



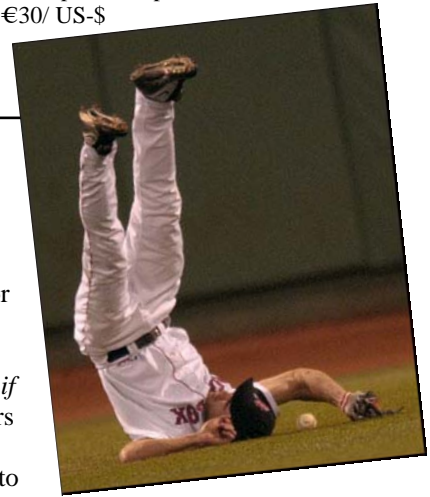
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When prophecies don't come true – is it always God's fault?

In many contemporary prophets I recognize a streak of profound sadness. The reason for this sadness is simple: after they had received messages from God, often with great travail, fear and trembling and not seldom under dramatic circumstances, they communicated it to an audience – and hardly anything ever came out of it. *It seemed as if the word had fallen to the ground without bearing fruit.* Does this mean such messengers are by default false prophets? Or is there an element in some prophetic words from God that require humans to work with it, *to act it out*, so to speak? God speaks, but we have to make the move? And if humans simply don't cooperate with God after he has spoken, who is to blame for a prophecy not coming true, God or men?



Revival through economic ruin

I want to remind us all today of a prophecy that a former Presbyterian minister from New Zealand had. It was in December 1977 that Ron McKenzie received this. Ron today is an economist and theologian in Christchurch. Anyone who is alert to current prophecies will immediately recognize that similar words have been appearing many times over in recent decades by others. Initially, this specific word was made public in July 1982. Well-known English preacher David Pawson shared the prophecy during his tour of New Zealand that year. The reason that he was excited about this word was that it was a confirmation of one of two messages that God had given to him to bring to New Zealand. One of the burdens that God gave to David Pawson and which he shared in Wellington was:

God wants to bring revival to New Zealand for the first time.

God will bring revival through economic ruin.

David then asked, "Who is willing to pray for economic ruin to make revival possible". This was a tough question and it was not well received, so he asked God for confirmation. He felt he received it when a pastor in Dunedin gave him a copy of the vision of "The Commando Army" by Ron McKenzie.

Many Christians are looking for revival today, but they do not understand that God has not changed his plan. He still intends to bring revival through economic ruin. However, there is still one problem, says Ron: "If the New Zealand economy were to collapse now, too many Christians would be ruined. Therefore God cannot bring revival because his church is not ready. This means that the call to form commando units is more urgent than ever, if we want to prepare for revival" (November 2000)

But here now the original word:

The COMMANDO ARMY

"We are nearing a time of great spiritual battle. At present God is preparing a Commando Army, which can fight and win under tough conditions with few resources. Then He will drop a bomb, which will almost destroy the enemy army and will shatter the conventional forces in God's army. He will then send in the Commando Army, which because of its training, has been unharmed by the bomb. It will defeat the shattered enemy army. It will treat the injured, and reorganise, re-equip and rejuvenate the shattered forces of God's conventional army. The result will be a mighty victory for God. The Commando Army is a small group in the church, which God is calling into strict discipleship. They will reject the things of the world and live solely on what God provides. Their joy in poverty will be a witness to the world. They will be mighty warriors in prayer. They will experience the power of God, being able to minister to all people in all situations. Their sole motivation will be the love of Christ. When this Army is ready God will drop the bomb on New Zealand. It will be an economic depression on a scale, which New Zealand has not seen before. It will make the depression of the 1930's look mild. God will shake the nation. It will have two effects.



