

Preparation for 2016

Become the Select, Sharpened, Polished Arrow

10 January 2016
Sunday morning service
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Good morning Church

Trust that everyone had a blessed Christmas and that we all spend quality time with our friends and families. We honour our senior pastors as well as our assistant pastors who are currently on a well-deserved holiday. We pray God's covering and protection over them.

I want to wish everyone a blessed, prosperous and a God filled 2016. I also want to congratulate all our matriculants and all our learners for excelling during 2015. Remember hard work pays off...you do your part and God will never fail you on His side. We trusting God that the children in this body, the next generation will excel in school, university, colleges and work this year. **(Prayer)**

I've realised during this festive season is that end up spending so much time "PREPARING"

- We prepared for **Christmas** which has come and gone (food, gifts etc)
- We prepared for **New Year** which has come and gone (making new year resolutions – sometimes to stop our bad habits)
- Now we are preparing for **school's/Universities/ Colleges** to open (uniforms/ pay school fees etc.)
- Those of us that are working are preparing to go back to **work** or like me we already back at work.

So we go through the motions of preparations.

- ❖ The question this morning is how prepared are we spiritually for 2016.
- ❖ Do we make enough time for God to allow for preparation, and
- ❖ Do we allow God to mould and shape us as He fashions and prepares us for the assignment ahead.

We all know the saying that without a vision the people perish. So you may be wondering what our vision is for 2016? Our vision is aligned to the prophetic word released by Dr Jonathan David for 2016.

Prophecy for 2016 released at SOS

2016: The Year of His righteous sceptre. The year of the select arrow:

Jeremiah 3:14

In 2016 God is hand picking His select arrows that will operate in His supernatural grace. They are not only select arrows but also polished sharpened arrows. They may not have status but they possess stature in the Spirit. God will move them into strategic places, places of victory, a place close to Him where nothing can harm them. Therefore, let's have an open heart and give Him our highest and best so that we can be that select arrow.

2016 THE YEAR OF THE TRUE SHEPHERD

Jeremiah 3:15

God will redesign, reinvent, & reshape the ministry gifts in the house especially in the fathers of the house. Fathers will receive a new heart- one that is after the heart of the Father God. Shepherds will

begin to represent the Father's heart alone - no more self-agenda. In this year pastors / shepherds are going to encounter God in such a powerful way that their lives will no longer be the same. God will show shepherds how to feed each sheep- what kind of spiritual food they need and how much etc. Wisdom, knowledge, insight, understanding and dimensions of the Holy Spirit are the portion of every shepherd in this New Year. Pastoring is establishing God's government in people's lives - it is not controlling or manipulating them. The grace that God has given to shepherds is for others and not for themselves.

Jeremiah 3:16

In 2016 we will carry His peace and presence, His resources, His strength and His revelation in our heart. We will be carriers of revival grace, of the message, of life of the Word. Our capacity is going to increase, capacity to multiply and produce. There will be an increase of the measure of God's presence in our lives so that all those around us will see that God is with us.

Reality will replace ritual. Supernatural will replace natural. Original will replace substitute
We are now the ark of His covenant.

Jeremiah 3:17

2016 - The year of establishing His Throne and Kingdom governance. God's government will be seen inside the church and this will attract the nations. God's throne will be established in our houses so that we will become relevant to society. We will become the models- they will see how we live - our marriages, how we raise our children, how we handle our finances, how we run our businesses, our character etc. They will want what we have. Our light will shine bright in the midst of the darkness. Isaiah 60:1f.

In 2016 God is bringing a synergy amongst His people that will demonstrate "Unity in diversity". People groups will come together aligned to the same frequency, same beliefs, and same values - one family. God will show that the only way is Kingdom way by how His people live in harmony even though we are different. We will become stronger as we integrate and harmonize and use our different competencies to establish His Kingdom. Therefore, we must establish proper rules of engagement in our houses.

Jeremiah 3:19

2016: The year of the manifestation of sons of God in the nations of the earth. Sons of God will begin to manifest and rise up in the different domains. There will be great manifestations of the King and His Kingdom through His sons.

Therefore, in 2016 we must be the select arrow, we must model the message, we must reveal Christ, we must touch the multitudes, we must create the movement, and we must complete the mandate.

So church I asked myself the question how do we prepare to become the select arrow, the polished arrow, the sharpened arrow? There are some requirements involved:

- Identification in order to be selected;
- Arrows tip must be sharpened to launch;
- There is a process of 1. Selection, 2. Sharpening and 3. Polishing (one follows the other)

Isaiah 43: 1 "But now thus says the Lord, who created you O Jacob, and He who formed you O Israel. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name...You are mine. "

We see in this Scripture that **Jacob was created** but **Israel was formed**. Church we must allow God to form us in order to become that select arrow, that polished arrow and that sharpened arrow in 2016.

God prepared David well in advance before he slayed Goliath. David was formed and prepared to kill the giant. He killed the lion and the bear (1 Sam 17: 34-32)

Let's look at how God prepared Jacob.

Genesis: 28:1-4

(1) Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. (2) **Arise, and go** to Padan Aran, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. (3) "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of peoples (4) And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and to your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger which God gave to Abraham.

