*“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of* ***the things that have been fulfilled among us****, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were* ***eyewitnesses and servants of the word****.”* Luke 1:1-2

These words really hit me: *“…the things that have been fulfilled among us,…”* Imagine that, to have a prophecy from God’s Word fulfilled in your lifetime, through ‘your’ life!

What comes to me about being the generation through whom a prophecy is fulfilled is that God prepares that generation for its timely fulfillment. God prepared John in the wilderness. God prepared Zechariah and Elizabeth, John’s father and mother, for their purpose in raising John for his purpose. God prepared Mary and Joseph to be our Lord’s parents. God prepared Jesus for His purpose using Joseph and Mary. Jesus prepared His men for their purpose, and they in turn prepared other believers to fulfill their purpose. Are you prepared? Who has or is preparing you to fulfill your purpose in Christ? Have they heard from God concerning you, or asked God about you? Are they among God’s faithful and true? Do they take their responsibility for your training – personal and sacrificially? Who are you likewise preparing, or will be preparing, to fulfill their purpose in Christ? I believe this is the highest calling in our life; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord so that each generation fulfills their purpose in Christ; those things that must be done by them – to advance Christ’s kingdom.

God will do the ‘unheard of’ to fulfill each part of His plan which must take place in the lifetime of those He has called and prepared to fulfill His purpose. God is always doing a ‘new thing;’ something that might be hard for you to believe that God would ever do. I’m not referring to anything evil or wicked; nothing outside the character of God, just outside your box of who you think God is and what He is capable of.

Prophecies are fulfilled through God’s prepared vessels in order to accomplish His purposes on the earth. Therefore, is it any wonder why the Lord is so determined to *come against* our **religious traditions**, **worldly contracts** and **personal goals**, to make us ready for those things that are to be fulfilled among us? God is not at work for our happiness on earth; He’s at work to fit us into His Kingdom. How many of His people see their loss, trouble and suffering in this way; that they would actually repent and allow God to capture their whole heart for His will to be done through them? We are deceived in thinking that our religion, contracts and personal goals will protect us from loss, trouble and suffering, when in fact it is religious traditions, worldly contracts and personal goals that bring loss, trouble and suffering into our life.

Jesus taught His disciples, who in turn wrote it down for every generation after; that if we suffer it should not be because of doing something wrong, rather let it be for doing what is right in the eyes of God; for being faithful, not unfaithful. (Philippians 1:29-30, 1 Peter 2:19-21, 3:14-15, 17-18)

Faith comes by hearing **the Word of the Lord**, and not from hearing anyone else’s word. John the Baptist’s father, Zechariah a descendent of Aaron and a priest on duty at the time, was visited by the Lord’s angel Gabriel during prayer time at the altar of incense. Gabriel was sent to tell Zechariah something “unheard of;” something neither he nor the others believed would happen in their lifetime, not to them personally. We don’t have a hard time believing the Word of the Lord about things to come; we just have a hard time believing it will be fulfilled in our lifetime, among us. Why is that? I believe it’s because we are not familiar with the voice of God, the wisdom and leadership of the Holy Spirit. We know what the Scriptures say, but we need to hear what the Spirit is saying because the Word of God is His work in our lives. The Holy Spirit reveals to God’s people “the timing” of things to come that have been prophesied in the Scriptures and He gives the wisdom we need about it; that we do what needs to be done in our time.

When it was time for the Lord to come into the world, an actual prophesied event, God sent Word to Zechariah (and Elizabeth) that through them would be fulfilled the one who prepares the way of the Lord, and they were even given the name he should have: John. They were told specific things: *“He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.”* (Luke 1:15) They were told John’s purpose: *“Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* (Luke 1:17) Wow!

There are things for us all to live up to as far as godliness and holiness, but then there are specific things to be done according to God’s step by step plan; one generation of the faithful after the next. There are things prepared by God for certain people to do and if they don’t do it – it won’t get done. Can you imagine what would’ve happened if Jesus or His first disciples, at any point, had cowered from doing the will of the Father? And, what if Noah had given in to unbelief and not built the Ark? Or, what if Noah had not built the Ark perfectly fit to withstand the flooding of the ‘whole’ earth for the time it took?

