

"DOES THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE?"

ISAIAH 10:24-27

INTRODUCTION

AS A CHILD YOU HEAR THINGS THAT STAY IN YOUR SPIRIT FOR YEARS.

AS YOU ADVANCE IN AGE, THE WORDS AND IMAGES THAT YOU WERE EXPOSED TO AT THE CHURCH HOUSE IN YOUR YOUTH, BEGIN TO REVERBERATE IN YOUR SPIRIT LATER IN LIFE. I CAN STILL HEAR THE ECHOES OF ONE OF THE MISSIONARIES IN MY CHURCH WHO USED TO GET "HAPPY" EVERY SUNDAY, AND WOULD LIFT UP HER HANDS AND SAY "THANK YA...A....A....AH"

I CAN STILL HEAR THE ECHOES OF DEACON BONNERMAN, ONE OF THE DEACONS FROM BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA, WHO WAS KNOWN FOR HIS STIRRING PRAYERS. EVERY TIME HE WOULD VISIT ANOTHER CHURCH, THEY WOULD CALL UPON HIM TO PRAY. HIS SIGNATURE LINE WOULD BE "OH OH OH HE'S ALRIGHT!!!"

I CAN STILL HEAR THE ECHOES OF REV. JAKE EDWARDS, PASTOR OF THE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ALBANY, GEORGIA, WHO WAS FAMOUS FOR SAYING, "OH OH OH HE'LL MAKE A WAY."

SOME OF WHAT WE HEARD IN OUR YOUTH WAS BIBLICALLY PROFOUND AND STUNNINGLY ACCURATE. HOWEVER, SOME OF WHAT WE HEARD WAS NOT SO.

IN OTHER WORDS:

***IT SOUNDED GOOD, BUT IT WASN'T GOOD.**

***IT SOUNDED HEAVY BUT IT WAS LIGHT WEIGHT.**

***IT SOUNDED COMPLEX BUT IT WAS TOO SIMPLE.**

***IT SOUNDED IMPRESSIVE BUT IT MADE NO IMPRINT.**

ONE OF THOSE SAYINGS THROUGH THE YEARS THAT I HEARD GROWING UP IN MY HOME TOWN OF CAIRO, GEORGIA WAS REPEATED IN THE SECOND PLACE I LIVED IN VALDOSTA, GEORGIA IS "THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE."

IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, THE WORDS "THE ANOINTING" HAVE BECOME THE LATEST "CATCH PHRASE" AND SEEMINGLY COVER EVERYTHING.

***PEOPLE CAN NOW "FLOW IN THE ANOINTING."**

***PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO "WALK IN THE ANOINTING."**

***PEOPLE ARE PUSHED TO "WORSHIP IN THE ANOINTING."**

***AND WHENEVER THESE ADMONITIONS ARE STIRRED, YOU'RE ALWAYS REMINDED, "THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE."**

I HAVE SEEN TELEVISION PREACHERS PROCLAIM THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE.

I HAVE HEARD BIBLE TEACHERS SAY THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE.

I HAVE WATCHED DEACONS PRAY THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE.

I HAVE READ BOOKS SAYING THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE.

HOWEVER, I WANT TO INVESTIGATE THIS THING WITH A FRESH LOOK AND AN OPEN HEART.

AFTER ALL, IF THERE IS SOMETHING OUT THERE THAT I'M MISSING, I WANT IT.

**I DON'T WANT TO APPROACH THIS THING AS A BAPTIST.
I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT THIS THING THROUGH THE
VIEWPOINT OF SOMEONE ELSE –**

**I WANT TO SEE WHAT GOD IS REALLY SAYING ABOUT THIS
WORD, "THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE."THEREFORE
LET US RETURN TO THE SCENE AND CONTEXT OF THE
ORIGINAL TEXT.**

**THIS IS A PROPHETICAL WORD THAT COMES FROM THE
PROPHET ISAIAH TO THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL.
IN THIS PROPHECY, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ARE NOT
DECLARED BLESSED.**

**IN THIS TEXT, THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ARE DESCRIBED AS
OVER COMERS.**

**THEY ARE ABOUT TO ENTER INTO IN CAPTIVITY.MY
BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I NEED TO SAY TO SOMEONE
HEARING ME TODAY, THAT ALL BELIEVERS ARE NOT
PROSPEROUS ALL OF THE TIME.**

