

LET US COMPARE PREACHING MESSAGE TODAY VS. WHAT WAS PREACHED IN THE BIBLE

Is it just me or have you also noticed a massive difference in what holy men preached in the Bible vs. what those who claim to be inspired by God preach today? Could it be that most ministers today are more concerned about having a good name, their ministry, Church growth or what others might think of them rather than obeying the voice of God? Now I am not pointing out the error of women preachers or sodomites speaking from the pulpit, man made traditions, let us just examine the content of the message Then vs. Now.



I would like to quickly highlight on what a number men of God preached in both the Old Testament and New Testament then compare it to the modern Church.

MAYJOR PROPHETS

I doubt if **Isaiah** was asked to be a guest speaker often, not for the walking the streets nude and barefoot thing but for being such a negative preacher, with a 'Woe' here and a 'Woe' there and 'Woe' everywhere he goes.

Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him....Woe unto them that join house to house.....Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night.....Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope.....Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness.....Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes.....Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink.....Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees.....Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas.....Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.....Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim.....Woe to Ariel, to Ariel.....Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us?.....Woe to the rebellious children.....Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots.....Woe to thee that spoilest, and thou wast not spoiled; and dealest

treacherously.....Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker....Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begetteth thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?"

No wonder these men that proclaimed a message for God were hated, beaten, jailed and killed, we find not mention of a big smile or Joy of the Lord that moved them. Theology was not the main issue with them. And oh how the modern church loves to polish their tombs and quote from their writings yet at the least they would have withstood them if they lived with them. Today's preacher must make you feel special, they must make you sense the anointing, where one is wooed not woed.

Isaiah was commissioned to **"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins"** whereas the preacher today says "No need to preach it, just be a good example"

Isaiah was commissioned to preach and proclaim the words of God:
"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound"

Now this is a statement that would raise an eyebrows today:

"and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"

Do you grasp how offensive that statement is? This would be kin as saying to Christians, your best behavior is like used bloody tampons.

Isaiah was not popular after his preaching, for at one point he asked God **"Who hath believed our report?"** Yet he volunteered for the task of taking an unwanted message to unwanted ears **"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me"**

This gloomy preacher is not concerned about stepping on toes, here are a few sound bites:

"For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee..... Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me.....Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel..... For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction..... Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate.... Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth.....herefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them..... Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing.....And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury....Seek ye the LORD while he may be found.....Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness.....Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass.....For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water"

Jeremiah this weeping prophet, just did not walk around lamenting and pleading with Hebrews to turn from idolatry as he strongly condemned such and likened to a wife's committing adultery:
Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush..... Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate..... to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination.... And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be

forgotten....at his wrath the earth shall tremble.... I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall..... Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?.... I will even forsake you, saith the LORD..... Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and cast you out of my presence..... For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness..... Learn not the way of the heathen"

Jeremiah was not just given a message but was given a visual aide to match said message, for example the LORD commands Jeremiah to bury a linen belt so that it gets ruined to illustrate how the LORD intends to ruin Judah's pride. Likewise, Jeremiah buys a clay jar and smashes it in the Valley of Ben Hinnom in front of elders and priests to illustrate that the LORD will smash the nation of Judah and the city of Judah beyond repair. The LORD instructs Jeremiah to make a yoke from wood and leather straps and to put it on his own neck to demonstrate how the LORD will put the nation under the yoke of the king of Babylon. In order to contrast the people's disobedience with the obedience of the Rechabites, the LORD has Jeremiah invite the Rechabites to drink wine, in disobedience to their ancestor's command. The Rechabites refused, and God commended them.

