or white in the realm of the prophetic.

Even Judas Iscariot was seized with remorse after he saw the horrible results of his betrayal of the Lord Yeshua. Satan had filled him to do this thing, and yet when he came to his senses, he was desperately sorry. Even so, his remorse was too late. This “son of destruction” was unable to repent unto salvation and committed suicide (see John 17:12).

As a side note pertaining to Judas, we find a profound warning for all of us in this terrible story. Cain was given a chance to repent before sin got the better of him. Sapphira, not knowing that her husband had been struck dead a few hours earlier, was given a chance to repent before repeating the fatal lie to Peter. Pharaoh was given many chances to repent before the Lord hardened his heart. **It is important not to miss the opportunity to repent while it is still available.** This warning is true for Christians as well as non-Christians (as with Ananias and Sapphira, who were Christians). A moment comes when it is too late, and we do not know when that moment will come.

I have read testimonies of believers who were at the deathbed of someone who had resisted previous offers to repent, and were now unable to repent before they died. These

were people who had been offered the Lord's salvation many times, and had continually refused, saying, "Maybe later."

As they lay dying, Christians would sit at their bedside, pleading with them to accept the Lord while there was still time. But in more than one account, the dying person said, "I waited too long. **My heart is like stone. I cannot repent.** Leave me alone. I already see the hellish fiends waiting to take me."

Then, as they neared death, they would scream in terror as their spirits were dragged away by over-anxious demons bearing chains. **The ability to repent is a gift from the Holy Spirit, not something we can choose anytime we want.** This is a mystery, but from these frightening deathbed testimonies, I realized that if the Lord hardens someone's heart, that person becomes a doomed "son of destruction." God forbid! Do it **today**, for we may not have tomorrow.

***Today** if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion...so I swore in My wrath, "They shall not enter My rest" (Heb. 3:7b-8a, 11).*

Now, returning to the story of the lying prophet, this is the point we can take from it: prophets can lie to us, whether knowingly or unknowingly. We must be extremely cautious, prayerful and discerning as to which prophetic words we believe and act upon.

Within the Spirit-filled community of believers, many prophetic words have been spoken which were not actually the word of the Lord. In many cases, the believer who gave the word was not deliberately opening himself up to a lying spirit. He or she "heard" a word, and did not discern it correctly. This word could then harm the believer who receives it and acts upon it. In some cases, prophets are speaking out of their own deceived imaginations, which is terribly harmful to naïve and trusting young believers (see Jer. 14:14).

If someone prophesies a specific, "directional" word over our lives, destinies or futures, we must go to our prayer closets and pray until we know that this word is truly from the Lord. There is a very small company of prophets on the earth whose words never fail and are sure and trustworthy (see 1 Sam. 3:19). However, most who prophesy still make mistakes from time to time, and we must be in prayer over each word given to us.

Unfulfilled True Prophecies

Some Christians are very quick to condemn anyone whose prophecy does not seem to come true. They refer to Deuteronomy, where it tells us that false prophets must be stoned if they lead us after other gods or if their words do not come to pass. In their zeal to condemn false prophets, these people are not taking into account the whole counsel of Scripture.

There are numerous biblical prophecies which did not come to pass in the generation that the prophet spoke them. We know that some of Isaiah's predictions about the coming Messiah's future kingdom did not come to pass in his day. These words would only be vindicated in a future generation. Likewise, Daniel and the other prophets prophesied some words which will not be fulfilled until the last generation. This by no means makes them false prophets.

In addition, there were words spoken which did not come to pass in the timeframe which the prophet predicted; however, these were true biblical prophets who were not wrong in their prophecy. Let us look at a few such cases, because these will help us in our own situations:

Jonah walked the streets of Nineveh and prophesied, “Forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.” He did not say, “if you do this” or “unless you do that.”

In response to his dire warning, the entire city repented in sackcloth and ashes and as a result, the city was not destroyed for over 100 years. Thus, Jonah’s prediction of forty days did not come to pass. And yet no one in the church would call Jonah a false prophet. We also see a changed prophecy given by Isaiah, concerning King Hezekiah.

In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, “This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.”

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord...and wept bitterly.

Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him: “Go back and tell Hezekiah...I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. I will add fifteen years to your life” (2 Kings 20: 1-2, 3b-5a, 6a, NIV).