Genesis28:10-22

(2) Now Jacob **went out** of Beersheba and went toward Haran. (11) So he came to a **certain place** and he stayed there all night because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head and he lay down in that place to sleep. (12) Then he dreamed and beheld a ladder was set up on the earth and its top reached to heaven and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. (13) And behold the Lord stood above it and said: I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The Land on which you lie, I will give to you and your descendants. (14) Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. (15) Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you" (16) Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it." (17) And he was afraid and said: How **awesome is this place!** This is none other than the house of God and this is the gate of heaven!" (18) Then Jacob rose early in the morning and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. (19) And he called the name of that place Bethel (meaning house of God) but the but the name of the City had been Luz previously. (20) Then Jacob made a vow saying "If God will be **with me** and **keep me** in this way that I am going and **give me** bread to eat and clothing to put on. (21) "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. (22) And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.

Church we see a few things here:

- Isaac charged Jacob and said **arise and go** to Padan Aran. We see Isaac's explicit obedience. Without that first step of obedience....willingness to take on the assignment the blessings/provision of God cannot follow. Isaac had to take action.
- A second observation is that Jacob had an **open heaven encounter** where God is promising him everything Isaac blessed him with. At this very.....Verse 20. Jacob made a vow saying" *If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on so that I come back to my father's house in peace then the Lord shall be my God.*" Jacob realise that Almighty God is the God of Abraham and Isaac but not yet His God. He now realise what it means to live under open heavens in order for legacy to be transferred.
- Jacob makes a **covenant** with God....v:22 all that you will give me I will surely give you a **tenth**. Giving God a tithe of everything is not negotiable. Tithe speaks about honour.

- The **certain place** which was an ordinary place but became an **awesome place** where God revealed Himself to Jacob.

Genesis 33: 22- 32 (Jacob wrestled with God)

(22) And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. (23) He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. (24) Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. (25) Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. (26) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" (27) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." (28) And He said, "**Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel;** for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." (29) Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And **He blessed him there.** (30) So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." (31) Just as **he crossed over** Peniel (meaning face of God) the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. (32) Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.

- Jacob was so **determined/ desperate** that he said, I will not let you go unless you **bless** me. (Touch of God)
- Here God **changed his name to Israel and He blessed him.** No longer the old but you have been formed and prepared for such a time of kingdom advancement. God wants to change us and bless us
- Jacob had to **cross over** Peniel...we also have to cross.
 - We have to cross over from sin nature into life in the spirit,
 - Cross over from sin consciousness to God consciousness

I would like to emphasise the Scripture. **Isaiah 43: 1** "But now thus says the Lord, who created you O Jacob, and He who formed you O Israel. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name...You are mine. "

Genesis 28 and 32 shows us how **Jacob was created** but **Israel was formed.**

Church we must allow God to form us. Just like Jacob we have to allow God to change our nature and give us spiritual stature so that we can take dominion in every domain.

- No more the **flesh** but to live by the **spirit**;
- No more **natural** but **supernatural** God encounter;
- No more **recycling** of the past but a **fresh** new future;
- No more **religious** traditions but **open heavens**;

How do we do become the select, sharpened, polished arrows like Jacob:

- We must pursue destiny in God and re-organise our lives;
 - Change our lifestyle\be where God wants us to be
 - Connect to the power source of our life priorities
- We cannot remain in a place of comfort but must "arise and go" to fulfil our kingdom assignment. Like Jacob we must be determined to take action;
 - Indecisive action gives advantage to the enemy;
 - We sometimes fail because we do not act.

- We must desire to live under open heavens. Life in the spirit so that legacy transfer can take place;
 - Come to church expecting the supernatural (surely God is in this place. The certain place must become the awesome place);
- We have to make covenant with God and come to a place of explicit obedience and faithfulness in our tithes and offerings
- We must become so determined/ desperate for God to touch us, to touch our mind (mind of Christ), hearts (heart of Christ), mouths, hands, feet etc. and to BLESS US. (Touching God must become our passion)
- We must desire for God to change us 2016. Change our names but not just our names but most importantly to change our nature;
- We have to cross over. We cannot remain in the old but must cross into what God has prepared for us in 2016.
- We must be one with the chain of authority and act in accountability;
 - Ps Bill receives authority from Pappa Jonathan
 - We are under Ps Bill's authority
 - We must be accountable to the authority given to us;
 - We must submit ourselves to God and resist the devil and the devil will flee from us
- We must maximise and recognise spiritual time and season. Everything has time limits. We must align ourselves to what God is doing and saying this year:
 - It is the year of His righteous sceptre;
 - It is the year of the select arrow;
 - It is the year of the true shepherd;
 - It is the year where we will carry His presence, peace, resources, strength and revelation in our hearts
 - It is the year of establishing His throne and kingdom governance
 - It is the year of the manifestation of sons of God in the nations of the earth
- We must not pursue status but stature in the spirit. To be in right standing with God, His word, people and the devil etc.
- We must model the message, we must reveal Christ, we must touch the multitudes and we must complete/ fulfil our kingdom mandate for corporate destiny
- We have a choice; we must choose to become the select, sharpened, polished arrows. Let us choose to become that arrow
- We must become the church unusual which will transit into the full expression of Zion

Isaiah 43:18-20

“Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing, Now it will spring forth, Shall we not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Church God wants to form and prepare us in 2016 to become the arrows of destiny. He wants to do something new in each and every one of our lives.

This is the Year of His righteous sceptre where we must live in righteousness which is to be in right standing with God, the word, with man, devil etc. We have to get prepared to take dominion in every domain because we have the grace to govern and the power to prevail. We must give Him our highest and best so that we can be that select arrow.