

June , 2010
Into the looking glass

In recent weeks I have been carrying an intercessory burden that will come and go. It's unlike anything I have felt since the spring of 2001. But I needed more specific definition about the burden I was carrying. As I was out early in the morning praying I asked the Lord for more clarity. As I sat on a log and prayed I heard clearly the words "don't allow the enemy to sneak up behind you, look into the mirror to see what's coming." I actually felt like looking over my shoulder to see if someone were coming up behind me. But in my mind I could see a picture of looking into a mirror and over my shoulder to see anything coming up behind me.

When I got home I told my wife what the Lord had spoken to me and asked her for her impression on what it might mean. She said when I told her what was said she immediately thought of the rear view mirror on her car that says "*the objects in the mirror are closer than you think.*" We thought that whatever is attempting to "sneak up on us" is closer than it seems.

Interpretation is a very critical part of a revelation and worth spending time, prayer, and council over. I mentioned the word I'd received to a prophetic pastor friend of mine over the phone, and as I did I had a picture of the Greek hero Perseus whom, you will recall, defeated Medusa. Medusa could turn anyone into stone who looked upon her. But by using his polished shield as a mirror he was able to look around objects to "see what was coming" and by seeing Medusa's reflection in his "mirror", he was able to safely behead her. He even used that head as a weapon in the future. I had not thought of this story for a possible interpretation before that moment. As soon as I shared it with my friend, he exclaimed that instantly, when I mentioned looking in the mirror to see what was coming, he thought that what is behind us is our history, and the history of our government is Greece, the birthplace of democracy and the first republic and inspiration for our republic. When I then brought up an example from Greek mythology he couldn't keep it to himself.

He thought their history is our history but they have left the balanced blessing of a republic and are suffering grave consequences for doing so. We likewise have left the balanced government of a republic, although much more recently, and are beginning to feel the consequences of doing so. Could it be that what we have been watching in Greece is just around the corner for us, and closer than we think?

Hos 5:8 "Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah, The trumpet in Ramah! Cry aloud at Beth Aven, 'Look behind you, O Benjamin!'

On the morning that I had the experience of hearing the word about looking in the mirror to see what is coming I also had my weekly leader's prayer meeting with other city-church leaders. On the way there I heard on the radio about an accident which took the life of a fellow minister. All the details did not come out immediately but this was a pastor, and husband, and father of thirteen. It was sudden and tragic as he was riding his motor cycle. In fact the details of the accident were not known to me until after I had written the earlier portion of this piece, but the

similarities to what the Lord had said to me on that same morning are so close as to be sobering.

As he was riding his motorcycle down the highway, a drunk driver overtook him and ran into him causing him to go out of control killing him almost instantly. Had he seen the person over taking him in his rear view mirror all that would have been necessary to avert the accident would have been for him to change lanes and get out of the way of the vehicle which was overtaking him. While I am in no way implying that the Lord had anything to do with this tragic event, I am saying that the message that can be received from this incident is so similar to the word I received on that same morning that I cannot ignore the application.

1 Thess 5:4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

When I was sitting on that log and heard the warning about not allowing myself to be attacked from behind, my first thought after I heard these words was of the brazen laver in the tabernacle of Moses. The brazen laver was where the priests would go to wash themselves from all the blood and dirt that would get on them in the course of ministering to the Lord. The brazen laver was made from the mirrors the women donated (Ex 38:8)! The laver was a representation of the Messiah to come. The symbolism in this for us is quite striking. The laver, representing Christ, was filled with pure water and, as the Priests would wash, it would be refreshed until they were clean. This was symbolic of the exhortation to us to be “washed in the water of the Word” (Eph 5:26). Interestingly they would know when they were done washing when they could see their reflection in the mirrors, for us this would represent that we could see our reflection in Christ.

1 Cor 13:12-13: “It is the same with us. Now we see God as if we are looking at a reflection in a mirror. But then, in the future, we will see him right before our eyes. Now I know only a part, but at that time I will know fully, as God has known me.” (ERV)

Most people will associate a mirror with vanity - “mirror mirror on the wall, whose the fairest one of all”? But we are to think of it as a part of our purification process, and “pursue - holiness without which no one will see *the Lord*” (Heb 12:14).

Eph 4:17-18: “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart...” (KJV)

The Lord is giving us fair warning about the days ahead because he cares for us. Those who want to know what is coming will need to purify their hearts. Those who will do this will use the mirror to reflect the glory of Christ in them as salt and light, those who walk in vain glory will be in danger of being overtaken by those things which are about to come. If we will be cleansed by the washing of the Word, and walk in humility, looking into the reflection of Christ for

clarification on things which are to come, we may only need to change lanes in order to be protected from all which the enemy is preparing. I believe the burden for intercession I was feeling was not for a personal situation but for a corporate or national situation. But I believe the interpretation gives personal direction on what an individual should do in order to be protected from what may be coming. We are not to look back at the things we have done (Phil 3:13), but look forward with a mind toward what may be coming up behind. View the future with a mind toward the past, keeping a pure heart and clean hands (Ps 24:3-5).

There may be some wisdom for us in the words of the statesman Edmund Burke, "Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." We can learn from the past while preparing to see the Lord, let his glory identify the threats of the enemy, prepare ourselves as we can, and change lanes when necessary.

Eph 5:26: "that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish." (NKJV)