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NEWS & EVENTS – MARCH 2021

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I vividly remember the rumbling in the distance. On my grandparents' farm, the rumbling of the thunder surely promised the presence of a coming storm. My Granny wasn't fearful of much. She had a fierce reaction towards snakes but they didn't scare her. She could kill a snake with a small stick that was described as a "switch". I remember the feel of a switch to the flesh was a powerful deterrent of bad behavior. So when Granny killed a snake with a switch we called it "switching a snake". She was fearless in that endeavor. But she did fear a storm...the kind with lightning, and thunder. When the thunder rumbled, she leapt into action. Gathering children and grandchildren alike it was like she knew she didn't have much time to get everyone to a safe place. We often were slow to quit our playing around while the storm was approaching. But with her, everything stopped with one priority, to get ourselves sheltered from the storm. The rumble gave us a warning. Then Granny's shrill and loud voice would pierce our reality, *Get in the house! There's a cloud a'coming!* You ignored that warning at your peril. You know children have to be taught things. Some things we learned the hard way.

Sometimes it seems the Children of Israel frequently learned a lot of the same things the same way. One of the most powerful chapters in the Bible is Exodus 14. God was delivering millions of His people from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. They were learning to live through the time of that deliverance. God's deliverance sounds like something coming. I call it the rumbling of the Most High God. Chapter 14 begins with God telling Moses His strategic battle plan against the greatest military force of its day. He told Moses what Pharaoh would begin to think before he began to think it. Pharaoh represented himself to be god in his culture. And the land of Egypt was infested by dark spiritual entities that were worshipped as gods as well. I wonder if there might have been an Egyptian granny somewhere hollering, *Get in the house, There's a cloud a'coming!* My imagination tells me that if there was, apparently no one was listening. Remember the Exodus was all about the going out experience. The leaving experience. And to leave someplace you've got to keep moving. You've got to stay committed. After the journey to, and through, the Red Sea, the power and protection of God was manifested to the Children of Israel in a way you wouldn't think they'd forget. I remember the first time I saw the scene depicted on the big screen...Hollywood style. But even Cecil B. DeMille couldn't replicate the experience. It truly doesn't compare to the reality recorded in God's Word:

30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses. (Exodus 14:30-31)

Have you ever heard that guy who has announced the opening of boxing and wrestling matches with the admonition, *Let's get ready to RUMBLE!!!* In this sense the word rumble describes a conflict between combatants...which is what God has been doing since before the history of man. And His Chosen People, the nation of Israel, knew the stories. And even we Christians, grafted into the people of God and born by His Spirit know the stories. But soon after the Lord rumbled, bringing His people out of Egypt, they began to grumble. Here's a storyline that hasn't changed much... *The Most High God Rumbles...while The People of God Grumble.* The Lord Our God constantly fights the spiritual forces that conspire to destroy His people. And we often ask the same self-centered question you'll see repeatedly portrayed in Scripture while the battle is raging in the supernatural realm...*What is the Lord doing to us?* Instead, why aren't we asking *What is the Lord doing on our behalf?* He is constantly waging war for our souls that we can't win apart from Him.

In these days when we don't know what might be coming next, we had better know the Lord. We need to get deeper into His word to know how He's coming. With the rebellion and chaos the enemy is generating, there's a rumbling in the distance that's getting louder, and coming closer, within this generation. There's a cloud a'coming. Here's a true and faithful declaration to process:

25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory. 28 "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:25-28)

Redemption and Rumbling are connected. Grumbling disconnects us from Grace...especially when God hears.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam