

Before the THRONE

Inner Court Ministries, Inc. Winter 2005

"Awesome Deeds in Righteousness"

By Mark D. Spencer



The Essence - These last of the Last Days will be punctuated with terrible and awesome deeds of righteousness! The earth and its people will experience once again the gloriousness and awesomeness of the Living God!

This clarion call of the Spirit includes a cry for intercessors to believe with Him for the release of such Ending Days awesome deeds in righteousness!

"By terrible things (**awesome deeds**) in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation; You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea." (Psalm 65:5)

It is time! Time for the Church, as well as the nations of the world to experience once again the awesome deeds of our God!

While miracles, signs and wonders have never ceased within the Church Age as so many would tell us, there have been periods of time where the manifested glory of God has subsided from the realms of men much as the waters of coastal lands experience the rhythmic ebb and flow of the tides. But, the tide of God's Shekinah glory is rapidly rising!

Rolling Up His Sleeves

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you--even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets." Acts 3:19-21 NIV. Heaven is awaiting with eager anticipation the restoration of all things! The last one hundred to three hundred years has seen the restoration of the apostolic minded ministries and churches in the earth that are wholly dedicated, not to man's agendas or promotion, but rather to seeing Jesus exalted and declared among the nations and peoples of the world!

And now... and now it's our Father's turn! He is preparing to bare His arm and demonstrate Himself to a watching world. "The LORD hath made bare His

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holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." (Isaiah 52:10) Yes, Jesus is the Arm

of the Lord that has already been bared in the earth. He is the pinnacle of all the wonders of God, but even now, it is as if the Lord of the Harvest is rolling up His sleeve in preparation to enter this final harvest - personally supervising these final moments of Ending Days labors before time is over!

"For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and

wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know." Acts 2:15-22.

As these prophecies were true two thousand years ago, surely they are even more pertinent in these final closing moments of history! This is surely not the time for sleep - there is far too much to miss! "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." Ephesians 5:14

There are signs, wonders and miracles... then there are awesome deeds in righteousness!

Let's define our terms...

Miracle. The word "miracle" comes from the Greek word "dunamis" where we derive our English word for dynamite. It speaks of power, strength, and a mighty or wonderful work. The 1828 Webster Dictionary defines it "to wonder," literally then "a wonderful thing." Further a miracle is "an event or effect contrary to the established constitution and course of things, or a deviation from the known laws of nature; a supernatural event. Miracles can only be worked by Almighty power, as when Christ healed the lepers... or calmed the tempest." We may conclude then that a miracle is the suspension of natural law by the higher law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus!

"The truth is, anyone who believes in Me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." John 14:12

Wonder. The word "wonder" is defined by the 1828 Webster Dictionary as "the emotion which is excited by novelty, or the presentation to the sight or mind, of something new, unusual, strange, great, extraordinary, or not well understood; something that arrests the attention by its novelty, grandeur or inexplicableness..." We might say then that a wonder is something the Lord does to gain our notice, as it were, something that literally arrests our mind's attention!

"...and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him." Acts 3:10. Or as the NLT says, "they were absolutely astounded!"

Sign. A sign is a token; something by which another thing is shown or represented; any visible thing, any motion, appearance or event which indicates the existence or approach of something else. It is an indication of a remarkable transaction, event or phenomenon. It is a visible transaction, event or appearance intended as proof or evidence of something else.

Acts 2:19-20 "And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come."

Jesus demonstrated all three - miracles, signs and wonders. "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know." Acts 2:22. Others have walked in these same amazing expressions of the Kingdom of God as well. **Stephen...** "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." Acts 6:8. **Paul...** "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul" Acts 19:11. **The Twelve...** "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" Hebrews 2:4. **You and me...** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father." John 14:12 NASB.

What then is an "Awesome Deed"?

An awesome deed may be classified as a miracle, but a miracle, a sign, or a wonder is not necessarily an awesome deed!

Awesome. The word awesome comes from the word 'awe', meaning to strike with fear and reverence; to influence by fear, terror or respect. It is a fear mingled with admiration or reverence; reverential fear. "Stand in awe, and sin not." Psalm 4:4. It further means a dreadful or terrible act. Such definitions may at times confuse our theologies and fog our thinking. Therefore, the term "awesome deeds in righteousness" may be better clarified by example than by definition. The act of Creation - the death of

Egypt's first born - the parting of the Red Sea and subsequent utter annihilation of Pharaoh's armies - Joshua's command to stop the Sun in its course - or Isaiah's prayer for the Sun to reverse it's course - these are true "awesome deeds in righteousness!" And at the pinnacle of awesome deeds in righteousness is the resurrection triumph of Jesus Christ! Alleluia!

