

PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES SERIES

HAZON AND MARA

We concluded two weeks ago on how a real prophet moves into the area of vision and is sometimes called in the Old Testament a seer. There are two Hebrew words for prophet *hazon* and *nabi*. *Nabi* speaks about a bringing forth of the Word. *Hazon* speaks about the seeing of visions. So in the Old Testament a prophet is called a *hazon* and *nabi*. In the book of Samuel the words have been used changeably for Samuel. So Samuel is both a *hazon* and a *nabi* type of prophet. We have established a fact that many prophets move into the *nabi* type of ministry. They prophesy but they don't really see visions. And we have said that, that is only the beginning part of their ministry. Like in Daniel's life he started mainly in the area of wisdom. And it was only in his later years that he moved into *hazon* and started seeing visions.

So let's consider the ministry of Daniel. There are three types of visions and two levels of vision. We speak about three different types of vision. Just to summarize for you they are spiritual vision that you see with the eyes of your spirit. Open vision where you see both the natural and the spiritual world at the same time. And closed vision where you see only the spiritual world and you could be in a trance like state and completely unconscious of the physical realm. So there are three types of visions. This morning we will look at two levels or two degrees by which a person moves into the area of vision.

So let's look at the book of Daniel chapter 7 onwards begins the vision part. The book of Daniel is divided into two sections. Chapter 1 – 6 is historical. Chapter 7 – 12 is prophetic. All his visions occurred in the second half of the book. Chapter 7:1 *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon. Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed.*

I came upon on this understanding of the two levels of vision while I was studying

the bible using and comparing different versions at times. Sometimes I read along in the literal translation and observed particularly the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation as well as in the Hebrew transliteration. I noticed that there is a marked change in the language of the Hebrew. Part of Daniel is written in Hebrew and part is in Aramaic. And there is a marked change from chapter 7, 8 and 9 to chapter 10, which we don't get it if we just read the English translation. We will read like chapter 7 he has visions and dreams, chapter 8 he had visions and dreams, chapter 9 he had visions and chapter 10 he had vision and chapter 11 he had vision and chapter 12 conclusion. We don't see the flow that is there in the Hebrew.

In chapter 7, 8 and 9 they use a particular Hebrew word for *vision*. And from chapter 10 there was a distinct change in the usage of the Hebrew word for vision. It is so demarcated that you cannot fail to see it if you were reading it in the Hebrew Old Testament. There are basically two Hebrew words for the word *vision*. There are also two Greek words, which we will look at that later.

One of the Hebrew words for vision is the word *hazah*, which means to "see, behold, select for oneself." It is the development of the word *hozeh*, or the *seer*. Then are developments like *hizzayon*, which means *vision*. And all these are different development of the root word *haz* or *hazo* or *hazah*. So there is a usage of the word *hazah*, which is one of the words that means to see, to behold. And places like in Daniel 7: 1 I put the Hebrew words in, *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions (**hazah**) of his head*. So he had certain types of visions. Then in verse 7, *After this I saw in the night visions (**hazo**)*. Then we look on verse 15. *I Daniel was grieved in my spirit within my body and the visions (**hazah**) of my head troubled me*. So something affected him as he was having the *hazah* kind of vision.

Daniel 8: 1 *In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision (**hazon**) appeared to me – to me Daniel - after the one that appeared to me the first time*.

Verse 2 *I saw in the vision (**hazon**), and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel*. And he goes on to describe what he saw.

In Daniel 8:15 *Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision (**hazon**) and was seeking the meaning*. So he had been having the *hazon* type of vision so far.

Daniel 9: 21 *yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision (hazon) at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.*

Everything is very consistent in the Hebrew *hazah, hazo, hazon* and these words continue to be used in the same manner until suddenly in chapter 10 there was a different degree of vision. There was a different experience in his vision.

Daniel 10: 2-3 *In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks; I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth. In case you didn't know it that's one of the best types of fast. A partial fast that is a long one where he ate no pleasant food. Nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.*

After he fasted 21 days the following took place in verse 4 *Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, Tigris.* Here it was some time after he had fasted. You may not receive your answer during your fast. You may not receive your answer immediately at the end of your fast. But you may receive your answer some time after the fast. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month he was by the riverside.

