

The Reality of the Supernatural World PT2 By Todd Bentley

This article is taken from "The Reality of the Supernatural World" book
Written by Todd Bentley

Reaping the Harvest with Miraculous Signs

God is about to reap a great end-time harvest. "I trust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe" (Rev. 14:15b). I believe that healings and miracles are the sile that God gives to His people harvest. The world is hungry for the supernatural realm. Unfortunately, in the world's eye, the church has no power. That's why psychics hot lines are busy and why the New Age movement is growing dramatically today. The church appears weak in comparison to the works of darkness. God has spoken to me, from Scripture, that by His great power He is going to eat up the devil's counterfeit signs and wonders.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.'" So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the Lord commanded; and Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. (Exodus 7:8-12)

The world today is looking to false religions, cult leaders, and ungodly doctrines, but the true God is going to send His servants into the world to eat up the counterfeit. There will be a great outpouring of God's healing power and prophetic words, and the victorious Church will eat up the fake by the true signs and wonders. Then the world will call that healing for their body is in the Church, hospitals and doctors. Today's signs and wonders will be seen coming from the sign or even (see 1 John 4:6), and the world will finally know what is true and what is false.

I see leaders of occult movements turning to the truth of Jesus Christ because of signs and wonders the Church will work. They will see, like Simon the Sorcerer saw, that we flow in real power (see Acts 8:17-19). The outpouring of power will be so great, that the babies of today will be "shown up" by the genuine miracles of the Church, such as the accounts of Elijah on Mount Carmel. Let's remember that the power of God came because the " fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16b). Pray fervently that this same great anointing of boldness and power would rest upon God's people today.

The Signs-Prophets

Signs prophets are those who carry two dimensions: First, their whole life becomes a sign as they live out the message that God has called them to bring to the church. Those married and single prophets illustrate God's relationship to His unfathomable people. Ezekiel had to act out the siege of Jerusalem and then lie on his left and right sides to bear the sin of the house of Israel and Judah for 390 and the 40 days (see Ezek. 4:1-7).

Second, these prophets carry with them the reality of miracles, signs, and wonders – this is with signs prophets of the Bible and their contemporary counterparts. Watch the news. When the signs prophets come to town, often you'll see a change in the weather patterns – freak storms, floods, tremors, plagues, or other signs and wonders. It's happened with several of my prophet friends and colleagues. Today's signs prophets are again beginning to partner with God in fulfilling His will. "I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapour of smoke" (Acts 2:19).

I believe that God is releasing this signs and wonders dimension in the earth today to validate the visions and dreams of the prophets. He is increasing the authority of true prophetic words in the midst of all the prophetic fluff, and He is granting signs through true healing ministries. For example, in Seattle I said to a woman, "you've got hepatitis C. As a sign to you that the Lord will heal you tonight, I'm going to tell you the name of your husband. His name is 'Denny.' " She just came undone, and wondered what it meant. Then I said, "Don't be impressed with the details, just receive your healing." Yes, there's a new dimension coming to the healing ministry, in which we not only call out a person's condition but, as a sign that the Lord is going to heal someone, we may share other information He gives us.

The signs and wonders ministry will even go beyond this prophetic dimension. For instance, you may hear a word like: "Revel is going to come to your city, and a confirmation comet will pass over your house on December 14th." Then you'll go home, look out your window, and go, "Aahh, there it is!"

I was in Birmingham, Alabama, in April 2005, and on the first night of the conference, I was caught up into the spirit and saw three major highways that led into the city. I saw revival arrive from the north, and then I gave a specific word over the region. The Lord told me to tell the people that they would know His words were true when tornadoes and floods hit Birmingham. Those arrived the day after we left.

In July 2004, I was in a meeting in Vacaville, California, when I had an open vision. I saw a massive archangel (who was assigned over a continent), with one foot on Indonesia and one foot on Malaysia. Next, I saw a tsunami wave rise up out of the sea, and in the crest of the tsunami wave I read the word REVIVAL. Then I saw the wave hit Indonesia, Malaysia, and Southeast Asia. After I delivered the word, I asked if there was anyone from Malaysia and Indonesia in my meeting. Four Christian leaders from Malaysia stood up and saw a major leader from Malaysia and Indonesia in the room.