Two aspects of Awesome Deeds.

As the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit is two-sided - one side as an offensive weapon to use against our spiritual enemies - and one side to use on our own soulishness - so awesome and terrible deeds in righteousness may manifest both sides of the blessing and the curse of God. (Matthews 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:12; Deuteronomy 28). Aaron's rod demonstrated this two-sidedness of an awesome deed - though only in type. (Numbers 16 & 17.) Clearly seen is the judgment by God as the rebels are immediately and finally judged. As well, we can clearly see the blessing and authority of God released upon the possessor of Aaron's rod.¹ We must understand the two-fold nature of an awesome deed in righteousness lest we miss the opportunity the Spirit of God is affording us to proclaim the Good News and the Son's coming Kingdom!² "Yet have I set My king upon My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, You are My Son; this day have I begotten you. Ask of Me, and I shall give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O kings: be instructed, judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him." (Psalm 2:6-12)

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¹ See Before the THRONE, "The Season of Aaron's Rod", Autumn 2004.

² See Before the THRONE, Of Tsunamis, God and Men... or From Whence Cometh Tragedy?, January 2005.

Past Awesome Deeds in Righteousness Revisited

The Exodus was a period of time where awesome deed after awesome deed revealed to both the Israelite nations and to the Egyptian nation just who Yahweh was! These awesome deeds in righteousness judged idols and false gods through plagues that swept over the land at Moses' command of faith or outstretched rod. These awesome deeds in righteousness repaid four hundred and thirty years of back wages owed the Jewish people by the Egyptian government. Though bound as slaves under the worst of conditions, when these now free men left the land of their captivity, there was not one feeble among them! These awesome deeds in righteousness fed and clothed, cooled and warmed, protected and delivered, judged and buried millions of people in the midst of a desert - for forty years!

Joshua... issues the command of faith... and the sun stops in its course until he can vanquish this enemy of Israel!

Joshua, the captain of the armies of Israel, when in the midst of a great battle where the Lord has even rained great hailstones upon Israel's enemies, and now he sees their pending victory evaporating because

of the encroaching darkness, issues the command of faith...and the sun stops in its course until he can vanquish this enemy of Israel! (Joshua 10). Or what of the battle recorded in the book of Judges where the very stars help fight against Israel's enemies?! "They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera." (Judges 5:20)

Isaiah the prophet and Hezekiah the king, together experience another awesome deed in righteousness. When Isaiah asks if Hezekiah would like a sign from the Lord to confirm His promised healing of the king's body, Isaiah offers to move the Sun forward in the sky. Hezekiah responds that such a miracle would be too easy, for the Sun will move that direction anyway. You know the story; the Sun is again moved in its course, but this time at Isaiah's command of faith! Only this time the Sun moves backward through the sky! Our minds reel under such possibilities though our spirits cry out like a small child who squeals when their daddy has tossed them playfully up into the air, "More Daddy"! So, the Church in this hour is crying, "More Abba!"

Awesome Deeds in Righteousness and the Ending Days.

Yes, "the word is on the street." Abba is about to demonstrate Himself before the whole of the earth and its people. The Lord's servant Oral Robert's has most recently spoken of the visitation he has received.³ The whole of the earth will see in the heavens and sky over the eastern U.S. a sign of His impending Second Coming! "And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come." (Acts 2).

One only need read through the Book of Revelation to come to the conclusion that the awesome deeds of righteousness of the Exodus will pale in the face

"...the awesome deeds of righteousness of the Exodus will pale in the face of the awesome deeds that await us in the waning moments of time!

of the awesome deeds that await us in the waning moments of time! The two witnesses of Revelation will demonstrate such awesome

deeds in righteousness to the world and its corrupt leaders, that when they are finally overcome by the anti-Christ, the world will rejoice because such judgments will have finally - or so they erroneously suppose - ceased! (Revelation 11)

How can we begin to believe for these Awesome Deeds?

My Creed leads me to think that prayer is efficacious, and surely a day's asking God to overrule all events for good is not lost. Still there is a great feeling that when a man is praying he is doing nothing, and this feeling makes us give undue importance to work, sometimes even to the hurrying over or even to the neglect of prayer.

Do not we rest in our day too much on the arm of flesh? Cannot the same wonders be done now as of old? Do not the eyes Of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth still to show Himself strong on behalf of those who put their trust in Him? Oh that God would give me more practical faith in Him! Where is now the Lord God of Elijah? He is waiting for Elijah to call on Him.—JAMES GILMOUR OF MONGOLIA

³ "The Wake-up Call" Kenneth Copeland Ministries 2004.

