A GREAT AWAKENING IS COMING!

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A Great Awakening Is Coming!

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I dedicate this book to a man of God
who impacted my life
the late David Wilkerson...
... it was he not me that was the
inspiration for this book.

Carolyn and I began our ministry running

Teen Challenge which he founded several months
after we married in Arkansas in 1970. The first book

Lever read was The Cross and the Switchblade.

David Wilkerson founded World Challenge, Inc. in 1971 to reach the lost and strengthen believers around the globe. Both leading up to the start of World Challenge and in the years after, he was faithfully obedient to follow God and minister to others in love and deed.

Prior to founding World Challenge, David Wilkerson was called to New York in 1958 to minister to gang members and drug addicts, as told in the best-selling book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*. Not long after, Teen Challenge was birthed; this addiction recovery ministry expanded across the country within a few years and eventually around the world.

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"THE PEOPLE THAT DO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG, AND DO **EXPLOITS.**"

-DANIEL 11:32, KJV

INTRODUCTION

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

-PSALM 85:6, ESV

A GREAT AWAKENING is within us, waiting to be stirred up as it was in the first followers of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost! Awakening is not merely a concert featuring large crowds, enthusiasm, repentance, or powerful worship. If we define "revival" as simply a state of being revived, quickened, or filled with God's presence, and not split hairs over the word, we can say that Christ lived on earth in perpetual revival. He was filled with the presence of the Father. That's why when He saw a widow's grief (Luke 7) at the loss of her only son, Jesus reached out and touched the dead boy, who instantly sprang to life. That's true awakening!

Spiritual awakening happens to believers when they refuse to live complacent and begin to hunger and thirst for God. They won't settle for anything but Him.

The recent coronavirus has not taken God by surprise. He is at work through this pandemic to revive and restore His people. His power and glory will shake the world and take us beyond Pentecost to a true Great Awakening.

1

A WORD FROM THE LORD

Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by.

See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed on it; the earth will conceal its slain no longer.

-ISAIAH 26:20-21

GOD HAS GIVEN ME a word that has shaken me to my knees.

As I was working on this revelation that God put in my heart, I picked up an old Bible, and a handwritten note fell out. It was from a meeting I had with Dr. David Wilkerson at the Embassy Suites near the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport on a Tuesday in 1986 when we were having breakfast. The letter he wrote was addressed to Rev. Richard Dortch, who ran PTL under Jim Bakker.

It said, "Within 12 months from the date of this letter, the judgment of God will fall on PTL. You are fornicating with brick and stone. Flee now and repent. Bats will fly through the empty building."

It was exactly 12 months to the day that the *Charlotte Observer* broke the PTL scandal story.

In that meeting in 1986, Dr. Wilkerson said something else to me: "I see a plague coming on the world, and the bars and churches and government will shut down. The plague will hit New York City and shake it like it has never been shaken. The plague is going to force prayerless believers into radical prayer and into their Bibles, and repentance will be the cry from the man of God in the pulpit. And out of it will come a third Great Awakening that will sweep America and the world."

I have a word from God for you and it will change your life if you receive it. I hear preachers frequently mentioning that they have "a word from God." I hardly ever say this, because I believe it is a very sobering thing to say. Others say, "I have a prophetic word." I usually don't say that either, but this is indeed a prophetic word from the Lord. It's the hardest message I've ever shared.

What is this message? The coronavirus will usher in a Great Awakening.

The prophet Jeremiah said, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,' his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones" (Jeremiah 20:9). Jesus added, "When you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door" (Matthew 24:33).

You're seeing the COVID-19 coronavirus spreading around the world, impacting people in your community. Like many, you may be asking yourself, "Is there any prophetic significance to any of this?"

Romans 8:22 says, "For we know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time." It describes it as an intimate groaning together, earnestly wanting and wishing to be delivered. The whole creation seems to wait with earnest expectation for a period when the children of God shall be manifested in the glory prepared for them.

That is a tremendous revelation. That word translated "groaning" is an expression of universal grief. It's a worldwide lament in which a dying world unites. Is that happening now? You better believe it's going on now. It's also to suffer the pains of childbirth. The travailing over the distress. And then another word we use: "together." It refers to the complex whole of creation. Then the word "now." The "now" specifically refers to His glory, something magnificent God is going to do.