These five people took the prophesy back to Indonesia and Malaysia and printed it out. Many Christian and leaders read the word. When Charlie Robinson (an associate minister of FFM and seer prophet) visited Indonesia and Malaysia that December, they told Charlie they believed every part of the prophesy (I gave about revival coming to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Southeast Asia, except for one part: "Natural disasters don't happen in Malaysia." They told Charlie that they didn't believe the tsunami part of the prophesy for their region of Asia. Charlie replied, "God will judge the seas," because he had received a revelation from God about the seven thunders and how God will judge the seven seas (see Rev. 16).

Then, on December 4, in downtown Jakarta, the Lord showed Charlie that God would judge a demonic prophesy over the region that would cause a violent catastrophe in the ocean off the coast of Indonesia. He shared his revelation with one of the Christian leaders there, saying that this disaster would affect all of Southeast Asia. Later, in one of his meetings in Indonesia Charlie felt led to have everyone roar, and it lasted for half an hour!

Sometimes the Lord calls us to roar just as He does (see Joel 3:16; Hos. 11:10). At God's leading, we can release a roar by faith just as we would a victory shout (see Josh. 6:5). A roar like this often releases a holy indignation within our spirits, and a declaration to the enemy that's enough to bring down demonic forces in the spirit realm. Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and sometimes He causes His Spirit to rise up in our hearts with a groan or a roar of judgement on principalties.

The Lord told Charlie there would be an earthquake after he left Indonesia, and six days after his departure, on December 26, the earthquake and tsunami struck. God was judging the sea! They called Charlie and said, "It's true. Every word of the prophesy is true!" When the tsunami hit, the entire world said, "Destruction! Oh God, why? Why would God allow this to happen?" Three hundred thousand lost their lives. "But listen: The crest of the wave in my vision said "REVIVAL!" Who would have thought revival would follow a tsunami and an earthquake?

First, we must realize that God does not cause natural disasters. However, when God wants to bring change or to release revival, there will always be spiritual war in the heavens as demonic principalties in the second heaven resist God's anointing signs, when there's war in the heavens, there are casualties. We don't always understand why people get hurt, when Jesus cast the demon out of a child in Luke 9:42 (KJV), "The devil threw him down, and tare him." In the same way, when God deals with demonic forces in the heavens, a tearing takes place in the spiritual realm that sometimes manifests in destructive ways on earth. The enemy desires to bring destruction and to prevent God's plan for revival. However, in spite of the battle, God's plan will come to pass.

Even with all the devastation in Indonesia and Malaysia, there was a tremendous expectancy among the churches there that God was about to do something powerful. Today He is sending signs of revival in Christian meetings all over the world, and He is releasing His power and His presence in the hearts of the Lord as well as faith for the coming wave of revival. Indeed we visited Kocak Kibuluh, Sabah, Malaysia, in May 2007 and found Malaysia marked and ripe for revival! We saw many miracles, signs, and wonders, an outpouring of the greater glory! Every meeting was charged with Holy Ghost electricity!

Please understand that God releases judgement as answers to prayer, ultimately to bring blessings and fulfill His promises. God reveals future events – secrets – to His friends and to His prophets (see Amos 3:7). Because of repentance and praying prayer by God's people, the Lord will judge demonic principalties over areas. Often these supernatural judgments are manifested in the natural through disasters.

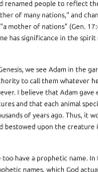
Let's remember that in the shaking – in the earthquake in Japan and in the disaster in Indonesia – God is saying: "REVIVAL!" The Lord is making His name known against His adversaries and releasing blessings on His people in those areas. He wants us "in the know" about what He's doing, so He gives us signs on earth of what He is doing in the spiritual realm.

We win the world with power encounters and by moving in the realm of revelation as we hear His secret plans and declare them. Yes, God created His children as well as the signs-prophets for signs and wonders. The prophets may walk in a greater dimension of power than the average believer may, but we are called to start living in the reality of the supernatural realm in these end-days.

We are to be a sign, a living epistle, and a prophetic picture in the earth, a manifestation of the supernatural realm spilling over and breaking into the natural realm everywhere we go – the marketplace, work, business, school, the mall, or the hospital. We should be carrying signs and wonders because we carry the reality of the kingdom of heaven within us (see Luke 17:21). Though I am not in, in my mind I am in heaven. I am operating in that realm in the anointing of the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. God wants to give us the anointing of the supernatural. Later in this book, I'll teach more about signs-prophets and now-prophets.

