

Ordained

John 18:37

Winston Churchill is inextricably linked with Great Britain and the phrase “Our Finest Hour.” He said of himself when he became prime minister just prior to WW II “That night I danced with destiny...all my life had been preparation for this hour.”

Is this the night you will dance with destiny? Has all your life been preparation for this hour...to be ordained?

In John 18:37, Pilate asked Jesus a similar question. Jesus answered, “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth...” (to testify to the truth).

Jesus said “I was born to teach and preach the Gospel.

We believe you believe you were born, ordained to preach and teach the Gospel – so tonight we dance with destiny with you, we acknowledge and authenticate your ordination.

- I. Ordination Illustrated – to help us clarify and verify the meaning and purpose of ordination, we utilize some scriptural illustrations.
 - a. Jeremiah is an excellent example of pre-conception and prenatal ordination. Jeremiah 1:5 (kjv) “Before I formed thee in the belly (womb) I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet..” Your DNA declares your ordination.
 - b. Mark 13:14 says Jesus “Ordained twelve, that they should be with Him and that He might send them forth to preach.” Equal emphasis.
 - c. John 15:16 – In John 15:16, Jesus said “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain...” You are ordained to succeed and to produce successful successors! (to make disciple-

markers, who make disciple-makers, who...) and you'd better know that you know you're ordained to do so!

- II. Please consider the dreadful thought of Ordination Depreciated.
 - a. I present to you Samson and an Ordination Squandered. Judges Chapters 13-16 makes it clear that this Israeli Rambo, this Nazarite Army of One -
 - i. Was ordained to be a Nazarite before his birth and so was his mama! 13:4-7 and it was to last till his death! (not temporarily as Number 6 allows)
 - ii. Depreciated his ordination by not taking it seriously!
 - 1. A Nazarite could not partake of any form of the fruit of the vine. Symbolic of: a luxurious lifestyle of excess, a capricious indulgence in the indecent and immoral. From his impetuosity and indulgence it is obvious that Samson used the power of God for his own purpose and the promotion of his own agenda.
 - 2. A Nazarite could not cut his hair- to serve as a public witness of his private worship. But Samson had almost no private worship. No prayer – only two recorded. All about me (I'm dying of thirst) the Jawbone, and “Lord remember me (at the pillars). No praise – only a one-liner. Samson became all symbol and no substance.
 - 3. A Nazarite could not come into contact with any contaminants, especially a corpse, anything that would keep him from being qualified to Worship in the temple and Serve in the temple.

They tell me that cancer begins as a breakdown in the detection system. The body loses its ability to detect a malignant mutation. So sin begins as a:

Frenzy in the imagination, then malignance in the mind.
Poison in the heart, opiate in the will.

He moved from diversion to inversion to perversion so subtly that Samson “Wist not that the Lord was departed from him.”

- b. I present to you Saul – an Ordination Subverted (destroyed, undermined)

He was Saul the tall, “head and shoulders above all...” I Sam 9:1.

Saul the small, “who seeing himself as not enough hid among the stuff.” I Sam. 10:22, and yet, this oxymoron was ordained...

I Samuel 10:1 – “Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon (Saul’s) head and kissed him (shades of Thomas Trask), and said, has not the Lord anointed you prince, ruler, leader over Israel?

Then his ordination was undermined by

Pride – production pressure pushed him to substitute the arm of flesh for the fire of the Spirit because he couldn’t wait.

Greed – Saul rationalized that grabbing the resources of this world could better provide for the worship of God than depending directly on the gifts God gave. It caused him to cheat, then led him to lie.

(His ordination was undermined by) Rebellion – He went on a witch hunt which the Scripture says is synonymous with rebellion. It is seeking an imposter, illusion, idol instead of seeking God.

Unlike David, who when he had strayed prayed “take not thy Holy Spirit from me.” Saul; had rather court a counterfeit than come clean with God. Preferred a masquerade over a message from God! Results: a subverted anointing and an obliterated ordination.

II Samuel 1:21 SAYS, “the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away; the shield of Saul as though he had not been anointed with oil.”

c. I present to you Solomon – an Ordination Syncretized.

