

# Soak Them with Hope

Tim Sheets

## 2022 Aglow Conference - Saturday Morning Session

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I am honored to be here again. Last night I felt the Presence of the Lord and I thank you for making it easy for me to minister.

A couple of years ago Holy Spirit put an assignment on me to be as a Son of Issachar anointed to discern the times. I have been trying to do that by listening to what Holy Spirit is saying to the Church and delivering it. I tried to do that last night, of course.

The last few months have been very busy and even the last few weeks I decided I would sprint across the finish line - Michigan a couple of weeks ago, Chicago last week, St. Louis this week. I released a word from Washington DC, hopefully you saw it Wednesday night. Keep praying and decreeing. It was a little bit about checkmate. And then, of course, I leave and go back home to be at the Oasis and then Sunday night will be an election night hub. We will be praying for our nation and sending it out around the web. Clay Nash will be with us, other apostles too.

I know Dutch is coming tonight. There is no one I know of better than sharing our times of where we are at than him. He is focused and he is on track; the best at it that I know.

### **Minister to the People – Soak Them with Hope**

I have pastored for 43 years at the same place. I started with eight people. Week after next, I turn 70. I woke up this morning and my heart was so full. I have been pushing hard and I do not mind going at it hard and talking about where we are. As soon as I opened my eyes, I heard Holy Spirit say “Minister to the people this morning.” He told me, “As hard as you go, always remember, soak them with hope.” Soak them with hope.

After 43 years at the same place there are times when I feel the Father’s heart for people and this morning my heart went out to Aglow International. I want to talk to your heart today and just flow with what I feel like Holy Spirit is saying.

### **Moses and the Burning Bush Assignment**

I want to read a pretty famous story to you today. I do not know that I will interpret it quite like you may have heard it before, but let’s go to Exodus 3:1 NLT.

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Median. He led the flock far into the wilderness. He came to Sinai, the Mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was

engulfed in flames, it did not burn up. “This is amazing,” Moses said to himself. “Why is the bush not burning up? I must go see it.”

When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush. “Moses, Moses.” “Here I am,” Moses replied. “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals for you are standing on Holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. And then the Lord told him. “I have certainly seen the oppression of My people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So, I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey, a land where the Canaanites and the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. Look, the cry of the people of Israel has reached Me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead My people, Israel, out of Egypt.”

## **Moses Doubts His Ability to Lead Israel**

But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?” God answered, “I will be with you. This is your sign that I am the One who has sent you - when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.” But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘the God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘what is His Name?’ Then what should I tell them?” God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent you.”

These verses occur at the very lowest point in Moses’ life. At this point, he is a very lost human being. He does not know that Holy Spirit has been brooding for decades for him to make a comeback - for his nation to make a comeback. At this point, his situation has him absolutely blind and he is gripped by a feeling of absolute hopelessness. As much of the body of Christ has felt for two years of the Covid-19 virus. He has a perfect example of what Solomon described as “hope deferred.”

## **Hope Deferred**

Proverbs 13:12 **Voice Translation** says, “hope postponed grieves the heart but when a dream comes true life is full and sweet.”

**Alexander Douay translation** of the Hebrew to English, “hope that’s deferred afflicts the soul, but desire when it comes is a tree of life.”

**Kenneth Knox**, “hope deferred, how it crushes a person’s spirit, the granted wish however is a tree of life.”

**King James version**, “hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes it is a tree of life.”

**James Moffit**, “hope deferred is sickening.”

When hope is drawn out it makes us heartsick. When what we hope for, what we expect, is delayed and then delayed and then delayed and then delayed, it oppresses the soul.

|| **Helen Spurrell translation** reads, “hope protracted makes the heart languish.”

Hope deferred causes lethargy. It fogs the soul like steam on a mirror. Someone who is suffering hope deferred is pessimistic about life. They lose their energy. They are unenthused. They are unmotivated. Because of hope being deferred, over time we can accumulate grief, despair, rejection, and frustration. Situations that stick to the soul and can accumulate and we need our soul to be healed. As David, we need our soul to be restored. We need a soul resurrection. That is Moses. Amazingly the greatest leader, perhaps, in all of history experienced prolonged hopelessness. It was deep. It was long. It was strong, and it was absolutely horrible.