Verse 5 *I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.*

Now whom did he see? The person who spoke to him is Gabriel. And he said in verse 13 the prince of Persia withstood him and Michael the Archangel came and helped him. It's the same Gabriel the Archangel whom Daniel saw in his earlier vision. By now Daniel should be very familiar with Gabriel. And here in the spirit realm he had seen Gabriel before. He saw Gabriel earlier on and Gabriel spoke to him in chapter 8 in verse 16, *And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."* So he had seen Gabriel before. Then in chapter 9 it was still Gabriel who came to him the same angel as he had seen before. Daniel called him a man because angel Gabriel looked

like a man.

Then what a difference. Suddenly here in Daniel 10 comes the same Gabriel but he looks different. He looks different, he sounds different. His voice was like a multitude of waters. He heard these words. See in Daniel 10: 5 it is not Jesus. It looks like Jesus but its still Gabriel. Gabriel was in his full glory. You ask, "Can angels look like that?" Yes. Have you not read the book of Revelation? When some of these angels come in their full glory they look very majestic. For example, Rev. 10:1 This is not Jesus. This is one of the angels. And we know that God has a throne with a rainbow behind Him. And here is an angel who was in his full glory. In verse one, *Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire.* This is an angel we are talking about and not Jesus.

The reason I show that is because many Christians may not believe it as they just read from Daniel and tell them that's an angel. They try to argue that was Jesus they saw and then later on Gabriel appeared. Not a single theologian dares to say that it was Jesus in chapter 10 of Daniel. If that person was seated at the throne it would have been a different story. We would definitely say that it was Jesus But this was a person who came stood by the river. This shows that angels can appear in might and glory.

And so in chapter 10 there was definitely something different about the kind of vision he was having. There was a depth of vision that he had during his experience in chapter 10. Lets read on in Daniel chapter 10:7 *And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision. But a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.* There was something definitely different. Before that he had visions but the people around never reacted like that day. Just cross-reference to the one he had earlier. Chapter 8 he saw Gabriel in verse 16. As he saw it there was no record of the people around him being affected at all. Notice in Daniel 8:15 *When I, Daniel had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai.* There would probably be people walking around that day. But there is no record that the people around him were affected. All he had was a personal vision.

But in Daniel 10:7 nobody saw the vision but everyone around felt something. For

the word vision is a different Hebrew word. In verse 7 *I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, and the men who were with me did not see the vision (mara)*. It's a different type of vision. So here *mara* is a totally different meaning. Here the word *mara* is used to bring out the depth of the vision that he was having.

With all these Hebrew words I summarize it to be two main areas *hazon* and *mara*. The other words are just deviations. If I were having a *hazon* vision I could be kneeling down or sitting down and worshipping. It can be in three different types. It can be a closed vision, an open vision or a spiritual vision. And you wouldn't know it. You would have thought that I was just praising the Lord.

But if I were to be having a *mara* kind of vision, and you were around me something will affect you. Maybe you began to shiver and shake. Maybe you would feel a holy awe and terror striking you, even though you don't know what's going on. A *mara* vision is of a very high degree.

Lets read on to establish this fact here in Daniel 10: 8. See everybody ran when he had a *mara* vision. Although they didn't see Gabriel they felt something that was frightening to the natural man and they ran. Verse 8 *Therefore I was left alone and saw this great vision (mara)*. Even though you don't understand Hebrew you can see the adjective *great* added to the noun *vision*; never before has Daniel use the word *great* to describe his previous visions in the previous chapters. He calls that vision a *great* vision. The word *vision* again is the word *mara*. He saw a *great mara*. And it affected him more than it affected him before. It says, *and no strength was left in me; my radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. Then I heard the sound of his words; and when I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in a deep sleep with my face to the ground. And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.*

Definitely this is a different experience. Before that he had different types of experiences. Like in chapter 8 verse 27 he felt weak for some time. But now he was so affected that he fell into a deep sleep. And then when Gabriel's hand touched him, his body couldn't stand the amount of power that was being transmitted and his palms were vibrating and his knees were shaking. Understand that Daniel was a very spiritual man and he has seen visions before. But this was different.

There are two degrees of vision. Most people's vision is of the first degree. But there is a higher and greater degree that begins to affect your natural body. We are talking about visions and revelations. And we need to understand that most people when they start having visions they have an inner vision or spiritual vision. But as they grow in God their type of vision may change to a close vision and sometimes an open vision. But yet it is all of the first degree.

