

8. FIRE IN HIS EYES JESUS (JOHN 2:13-22) 02/26 /12  
 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ATCHISON, PASTOR LEE HENDON

BEING JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, THE MESSIAH, KING OF KINGS, SAVIOR OF THE WORLD IS **NOT** ALL FUN & GAMES. WHAT AN AMAZING WHIRL WIND OF EVENTS: 2:1-11 *FUN LOVING JESUS* AT A WEDDING PARTY; 2 VERSES & A FEW DAYS LATER IS *FIRE IN HIS EYES JESUS* AT THE TEMPLE . WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!? PERHAPS YOU RECALL THE STORY OF THE BATTLESHIP & A LIGHTHOUSE:

IN THE DARKEST PART OF THE NIGHT, A SHIPS CAPTAIN CAUTIOUSLY PILOTED HIS WARSHIP THROUGH FOG-SHROUDED WATERS. WITH STRAINING EYES HE SCANNED THE HAZY DARK-NESS, SEARCHING FOR DANGERS LURKING JUST OUT OF SIGHT.

HIS WORST FEARS WERE REALIZED WHEN HE SAW A BRIGHT LIGHT STRAIGHT AHEAD. IT APPEARED TO BE A VESSEL ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH HIS SHIP. TO AVERT DISASTER HE QUICKLY RADIOED THE ONCOMING VESSEL.

"THIS IS CAPTAIN JEREMIAH SMITH," HIS VOICE CRACKLED OVER THE RADIO. "PLEASE ALTER YOUR COURSE 10 DEGREES SOUTH! OVER." TO THE CAPTAINS AMAZEMENT, THE FOGGY IMAGE DID NOT MOVE. INSTEAD, HE HEARD BACK ON THE RADIO, "CAPTAIN SMITH, THIS IS PRIVATE THOMAS JOHNSON. PLEASE ALTER YOUR COURSE 10 DEGREES NORTH! OVER."

APPALLED AT THE AUDACITY OF THE MESSAGE, THE CAPTAIN SHOUTED BACK OVER THE RADIO, "PRIVATE JOHNSON, THIS IS CAPTAIN SMITH, I ORDER YOU TO IMMEDIATELY ALTER YOUR COURSE 10 DEGREES SOUTH! OVER."

THE ONCOMING LIGHT DID NOT BUDGE. "WITH ALL DUE RESPECT CAPTAIN SMITH," CAME THE PRIVATES VOICE AGAIN, "I ORDER YOU TO ALTER YOUR COURSE IMMEDIATELY 10 DEGREES NORTH! OVER."

ANGERED & FRUSTRATED THAT THIS IMPUDENT SAILOR WOULD ENDANGER THE LIVES OF HIS MEN & CREW, THE CAPTAIN GROWLED BACK OVER THE RADIO, "PRIVATE JOHNSON. I CAN HAVE YOU COURT-MARSHALLED FOR THIS! FOR THE LAST TIME, I COMMAND YOU ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO ALTER YOUR COURSE 10 DEGREES TO THE SOUTH! **I AM A BATTLESHIP!**"

THE PRIVATE'S FINAL TRANSMISSION WAS CHILLING:  
 "CAPTAIN SMITH, SIR, ONCE AGAIN WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I  
 COMMAND YOU TO ALTER YOUR COURSE 10 DEGREES TO THE  
 NORTH! **I AM A LIGHTHOUSE!**"

THE BATTLESHIP DID INDEED ALTER ITS COURSE & DID NOT  
 CRASH & BREAK UP ON THE ROCKY SHORE LINE AHEAD. WHEN AN  
**UNSTOPPABLE POWER** MEETS AN **UNMOVABLE OBJECT** -  
 SOMETHING HAS GOTTA GIVE & IT AIN'T GONNA BE PURDY. THAT  
 WAS JESUS (AN UNSTOPPABLE POWER) & THE TEMPLE (AN  
 UNMOV-ABLE OBJECT.) THE TEMPLE HAD BECOME CORRUPTED  
 FROM ITS GODLY DESIGN AS A HOUSE OF PRAYER & WORSHIP - YOU  
 COULD BARELY TELL ITS DIFFERENCE FROM THE MARKET PLACE.  
 THE TEMPLE WAS NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP ITS TIME EARNED POWER  
 & GLORY TO SOME NEW UPSTART RELIGIOUS FANATIC JESUS. ***FIRE  
 IN HIS EYES, JESUS***, CAME CRASHING IN TO USHER IN A NEW DAY, A  
 NEW AGE DAWNING. SOMETHING WAS GONNA HAVE TO GIVE & IT  
 WOULD NOT BE JESUS! JESUS WAS FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME  
 & TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER THE TEMPLE. WITH WHIP IN HIS  
 HANDS, STOCK ANIMALS WERE SCATTERED & RUNNING FOR THEIR  
 LIVES, MONEY WAS THROWN TO THE FOUR WINDS, WHAT A  
 CLATTER!