Firstly - it will shatter the church. The church has become a peacetime army unaware that an intense battle is raging. The people have been blinded by wealth and have become so satiated that they have sunk into apathy. They have taken a worldly attitude into the church and run it like a business, paying their fees and letting the minister do the work. They have become so worldly that they no longer provide a witness to the world. Under economic depression these people will be totally shattered. They found their security in wealth and now they will have none. They found their happiness in material goods and now they will have none. They run the church with money so it will grind to a halt. It will be a judgement on the church. The world forces will also be shattered. Satan has used the lure of money and material wealth to hold the people outside the church captive and the crash will mean that his hold is broken. Thus, we will have a situation where the church is ready for renewal and the nation is ready for revival.

At this point God will send in His Commando Army. Because it's members have learned to live without the things of the world they will not be touched by the depression. They will minister to the church and preach to the nation. The people of the church will be shattered out of their complacency. They will see that their old lives lacked meaning and purpose. They will be looking desperately for something else which is meaningful and fulfilling and the lifestyle of God's special forces will be an attractive alternative. There will be a great renewal in the church, as people repent and turn back to God. Many will be ministered to and discover a wonderful new life in the Spirit through Christ. Thus God's glory will return to the church.

At the same time the Commando Army will go throughout the nation preaching the gospel. The people will be looking for a new meaning to life and will be ready to receive the gospel. Thus as a result of a great move of the Spirit many people will be added to the church. The depression will not come for a short while. There are a number of reasons for this:

1. God has only just begun to prepare His Commando Army. They still have a lot of training to do.
2. These events will come when people are not expecting them. At the moment everyone is talking about depression. But things will improve, giving people a new hope, then just when the trouble appears to be past the crash will come.
3. These events will be a judgement on both the church and the nation, and when God judges He always warns first. And before the crash can come, God must warn the church and the nation.

Although these events are a little way away they are inevitable. At present God is calling up His Commando Army, but He is only calling for volunteers. Thus it is a time of decision. If we join it will be costly but it will save much heartbreak later. If we choose to join we must become warriors of God. We must become powerful in prayer. We must learn to move in the power of the spirit, we must lay aside all the things of the world, which would encumber us. We must learn to live solely for the love of God. It will be costly, but Oh.. how great is the prize...A Nation brought back to God..!"

Opportunity Passed

In August 1999, Ron wrote: "The vision of the commando army **will not be fulfilled in the way that I first saw it.** God is saying, "It's too late." The opportunity has passed, and it will not return. God was offering the church an opportunity for a quick painless victory. The victory will still come, but it will now be a tougher battle and more painful. God wanted to reach New Zealand before hearts became too hard. If Christians had been

prepared he could have given the nation a quick shake and it would have turned back to him (probably in 1987). That opportunity has passed and hearts are now much harder. Evil has penetrated much deeper into our culture. The warning of the vision was received, **but it was not generally acted upon.** People focussed on the economic crash, but missed the point of the vision; that God wanted to form an army of commando units. Many asked, "Is the crash coming now?" but few asked, "What must I do to become a member of a commando army?" As a result the commando units were not ready when required, so God could not drop the economic bomb; it would have destroyed too many of his people. The opportunity has passed. God now says, "It is too late!" This does not mean that an economic crash is not coming. New Zealand is a nation under a curse (Deut 28). Until we turn back to God we will continue to be under that curse. One effect of that curse is economic, so the economic depression is still inevitable. However it may not come suddenly and it may be more protracted. In fact for many poorer people in New Zealand it has already arrived.

Nor is God's call to establish command army units redundant. In fact the call is more urgent than ever. Because the people of New Zealand have now hardened their hearts against God, the battle to win New Zealand back will be much more difficult and intense. Satan has established some new strongholds, so it will be harder to force him out. As God pours out his Spirit on the church, and calls his people into battle, the world will fight back with ferocity. We can expect persecution. The only way to survive and be victorious will be as part of a commando army. For those who are not prepared the future holds fear and terror. Therefore the call to form commando units is even more urgent than ever.

When I received the commando vision, I was really excited, because I foresaw a great victory. **Now I am sad,** because although I still see the victory, many Christians will suffer and some may fall away before we get back to where we might have been, if we had taken the opportunity God was offering. I am also sad because I now realise that I did not put enough commitment and energy into praying the commando units into being. Those who hear God speaking have a responsibility to pray."