Why did Jesus pick the men He picked? Was it haphazardly or with foreknowledge? Were they chosen before the world began? (I believe so.) None of those men that left everything behind really knew what they were getting into when Jesus said, “Come follow Me.” But that’s probably a good thing! The only thing to keep in mind is that the Lord is in control of how “those things that we are to fulfill in our lifetime” progress and play out. We just need to guard our hearts and stand firm on what He has said to us.

My husband often asks me, “Did you ever think, almost 40 years ago, that things would turn out the way they have?” He means that in a very good way of course. We’re certain there are more extremely difficult times to come, but it all works for the good of those God has called to His purpose. Just as we walked with the Lord through our past tribulations – He will be with us all the way home, till we see Him face to face. We look back now (in our sixties) and see how each hardship tested and proved us for these last years of our lives. It’s not how you go through the trial, but what you get out of it that matters. Some of us don’t go through troubles and hardship very well, but it’s what we are in possession of at the end of each trial that reveals who we are because of whom we belong to, either the Lord or the world (Satan).

Even when God reveals things to certain people that He has “proved” (upright and blameless) they have a difficult time believing it, as Zechariah did. Zechariah and Elizabeth were told they would have a child in their old age, the one who was to prepare the way of the Lord. Imagine that being said to you by an angel sent from God! But, it’s not any different than when the Holy Spirit speaks to us in a very specific way – out of the Bible.

Zechariah asked Gabriel for a sign because it was so hard for him to believe that he and his wife would be chosen for such an undertaking and privilege. Imagine the accountability Zechariah and Elizabeth felt. Imagine the burden of what God was depending on them to carry out! Ah, but God was with them to help them! What is missing today with God’s people (I’m including myself here) is sincere responsibility and a sense of urgency with the “things of God:” PERSONAL CONVICTION and DETERMINATION.

As the story goes, Zechariah lost his voice in answer to his request for a sign. He didn’t receive it back at John’s birth; he received it back when he faithfully proclaimed the Word of God boldly before the people. The family wanted to name Zechariah’s son after Zechariah. But, here is where Zechariah’s faith in the Word of God was validated, and with the validation of our faith - we are healed.

When God is satisfied with our confession – God meets our needs. When God is pleased with our faithful obedience – God is generous! Ongoing unresolved sin in our lives becomes a blockage for our purpose to be fulfilled, as well as for God meeting our needs. You don’t agree? Why did Jesus tell us the parable about the prodigal son? One son left his father’s house and misused the blessings of his father, and later found himself eating garbage along with the pigs. (Luke 15:11-20) When he repented and returned to his father, he was greeted with open arms and a generous feast, and graciously put back into his father’s will and inheritance.

What really comes out to me here in Zechariah’s testimony is how healthy it is to simply believe and act on God’s Word to us; to take it wholeheartedly without a doubt, no matter how ordinary or extreme it seems. God’s message to us from the Holy Spirit is not up for group debate or anyone’s judgment. We will do well to believe and proceed.

As I read the proclamation Gabriel made to Mary about our Lord, it was about His second coming in the effect it would have on the earth. I thought this was ‘key.’ There are many personal opinions about where Jesus came from and what happened to Him after His death. Here is where we get so many different “religions.” Religion comes from men thinking what they want about God and Jesus Christ.

*“There is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live…..There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”* 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 and Ephesians 4:4-6

I believe God wants everyone to know what’s coming and who’s coming, or why would He have shown it to certain trustworthy men so they would write it down for every generation to know, and be prepared for?

Now the Bible has a lot of competition over God’s Truth. And, as we know, there have been many anti-Christs throughout history; leaders claiming the anointing of God on their message and works. The only legitimate anointed “anti-Christ” is Satan when he gets his day in the sun; his coming out of the darkness (closet) into the sunlight to rule the world – openly and deceptively. The great deception, a.k.a. the Great Tribulation.

This is why we long for “the perfection to come!” The Bible is not “the perfection” as Paul mentioned in the book of Corinthians. The coming of our Lord with His millennial kingdom is “the perfection” or “perfect One.”

I believe most Christians are sick and at loss in many ways because they just don’t believe what God says, no matter what it is that He has said to them. We work hard at our proud self-improvements and improving our religious organizations but when it comes to something God has ‘personally’ given us to do – that no one else can do – all of a sudden we need a sign or someone else to tell us the same thing; to confirm it.