There is another level that they can enter into. So we outline some of the things. We used to teach before that there is one area when you have a vision. And you are having faith in that which God has shown you. You are acting on that vision. You have the vision. It moves you, it propels you and it motivates you. But you enter a realm where the vision has you. You are like possessed by a vision. It controls your very life and you live for that vision which God has shown you. That is partially the difference between *hazon* and *mara*.

Then there is an area where you are having a vision and the vision grows in you day by day. You still have your free choice to meditate, to think over that vision. But when you reached *mara*, you are bound to that vision. Its like you are captive audience of that vision. It has a greater controlling power over your being. Now God doesn't move us straight into *mara*. But if we don't teach about it people will not know about it therefore never ever experience it at all. At least when we know about it we can be ready should God desire that we experience it.

There are different things that take place between *mara* and *hazon*. No. 1 when we move from *hazon* to *mara* it began to affect our physical body. It will have a supernatural effect on the natural realm. One of the reasons why Enoch was translated was because he moved so much into *mara*. You cannot move into *mara* too long because your physical body cannot take it any more. It will either have to be renewed or your physical body will either have to die or be transformed. Our physical bodies are not made to sustain *mara*. It is too powerful for our physical frame. Our mortal bodies cannot take on this immortal experience. Which is why I can see the people like Enoch moved so much into *mara* until his physical body was virtually transformed and he was translated.

People like Elijah moved so much into it so that it was hard to tell the difference between natural and spiritual. He moved so much into the spiritual until the spiritual was like the natural. When an angel speaks you know exactly where the

angel is and it is so natural. The spiritual becomes so natural so that God said, "Elijah you might as well come on home." And He sends him a fiery chariot and he rides on the fiery chariot and goes on home. You can tell that he was a man that can see the spiritual world all the time as a natural eye. He did not have the gift of discerning of spirits. He has spiritual eyes permanently. When the young man who was with him saw that the Syrian army surrounded Elisha, Elisha said, "Do not be afraid because those who are for us are more than those who are against us." The young boy looked around and wondered what he was talking about. Here was this host of the Syrian army and Elisha said they who are with us are more than they who are against us. And Elisha said, "God open his eyes." And the young man saw these fiery chariots around and they were more than the Syrians. Elisha saw it all the time. It took a gift of discerning of spirit for the young boy to see.

There is a realm out there in the prophetic world where people walk into it. Which is the reason why if one is called into the fullness of a prophetic mantle, it is a very peculiar call and you may move into strange things to the natural people. If you talk to people like Agong Bangau (the mighty prophet who led a revival in East Malaysia) who has gone to be with the Lord, you would know that he is familiar with the spiritual world and converse with angels all the time. I just met him once. Its just like when you are in the spirit and someone is in the spirit. You are like an old friend with him because you both know the spirit world. And I sort of know what kind of life he had and what kind of experiences he had. I know that he would be probably someone who sees visions all the time and hears God's voice as a human voice speaking to him. That is one of the depths of a prophetic realm that a person can move into.

So here is the first application that we see here between *hazon* and *mara*. *Mara* began to affect our physical body. Our physical body becomes touched and we notice here in chapter 10 that there was a contact made between a spirit world and a natural world. A hand touched him. It does not mean that in *hazon* vision there is no contact. There are some contacts but they are not as great. See most of the time when you see a vision its just seeing a vision. And sometimes you can see an angel as you worship. But if you were to walk you could walk through the angel. You still had a vision but the angel is there. And you try to touch the angel your hand go through thin air. But when you are having a *mara* kind of vision and you try to walk you will bump into that angel. At the *mara* stage the spiritual has materialized into the natural realm. There is a small degree of *hazon* having materialization. Just like the angel earlier has some contact in the physical sense with Daniel but there was no contact made like the one made in chapter 10 in his full glory.

In the spiritual world there are different degrees of glory. When we go to heaven there are still different degrees of glory. We can all have access to God's throne but there are different degrees of glory. So those who are in a higher stage of glory when they visit the lower stage of glory, they would have to be clothed with a special covering so that those on the lower glory can stand the depths of the glory that the higher ones are carrying in their person. It has to do with development. Sadhu Sundar Singh in his book "Spiritual World" speaks about how he was taken on a trip to heaven and God showed him all the different realms of glory. And he asked a question to the angel who was instructing him. "Can they visit one another?" And the angel said, "Yes they can. For they put on different degrees of glory and covering as they move to different levels. Then those who are not used to the depths of God's glory, when they move into a higher glory they are also given a covering so that they can stand the greater glory that they are experiencing." So there are different degrees of glory.

