

## OPEN LETTER TO THE SHEPHERDS AND ELDERS BEFORE THE HOUSE

### PREFACE

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Over the last 40-odd years there have been a number of serious violations within gatherings toward which I remained silent, often because I had no unction to address them. But recently there have been several upper-level travesties of scripture and such defamation of the Lamb my limit of tolerance has been ruptured. ***The Lamb is either real or He is not. Since He is, these must be addressed.***

This Open Letter falls outside the bounds of conventional argument, and of normal behavior. The realm in which we are dealing is not the one where we have our sway. It is the Third Realm from which the Holy One emerges from time to time<sup>1</sup> to deal with things out of control among His people. We now are out of control, so badly we do not even realize it. The fact He has not visited us lately is one proof.

My overwhelming sense His burning issue is with the 'chief priests' (pastors), shepherds and elders before the House of His people.<sup>2</sup> Why? -because nearly all are set in their ways, intractable, hostile against any contrary position. Some have a fairly deep grasp of the Word, but have used it to inoculate themselves against every volley fired across their bows.

Thus even against clear-cut situations, God's applicable and precise words fall to the ground, at least from the ears of many shepherds and elders. Words of warning are dismissed with pre-established defenses or absurd cockamamie scenarios.

Ominously, many elders will not or cannot 'hear', because they have reached hurdles in their lives where they could go no further as the Word would dictate. Said another way, something in the Word became impossible to obey. Something in their makeup trumped what God said. For men it was blood-kin or traditions of their fathers; some were tied to an institution, or peer-related. In any case, it was what became too expensive to obey. So an alternative position was sought and polished, and later justified by a misinterpretation of the word.

**This paper is specifically addressed to the 'chief priests, shepherds and elders before the House.' The primary origin, direction and continuation for our current apostasy lies with these chief men.**

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<sup>1</sup> Gen. 11:5,7; 18:21.

<sup>2</sup> Ezekiel 8,9; Zech.10:3. 11:15-17.

**There are two, and only two, viewpoints on any given matter**; one, how we see it, and two, how the Most High sees it. The only thing that sticks is what He **says** about what He **feels**. It is in that spirit the following is penned, and my earnest desire is to relay what He feels about the matters.

## **PART I      FIRE IN THEIR BELLIES**

It was one thing to hear in my inner sanctum God was going to kill a so-called brother if he did not quit womanizing, even after a number of warnings. It was quite another to actually relate to the man that God was going to kill him. I was a man of God (M.O.G.) in my inner sanctum; the war was making it a continuum into the real world. I did so, and all Hell broke loose. A long story...

Talking the talk is one thing; **walking** the walk is quite another.

Hearing Him is difficult enough; **doing** what He said is even more so.

Reading, teaching and admiring what He did is one thing; **doing** what He did is quite another.

Under the shining rays and false accusations of the world we begin to wilt; under questioning we begin to deny Him, once, twice, thrice. Then the rooster crows in so many ways to remind us of our bravery in 'church', but our cowardice elsewhere. We love to be acceptable, and cherish 'getting along'. Both are a stench in His nose.

So it is this early A.M.; **I know** the essence of His mind about the hypocrisy of the modern religious leaders, and their acting. But it is quite another thing to write it, speak it and make it stick. This morning He gave me words to make the charges stick, and stick well.

The lines are blurred nigh to extinction between a good man and a Godly man. That distinction is the same as it was in the days of John Baptist, Jesus, and the true Men of God that followed. *The distinguishing mark was that they were persecuted, and persecuted by the religious leaders* of their day, when their hypocrisy, holy acting and real apostasies were exposed. So it is today.

The elders before the House have 'tithed mint, dill and cummin but denied weightier matters.'<sup>3</sup> The current equivalents to these are the doing of those things that are acceptable within the confines of the given Gathering of which they are elders.