The general story is familiar to most. Pharaoh had issued a decree that all the male Israeli babies would be killed. The people of God were slaves in Egypt for 430 years. They had now grown in numbers that began to challenge Egypt. They were outgrowing the Egyptian population and Pharaoh decides to thin them down. “Kill all the male babies born to the Hebrews,” and that diabolical executive order was carried out.

Well, Moses’ Mom, Jochebed, rather than allow her baby to be killed hid him in the reeds alongside the Nile river, hoping against hope that something would happen. Jochebed’s season of despair is gut wrenching in its own right. Can you imagine, putting your own infant son in a waterproof basket and pushing him out into the Nile river and watch him drift away. What could be more horrible than that?

Well, shortly after pushing Moses in his little basket into the Nile River, Pharaoh’s daughter, Hatshepsut, came to the river to bathe. She was married to Thutmose II who was also a Pharaoh like her Dad, Ramses. Why did she come to the Nile when there are better places to bathe in the Palace? Because the Nile represented fertility and Hatshepsut was barren. She was desperate to have a son and the Egyptian idea was if you bathe in the Nile river you will then be able to have children. Hatshepsut was desperate and she did it. As she is in the water, and she is bathing she begins to hear of all things a baby crying.

The first glimpse of hope begins to come to this young lady and we begin to see that 80 years before the Exodus, Holy Spirit was brooding. He is incubating. He is planning to bring to birth a world changing deliverance. 80 years prior, He was preparing leaders who would one day connect to a moment that would change a nation.

She hears a baby crying. She knows it must be one of the Hebrew slave babies, but the baby’s cries draw her. She pushes through the reeds and finds a blackened, tar-pitched basket, and in it a little baby boy. Her mothering instincts kick in and she reaches in to pick up the crying child. She begins to comfort him and instantly her heart is knit to this child and she thinks this must be destiny. This cannot be a coincidence. She decides on the spot that she is going to raise this baby as her very own son. She thought, “I can pull it off, we wear loose clothing. Thutmose is gone building pyramids months at a time, I can do this.” And she decides she will raise Moses as her own son.

Well, Moses' sister Miriam was with her mom, Jochebed, when Moses was pushed into the river. Miriam runs down the side of the riverbank watching where her baby brother is floating to. She sees him float into this section of reeds, and then, she sees Hatshepsut coming down to the water and then she hears Moses. She must have been saying, "Don't cry, don't cry," but he did. then she sees Hatshepsut pushing through the reeds and picking up her baby brother. Then this quick-thinking young lady comes forward. It had to be the Holy Spirit. She comes forward and asks, "Would you like me to find you a nurse maid for the baby?"

Back in those days, royalty would use nurse maids and nannies and Hatshepsut says, "yes please." Of course, Miriam runs and gets her mom, Jochebed, Moses' real mom. Can you imagine that moment? The sudden turn around in her soul? "Mom, stop grieving, Mom, stop crying. You are not going to believe this!" Jochebed became nurse maid to , her own son - an amazing turn around to say the least. She, also, raised him his entire life with access to the palace.

From that point on, Moses' life dramatically changed. He was raised in Pharaoh's household to become a Pharaoh himself. He was raised to be a King. He had the finest education that anyone could possibly have. He had the very best military training, extensively trained in strategies of war. He had servants who were assigned to his life to make it easy. He was trained in government law. He was trained in the writing of laws. He was trained in social studies and trained in linguistics and was trained in literary skills. He had the very best food and all of it that he wanted. He lived in luxury. He wore gold around his neck showing his royalty. Engraved in golden signets was the official royal seal of the Egyptian Empire. He wore gold arm bands. His rings were flawless gems and everywhere he went people doted on him, supplying whatever he would need. From the age of 18 until he was 40 years old his authority was real, his authority was respected, and it was unquestioned. He was Egypt's rising star. He was legal heir to the throne. He was Hatshepsut and Thutmosis' son and heir of the Egyptian Empire.

**Acts 7:22** tells us something very interesting. Stephen was testifying before the Jewish council, and he tells us something very revealing; so many people read over it. Listen to the following translations of Acts 7:22.

**King James says,** "Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and in deeds."

**The Amplified Bible says,** "So Moses was educated in all the wisdom and culture of the Egyptians and he was mighty and powerful in his speech."

**Murdoch's translation,** "And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and he was imminent in his words and also his deeds."