The Lord changed Hezekiah’s destiny, in response to his prayers and tears. And yet Isaiah’s original was the word of the Lord.

The Lord told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mount Moriah. At the last second, the Lord told him not to slay his son. In this case, Abraham was being tested, although he did not know it at the time. For a test to be genuine, the person being tested cannot know it is a test. They must believe it is a fixed reality in the Lord’s mind. Abraham heard the Lord correctly, but the Lord changed the outcome at the last moment, for His own redemptive purposes.

The Lord told Moses that He would destroy the children of Israel for their disobedience. It was an unequivocal, “*Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they*” (Deut. 9:14).

Moses fasted for forty days and nights, pleading before the Lord that He might not do this thing. The Lord heard Moses’ costly intercession and relented from His plan to destroy them.

We can glean from these examples that the word of the Lord for an individual or a nation can be changed, delayed or cancelled, due to people’s prayers or responses. Unlike a fatalistic Greek drama, where everything must come to pass, no matter what, our God is a living, responsive and reasonable God, who listens to His people. He acts in conjunction with their prayers and tears and can change His decree.

Therefore, we must be very careful not to call people false prophets unless we know for sure that they are leading the Lord’s people astray into idolatry, deception or sin.

My Coffee Talks Destiny

Those who read my first book will likely remember two dramatic testimonies I shared. One was when my heart stopped with a violent jolt in the fall of 2003; there was

no pain, but I felt it stop suddenly and with great force. I then saw a year written before my eyes. This was not a heart attack, because there was no pain and I was fine moments afterwards. From that moment until now I have always believed that the Lord was showing me the year of my physical death. I could not think of any other prophetic meaning for this strange event.

The second testimony was that of my future martyrdom in a country in Europe. This took place during three days of seclusion in April, 2006. The Lord showed me in a vision, in a glory visitation, and in several external confirmations, that this word was truly from the Lord. Putting two and two together, I have always connected these two testimonies, though they were separated by three years: the stopping of my heart and the martyrdom vision. Thus, since 2006, I have believed without wavering for over three years that this would take place as the Lord revealed it to me, and in the year I was shown in 2003.

I have been accountable to my pastors about this destiny, and have struggled mightily with it. I did not doubt that it was true, and I had fully agreed to it before the Lord. However, I did not particularly want to die this death in a few short years, nor did I want to face the feeling of abandonment which the Lord had warned me about. Although I knew the Lord would not truly abandon me, He told me that I would feel that way. I would need to hang on by faith and to overcome fear.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death (Rev. 12: 11).

I also felt afraid of leaving my family to minister abroad and die. I would be alone, and who would bury me? I wondered who would take over my ministry, concerning the distribution of my books and CD's. I felt terrible for my husband, who would be alone, since our children have grown up and moved out. There were many tearful sessions, as I fought the need to imagine this final scene over and over. I conquered this to a large degree over time and did not allow my mind to go there. However, there were times during long, sleepless nights that I would worry about the event and would feel depressed about the prediction of abandonment.

After a while, I began to consistently thank the Lord for the honor of martyrdom and in my prayers, I contended hard for my destiny. I was concerned that if I felt afraid for too long, I would disqualify myself from this high calling. I reasoned that the Lord would then assign me a different kind of ending, which would be less glorifying to His name, and which would result in a lesser reward when I reached heaven. I was more afraid of losing my reward in heaven than I was of the dreaded scenario. I also wanted to please the Lord in the deepest motives of my heart, and I prayed regularly and sincerely that He would send me to this nation. I prayed that my life and my death in this nation would glorify Him and save many lives. The Lord gave me a love and a burden for this nation, and I spent over a year studying the language and taking private lessons to improve my preaching of the gospel in this language.

This year, as I write this book in 2009, I made my peace with my destiny. While I cannot say honestly that all fear disappeared, I reached a point where I was trusting the Lord to carry me through that time and to take my spirit at the perfect moment. I accepted it with a measure of joy and resolve that I had not achieved until this year. In fact, I

prayed regularly that He would not remove this honor from me due to my unworthiness and fear.

The Lord Prepared Me for Change

When I began writing this book, this chapter was not in the plan. This is because when I began, I had no idea that the Lord was going to bring a massive change into my life, purposes and destiny. He knew, of course, but I knew nothing of it.

Looking back on it, I now see the ways the Lord was preparing me for what He was about to surprise me with. I will share with you three things that happened just before I left for a particular prophetic conference, where everything changed in a moment.

1) One week before this conference, I was having a coffee talk. As you know, one of the hardest things about the martyrdom revelation was the warning that I would feel abandoned, like a lost child on a crowded city street, who could not find her father. I would feel that way, just as the Lord had felt abandoned by His Father on the cross.

In once sense, the Lord Yeshua really was abandoned, because all of our sins were laid upon Him. But in an eternal sense, He was not truly abandoned, because the Father had predetermined to raise Him from the dead into glorious exaltation, the moment His hideous ordeal was over. So He had told me, *“I wasn’t really abandoned, but it felt that way. You will feel that way, too.”*

I cannot express to you how much that hurt me and scared me. I felt I could go through anything if I could just feel the Lord’s presence wrapped around me, giving me grace to overcome the fear and the pain. But the thought of not feeling Lord at all – it just overwhelmed me with despair. There was one time I had laid on the floor, weeping hysterically and pleading with the Lord, “Please, please don’t make me do this without Your presence. I can’t do it, You know I can’t!” And I went on and on, pleading with the Lord not to let me feel abandoned.

I sensed in my heart that He was not going to respond to that kind of faithless pleading, and in fact, He did not respond, although He calmed me down with His peace. **I know that the Lord is much more moved by our faith than our fear.** When I was finished my hysteria, I got up and went back to my chair, knowing that the Lord had heard me but had probably not appreciated my lack of faith.

That was two years ago. But now, one week before this particular conference, I was back in my chair with more faith in the Lord’s goodness than I had in my previous meltdown. I knew that the Lord is a gracious and compassionate God, who hears and responds to the faith-filled prayers of His children. And so I decided to approach Him one more time about the terrible abandonment issue, which still disturbed me enormously. However, this time I approached Him as a friend with a proposition, rather than as a pleading, terrified and lost child.

This time, I calmly and rationally told Him, “Lord, I’d like You to consider changing one aspect of my destiny. I am honored to be a martyr for You, and I definitely don’t want You to remove this honor from me because of my fear and sadness. But I am deeply disturbed by this prediction of abandonment. If Your Father would consider my request, could You please change just that part? I’m not asking You to add fifteen more years to my life, as You did with Hezekiah. That wouldn’t even be good for me.” (In this I was

saying that with all the evils coming upon the earth, I was so fragile that it would be better for me to leave sooner than later.)

I continued, without crying, “If You are not pleased to grant this request, I will accept that. I know that I will hang on and be an overcomer, but if it pleases the Father, I am asking You to change this one part of my destiny.”

The Lord did not answer me at that time, but I absolutely knew He had heard me, because He always hears us. I thought in my heart, “Who knows if the Lord will be gracious and change this part of the prediction? Maybe I won’t even know if He has granted my request until the time of my death, but maybe I will feel His presence then, because of this prayer.”

I was content that I had brought this matter before Him in faith, not in fear. I knew this is the kind of prayer which moves Him to respond. I had no idea how hugely my Lord would respond only ten days later!

2) After my friends and I arrived at the conference on a Wednesday night, we were talking in the hotel. I shared with them that night that I had finally made peace with my martyrdom. I told them that I still had some fear, but I was finally at a point where I completely trusted the Lord to carry me through it, and that I knew I would overcome. I embraced my destiny as the absolute best plan for my life, or the Lord would not have ordained it for me.

3) The next day was Thursday, and we were in sessions all day. But at 4:00 in the afternoon, we were released for a dinner break, and we returned to the hotel, exhausted. Shortly after coming in, I received an unscheduled phone call from a close prophetic friend who did not know I was at a conference. This call came at the one moment in the day when I had turned on my phone and was free to talk.

He told me that he had seen a brief vision which depicted the place in heaven which the Lord had prepared for me. My friend didn’t know this but months earlier, I had made a private request of the Lord, concerning my place in heaven. My friend told me something that precisely answered my private request, which the Lord alone had heard. This vision showed my assigned place setting at a banqueting table, a place which was prepared for me long before I was born. When I entered and saw my name inscribed at my place, I would know that it had been waiting for me all this time. I would be joyful because this place fit me perfectly, and was what I had asked of the Lord. The Lord felt it would help me to know this now, because it would help me to run my race, and He prompted my dear friend to call me at that time.

