

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

The Snare of Delusion October 24, 2023 Suzi Armstrong

We are in the middle of the decade of the sound or the voice. The Hebrew word is 'pey', which means to speak, voice, opening or entrance, turn toward or face. We, as sons and daughters of the Most High God, have turned our face toward God to hear His voice and then release His voice and re-present His heart to our families, communities, cities and nations. We watch and pray. We know that God is shaking everything that can be shaken. At the same time, He is building. We are in war and the war is intensifying. Communication is a critical aspect of the time we are in. The enemy has strategies and strongholds to bring confusion and delusion.

We have stepped into new relationships, new revelation and understanding, new dimensions of grace, new testimony, new garments, and new wine. Nothing is the same as it was. We have entered a deeper and new level of relationship with Holy Spirit. We are in the middle of a tremendous transition – clarity is essential. The kind of clarity needed to advance in this time is coming through revelation by Holy Spirit. As we watch and pray, we need to see beyond the natural dynamics at work in the earth to see God and see how He is moving, how He is responding and where He is leading. **Prophetic understanding is important. Proverbs 29.18, "When there is no clear prophetic vision, people quickly wonder astray."**

Hell has released a spirit of delusion in the earth. This delusion acts as a smoke screen to obscure and even hide what God is doing and how He is moving. This is described very well in the conversation between the prophet Habakkuk and God.

Habakkuk 1.2-4 NIV

Habakkuk's Complaint

² **How long, LORD,** must I call for help, but you do not listen?

Or **cry out** to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?

³ Why do you make me **look at injustice?** Why do you **tolerate wrongdoing?**

Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.

⁴ Therefore **the law is paralyzed,** and **justice never prevails.**

The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

- This sounds like a conversation of today.
- When are we going to see justice? When will there be accountability?
- Destruction, violence, strife, conflict, and war are increasing.

How did the prophet Habakkuk, who knew the voice and presence of the Lord, not understand how God was moving? I believe that Habakkuk lost his vision and prophetic understanding of the times. I believe that Habakkuk was captured by the snare of delusion. A snare is a trap. The trap does not destroy but it leads to destruction. **Habakkuk could not see beyond the evil and wickedness of the day. Delusion is a false belief or judgement about reality.** Delusion is accompanied by anxiety and agitation. Habakkuk was anxious about what was going on. **He had lost sight of the fact that reality is only found in God who is the sure foundation.** Everything else is temporary – sinking sand. Habakkuk could not lay hold of the future in his heart or mind – he was overcome by the circumstances and his mind was deluded. He could not see the hand of God, even by faith.

This is a real situation for us today. Delusion sneaks up on us and is very subtle. It stops us from advancing because we lose vision of where we are going. The Israelites lost vision of the Promised Land. A spirit of delusion overcame them; they could not see, and they could not believe. 10 of the 12 spies only saw giants that could not be defeated. When the army of Israel saw Goliath, they could not see past Goliath. This is the working of delusion – when we have a false belief or judgement about the reality of things, when we can't see anything changing. It is a paralyzing spirit that brings confusion, and we are left wondering how are we ever going to get out of this situation.

Here is how God responded to Habakkuk:

Habakkuk 1.5 NIV

⁵ **Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed.**

For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

- Today the Lord is saying to us – watch and see what I will do. Keep your eyes on Me.
- God's thoughts and ways are higher than the world's ways.

Habakkuk 2.1-3 NIV

¹ **I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts;**

I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

² Then the LORD replied: **"Write down the revelation**

and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

³ For **the revelation awaits an appointed time;** it speaks of the end and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

- Habakkuk repositioned himself on the wall as a watchman. He got back into his place. His perspective changed as he went up higher. Delusion was broken off and he could see beyond circumstances and see God again.

Habakkuk 3.4, 6, 13-16 NIV

⁴ **His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden.**

⁶ **He stood, and shook the earth;** he looked, and made the nations tremble.

The ancient mountains crumbled and the age-old hills collapsed—but he marches on forever.

¹³ **You came out to deliver your people, to save your anointed one.**

You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness, you stripped him from head to foot.

¹⁴ With his own spear you pierced his head when his warriors stormed out to scatter us, gloating as though about to devour the wretched who were in hiding.

¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses, churning the great waters.

¹⁶ I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled.

Yet **I will wait patiently** for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us.

- Habakkuk's faith is restored – he is watching and decreeing and says he will wait patiently for justice.
- Watchmen have a unique place in aligning us with God's purposes that ultimately leads to the healing of the nations.

PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

Father, we thank You for the watchmen you have placed over every city in Michigan and our nation. Let them see You with accuracy and understanding. We decree Your heart and purposes over the people and over our land as we lift our voices. Today we make known to the powers and principalities that the Kingdom of God is here and His government is increasing. We declare the glory of Jesus Christ over Michigan. His Name is above every other name and at His Name everything in Heaven and on the earth and under the earth will bow to Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords. The Lord of hosts is here with His army at His side – **Michigan belongs to the Lord.** We call for Michigan to rise up and take its place. We call for Detroit to resound the sound of Heaven into the earth. Today is a new day and this day belongs to the Lord. Wake up sleepers – arise and shine for the glory of the Lord rises upon you.