**Weymouth's,** "So, Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians and possessed great influence through his eloquence and his achievements."

**JB Philips,** "So, Moses was trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and became not only an excellent speaker but a man of action."

But then, then it happened. Then everything went absolutely nuts. It hit the fan. Something so traumatic happened, it would even affect his speech.

For a long time, he would lose his eloquence of speech and he became a stutterer. He became halting and he became unsure. His voice of authority became soft and distant. He did not string the eloquent words together anymore. The excellent speaker became silent and it would be one of the areas in which Holy Spirit, who had not stopped brooding, would one day help him make an amazing comeback.

When he was 40 years old, with the brightest future anyone could imagine, it happened. Moses blew it. He blew it as bad as anybody could blow it. He became a colossal failure. He royally messed up. It would be said of him, “oh how the mighty has fallen. A mighty one has collapsed in failure.” One of the Hebrew ideas of failure means to muddy up your life, to muddy up your life. Indeed, he had muddied up his life.

When he was 40 years old he began trying to help his people, the Israeli slaves. He tried to help his Hebrew relatives get free from the taskmasters. How did he know that they were relatives? Jochebed had told him who he really was, who she really was, and she proved it through circumcision. He had always wondered about that.

And when he saw an Egyptian abusing a Hebrew slave, Moses intervened. But in his anger, he went too far and he actually killed the Egyptian. He fought so hard that he killed the guy. Now one of the greatest princes of Egypt is now a murderer. He killed an Egyptian, of all things. He has killed a Hebrew task master. What is he going to do?

## **Moses Runs to Mount Horeb**

Now, he runs. He runs as fast as he can. He knows it is over. He is going to be arrested. He is going to be imprisoned. He was not above the law. He is going to be stripped of everything. He was trying to help, but he miserably failed. No one was going to understand this. An Egyptian court is not going to understand this whatsoever no matter how he explained it. Now, his stand for the slaves would begin to uncover his own past.

How many today live with the fear of their past being uncovered? The lid was going to blow and it was going to blow bad. He may have even endangered his own family, his mom Jochebed, his Dad, Amram, his sister, Miriam or his brother, Aaron. The truth would come back, and in utter fear Moses runs.

We know he ran for over 200 miles in just a few days' time probably on horseback. He would know where the great Egyptian stables were and he would try to keep ahead of the news riding as fast as he could hiding out when anyone would see him because, after all, he is going to be recognized. And he does not stop running until finally he gets to the desert area of Median which is on the backside of a mountain that is called Horeb.

He runs for 200 miles to Mount Horeb and there at Horeb, also called Mount Sinai, Moses settled in and he hides on that mountain. A few days after hiding he finds some of his own people. Some Hebrews were there and they were sheep herders. And, also, like him, they were descendants of Abraham. How did he know that they were there? Well, again it is said that Jochebed said, “run to Mount Horeb, we

have people there. We will get news to you. Run to Mount Horeb our people are there and they will take care of you.”

Moses begins to work for a man named Jethro as a shepherd. The mighty prince is doing the lowest job in that caste system. The lowest job was a sheep herder, a shepherd. He has gone from the highest rank now to the lowest. A year or so afterwards he married Jethro’s daughter. Her name was Zipporah. And he resigned himself to his fate.

The text that I just read to you occurs at that moment. He would spend the next 4 decades tending sheep. His potential, his calling is dashed to pieces.

It is interesting that Moses ran to this mountain as he begins his exile. Mountains are often synonyms for big problems. I mean, often times we hear it said, “I have got a mountain. This is a big one. This is a mountainous bad time. This is a tough time, big, horrible times.” Mountains represent rock hard, troublesome times. And Mount Horeb became Moses’ home for the next 40 years.

Until he was 80 years old Moses would live in the shadows of Horeb as a hopeless man, as a hope deferred man, as a heartsick man, as a crushed in soul- man. He lived as a man who felt the pain of his failure every single day. For the next 40 years his soul was oppressed with the theme- he was a failure, he was a loser. He was a failure, a disappointment to his family, a disappointment to his God. His self-esteem was shredded on Mount Horeb. His pride was destroyed there.

