

THE OF ELIJAH'S GOD

Why the American Church Must Move
Beyond Politics into Supernatural Awakening

Mark Ivey

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*The Elijahs of God: Why the American Church Must Move Beyond
Politics into Supernatural Awakening*

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Foreword

In his new book, *The Elijahs of God*, my dear friend, pastor, and prophetic voice, Mark Ivey has fired a shot across the bow of the enemy. With a no retreat mentality and passion for revival, Mark declares to the bride of Christ that we must, “*Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you*” (Ephesians 5:14 NIV). This book is destined to be a classic. It has been written for all those willing to die for more of Jesus and live as if we have no tomorrow. I believe that *The Elijahs of God* is a modern day revivalist’s handbook for victory!

As I read through the pages my heart was deeply stirred. This book is not only a road map for personal revival but also a message to America that our time is running out! I believe that there is a mighty awakening of Holy Spirit revival coming to our land. With this awakening will surely come the greatest attack from Satan that has ever been seen. The attack will be different from what we have seen in the past. It will be a subtle release of toxic, perverted, mindless bile released through the airwaves, the lecture podium, and the culture police who are hell bent on stamping out anything to do with Christianity. This will lead to the rise of an antichrist agenda and the Belial (lawlessness) spirit of 2 Corinthians 6:14-15. We must have an Isaiah 58:1 declaration: “*Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins*” (NIV). Will you “Cry aloud and spare not”? Mark teaches us that we must change the narrative being espoused from those who only preach from memories of yesterday’s glory and not the humility and aroma of a recent encounter with a “new every morning” Savior!

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He reminds us that we must determine that our cries for revival matter more than the retribution of the religiously satisfied and the voices of lost holiness. Jesus said in Matthew 12:30, *“This is war, and there is no neutral ground. If you’re not on my side, you’re the enemy; if you’re not helping, you’re making things worse”* (MSG).

Mark reminds us that we must consecrate ourselves and make ready for battle. The confrontation between good and evil now stands on our doorsteps. It was a fiery confrontation between good and evil on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18 that brought forth an awesome response from God. His holy fire fell and made a show of the enemy. This confrontation between the prophet of God and the prophets of Baal was the beginning of the end for Jezebel and Ahab! It all started with a weary prophet who had an awakening that God was demanding more from him. The Bible says Elijah the prophet stood alone, facing the enemies of God. Elijah passionately declared, *“‘How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.’ But the people said nothing”* (1 Kings 18:21). How long will we continue to hear the sound of crickets from those God has entrusted with the message of redemption and truth? Dare we say to our kids that our nation was destroyed because those who had a voice decided the price to speak was more costly than their freedom? We must have the fire and the rain of Elijah’s time once again!

God is looking for the Elijahs to not only rebuild the altar and confront the Jezebel spirit, but they must also be willing to lay their mantle on the next generation! Who are the Elijahs? These will be those who have been kissed by God with a holy fire and possess boldness to stand for truth! They will not be Christian celebrities or those man has determined have the right personas. They will be the cave dwellers who know the voice of God. Could it be that you are the one whom God has been waiting on? Maybe it was you, the reader, to whom God is referring in Malachi 4:5-6: *“I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.”*

Mark Ivey

Lastly, I must say a simple “thank you” to Mark for reminding this messenger of the gospel of peace that now is the time for war! Bravo, my friend!

Pat Schatzline

**Evangelist and author of *I Am Remnant, Why Is God So Mad At Me?,*
and *Unqualified: Where You Can Begin to be Great***

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Romans 11:5

Part 1:

The Elijahs of God are Rising

Chapter 1

It's Our Time

The story begins in 1 Kings 17. The Bible says, “*Now Elijah.*” What’s interesting is that we don’t know where the man came from or anything about his life. The only personal information we have about Elijah is that his name means “My God is Yahweh.” It’s as though he just showed up at a moment in time out of nowhere because it was God’s time for him to show up. At particular crucial, difficult, challenging moments in history, God has raised up churches, organizations, and people young and old to confront the issues in their culture. From Abraham and the patriarchs, judges, prophets, priests and kings, apostles, founders of nations, and the unknown voices in small communities across America and the world—God has and will always have a voice.

And if there was ever a day when we needed the voice of God to trumpet a clear sound through those willing to speak, it is today. We have entered a period in history the Bible describes as perilous times. Paul wrote to a young pastor named Timothy and said:

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be

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puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!
(2 Timothy 3:1-5)

With even a cursory glance at America, things do not seem, should I say, calm. An increase of lawlessness, shootings, riots, drug abuse, human trafficking, terrorism, persecution, political upheavals, and economic instability characterizes our day. A church more interested with being in the counsel of political candidates arguing for our position than in the counsel of God seeking His will tells us that “business as usual” is not going to bring us the peace we desire. Regardless of who we think should hold political office and the results of an election, we make a grave mistake when we look only to politicians for a guarantee of religious freedom and ultimately misunderstand the relationship between God and government.

