



Born to Win

Let the Prophets Speak

by Ronald L. Dart

If God in his wisdom were to send a prophet to us today, to stand on the courthouse steps and *preach* to us like Jeremiah did to the ancient Israelites, what do you suppose that prophet would have to say to the United States and Canada, to the English-speaking world today? What would his *message* be?

Now, in the first place, the mere *presence* of a prophet is reason to become apprehensive. God does not usually send a prophet to tell us how *well* we are doing. Now, that makes sense. If we are doing fine, God doesn't think we're earning any points. We're just doing what is good *for us*. No reason to send a prophet down here to us to pat us on the head and say, "Oh, you're a wonderful people. You're doing a great job." So when the prophet shows up and begins to speak, it's time for us to sit up and take notice, because God is not happy with something.

I think the prophet that God might send to us today would say, "Thus saith the Lord, the Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, who gave you this good land. You have become *staggeringly* rich. There has never been a nation as rich as you are. And yet you never ask, 'Where does all this come from?' You never ask, 'Why do we have all this while the rest of the world goes hungry?' Half of the people you call 'poor' in your land own their own homes. Three quarters of them have air conditioning. The living space of a typical poor American family actually exceeds the living space of the *average* individual living in London or Paris or Bonn and other major cities in the wealthy European nations. Three quarters of the people you call 'poor' own a car or a truck, and a third of them own *two*. Virtually 100% of poor households own a refrigerator and a color television. Half of them have two or more color televisions, while about two out of three have a clothes washer and a cable or satellite television. Three of four poor households have a microwave and a VCR or DVD player. And these are your *poor* people. By world standards, even your poor are rich. Do you know that the rest of the world can only imagine what the rest of you live like? Do you remember long ago, what I said to a people just like you?"

"I said, 'It would come to pass that if you would listen to me carefully, and observe all my commandments attentively, that the Lord your God would set you on high above all the nations of the Earth. And just look at where you are today. You stand alone as the world's only superpower. There is no nation like you.' I said that these blessings would come on you if you would *just listen* to the Lord your God. I said, 'Blessed shall you be in the city. Blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, and the fruit of the ground, and the fruit of the cattle, the increase of your cattle, and the flocks of your sheep. Blessed would be your babies. You would have babies being born, and your sheep would be having many young lambs. Blessed shall be your basket and your store. You'll be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. And the Lord shall cause your enemies that rise up against you to be smitten before your face. They will come out against you one way, in a single column, and flee before you seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon you and your storehouses and all that you set your hand to do. He shall bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.'"

"And look at where you are today. Look at what your armies are able to do. Look at the *power* you are able to project around the world. I said I would establish you as a special people to myself—a people

apart—if you would keep my commandments and walk in my way. And all the people of the earth would see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they would be *afraid* of you. That’s what I was after—that the nations of the earth would look at you and wonder, ‘What made the difference?’ They would look at you as a people and say, ‘Those are *God’s* people. Look at what a difference it makes if you follow their God.’”

“I said I would make you plenteous in goods, and look at you now. You have so many goods they have spilled over into the houses of the poor. You have so much food that some of you have to waddle through the marketplace. I said I would open to you my good treasure. You would get rain when you needed it, that you’d be able to lend to all the nations. And look what you have been able to do with what you call ‘foreign aid’. Just imagine if all those nations receiving your largesse knew that *I am* your God, and that’s the reason why you have enough to give them what you give them.”

“I said I would make you the head and not the tail. I said you would *always* come out on top and not underneath. I said all of this, if you would just listen to the commandments of the Lord your God. Do you remember that I said all these things? (You can find it in Deuteronomy 28.) But then I went on to say what would happen if those people *didn’t* obey my laws. And because I have not changed, I can say *exactly* the same thing to you today.”

Deuteronomy 28

AKJV

⁴⁷ Because you served not the LORD your God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

⁴⁸ Therefore shall you serve your enemies which the LORD shall send against you, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron on your neck, until he have destroyed you.

“Because you served not the Lord with joyfulness and gladness of heart, for all the wonderful things he has given you.” And one even wonders if one of the reasons why we don’t do it is *because* of the abundance.

“It seems impossible, doesn’t it? But it seemed just as impossible to the people I said this to the first time, and it happened to them *anyway*.”

