



2021: Are We Ready?

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Yah's Year: God's year still has three more months

B. More Difficulty Coming

1. Secular Historians Have Predicted It: William Strauss & Neil Howe's *The Fourth Turning* and their preceding *Generations* book describe a severe season of crisis happening in approximately 80-year cycles within American history where four different prototype generations appear in a particular constellation. Examples: the American Revolution (1776); the Civil War (1860); World War 2 (1940); & ? (2020)
2. Personal Dream: my dream from August 2019 of a series of storms coming on our nation.
3. Sowing & Reaping as a Nation: there is a coming reckoning for our nation based on consistent, increasing, unrighteous choices.
4. No Sucker Punch: we want to avoid a sucker punch by not being emotionally caught by surprise when things heat up

C. Encouragement: I want to attempt to bring encouragement in the midst of difficulty. I'm actually hopeful as I think of this coming calendar year.

II. THOUGHTS ON THE YEAR

A. Suffering/Difficulty: we haven't experienced much of that in our nation

1. Fallen World: We live in a fallen world and suffering is a consequence of this.
2. The End Goal: What is the end goal of suffering? Is God sadistic?
 - a. Part of suffering's role is for preparation for the Believers for future assignments. Just as Yeshua suffered before (and in preparation of) His exaltation, so too will we suffer for the same reasons.
 - b. Part of suffering's role for Unbelievers is to have them ask the most important questions and to look for God. In easy times folks don't generally seek out God.
3. Coming Glory: Difficulty can't compare with the coming glory
16That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 - a. We have His presence now and a glorious inheritance for the future
4. Progression of Pressures: The progression of the coming pressure for Believers in Yeshua will first be psychological, then economic, then ultimately (especially in the times directly preceding Yeshua's return) imprisonment, and ultimately martyrdom/death for our faith.
5. The Worst: God's got it covered. What's the worst that could happen (Romans 8:35-36)? These things can't separate us from His love.
35Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have:
 1. trouble,
 2. or calamity,
 3. or are persecuted,
 4. or hungry,
 5. or destitute,
 6. or in danger,
 7. or threatened with death?
 8. Actual Death:

36(As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”)

6. Victory is Ours

37No, despite all these things,

overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38And I am convinced that nothing (including the past listed items) can ever separate us from God’s love.

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7. Happiness: Happiness is when reality exceeds your expectations. Conversely, when wrong or too high expectations meet reality, the result is disappointment and unhappiness.

B. Our Questions: Keep talking with Him but focus on His goodness and that which is coming

1. Gideon’s Example

a. God didn’t answer his questions (Judges 6:11-14)

i. If God is with us, why has this happened? Where are God’s mighty deeds?

b. God called him again and reminded him that He was sending him

c. Application: Some of you have questions God isn’t answering which is keeping you from God’s call in responding individually; What is God calling you to? Might be something that bothers you; might be an opportunity.

C. Going Together (You All)

1. Corporate You’s: where we go one we go all;

2. Apostolic Prayers: The apostolic prayers (prayers recorded in the Scriptures) pray for the glory, revelation, and empowerment of the church

a. All of the Lord’s prayer and apostolic prayers are in the plural you

3. Micro to the Macro: Connect on the micro and network on the macro

D. Discover Your Part

1. Stay in Your Lane: know what your calling and sweet spot is.

2. Seven Spheres: There are seven spheres in which to establish the kingdom of God:

a. Religion

b. The Family

c. Government/law

d. Education

e. Science, Health, & Environment

f. Business

g. Media & Arts

III. UP, IN, & OUT

A. Up: Prayer – God is our only hope; Steve’s vision/picture; prayer will bring wise strategies for action

1. Join in – establish these rhythms of prayer before you “need to”

2. Focus on specifics aspects of Yah’s character

a. Yeshua’s love: He took our sins and went to the cross for us: Dayenu!

b. The throne: Revelation 4 & 5; Daniel 7; gives us perspective

3. Maranatha: Be aware of the coming days: Study the coming days

B. In: Simple structure – under the radar; able to multiply quickly and easily

1. Be committed to a smaller group; but realize the body of Christ is much bigger

a. The congregation of Denver

2. Keep Congregating: do not forsake the assembling together (*at least* weekly if you are able)

C. Out: Reaching out to others to bring the kingdom

1. Evangelism: sharing our lives and our faith; we have the Answer. Seven witnessing styles (from Danny Lehman):

1. *The Intentional Style*: Intentionally attempting to arrest the attention of nonbelievers to engage them in dialogue about the gospel (Mark 16:15)
 2. *The Interpersonal Style*: (what has been termed “friendship evangelism.”). Making use of the relationship bridges that God has put in our lives in order to tell our friends about Yeshua (Matthew 11:19)
 3. *The Invitational Style*: Simply inviting someone to your home or an event, e.g., a concert, movie, or church service (John 4:29).
 4. *The Intellectual Style*: Giving reasons for faith by the use of our renewed and sanctified mind (Acts 17:22-31).
 5. *The Testimonial Style*: Simply and enthusiastically telling people what God has done in our lives (John 9).
 6. *The Demonstrational Style*: Showing God’s love in practical ways so people can “see” the light of the Gospel (Matthew 5:16)
 7. *The Supernatural Style*: Praying for the sick and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to demonstrate a God who is alive and active by His Spirit (Acts 9:33-35, 40-42)
2. Discipleship Steps
 Weightier Commands of Yeshua:
1. **Repent, believe, and receive the Holy Spirit** (conversion) Mark 1:15; John 3:16; 20:22.
 2. **Be baptized** and live the new life it initiates, leading to all that has to do with ongoing transformation, Matthew 28:18-20
 3. **Love** God, neighbor, fellow disciples, the needy—in a practical way—and enemies (forgive), Matthew 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 5:43-48
 4. **Break bread** (Communion related to all that we do to worship), Matthew 26:26-28; John 4:24
 5. **Pray** (private and family devotions, intercession and spiritual warfare), John 16:24
 6. **Give** (Stewardship of our time, treasure, and talents), Luke 6:38
 7. **Make disciples** (witness for Yeshua, shepherd, apply the Word, train leaders, send missionaries), Matthew 28:18-20 (As found in *Church Multiplication Guide* by George Patterson pg. 22)

Interposition:

A. What Had Gone Before (Judges 6:1-10)

1. Oppression from their enemies
2. The people cried out to Yahweh (6:7)
 - a. Pattern in Judges
3. The cause of the oppression (6:8-10)
4. Application: Are you remembering God's deeds in your own life? What are your present enemies? Are you crying out to God (how is your prayer life)? What are you doing about it? Are you obeying God's voice?

B. Call (Judges 6:11-14)

1. God's initial call to Gideon (6:11-12)
 - a. God was with Gideon singularly; God is always looking for a person; will you be a person that God uses?
2. God didn't answer his questions
 - a. If God is with us, why has this happened? Where are God's mighty deeds?
3. God called him again and reminded him that He was sending him
4. Application: Some of you have questions God isn't answering which is keeping you from God's call in responding individually; What is God calling you to? Might be something that bothers you; might be an opportunity.

C. Communion (Judges 6:15-17)

1. Gideon said "I'm a nobody" (6:15)
2. God said "I'll be with you (6:16)