***FIRE IN HIS EYES JESUS*** WAS NOT STIRRED UP BY THE  
 EXPLOITATION & VICTIMIZATION OF THE HAPLESS WORSHIPPERS -  
 IT WAS ABOUT THE HOLINESS OF GOD'S TEMPLE & THE  
 SACRED-NESS OF WORSHIP. WAS JESUS ACTING OUT OF ANGER? I  
 DON'T THINK SO. WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT ANGER IS A  
 SECONDARY, NEVER A PRIMARY, EMOTION. WHAT INFLAMMED  
 JESUS WAS HIS "ZEAL, FERVOR, BURNING LOVE" FOR GOD & GOD'S  
 HOUSE. WORSHIP WAS TO BE IN SPIRIT & TRUTH - NOT IN DOLLARS  
 & CENTS. GOD'S HOUSE WAS NOT ABOUT THE BIG BUSINESS OF  
 RELIGION BUT ABOUT PRAYER & WORSHIP. JESUS TOOK ACTION  
 BY DECLARING, "TAKE THIS JUNK OUT OF HERE, YOU SHALL NOT  
 MAKE MY FATHER'S HOUSE A HOUSE OF TRADE." JESUS WAS  
 HITTING THE TEMPLE & RELIGIOUS LEADERS RIGHT WHERE IT HURT  
 - IN THEIR POCKET BOOKS OF REVENUES & PROFITS. **BIG BUCKS!!!**  
 THE TEMPLE WAS THE #1 EMPLOYER IN THE CITY!

THE JEWS JUST DID NOT GET IT, "WHAT SIGN HAVE YOU TO  
 SHOW US FOR DOING THIS?" AS IF WHIP IN HAND - SCATTERED  
 LIVE STOCK & COINS WAS NOT ENOUGH OF A SIGN ABOUT THE

CHANGES CRASHING IN FROM TEMPLE TO JESUS - THIS DESTROYER (JESUS) WOULD BREAK APART THE ROCKY SHORES (TEMPLE). INDEED, WITH THE USHERING IN OF JESUS & HIS SACRIFICE, TEMPLE SACRIFICES WOULD NO LONGER BE REQUIRED AT ALL - TEMPLE SACRIFICES WOULD BE QUIET BESIDE THE POINT OF HOLINESS WITH GOD. THE TIMES WERE A CHANGING - JESUS WAS THE CATALYST TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN! JESUS WAS THE MESSIANIC REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE ITSELF - WOULD TAKE THREE DAYS - NOT 46+ YRS.

IT'S NOT LIKE GOD HAD NOT TRIED TO PREPARE THE JEWS FOR JESUS - GOD HAD GIVEN THE LAW, THE PROPHETS, THE TEMPLE, JOHN THE BAPTIST - ALL TO PREPARE THEIR HEARTS & MINDS FOR THE COMING OF JESUS, THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD. THEY/WE ARE OFTEN TIMES SLOW OF HEART & MIND TO GET ON BOARD WITH THE MOVEMENT OF GOD. WE BECOME ENTRENCHED IN THE WAYS & TRADITIONS OF THE PAST TO BECOME BLINDED TO GOD'S MOVE-MENT IN THE PRESENT. THE JEWISH LEADERS WERE BLINDED BY THE ISSUES OF MONEY, CASH SAFETY & SECURITY OF TEMPLE. COULD THEY AFFORD TO LEAVE ALL THAT MONEY BEHIND TO FOLLOW THE UNCERTAINTY OF JESUS? APPARENTLY NOT. THEY WOULD MISS OUT ON GOD'S MOVEMENT IN THE HERE & NOW ALL OUT OF THEIR SERVICE TO SACRED CASH & JOB SECURITY. MONEY TALKS & JESUS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE VERY PROFITABLE.

CHURCHES & CHURCH PEOPLE OFTEN TIMES CONTINUE TO GET STUCK IN THE PAST WHEN GOD YEARNs TO LEAD FORWARD IN NEW DAYS DAWNING. CHURCHES & CHURCH PEOPLE CONTINUE TO OFTEN TIMES SERVE THE BOTTOM LINE OF \$\$\$ OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF JESUS - WHEN THAT HAPPENS GOD IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL. IN MOMENTS OF HONESTY PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO CONFESS WE WOULD RATHER SERVE \$\$\$ & ALL THAT IT PROMISES RATHER THAN JESUS?

WHEN WE NEED MORE WINE (REMEMBER LAST WEEK?) TO KEEP THE PARTY GOING - IT TAKES FAITH & OBEDIENCE ON OUR PART TO KEEP CURRENT WITH GOD. THE PRIMARY ISSUE FOR GOD'S CHURCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN & WILL ALWAYS BE - WHERE IS GOD LEADING US NOW? TO BE ANSWERED WITH A CURRENT & TIMELY FAITH & OBEDIENCE TO FOLLOW GOD WHERE EVER GOD LEADS US. THE JEWS IN ALL THEIR RELIGIOUS PAST & TRADITION

BELIEVED THEY WERE DOING THE RIGHT THING IN OPPOSING JESUS. THEY TRULY BELIEVED THEY WERE FOLLOWING GOD - THE LIGHTHOUSE WAS BUILT - IT HAD SURVIVED MANY A STORM - STAY IN THE LIGHTHOUSE!

THE IMMOVEABLE, UNSTOPPABLE POWER OF JESUS WILL NOT BE DENIED! YOU WANT YOUR LIFE, THE LIFE OF THIS CHURCH TO THRIVE & GROW & BE ALL GOD HAS CREATED IT TO BE. STAY CLOSE TO JESUS - FOLLOW JESUS - DO NOT WAIVER EVEN IN THE NAME OF TRADITION & \$\$\$ - STAY CLOSE TO ***FIRE IN HIS EYES JESUS***. I CERTAINLY NEVER - EVER WANT TO RESIST HIM - DO NOT WANT TO OPPOSE GOD - THERE IS A NEW DAY, A NEW AGE DAWNING EVEN TODAY IN OUR MIDST. STAY CLOSE TO JESUS - FOLLOW HIM!!!