

#117 THE DREAM.....

I am standing on the shore of a large body of water. I can see the rough waters and they move up quickly to cover my feet and lower legs. A wind or some unseen force appears and seems to sweep the body of water completely away. In its place is now seen a beautiful green valley.

Then I am standing on a bridge and perceive that the previous sight is but a vision of future events in this dream. I have seen a storm coming, afterwards followed by a peaceful valley. As I stand on the bridge I seem to return to my conscious state. I notice over the land and waters several tornados coming within a large storm. I feel the winds blowing and see the darkness beginning to fill the skies about me.

This dream was a true prophetic foreseeing into my soon-coming spiritual state. When necessary, God warns or prepares us for approaching events. The waters from the distance covering my feet and lower legs speak of the enemy's attempt to hinder my spiritual progress and walk. The wind or unseen force symbolizes God's power to change and sweep away the storm and tribulations to bring forth peace and beauty. The green valley signifies new life and growth and pleasantness and tranquility. The bridge speaks of a place of crossing---crossing from one place or state into another.

The Bible is written not only to give truth but to prepare us to live in that truth. God will equip us for certain future ministries and events. It is written in the book of Amos that the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secrets unto His prophets. In the New Testament Christ also warns and reveals events to His church, and tells us the Holy Spirit will show us things to come. Sometimes tribulations may be coming upon a local church or the church in some nation. On the other hand, God may be ready to bring about a revival or move of restoration, and wants Christians informed so they will make preparations.

Now here we are not talking of fortune-telling and peeping into the unknown for personal and selfish information. Prophecy as a prediction or forecasting is given at God's timing and in His manner. When this form of prophecy is given it moves through a believer by God's will and manner. It can not be drummed up or given at the will of the believer. Fortune-telling has to do with demonic spirits who are often sought without the inquirer's realizing that this is of the devil. Even what is sometimes called personal prophecy given to believers must be checked out closely. If God desires to inform us of a matter, it is still to be to His glory and for spiritual work and ministry. God does not give personal prophecy to gratify self-seeking ends.

Now "no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation" (II Peter 1:20). This does not mean that God can not give personal prophecy. Personal prophecy may and will be given to confirm one's calling or ministry. God may speak through others to inform of the location or timing of certain spiritual works or service, yet all must be in harmony with God's written Word and be subject to the control of the Holy Spirit.

Let us remember God performs the out-of-the-ordinary when needed. He does not, however, move to satisfy the carnal or curious seeker. God's gifts and ministries are to honor Him and build up the spiritual body of Christ---not a means to satisfy men's fleshly and selfish desires.

The early church knew of persecutions, famines and even when and how they would come. God still informs His people of much, if they are open to it. Prophecy as prediction may be conditional or unconditional as God determines. Whatever form, it still must conform to the Bible's authority and instruction.