**ALL BELIEVERS ARE NOT DRIVING LUXURY CARS.
ALL BELIEVERS ARE NOT RICH.
ALL BELIEVERS ARE NOT JET SETTERS.
BELIEVERS UNDERSTAND THAT IN EVERY LIFE THERE ARE
SEASONS.**

***THERE ARE SEASONS WHEN I'M DOING WELL.**

***THERE ARE SEASONS WHEN I'M SICK.**

***THERE ARE SEASONS WHEN I LAUGH.**

***THERE ARE SEASONS WHEN I'M CRYING.**

***THERE ARE SEASONS WHEN I AM FINANCIAL FIT.**

***THERE ARE SEASONS WHEN I'M LEAN AND FEELING MEAN.**

***THERE ARE SEASONS WHEN I REJOICE.**

***THERE ARE SEASONS WHEN I'M IN TEARS.ISRAEL IS IN TROUBLE. AND THEIR TROUBLE SOUNDS UNFORTUNATELY FAMILIAR.**

THEY WILL BECOME SLAVES ONCE AGAIN. THE ASSYRIANS WILL COME IN AND TAKE OVER THE LIVES OF THE ISRAELITES.

AND GOD SAYS SOMETHING THAT IS UNUSUAL. FIRST GOD SAYS THROUGH THE PROPHET ISAIAH THAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON HERE.

BY THE TIME OF ISAIAH'S WRITINGS, ISRAEL IS SEVERAL GENERATIONS AWAY FROM THE SOJOURN OF THEIR RELATIVES.

***THEY ONLY HEARD ABOUT MOSES.**

***THEY ONLY HEARD ABOUT PHARAOH.**

***THEY ONLY HEARD ABOUT MOUNT SINAI.**

***THEY ONLY HEARD ABOUT THE RED SEA.**

***THEY ONLY HEARD ABOUT PHARAOH'S ARMY.**

***THEY ONLY HEARD ABOUT MANNA FROM HEAVEN.**

***THEY ONLY HEARD ABOUT WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS.**

GOD SAYS THAT WHAT YOU HEARD ABOUT IS ABOUT TO BECOME REALITY.

ALTHOUGH YOU, ISRAEL, ARE SEVERAL GENERATIONS REMOVED FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF SLAVERY – GOD SAYS I'M GOING TO BRING THIS GENERATION INTO SLAVERY. GOD ALLOWS ASSYRIA TO RISE UP AND CONQUER THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS – THIS SHOULD TEACH US ALL A VALUABLE LESSON. AND THAT IS NO MATTER HOW WE, AS AFRICAN-AMERICANS, COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW BAD THINGS ARE AND HOW TOUGH THINGS ARE. NOBODY IN THIS ROOM, WHO THINKS THAT WE HAVE IT BAD, OUGHT TO WANT TO RETURN TO 1930, 1940, 1950, AND 1960.

***WE DON'T HAVE TO RIDE IN THE BACK OF THE BUS ANYMORE.**

***WE DON'T HAVE TO DRINK OUT OF COLORED ONLY WATER FOUNTAINS ANYMORE.**

***DON'T HAVE TO SEND OUR CHILDREN TO COLORED'S ONLY SCHOOLS ANYMORE.**

***WE DON'T HAVE TO SHARECROP LAND ANYMORE.**

***WE DON'T HAVE TO MARCH FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE ANYMORE.**

***WE DON'T HAVE TO MOVE OFF OF THE SIDEWALK ANYMORE.**

***WE DON'T HAVE TO DIE IN WAITING ROOMS OF HOSPITALS ANYMORE.**

***WE DON'T HAVE TO SLEEP IN SUBSTANDARD HOTELS ANYMORE.**

***WE DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH WATER HOSES AND DOGS BEING TURNED ON US.**

***BUT ISRAEL IS GETTING READY TO FACE THE AFFLICTIONS OF THE ASSYRIANS, AND COMPARED TO THE WHIPS AND PRESSURES OF BEING IN THE EGYPTIANS' HOMELAND, THEY HAVE A ROD THAT CANNOT COMPARE.**

THE LAST TIME THEY WERE HOSTAGES IN A STRANGE

LAND.BUT THIS TIME THEY ARE SLAVES IN THEIR OWN LAND.

