

555, 458 and The Lord God Bird

I feel that the Lord may be presently speaking to people through the number 555. As with many folks, the Lord often awakens me in the night to talk to me. He often will coordinate my awakening with a specific time on the clock that will be part of a message that He wishes to communicate to me. On the date May 5, 2005 (5-5-05), He awakened me at 4:58am. Of course the number five represent grace, and 5-5-5 would represent divine grace. This date also was marked as Ascension Day on many calendars. It also was the National Day of Prayer this year.

The time 4:58 immediately communicated something to me. You see, this is the number in a large caliber rifle often called an "elephant rifle". It was originally designed for such large African game and is still perhaps the most popular big bore caliber used in Africa to this day. I began to ask the Lord about what this might mean. I was led to Psalms 45:8, "All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad." The first thing I noticed was the connection between the "elephant gun" and the reference to ivory in this verse. Like a hunter hot on the track of big game, I could feel the tingle in my spine as "the chase was on." He had already made me glad!

Months before I had been in pursuit of another of these "big gun" words. I have written about this in another [article](#), but briefly the Lord had awakened me at 5:05 am, which on my clock looks like SOS. Eventually the spirit took me to Song of Solomon (SOS) 5:5 (5:05) which reads - "I arose to open for my beloved, And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, On the handles of the lock." Here the myrrh - which speaks of intercession and worship - was on the lock of the door and got on the hand of the bride. In Ps 4:58 the myrrh is on the garments of the bride. To my thinking this is a key to opening the lock (handle) of the door that the beloved is standing behind, that is to have on the garments of praise, to be clothed in worship and righteousness.

Isaiah 61:3, "To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Now there is more that I could see in this verse, and the Lord soon added to that. The reference to ivory made me search a bit for a deeper meaning. Ivory is of course a tooth. A long strong tooth. Teeth in the prophetic language often represent relationships. Relationships come in pairs, so do teeth. So there is an inference to a long, strong relationship having to do with the palace. The King or the prince lives in a palace. So again I felt the Lord was giving me keys to understanding how to open the door to come into His presence. Like Esther desiring to see the King, there was a relationship that she had to honor, and also build her invitation to stay in his presence upon. Through the garments of worship and intercession, built upon long strong relationship, I believe He has given us keys to unlocking the door to intimacy that the bridegroom is standing behind.

The Lord was ready to add to the communication. About the same time that I received the 4-5-8 word, I had also heard about the re-discovery of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker, thought to be extinct for the past seventy years. The Ivory Billed is the largest wood pecker known to North America, and one of the largest in the world. Since I was a child they have interested me. I did not at first connect this to the reference to ivory in Psalm 45:8, but when I read an article about the Ivory Billed while I was flying to a conference I realized there was something the Lord was saying to me through this bird also. As I read with interest an article about the re-discovery of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker, I was surprised to find that one of the old names used to refer to the bird when it was much more common was "the Lord God Bird."

This grabbed my attention and made me realize that the Lord was also speaking something through this bird's rediscovery. The reference to ivory of course related back to the long strong relationship with the Lord God. Recently the Ivory Billed has been called in the national press "the Ornithologist's Holy Grail." The Holy Grail, in a general sense, is something of rare value which is sought after. It literally is considered to be the cup from which Christ drank at the Last Supper. Crusades have been waged in part to find the legendary cup, without ever discovering it. In a figurative sense it would represent that cup which held the wine representing the blood of Christ, the blood of the New Covenant. What could be more necessary to the long strong relationship with the prince than the blood of the New Covenant and all that it represents in forgiveness and cleansing and dominion over all the forces of darkness?

As I prayed into what more the Lord might be saying I had the thought to look up any verses in the bible which might have all three words, Lord, God & Bird. There are four, each of which have to do with dominion, and each of which may contain a message that we may apply today.

The first is contained in the record of the Lord God's relationship with Adam in training him how to use the dominion over the earth and the inhabitants of the natural realm.

Genesis 2:19, "Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name."

There is a principle in scripture, "Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you.'" (Num 14:28). The Lord may be reminding the church that we can have what we will say that is within His will. We have been hearing so much about destruction and judgment, perhaps we have forgotten that the Lord is a God of Mercy to those who will seek it. He is willing to give divine grace to those who will judge themselves now so as not to be judged with the world. If we will call blessed what He has called blessed He will bring it to pass upon the earth.

The second verse which contains the three words has to do with dominion over God's enemies. It is in the record of David going out to meet Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:45,46, "Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

The name of the Lord is the power of attorney that we have in the name of Jesus Christ. When we speak things in His name according to His, they will come to pass. The flip side of this is that if we will not speak them they won't come to pass. He left us instructions to speak in His name the things which will bring glory to God.