In 2 Chronicles 7, Solomon dedicated the temple. The Bible says fire from heaven consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifice and the glory of the Lord filled the temple so greatly that the priest could not enter it. Isn't that amazing? Think of that as your church. Imagine you are dedicating your church and the glory of the Lord is filling the place so greatly you can't even stand His presence.

Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said, "I have heard your prayers and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices" (2 Chronicles 7:12). Everyone was excited at what God was doing that day. They experienced His glory in a powerful way. Yet on the same day, God also told Solomon, "When I shut up the

heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plaque among my people. . . (2 Chronicles 7:13)." Suddenly, the attitude has changed. Verse 14 adds, ". . .if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Now this is a tough one. I feel like Jeremiah when he spoke the word of the Lord and people rejected it. People scoffed at him. They could not receive what he was saying.

I want you to see something else from Matthew 24. Jesus departs from the temple and the disciples, and the disciples came to Him talking about the greatness of the temple. It was very similar to what happened with Solomon. It's like two church dedications. They were looking at this glorious temple. They are saying, "Look at this, Jesus. Isn't fantastic? Isn't our worship great? Isn't our preaching great?"

What did Jesus say? Similar to God's words to Solomon, Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down" (Matthew 24:2). Here are two dedications. Both were disrupted by a manifested presence of God. Shocking!

Jesus continued as they sat on the Mount of Olives. I have been to the Mount of Olives. It's an amazing place. They came to Him privately, asking, "...when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3).

In Luke 21:28, the answer Jesus gave reads, "When these things

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begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." I don't see a lot of people in the middle of the coronavirus standing up, lifting up their heads, rejoicing that their redemption is drawing near. Yet God's Word does not create panic. People who have been with Jesus are prepared for storms.

THE PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Does the Coronavirus have a prophetic significance? The answer is yes. Isaiah prophesied that God will shake the whole earth. God is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it. Hebrews 12:26-27 says:

"Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

Everything that can be shaken is being shaken. This includes the economy that people have put their faith in. This includes political systems, as many people have trusted in the government over God. This includes education, as schools are shut down and millions of children are now at home. Even our churches have been shut down.

We have never had a time like this in our nation. Everything we have put our security in is being shaken. All our idols are coming down.

Do we have idols in our lives? Yes. An idol is anything that gets

between us and God. Anything! It could be money or family or shopping or sports or fame or education or status. Whatever we treasure and consumes us is an idol. It could even be your church. It could even be your pastor.

GOD AT WORK IN INDIA

Let me tell you something that happened that opened my spirit to this revelation in a great way. Many years ago, I flew with my daughter to Madras, India. I flew there to hold my first crusade and Shira said to me, "Daddy, are you going to preach to many people?"

I said, "Sure, I am going to preach to a million."

She said, "A million?"

I said, "Yes, we set up lights and a sound system on a beach for a million people to gather."

She said, "Daddy, have you ever been to India."

I said, "Never." And she looked at me like with a puzzling gaze.

That night I went to sleep and had a dream. It was a God dream. I saw the throne room of God. I saw the Lord in the dream and the Lord looked at me. Then he looked down and in front of me were idols, big ones and fat ones and skinny ones and thin ones. He said to me, "Whose idols are these?" I knew. They were the idols of the Indian people. I started to open my mouth, but then I looked and saw the idols more closely. Every one of them had my name on them!

I woke up crying. I could not breathe. It was 1:30 in the morning.

I felt like a dead man. I spent the rest of the night in prayer, feeling

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unclean and dirty. I had seen the Lord and He had shown me the idols in my life.

The next day I told my team, "I cannot preach. God has shown me things. I can't preach."

They said, "You have to, they have come to hear you." I went out to the stadium that night. There were not a million people there. The crowd included maybe 30,000 Hindus. I put my sermon down because I knew God did not want me to share it. He said, "Say, 'See Jesus."

I obeyed. I said, "See Jesus!" I shared a few more words and again felt the Lord encourage me to say, "See Jesus." I started saying a few more words and then did it for a third time, "See Jesus." After I had said these words for the third time, my associate came up, grabbed the microphone, and said, "Stop preaching."