## **Horeb, the Desolate Place**

The name Horeb is significant in itself. The name Horeb in the Hebrew language means “**the desolate place, the dry place, the waste place, the desert place, the place of desolation.**” Mount Horeb was a mountain that was made out of rock, predominantly granite. One of the hardest rocks that we know of. Wouldn’t you know it would be granite? It was literally a gigantic hard place.

There was little or no foliage there on Mount Horeb, just a few acacia trees or desert trees and some widely scattered patches of grass. But, mostly it was bare rock, and Moses would live there for 40 years on that desolate mountain. His soul felt that desolation. His inner self was wasted. His soul, indeed, his life and times were in desert times.

During these forty years around Horeb, his great leadership training appeared to be wasted. The only leading he did was to lead sheep to pasture. Of course, the lonely times of watching sheep graze all day long gave Moses plenty of time to feel his hopelessness and relive his failure over and over and over again. He had plenty of time to think what might have been, if only, he had not messed things up.

There was one redeeming season that did occur during those 40 desolate years. Moses, in an attempt to do something productive, and you can sense his search for relevance in this, he briefly used his literary education, especially his writing skills. He used the time to interview his father-in-law Jethro, who was the priest of Median. He was also the great, great, great, great, great, grandson of Abraham. He also gathered some information from the elders in the Media desert becoming well informed concerning the people of God.

Learning their history backwards and forwards and at the base of Mount Horeb. Watching sheep graze he wrote two books. One is called Genesis and the other book, the book of Job. It is easy to feel the hopelessness expressed as you read the Book of Job because it's initial pages he wrote in pathos language, sad words, melancholy phrasing. Moses must have felt the book of Job in his own soul, as into that book he mixed his own feelings, his own emotions like any author does. He sat on the side of Mount Horeb and he wrote "once upon a time there was a man from Uz who lost everything." Moses knew the feeling. In some ways, he was writing his own story. Different situation, same old story.

## God Turns Failures for Our Good

Perhaps in this room, or watching around the world, some of you feel he is writing your story. When you think about hope deferred you have simply got to consider Moses. The greatest leader in world history experienced it for forty years. Understand Moses did not know that God was teaching him valuable life lessons that he would need to fulfill his destiny. He had no idea, not at this point. No, he thought he had forever ruined his destiny. He thought it was over. He thought it was hopeless. He did not know God

- » wanted to turn his failure into long range good.
- » He did not know that God was going to use this time as training for reigning.
- » He did not know he was learning what he would need later on.

He learned the ways of God's people - a people he did not know because of his birth situation. He learned how they thought. He learned their traditions. He learned their history and he, also, learned how to survive in the wilderness. Moses did not know he was going to need any of that until our famous text today.

"In the 40<sup>th</sup> year of his exile, one day on Mount Horeb, Moses came upon a bush that was burning, but it was not consumed." And of all things, God speaks to him out of this burning bush saying, "Take off your shoes Moses, you are on Holy ground." "Holy ground, Holy ground? You have got to be kidding me?! This?!" Moses did not know it yet, **but one of the greatest seasons of transformation ever was now beginning. He did not know it, but a new era that was going to change history was beginning to connect to its moment.**

In a sense the fire in the burning bush was burning up 40 years of failure. As a fresh call from God was coming forth, a new beginning was being offered, "Moses, go and free My people from Egyptian bondage." At first, Moses argued with God. Moses whose soul had been so shattered said, "God, I cannot! I cannot do it God. I tried it once and I failed." Then he said, "God I do not talk good anymore. I used to speak powerfully, but I do not do that anymore. No one is going to listened to me. God, my mind, my emotions, my soul is so disturbed that I do not put sentences together right anymore. My soul distracts from my ability to even communicate. The blocks in my soul have blocked my ability to communicate. I am not eloquent anymore, God. God, I cannot do it. I have forgotten how to do that."

It is amazing how **soul pain** hinders our ability to communicate and we make no sense. In Moses' mind, he saw no way he was ever going to make a comeback. But Holy Spirit had been hovering over that waste place called Horeb just as he had hovered over a waste place called Earth in the very beginning.

He was hovering over Moses, brooding over him, **incubating to birth an amazing turnaround, a supernatural turn around.**

I do not have time to tell all of the story today, but long story short, Moses obeyed God. He did go back, he dared do it. He dared go back, and through God's mighty miracles, he did lead again. He led the people of God out of 430 years of Egyptian bondage. And two months after leading them out of Egypt he led them right back here, to Mount Horeb. That is amazing.