This prophet was known for going to the Temple, not to be edified but to preach in front of it, oh what a sight that is rebuking believers at their place of worship (as this preacher knows this by experience):
"Then came Jeremiah from Tophet, whither the LORD had sent him to prophesy; and he stood in the court of the LORD's house; and said to all the people..... Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word.... Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD"

Now you know God has a tough job for you when God preps you by saying:
"Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces....Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.... And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee"

Now Jeremiah did not encourage the pastors for not speaking of prosperity as being Kings Kids, nor did he admonish the leaders for being overly judgmental on the flock. Jeremiah publicly rebuked the leadership for disobedience as the real Church service was on the sidewalk:
"Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!.... For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness.... for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation.... I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness; they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.... Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you..... they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart.... Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.... Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams..... and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealth falsely..... The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart" (for more details read the entire twenty third chapter).

Jeremiah not only exposed these liars but shed light on why they prophesy falsely:

“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so” Did you get that? **“and my people love to have it so”** the inmates are running the prison, as per we ‘the sheep’ will tell you ‘the shepherd’ what to preach or teach to us.

To say this prophet often faced isolation and rejection would be an understatement. Preaching an unwanted message in unasked for ears can be unpleasant to say the least a his own family hated him. **“For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee”**

Jeremiah proclaimed that God is now divorcing the children of Israel, wow what strong language to use against the apple of His eye; **“And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also”**

Isaiah rebuked his world with the same theme; **“Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away”**

And when you mix politics with religion you get angry priests;

“priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die.....Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is worthy to die”

Jeremiah was no longer permitted to enter the temple because of his rebuking. Once he was cast into the dungeon of Malchiah, that was in the court of the prison and they let down Jeremiah with cords like Paul in the book of Acts was let down the walls inside a basket at night. In that dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire. He was saved from death from starvation and he was eventually stoned to death at Daphne by the Jews.

Ezekiel was one unique man, a cross between a street performer and Street Preacher as his method was like no other.

As when God said to him lie on his left side for 390 days then on the right side for 40 days, all while your face is set toward Jerusalem prophesying against it. Next he was told to get wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel to make bread and drink water. And there is more additive needed, **“thou shalt eat it as barley cakes, and thou shalt bake it with dung that cometh out of man”** WHAT? Ezekiel protested and God said, **“Lo, I have given thee cow's dung for man's dung, and thou shalt prepare thy bread therewith”**

Oh there is more he was asked to do as an aid to his preaching.....

“And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair” and his robe was weaved with hair; **“Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts”**. When his wife died, God told him to go about his daily chores as if nothing had happened, without mourning as a sign to provoke his neighbors, which they said to him. **“Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down. Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead”** What do you mean by this, what are you trying to tell us they asked **“And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?”**

This Spiritual man with heavenly visions, who warned his world as a true WATCHMAN, obeyed God with many other odd skits to symbolize his preaching.

This son of a priest, preached repentance to his theater:

Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.....Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations"

And was willing to speak precisely what a holy God wanted:

"And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee..... I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day..... And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.....Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears"

As God prepared Ezekiel for his mission:

"And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks.....As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks.....Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads"

As a watchman there are reasonability's to alert everyone from the tower that a problem coming to harm the city:

"I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul"

He was told to preach at mountains:

"Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them, And say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD to the mountains, and to the hills"

God told him to preach in the valley of dry bones to a congregation of skeletons.

"Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live....So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied"

This exiled preacher heralded a salty message:

Moreover I will make thee waste, and a reproach among the nations that are round about thee..... Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places. And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. And I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars..... the end is come..... neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them..... thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts..... behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD..... woe, woe unto thee!..... O harlot, hear the word of the LORD..... Thou hast borne thy lewdness..... I make my holy name known.... I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen..... I will make thee desolate.... I will make thee perpetual desolations"

Ezekiel like many men of God before and after him, had issues with the religious world of his time:

Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel.... Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?..... my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd.... I am against the shepherds..... Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD's house.... Therefore prophesy against them"

MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea was told to take a whore as a wife, WOW what a visual aide to make a point. Most people have problems speaking what God wants said let alone to do this **"And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms.....So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim"**

Marriage here is symbolic of the covenantal relationship between God and Israel. However, Israel has been unfaithful to God by following other gods and breaking the commandments which are the terms of the covenant, hence Israel is symbolized by a harlot who violates the obligations of marriage to her husband.....like that went over well with the 'prophet community I bet?