I handed the microphone to a Hindu doctor who was crying. He said, "I am an eye doctor. I have little girls from my blind school who were born blind. Now three of them are seeing! When you said, 'See Jesus,' no one touched them, but their eyes were opened. They started screaming and crying, saying, 'We can see, we can see!'"

It was unbelievable. I returned home that night and rejoiced. I said, "God, you are so astonishing. I repent of my wicked ways and Your glory heals three little girls miraculously." That story hit all the Indian wire services. The next morning, when I woke for breakfast, I opened my door. I could not get out. The Speaker of the House for the Indian Parliament, a Hindu, with his Muslim assistant who had multiple sclerosis, were standing in front of my door asking for prayer.

The line stretched down the stairs and out into the street! I prayed for hours for people.

That evening when I walked outside there were thousands of people wanting me to stretch out my hand and bless them. Then when I arrived at our outreach even, that huge beach area that was empty the night before included over a million people there that night hungry for Jesus.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED

Let's return to Matthew 24. In verse 4, Jesus says, "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name." Now what does He mean by "my name"? In the Greek it means reputation, authority, and fame. Many will come in My reputation, in My authority, and My fame and will deceive many. Many will come? This will take place before His return.

Verse 5 adds, "For many will come in my name, claiming I..." Do you know what the Greek word for "I" is? E-G-O. He is saying many will come in My reputation, authority, and fame as a strong personality, using a false anointing to deceive many.

Let's look at the word "deceived." It reminds me of an interesting account in Acts 19:13-16:

Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

That is an early example of the deception Jesus mentions in Matthew 24. We cannot put our faith in man. We must put our faith in God. Faith in man that is exalted is idolatry, even if it is in your pastor. What? Yes! Even if it is in your pastor. You can't even make your church something that becomes so obsessive that it becomes all consuming. If it does, it is an idol.

GOD IS SHAKING THE CHURCH

I can tell you God is shaking the church. He is shaking it to be the body of Christ. We are not spectators or fans glorifying the pulpit. It breaks my heart to say this, but God shut down the church. The government did not do it. God did. He shut our churches down so God's people would get on their faces and pray and repent. He shut them down so God's people would get in the Word.

Most believers are not in the Word. You rarely even see a person carrying a Bible to church today. You know what they use as an excuse? Oh, I use my smart phone. Yes, you use your phone for a lot

of things. Many use it to watch pornography, but are you are reading the Word of God? You are not burning with the fire of God and God is saying I am going to drive you to a place where you will have to seek my face. You have no choice. All your idols, I am pulling down.

I have had the privilege of ministering to pastors because I have preached in over 4,000 churches. Over the years, I have had pastors tell me things in confidence. One megachurch pastor admitted he was having an affair and was addicted to porn. Another pastor of a large congregation told me, "I have not prayed in twenty years." He said, "I only pray in public and I only read my Bible for the sermons. I have no devotional life and no prayer life."

Another pastor confessed, "I have been mad at one of my church members for years. I hate him." Another megachurch pastor told me he was an alcoholic. A pastor even once told me he had kicked a board member out of his church, and was so arrogant that he smiled and said he had a doggie door for the man if he ever stepped foot in his church again. As a pastor, how can you talk like that?

One time I shared a word from God with the pastor from one of America's largest churches. It was not an easy message, but it was truly from God. Later, I was in a store and my phone rang. He called me screaming and cursing and threatening to beat me up. I'll never forget it. He said, "Nobody talks to me like that."

This is not the way of the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one 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 in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

In the original Greek language, the word "evildoer" referred to a worker of iniquity or a worker of lawlessness. They are a law unto themselves. It is like an invisible virus. Remember what Satan said to Eve? Let me paraphrase. "Hey Eve, God is easy. He loves you. He won't punish you for disobeying." You know what that is? That is exactly the theme of the seeker-friendly church in America. It's a gospel of accommodation, accommodating Sodom and Gomorrah to fill the pews. It's a gospel that doesn't preach against sin and doesn't speak about immorality. The immoral feel comfortable in the church.

That is why the divorce rate is as high outside the church as inside it. Pastor, when was the last time God called you to repent? You tell your stories of success, but a lot of those are self-inspired narratives. By the way, that is an acronym for S.I.N. (self-inspired narratives). You only tell the part that makes you look good. You don't want to tell them the rest of the stuff.

