




THE FIVE-YEAR DANGER MARK IS COMING

*The Possible Danger
That May Impact Preaching*

BY PERRY STONE



CHRIST ONCE REBUKED THE RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY of his day by pointing to the sky and noting how they could discern tomorrows weather by the color in the sky but were totally blind to the signs of the times (Matt. 16:3). In Jeremiah's day, the prophet foresaw a massive Babylonian invasion coming to Jerusalem and cried out warnings against the backslidings of Judah and Jerusalem. Instead of being received, he was arrested and confined in a muddy pit where he almost perished. Even the priests and elders rejected his prophecies as Jerusalem was, at that time, overflowing with prosperity and no "sign" of impending destruction was in view. It was about

forty years later when the Babylonians, like a swarm of locusts, overtook Judea and Jerusalem, leaving the holy city in smoking ruins.

There is an imminent danger looming over the horizon; A coming storm that can impact both the freedom to preach the Gospel and the ability to support major ministry outreaches. One danger is brewing from *within*, and the other forming from *without*. Let us first explore the threats *within*.

DANGER SIGNS FROM WITHIN

During the past several years of travel, I have observed that a generation of faithful praying saints, who also gladly supported world mission and North America evangelism, are stepping away from the scene and going home to be with Christ. Their departure leaves numerous voids, evident in the church. The upcoming younger generation has three weaknesses that will negatively impact the Body of Christ in the near future.

First, many under thirty have *no commitment to any local church*. They are "free spirits," and are "blowing in the wind," reminding me of Jude's warning of "wandering stars" (Jude 13). Many use Sunday as just another free day to take the kids for year-round sporting events and tournaments. Others use the Sabbath to sit in the sun, rather than a day of worship. This is the E-Church (electronic church) generation, who stays at home sitting in their pajamas, sipping coffee, watching a minister on the internet, but are never, ever seen in a local assembly, breaking the admonition to "not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as is the manner of some" (Heb. 10:25). Many rural churches are closing their doors once the older generation passes as there is a shortage of people to maintain the facility. Buildings sit empty or are sold. *Even my granddad's church in Maryland, where I preached my first sermon was sold by the denomination and is now small apartments*. Church attendance will die as more people choose to stay home.

Second, a vast majority of the under thirty see *no need in tithing or financially supporting* a local congregation or ministry. Church giving is down by as much as 50% in some regions. Unless raised in the church, few individuals under thirty, view tithing, not as an avenue of blessing or a provision the kingdom can use in global ministry but as an unnecessary financial burden that subtracts from their weekly income. Many are in debt and take for themselves what "belongs to the Lord" (Mal. 3:8-10). With a lack of support, all church and ministry outreaches can be impacted, closing the doors of ministry opportunity.

Thirdly, this new generation, including believers, has been raised in a culture of entitlement. This is evident as the college-age voters select a candidate promising them everything free, and paid for by the older working class, thus getting something for nothing. They seldom, if ever purchase any resource material, but will spend hours seeking out the information on YouTube and the Internet,

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preventing the need to purchase teaching or ministry resources. Christian singers and musicians often depend upon album sales and song royalties to provide income for their families, just as your job is the source of money for your family. Thousands of Christian songs are “bootlegged” and made available to others on social media and phone apps, with the singer receiving nothing to help them in their ministry or family. If the Voice of Evangelism had the income from the “bootlegged” resource material during the past ten years, I could have already built a wonderful youth camp debt-free. However, the “bootleggers” teach that the Gospel is “free.” Their site is your source for taking another person’s intellectual property, research, and hard work and by doing so, proving that to you through their YouTube channel, where without permission from the person whose blood, sweat, and hours of hard work is shared and never appreciated. They refuse the verse, “A workman is worthy of his hire” (Luke 10:7), and “those who labor in the word and doctrine are worthy of double honor” (1 Tim. 5:17), and “the laborer is worthy of his reward” (1 Tim 5:18). On Facebook, I am rebuked for offering a resource for a cost and reminded that I should send it out free to everyone.

LOOK AT WHAT IS FREE

As far as “free,” consider what our ministry *pays for and provides to you for free*. There is no registration fee or entrance fee to any OCI conference as we cover all expenses. Each Warrior-Fest costs the ministry tens of thousands of dollars that we pay, and no fee is required to attend. There is no entrance or ticket fee to any regional event (we pay the expenses). Our VOE mailing costs us over \$500,000 a year as we pay to send out product. We send out the Voice of Evangelism magazine free after the first year and never have a yearly renewal subscription fee. We send books free to those who are in prison when they are available. I preach (with Robby James and Bryan Cutshall) at OCI all year and never receive a personal offering, nor are we paid for it. OCI services are online without a cost. All of our thousands of messages from Manna-Fest on social media cost a person nothing. That is the short list. However, when I make a resource offer, especially on Facebook, the angry Christian almost cuss me out explaining how I am a “money-grubbing prosperity preacher!”