Then the public rebuke begins: **"let her therefore put away her whoredoms..... I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms..... For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully..... will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers..... Therefore, behold, I will allure her..... I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies..... I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness..... Go yet....adulteress..... who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine"**

God continues to use Hosea as a vessel to speak against his children:

Though thou, Israel, play the harlot..... they have committed whoredom continually..... For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer..... I have been a rebuker of them all.... They are all adulterers..... I will chastise them.... Woe unto them..... destruction unto them..... give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.....I hated them.... I will love them no more"

The remedy is offered:

"For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings"

Now we come to **Jonah** whom God gave a unmerciful judgment message to proclaim **"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me"** so after a few days from taking the scenic route he came to Nineveh and cried out **"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."** Jonah walked the streets preaching this eight word message over and over. There was NO.....IF you repent.....except ye repent.....perhaps the Lord might....There was NO SEEK God.....or God is ALL FORGIVING, just ask....JUST.....40 DAYS and JUDGMENT! And this very negative message brought a positive response as the judgment on Nineveh was postponed.

This Street Preacher caused revival with a simple message **"So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them..... the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne.....and covered him with**

sackcloth, and sat in ashes..... he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands”

Micah starts out with a BANG. “The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morasthite.... the Lord GOD be witness against you..... the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire..... all the graven images thereof shall be beaten to pieces, and all the hires thereof shall be burned with the fire, and all the idols thereof will I lay desolate” He was indeed motivated when he spoke “But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin”

Micah continues to declare with boldness, “And I will cut off the cities of thy land..... And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand..... Thy graven images also will I cut off.... And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard..... Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.”

Then comes the familiar ‘woes’ “Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds” and here is the remedy for the problem “what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God”

The Prophet **Nahum** leaps out from the starting gates: “God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies..... Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire.... for thou art vile..... Behold, I am against thee..... Woe to the bloody city!.....And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock”

Brother Nahum needs to cut back on caffeine and he might think of taking a politically correctness seminar soon.

Habakkuk was a good watchman “I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me” Now this Prophet has only 3 chapters in his book and the last chapter is a prayer but he made time to give two ‘woes’ in two chapters and that’s batting 1000 with conveying a negative message “Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their

nakedness..... Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach!"

Zechariah was a Street Preacher "said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy**" Well this is not your basic John 3:16 he cried out but he obeyed the voice of God. He was also quicken to speak these words "**Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings..... Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD..... I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury..... Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds..... Awake, O sword, against my shepherd..... smite the shepherd.....**"

In **Malachi** chapter 2 we read where this prophets has a message from God to those religious people of his day as he said, "**Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it**" WOW!! This is not of God many might say and I guess if we were to translate that into common English, that would be "I will spread shit on your face...."

He continues with "**I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORDYe have wearied the LORD with your words.....Your words have been stout against me....lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.... ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi**"

OLD TESTAMENT PREACHERS

In Genesis we read how God was displeased with mankind for; "**every imagination of the thought and heart was only evil continually.**" Yet within the wicked world there was one "**Who found grace in the eyes of the Lord**" and in chapter 6 we read about a man named **Noah**, whom the scriptures teach was "**perfect in his generation**" and "**walked with God**" and for about 120 years he warned the people of the coming judgment of God because of the wickedness of mankind. Noah did not have the written Word nor does the scripture teach that Noah even had the Holy Ghost upon him, yet he had the character to know right from wrong and was obedient to God. Building an ark the way God wanted and the New Testament sheds light calling him a "**preacher of righteousness**" in a world of sin. This preacher proclaimed "righteous" and was not concerned what others thought of him, as they ate and drank.

Jesus referred to Noah in the last days; "**But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**" As we preach the return of Christ and the judgment to come, our world is not concerned, they are busy. They are eating, they are drinking and now they are allowing same sex marriage and celebrating peace and safety.