Satan is seducing the masses with entertainment. God's house is not a house of prayer. Why are we lying about this? If Jesus came into the average church in America, He would turn over the tables like he did in the temple because it's not a place of prayer. There is not red hot prayer taking place there. At best, there is a quick prayer at the

end if you want someone to pray for you, but there's no crying out to God for revival in brokenness and repentance.

Pastor, God does not need your sermons. Many times, His word to you in the pulpit is to shut up. Your slick program hasn't worked. You have programmed everything to accommodate everyone. If the Holy Ghost showed up in power, He could not get in. There is no room in your program!

A LESSON FROM LONDON

One time, I was going to speak at a very famous revival church, Kensington Temple in London, and I had a sore throat. I did something dumb. I got on motorcycle in shorts without a helmet. I was only going a half a mile to get some throat medicine, but as I crossed the red light, a young kid and a teenager in a pickup ran the light and came right at my motorcycle. I had to lay the motorcycle down and slid across the asphalt as the tar burned my arm and my leg. I thought, "God, the devil is attacking me. He is attacking me because you put a great message on my heart and the devil is trying to keep me from sharing it."

When I got to London, I stood outside, and there was a cab stopped. British cabs are higher up and the mirror on the cab hit me on the shoulder and knocked me down. My shoulder was black and blue. So, I finally arrived at the church with a great message God had given me, but I was covered with bruises on my right arm, my left arm, and both legs. I knew it was all the devil, because he

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did not want me to share my message. I started preaching from Luke 4:16-20:

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

That was my text for Kensington Temple. Then I was going to preach this incredible message God had given me, but I tried to open my mouth, God told me to stop speaking and sit down. The pastor looked at me wondering what was wrong. He never spoke and I never spoke. The next few moments were some of the most miserable minutes of my life. Everyone in the congregation of several thousand

people were looking around and wondering what was wrong. Then in the back, it was as if someone had blown the doors out, and the Holy Spirit started coming down the rows of the cathedral.

People started crying and weeping. Three pastors repented of immorality. The power came and kept moving toward the front of the room. I have never felt such power. The pastor near me fell flat on his back. A revival broke out that shook London and much of Europe because I shut my mouth and obeyed God.

How is it possible today, brothers and sisters, that believers can go to R-rated movies and they don't feel convicted, but instead comfortable? How is it possible that the lost don't have to go to bars anymore to pick up girls? They can go to church. The Spirit of God is saying that your golden calves are coming down. It's time to repent. The Spirit is saying to build your house upon the rock. Repent in prayer. Stop glorifying the flesh.

The panic that America is experiencing is because so many have built their house on sand and not on the rock. You can commit idolatry by glorifying a pastor, and you can commit idolatry by glorifying a politician. I greatly respect our president for many of his policies, especially as it relates to Israel. It is astonishing what he has accomplished.

But I want to add a warning. I have sat in Trump's rallies horrified as people idolize him almost to the point of worship, including many believers. All idols are coming down. I have seen pastors so drunk on power that they have prostituted themselves. They are running out at every opportunity to defend Donald Trump. Listen, Donald Trump is flesh, I am flesh, your pastor is flesh. No flesh can glory in His presence. All flesh is flesh. I want you to see this in Ezekiel 38:20. He declares, ". . . all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground."

The walls we put up to keep us from seeing the face of God, He is pulling all them down. The apostle Peter wrote, "The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray" (1 Peter 4:7). In Greek, "sober" means to be calm, collected, to have good sense, good judgment, or to be level-headed in times of distress. That is what we have been born to do. The Spirit of God is saying to be sober. Don't trust in the flesh. Seek the face of God and love Him passionately.

RETURN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

America has an epidemic of backslidden churches pastored by backslidden pastors drunk on their own wine, obsessed with success and numbers that refuse to preach repentance or the cross. You know how you can tell? Ask yourself one question: When was the last time your pastor stood up in the pulpit crying and trembling and saying, "I need to repent"? God showed me something recently. *I* need to repent and be sober and pray.