## **Transformation of Horeb and Moses**

He led them through the wilderness Sinai back to Mount Horeb only this time, it is called "The Mountain of God." This time it is transitioned into God's mountain. This time it is Holy ground. Horeb, the place of desolation. Horeb was transformed. Horeb the desolate desert mountain. It became the place where God met Moses face to face and they would talk together as friends. Horeb became the place where God would take two granite tablets and with His own finger, write ten commandments.

On Horeb, thunder rolled and lighting flashed as God's tangible Presence came down upon that mountain. Smoke rose and the whole mountain shook as the greater Presence and Glory of God was revealed. And, as Moses would climb up that mountain again through the smoke and through the fire emanating from God's Glory that hovered over Mount Horeb, he would meet again and again with the King of Glory.

He began to meet again and again with the King of the Mountain, and he was given laws of cultural conduct that are still viable today. He was given governmental laws and societal laws. He was given promises of increased blessings. God would be their God, and they would be His people.

It was while camping around Mount Horeb with these former Egyptian slaves, it was while there that he would write a few more books: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, portions of the Psalm. They were all written there at Mount Horeb.

It was at Mount Horeb that acacia wood, desert wood, would be gathered to build the Ark of the Covenant. Desert wood was gathered to build the Altar of God. They would gather some more desert wood and build the tabernacle of worship. Bezalel and Oholiab built them with desert wood.

It was at Mount Horeb that Moses took a shepherd's staff that had been upgraded to **a rod of authority and** he stretched it at those granite walls at God's command and a river gushed out of it to provide water for a million people and all of their livestock. Who knew!? Who knew there was a river under that mountain! There was a river under that mountain only God knew was there!

**I wonder what is under your mountain?** You have no idea. I wonder what is under your mountain that only God knows is there?

It was on Mount Horeb that Joshua, Moses' servant began to be mentored and trained to lead God's people into the promised land, yet another 40 years later.

It was Mount Horeb that you see Moses climb time and time again through the Pentateuch, the opening five books of the Bible.



It was Mount Horeb that Moses climbed to hear from God for the people.

It was at Mount Horeb that God appeared to a hopeless, despairing maid named Hagar. She had been cast out from her family but God appeared to her saying, “Do not worry Hagar I will take care of you and I will take care of young Ishmael,” Genesis 16:7.

It was at this mountain that God appeared to Abraham and told him Isaac is going to be born.

It was also at Mount Horeb that God stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, providing a ram for sacrifice in his place, picturing of course the substitute that Jesus would become our Lamb slain. On Mount Horeb, a ram was found in the desert wood. Provision, Jehovah Jira was found in the desert wood.

## **Supernatural Comebacks are now Available**

What is the transcending message of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Job, Genesis, the Psalms? It is unmistakable.

- » Horeb will not always be horrible.
- » Desolate mountain can become Holy ground.
- » God gives new beginnings.
- » He transforms mountainous problems to mountains of blessings and mountains of hope.
- » He transforms rock hard places into places of destiny.
- » He transforms the place of desolation into atmospheres of peace in His Presence.
- » He transforms desert dry times to rivers of joy. There could be a river under your mountain that blesses you the rest of your life.
- » He transforms failures into training for reigning.
- » He transforms the times when we blow it into learning skills for the future.
- » And He burns up our failures at Mount Horeb. He burns up our failures, consuming them with hope that opens doors of new opportunities that we thought were forever lost.
- » And He anoints us to make supernatural comebacks.

Moses made one of the greatest comebacks in all of history. So can you. **In this greater era of Glory, in this time of hovering Glory, supernatural comebacks are now available.** Some of you are going to make some of the greatest comebacks that have ever been seen. Some of you watching online are about to make an amazing comeback.

There are ministries that are about to make an amazing comeback. There are Ecclesia's that are about to make an amazing comeback. Horeb will not always be horrible. Hope is pulsating from the King of Glory. Greater and greater hope is coming because our loving and our kind caring God is wise enough and He is powerful enough to heal our souls, to restore our souls.

Even if you are in your 80's or 90's, your mountain, your Horeb, no matter the age does not have to remain horrible. It can become Holy ground. The God of all Hope can transform it into a mountain of blessing. His fiery Presence consumes our failures with hope. That calls us to a new beginning.

