

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

SOWING FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

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April 5, 2020

TEXT: Exodus 13:3 Moses said to the people, “*Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place.*”

INTRO: THE INDISPENSIBLE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBERING

Two important events are taking place this week. Today we celebrate Harvest Rock Church’s anniversary, and starting April 8 is the celebration of Passover. The Passover is a time to remember how God delivered the Jews from slavery supernaturally. The Bible has a lot to say about remembering. The Book of Exodus is a book about remembering. It begins by saying something extraordinary.

- 1. Exodus 1:8** Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.
- More is written about Joseph in the Torah than anyone else except Moses. Joseph had saved Egypt and the civilization of his time. It was extraordinary that a Pharaoh did not know who Joseph was.
- One commentator of Exodus begins with: “The story begins with forgetting. The pharaoh does not remember how a son of Israel saved Egypt from famine.”
- God uses Moses and the book of Exodus to not forget all the good things God has done for His people.
- 5. Exodus 20:8** *Remember the Sabbath day.* This appears in the heart of the Ten Commandments. God created a day of rest, the Sabbath. Right now we have been put into a global Sabbath, with the purpose of reviving us and preparing the world for a great harvest.
- The Passover is coming up on the evening of April 8 and will last seven days. Here is what the Passover is called: **Exodus 12:14** “**A day of remembrance.**” This, of course, is a foreshadow of the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. That is why we are to take the Lord’s Supper regularly. God wants us to constantly remember what Jesus did for us on the cross.
- 1. 1 Corinthians 11:23** **For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.**
- The whole purpose of remembering is to help people to become grateful to God.** One of the most common character traits of our fallen nature is ingratitude: people not acknowledging the good another does for them or quickly forgetting that good.
- Gratitude is one of the most life-changing values to help one become happy and to be successful in life.** The people who have a positive attitude are the ones that get ahead in life. Gratitude helps you to be perpetually positive.
- Let’s thank God for five things God has done through Harvest Rock Church since 1994.

I. REMEMBERING OUR PROPHETIC HISTORY

A. FIVE HIGHLIGHTS TO THANK GOD FOR

1. **Harvest Rock Church was birthed on April 4, 1994.** To give this some context, on January 20, 1994, the Holy Spirit fell on a small church in Toronto, the Toronto Airport Vineyard. A global revival began. The Holy Spirit also fell upon the Anaheim Vineyard in January 1994. That is where I was deeply touched by the Holy Spirit. I had been saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit, but I never encountered holy laughter and I never shook like the way I shook that night. The next month, I woke up and I heard the words “4-4-94” and I knew instinctively what that meant. Sue and I were to start a new church in our home, on April 4, 1994.
2. **From 1995 to 1998, Harvest Rock Church hosted protracted meetings at Mott Auditorium.** On January 2-4, 1995, Harvest Rock Church with four other churches, hosted John Arnott from Toronto. He encouraged us to also start protracted meetings. After a number of prophetic confirmations, we started five nights a week of protracted meetings at Mott Auditorium starting April 1995. Our church was one year old. These meetings would last three years. The following year, we started a 24-hour house of prayer, and that lasted from 1996 to 1999. We saw some of the most dramatic healings.
3. **In October 1996, Harvest International Ministry, an apostolic network, was launched.** In December 1995, after we were released from the Vineyard network, Cindy Jacobs prophesied over the phone and said, “You are not to join another movement. I have called you to be an apostle. You will be like Abraham and be a father of many. You will have churches in every continent.” The next year, Harvest International Ministry was birthed in October 1996. By God’s grace, we are now in 70 nations, ranging from one church in Poland to over 25,000 in India.
4. **TheCall DC was launched on September 2, 2000 with over 500,000 people.** Lou Engle received a revelation and prophetic confirmation to mobilize young people to pray and fast for revival. TheCall was birthed on September 2, 2000 as a DBA of HIM. Our church would provide the administrative and financial support until November 2003. \$10 million was raised for seven events. TheCall DC gathered over 500,000 people. To this day, it is the largest youth prayer meeting in the U.S.
5. **Ambassador Auditorium was purchased by Harvest Rock Church in May 2004.** In 2002, Kim Clement came to Harvest Rock Church to help us mobilize for TheCall Pasadena, and he prophesied to those at Mott Auditorium, “You are all ambassadors for the Lord. I also see a building called Ambassador building that God is going to give to you.” Ambassador Auditorium was purchased two years later in May 2004, and we moved into the building on Father’s Day 2004. We were able to raise \$4.5 million in four months and then we qualified for ECCU.

II. EIGHT THINGS TO THANK GOD FOR IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

1. **We thank God that the Kingdom is advancing through Harvest Rock Church.** An HIM Church, Zion 61, pastored by Gavin and Marlyne Barrett, has merged with HRC and has become our first satellite congregation. We were going to announce it and have the Barretts share when we were mandated to lock down our service. But I want to announce it now and we will celebrate when we come together once again.

2. **We thank God that we have time for personal renewal by spending quality time in the Word and prayer.** I know a lot of people have shared over the years how hard it is for them to spend quality with the Lord because of their work. God has given us a divine pause to spend time with Him.
3. **We thank God that we have time to spend with our family members.** Remember to practice social distancing with your extended family. Love one another in your home.
4. **We thank God that we have an unprecedented opportunity to reach out to those who don't know Christ.** Sue passed out a sheet of paper to every home in our neighborhood saying that she would go grocery shopping for them and drop off the groceries at their door. People's hearts are wide open. T.D. Jakes prayed with the host of MSNBC:

MSNBC Calls for Prayer on Live TV (This Is Not an April Fools' Headline)



5. **We thank God that the Lord had emphasized the importance of small groups, which we call Life Groups, in 2019.** And now we have over 50 Life Groups that you can connect through Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype.
6. **We thank God that no one in our house is infected with COVID-19.**
7. **We thank God that He is meeting all of our financial needs through the crisis.** Thank God that we have a president who has released \$2.2 trillion to help everyone.
8. **We continue to thank God by faith that this coronavirus will come to an end!**

III. HOW TO BREAK THE CURSE OF THIS VIRUS BY EXTRAORDINARY GIVING

- A. Acts 11:27 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Agabus stood up and *began* to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the *reign* of Claudius. 29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send *a contribution* for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. 30 And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.
1. Bill Johnson shared on one of the Zoom conference calls that we did together, how God has used the generosity of God's people to break a global curse. In this context in Acts, we are talking about a global famine, which took place during the time of Emperor Claudius in 44-45 AD.

2. I believe that this was initiated by Barnabas. His name was Joseph, but they changed it to Barnabas in Acts 4:36, to “Son of Encouragement.” He encouraged the church by his generosity. I believe that he was a marketplace apostle, who moved prophetically and gave.
3. This is the principle of coming in the opposite spirit. In the natural, if you knew that a famine was coming, you would want to hoard and not give. But we know that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).
4. The question: Why send it to Jerusalem? It is because it was the “mother church.”
5. Bill Johnson goes on to say that you never hear of this famine again in the Bible. Then tremendous blessing comes to Antioch as they have sown.
6. I would like to break the curse of this coronavirus by receiving a special anniversary offering.

B. THREE THINGS I AM GOING TO ASK YOU IN CLOSING

1. **Be faithful with your tithes and offerings.**
2. **Give a special offering beyond your regular tithes and offerings for our anniversary offering.**
3. **I am going to ask the “Barnabas” watching this to give a generous gift to help our church during this crisis.**

The best is yet ahead for us as a church, as a city, and as a nation! I pray that God will do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).