Little did I know what would happen 24 hours after hearing about this vision. But this information would later help me to process a huge shift that was about to take place in my understanding of my future.

My “Changed” Destiny

Three days before writing this chapter, I attended the conference discussed above. When I go to these conferences, I almost never get in lines for prayer or to receive a prophetic word. This is not because I am opposed to this practice in any way. I appreciate

the tireless ministers and prophetic teachers who stand for hours, praying for the Lord's children. My reasons for not going up are private, and yet I will tell you anyway.

The Lord has brought me to a place where, for the most part, I need to receive my healings, instructions and blessings from Him alone. I rarely desire for a man or woman to lay hands on me and impart something to me, unless the Lord leads me to go up for prayer. I have received many healings and blessings; it is time for me to be a blessing to His flock. Of course, when I am ill, depressed or suffering pain, I would welcome prayer.

However, there are a few prophetic leaders whose integrity, humility and spiritual authority are like unto the fathers of our faith in the Bible. If one of these ministers would receive a word from the Lord for me, I would gratefully and humbly receive it. One of the speakers at this conference was such a man, who lives a consecrated life of continual prayer and fasting. Like Samuel, none of his words fall to the ground. Although I have heard him speak before, I have never asked him for a word from the Lord. I glean enough treasures from his messages to the entire audience attending the conference. His words bring the fear of the Lord to anyone who listens with a teachable heart.

At this conference, after preaching the message, he prayed a closing prayer over the audience. This lengthy word was more than a prayer; it was a strong exhortation from the Lord. As is frequently the case, he saw the Lord Jesus standing before him, speaking this word to His people. It was about forsaking our concerns about our material things. We were exhorted sternly to pursue the Lord's kingdom purposes and not our own comforts and selfish desires.

During this word, the prophet saw a large treasure box being placed at the foot of the stage. It was full of scrolls which contained the destinies of all of the participants in the room. He saw our angels holding our scrolls, and they desired to reveal to us God's purposes and destinies for our lives. However, the Lord said that His people were not asking or seeking to know these sealed destinies, and thus, they still remained unknown to us.

At that moment, to my utter astonishment, I heard the prophet speak my full name into the microphone. He began to deliver a personal word to me publicly, revealing my life's purpose and destiny, as the Lord was showing him my scroll at that very moment. Everyone in the sanctuary heard my destiny revealed at the same moment that I was hearing it.

When I realized he was speaking over my life, I knelt down to receive it. The destiny he spoke was not martyrdom in Europe at all. In fact, it was almost the opposite. It was a consecrated life of fasting and prayer in another nation, similar to the prophetess Anna, who fasted and prayed in the temple until the first coming of the Lord (see Luke 2:36-38). It would not be unto death, but unto life. The sacred destiny he was declaring over me was contingent on my obedience to go to this nation and "give my life in fasting and prayer for the coming redemption of the Lord Jesus Christ." He saw a beautiful bridal canopy stretched over me, as a Jewish bride would stand under the "chuppah" on her wedding day. This material was light and transparent, being made of gold dust.

As I listened to this lengthy personal prophecy, I was stunned, awed and a little confused. I knew this man's walk and history, and I knew that the visions he receives are from the Lord, who stands before him. And yet I wondered as he spoke: the Lord had confirmed my "earlier" destiny to me with several outside confirmations. Could this really be happening?

When my personal word finally ended, the man of God continued speaking warnings and loving exhortations to the entire flock in the room. Neither before nor after my word did he give any other personal words to individuals. He spoke about martyrdom and consecration, and most of us ended up on our knees, doing sacred business with the Lord, as he prayed for us. I hardly heard what he said after my word. I was processing this information at high-speed thought, and my head was reeling with the implications. I felt I had to talk to this prophet after the meeting. I was so worried he would be ushered away, the moment the meeting ended. I silently pleaded with the Lord to let me talk to him.

The moment he left the platform, while others were still in prayer, I approached him and begged for a moment in private. He graciously agreed, and I was permitted to follow him and his aides to a private room for a few minutes.