Even there they profane the Holy, blaspheme the sacraments and act out the acceptable. (More on this in Corpse in the House). The following lists are actual things which I encountered at one of the latter gatherings, but they are common throughout the Body.

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<sup>3</sup> Matt.23:23

**IMPECCABLE/ACCEPTABLE**

**TRIVIALIZING THE WEIGHTIER MATTERS**

<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>		<b><u>MISSING</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>
Godly seed	Joy	Brokenness	Sloppiness
Works	Fellowship	Tears	Presumption
Word (Ltd. Life)	Charity	Repentance	Vain repetition
Gentleness	Baptism	Prophets	Profaning Cup
Humility		Anointing	Clones
		Silence	Chanting
		Fear, trembling	Acting
		Teaching	Ignorance

As one looks at this typical ‘church gathering’, the items present are those costing little, and in general, very suitable by most standards. But in those things Missing and wrong things Present, we see things that are costly and not so tolerable in general; “weightier matters” as Jesus said.

The message of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is that the religious leaders of the day were the ones to persecute Jesus, **NOT** the Roman soldiers. When the real Jesus shows up in someone, the persecution will first come from the leaders of the ‘church’.

I said it 40 years ago in a small Baptist Sunday School class and endured great outrage. I will say it once again today; *if you are not being rejected and persecuted by the religious leaders of your day, ye are no Man of God.*<sup>4</sup>

A second clear-cut distinction between mere Godly men and a M.O.G. is *what follows in their wake*.<sup>5</sup> From mere Godly men death will ensue in a myriad of expressions; one is that people will leave. Life will follow a M.O.G. in all of its true forms; *the people will know it and flock to it!* One M.O.G. from whose pen we read excerpts every morning brings us life from his words. He was also rejected and persecuted by high-ranking religious leaders; his name is A.W. Tozer.

A third distinction between a mere Godly man and a M.O.G. is that *the latter has Holy Fire in his belly*; the former does not. It emanates from the M.O.G.; even the babes in Christ recognize it (as do the vacuous religious leaders).

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<sup>4</sup> John 15:20  
<sup>5</sup> Matt. 12:33

This detectable Presence emanating from a man with Fire in his belly is what was missing in the *ekklesia* at Ephesus.<sup>6</sup> Here Jesus calls it leaving their 'first love', and for which they received a sharp reprimand. Only at Ephesus did He threaten to remove the Holy Spirit. That is serious business and dangerously representative of the overwhelming majority of ostensibly 'Christian' assemblies. Good men, yes; even Godly men, of course; but men with Fire in their bellies that demands Jesus be their first, predominant and pre-eminent love? Not so. We had best not abandon the simplicity of Christ as the Head, much less His exclusivity.

"This simplicity of Christ, while clear at the time of our re-birth, seems to evaporate as we continue. We lose our awareness of who He is. He is **Sovereign**, having **all** power, authority, wisdom and understanding. His Word was and is the first Word, and will be the last Word, in **all** matters. There are no ifs, ands nor buts with Him, nor anything open to debate or alteration. As far as man is concerned, it is either His way or the highway."<sup>7</sup>

In a bolt of clarity, I realized that the nucleus of this paper will neither be accepted nor understood by the majority of elders, if any at all. Why? -because there is little fire left in their bellies. Not much, if any, of this type of verbiage occupies their mental box. Any thing, any expression, any behavior outside perceived propriety, and not under their control is alien to them. Basically, disobedience to the Word at some juncture was and is the cause for the Fire leaving their bowels, as well as the encroaching ruin and disaster.

Holy Fire (pre-eminent love for Christ) in a man's belly is what destroys the works of the Devil, pure and simple; call it anointing if you will. Satan knew that in the Garden and he knows it now. He knows a man, and a man **only**, is wired that way. Thus the Garden fiasco was THE worst thing ever to befall Mankind, that being Adam hearkening and heeding the voice of his wife. It brought death to Adam and his seed then; it is the same today.