## **Tim's Supernatural Comeback Story**

In a nutshell I will tell you a 20-year story. Most do not know this about my life, but about 20 years ago we had one of the fastest growing churches in the nation. I was teaching church growth everywhere, one of the most influential churches. We had just built a 4,000-seat auditorium. Things were going well until I decided I would turn things more towards the apostolic and prophetic. That is when people thought I back-slid.

Long story short, we went through a church split 5 ways. We lost 2,000 people in a month, over a million dollars out of the budget. Then other churches started. We had nine covenant churches and 27 others that were affiliated with us and I lost everything of that. It got down to where in a 4,000-seat auditorium which is probably 3 or 4 times this, I had less than 100 people on a Sunday morning. The entire praise team had left. I am not going to go into all of those details, but I do know a few things about hopelessness.

My Mom was still alive. She could play the organ. I led the praise and worship and Mom played the organ Pentecostal style. That is when I looked at my daughter, Rachel, and said, "Honey, learn how to sing." She leads our praise and worship today. I turned to the keyboard and said, "Rebecca, you took lessons, play." Dalton was 14, "Play the drums Dalton." Zack, he did not even have a guitar, "Play one." It was a difficult time.

In just about 6 months' time we were about \$850,000 behind in payments. I actually met with a bank and we got 8 forbearances. Long story there, but we owned 46 acres and I began selling it off and paid debt but that took 5 years to just develop the land. I was out doing conferences everywhere to keep paying the bills because there was not enough money coming in. We paid the bills off and we paid them out of TSM or whatever I could do.

For the next 18 years, we only had about 200 people in that auditorium. Five churches around us were taking everything from us. And then, God showed up in a burning bush and it looked like Covid-19 would end it all. How can you survive that? And a supernatural comeback began.

I refused to shut down. I just kept preaching. I said, "Put it on six platforms, as much as you can." And after a couple of months they came in and said, "You know, we used to have 400-500 views; we have got 4,000-5,000 now. And then, well, there is over 10,000. And the crowds are coming back, and then, wait a minute now there is 50,000 and now there is 75,000, now there is 100,000. Do you know, you had 400,000 views last week?" "No, I did not know that." And the income began to multiply.

We put new roofs on the whole place. We put new air conditioners in. Paid cash. Eight acres of parking, and then one of our media members called and said, "How much do you owe?" I said, "1.2 million" and they sent us a check for 1.2 million dollars to make us debt free. 20 years of praying, scratching, fighting, believing the promise of God, and God enabled us to make a supernatural come back.

Moses experienced some of the greatest miracles anyone has ever seen. A Red Sea opened. I have not seen that, that is pretty good. Manna appearing daily to feed people with angel food. Millions of quail

flown in every day. Rivers flowing in the desert. A pillar of fire over them at night and a cloudy pillar to shade them every day. The ground opened up and swallowed his enemies one time. Miracles that were mind blowing were seen by Moses, **but every single one of them came after 40 years of hope deferred.**

Though you may know times of desolation, you may be going through desert times, I do not know, I assume so because Holy Spirit took me a way I was not going today. Please know God can bring miracles into your future. He is a Miracle Working God. He knows how to turn everything around.

My daughter Rachel who leads praise and worship at The Oasis, she and her husband, Mark, have four kids - two kids naturally and two special needs children from China. They both had cleft palates and they both had other issues that we did not know of until we brought them here.

Now, I remember when Rachel came and she showed me a picture of the first one, Lily. She was a little over a year old with a cleft palate and she said, "Dad, me and Mark feel like we are supposed to adopt this child." She said, "They do not raise their children that have cleft palates in China because it is considered to be a curse." And she said, "What do you think? Should we do this?" And I said, "Honey, let's reverse the curse." Go get them and we will raise the money. We will do it. We will bring her and of course you can fix that- cleft palates.

Carol and I have [sponsored] around 50. Every time I see it on TV I tell Carol, "Let's fix another kid."

There were other problems, we did not know until we got them here, especially Lily. We discovered that she has a rare syndrome that only two other people in the world have that we know of. And we discovered that she was about to die. She was going to die as an infant. She was not going to make it if Mark and Rachel did not adopt her and bring her here for expert medical care. She had been through three, 13-14-hour surgeries to get her to the point we are at now.