I have discussed the “everything free” trend and realized that within five years there might be a shortage of Christian programming on television because there will

not be support provided by viewers to keep the programs on the air. If this trend continues, I cannot pay my television production team, the postage to send out material along with many other resources such as production, editing, and mailing, as it is a high cost me. This is not counting five million dollars in yearly air time. The lack of support will eventually close many opportunities, as it costs VOE and OCI to keep the outreaches reaching out.

THE TROUBLE FROM WITHOUT

The trouble from without is a *war for freedom of speech*. While the liberals have tagged themselves the champions of free speech, it is evident they are turncoats and are now agents of destroying any speech that *differs with their worldview*. They interrupt speakers who are conservative, they scream and protest people with opposing opinions, and they are encouraging violence toward anyone who supports the present administration. Wearing a certain hat, T-shirt, or bumper sticker bragging on America can now get you thrown out of an eating establishment, get your car keyed or worse, have a mob of youth physically attack you. Attacks against conservatives are being encouraged by certain Washington politicians, and they are frothing at the mouth to “take back Washington” and remove anyone who disagrees with their agenda.

All social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and others are removing numerous conservative news sites. Even YouTube is targeting advertisement that they consider “hate speech.” What is odd, is that anyone who is angry with the present administration is welcomed into the discussion. Mounting evidence shows that any positive remarks of how America is economically prospering under the present leadership are banned. Even Twitter admitted to leaning left, and Facebook has thousands of individuals in foreign countries monitoring and removing any site they feel causes division. Oddly, the majority are conservatives with opposing opinions to the anti-Christian left, or certain Christian sites preaching prophecy.

It has been suggested that within five years, all true preaching of the Gospel, primarily if it deals with repenting from certain sins or exposes false teaching, will be removed from all social media platforms, including secular television, banned under the pretense of hate speech. The left uses derogatory terms to intimidate the righteous, calling us all sorts of names if we expose their lies and ideology using the Bible. To them, the Bible should be banned and never taught. There are politicians on the west coast who believe there should be a ban on using the Bible while counseling people.

Combine this with anemic Christianity and passive pulpit preaching. The combination is a dangerous cocktail of disaster; a mix that when drunk by the masses, will lead to the shutting down of churches, the removal of prophetic preaching from the internet, attacks and protest from the left whose anger exceeds their common sense.

Without Christians understanding the need for support, and the outside world planning a strategy against true Christians, we are in for the final battle of the ages to keep the Gospel going around the world.

I am sounding a warning now and telling you what is coming. Unless we stand up and speak up now, our children will be raised in a godless, anti-Christian society that will provide jobs and support only if they side with what left extremist consider outdated and useless Bible information. The major Northeast and West Coasts universities have already brainwashed the next generation who are happily swallowing the cocktail and are drunk on hatred for the “religious -right,” or conservative political ideas and faith in general. Speak up now or be forced to be shut up later!

As Elijah once demanded Israel, “Do not halt between two opinions” (1 Kings 18:21). The future battle will be a war against truth; You will either remain faithful to the Word of God or reject the Word to your own demise. Now, “Who is on the Lord’s side?” ■

Article by Perry Stone



Our Plans to Minister in Different Locations

BY PERRY STONE

DURING THE PAST FORTY-ONE YEARS, I believe that the majority of our revivals and conferences have been in the perfect will of God. I have never booked a meeting or special event just for the sake of filling the calendar. I must sense an inner direction and spiritual leading when preparing a ministry event.

For many years, it has been common for me to travel in an *evangelistic circuit*, ministering at the same location or church. Yearly conferences include Evangel in Louisville, and Christ Temple in Huntington West Virginia, along with many other regions of the country. By repeating the same itinerary, it has become challenging to have free weekends for new invitations.

Recently, I was invited to *Tacoma, Washington* to speak at the Mark Biltz Prophetic Conferences where I was blessed to meet many new partners and friends whose spiritual hunger moved me to tears. Many asked, “Why don’t you come to the Northeast more? Why do you stay in the Southeast?” I felt a bit convicted by their question. One reason we have not ministered in certain areas is that our ministry does not have as many contacts with the pastors and churches in the mid-west and west, as the majority of our invitations come from churches in the southeastern part of the nation.

Beginning in 2019 it is our goal to add new churches and locations to places we have never been or have rarely gone. When we advertise the 2019 itinerary, if we have a service or a conference planned in your area make plans to join the team and me when possible. During all of our three-night meetings and special events, *I will host a partner’s gathering with ministry partners* on Saturday afternoon at 4:30 in the church. In these meetings, we give updates, answer questions, and sign books. For any partner information, contact Tiffany King through VOE. ■