And *mara* is a manifestation of the highest degree. So great that it is impossible to come out of the *mara* vision the same. When you come out of *mara* vision something physically takes place on your natural body. Let me illustrate also with the New Testament. In the New Testament there are two Greek words for visions. One is the word *optasia*, which means an apparition and the other is *horasis*, which means to see. In the New Testament there are different places where *optasia* takes place and where *horasis* takes place.

Lets look at some incidents in the book of Acts 10:3 *About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision (horasis) an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius".* So he saw a *horasis* kind of vision.

Look over at the book of Acts 26:19 *Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision (optasia).* Suddenly there is a change. Paul says that he calls his *horasis* as *optasia*. To compare it to the Hebrew *hazon* vision is like *horasis*. *Mara* kind of vision is like *optasia*. Paul was talking about his vision in Acts chapter 9 when he met the Lord Jesus Christ on his way to Damascus. It was a *mara* or an *optasia* kind of vision. As we said when you have a *mara* or *optasia* something physically happen. Paul was riding on his donkey. As he came near suddenly the windows of heaven opened. He not only saw Jesus. I mean later on he saw Jesus and there was no such happening. We are told that Jesus appeared to him after he has been in prison and said Paul be of good cheer. And that vision is also *horasis*. When that

mara kind of vision takes place Paul was knocked off his horse. *Mara* can be dangerous because if you have a very deep *mara* we may never see you again. Things can happen in *mara* kind of vision. There is a physical encounter. Paul got knocked off his horse and the light that he saw was so bright that his natural eyes could not see for three days and three nights. He was totally blinded.

Remember what we say about *mara*. All the people around Daniel ran away. All the people around Paul also had some sort of presence affecting them. Look at Acts 26:13 *At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun,* Jesus had not always appeared that way to him. When someone says I saw Jesus although I don't ask questions, I listen carefully to see what kind of vision that person had. I know there are three types of visions and two degrees of vision. Listen very carefully and you begin to see a different level that is operating. *Shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground.* So now is the latest thing we see here. Not only Paul fell from his horse but everybody else also fell. There was this huge big thunderbolt and everybody was on the floor. That is a *mara* kind of vision. So if anybody claim to see a *mara* don't believe it because you will know it when it is a *mara*. If one of you were having a *mara* here today all of us would be thrown off our feet. Something awesome would be present. It is not often that we see *mara* because if you get it often we may not see you again. The only way we can communicate is in the spirit.

Lets look at other incident in the book of Acts 9:3 *Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.*

They heard something, but the Greek doesn't actually say that they heard an intelligible voice. They just heard some sort of sound. Cross reference to Acts 22:9 *Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.* They heard something but they didn't hear the exact voice speaking to Paul. Its just like when the voice said from heaven in the gospel of John "this is my Son whom I love." And some said it thundered. Some heard different things. They didn't actually hear it in the spirit. But here they heard something and they saw something. It says those who were with me saw the light and they were afraid. That is an *optasia*, a *mara* kind of vision.

Firstly, a *mara* vision will have an effect on the natural world, whether in your physical body or on the natural world around you. During the great revivals, when Charles G. Finney goes to a place, it is said it was like a blanket of God's presence coming upon the entire city and anyone who crosses the boundary of that city gets under conviction of sin. So here is the truth that we are bringing forth. Anyone who has crossed the threshold into the depths of *mara* carries with them a different degree of presence. The reason why Charles G. Finney carries it is because he got touched in that realm of *mara*. You carry in your body and in your spirit a different degree of that presence. It resides permanently in the very cells of your body. When people like Elisha died and his spirit has already left his body, the anointing was still in his dead bones. So powerful that when a dead man was thrown into the place where his bones were the moment the dead man touched his bones the dead man woke up. Where was the presence and power? In his dead bones. It resides inside us. That's to motivate us that there is a realm we could move into in the spirit.

So the next time you see a vision don't just get excited and run away. These things grow on us. Just like a little child first time having ice cream, I got ice cream, I got ice cream. Be still and know that He is God. The next time in your prayer closet you feel the presence of God coming wait on Him. Maybe *mara* is supposed to take place. When you begin to see some sort of apparitions wait on Him. Don't run off until you have spiritual encounter with Him.

Lets look at the Old Testament at the book of Isaiah and see the other truth about *mara* and *hazon*. Isa. 1:1 *The vision (hazon) of Isaiah the son of Amos, which he saw (hazah) concerning Judah and Jerusalem (hazon is a noun, hazah is a verb) in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.*

Isaiah was a prophet. And as a prophet he is also a *hozeh* kind of prophet. He has vision. He is not just *nabi*. In chapter one he is a prophet. Chapter two he is a prophet, chapter three he is a prophet, chapter four he is a prophet, chapter five he is a prophet, chapter six something took place. He began to experience *mara*. This is to show that there is a transition from *hazon* to *mara* even in Isaiah's life, same like in Daniel's life, same like the apostle Paul's life.

Isa. 6:1 *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw (ra'ah) the Lord (he didn't use the same word hozeh like in chapter one verse one. The same Hebrew word hazah translated in chapter one as saw. But now the word saw in chapter six verse one is the word ra'ah. It's a different Hebrew word, not the same word. This is trying to tell us that the depths of what he saw is related to mara. Sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim, each had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said; "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory." And the foundations of the thresholds shook the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.*

I have to say this again *mara* may contain *hazon*. But *hazon* doesn't contain *mara*. Something was happening here in Isaiah's life. He was having an experience that was life changing. Point one when you have a *mara* there is a supernatural effect on your body and on the surroundings.

Point two there will be a fresh commission. Isaiah was already called. He already had the call of God in his life in Isa. 1:1. He was already functioning as a prophet. But something took place when he had *mara* kind of vision. There was a fresh commission on his life. *Mara* is not to be taken lightly. Everyone can have discerning of the spirits operating in their life. They can have *hazon* different types of vision. But God doesn't play around with *mara*. When He brings forth a *mara* there is a special commission that you are responsible to.

Notice that when apostle Paul had his *optasia* the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew *mara* there was a commission on Paul's life. We are told in the book of Acts 22:10 *And I said, "What shall I do, Lord?" And the Lord said to me, "Rise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do." And when I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.* Also cross reference to chapter 26 :15 *And I said, "Who are you, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon our feet for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen and to those in which I will appear to you.* In other words Jesus commissioned him on that day. There is a special commission that takes place.

Samuel had the difference between *hazon* and *mara* too. I Sam. 3:1 *Now the boy*

Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision (*hazon*). Verse 15-16 Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. and Samuel was afraid to tell the vision (*mara*) to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." From that day onwards he was called. Verse 19-20 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all of Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. Many people have a vision but their vision hasn't developed to the degree that is recognized. But when they enter into some measure of *mara* everyone knows.

And this principle can be applied not only in *hazon* and *mara* but in principle there is a time when you have a vision and the vision has you. When the vision has you just by encountering you perhaps your vision in the business world to become a Joseph generation provider. Perhaps you have the vision. If you have the vision you got to convince others about the vision. When the vision has you there is no need to convict anyone. Just by hearing you they are convicted. Just by being with you they are convicted. That's the difference.

Here there is a commission that was upon the life of Samuel and Isaiah. When Samuel saw that *mara* he said, "Woe unto me for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips. Again *mara* vision has a physical encounter. God brought a coal of fire on a tong and the angel brought it and it touched Isaiah's lips. And on that day something physical happened to him.

There are some people who have this type of encounter. People like Roland Buck "Angels on assignment" published by Charles and Francis Hunter. He talked about how one day an angel came to him and brought a scoop or something to him. And says God has a special gift for you. He drank it and says it taste like honey. At that time he was slightly overweight. When he drank it his body began to shrink to normal and he became healthier than ever before. There was something physical imparted when he partook of that heavenly substance.

You remember when the angel fed Elijah. As he was running away from Jezebel an angel fed him one meal. And that one meal lasted him for forty days and forty nights. See there is a natural effect but besides the natural effect there is a commission. Let me describe when you reached *mara* something happens on your inside. You die on your inside.