The man is wired to stay alert, protective of his mate and family to the point of death. The female is not so wired. So when you see males without this alertness, awareness and execution of protectiveness, you have a culture that has been effeminized.

By and large, blood of kin, traditions of family and the culture of institutions and peers trump the Word in the majority of believers, particularly pastors and elders. When any of these occur, whether by ignorance or informed choice, destruction is not far behind. When the corpse suddenly appears in the house, few remember the decisions of disobedience made years ago. Even fewer remember when the trumping took place.

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<sup>6</sup> Rev. 2:4

<sup>7</sup> TI, KY, minimally edited, Pers. Comm.

## PART II      CORPSE IN THE HOUSE

One situation to introduce a main point was when I and my family were sitting in a gathering at a fairly respected, upscale, non-denominational assembly. For some odd reason I was trying to catch the preacher's eye when I noticed in his superb oration he was alternatively looking to the right and then 45 degrees to the left. In both instances he was not looking at any of us, but instead at a spot on the wall. He was not preaching to the sheep-he was orating!

Then and there I grabbed my wife and family and left; I was not going to subject them to such garbage. The elders did nothing, though the sheep were leaving and being scattered. **Definitive.**

Indeed, the sheep left there because there was death coming out of the pulpit in the form of high oratory. I have seen the same thing many times since that day. Many so-called pastors are mere orators; one tell-tale sign is the scattering of the sheep. **That** gets up in God's face, big-time, and is serious business.

The pastors (orators) initiate and the elders perpetuate the emptiness of the gatherings, leaving the sheep to flounder in the polluted backwaters of life or go hungry on dry grass. These 'leaders' focus on the perpetuation of the institution, whether it be one formed after a charismatic man with 'visions', a group trying to pump life into the corpse of an Azusa-type movement, a charismatic mega-'church', an independent gathering, or one of the hundreds of denominations. **The** institution becomes the Queen Mother, the Mother Ship who imperceptibly usurps and replaces Christ as Chief Shepherd, Captain and Head of all things.

**The** institution ("what their hands have made")<sup>8</sup> eventually pre-empts His Presence and all that entails. In doing so, the pastor and elders elevate themselves to statuses reminiscent of the Sadducees and Pharisees. The edicts, rules and regulations of the Mother Ship supersede what the sheep really need. So the sheep receive a lot of hot air, form and fashion, trained to sit still, look straight ahead at an actor and say nothing. They do this Sunday after Sunday, going home grieving with empty bellies and a few semi-sticky sound bytes from a worthless shepherd.

The defining characteristics are as the Pharisees were, all talk and show, accompanied by rules and regulations, straw and no grain for the sheep, wells with no water, fat but no meat. This continues *ad nauseum*, even though the sheep wither, wander off, get sick and die because of the absence of shepherding.

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<sup>8</sup> Isaiah 2:8, et al.

**Is 1:13; Is. 58; 66:3-5; Hosea 4:4-6; Amos 5:21.**

From what He says in these, the 'head' shepherd and elders can lead the sheep in all forms and expressions of outward religious rites and still be a source of wickedness in God's eyes. One can do all things right in appearance and still be the source of abject hate, abhorrence and contempt to the Most High. They (the elders) can do all things religious, appear to be clothed in righteousness and still be evil. No? Check the scriptures, as well as 'church' history.

This describes the Protestant and 'Christian' movement: looking good, sounding good, performing magnificently, having all the trappings but producing death in their gatherings. In fact, death is the vapor trail behind their doings.

No? - then why would good people leave the denomination, ***your denomination***, in droves?

- does no one notice that the 'pastor' never looks at anyone while he is orating?

-why would a sincere seeker of the Most High not flock to places where there was life?

- why is there no healing, deliverance and other manifestations of the Holy One, if these gatherings truly had His Presence? –are these not functions of a shepherd? –and elder?