Solomon, a classic example of how God can ordain success out of failure. Had this been no sin of David with Bathsheba, there would have been no Solomon of Splendor.

Solomon – anointed King of Israel by Zadok the priest, and ripped David's throne from the hands of the imposter Adonijah in a plot that rivals a Spielberg production.

Solomon – who began with such honest humility and ended in such a blended blur and muddled mix that one couldn't tell where the true worship of Jehovah stopped and sinister syncretism started.

I Kings 3:1 says, "Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh and took Pharaoh's daughter."

It was such a small start in the process of trying to make opposites seem like they would work better together. It ended in disaster for Solomon and Israel. It will end in disaster for the Assemblies of God – for your ordination.

Whether it is syncretizing the Sacred/Secular; Classic Christianity/Current Culture; Truth/Just a tad less than truth; it won't work any more than a cowboy riding a runty calf to rope a quarter horse.

III. Please think with me about Ordination Appreciated.

a. We call you to a Joseph Ordination to lead us through these present problems.

i. In the middle of pressing problems for Israel, Psalm 81:5 says, "this (His word) He ordained in Joseph (the savior) for a testimony."

ii. The Word of God revealed through Joseph was salvation to the whole world in difficult days.

iii. As we preach and lead in our nation today, we watch the gathering elements of the perfect storm: nuclear threat, financial recession, psychological depression, global rejection.

1. Generational polarization – the present seems to be the Continental Divide. On one side of the divide are those who seem locked and loaded with chronic nostalgia that can't seem to value the potential of our future. They live life looking in the rear-view mirror and are set on going back to the future.

On the other side of the divide are those who are so morphed and mutated by a kaleidoscopic America that they can't seem to value the price paid for our heritage. They live in a world of disposable experiences, relationships, values.

2. We teach and preach in a time of convulsing cataclysmic cultural change, rapid, radical and relentless change. There seems to be such a seismic shift in the tectonic plates of our nation that we may be only one tremor away from a crash into chaos and an avalanche into anarchy.

3. We teach and preach to a nation intoxicated with narcissistic hedonism, which has thrown us into a moral freefall. We're seeking to satiate artificial appetites created by cannibalistic consumerism with the salt water of sensualism and sensationalism.

4. We minister against the backdrop of secular humanism by making man the measure of all things and reducing ourselves to meaningless molecules in motion. We

have left ourselves with nothing but a neurotic emptiness.

5. We offer this generation no infrastructure to base or build on and no super structure to hold them up. We teach them they are nothing but animals, then seem shocked when they act like one.
6. We minister in a nation plagued with hypocritical pluralism. These hucksters who hawk the value of inclusive pluralism (i.e., all roads, any road leads to God, just get on) are actually hyper hypocrites because they can't include anyone who doesn't include everyone.
7. We buck situational ethics – or relativism. Most of our nation and many of those you will preach to are absolutely certain that there are no absolutes when it comes to determining right from wrong. This error, with its toxic teachings, has left us a society with no sense of sin or shame of it.
We have no true north because truth has fallen in our streets. We have no ethical GPS, no moral gyroscope.
8. We face the present problem of politically correct privatization. It is okay if you want to believe in Jesus and behave as He says...Just (you must) leave Him handcuffed to the pew when you exit the church and keep His kingdom incarcerated in the prison of your private world.
9. All around us there is a subtle syncretizing of the secular and the sacred and a steady pressure to

combine Christianity (the Jesus kind) with the latest local trend.

On top of all that, we teach and preach in a nation that wants:

Wealth without work

Increase without investment

Success without sacrifice

Education without effort

Development without discipline

Profit without process

Choices without consequences

Rights without regulations

Politics without principles

Government without God

Business without boundaries

Corporations without conscience

Science without supervision

Pleasure without price

Health without hygiene

Relationships without responsibilities

Marriages without margins

Families without faithfulness

Approval without accountability

Church without cost

Worship without worth

Significance without spirituality

Security without the supernatural

So we plead with you to preach and teach

everywhere and every time, to everyone, and cry:

“America, America, God shed His grace on thee...America, America God mend thy every flaw. Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law. America, search for your original soul and return to your roots. America, please come home to God. America, stop slouching your way to oblivion.