How is it possible for a nation *so great* to have so great a fall? It’s easier than you might think; for it is the wealth, it *is* the power, it *is* the greatness that contains the seeds of its own destruction.

So let’s go back to the courthouse steps and hear what our prophet might say to us in the modern world.

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘Long ago, I sent a prophet to a people just like you. His name was Hosea, and he warned them what would happen if they didn’t repent. He said,’”

Hosea 4

AKJV

¹ Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel: for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

It sends a little shiver down the spine to consider how a *great nation* could fall so low as the prophet will now tell us they have fallen. The people are unmerciful. They have lost the knowledge of God entirely, when once they *knew* who he was. “Now God is not present in your public life. You don’t want to hear about God.”

Hosea 4

AKJV

² By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood touches blood. [*The blood from one crime runs into the blood from another crime.*]

³ Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwells therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yes, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

Now, that's staggering. The abundance of the sea. "You would think, wouldn't you, that there would be enough there to last forever. There would be no way a man could fish out the seas, and yet here you are actually endangering the survival of many species of food fish, and it could come to the place where you go to fish...they won't be there."

Hosea 4

AKJV

⁴ Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for your people are as they that strive with the priest. [*You would even argue with a priest.*]

⁵ Therefore shall you fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with you in the night, and I will destroy your mother.

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

This is where we reach the bottom line. There is a way to live that is encompassed in the law of God—say, the Ten Commandments.

"For 200 years and more in your country, there was *no problem* with having the Ten Commandments posted in a public place. You could have it in the Supreme Court. You could have it in any courtroom in the land. Now you don't want to see it." There's no argument here with the constitutional issues involved; we're just pointing out the obvious: that people of this great nation don't want to be reminded of God's law. If you did, the courts would not be making the decisions that they are making.

And there are few statements, I can imagine, that are as frightening as the one we just read:

Hosea 4

AKJV

⁶ [...] seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

"And because you have forsaken the *basis* of *all law*, your people will increasingly forsake the rule of law altogether. Your leaders, your mayors, and governors will flout the law of the land, just as the mayor of San Francisco feels free to disobey the law, so all the citizens of his city will begin to decide which laws they will keep and which laws they will not."

And why shouldn't they? If it's good enough for the mayor, it's good enough for them. Can you begin to understand how a great nation, a wealthy and powerful nation, could be brought low by forsaking the rule of law? Hosea continues,

Hosea 4

AKJV

⁷ As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.

“You see, my people, there is a direct correlation between the growth in your wealth and the growth in your sin.”

Hosea 4

AKJV

⁸ They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity.

⁹ And there shall be, like people, like priest: [...]

Like people, like mayor; like mayor, like judges.

Hosea 4

KJV

⁹ [...] and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.

¹⁰ For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

They will come to the place that they *never* have enough. They eat, but they are not satisfied. They grow fat, and they want more. They are *so* wealthy, they have *so much* to eat that we can no longer sometimes can get through the doors of our marketplaces. They have sex like no people ever had, and yet their population is in decline.

Hosea 4

KJV

¹¹ Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

¹² My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

There's a fascinating comparison here between the whoredom of the flesh and the whoredom from God—they seem to go together. And in our society, drugs (along with wine and new wine) are systematically cutting away the heart of our people. The prophet continues,

Hosea 4

KJV

¹³ They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good [*There's shade here and we're comfortable.*]: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.

“You have turned your women loose like no society has ever done in the history of man. They have become, to use your term for it, ‘hos’. But...”

Hosea 4

KJV

¹⁴ I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall.

“You're not any better than the women. You're not any better than your daughters or your spouses. There's no particular reason why I should correct *them* when *you* are no better. Therefore, the people

who do not understand shall fall.”

And if Hosea were here, he would say to us further, “Though everyone around you is playing the harlot, don’t get drawn into that. Though everyone else is acting like a heifer in heat, don’t make that mistake yourself. Don’t let yourself get drawn down that path.”

“Listen to this you preachers, you priests, you senators, you of the administration of the country: Judgment is toward you because *you* have been a snare to this people. You in positions of leadership commit *whoredom*, and the whole country is *defiled*. You people will not frame your *doings* to turn to God.”

Why? Because the spirit of whoredom is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord. I think Hosea’s phrase, “the spirit of whoredom”, pretty well sums up what is wrong with *our* land today. Through all of our music, our arts, our entertainment, our diversions—even our *education*—the spirit of whoredom dominates. Listening to Hosea again,

Hosea 5

KJV

⁴ They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD.