- if these gatherings indeed had the Presence of the Holy One, then why do the curses and sicknesses of 'Egypt' so permeate the Body? –or adulteries? –or porno? –or ?

- if these Protestant gatherings, non-denominational, charismatic and other 'latter rain' meetings in the tens of thousands truly have the Life of the Holy One in their midst as they claim, why is there such an aura of death? –and trampling of the Word ?

Simple answer: they focus on salvation....

In nearly all types of 'Christian' gatherings I have attended over the last 40-odd years I have been struck by the predominance of clone behavior. Both male and female act a certain way, with very little variance from a center or norm of behavior peculiar to that group. In all but a very few cases (*less than 10* in 40 years!) these clone-like expressions had no life in them, e.g., there were little, if any, emanations of the Holy Spirit meeting people's needs. There was the *appearance* of life, but in reality only in a secular sense; 'fellowship', I believe is the word.

When I say, 'life' in these varied gatherings, I refer to the undeniable Presence of the Holy Spirit, and not just some emotional outburst. Neither, I would say, does one have to manufacture or conjure up His Presence.

Pastor: “Oh, don’t you just feel His Presence in this place!” Well no, I do not. I ‘feel’ the sensual effects of the 1200-watt amps vibrating my innards, and the choreographed music tugging at my heart-strings, but no, I really don’t ‘feel’ His Presence. Six months ago, yes; that was just before your refusal to accept rebuke and repent of your sin. Your dearest possession was then consumed like a moth. But now? –not really.

I have learned His Presence is one of Holiness, which to enter requires in order, self-examination, self-judgment, followed by our agreeing with Him and repenting. This repentance is usually in expressions of utter brokenness before Him. This brokenness will incorporate a deep regret of our behavior and an utter loathing of ourselves.

This three-fold process will always place ourselves in a null and void condition before Him, which in turn solely depends on His grace to restore us to a right and proper state. Then and only then will He dwell among us. When we have humbled ourselves in the waters of Jor-Dan, been forgiven by His grace and reinstated into the Holiness of His Presence, then and only then can and may we thank Him, render to Him proper praise and offer Him our true worship.<sup>9</sup>

The true elder, to be a Man of God, as opposed to being merely Godly, will beg to be corrected, plead for and welcome rebuke,<sup>10</sup> dread deceit and cherish the exposure of anything that offends the Lamb. He will yearn for the hammer, the file and the wire brush on an angle grinder, all the while knowing full well his *penchant* for ease and acceptance. As one of the very few I know with Fire in his belly says, “It doesn’t get too hard for me; bring it on.”

In these vari-colored, cloned gatherings I also detect a party spirit, largely promulgated by the elders, that when challenged brooks no opposition, much less correction or rebuke of any kind. “Tradition trumps the Word, you know.” Oh? –since when?

So the traditions of these cloned behaviors contain within them an obvious and pervasive ignorance of the Word. (That’s why we have loud and fast music, along with other gadgets that appeal to the five senses; the brain and spirit are not involved). This abject ignorance, or better said, careless, presumptuous omission of this process of repentance is inexcusable, especially on the part of the ‘elders before the House.’

Chanting “Praise the LORD” with every other breath will not abrogate the innate ignorance and presumptuousness, nor will any other clone-like acting. Half-hearted raising of the hands, ‘prophesying’ out of one’s mind, insincere clapping of the hands will not impress the Lamb, much less the King of Glory. Muttering “Holy, Holy, Holy” just loud enough for your neighbor to be impressed won’t get you in the Presence either.

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<sup>9</sup> Is.66:2

<sup>10</sup> Prov. 29:15, et al

This is especially true when you cheapen the Cross by sloppy profaning of the sacrament of the bread and cup. You cannot trifle the Table of communion and belittle the Blood without incurring His wrath. Brace for a Ram.

As He says in Amos 5:21; “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not delight in your solemn assemblies....take away the noise of your songs.” Is. 66:3: “Yea, **they have chosen their own ways**, and their soul delights in their abominations.”