During that rare private conversation, I quickly shared with him my prior revelation about my martyrdom in Europe, which I had received three years and three months before. I told him this had been confirmed to me by three different people who were not connected to me nor to each other. I asked him if I had “heard wrong.” He replied that I had not heard wrong, but that the Lord had changed my destiny. He reminded me that Abraham had to be completely willing to sacrifice Isaac, but after he passed the test, the Lord changed His instructions. Likewise, I had proven that I was solidly committed to give my life for the Lord’s purposes in this other nation, and now I was receiving my new destiny. He also shared that at a particular moment in his own life, the Lord had changed his destiny, and it took him a long time to adjust to the new plan.

I tell you the truth, precious reader: If this word had come from someone else, I could have thought that a lying spirit was tempting me to avoid the high cost of martyrdom, offering me this helpful prophetic escape from death.

If the Lord had revealed this change of plans to me privately, I might have thought it was the enemy in my mind, and would have rebuked it. I was absolutely certain about my prior revelation, and had taken tangible steps to prepare for ministry in this nation. But the Lord, in His mysterious dealings, knew that there was a man I would believe. I didn’t ask anyone for a prophetic word, nor did I desire any change in my seemingly ordained martyrdom. I had agreed to it of my own free will. The Lord chose to astonish me with this revelation in front of hundreds of people I did not know, and to have it captured on DVD.

My Lord Yeshua, being satisfied that I had prayed and prepared diligently for three years and three months to minister and then be killed in this other nation, chose to rescue me as He rescued David from Saul’s spear. As He rescued Isaac from the knife. As He added fifteen years to Hezekiah’s life.

Though I did not ask the Lord for this, He changed my destiny for His own sovereign purposes, which I might not understand until the end of the age unfurls. In the Lord’s mind, this is not truly a change. Rather, it is the result of my heart’s gradual transformation, which allowed Him to open up what He had prepared for me before the worlds were formed. **A test cannot reveal itself to be merely a test; only through walking out its absolute certainty, can our heart be proven.**

In the last few days, I have been thinking about other cases, where someone’s death has been averted through prayer. Two testimonies stand out in my mind. In one case, there was a Christian mother with a husband and a three-year old son. She developed a long and debilitating heart condition, which caused her to waste into skin and bones, and

was at the point of death. She was in the hospital, awaiting one last operation, which had almost no chance of success, but her husband wanted to try anything to save her. They called for a godly man to pray for her healing. As he prayed, he sensed that the Lord was telling him it was her time to die. However, as he looked at her little son playing in the hospital hallway, oblivious to the terrible loss he was about to suffer, he began to fervently pray with great compassion for this woman and her son, who would be motherless in a few hours.

He then saw the Lord Jesus sitting on the bed with them, and He was intently watching her weep her heart out for a long time. After some time, the Lord told this man that He had seen her tears and would grant her life back to her. She was completely healed after this operation, and is still beautiful and healthy all these years later.

The other testimony was of an elderly man who was dying, and his two grown daughters begged this same man to come to his bedside and pray for healing. As he prayed, he heard the Lord tell him that this man would not be healed. That day was the man's decreed day to die, and it was settled. The prophet plainly told the daughters what the Lord had decreed, thinking that this settled the matter. However, they did not accept his answer and explained with great sorrow and desperation why their father **couldn't** die. They needed him too much, and they shared all of the terrible consequences that would befall their family if he died. They asked the prophet to go back to the Lord yet again, and so he did.

This time, after he had prayed with great pity and compassion for this family, he saw a calendar on the wall. He watched the pages flipping ahead to a new date in the future. The Lord told him that He had heard their cries, and would extend his life until the day revealed by the flipping calendar.

For the work of His Kingdom, if I will be obedient to go where He has called me, the Lord Yeshua has graciously granted me life. And yet, many of my brothers and sisters will indeed be martyred, even as I was bracing myself to undergo martyrdom in a few short years. The Lord loves all of His children, both His martyrs and those He keeps alive. Each one of us has a precious and glorious destiny. *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints (Ps. 116: 15)*. But also precious are the **living** sacrifices His children are asked to offer: fastings, hardships and persecutions, tears and intercessions for His people. This is also a difficult and sacrificial path.

There is a scroll of destiny with your name on it. Have you earnestly sought the Lord to reveal to you what is written in heaven of your life's purpose? It will remain sealed unless you seek and ask for your heavenly blueprint to be revealed to you. The Lord desires to reveal it to you more than you desire to know it! Go for it, dear reader, go for it! It is yours, reserved in heaven for you! Amen.