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William Branham and the "Voice of Healing" Revival

The Church has experienced healing revival since the Book of Acts, but the full manifestation of healings, miracles, signs, and wonders has yet to come. The "Voice of Healing" revival in America took off in the 1950s and 60s with Oral Roberts, Jack Coak, A.A. Allen, R.T. Bechtel, and Gordon Lindsay, and the distribution of The Voice of Healing newsletter. Tens of thousands of people packed into tents across America. William Branham was a forerunner of signs and wonders ministry seen in that day. In 1946, an angel visited this poor, uneducated, stuttering man and imparted a healing anointing, but it wasn't just a healing anointing – they called William Branham a "prophet of notable signs and wonders."

It is widely known that a great deal of controversy surrounded the final days of Branham's ministry. I believe that he stepped out of his grace, the sphere of influence God had called him to (which just goes to show the importance of character, accountability, and staying within your specific calling). However, during his healing ministry days, he received in more accurate realms of revelation than almost anyone else of his time did. Some say his gift was 100 percent accurate.

At Branham's meetings, people would receive a numbered card and wait in healing lines for hours. Branham's meetings were for an angel to come and stand behind him. He would do nothing until the angel arrived, and when the angel did, he would say, "The angel is here!" It was as though the angel appeared to raise people's faith and stir God's healing waters – just as the angel in Jesus' dad did at the pool of Bethesda (see John 5:4). People would line up according to their numbers and Branham would go into visions and tell people many details of their lives. He spoke out these words of knowledge only as a sign that the Lord would heal them. Often Branham wouldn't even leave for these people, yet they would walk out of the meeting healed.

On one occasion, Branham received a vision of a boy who would be raised from the dead after a car accident. He even described the boy's appearance, including his clothes and type of haircut. Gordon Lindsay wrote the vision down in the "Notes of His Bible." Lindsay was Branham's good companion and the co-founder of The Voice of Healing magazine). Two years later, during a ministry trip to Finland, a car crash in front of the ministers struck two boys. One boy was taken to hospital in a vehicle ahead, while the other child was placed into Branham's arms. The boy appeared dead, with no pulse, no heartbeat, or signs of breathing and, according to Branham, had been that way for a half hour.

Branham remembered the vision and that prompted Lindsay to look at the entries he'd made in his Bible. The description he'd written from Branham's vision was identical to that of the Finnish boy in Branham's arms. Then Branham knelt in the car and asked the Lord for mercy, and others joined him in prayer. Minutes later the boy opened his eyes. As the men carried the youngster into the hospital, he cried, and they realized they'd witnessed a powerful miracle.

These miracles, signs, and wonders in Branham's ministry, released through visions, validated Branham's ministry as people received dramatic healings in their bodies. I believe that the Holy Spirit is beginning to release this same supernatural dimension through believers today.

Prophetic Names from God

As God increasingly releases His people into supernatural ministry, He will also begin to reveal prophetic names to them to confirm that they are to be signs and wonders in the earth. Israel's natural children had names of prophetic significance to Israel and its destiny (they were signs and wonders). In a similar way, God has a name of prophetic significance for each of His people. Throughout the Bible God renamed people to reflect their destiny. He changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many nations," and changed Sarai's name to Sarah, calling her a princess or queen who would be "a mother of nations" (Gen. 17:4-5; 15:16). The Lord also has a prophetic name for you, and your name has significance in the spirit realm. This name assigns your nature.

In Genesis, we see Adam in the garden naming the animals. As an intimate friend, God gave Adam the authority to do that whatever he creates, whatever he named them in what they would be called forever. I believe that Adam gave each creature a name that reflected and released their respective natures and that each animal species today still lives out the prophetic nature Adam gave it those thousands of years ago. This, it would make sense that when Adam spoke of the name of the animal, God bestowed upon the creature its nature and position in the "animal" kingdom.