Our ‘solemn assemblies’ are not so solemn anymore. We have accentuated the thumping of our chests, but forgotten how to smite our breasts in self-abasement. Instead our ‘solemn assemblies’ have become venues for the women to dress to kill and the males peer acceptance in order to gain for themselves various benefits.

Whether we accept it or not, God the Father **hates** our hypocritical assemblies and Jesus **hates** the Nicolaitans,<sup>11</sup> (literally, ‘those above the laity’, those who exercise power over the people. And yet, the faithful few in this charade continue to subject themselves to these orating actors and other Nicolaitans. Being faithful as they are, they hope against hope the ‘church’ will revive as in days of yore.

This bullshit<sup>12</sup> that we can act, orate, chant and mutter our way into His Presence is an abomination to Him! An abomination is that which is utterly offensive, contemptible, filthy (bullshit), vulgar, disgusting, vile, abhorrent, odious. A few abominations which we somehow choose to ignore are sodomy, adultery, vain repetitions and imaginations, idolatry, ‘secret’ fraternities with their blood oaths, pretension, false prophesying, and bearing false witness.

***Which is more vulgar and offensive, the filthy and feculent act of sodomy, or profaning the sacrament of Jesus’ communion?***

Ezekiel 8 lists progressively six evil abominations ranging from an image of jealousy, idolatry, elders in their dark rooms full of pictures, offering petitions to false gods, women weeping for Tammuz and elders with their backs to the sanctuary.

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<sup>11</sup> Rev.2:6,15

<sup>12</sup> For those of you ‘offended’, that is precisely the vulgar root of the word used when He says He will throw our own ‘feces’ or ‘filth’ back in our faces, the same root word used to describe ‘dung’ with Isaiah and the same word used in doing away with the ‘feces’ of Israel by a spirit of burning. So don’t get all bent out of shape because of a Hebrew word *chere*, and an American word that describes precisely the vulgarity, offense and filth experienced by the Almighty. It also is a precise word that describes our behavior. Some things don’t need to be sanitized. A term borrowed from TI, KY, Pers. Comm.



All these are benchmarks that mark the departure of the Most High from His resting place, as well as to bring on His fury and judgment, beginning with His sanctuary, the elders specifically.<sup>13</sup> The spilling of innocent blood (abortion, slander) is another. There are many.

Methinks ye had better pay attention...<sup>14</sup>

The deceived cannot perceive the patterns, nor detect the stench of their own corpses.

## EPITHAPH

You say, “Who are you to criticize our worship?”

- am I not a joint-heir with Christ? -does He not dwell in me?
- do I not have His mind? –do I not feel what He feels?
- if I be stirred to great depths over this issue of impotent elders before **His** House, what must be the level of outrage in the Heavenlies where **He** dwells !?!?
- does not the Spirit within me grieve and groan over the abominations in Jerusalem, of just a very few injustices to His Bride?
- do I not feel His anger at what the elders are doing in the dark, for what they are not doing in the assemblies?
- or **allowing the sheep to scatter?**
- did He not tell me I would do all the things He did, and more?
- am I not supposed to have all of His fullness?
- did He not say “warn one another every day”?
- did Paul not say, “Judge amongst yourselves, and cast out the wicked person”?
- am I not called to be light and salt, the latter not only to preserve, but burn like fire?
- and if I do not, who will?

The captivating talent of the orator has been acutely received as ‘anointing’, due to our predilection for entertainment. High-sounding oration, or any form of entertainment, leaves a sensory imprint that overrides meditation. Thus we subject ourselves to soul ties with these eloquent orators and public actors who speak in lofty phrases to themselves. The absence of eye contact is one proof of such. Ten-foot plasma screens hide a man’s eyes...

The orator is overcome and driven by the spirit of entertainment, often unknowingly. The auditorium, stage, microphone and audience of the typical assembly are merely pieces of a movie set, stage props for a Broadway play. The only recognizable difference between the two is the absence of “Bravo! Bravo!, Encore! Encore! -and a standing ovation.