Moses was not only a public preacher, he was the lawgiver, a prayer intercessor, the military leader, a political leader, a judge and prophet. When God called Moses, he replied he was unfit to be used; **“Who am I.....But, behold they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice.....O my Lord, I am not eloquent....but I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue”** and even after he agreed to be used, Moses grumbled **“Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh..... I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh hearken unto me?..... the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me..... they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.....**

His preaching premise was simple;

“ye shall therefore be holy.....that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth”

This man was not quick to call down the judgment of God but rather prayed to God to stop His holy wrath upon the children of Israel; **“And when Moses heard it, he fell on his face.....pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.... and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched..... Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly..... Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people..... I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance”**

Now if you are looking for the definition to the word ‘meek’ Moses would be that description; **“Now the man Moses was very meek, ABOVE ALL THE MEN WHICH WERE UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH”** so now let us look at a living depiction to ‘meekness:’

“.....and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.....Moses also was displeased..... And Moses was very wrath..... he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount..... he took the calf which they had made, burnt it in the fire, ground it to powder, strewed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.....Moses' anger waxed hot..... and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering.....”

If this Biblical explanation does not define ‘meek’ than your narrative is skewed, oh and on a side note regarding ‘meekness; **“that person that wrote Now the man Moses was very meek, ABOVE ALL THE MEN WHICH WERE UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH”.....was.....well.....Moses.**

Moses portrayed the full character of God to the chosen people;

“for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God..... for I am holy..... and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly.....And he will love thee, and bless thee.....the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath..... The LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth..... for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.....For the LORD thy God is a merciful God..... the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.....that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them..... I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them.....

The message that Moses proclaimed was not very positive;

“Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee..... I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague..... The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an

inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting..... ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land..... that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them"

And remember he did deliver the Ten Commandments THAT WERE PRETTY NEGATIVE;

Thou shalt NOT have no other gods

Thou shalt NOT make unto thee any graven image

Thou shalt NOT take the name of the LORD thy God in vain

Thou shalt NOT kill.

Thou shalt NOT commit adultery

Thou shalt NOT steal

Thou shalt NOT bear false witness

Thou shalt NOT covet

8 THOU SHALL NOT'S IN 10 COMMANDMENTS, can we say destructive?

When Moses died the Bible teaches

"And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face"

Elijah the prophet, now this is a popular guy, not just of the Old Testament as Elisha leave everything to follow Elijah and wanted to have twice the spirit as he; **"he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee.... Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."** He is considered pro-active in the New Testament as per John the Baptist and even Jesus. The Mormon church today believes that Elijah returned in 1836 to visit Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, and the Bahá'í Faith believes Elijah returned in 1844 in Shiraz, Iran, as the Báb and it is common within Christianity that Elijah will be one of the two witnesses found in Revelation. The Jews leave an empty seat and plate for Elijah during Passover. He is also a figure in the various folkloric world. In Serbia and Bulgaria, he is known as "Elijah the Thunderer" and in folklore is held responsible for summer storms, hail, rain and thunder.

Ok, he was not your Sunday looking Church type of guy with the white shirt and tie:

"And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite"

Elijah appears on the scene with no fanfare. Nothing is known of his origins or background, other than he is bold and direct. Elijah challenged Baal, he challenged Jezebel, her priests, Ahab, and the people of Israel **"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word"**

His reputation was **"Art thou he that troubleth Israel?"**

This prophet did what many that open air today might have issues with, he mocked and teased false prophets **"And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked"**

And like the prophets before and after him, the government got involved and wanted him dead to which he prophesied the death of Jezebel **"And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel"** Years later, after Ahab has died and been succeeded by his son

Jehoram, a rebel leader named Jehu kills Jehoram and orders Jezebel to be captured and thrown out a palace window. When the soldiers go outside, all they find are her skull, hands and feet. As prophesized by Elijah, the rest of her was eaten by dogs.