O preachers and parishioners, this is no time to “love the level of the laver” as Ahab did, recorded in II Kings 16:17 - don't lower the level of cleansing “to the pavement”, raise our people to a Higher Calling – cleaner convictions, and a clearer commitment. We call on you to maintain a Joseph ordination. Joseph, who lived so that even Pharaoh gave him the name which means God lives and God speaks. Genesis 41:45, our nation needs to hear from God through you!

- b. We call you to a Joshua Ordination – to lead us into our assured attainment. Facing an uncertain future in a hostile environment, against overwhelming odds, Joshua led his people into territory already given to them, but had to be claimed by putting their foot down. Since Eden there has never been an environment conducive to Godliness, or a habitat complimentary to holiness. We do not need to control our culture in order to change it, dominate it to influence it! Please remember, no outward circumstance can ever cut you off from your supply of inner resources. Your power supply is from “on high.” Remember, our Lord is not in the business of wasting lives. If He takes time to collect ministry leftovers, He will not squander you on some useless hillside! We need you to function in a Joshua ordination, and boldly proclaim that:

we can:

- (1) Change
- (2) Be persistent
- (3) Empower
- (4) Be authoritarian
- (5) Be democratic
- (6) Be a leader
- (7) Be humble
- (8) Have excellence
- (9) Strong work ethic
- (10) Fail
- (11) Deeper-life spiritually
- (12) Pure
- (13) Liberated
- (14) Develop disciples
- (15) Outside the box

without:

- Compromising
- Being dogmatic
- Controlling
- Being dictatorial
- Mob rule
- Demagogy
- Being a doormat
- Being a perfectionist
- Workaholic
- Fatal or final
- Disconnecting from reality
- Legalistic
- Licentious
- Creating a cult
- Out of the ballpark

We can be:

- (1) Successful
- (2) Servant
- (3) Generous
- (4) Polished
- (5) Discouraged
- (6) Diplomatic
- (7) Motivating
- (8) Moderate
- (9) Holy
- (10) Excited
- (11) Dignified

Without becoming:

- Selfish
- Slave
- Gullible
- Plastic
- Defeated
- Deceitful
- Manipulating
- Mediocre
- Holier-than-thou
- Excessive
- Deadpan

We can be:

And:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (1) Heavenly minded | Earthly good |
| (2) Biblically based | Culturally relevant |
| (3) Anointed | Educated |
| (4) Spirit led | Highly organized |
| (5) Flow in the gifts | Manifest the fruit |
| (6) Pentecostal | Practical |
| (7) Truthful | Tactful |
| (8) Small church, medium,
large | Significant |
| (9) Anchored in the past | Ahead of the curve |
| (10) Doctrinally consistent | Cutting edge |
| (11) Christ-centered | Seeker/sinner friendly |
| (12) Preach a salvation
Gospel | Provide
compassion ministries |
| (13) Purpose driven | Divinely directed |
| (14) Inwardly strong | Outwardly focused |

Let's take the territory God has assigned us! Put Your Foot Down!

c. We need you to live out a Josiah Ordination and lead us in a relieving revival.

Josiah was one of those under-30 people who could have hardened into solid skepticism. The failure of his father along with the toxic blend of general disappointment and the wholesale violation of trust could have left Josiah as cynical, insensitive, amoral, materialistic, and opportunistic as Bart Simpson.

And so could today's 20-somethings be, because the Boomer generation introduced us to the sexual revolution and diseases, coined the term "generation gap", the drug culture, open and defiant rebellion, no-fault divorce, abortion on demand,

materialism, consumerism, “me”ism, new age and Eastern religions and mysticism, greed is good, and gold is god.

So with them as with Josiah, it would seem logical to ask, “why should I have to fix the problems my father caused? Add to that his nation was on the back side of the Bell Curve. Destruction was prophesied and certain. Most were just waiting for the last shoe to fall – pessimism so thick it could choke you to death and fatalism, which was worse.

