

Dear Friend,

Before John the Baptist appeared, there had not been a prophet's voice heard in Israel in four hundred years. The nation was being ruled by the iron boot of the Roman Empire. Every rebellion that had arisen to overthrow the Romans had been crushed. If ever there was a time where the future of Israel appeared to be hopeless, it was during the years right before the birth of Jesus Christ.

The people did not know that God was working behind the scenes. In that unseen realm of the Spirit, God was planning the greatest revival the world had ever seen. Darkness is no barrier for our Father. One time He said to me while in prayer, "I do My best work in the dark."

Remember, God is the One who calls forth light in the midst of the darkness. Even from the beginning of creation, when darkness covered the face of the deep, God said, "**Let there be light, and there was light.**" [Gen 1:3]

The people did not know it, but even before the conception of Christ in the womb of Mary, God had opened the womb of her cousin Elizabeth. This barren woman had become pregnant six months prior in order that the last prophet of the Old Covenant could be born and fulfill a promise of God. Hundreds of years in advance, God had promised to send forth one whose voice would cry in the wilderness, "**Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**" [Isaiah 40:3]

Those words by the prophet Isaiah were read aloud often in the temple and in the synagogues over the centuries. Yet nothing seemed to change. I wonder what the people thought when they heard those words read again and again. These were people who had never heard the voice of a prophet of God in their lifetime. They were conquered people. People with almost no hope of a future. By all natural appearances, they were a people who had been cast aside by their God. Had the words of God spoken by the prophet Isaiah become meaningless to them?

Then suddenly one day, after more than four hundred years of darkness with no voice of a prophet in the land,

Matthew 3:1-6 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, [2] And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. [3] For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. [4] And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. [5] Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, [6] And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

No matter how dark things appeared, no matter that God had not spoken by a prophet to them in over four hundred years ... God keeps His promises! When the darkness was thick and all

seemed hopeless, God was working to send the Savior of the world to start a revival that would “turn the world upside down.” [Acts 17:6]

Matthew 4:16-17 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. [17] From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The people who sat in darkness ... saw great light! In a time of extreme darkness, the Savior of the world had been born and the kingdom of God had been made available to man.

As I write this letter today, there is war raging in Europe as Russia is invading the people of the Ukraine. China sits like a crouching tiger ready to pounce on the nation of Taiwan. As Jesus prophesied, we are living in a time of “**wars and rumors of wars.**” [Mat 24:6]

Our own government in the USA seems determined to drive God from every segment of our society. They offer the innocent blood of our unborn children on the altar of abortion. They have not only removed the Bible and prayer from our schools but have replaced them with books that teach sexual perversion to our children. They have legalized lifestyles that God says are abominable to Him.

In my lifetime, I have never seen such a time of darkness in this nation. But God does great work in the dark. He is working behind the scenes with the remnant of believers who will not depart from Him and His ways. There is a remnant who is seeking God through prayer, fasting, and worship that will not let go of the hem of His garment until power flows from Him once more to heal our land.

We who sit in darkness are about to see great light. We are in the edge waters of the greatest revival the world has ever seen. Let us not despair at the darkness. Let us praise God for the light. Let us seek Him who brings forth light to replace the darkness.

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

GARY