John 14:13, "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

The third verse is one that shows dominion and judgment over evil men. I feel that there may be a special application of this section to our nation today as there is a portion of the Judiciary which is being influenced by a spirit of anti-Christ. This group of jurors has almost succeeded in forming an oligarchy which if not deterred will step by step subvert the government of the people. This is quite troublesome to many who are aware of what has been occurring. It was so worrisome to me that I was praying to the Lord about this when I realized that all the news about what they were accomplishing in the name of secularism was causing me to lose heart. The Lord took me to the book of Luke to a parable that He specifically told so that we "ought to pray and not lose heart." It was the parable about "a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man." (Luke 18). Amazingly two thousand years ago He had given the advice on what to do when the Judiciary no longer took heed of either their responsibilities to God or the population. If this section with the Lord God Bird can be interpreted as a word for our nation now, than this is indeed good news.

Ezekiel 13:19-23, "And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies? Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds. I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life. Therefore you shall no longer envision futility nor practice divination; for I will deliver My people out of your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

You see in the days of Ezekiel God brought judgment upon unrighteous judges who punished the innocent and rewarded the guilty. If this can be applied to our day, than it is possible that changes are on the horizon for those who do not seek justice in the judiciary.

Malachi 3:16-18, "Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him. Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him".

The last section to mention Lord, God, Bird speaks of dominion over the enemies of God's people -

Ezekiel 39:17, "And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: "Assemble yourselves and come; Gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you, A great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, That you may eat flesh and drink blood."

The context of this section is that God will bring such destruction against those who threaten His people that it will be like a sacrifice to the beasts and birds of the field. This may be a subtle mention of judgment upon idolatry because all sacrificial meals left before dumb idols for long become meals for birds or beasts. So it is today with present day worshipers of false gods, their works and sacrifices will amount to nothing before the Just God of heaven and earth. Can it be that through this that we can infer a present day reference to the so called war on Terrorism? While this war is being fought by men and machines it most assuredly is against the forces of darkness and their minions. These forces of darkness will inevitably be subjected by those who will seek the face of God.

Through these verses I began to be glad about the possible message that the Lord was trying to communicate to me. Perhaps things aren't as bad as they have seemed and as bad as the nay-sayers have been saying. Perhaps the oil of joy and the garments of praise are weapons that we can use in our spiritual warfare today. Since each reference has to do with dominion, we need to understand that we have a big part in influencing a good result from what the Lord is saying. Dominion is something that the Lord God has delegated, but something we must exercise. Just as when the apostle Paul sought the Lord three times and the Lord answered him, "My Grace is sufficient for you." Grace is something we can get from the Lord at His throne (Heb 4:16). When the Lord told Paul three times His grace was sufficient - this was like an answer Grace, Grace, Grace (555). The Lord wasn't saying "too bad put up with the problem", He was saying "I have given you sufficient grace, now you take dominion over the messenger (angel) of Satan."

There was another occurrence which I thought might be related. While I was at the conference for the fellowship of ministers related to MorningStar ministries, one morning Bob Jones was awoken at 5:55, which had also been happening to a number of us. Now looking back it seems that on this day at Heritage International Ministries or HIM, the state inspectors were finalizing their report on the inspection of the building

known as “the tower”. This was a building containing over 500 hotel rooms. It was thought that this building would be condemned and would need to be demolished. However, the report said that the structure was sound, and although it had never been totally completed in the day it was built, it now may be repaired in the sections which were completed, and the rest may be completed some day. This was an extreme blessing in many ways. In one way it may fit with what many have been suggesting, that the restoration and redemption of the Heritage property and restoring its former good name is a prophetic message about the Church. When this report came in about the tower, it was said that perhaps the body of Christ isn't in as poor shape as we once suspected, and might be closer to being restored to its former glory.

These reports made me think of another tower, which was left uncompleted for years, later to be restored and then completed. It is known as the Washington Monument. It sat uncompleted for all the years of the American Civil war, and many thought it would never be completed. But construction began again on the tower, and when it was completed it stood 555 feet tall, as it does to this day. Across the very top on the metal cap it reads “Laus Deo” which literally means "praise be to God" which is Glory to God. Being up that high, I suppose the Lord God and the birds get to read it most often.

This evidence leads me to believe that “our salvation is nearer than when we first believed”. Perhaps the Lord is communicating that if we will continue to seek Him, not only will we find Him closer than we thought, but that the things He is planning to do for us in this day are about to astound even the most optimistic among us. Those who seek Him will find Him. These things all bring gladness to my heart, and glory to God.

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