In **Psalms** we find David not only was a king but a preacher too **"I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.....I will declare thy name unto my brethren.....With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.....I will declare the decree....That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.....My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation.....and I will declare thy greatness.....I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only....and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works."**

Imagine if we had a president that would say that?

King David prophesied:

The coming of the Messiah in Psalms chapters 17, 49, 67, 95-97.

About the Kingdom of the Messiah in Psalms chapter 2, 17, 19, 20, 45, 65, 72, 110, 132.

About the priesthood of the Messiah, Psalm 110.

About the sufferings, death and resurrection, in Psalms chapters 16, 22, 31, 41, 41, 65, 68, 98.

About Judas the traitor in Psalms chapters 41, 55, 109

About the ascension of Christ to Heaven Psalm 68.

Christ the foundation of the Church in Psalm 118.

About the glory of the Messiah in Psalm 8.

And about the last judgment in Psalm 97. .

David understood the full character of God...

Mercy: **"Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee"**

Jealous: **"How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?"**

Longsuffering; **"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth"**

Forgiveness: **"Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions"**

Angry: **"God is angry with the wicked every day"**

Loves: **"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God"**

Fear: **"And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God"**

Hates: **"The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth"**

Repentance: **"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me"**

Holiness: **"For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name"**

Proverbs gives us good counsel to find a prime location to announce what God has to say outdoors:

"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying.....Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.... the righteous are bold as a lion"

Here Solomon exposes how the harden sinners will reap a grueling preacher:

"An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him"

Wisdom gives us the liberty to answer or not answer a question, as a spiritual man, we will judge all things and will have the discernment if a response is needed:

“Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit”

These are pearls that I've used to start off my preaching at an event, campus or street corner, as I quote these jewels I start my public sermon. Proverbs are filled with such:

“Open rebuke is better than secret love..... He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD..... A soft answer turneth away wrath..... There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death..... Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise..... As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly..... When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth..... all they that hate me love death.... The way of the LORD is strength to the upright.... The way of a fool is right in his own eyes..... The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.....The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge..... In all thy ways acknowledge him..... The fear of the LORD is to hate evil.....fear the LORD, and depart from evil..... the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.....Pride goeth before destruction”

THE GOSPELS

John the Baptist was **“The voice of one crying in the wilderness..... And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand..... O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?....Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”**

Well, this seems judgmental for someone used of God to name call and now he preaches on hellfire

“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire..... but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

John was put in prison because he rebuked King Herod for sleeping with his brothers wife and maybe his ministry would had lasted longer if he was not so hypercritical, because Herod was just a politician.

Sure glad that John's parents were not alive to see their son, as he had so much potential as a baby;

“And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.....the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost” and having godly parents too: **“And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless”** But now look at John, dressed in camel's hair and a leathern girdle about his loins, living in the wilderness like a long haired hippie eating locusts and wild honey, baptizing people in a river? Where did he learn this? What cult did he join, Ohhhh the youth these days with their long hair and wild beard have no respect for establish religion. I doubt if John's dress code will allow him access to a Baptist pulpit anytime soon, unless he gets a hair cut, shaves, puts a tie on and shuts his mouth. Then and only then would he be given a seat in the last row.

JESUS CHRIST after getting baptized from John and being tempted in the wilderness began His first public message saying: **“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** He is known within the

modern church for quoting John 3:16 but that was only said to one person at night and not announced in public to others. Jesus did however preach often on **hellfire, weeping and gnashing teeth, eternal fire, everlasting fire, torment, the worm dies not, outer darkness, hell, in that place, fire that never shall be quenched, unquenchable fire, fiery hell, beating, eternal punishment, etc.**

He 'woed' (or cursed) two cities that no longer exist **"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!"** and here is an interesting nugget found in Matthew that gets about as much attention as a red headed step child:

"Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not"

And note the word "upbraid" in the text, which is the hardest word for rebuke. Defined as: "to reproach disgraceful; to reprove severely; to rebuke; to chide; to treat with contempt; to adduce as a fault; a strong scold "