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God established the offices of prophet, priest, and king to spiritually and governmentally guide the nation of Israel. The separation of these positions was important to God as a priest could not be a king, nor a king a priest. This separation kept ultimate power from resting in one individual. To have the spiritual and governmental offices in one person could potentially result in the corruption of both offices as would eventually happen. Both King Saul and King Uzziah were eventually removed from their positions for trying to operate in both spheres.² By the time of Christ, the priesthood was so corrupt and aligned with the political interests of the nation that a joining of the two would crucify their own Messiah.

2. Rev. Thomas C. Simcox, *Israel My Glory Magazine*, Volume 72, 2016, page 32.

It's Our Time

This becomes a prophetic picture of the American church and a foreshadowing of the coming Antichrist. I watched a pastor on national television say that we need a president who will guarantee our religious freedom. What a mistake! When believers begin depending on political candidates to guarantee religious freedom, they unwittingly have linked two offices that God never intended to be joined together. It clearly shows how corrupt and backslidden American religion has become. The spirit of the antichrist, a political and religious governing system, has deceived millions of so-called Christians into denying the true power and protection of Christ and settling for man-made structures that will eventually oppose the very groups they were elected to protect.

We have equated conservatism and Christianity as one and the same when they may be very opposite. Conservatism is a political view that holds certain beliefs about morality, the involvement of government in the lives of people, financial spending, or other mores of society. It embraces a particular relationship to government. Christianity is about a relationship to Jesus and adherence to the Scriptures, regardless of political views. A conservative or liberal may or may not be a Christian. *To equate relationship with Jesus to a political view dumbs down the power of the gospel in any sphere of our culture.*

The idea that elections hold the key to an awakening is an American concept but is not found in the New Testament or in history. The first century church lived and ministered in one of the most hostile atmospheres to Christianity ever, yet they reached the known world in one generation! Historically, awakening precedes governmental change. It's not the other way around.

The House of Herod

At the start of the New Testament, we are introduced to a cast of Roman leaders. The first was a man named Herod the Great. He was a murderous, immoral, barbaric individual. Herod was so paranoid about retaining his position as king that he had his wife, her two sons, and his mother-in-law slain. Augustus Caesar said that it was safer to be Herod's pig than one of

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his own family. The joke was that since Herod did not eat pork, the pig, at least, would be safe. It is this man who was in charge when Jesus was born (see Matthew 2). You would think that God would choose a better time for His Son, the future eternal king, to come into the world. And yet, nothing could stop the plan of God. Through dreams and divine timing, God warned Joseph about Herod and saved Jesus' life from Herod's soldiers when they were sent to kill Him. Shortly after this event, historians tell us Herod died from a painful disease, yet the plan of God continued.

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Herod Archelaus, son of Herod the Great, then took the reins of leadership. He immediately killed three thousand people during an uprising, continuing in his father's murderous ways. At this time, God warned Joseph again about this new Herod and Jesus' family went to live in Nazareth, fulfilling prophecy (Matthew 2:21). Because of his killing spree, Augustus Caesar had Herod banished and he died in obscurity while Jesus continued to grow in favor with God and men.

After this, Herod Antipas came to power—Herod the Great's youngest son by his Samaritan wife, Malthace. It was Herod Antipas who had John the Baptist beheaded (Mark 6:27). John was not a politically correct preacher. He confronted Herod for his incestuous marriage to Herodias, who was also his brother's wife! Herod put John in prison. It was while John the Baptist was imprisoned that Herodias's daughter performed a pornographic dance for Herod and he promised her anything she wanted. At the request of her mother, she asked for the head of John. This Herod was also the one who ruled during the ministry of Jesus and wanted Him killed (Luke 13:31). It was Herod Antipas who mocked Christ when He was brought to him the night before Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead. Herod was banished and died and went into the history books as a lackluster little

king, while Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father and the church exploded in power!

Herod Agrippa I came next. This Herod joined in a political, religious alliance with the Jews to persecute Christians and had the apostle James martyred (Acts 12). Because he saw this pleased the Jewish establishment, he put Peter in prison as well, intending to have him killed after the Passover. But the church began to pray and God miraculously freed Peter. Acts 12 is a prophetic illustration of where the church is headed in America. Based on what is happening around the world and church history, I'm not convinced Americans will be exempt from persecution. It will be dangerous for Christians to relax over the next four years and think our faith will not be challenged. This is why the church must call for prayer like never before and not be caught by surprise. When the gospel is tested, the testing either drives us to compromise or moves us toward the Lord in prayer. The believers in Peter's time did not give up, and God responded with supernatural power. Shortly thereafter, Herod Agrippa I was judged by God for his failure to give God glory, and he died in agony while the gospel continued to spread.

Herod Agrippa II now found himself in a position of political influence. It was in front of this Herod that the apostle Paul made his defense before being sent to Rome (Acts 26). It is noteworthy that each of these Herods had an opportunity to receive Christ yet rejected the person of Jesus and forgiveness of sin!

Roman emperors were also not kind to Christianity. Both Peter and Paul were martyred under Nero. Gaius or Caligula was a violent, mentally unstable man, who tried to have a statue of himself erected in the temple at Jerusalem. The Jews said they would rather die than have his statue in their place of worship. It is understandable why they felt this way. What they did not know was that spiritually speaking, the system of temple worship with its animal sacrifices had ceased with the sacrifice of Jesus. In a short forty years, the temple itself would be completely destroyed by the army of Titus in AD 70.