I’m talking about something specifically for you to do that God has assigned to you only; that if you don’t do it – it won’t get done. I’m not talking about who’s going to fill the pulpit after the pastor leaves, or who should lead a home Bible study group, or how much money/time/strength to give to your church. We can look back through history and see God calling on ordinary men and women to do something extraordinary; even when completing it brought trouble, persecution and suffering into their lives.

**If you have been called by God to do something then you do not need anyone’s permission to do it. You don’t need to sign a contract with conditions. You don’t need the church or government to pay you for that position. Your freedom is secured “in Christ” and not ‘in the church’ or ‘in the government.’**

Also, another thing that comes out to me about Zechariah’s situation is: Be careful what you ask God for! God’s messenger gave Zechariah what he asked for in a sign but it wasn’t the kind of sign Zechariah was looking for: *“And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”* (Luke 1:20) Zechariah was unable to speak for about 9 months. I don’t think Zechariah was asking for that kind of sign!

The physical and the spiritual are connected. Physical things happen to us because of unbelief or disobedience to God’s Word. Yet, we should never judge another person’s spirituality by his/her physical condition. Not all physical conditions (or circumstances) are due to unbelief or disobedience, as in the case of the blind man on the side of the road, who from birth suffered all his life with blindness. Both Jesus and His disciples noticed him, but the disciples saw the man much differently than Jesus did.

*“His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘****but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.****’”* John 9:1-4

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, my God, is not the God of sickness and disease, but He is the God of the sick and diseased, the wounded and hurting, the oppressed and tortured (heaven forbid). He is not the God of death, but He is the God of those dying that call out to Him in faith.

Now there are certain prophetic things to be fulfilled; some that have been fulfilled and some that are still ahead to be fulfilled. There is also a “mystery” spoken of in the Bible that I’m not that convinced should be regarded as a prophecy yet to be fulfilled; it’s called “the rapture.” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Revelation 10:7)

*“****According to the Lord's own word****, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”* 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Is there a difference between a prophecy and a mystery? Jesus shared top-secrets with His closest friends and comrades that He didn’t share with anyone else. I believe prophecy is for everyone because of what Paul said:

*“If an unbeliever or someone who does not understand (the truth) comes in while everybody is prophesying (speaking truths), he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’”* 1 Corinthians 14:24-25

Jesus calls all His disciples out of their worldly and sinful lifestyles, religions and governments – to walk with Him and learn about His Kingdom that will come to the earth, but it is also a Kingdom that would *mysteriously* grow within each of us until it fills us; until we are thinking and living out His kingdom-principles, even in a world that refuses them and Him.

Not all believers want to go this far with the Lord and are why He taught about the four types of ground that His seed fell upon. Only one of the four produced what it was intended to produce. He taught the parable to the whole crowd before Him, but it was only to His chosen ones that He revealed the meaning.

*“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”* Matthew 22:14

Most Christians do not believe Christ will return in their lifetime and so this prevents them and their children from being ready and is why most Christians will not be prepared spiritually and physically for who and what is coming, just as warned.

*“Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”* Revelation 22:7

How are we “blessed?” We are blessed by “being prepared and ready.” Is it a “blessing from God” to be caught unprepared and at a loss? God wants His people to be “prepared and ready.” This proves that we are true and not false; that we are “in Christ’s confidence” aware of things people are not aware of. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to prepare for what is coming. This is of great importance to our Lord that works through “His Body” to fulfill the will of God; all the good things that accompany our GREAT salvation.

It makes me see things differently about my family and friends, my time left on the earth, my material possessions and the plans and activities I choose each day and future-wise. What used to satisfy me doesn’t satisfy me anymore. What I used to look forward to, as an end, is not what I long for anymore. I have been shown greater things, eternal things that put ‘temporal’ things in their temporal place.

Research states that 33% of the Bible is hardly taught in the organized traditional mainstream churches today. This 33% is both fulfilled and unfulfilled prophecy. Fulfilled prophecy is important to know because it prepares us for prophecy yet to be fulfilled that is our concern as well as responsibility to know and prepare for. This is the wisdom of God that most are lacking today, and is why (for the most part) the church is said to be sick, sleeping and soiled.

The problem with America is the fault of the church of Jesus Christ; our disobedience to God’s Laws and Christ’s Commission. God is doing unheard things with His purified body; the health and wealth of the body of Christ is based on each of us coming out of religious and worldly systems with our full dependency on God, obeying His direct Word to each of us.