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<sup>13</sup> Ezek. 9.

<sup>14</sup> Ezek. 34:1-ff; Zech 11:4-17. The responsibilities of shepherds and the anger of God at their dereliction of duties.

The power effects of the microphone and movie set are not only aphrodisiacs, but approach an orgasmic state for the orator. In the midst of this abominable charade the Most High watches and waits for the appointed elders to take care of business<sup>15</sup> and stop this profanity. But alas, few of these 'chosen' men drink water from their hands, but instead lap the waters of respectability like a common dog<sup>16</sup>. They never 'see' the enemy, much less address him.

Before they know it, the orator has flown the plane and all its remaining passengers into the mountain; or put another way, led the sheep over a cliff where they and their children are dashed against the rocks.

- and you think the Almighty does not see?
- and He is not seething inside with anger?
- is there no alarm or fear of Him over this?

4:00 A.M. ***The rooster just crowed three times; there is still an hour left until first light...***

- what **do** you think about these whores who steal the attention, accolades and recognition due only the Lamb?
- what **will** you elders and preachers do when He calls in His markers?
- what **will** you elders and shepherds do when **the** Chief Shepherd is revealed?
- what **will** you do, O lofty ones, when you hear a knock on the door, and it's not UPS ?
- what **will** you do, O illustrious elder, when the Captain asks you why you did not obey His clear and precise orders?

May 18, 2014            Ben-Issachar

May 27, 2014, 3:30 A.M.

Postscript:

I saw a great wall, rounded at the top, as a sea wall or dike. The wall was made up of the millions of shepherds and elders across the land. The sea wall was holding back the waters of the sea from the pastures and sheep below. The waters contained all things that are evil, and are counter to the Most High. Through much of the wall the waters were leaking, specifically through many of the false shepherds, deceived pastors and elders, until it appeared as a porous honeycomb. *Evil flowed effortlessly through them.*

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<sup>15</sup> | Peter 5:2; Ezek. 34:1-ff;. Lists of the **responsibilities** of elders/shepherds, not just compartment. Zech 11:4-17 expresses God's anger at their cowardice and dereliction of duties.

<sup>16</sup> Judges 7:1-6.

The heads of some of the elders were like a cutout at a carnival where one sticks his head in the hole and takes a picture. They were identifiable, many with whom I was familiar. They included the examples mentioned above. Many others, known to be he-goat traitors, were embedded in the wall alongside a few Godly shepherds caught there by association. These false prophets were making unholy alliances, leading millions of followers into great loss and deception. Some by lesser actions were leading only their local followers, but destructive nonetheless.

The shepherds and elders who were the causes of the wall to first leak, then burst, were in descending order, beginning with the very worst;

- shepherds and false prophets making unholy alliances
- powerful leaders and elders associating themselves and their followers with doctrines of demons
- shepherds and elders caught up in a spiral of power and influence, drunk with prosperity and recognition
- shepherds and elders numbed by the effects of complacency and comfort
- elders who had allowed themselves to be lulled into a state of stupor, losing all sense of danger and evil on every hand
- elders who had become arrogant by virtue of their local status
- elders who had failed to study the Word and were stupid, ignorant, careless and unwary
- elders who had become fools in their speech and demeanor

I saw the wall giving way, slowly at first, then a great torrent bursting forth, carrying everything away in its power. What I did not see, but knew, was the horrible waste, death and destruction downstream. I also knew there were many Godly shepherds and elders, who, through no fault of their own, were swept away in the floodwaters. These I can only hope were carried on Eagles' wings to safety until the wrath passed by. Association can be deadly...

Then the cock crowed three times...

It is now 4:20 A.M., 40 minutes until first light;

40 minutes, 40 minutes, 40 minutes...

40....., 40 ....., 40 .....