Years ago, we had something called "praying through." You know, people don't do that anymore. They just pray. They walk up

to the front of a church and say a few words and that's it. They are not really praying through. They are not staying on their face until the breakthrough comes, the burden lifts, and the glory falls. During the coronavirus, God has led me to slow down and pray four, six, and even eight hours that have sometimes seemed like only minutes. God has allowed this virus to pull the idols down, to call us into repentance, to stop running, and to humble ourselves before the Lord.

God is shutting down our busyness and our business, because flesh has been on the throne of our lives and chaos has been the norm. Everything is programmed in our churches—the songs, the sermon—there's not even room for the Spirit. The Spirit is saying, the rains, the floods, and the winds will not knock down the house that is built on the rock. The house Jesus is building is intimacy with Christ. This includes a Spirit-filled prayer life, a passion for the Word of God, and for souls. Repentance is the stone that will withstand the storms.

Yes, many Christians don't read their Bible. I've marked up more Bibles then I can name. They don't read that Word. They don't have a secret place with God on their face. Why? Because it's not vogue. It's not popular. It's not celebrated on social media. Are you panic stricken, filled with fear, obsessed with the latest news of COVID 19? That's an indication of a backslidden heart.

Hebrews 12:26-27 teaches, "Once more I shake not only the earth but also the heavens. . . . so that what cannot be shaken may remain." God is going to shake everything in sight so that He alone is savored.

The Lord is the only unshakeable power, both for believers and unbelievers. Are you ready for some good news? A great awakening is coming. Divine interruption is coming. The Lord has said to me, Jesus is coming for a glorious church, not a limping, broken, panic-stricken church hoarding toilet paper.

THE COMING AWAKENING

There have been two Great Awakenings in America. The First Great Awakening happened in the 1730s-1740s among a backslidden church. The pilgrims came here hungry for the Lord, hungry for the Word, and hungry for prayer, but their children lost the vision and became secular. Within a century, the fire of God had cooled in their hearts. The children of those immigrants wanted wealth and comfortable living. They were not hungry to repent and humble themselves. They wanted liturgy.

The same spiritual malice could be found throughout the American colonies. Philosophy, enlightenment, and education rather than repentance and intercession. Yet God moved mightily through people like George Whitefield, who spent hours bathing everything in prayer. The Spirit of God took over the nation. It was an incredible, astonishing miracle. Do you know what happened after that Great Awakening? The American Revolution (1765-1783). God saw what was going to happen and He sent an outpouring for the storm.

The Second Great Awakening happened from about 1790 to 1840. It was so powerful that one of the students at Yale University wrote home that, "The whole school is praying and praising God." You had Jonathan Edwards preaching about sinners in the hands of an angry God. It shook the nation. It was a Great Awakening that moved everything aside. What happened after that outpouring? The Civil War (1861-1865).

How does this relate to us today? Peter prophesied in Acts 3:19-20: "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 Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus." Notice, the first word is repent. There is going to be a move of repentance and an outpouring of the presence of the Lord.

Second, God is going to send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. We don't know when Jesus will return, but we do now the Lord has already come and made a way for us to live by the power of His Spirit. This world can't stop you if you are on your face in prayer and live focused on the Word of God.

God is going to send a third Great Awakening that is going to shake America and the world out of this coronavirus. Ezekiel 14:3 says, "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?" Revelation 9:20 adds, "The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk." God must remove our idols before He sends revival.

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King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold idol 90 feet tall and nine feet wide in Babylon. His leaders shouted for the people to bow down and worship it. Anyone who refused was to be thrown into blazing fire. In verse 12, three Jews named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, refused.

The king was angry and threatened to kill these three godly men. How did they respond? Daniel 3:16-18 reveals their response:

King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Those three men were walking with the Lord, filled with His Spirit. Yet the king commanded the furnace to be heated seven times hotter, so that the flames killed the soldiers who threw them into the furnace. But then we read in Daniel 3:24-27:

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the

fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

Even the ungodly king recognized there is no God who can rescue like this. God is raising up fireproof believers who refuse to worship idols. Who will smile in the face of the fire? A Great Awakening is coming. But as David Wilkerson said, it's coming through repentance and it is going to begin in the pulpits of America. It is going to shake the world. Isaiah 26:20 declares, "Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed."