

Letter 370
The Siege Of Bethel Part 1
Some History
 2015-07-13

Dear Dan,

After discovering music a year ago from Bethel Church in Redding, I wanted to know something about its history. My first stop these days for basic primary information is Wikipedia, so I looked there and learned some of the facts. I also learned more by listening to audio produced by people associated with Bethel, and remembering certain “scraps of information”. Here is a quote from WIKI;

“In February 1996, the congregation invited Bill Johnson from Weaverville, California to lead the congregation. Johnson, the son of former pastor Earl Johnson, only had one stipulation before he was voted in: that

the message would always be about revival and that the subject of revival would never change.[1]

He received nearly unanimous approval by the congregation and the church board. What believers consider to be a supernatural revival began to break out shortly after Bill's arrival. People in the congregation began laughing uncontrollably and falling and rolling on the floor, believing themselves to be under the power of God during church services.

A mass exodus took place shortly after manifestations began happening. An estimated 1,000 people left the church and the two Sunday services were reduced to one. From 1996-1997, Bethel Church saw very little church growth.”

Over the years the Lord has honed my ability to discern certain truths about others by what is being said verbally by them, whether through oratory or song, and even in writing. Frequently the motives of the hearts of the communicators become clearly revealed as I listen or read. This is true when I read comments such as the one above. The comments above seem to be true observations without an attached agenda.

But very recently I got an email from a radio talk show host that I used to listen to a lot. Her name is (redacted). In the email was a write-up that was critical of Bethel Church and Pastor Johnson. I have not done so, but I suspect that I could find a host of other critics if I did a general internet search.

The name Bethel, at least in Christian circles, comes from the account of a dream given to the Hebrew Patriarch Jacob, as recorded in Genesis chapter 28, verses 11 through 22, and quoted below;

“Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

Then he dreamed, and behold,

a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it and said:

“I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said,

“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.”

And he was afraid and said,

**“How awesome is this place!
This is none other than the house of God,
and this is the gate of heaven!”**

Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place

>>> Bethel <<<:

*but the name of that city **had been Luz previously.***

Then Jacob made a vow, saying,

*“**If** God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father’s house in peace,*

then the Lord shall be my God.

And this stone which I have set as a pillar **shall be God’s house,**

*and of all that You give me **I will surely give a tenth to You.**”*

Before being renamed by Jacob, Bethel was called Luz, which, according to Strongs

Concordance, means;

LUZ - H3868

A primitive root; to turn aside (compare H3867, H3874 and H3885), that is, (literally) to depart, (figuratively) be perverse:—depart, froward, perverse (-ness).

Later on in 1st Kings chapter 12 we read how an altar to a foreign god was set up at Bethel, essentially reverting it to its former heathen use (Luz).

But then in 1st Kings chapter 13, we read that the Lord sent a man of God to condemn the altar, and to prophecy the coming of a King, Josiah by name, who would destroy all the idol worship from Bethel.

I think it is **LIKELY TO BE TRUE** that the split which took place at Bethel Church was a direct result of the influence of the city of “Luz”, a stronghold of Satan, in the hearts of those that left.

I can tell you that I would not have received the vital healing to my mind, soul, and heart without the music that has come out of Bethel, which required many years to mature and come to fruition.

Even The 2nd Chapter of Acts music wasn’t powerful enough to overcome the effect of this most recent assault of Hell in my life. I spent most of the second half of 2014 listening at work to music from Bethel, to the exclusion of almost everything else. And later I started listening and recording praise and worship services, posted as they were happening live on YouTube. I also discovered a group called Worship Mob, out of Colorado Springs.

I think it **likely to be true** that there is more than one place on the face of the earth that can be called a “Bethel”, or a unique geographical place where the Son Jesus placed an open portal from Heaven to Earth. Or in Star Trek - Deep Space Nine terms, a “stable wormhole” to the Gamma Quadrant.

One such place, although portable for forty years, would have been the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat. Other places are Churches where the outpouring of the Holy Spirit began a revival, such as Azusa Street in Los Angeles, and the Toronto Vineyard Church. I have also heard of a place called Moravian Falls that might qualify.

And every Born Again Christian is a Bethel, for The Trinity dwells within us, and whether known by us or not, we have open access to God’s Throne in Heaven without restriction. And like in the story from 1st Kings, Satan designs siege-works against both geographical Bethel(s) and Christians.

Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area is also a Bethel, which came under siege by Satan a long time ago, requiring a series of revelatory events for it to be liberated and renamed PraiseTree. But now as I write angel Gabe posed the possibility that the entire Snoqualmie Valley might be a dedicated Bethel Area. If this is true, then it starts to make some sense of

all the fighting we have had to do against witchcraft in the Valley. The build up of witchcraft in the Valley has built a "City of Luz" type of fortification set up by the enemy to pervert the outpouring of the Spirit in the Valley. Hmm. Further intel is required, but I think I already know it is true.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus