

## End of Year Message, 2022.

Wednesday, 12.21.2022

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### Psalm 100:1-5 (NLT) - A psalm of thanksgiving.

<sup>1</sup> Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. <sup>3</sup> Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

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- Due to Judah's disobedience, the Lord allowed His children to be invaded and captured by the Babylonians (2 Kings 17-25; 2 Chronicles 32-36).
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→ - Jeremiah 21:4-10 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I am about to turn against you the weapons of war that are in your hands, which you are using to fight the king of Babylon and the Babylonians who are outside the wall besieging you. And I will gather them inside this city. <sup>5</sup> I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm in furious anger and in great wrath. <sup>6</sup> I will strike down those who live in this city—both man and beast—and they will die of a terrible plague. <sup>7</sup> After that, declares the LORD, I will give Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the people in this city who survive the plague, sword, and famine, into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and to their enemies who want to kill them. He will put them to the sword; he will show them no mercy or pity or compassion.' <sup>8</sup> 'Furthermore, tell the people, 'This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death. <sup>9</sup> Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine, or plague. But whoever goes out and surrenders to the Babylonians who are besieging you will live; they will escape with their lives. <sup>10</sup> I have determined to do this city harm and not good, declares the LORD. It will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will destroy it with fire.'

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Babylon

- Daniel was taken as an exile into Babylon and he rose to prominence in a very short while. As a result, Babylon was overthrown after several decades of prominence.
- The Lord had promised that the Jewish exile was only temporary, and after the fall of Babylon, the Persian King will allow the exiles to return to Judah to rebuild the city and the temple. These events are recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah.
- Yes, the city of Babylon was permitted by God to destroy God's people.

However, the Babylonian spirit is that which glories in the destruction of God's people. Persecuting God's people who are being faithful. Babylon will be judged (Rev 18).

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- 70 years later, after captivity, Cyrus, King of Persia (successor of the Babylonian Empire), declared that all Jewish exiles who wanted to return to Jerusalem might do so and they could take with them all the items of the temple (Ezra 1).
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## HOW TO SUCCEED (MANIFEST) IN BABYLON

### Strategy #1: Rise to a Place of Prominence (in the spirit, first)

- We cannot be in the system and destroy the system.
- Rise above the system.
- Our place of prominence is the altar (Altar of Establishment and African Altar).

#### → John 7:53 John 8:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>53</sup> And everyone went to his *own* house.

<sup>1</sup> But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup> Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

#### → 1 Samuel 3:2-3 (NLT)

<sup>2</sup> One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed.

<sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God.

#### → Acts 3:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.

→ **Nehemiah 4:23 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

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**Strategy #2: Understand the Intent of Babylon**

- We cannot address a problem we do not know.
  - Babylonos (Greek for Babylon)
  - Babel (Hebrew for Babylon)
  - Both words mean **confusion**.
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→ **Psalm 137:1-6 (NKJV) - Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land**

<sup>1</sup> By the rivers of Babylon,  
There we sat down, yea, we wept  
When we remembered Zion.  
<sup>2</sup> We hung our harps  
Upon the willows in the midst of it.  
<sup>3</sup> For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song,  
And those who plundered us *requested* mirth,  
*Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*  
<sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD's song  
In a foreign land?  
<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
Let my right hand forget *its skill!*  
<sup>6</sup> If I do not remember you,  
Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—  
If I do not exalt Jerusalem  
Above my chief joy.

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**Strategy #3: Do not stack your God-given gifts**

→ **Psalm 137:1-2  
NKJV**

<sup>1</sup> By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion.  
<sup>2</sup> We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it.

## The Message

**1-2** Alongside Babylon's rivers we sat on the banks; we cried and cried, remembering the good old days in Zion. Alongside the quaking aspens we stacked our unplayed harps.

- The use of our gifts bring glory to Him.
- Discouragement will cause us to shelf our gifts; our talents, etc., which we used for God's glory.

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**Strategy #4: Your service to God should not be determined by the (negative) principalities around you.**

### → Psalm 137:3 (NKJV)

**3** For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, and those who plundered us *requested* mirth, *Saying*, "Sing us *one* of the songs of Zion!"