Our Lord mainly preached in parables to best communicate with the common Hebrew and get this, He rarely quoted a verse verbatim, often times He merged two to three scriptures into one. This must have ticked off the religious ilk of His day. And His message was not "I love you so" as common as people believe but rather we find words like; **"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs....neither cast ye your pearls before swine....vipers....cast it to dogs....hypocrites!....Woe unto you....ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.....tell that fox...Ye fools and blind.....Ye blind guides.....ye are like unto whited sepulchres which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness.....If ye then, being evil"**

Rather we find words like: **"Ye are of your father the devil..... how can ye, being evil, speak good things?..... but ye have made it a den of thieves..... offspring of vipers..... serpents.....for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.....Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you..... Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves"**

And that statement of the **"blind leaders of the blind"** He would have to apologize today for that cheap shot or get sued by the National Institute of Blind People.

Jesus not only preached repentance, exposed sin, reprovved individuals and even offended His followers when he said, **"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life"** as many of His disciples **"murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?"** and of course they were offended as Jesus continued to prune even within His ranks **"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."**

He admonished entire generations, so don't just take Him personally TAKE HIM AS A GROUP: **"And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?.....O faithless and perverse generation.....Why doth this generation seek after a sign?....evil generation.....That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation.....O faithless generation.....this adulterous and sinful generation....adulterous generation.....The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it.....The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it"**

So much for not using ad-hominem arguments with our Lord?

The Book of **Acts** does not record one message saying "Jesus loves you" nor "God loves you so much he wants you just the way you are." Rather we find that word "Repent" again, which goes against God wants you just as you are because God demands you to change who you are. The very word 'Repent' is God does not want you as is. You must change you mind, change your heart, change your lifestyle, hence REPENT.

Acts chapter 2 says when the day of Pentecost was fully come **"Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them...."** Peter began hollering (shouting or what we Street Preachers call PREACHING) after he was filled with the Holy Ghost gave a sermon and the crowd reacted. **"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost"** The first message on Pentecost was 'Repent' to be saved, and did you get the order?

- A) Repent
- B) Baptize
- C) Holy Ghost

It seems the modern Church has mixed the order, but what else is new?

- A) Believe
- B) Holy Ghost
- C) Baptize
- D) Repent

Peter and John were used to healed a certain lame man from his mother's womb then turned to the crowd that watch watched and preached at them saying; **"But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead"** and after pointing out their sin they gave the remedy **"having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities"**

The apostles were bought before the counsel again and were told **"Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?"** and because the early Church was not 501(c)3 these **"unlearned and ignorant men"** replied, **"We ought to obey God rather than men"**

They continued to be a salty message everywhere they went; **"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.....exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.....that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.....Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.....And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent....that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day....the Jews stirred up the people so Paul "shook off the dust of their feet against them"**

Then we find verses where the apostles publicly argued about faith: **"disputed against the Grecians.....persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.....he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks....this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people....he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come....Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.....For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ"**

In the seventh chapter of Acts we find a man named Stephen whose job it was to feed certain people yet he was out preaching in public.....go figure? He preached a good history lesson and traced it to their present day, which he said; **“Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers”**

Ouch! That hurt me and I wasn't even there, he went on to herald:

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye..... Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it” now how could a person **“being full of the Holy Ghost”** have forgotten to mention the love and all forgiving Jesus? UNLESS THE HOLY GHOST DOES NOT SANCTION SUCH TALK?

In Acts 13 we find Paul soul winning to Barjesus a known Jew, sorcerer and false prophet: **“O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”**

In Acts 23 we find Paul standing before the man and the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to slap Paul on the mouth, as Paul responded **“God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?”** he was then reminded by those around him that he was speaking to a high priest **“Revilest thou God's high priest? Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people”** I personally find it hard to believe that Paul could not recognize a high priest in front of him, me thinketh he wanted to get that on record and bound in heaven, you know the old court maneuver of “jury discard what you just heard.”