Those things that are to be fulfilled, even among us – are *“the glories that follow the sufferings of our Lord”* in His work of redemption on the cross. (1 Peter 1:10-16) Each generation of Christ’s Spirit-filled disciples have something to complete; whether individually or corporately. We can fulfill that which is of noble or ignoble purpose, honorable or dishonorable, a curse or a blessing because God controls it all for His end. Based on your belief – God will use you in one way or another.

Man has always believed (by self-deception) that he controls his own end. It’s like an empty fragile pot proudly proclaiming before its Potter how it will be used. If it weren’t so contemptible – it would be comical.

Are you among those falling right into the hands of your captors (those who sound and seem good because they claim to have your good at heart), or are you among those who sit at the feet of the “Living Word of God” (Jesus Christ) each day to get the right perspective on things happening and things to get done?

Are you among those who live day to day in ignorance of Satan’s schemes to use and enslave you, or among those who know and see what is really happening?

Are you among those who think the return of the Lord won’t happen in your lifetime or in the lifetime of your children? Or are you among those who are ready in every way to see the Lord and to be a part of His glorious return?

We need to know ourselves (and each other) truthfully, not deceptively. God requires His people to be holy as He is holy. Repentance is the first part of our holy redemption. Leaving our sinful lifestyles and worldly systems behind (and quickly at that) to walk with the Lord and do His will – is the second part of our holy redemption. The third part of our redemption is when the Lord returns to redeem Israel and make all things new.

It is childish and immature to want Jesus to walk with us on ‘our’ path as we do ‘our’ will. The Lord will only go ‘with us’ so far, and then the day comes when we must take our purpose in Christ seriously and walk it out. For our planet earth, this is the prophetic fulfillment that she, as well as all of God’s creation, longs to see and even groans for. Man’s evil deeds upon the earth are causing creation to revolt against mankind with all kinds of natural disasters, diseases and wars. The earth has no will of its own; by nature she either rejoices or rejects how man lives upon her.

*“The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”* Romans 8:19-21

After God created each part of creation He called it “good.” It was all free to thrive and rejoice in its Creator. That which God called “good” in the beginning will be just that when He is finished eliminating evil rebellion, including death itself. God keeps His Word!

What God has said to each part of His creation – is exactly what each part of creation hopes and longs for – no matter what or who it is as long as there is a fear of God their Creator. Evil men have no fear of God; they create ways to put fear in people in order to control them for their own evil purposes. It has been said that America’s current president along with his regime are at work to manufacture crisis and chaos in the nation so that the people will follow their solutions and systems; to enslave a nation. The world is full of governments like this; the perfect set up for the coming of anti-Christ.

Simeon, an old man devout and righteous, had been waiting for the “consolation of Israel,” ever since the Holy Spirit told him that he would see the Lord’s Christ before he dies. (Luke 2:25) Imagine how Simeon felt holding the baby Jesus in his arms! The Lord’s purpose for Simeon seeing “the fulfillment of prophecy” in his day – was so that Simeon would be in place to speak about the coming of the Lord and what His coming into the world would accomplish. (Luke 2:28-35)

The Holy Spirit still speaks to certain men (and women) today in similar ways – as to the coming of our Lord again. To some He speaks very specifically about the return of the Lord, and the things preceding it – to “prepare” them and through them to prepare the church. Just like the Holy Spirit moved Simeon into his place of prophesying, the Holy Spirit is doing the same thing today with prophesies about Christ’s return; how soon it really is and how unprepared most Christians are for it. When Jesus entered the temple to reveal Himself, the leaders “did not recognize the time of our Lord’s coming to them,” and so it will be again at His second coming - for those who are not listening to the Holy Spirit. Religion with its industry of regulations, programs and paid positions – will not be prepared for the second greatest event in the history of man.

Has the Holy Spirit ever told you something to look forward to ‘in this life;’ something He would show, give or bring you, or something He would do through you before you die? If so, you can’t shake it off no matter how long its fulfillment tarries; no matter how many situations you find yourself in that seem to come against it! Simeon never gave up hope on seeing the Lord before he died. He kept himself ready and prepared for it says that he was righteous and devout.