We did not know much of Lily's history. She was left at a bus stop when she was born in a little basket like Moses. She is our Moses. She was in a basket left at a bus stop with a piece of paper pinned to her with her birth date and her name- Lily Mei Mei.

For the first year of her life she lived in an orphanage because they did not get her until she was a little over a year old. Mark was permitted to go to the orphanage and take some pictures just for history, you know, and he was shown where Lily lived for the first year of her life - her crib which was a piece of plywood and a blanket. No mattress, no pillow, just a piece of plywood. That was it. A blanket.

Well, we got her and of course we began to get her help and in spite of the problems she has, she is one of the sweetest girls. Of all the grandkids, she is the sweetest. She tells me she loves me when she sees me and when she leaves she tells me she loves me. I am the greatest preacher in the world, okay?

We got Lily just before Christmas back here in the States. Now at Christmas my wife and I, Carol, our job is to spoil grandkids and so, we have a lot of presents for the grandkids. Madeline was five years old at the time and it is Christmas so she is a pro at opening presents. And, she opened every one of those presents and Lily just sat there watching her.

Then Maddy started going into our house, wrapping up for presents for us- from our house. And she is using gobs and gobs of tape. She would bring it to us and we would say, "Thank you, it is just what we need!"

Well, Lily is watching this and for some reason she starts playing with the gobs of wadded up tape. She is playing with this tape and I am sitting 3 feet away and I am watching her and it suddenly hit me. She has never opened a present. She does not know what one is. She does not know what is happening here. She is playing with this tape. She gets done and I am just kind of watching and she reaches over and she sets the tape down and of course, what happens? The tape came right back with her in her hand. So, she puts it in the other hand – she is barely old enough to sit up. She is a little over one. She sets it down and of course it comes back. And, she is doing this (motions with hands) and she gets frustrated and I said, "Wait a minute, let me help you." And I reached down and I took the tape away from her, and then we began to teach her how to open presents. She is a pro today.

## **Removing Accumulated Grief**

Later that night, I awakened by the Holy Spirit thinking about this, and I heard Holy Spirit say, "I want to take accumulated grief from My people." I had never really thought about grief accumulating, but the older I get, the more I understand it. It is like tape that sticks to you heart and you set it aside, you think, but it comes back. You set it aside and it comes back, and it sticks. This happens and a little bit of tape sticks to your heart. The soul wound comes and it sticks to your heart. The betrayal comes and the tape sticks. The broken relationship and another piece of tape, the death of a loved one or a friend. I have lost count of how many friends' funerals I have done. The sickness and more tape, the hope deferred, and over time it accumulates. And if we are not careful it wraps up our heart. It tapes our soul. It constricts our feelings. It constricts our emotions. It constricts our thinking. It restricts our ability to receive love and acceptance, and like Lily, we need Someone bigger than we are to come and help us remove the tape and set us free. And then to open one of the greatest gifts that can ever be received: **hope and unconditional love.**

I believe our great God is here today to remove accumulated grief from His people. Whether you are in this room or watching online, He knows how to unwrap your heart and to set you free to make an amazing comeback. And, He is doing that right now just as He did centuries ago to use a people that were hope deferred to change a nation. He brooded over the situation for 80 years.

Holy Spirit has been brooding for some 70 years to change the nation, and the nations right now.

- » **In 1950** He began to resurrect the evangelist anointing, and they began to network together.
- » **Then in the 60's** was the pastoral anointing.
- » **Then in the 70's** was the teacher- everyone was going somewhere to get taught.
- » **Then in the 80's** prophets are for today.
- » **Then in the 90's** apostles, guys like me discovered we were not crazy - maybe a little but not all that much.
- » **Then in 2000**, "I am going to build a true Ecclesia, a ruling and reigning church."
- » **And then in 2010**, "Now I am going to add Angel armies."

- » **And now, in 2020**, “I am going to light fire to dreams again. I am going to burn up failures again. I am going to take a beat-up people and I am going to unwrap their heart. I am going to free them and they are going to connect a moment to a moment in history to where they possess the land of promise and they rule and reign with Me.”

I am going to ask the singers to come, the praise team, and I am going to ask those of you today that may be going through a time when tape has accumulated on your heart. This morning I heard Father say very clearly that He was going to minister to you.