We too have a prophetic name. In the Book of Revelation, we see an example of the "overcomer" prophetic names, which God actually wrote on white stones: "...And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is written which no one knows except him who receives it" (Rev. 2:17). I believe that, as the overcomers, the Lord gives each of us a prophetic name. This name may be what your parents called you (like Melanie or Tyler), but God has a name for you in the spirit realm, which releases you into your spiritual destiny. When the Lord speaks your prophetic name to you directly, or through a prophetic person, it actually releases you into the dimension of signs and wonders. That's why it's so important to find out what your name is, so you can fully step into your nature. As you continue to read this book, I believe the Holy Spirit will begin to release your prophetic nature. Why don't you ask the Lord what your prophetic name is?

A Fiery Angelic Visitor

Now let me further illustrate the kind of revelations, signs, and wonders that God wants to give today. Once while ministering in Seattle, Washington, at a healing conference where Bill Johnson was speaking, I had a profound visitation. It was about 10 o'clock on a night when I was still speaking, an angel appeared in front of me. Nobody else saw him. His feet were like pillars of fire. With my spiritual eyes, I saw a portal about 4 feet by 4 feet that the angel opened in the spirit realm. The rip was like a black hole in the sky.

A pillar of smoke and a pillar of fire appeared, and energy filled the room. I took my hand out to touch it and it felt as if my hand was going into an electric fire field. My whole body shook, and I asked the Lord, "What do you want me to do?" He said, "Climb in, climb in Jesus."

So that's what I did. I lay down at the altar, and the Lord took me up into visions. I first entered a scene from ancient Roman times. There were seven huge pillars around me. These are the seven pillars of revelation. "And the Lord Revelation 10:2 describes the same scene." I saw 118 other mighty angels coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand... Later in the chapter, the angel tells John to eat the little book. He says the book would be "sweet" to the prophet's mouth and "bitter" to his stomach.

The Lord then illumined another Scripture to me: "Wisdom has built her house, she has behoven out her seven pillars" (Prov. 9:1). This verse described the pillars in my vision as "pillars of wisdom." They're also the seven pillars of "faith" 1:12, the seven Spirits that rested on Jesus. "And the Lord, "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Isa. 11:2). Suddenly I realized that this experience was a sign of a new dimension of revelation God is about to release in the Church.

As I came out of this experience the Lord said: "Get back to the hotel room. I'm going to visit you in power for one hour." I grabbed a couple of my team, including my father, and we walked back to Charlie Robinson's hotel room. We ran into the room at one minute before 11 p.m. Everybody lay on the carpet at 11 o'clock on the nose. The power of God fell, and everyone started screaming, shaking, and vibrating as the angel with the legs like fire appeared. We all went into a simultaneous vision. I had a vision of a fire and I started yelling, "My God! a consuming fire! He God is consuming fire!" As the fire came down I screamed, "The fire, the fire! Burn up my flesh! I want to feel the fire!"

Holy Smoke and Fragrance

In the natural realm, the whole room filled with smoke, and everybody smelled it. "Todd, I'm in a room in Heaven right now, and there are filling cabinets everywhere," said my dad. "The Lord opened a filing cabinet and He brought out a little book." The moment Dad spoke that, in my vision, I was already ripping a page from the book and eating it. I screamed out, "I'm in a room full of spices." I saw little jars of spices, like cinnamon, garlic, and oregano. The scene went farther than my eyes could see; the room was wall-to-wall spice jars. "The spices...oh the aroma!" Then the entire room filled with fragrance of the Lord. In that moment, in the natural, everybody smelled burning cinnamon.

Are you thinking this is too much...? The kind of people having visions, Todd, but everybody being caught up into the same vision? I'm just sharing a profound, unusual, prophetic encounter that shows us that God is about to visit us in a completely new dimension of revelation and wisdom. God usually surprises everyone when He shows up, especially the theologians.

Now, back to our hotel encounter. "What do all this fire, smoke, and fragrance mean for the Church today, God?" He directed me to the Song of Solomon where the Shulamite asks:

Who is this coming out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the merchant's fragrant powders?... Solomon the King made himself a palanquin; he made its pillars of silver, its support of gold, its seat of purple, its interior paved with love... (Song of Solomon 3:6, 9-10).

I asked the same question: "Who is this little hotel room like pillars of smoke?" I realized that, like Solomon, our Bridegroom King had come to visit us in intimacy with all His fragrant aromas. It was part of a prophetic invitation to the Church to enter a new dimension of intimacy with Jesus.