Where are the Elijahs? ...the Moses'? ...the Pauls'? Why is it necessary to believe for awesome deeds in righteousness? Won't God merely act when He is ready? Something for us to consider - why is it that people typically get saved or healed in churches that preach salvation and healing? Why doesn't the Lord sovereignly show up in a secularized church or in schools and just save everyone? Why doesn't He just visit hospitals and heal all the sick folks? It's not that He doesn't want those people saved or healed, but He has chosen to work through the medium of willing men and women whom He can send! Indeed James Gilmour of Mongolia, where are the Elijahs'?

Daniel was such an Elijah. Called of God to intercede and believe for the unfolding of end time events we often miss that much of these revelations came because he refused to simply say,

Are you the Elijah the Spirit of God is looking for to join with Him in this great work?

"I saw in the writings of Jeremiah the prophet that our captivity in Babylon would only be seventy years so I guess the Lord will act any day now." Of course he didn't respond this way! Rather he began to fast and seek God to fulfill the promise of His word! (Daniel 9:2). And the call is the same for us today. The Spirit of God is looking for someone to enter the yoke with Him and begin to believe for these Ending Days' terrible and awesome deeds in righteousness! "This charge I commit unto you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on you, that by them you might wage a good warfare;" (1 Timothy 1:18)

Are you the Elijah the Spirit of God is looking for to join with Him in this great work? Maybe you're a Daniel or a Paul? It is time to respond and answer the call of the Spirit in this hour!

Personally, what will an awesome deed in righteousness look like to you?

"... the residual blessing of faith and glory will more than meet any need you may have!

As with all spiritual truths, no matter how out of reach they may seem to the average or ordinary believer like us, the Lord will always, always enable us and encourage us to expect His mighty workings within our own lives. Yes, we are called to believe for the greater manifestations of His glory in the

earth, but as our Father, He invites us to believe Him for miracles, signs, wonders and even, awesome deeds in righteousness right our own back yard, so to speak! As we see the Consummation of the Ages so quickly approaching we need to latch hold with our faith and if nothing else, the residual blessing of faith and glory will more than meet any need you may have! (2 Kings 13:21; Acts 19:12). As we believe for the larger sphere of awesome deeds, we can expect their manifestation on our level to meet our need! (Matthew 15:22-28.)

Now then, what will an awesome deed in righteousness look like in your life? Go ahead and dream and pray big - you cannot possibly out dream or ask too much! "Now glory be to God! By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope." (Ephesians 3:20 NLT).

Coming Soon - Awesome Deeds in Righteousness

What is in store for the world in the coming days? The Tsunami of 2004 will fade from memory by the coming terrible and awesome deeds in righteousness! The earth will continue her revulsion at man's sinfulness and evil⁴. In fact, such horrors will only increase in both frequency and intensity.

"...the Church of Jesus Christ is in for her finest moments!"

However, the Church of Jesus Christ is in for her finest moments! Entire nations will repent and come to Christ in a day! This last flurry of activity will take our breath away! Believers who catch this revelation will fulfill the prophecy of Jesus to "do greater works than these." (John 14:12).

These concluding moments will be just that... mere moments as time races to its final conclusion and its last meeting with the Ancient of Days - the Alpha and Omega - the I AM that I AM!

The definitive awesome deed in righteousness -- the Rapture of the Church!

The Church's closing moments will be the most awesome moments in

⁴ "Of Tsunamis, God and Men..."

history as we race to win the last of the last souls coming to Christ, until at that moments' arrival when the last soul is gathered safely in and the definitive awesome deed in righteousness is manifest for all the world to see, or shall we say, not see - "for in atwinkling of an eye", the Bride of Christ will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air! Yes, the final awesome deed in righteousness that we will experience here on the earth will be the Blessed Hope, the Rapture of the Church! And so shall we ever be with the Lord! Maranatha! Even so come Lord Jesus!

B†T - THE END

Standing in the Gap

(Practical help for the ministry of intercession.)

by Mark D. Spencer

To experience the impossible, you must first see the impossible! To believe for the impossible, you must have a revelation of the impossible! You don't need to figure out how to do the impossible, that's the Spirit's job. Your task is to believe with Him for its manifestation in the earth! (John 6:29)

"I command you - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) To enter into the intercessory labors of the Lord, one must be resolved to walk by the Spirit and not by their own devices or abilities. You will learn to judge with righteous judgments (John 7:24), which means you must become a person of the Word - living and moving and having your life and breathe in Jesus the Living Word!

You will need to be courageous for at times your intercessions - your seeing what others do not see, and hearing what others do not hear - will bring you ridicule and pain - and sadly, most often such grief will come from the believing Church!

Having seen the eternal and having seen the invisible will spur you onward, ever pressing onward and upward to again gain a glimpse of Him who is altogether Lovely, altogether Wonderful.

B†T THE END

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