The Seasons of the Trees

The Lord gave me a prophetic dream, whose meaning I have not fully understood. However, I believe it connects to personal seasons and destinies, possibly changing destinies in particular. It may relate to changes in the seasons for the church in general. It had a hi-definition, biblical feeling, like a Daniel-type dream as I experienced it.

In this dream, my husband and I lived in an older house, as those built in the 1950's. We seemed to spend a lot of time alone, sitting in the modest living room, and we didn't seem to have the children.

I saw my rocking chair in the corner of the living room. I know that this rocking chair represents my intimate relationship with the Lord, because this is where I meet with Him, and this is where He appeared to me on March 23, 2007.

My husband and I were sitting on the couch, looking at the chair. Suddenly, the chair disappeared and in its place, I saw a large pot with dirt in it, one which used to have a potted plant. I knew that the plant had died a long time ago, and we had never bothered to replace it. This may represent destinies, ministries and callings in our lives and marriage which we missed, due to selfishness or disobedience.

I was sadly looking at the empty pot when suddenly, a large, magnificent tree appeared in the pot. It was lush and full of branches, covered with hundreds of small white flowers with pink centers, something like apple blossoms, only with a deep pink center. They may have been more like almond blossoms. (The almond tree is the earliest tree to bud and flower in Israel.)

Then the tree and its pot began to rotate slowly and deliberately, in one full circle, allowing us to admire it from all angles. I felt it was "showing off" its beauty for us. After making one full circuit, it stood still again.

I was astonished and delighted that the Lord had given us this tree, and excitedly pointed out this miracle to my husband. At first I thought it was a fake plant, which can often look so real. But as I touched and smelled the blossoms, I knew it was a real tree the Lord had given us. I was overjoyed, and seriously thought this would be our beautiful miracle plant forever.

But after a few moments, the tree began to be transformed before our eyes. Quickly, it morphed into a lush evergreen tree, like a pine tree, covered in full green branches. It was as beautiful as the flowering tree, but was a completely different species of tree. I knew this was a "winter tree" and that the seasons were changing. As I continued to look at the evergreen tree, I was expecting the Lord to put some beautiful clumps of white snow on the branches, to complete the winter scene.

However, to my shock and great disappointment, the needles began to drop from the tree. Thousands of pine needles rained down rapidly onto the ground, and within moments, the branches were left bare. This made me sad; I felt the tree must have died, but I wasn't convinced it was really dead. I still felt some hope left in the tree.

As soon as the branches were bare, the Lord Yeshua appeared, standing among the lower branches of the tree. At first, He seemed so small that I thought He couldn't be real, but as I looked, I realized He was truly the Lord. He began walking among the bare branches of the tree, earnestly searching for fruit on the bare branches.

Then for a moment, the scene changed: I saw the full-sized Lord in a forest of evergreens, and He was padding skillfully through the thick woods like an Indian scout, moving purposefully through the forest. The Lord was pushing aside many branches as He walked, searching for fruit on tree after tree.

Then the scene returned to our living room, and the Lord was back to walking and searching for fruit among the bare branches of our potted tree. I looked down at Him, overwhelmed with love and happiness to see Him, and cried out, "Beloved!"

Yeshua looked up at me, and began to walk out of the tree, towards where we were seated on the couch. As He came out, He grew larger and larger. The Lord looked at me, reached out His hand, and briefly squeezed my hand with affection; His hand was normal size, warm and soft. But He moved past me quickly, like a man on a mission, and headed toward my husband. He then began to do a transforming work in my husband.

When I woke up, this is the verse that immediately came into my mind:

*For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and breasts that never nursed! **For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?** (Luke 23: 29, 31).*

There are different seasons in our lives and in the history of the church. In many cases, including my own, much of our lives have produced no lasting life or fruit for the Lord, nothing to show Him but an empty pot full of dirt. **This pot represents the place where our destinies should have flourished like flowering and fruitful trees, but we did not seek them, nurture them, or pay the price to walk in them.**

This pot also represents the lack of life and true fruit in the western church over the past generation. At the conference, the prophet saw many scrolls of destiny, one for each believer in the room, but they will never know their destinies unless they seek and ask for them to be revealed. If they don't, their futures will not flourish with the Lord's ordained purposes for them.