## **God is Freeing us from all Restraints for the Future Before Us**

I normally would be lathered up and sweaty right now at most of these conferences, but God’s heart and love for you is saying, “I do not want you to run into the future that I have ordained for you, stuck in any way. I want your heart to be absolutely free. I do not want any accumulated grief on My people.”

Even if you have been in difficult times, you can make a supernatural recovery, a supernatural comeback because God needs you for right now, and He needs you free just like He needed Moses free.

Those of you that say, “That is me. I have got areas that I have been carrying, but I need my God to do what I could not do. I need Him to take that tape off my heart. I have tried to set it down so many times and it just seems to stick.”

Let me tell you, today with the power of God it goes today. The King has taken it. But, if that is you – and please do not be embarrassed. I told you my story and I could have gone into great detail. It was not easy. It was very hard, but Horeb is no longer horrible. I will fly back to a debt free church with a lot of people with thousands of people watching. But for years it did not even look possible. That might be you. Please do not be embarrassed, but if that is you, would you please stand where you are to say, “That is me and I want to be free from accumulating grief. I want the King.” Oh my, I did not expect that many. Maybe I did hear from God today. Just set yourself to receive. (The majority of the people stood.)

Lord, we pause in this war season, so much happening to pause at a time when You said, “Let Me minister to these people.” Mighty One, King Jesus. Holy God, do what You said. Unwrap hearts today. Remove the tape. Remove the constriction. Remove what it was carrying. Let the heart be able to be free. Let the gifts be freed. Heal and restore all accumulated grief. Mend brokenness. Mend broken hearts. Unwrap hearts that have been wounded, hearts that have grieved through the night seasons. Hearts that have wondered, “Where do I go?” Hearts that have felt like Moses, “I am a failure. How can I ever be used?”

Hearts like Moses, that felt they blew it so bad, they are just a disappointment. Some may even feel like they have disappointed You. They have disappointed their families. Some, Lord, that have experienced a day after day, some that have gone for days, weeks, years when it just replays, “What if, what if I had never done that? What if that never happened?”

Pull the tape off, lovingly Father God. Unwrap hearts supernaturally - hearts in this room, in living rooms all over this world. Unwrap that one that sat all alone last night crying, thinking it is over. It is not. Horeb will not always be horrible.

Today, supernaturally Your powerful Presence and Glory come down upon them. Rekindle the fire in their heart. Unwrap their heart and fill it with joy again. Unwrap their heart and say, "There is destiny. Arise and go." But it has been years and years. It has been years. Moses, the hopeless one, tells us, "You can still be the great leader you are. You can still reach your destiny. It is not over. I do great things. I hold your heart. I will unwrap it. I will fill it with joy."

**Hear His Word come to you again. "It is not over. Your destiny is not lost. Your purpose is not wasted. I need you. I need you now. I need you for this hour. I need you to become who I made you to be." Hear Him say, "I am going to take the desert wood, and I am going to use it to build the life that I promised I would build for you." Hear Him say, "I know of rivers under your mountain that you did not know was there. I am going to unwrap your heart and I am going to show you things that you did not even know were there. It was buried by a mountain, this mountainous hard time, granite was over it. But I know what is under there! I will free you! And I will show you a river that blesses you the rest of your life!"**

Unwrap the hearts and soak with hope Your people, soak them in Your glorious Presence. Let them hear Your gracious Voice calling them to You again. "Your gift, your callings, your enablement's I will anoint, and I will use you and connect you in this moment and your testimony will be like so many others and like the great leader Moses."

Me and God speak face to face. We talk like friends. We are friends. I know He is with me everywhere I go. I pray for these Lord, unwrap their heart and begin to show them miracles like You did with Moses. He saw no miracle until after You healed his heart and set him free. Let them see miracles. Use them with signs and wonders. I declare by the authority of King Jesus, now coming to you is a surge of love and compassion. Not tape that constricts with grief, but arms that hold your heart with love and compassion. Pouring into you a realization that I am now leaving this conference and I am going to make a bodacious comeback! I am coming back healed, set free, set on fire with the Presence of our King! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Yes! I am free, free, free, free! My heart is free, I am free indeed. I am free! I am free! I am free! Jesus makes me free! I am free! Free! Free! Free! Free! Free! I am free, I am free, I am free!