THE LAST TIME THEY WERE THE HEART OF THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. BUT THIS TIME THEY WERE USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.THE LAST TIME THEY CRIED FOR THE LORD TO SEND A DELIVERER.

BUT THIS TIME THEY CRIED FOR THE LORD TO SEND ANY KIND OF DELIVERANCE.THE LAST TIME THE LORD SENT THE WORD THROUGH MOSES.

BUT THIS TIME THE LORD SENT THE WORD THROUGH HIS PROPHETS.SOMEBODY HERE CAN RELATE WITH THE TRIALS OF ISRAEL.

BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT TROUBLES, DON'T LAST ALWAYS, BUT TROUBLE CAN COME INTO DIFFERENT FORMS.

THE LAST TIME YOUR HEART WAS BROKEN BY A BOYFRIEND. THIS TIME YOUR HEART WAS BROKEN BY YOUR HUSBAND.

THE LAST TIME YOU CRIED BECAUSE YOU MISSED THE BUS FOR SCHOOL. THIS TIME YOU CRIED BECAUSE YOU WERE DISMISSED FROM YOUR JOB.

THE LAST TIME YOU SUFFERED BECAUSE YOU HAD A HEADACHE. THIS TIME YOU SUFFER BECAUSE OF A DISEASE THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD.

THE LAST TIME YOU WERE BROKE AS JOB'S TURKEY.THIS TIME YOU'RE BROKE AS.....WELL, YOU.

THE LAST TIME YOU CALLED ON THE PSYCHIC FRIENDS.THIS TIME YOU CALLED ON JESUS, AND HE WORKED IT OUT!!

ASSYRIA'S ATTACK BECOMES GOD'S PUNISHMENT UPON ISRAEL.

ASSYRIA ATTACKS FOR THE REASON THAT THEY HAVE

**PERCEIVED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO BE ARROGANT,
PRIDEFUL AND GODLESS.**

**HOWEVER, THOSE WHO SURVIVE THIS ATTACK AND
ENCAMPMENT WILL ALSO COME OUT OF THIS WITH A
STRENGTH THAT THEY'VE NEVER HAD BEFORE.**

**IS THERE ANYONE IN THIS ROOM WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT
WHEN GOD ALLOWS TROUBLE INTO YOUR LIFE IT GOES TO
MAKE YOU BETTER AND NOT BITTER?**

**WHEN GOD ALLOWS TROUBLE TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE,
YOU THOUGHT YOU PRAYED BEFORE, BUT NOW YOU CAN
SHO-NUFF PRAY?**

**IS THERE ANYONE IN THIS ROOM WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT
YOU MAY HAVE TO GO THROUGH A PERIOD OF TEARS NOW
BUT YOUR TEARS GO TO MAKE YOU STRONG?**

**IS THERE ANYONE IN THIS ROOM WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT
YOU MAY HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE FIRE AND THROUGH
THE FLOOD, BUT YOU WENT THROUGH YOUR TEST TO
DEVELOP YOUR TESTIMONY?**

**NOT ONLY WILL THAT SUFFERING QUICKLY SEPARATE THE
SAINTS FROM THE AINTS! SUFFERING PURGES THOSE WHO
WILL NOT BELIEVE FROM THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE.
CAN I PUT THIS IN FOR FREE?**

**WHEN YOU'RE GOING THROUGH YOUR SITUATION, DON'T
HANG AROUND AND FELLOWSHIP WITH THOSE WHO DON'T
BELIEVE. THEN GOD SAYS, AFTER HE HAS PUNISHED
ISRAEL, THEN HE WILL TURN HIS WRATH UPON ASSYRIA.**

**MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTERS, THAT SOUNDS LIKE GOD TO
ME.**

**HE'LL USE YOUR ENEMIES TO KEEP YOU HUMBLE; THEN
HE'LL PUNISH YOUR ENEMIES FOR LAYING HANDS ON YOU.**

HE'LL USE YOUR RELATIVES TO KEEP YOU PRAYING; THEN

HE'LL PUNISH YOUR RELATIVES FOR LYING ON YOU.

HE'LL USE YOUR SUPERVISOR TO TEACH YOU HOW TO HOLD YOUR PEACE. THEN HE'LL FIGHT EVERY ONE OF YOUR BATTLES WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR.

