



DUDLEY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

ISAIAH 64:4-5

April 2023

LIVING WITH A UNIQUE GOD

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

Isaiah 64:4-5a

We have previously discussed the necessity of knowing the ways of God if we are going to live with Him. He is different than any god imagined by mankind. We cannot afford to assume we know His nature just because He is a god:

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

Isaiah 64:4-5a, NRSV

In these days we are trying to discern what God is saying, not only by studying the written word (which is relevant at all times), but in the events we are watching both in the church and in the world. Our hearts jump with anticipation when we hear of students in various universities gathering in extended meetings where the presence of God is being manifested. Asbury College in Kentucky along with several other campuses around the country report such meetings. College ad-

(continued next page)

ministrators are verifying that the experience is real and is producing the fruits of a work of God. One article in the Christian Post by an observer and student of revivals in history listed four lessons we can learn from Asbury:

1. There is a rejection of celebrity focus. It is a movement of the people who have no celebrity status. Neither major media nor well known Christian leaders are at the forefront.
2. The atmosphere of quickening is not transferred by digital media. Those who have watched the services on YouTube and then have visited the services live report a major difference in being there participating and just watching it via media.
3. There is no argument over the usual sticking point of whether awakenings are simply sovereign works of God or results of people meeting certain conditions in prayer, humility, and repentance.

4. There is no controversy regarding Pentecostal or anti-Pentecostal experiences. The issue is not baptism of the Spirit, speaking in tongues, healing, etc. The emphasis is the presence of God and the worshipful response of those who enter.

These are interesting observations and give clues to the ways of God. He always acts like Himself. We err when we misinterpret Him based on preconceived ideas of what He is like or what He is doing. Remember that the religious leaders of Jesus' day missed Him because He didn't fit their expectations of what a Messiah looked like. They were sure that He would look like Moses, David, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He looked like the eternal Son of God, and they rejected Him. His shadow had been cast over all of history beginning in Eden when God promised to crush the head of the devil by the seed of woman. It was evident in the call of Noah to save a remnant of humanity for the purpose of redeeming the world. It was clearer when God selected Abram and promised

him that his lineage would produce the one Seed that would fulfill Eden's promise. The shadow of the ultimate deliverer was seen in Moses as he led the people out of bondage by miraculous works. The shadow of the final king was cast by David as he ruled over the land God had promised as a token of a coming inheritance that included the whole world. The prophets of exile looked ahead to see the substance of the shadow of promised hope. After four hundred years of waiting for the right time, John the baptizer introduced the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He would be the substance of the shadow of thousands of animals who were sacrificed in the temple. All these shadows were made by one Person. Yet, when He appeared the religious ones missed him. He was not a celebrity. He demanded a personal relationship and would not settle for spectator-like religion. He was both God and man. He is both truth and life. He enlightens the mind and regenerates the heart. He is the central figure of both the cross and Pen-

tecost. He is Christo-centric and Charismatic. He reveals the covenant-making God of the Bible and fulfills all the covenants in Himself.

Social scientist Anthony Wallace says there are three stages to transformational change in societies. First, there is the *Problem* stage where the old maps are exposed as inadequate. Whether in an individual, a home, a church, a government, or in the world, things that seem to have worked previously no longer work. We are certainly in such a stage. American Christianity as popularly practiced does not satisfy the existential longing of the human heart. The heart of every person cries desperately to be known, loved, and valued. Consumer religion does not satisfy. Neither does the spectator church. We are made to be social and involved in the mission of Christ to bless the world. No wonder people are driving hundreds of miles and flying in from all over to taste the freshness of what is happening in Kentucky. The second stage is the *Paradigm* stage. A new perspective

(continued next page)

is discovered. It may not be brand new, but it is usually one that is fuller and bigger. God has been revealing Himself since creation, but we don't discover some aspects of His grace until there is a need that demands it. Revivals are carried on by a message. Jesus made it very clear that the message that would characterize His kingdom is the gospel. It is the announcement that God has intervened in history through the revelation of His Son and has established His kingdom now and forever. Sins are forgiven. The Spirit has come to raise dead hearts and empower God's people to live the heaven-touched life now. God opens the eyes of the desperate to see what they hope for. He works on behalf of those who wait for Him alone. The third stage is the *Power* stage. As the new paradigm becomes a movement, the whole world is affected. What began with Jesus coming to fulfill previous promises and prophecies, spread from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria to the ends of the earth. We are a part of that movement today. It is a movement

that has blessed every nation that it touched. It will not stop. On a smaller scale we can expect the new emphasis on the simple gospel of Jesus Christ to spread to the dead waters of the stagnant church and then to the muddy waters of the world. We can be energized and filled with hope and anticipation.

God will act according to His nature. His ways are beyond finding out by those whose eyes are blind, but to those admitting hunger, thirst, and desperation, He shows himself and His ways.



P.O. Box 2022
Colleyville, TX 76034
(817) 267-9224
Email: Contact@KerygmaVentures.com
www.KerygmaVentures.com