So after his moment of clarity he defended himself **“a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee”** and his defense caused more chaos **“there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided..... And there arose a great cry..... part arose, and strove.....And when there arose a great dissension.....And the whole city was filled with confusion”**

Now many Christians that watch us preach in public always say “look at all the commotion and disarray your preaching has caused, the Bible says confusion is of the devil”.....oh really, I reply. Who brought confusion on the tower of Babel? It was God, not the devil for God may use confusion but He is not the author of it as that title belongs to Satan. He is the author for he confused as per Eve in the garden. The word “author” can be defined as: “the maker of anything; creator; originator”

Let us see what type of reaction preaching caused in the book of Acts and maybe we can parallel it to the modern church.

“And the same time there arose no small stir about that way..... Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused..... And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult..... there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them.....And the whole city was filled with confusion....called in question for this day's uproar.... These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,....But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason..... These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also”

This is FRUIT from Biblical preaching.

The Apostles were persecuted for their faith, cities turned upside down when they preached, they were hated by the religious and those same religious people used the government to jail them. These same ‘acts’ of the early Church should still be going on today, for the book of Acts does not have an ending.

COMMENTARY

HAS THE MODERN CHURCH LOST THE COURAGE TO CONFRONT SIN?
HAVE THEY BURIED THE TALENT OF BIBLICAL PREACHING AND WHAT GOD WANTS SAID?
WITHOUT SHAME OR FEAR OF WHAT SOMEONE MIGHT THINK, SHOULD WE ALLOW SINNERS TO
PREVENT A INSPIRED MESSAGE FROM A HOLY GOD?
TRUE REVIVAL COMES WHEN PREACHERS EXPOSE SIN AND REPROVES THE SINNER. SPEAKING THE
TRUTH IS AN ACT OF LOVE AS PER 1JOHN 3:18

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth"

LET US NOT FORGET THE WORDS OF JESUS HIMSELF, USING THE WORDS 'love' & 'rebuke' IN
CONCERT;

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent"



THE MODERN CHURCH HAS WILLINGLY LOST THE FAVOR OF SALT AND HAS FAILED TO PRESERVE THE
STANDARD OF GOD IN THIS GODLESS GENERATION.

"For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt....Now, salt is good. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can its flavor be restored?..... Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?....it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.....Have salt in yourselves"

WE NOT ONLY HAVE BIBLE VERSES IN BOTH TESTAMENTS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE US TO BOLDLY
PREACH AGAINST SINNERS FACE TO FACE, NOT VIA YOUR KEYBOARD AND NOT A LETTER TO THE
EDITOR.

"The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.....Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine..... Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear..... have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them..... Debate thy cause with thy neighbour.....Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.... These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority.....thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him"

BUT WE HAVE ENDLESS EXAMPLES OF MEN DOING JUST THAT. NEVER THE LESS THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY BELIEVER IS TO CONCERNED ABOUT OFFENDING SINNERS AND HAS NOT CONSIDERED OFFENDING GOD. I SAY CHARGE AT SIN, ATTACK WICKEDNESS, RUSH THE TRANSGRESSORS, DO NOT LIVE IN SIN BUT ASSAULT IT WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS. SO YOU SEE PUBLIC SIN AND WONDER WHAT TO DO? NO NEED TO WITHDRAW AND BURY YOUR HEAD, NO NEED TO SING A HYMN, NO NEED GET INSTRUCTIONS FROM A CHERUB AND DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU NEED TO ASK THE FATHER WHAT TO DO? STAMPEDE FOR JESUS, STORM THE WICKED, STRIKE THE DEVIL ON HIS SOIL.



MOVIE CLIP

If a picture is worth 1000 words than this clip is worth 100,000 words, to see a visual on the state of the Church, go to link below and click 'Full screen' fir better viewing.

AWAKE

<http://www.slide.com:80/r/USSekvew4z98enW2S6w-1ATNtY-R4Ysn?mail1=0>