HE'LL USE YOUR DETRACTORS TO SPREAD UNTRUTHS AND INNUENDOS. THEN HE'LL UNCOVER THOSE WHO THROW ROCKS AND HIDE THEIR HANDS.

HE'LL USE SOME PEOPLE TO CONSTANTLY CRITICIZE YOU AND WORRY YOUR NERVES. THEN HE'LL TAKE OVER YOUR FIGHT AND ENFORCE THE SCRIPTURES, "TOUCHNOT MY ANOINTED AND DO MY PROPHETS NO HARM."

HE'LL USE SOME PEOPLE TO TRY TO DIG DITCHES FOR YOUR DOWNFALL. AND THEN HE'LL TRANSFORM THEM FROM DIGGERS OF DITCHES TO FOOTSTOOLS AS YOU WALK FROM DEFEAT INTO VICTORY!

ISAIAH SAYS THAT ISRAEL WILL SUFFER. ISRAEL WILL GO THROUGH SOME CHANGES. HOWEVER, THE CHANGES AND THE SUFFERINGS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY.

SOMEBODY HERE OUGHT TO LOOK AT SOMEBODY ELSE AND SAY, WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING THROUGH IS TEMPORARY.

THE KEY OF THIS TEXT IS FOUND IN THE MISINTERPRETATION FOUND IN OUR THESIS. "THE YOKE IS THE OPPRESSION OF THE ASSYRIANS."

IT IS A METAPHOR FROM THE FARMING COMMUNITY. OXEN WERE THE PREFERRED ANIMAL FOR FARMING.

THE EARLY EGYPTIANS WOULD USE OXEN TO PULL A PLOW AND HOE THROUGH THE SOIL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ANNUAL FLOODING OF THE NILE SEASON.

THEY ARE STRONG ANIMALS – STEERS TRAINED TO WORK

IN THE FIELDS.

STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL UP STUMPS, TREAD THROUGH THE MUD, HAUL LOGS THROUGH A FOREST AND PULL A CART THROUGH THE SNOW AND INCLEMENT WEATHER. A YOKE WAS PLACED AROUND THE NECK OF AN OX TO GIVE HIM DIRECTION.

A YOKE BECOMES SYMBOLICALLY DIRECTION, A SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY, AND A SYMBOL OF POWER. HOWEVER, WHEN THE YOKE OF DIRECTION, AUTHORITY AND POWER, IS ATTEMPTED TO BE PLACED AROUND THE NECK OF ISRAEL BY ASSYRIA, THE PROPHET SAYS IT WON'T FIT.

JOHNNIE COCHRAN ONCE SAID TO THE O.J. SIMPSON JURY AND TO THE NATION AT LARGE, "IF IT DON'T FIT, YOU MUST ACQUIT." THE KING JAMES TRANSLATION THAT SAYS "THE YOKE SHALL BE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THE ANOINTING" IS ACTUALLY INCORRECT.

FOR IF IT IS TO BE READ PROPERLY, THE YOKE CANNOT LAST LONG, BECAUSE THE NECK OF THE OX WILL BECOME FAT.

NOT BECAUSE OF OLIVE OIL. NOT BECAUSE OF SOME SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS. SIMPLY PUT, GOD IS MAKING YOUR NECK STRONGER TO ENDURE AND TO DESTROY THE YOKE THAT HAS BEEN PLACED UPON YOU.

***SOMEBODY HERE, YOUR FAMILY IS A YOKE;**

***YOUR FRIENDS ARE A YOKE;**

***YOUR MONEY IS A YOKE;**

***PORNOGRAPHY MAY BE YOUR YOKE;**

***CIGARETTES MAY BE YOUR YOKE;**

***SUGAR AND SWEETS MAY BE YOUR YOKE;**

***SEXUAL SINS AND PERVERSIONS MAY BE YOUR YOKE;**

***RACISM MAY BE YOUR YOKE;**

***ALCOHOLISM MAY BE YOUR YOKE;**

***FAMILY PROBLEMS MAY BE YOUR YOKE;**

AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT.

BUT HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT THE MORE YOU TRUST GOD, THE MORE YOU LIFT UP HIS NAME, THE MORE YOU GIVE YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS – THE STRONGER YOU ARE BECOMING.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT GOD HAS ALLOWED SOME YOKES TO COME INTO OUR LIVES.

GOD HAS ALLOWED THE DEVIL TO HIT YOU ON EVERY SIDE. BUT I'VE COME TO TELL YOU PROPHETICALLY, THAT GOD HAS SAID, THAT THE STRONGER YOU GET IN THE LORD, THE YOKE WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE. NOTICE THE GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION – THE STRONGER I BECOME THE WEAKER MY YOKE BECOMES.

THE HIGHER I GO, THE LOWER MY YOKE BECOMES. THE MORE BLESSED MY LIFE BECOMES, THE WEAKER MY YOKE BECOMES. I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT WHEN MY YOKE THAT ONCE BECAME A BURDEN TO MY SOUL IS WEAKENED, GOD IS SIMPLY FITTING ME FOR A NEW YOKE. I HEAR JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU. YOU NEED MY AUTHORITY. YOU NEED MY DIRECTION. YOU NEED TO PROTECTION.

MY YOKE IS NOT LIKE THE ENEMY'S YOKE. MY YOKE WON'T CAUSE YOU TO FALL DOWN. MY YOKE IS EASY, FOR MY BURDEN IS LIGHT. I'VE COME TO ENCOURAGE SOMEBODY AND TELL YOU THAT WHEN YOUR PROBLEMS PRESS YOU DOWN. AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT. MAY I SUGGEST GETTING STRONGER IN THE LORD?

MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU PRAISE HIS NAME!

MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU LIFT UP HOLY HANDS.

**AND THE STRONGER YOU BECOME, YOUR BURDEN WILL
BECOME LIGHTER.**

***IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH PROBLEMS – GO TO CHURCH.**

***IF YOU'RE CATCHING HELL – GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

***IF YOU'RE FINANCIALLY DEPRESSED – GIVE YOUR TITHES.**

***IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE – GO TO BIBLE STUDY.**

***IF YOU'RE CONFUSED – GO TO MISSIONS.**

***IF YOU'RE TORN UP – JOIN THE LAYMEN'S MINISTRY;.**

***IF YOU'RE DEALING WITH DEPRESSION – PRAISE HIS
NAME.OH MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTERS, THAT SOUNDS
LIKE JESUS IS AT WORK IN MY LIFE. AND THE REASON I
KNOW HE IS:**

***EVERY ROUND....GOES HIGHER**

***EVERY PROBLEM.....BECOMES MY TESTIMONY**

***EVERY SITUATION....BECOMES GOD'S OPPORTUNITY**

***EVERY PAIN.....BECOMES MY THORN IN THE FLESH**

***EVERY HEARTACHE....ALLOWS ME TO CAST MY CARES
UPON HIM.**

***EVERY TRIAL.....BECOMES MY TESTING GROUND**

***EVERY TROUBLE.....BECOMES MY PROVING STATION AND
YES, JESUS SHOWED ME, THAT IF HE SUFFERED....WE WILL
SUFFER.**

“HE WAS WOUNDED FOR MY TRANSGRESSIONS, BRUISED

**FOR MY INIQUITY, THE CHASTISEMENT OF MY PEACE WAS
UPON ME AND WITH HIS STRIPES, I AM HEALED.”**

***I'M SO GLAD THAT JESUS IS MY PROVIDER....**

***HE IS MY COMPANY KEEPER.....**

***HE DIED FOR MY SINS.....**

**“I WAS SINKING DEEP IN MY SINS, FAR FROM THE PEACEFUL
SHORE,**

**BUT VERY DEEPLY STAINED WITHIN, I WAS SINKING TO RISE
NO MORE,**

**BUT THE MASTER OF THE SEA, HE HEARD MY DESPAIRING
CRY,**

FROM THE WATERS HE LIFTED ME, NOW SAVED AM I.”

ONE WEDNESDAY MORNING, HE SAVED ME.

HE DIED TO SAVE ME.

HE WAS BURIED TO SAVE ME;

**AND THEN EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE GOT UP WITH ALL
POWER IN HIS HAND....I'M SO GLAD THAT EVERYDAY I'M
GETTING A LITTLE STRONGER.**

**EVERYDAY I CAN HANDLE SOME THINGS I COULDN'T
HANDLE BEFORE.**

**AND THE DEVIL'S YOKE HAS FALLEN FROM AROUND MY
NECK...**

AND I'M FREE....PRAISE THE LORD, I'M FREE.