In all of the waiting, you might find yourself asking God if you heard Him wrong. Even after years and years of waiting, when it ‘feels’ like it’s not going to happen, the Holy Spirit keeps reminding you of what was spoken to you personally from the Lord; that it will most certainly happen in your lifetime. What is in God’s mind that He makes us wait so long; so long that we want to throw in the towel?! There must be something that He knows about us – we don’t know – yet!

I have come to know myself a little better in all the waiting. Waiting for His promise to me (Mike and I) to be fulfilled has shown us a lot about ourselves. The longer I wait, the more unworthy I feel. And maybe that’s it. He’s breaking down all the things (religion, addictions, attractions, culture, organizations, methods, personal plans for entertainment, etc.) that are not going to be there for me (for us) in the days ahead. I’m seeing Him draw me closer and closer to His side; to His *narrow but liberating* path of life. The weaker these false-enablers become, the stronger the Lord becomes for me. As each “enabler” is shown for what it really is, I am learning why the Lord commands us to come out of depending on those things that will soon be gone – forever! The truth is, we are created first and foremost to depend on God, our Father, and obey His Word.

I am seeing the true ‘eternal’ value and ‘day to day’ enjoyment of this! Awe….He makes all things beautiful in His time. I love You so much Father! I will proclaim: “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore I will put all my hope in Him!”

I believe, just like those who were waiting for the Lord, when He came the first time, there are many that have received a revelation or vision from the Holy Spirit about the Lord’s second coming and how to prepare themselves, and then to prepare others. (Luke 1:17) The truth is, not all of the Lord’s people are ready to see Him; that is to say that they are not ready to see Him as they hope to see Him, to be “welcomed richly” into His Kingdom. There are too many “things” in their (our) lives that they are still depending on instead of Him, and that are hindering them and weighing them down. This grieves the Lord to see how far off His course we get for whatever reason. Jesus didn’t consider the feelings and views of people in speaking the truth:

*“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* John 10:9-10

*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven,* ***but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*** *Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”* Matthew 7:13—26

Once He “shuts the door,” that’s it! It happened once before and once more the world will experience what it means to have God as your extreme enemy.

As Jesus revealed to His disciples, we will have many things come “against us” because we love and obey Him. It’s a given; one that we should rejoice over knowing what will come from it. The Lord taught His first disciples about the persecution and hardship that would come into their lives because of Him and His Word and we are no different just because we are the last who are putting “the roof on” God’s House, or in other “perfect” words:

*“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.”* Revelation 6:9-11

*“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”* Revelation 7:14

Jesus was speaking prophetically when He said that there would be far more believers that turn away from Him, for whatever reason, than there are believers that finish with Him doing all the “things” on the earth according to the Father’s ‘House Plan.’ They are called the “heroes of the faith!” What will your legacy be? How will your children meet the upcoming persecution against their faith in Christ? Will they fulfill “those things that are to be done by them” and prepare their children for their purpose?

We can no longer say that the return of the Lord is a long time off, and not be concerned about who we leave behind; and what we better leave behind for the saints in the Great Tribulation. There are “things that must be fulfilled among us” in “preparing the way of the Lord.” May we understand the “time” we live in, and the “things” that still need to be done, both spiritually and physically. There will come a day when we can look back over the history of mankind and see how our God perfectly and patiently carried out His plan, generation by generation, for the redemption of mankind.

With Daniel - God’s angel told him to seal up the prophecy, meaning to write it down only and not proclaim it because it was for a later time to be fulfilled. But with John the angel said,

*“Do* ***not*** *seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.”* Revelation 22:10-11

The book of Revelation is for the Church to know because it begins and ends with her, the “Bride of Christ” that is. It begins with Christ’s rebukes and warnings to the Church and ends with “New Jerusalem coming down from Heaven dressed like a bride for her bridegroom,” at the end of the Lord’s one thousand year reign on earth when all has been restored and renewed. The book of Revelation is for the Church and yet it is the least read, understood and studied by God’s people.

Worldly presidents and pastors are good at giving people “false” hope based on wishful thinking; thinking that is contrary to what the Lord gave to His prophets, especially John the revelator. What we need today are “forceful men” with our Lord’s “kingdom thinking” for Jesus said:

*“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.”* Matthew 11:12

*“Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”* Revelation 22:7

Hallelujah to the Lamb; our up and coming King!