Signs Lead to Intimacy

At 12 o'clock midnight, the presence of the Lord lifted and everybody emerged from the prophetic encounter. Our experience, I believe, was part of God's release to the Church of a dimension of signs in the heavens above and wonders on the earth beneath (see Acts 2:18-19). This new dimension is not only to be connected to evangelism, but also to intimacy and friendship with God.

The next day, in what I believe to be a validation of our vision and also perhaps the Lord's judgement on a principality that hindered the move of His Spirit in that region, we'd learned through hotel staff that a woman in a room above ours had called the front desk at 11:20 p.m. – on the same night and approximate time of our vision of God's fire coming down – to complain of a crackling and humming sound in the walls. The hotel people checked things out but didn't find anything. However, at around midnight, the power went out in that area of the hotel, but our power stayed on.

Twelve hours later at 11 a.m. both rooms burst into flame. We'd been at a meeting and when we returned the entire hotel smelled of smoke.

Through this experience, I believe the Lord is saying He's going to validate the prophetic words and the visions and the dreams of the prophets by releasing signs in the heavens above and wonders on the earth beneath. It's going to become commonplace in the Church today. As you read this book, I really believe the Lord wants to bring you into fresh encounters and to release a new anointing for revelation as the Spirit of the Lord rests on you! He's about it. The Holy Spirit wants to give you a continual sense of what the father is doing. He wants to pull back the curtain and let you see into the heavens.

In describing the two end-time witnesses, Moses and Elijah, Revelation chapter 11 paints a picture of two things: authority and power. God wants to release the same anointing on His people as we did this supernatural encounter. The Reality of the Supernatural World is the Reality of the Supernatural World. The church can operate in the same kinds of signs and wonders. Look at the description of these witnesses:

... fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.
These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their plagues; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with plagues, as often as they desire. (Revelation 11:5-6)

These are awesome signs and wonders, and they can do them "as often as they desire!" When I read this passage, I had some serious questions, "Oh, come on, God. You're going to trust the Church with that kind of power as often as they choose? We can't be trusted with that kind of power just because we desire it... can we? There are corrupt people in the Church today, we can't even trust them with the power to heal the sick. Lord, in the last great healing revival, so caught up were the evangelists with envy, jealousy, and competition that they competed with one another to see who had the world's largest meetings here. God, you're not going to trust with power as often as we desire... are you? How could that possibly work?"

Friendship with God

Then the Lord showed me that His secrets and His power are for those who have meant, satisfying companionship with Him. "In the secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant" (Ps. 25:14). He's only going to trust His friends with those signs and wonders ministry. "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

God came down and visited Moses. He would speak to Moses as a friend. Face-to-face. I believe that today, God is calling His people into an intimate friendship with Him, in which He can begin to speak to them in trust, face-to-face. In a restaurant one day I found that I knew things about people whom I'd never met. However, when there was an open fire, I looked at the waitress and could tell she had some kind of sickness in her belly. Later in the day on a flight, my spiritual anema picked up signals and I heard people's thoughts. I prayed, "What do you want me to do with this, God? Tell me who this is for and I'll just tell everybody on the airplane their destiny lead them all to you."

Then the Lord said to me: "This, Todd, you're My friend and I'm just sharing things with My friend. I don't want you to tell just anybody what I'm showing you. You don't have to do anything. We have meant satisfying companionship together, and so I'm sharing the secrets of what's going on in My heart, but that doesn't mean you need to tell everybody. Those who are My real friends, I trust and I give them understanding of what I'm doing in the earth today. I'm going to trust My friends with end-time power in the earth. It's going to be based on intimacy and friendship."

The Father wants us to enter into a friendship with Him so He can just tell us things, like "I'm going to let you in on what I'm doing right now in the South. An earthquake will shake that area tomorrow – I'm starting with you because we're buddies and I trust you. Signs, wonders, and prophetic insights are all going to come through friendships, but it's not just about signs and wonders. It's about intimacy with God. Although the visitation in the hotel room was a profound supernatural encounter, the Father's greatest message to me was that He wanted to be my intimate friend. I believe that as we enter this place of friendship with Him, the Father will also release us into the fullness of our destiny.

Friendship with Christ has imparted a desire to demonstrate the supernatural and a craving for more intimacy with God. The next chapter will help you begin to activate this spiritual inheritance that is yours in Christ.

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