In the year Uzziah died Isaiah also died. You cannot be the same person anymore. It will affect you naturally so that there is some supernatural force that now controls you. There is some sort of dying that takes place. Paul had a vision. He was Saul when Saul met Jesus. Saul died and Paul resurrected. Something happens when the commission is given. There is an inner death that takes place. You are no more your own. There is something supernatural that fills you and possesses you. And you are driven by something more powerful than you. Like Paul he says I go bound in the Spirit. You may be called to the five-fold ministry. You may have a different vision in different areas. But remember Isaiah was already a prophet. Something additional came into his life. He entered into uninhabited ministry. A lot of people are under someone else's ministry but they are afraid of people. They are afraid of this, afraid of that, and cannot be themselves in God. When you have that *mara* experience you could be like Isaiah. Think about it. Isaiah was the one whom God told to be naked for a long time as part of the prophecy. It is very unlikely that it will happen in the New Testament. I don't want to see some of you coming to church naked the next Sunday saying God came to test your obedience. Can you imagine, even in the Old Testament sense, that kind of obedience was required. And how God asked him to take his underwear and bury it until its stinky and smelly and wear it again. You feel humiliated. But something happened to Isaiah. He has died. And a greater commission has come upon his life. So we have time to look at two areas in *mara*. One is in the supernatural effect on the natural. The other is there will always be a commission that comes in. And it will be part of what God wants to do on this planet earth.

Now we close with I Samuel. All the keys are inside I Sam. 3:1 *Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli.* No. 1 it only takes place to people who minister to the Lord. I have examined it in this scripture and I find that there is a law that operates for people to move into *mara*. One week before Jesus appeared to me in 1986 there was a spirit of praise and worship that came on me. All I wanted to do was to worship God. It is important to take note that there is a ministry onto the Lord that is required. In your mind you could be asking what about the apostle Paul. How is it that before he was born again he could have some *optasia*. The law was still tapped in the negative sense. If you read Paul's life in the book of Galatians he said, in Timothy he said he did it ignorantly, but he actually did it thinking in his heart that he was doing it to God. So God worked in his life partly because of that law tapped in a different sense and also because of the intercession of Stephen for his life. That covered the other part. I mean he didn't get away with it. But the law still operates that there is a need to minister onto the Lord.

The other bible example that you see in fact there are two. One is in the book of Acts 13 and the other is in the book of Acts 16. When they ministered to Lord and fasted the great missionary journeys were born. When they ministered to the Lord in prison Paul and Silas sang hymns unto God in prison. The prison doors were shaken and there was what I call a natural effect taking place. So the first law is the law of ministering unto the Lord. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. There must be a purity of heart that comes where we are turned in our inward eyes and in our outward life to worship God. The bible says in the book of John chapter 4:23 *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seek.* In other words the Father will seek you out and will manifest. So there is a promise in that law ministering unto the Lord.

Then we see here in I Sam. 3:3 *The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down within the temple of the Lord.*

No. 2 There is a timing for *mara* to take place. And *mara* is a higher degree. You could learn how to see vision and how to have spiritual vision. But there is nothing you can do about hastening *mara*. There is a proper timing for it to take place. There must be a fullness of the timing of God's dispensation to take place in your life. So be obedient to all the other levels of vision but be opened to *mara* should it be God's destiny in your life to bring it about. When the lamp of God was about to go out, it speaks about timing: an end of something and something new coming about. Not only was that taking place. You see the lamp of God was never supposed to go out. And there was a need in the spiritual world that there was a time when God decides that he is going to work powerfully. Daniel didn't have any *mara* until late in his life. There is such a thing as fullness of time. The second law is the law of the fullness of time. There is no way you could hasten it but you could delay it. You could never hurry it but you could delay it. In other words it could be God's destiny to have a *mara* in your life after 15 years of ministry. But because of your disobedience in God after 15 years and 20 years you still don't have it. You cannot hasten it. There is a pre-determined time. It is just like a pregnancy period. It is better to let the pregnancy go in its full term. By hastening it you will cause the child to be born weak and subject to many more hostilities in the natural realm. So there is a fullness of time but the strange thing is that it can be delayed because of our disobedience. Delayed because the conception is delayed.

Then we read on in verse 7 *Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the Word of the Lord had no yet been revealed to him.* Now take that along with verse one *Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli.* There is another truth in that. There is faithful diligence before a revelation. Look at verse 7 he did not yet know the Lord. He didn't have the word of the Lord come to him yet. He never had a vision. But he worked hard in the temple. This is the law of diligence. So even though you may not have heard the voice of God, even though you may never have seen a vision but you are a diligent person who seeks God's face, you are tapping on one of the laws that move you into that realm. These same laws are the same laws that you tap on if you want to be translated in your life. Because when you move into the depths of *mara* you will be translated in the end. That's the law of faithful diligence in your life. Those who seek after God must believe that He is and that He rewards those who diligently seek after Him. And I found out that one of the rewards of God is *mara*. We read in Heb.11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please him for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.* And we found out this morning that among His many rewards is *mara* when He encounters you in the depths of the spirit realm.