-Babylon wants us to sing, from a place of entertainment/amusement. However, we sing out of love, reverence, gratitude, presence, to our God.

- Babylon has zero reverence/regard for the sacredness of our gifts and talents. They see it as something birthed out of effort. They make light of it.

- Babylon likes what we offer but are not willing to pay for it.

-Babylon inconveniences us yet expect the best of us.  
(The system frustrates our destinies yet expects us to give nothing but the best of us. It cares less about us but loves what we have to offer).

### - Success Strategy

Serve with Excellence in Babylon (70years of captivity). Like Daniel did.

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**Strategy #5: Be determined to never lose the joy of the Lord even in a strange land.**

### → Isaiah 12:3 (NKJV)

**3** Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

### → Psalm 137:4-6 NKJV

<sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget *its skill!*

<sup>6</sup> If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—If I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief **joy.**

→ **MSG**

<sup>4-6</sup> Oh, how could we ever sing GOD's song in this wasteland? If I ever forget you, Jerusalem, let my fingers wither and fall off like leaves. Let my tongue swell and turn black if I fail to remember you, if I fail, O dear Jerusalem, to honor you as **my greatest.**

- Sing the Lord's song in a strange land and mean it.

(Decide within you where the song is coming from (a place of peace, presence, gratitude to the King) and sing for the Lord even though they think you are singing for them.

- Refuse to waste your gift, your talents, and your skill under the guise of "I am waiting for my.....to go through; **Or** I am waiting to make..... Amount of money first; etc." before I can MANIFEST as a son of God

**The devil specializes in moving the goal posts. Therefore, assume your ROYAL POSITION.**

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**Strategy #6: While in Babylon, pray for them.**

→ **Jeremiah 29:4-7 (The Message)**

<sup>4</sup> This is the Message from GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God, to all the exiles I've taken from Jerusalem to Babylon:

<sup>5</sup> "Build houses and make yourselves at home. "Put in gardens and eat what grows in that country.

<sup>6</sup> "Marry and have children. Encourage your children to marry and have children so that **you'll thrive in that country and not waste away.**

<sup>7</sup> “Make yourselves at home there and work for the country’s welfare. “Pray for Babylon’s well-being. If things go well for Babylon, things will go well for you.”

→ Daniel 2:14-23 (NLT)

<sup>14</sup> When Arioch, the commander of the king’s guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion.

<sup>15</sup> He asked Arioch, “Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?” So Arioch told him all that had happened.

<sup>16</sup> Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened.

<sup>18</sup> He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon.

<sup>19</sup> That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.

<sup>20</sup> He said, “Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power.

<sup>21</sup> He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.

<sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light.

<sup>23</sup> I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded.”

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Strategy #7: Rescue the captives in Babylon even while in Babylon

- Queen Esther rescued the captives in Babylon.
  - Mordecai played a major role in their rescue as well.
  - How is the Lord working through you to rescue the captives in Babylon?
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### Side Note:

Africans have a high affinity for the Babylonian system because the kingdom of Babylon was 1<sup>st</sup> established by Nimrod (an African) son of Cush. Genesis 10:6-12.

### RECAP:

#### Characteristics of the Babylonian System

- 1) Selfish / Self-centered. Prefers to make a name for themselves.
- 2) Likes to compete with God /challenge God.
- 3) Understands the power of unity and oneness. However, for the wrong reasons.
- 4) Because of their oneness, nothing they plan is impossible for them.
- 5) They gather for evil and do not scatter.

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#### → Genesis 11:1-9 (NIV)

##### The Tower of Babel

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

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Strategy #6: While in Babylon, pray for them.

Strategy #7: Rescue the captives in Babylon even while in Babylon.

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Communion

→ 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 (NKJV)

The **Body** of Jesus Christ Strengthens

<sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

<sup>30</sup> For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many <sup>i</sup>sleep.

→ Rev 1:5 (American Standard Version)

The **Blood** of Jesus has the Power to Loose Us from our sins

<sup>5</sup> And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by his blood;

Greek

luó: to loose, to release, to dissolve

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## DECLARATIONS

Exodus 6:6-8 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

<sup>7</sup> I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

<sup>8</sup> And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.”