But Josiah was Ordained!! 300 years, 14 generations before he was born, it says in I Kings 13:1 & 2, “a prophet cried against the altar Jereboam had erected at Bethel, and said, ‘O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord: behold a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name and he will burn the bones of the false priest on you!’” and now he is here, and that’s what he does. He chose to take his dance with destiny.

Will we?

We will not be able to stop the coming certain judgment of God. Tribulation and the Great Tribulation will come. However, as Josiah, you are ordained to preach the Gospel, to ignite a revival that will offer a reprieve! Now Preach It!

1. Jesus Saves

- a. Walked into a courtroom, walked back to my jail cell
blotted out – justification
- b. Slave auction – redemption
- c. Bankruptcy hearing – propitiation – satisfied: law, justice, prophets, priests?
- d. Alienated/estranged – reconciliation
- e. Shamed with stains of sin – sanctification (past perfect cleansing, and perfect present cleansing)

So when I got saved

1. Jesus posted it on the wall of the Father's Facebook in heaven and the angels went wild with rejoicing, "Moore got saved."
2. Jesus sent a text message to the Crystal Sea Catering Company that said, "set another place at the banquet table for the Marriage of the Lamb, "Moore got saved."
3. Jesus dialed King of Kings Jewelers and Gemologists because they specialize in crowns, "I'd like one more Crown of Life please, maybe ordering one for righteousness and rejoicing soon, "Moore got saved."
4. Jesus emailed Seamless Robe Clothing Corporation, "start creating another Robe of Righteousness, Moore got saved."
5. Jesus sent a memo to the Choirmaster of Heaven, "set up another seat in the rehearsal room, one more member for the mass choir special that angels cannot sing. Moore got saved."
6. Jesus sent a registered letter to Eternal Securities and Trust Bank of Heaven, "open up a new account, Moore got saved, and he will be sending up treasures. Keep them in that burglar proof, moth proof, rust proof vault till he gets here and exchanges those light afflictions for eternal weights of glory."
7. Jesus sent a fax to Crucified Carpenter Construction, Inc. "send someone over to the New Jerusalem cube where mile marker 1,412 high, and 1,308 wide, and 1,210 deep triangulate. Set up some batter boards and lay the foundation for a new mansion, 'ole Moore got saved."

2. Jesus saves, Jesus heals – healing is not an afterthought, addendum, or postscript. It is part and parcel of the plan, it is the children's bread. Diseases are coming for which we will have no cure. The church will once again be called upon to believe for Divine Healing.
3. Jesus Baptizes in the Holy Spirit. Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues is not extraordinary equipment for over achievers, it is standard equipment for normal believers. May we never reduce speaking with tongues to a litmus test for entrance into the exclusive elite.
4. Jesus is Coming! Since Jesus signed up His church on the sea shore of Galilee and sent them out of the upper room, they have been beaten, belittled, bruised and battered. Since then Jesus has been anticipating coming to catch His church away. Soon there will be the peal of a trumpet solo – fortissimo! It will sound very loud, but louder still will be the shout, come forth and the sleeping saints encrusted in the hyperborean ice of the arctic, the tawny sons of the tropics who died in the faith, the born-again wrapped in the verdant opulence of the rainforest, along with the sheeted dead buried in the barren brown of the shifting desert sand, will be raised from the dead!

His resurrected church will come from:

Liquid tombs of the surging seas, the catacombs beneath layers of leveled civilizations, the vaults of chiseled granite in monumental mountains, the unmarked graves in forgotten cemeteries at the end of remote roads, ornate mausoleums bounded by busy thoroughfares, mortuaries where they wait to be embalmed, and meet the remaining raptured in the air, the

Lord in the clouds, and it's all up from there! This is our blessed hope.

In the face of our most formidable foe, in the face of the fierceness of our fight, let us:

Live into and up to our Ordination.

Let us dance with our destiny!

Let the historians of Heaven record of the Arkansas District that this, the church's final hour, is our finest hour!