In His kindness and mercy, despite our negligence and carelessness, **the Lord has sovereignly granted us one last life-bearing cycle, during which we must produce fruit and reap a harvest of souls for His kingdom.** This last chance is extended to all individuals and to churches and ministries. He has first given us a leafy tree, full of fragrant blossoms, which represents a season of abundant, undeserved blessings, wealth, youthful beauty, growth, and fragrant offerings to the Lord. He is showing off His beauty and generosity to us, and we are twirling before Him like a well-adorned Bride, showing off our magnificent blossoms. I believe this lush and flowering season is almost or completely behind us at this point. Many of us enjoyed the flowers without maturing for the time of fruit.

After this season, comes the season of maturity. The evergreen tree is a symbol of the mature Bride. She displays a less flamboyant beauty, for she is a sturdy, unwavering, mature, soldierly and stately tree. She does not twirl in girlish vanity, nor does she flower or show off, but she is fruitful, bearing the fruit of hard, "armored" pine cones; these carry her seed for the next generation of harvested souls.

We would like the Lord to crown her with the "icing" of white snow to adorn and decorate her branches. This would be like a ripening into a princely old age, full of years. However, He is accelerating everything, and this maturity will not be a long season. The Lord is allowing the darkness of these final years of the church age to strip away all her needles, all her comforts and support structures. He must shake everything that can be shaken, and the church will be purged, pruned, tested and examined for fruit.

I hate to say this, but I believe the bare branches might represent losing our money and homes and enduring great hardships for the kingdom of God. I hope it does not mean this, at least not in all cases. For believers who have been comfortable, this will be so difficult that many will be tempted to join the enemy's system and ultimately, take the

mark of the beast to receive physical sustenance. This would bring temporary relief but our eternal souls would be damned. God forbid!

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.

*Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the **removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.***

*My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; **For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives** (Heb. 12: 25-27, 5b-6).*

Beloved ones, the Lord is searching for fruit among our branches. Even when the twig is dry and bare, and all of the normal supports of this world system have been stripped away from us, the Lord Jesus expects us to bear fruit. How He searches among the branches for the lasting fruits of His Holy Spirit. He searches as a father for his missing child.

Both the destinies of martyrdom and the sacrificial life of fasting, prayer and reduced circumstances are costly and painful lifestyles. Both of these special destinies feel like death to our flesh; they hurt our human strength, pride, and any sense of controlling our own lives. They are both very humbling paths, full of tears. If we agree to either of these destinies, which only the Lord can determine, we will feel like a mature pine tree which has been stripped of its beautiful covering of protective needles.

Even so, the Lord expects us to bear fruit, even the armored pine cones bearing the good seed of the Son of Man (see Mt. 13:37-39). These pine cones represent putting on the full armor of Messiah in the last days' battle against evil (see Eph. 6: 13-18). We might feel like a dry, dead stick for a season, but we are very much alive in Messiah Yeshua and will continue to bear much fruit if we abide in Him!

Ask the Lord now to examine the fruit of your life; ask Him to prune or strip away everything that hinders you from bearing fruit which will hold up under heaven's fiery scrutiny and the world's cruelty on that day. Ask Him to pull out the "tares" in the field of your heart, so that the good seed may flourish, and not be choked out by soulish strongholds, woundedness and offenses. May our Vinedresser find lasting fruit on our bare branches in that day. Amen.

This song was written as a parable for the lives of individuals, as well as for Israel and the Church.

Where is My Son?

When I saw you in the desert, you were early fruit to me
In the spring your branches blossomed, in the winter, evergreen
As a newborn, no nation loved you, then I washed and gathered you
When you grew to love's awakening, with My wing I covered you

Where is My son that he might run to Me?
Where is My son that he might come?
Open your heart that you would cling to Me
I AM your rock, the only One

Oh my son, there is a river, I would plant you by My streams
The branch is bare, your roots are withered, how can you bear fruit to Me?
Though father and mother forsake you, I will gather you
Still I love you, still you grieve Me, still I wait for you
For you desire to be My chosen, and hold My word in high esteem
But My tears are ever falling, why is My son far from Me?

Though you treat Me like a stranger, relentless I pursue
Still I call you, still you pierce Me, still I weep for you

Let us spend the night together, and in the morning we will seek
For the vines of summer's blooming
For the late fruit on the tree
Where is the flower and fragrance?
Where is the fruit of your desire?
How I search among the branches as a Father for His child