⁵ And the pride of [this people] doth testify to his face[....]

The time will come when...

Hosea 5

KJV

⁶ They shall go [...] to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

I wonder how close we are to that time—to the place where we will turn and look for God, and just won’t be able to find him. Continuing with the prophet,

Hosea 5

AKJV

⁷ They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions.

“Strange children”. Do you know what he’s talking about? He’s talking about fatherless children—children who are being born of women with *no idea* of who their father is.

“Your people are oppressed and broken in judgment because you willingly walked after vanity. You thought, ‘We know the difference between right and wrong. We don’t need God to tell us what it is.’ If you wonder why your justice system is broken, look to *yourselves*. You have *willingly* pursued *your own way*, regardless of what God says. So this is what the sovereign Lord says:”

Hosea 5

AKJV

¹⁵ I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offense, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

“You will come to the place where you will look for God and not find him. In your affliction, when everything is coming down around your ears, you are going to call out to God. And for all of the years you haven’t wanted to know, for that many years you *won’t be able* to know. God will not be found of you.”

Now, this is what I think God might say to us if he should *deign* to speak to us through a prophet. But, alas, God does not seem to be speaking to us.

Now let’s move to another courthouse in another town, and let’s find on the steps of this courthouse a new prophet in the spirit of a man named Amos. What might *Amos* say if he were to speak to us today?

Amos 8

AKJV

¹¹ Behold, the days come, said the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

¹² And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

You know, the important thing to know about God from all this: He doesn’t change. Oh sure, these prophets spoke a long time ago to a very different people. Well, *no*, they really weren’t so very different from us. In fact, there are so many ways in which they were *terribly* like us. Their *technology* was not as advanced as ours, but otherwise... Why should we think that we can live like they did and not come to the same end? It may take a while. For some of the prophets, it took *a lifetime*; but sooner or later, the things we are doing are going to *come home to roost*.

We live in the age of the bottom line; shall I bottom-line this for you? Well, Hosea bottom-lined this for us. He said this:

Hosea 4

AKJV

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

So here we sit, a people with the greatest constitution in the history of man—a people who at one time knew God, recognized God, acknowledged that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. We are a people who have in the past *prided* ourselves on *the rule of law*, and we seem now to have no concept of the roots of the ideals that underlie our constitution and the rule of law. It’s odd: No one seems to understand that the concept of the rule of law derives from *the Bible*, as does the foundation of our entire legal system.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights[.]

United States Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776

From the beginning, we recognized our Creator—we recognized him as the foundation, the pillar, upon which all of our rights stand and upon which they depend. And when you remove the foundation of the law of God, by what authority can we withstand the assaults on the Constitution and the rule of law? When we have no basis, we have no roots to our system any longer, we say, “No, no, we don’t believe in God. There is no Creator. We simply evolved to the present state we are in, and now we’ll move on

to the next stage of evolution. We will *abandon* the old law and we will begin to make our own.” But, you see, the authority that lies behind our laws and our rights is God. Without him, we have no guide except our own whims.

If we went to another courthouse, and we may find a prophet in the spirit of Jeremiah, we might hear him speaking to us today, saying, “How can you claim to be wise and have the rule of law, when your lawyers and your judges have made the law *vain*. The wise man should be ashamed and dismayed. Look, they’ve rejected the word of the Lord and what wisdom is in them?”

That’s where we are. If you reject the foundation—if you hack away at that pillar of law that underlies everything we’ve got—then *all you have left* is whatever wisdom we have in us. And the truth is that the only wisdom we have ever had that has been worth anything has been that which was founded upon the law of God.

Where are we going to go? Our prophet, in the spirit of Jeremiah, answers us:

Jeremiah 8

AKJV

¹⁰ Therefore will I give their wives to others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even to the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even to the priest every one deals falsely.

¹¹ For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

¹² Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? no, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, said the LORD.

You are going to come to the place to where you will not even *be able* to blush.

Now, there is something important for you to remember in all of this. In the days when these prophets spoke the first time, *not everyone was like this*. There were good people. There were people who trusted God. There were people who wanted to do the right thing. But the *spirit of the age* is reflected in the words of the prophets, and all you have to do is look around you today to see the spirit of *our* age. It is the spirit of whoredoms.

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