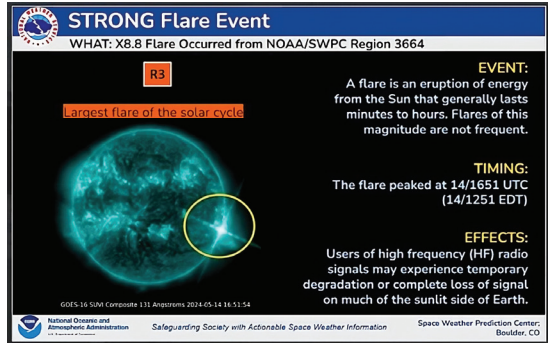


# Questionnaire

Do you have a funny feeling that something big is going to happen in the not-so-distant future? And does it make you uneasy or downright fearful?

Something big could mean quite a number of possibilities. Here's one. On Tuesday morning, 5.14.24, NOAA announced a flare



larger than any so far during recent series. My question is, like an earthquake, do a series of smaller flares indicate the likelihood of a larger one, or a giant one? And if that happens, what are the ramifications for civilization? Will we survive a giant solar flare?

Another "something big" could be some country dropping a nuke on its enemy - Chi-



na on Taiwan? Russia on Ukraine or Israel? Pakistan on anyone they have a beef with?

How about if the United States suffers an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack that disables our electrical grid, including all means of communication and the internet, and disabling all of the basics we need to live, like our wells, gas stations, household appliances, etc. Or what if terrorists who have been entering the U.S. southern border from various countries by the dozens (or hundreds?) pull off a mass murder event all over the country? Hamas did it to Israel, and a lot of responsible people are predicting a much larger attack across this whole United States.

Our "elected" leaders in this country, and especially in California (we get a double dose of stupidity), are such idiotic boobs



that it feels like the country has broken its moorings and is adrift in the sea of world civilization. It's embarrassing how awful our political "leaders" are.

I've been thinking about all of this and what each one of us is supposed to think and do about it. You probably know what I believe we should think and do: get right with our Father God, by His Son Jesus Christ, and let Him fill you and guard you with His Holy Spirit of Truth! Then no matter what happens, you don't need to fear any of this stuff because your ultimate

destination is secure - with God!

Maybe you already are God's person, or maybe you've been tapped on the shoulder by Him but haven't yet responded to Him in surrender and obedience. Or even maybe you have tried to live in obedience to God but have doubts and so wonder if you really are His person. That's what plagues me sometimes.

When my doubts plague me, or I get frustrated at watching myself let God down, I talk to God, and He runs me through some questions that help me re-center on Him.

Here is YOUR questionnaire. Maybe it will help you figure out where you stand with God and even give you some peace about your future with Him.

1. Are you appalled at the state of affairs in this world? In the U.S.? In California? In how everything seems to be upside down - good is considered evil and evil is considered good?

2. Are you able to perceive deception all around us, i.e. brazen lies about sexuality and gender, about current events, about Covid and the vaccines, about the wars in the Middle East, etc.?

3. Do you understand how "a woman's right to choose" is code for abortion, which is code for the murder of human beings?

If those three points apply to you, it's a good start. The Holy Spirit that Jesus left for us when He returned to God is the Spirit of Truth, among other things. He opens your eyes so that you are aware, you see true reality better, and you care about it.

4. Do you want or try to be God's person? Is that the most important thing in your life?



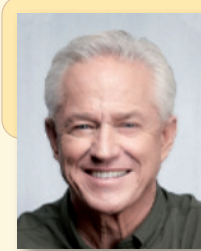
5. Are you held back because you think you aren't good enough or somehow don't qualify? Remember, none of us can be good enough, and no amount of trying to do good will make any difference. If we let God use us, good things will come, but not by our effort, but by His using us for His purposes.

6. Do you feel an instinctive respect, loyalty or even love for Israel as it struggles to exist in a hostile world? I always have cared about Israel, even before I realized that it matters to God. It IS special to God for reasons only He knows.

7. Do you try to meet with others who share your desire to follow God and be His person? Not just "going to church", but helping each other along the pilgrim road to the Promised Land.

I'm out of time and space here, maybe even over. But these times of uncertainty and evil, of everything we've known as our moral and spiritual baseline being attacked and destroyed, are making it crystal clear that an end is happening before our eyes. You may be one whom God has tapped with His Holy Spirit. Wonderful! What are you going to do about it, or what are you doing about it?

Linda Gommel



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS  
We honor Pastor Ray's life by continuing to share the daily devotions he prepared for you, his precious readers.

## First Natural, Then Spiritual

Ray Bentley Ministries

"However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual."

-1 Corinthians 15:46

Our modern, Western mindset usually assumes: We are supposed to be spiritual first, then see the results in the natural world.

That puts the outcome in our court - it's up to us to be "spiritual" and wait for results.

But that's not how God works. He gives us a picture of what He is doing, Scripture tells us.

What God does in the natural realm tells the story of what He is doing in the spiritual realm. God reveals His plans and His future work first in the natural world.

And it is God who does work.

All prophecies have a spiritual and material fulfillment in history. What God does in the natural, He follows with the spiritual!"

In 1 Corinthians 15:46, Paul explains one of the most consistent divine patterns in Scripture: "The spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual." Once again, this approach runs counter to the Western mindset.

Paul was speaking of the resurrection but also teaching a new way of seeing and understanding. God has embedded spiritual truths in the natural world, and we will recognize those truths if we have "eyes to see." It makes sense that the sequence would be first natural and then spiritual. For example, we can imagine having a spiritual body because we have natural bodies which we can see and feel.

God called Israel the "apple of His eye" (Zechariah 2:8).

In some mysterious way, when we look at Israel, we are looking into the eyes of God. When we look at Israel, we see God's intentions.

Israel did not exist in the modern world until it was reborn in 1948. The dry bones of Ezekiel's prophecy came together (Ezekiel 37). "Sinews and flesh" gave the bones physical substance. The nation was restored to its physical state.

But there was "no breath," Ezekiel observed.

Then God began breathing life into the Holy Land.

That is what God does in our lives. Look for the natural meaning of Scripture and



then for spiritual meaning.

Look for what He is doing in your natural circumstances and ask Him to reveal to you what He is doing spiritually.

It will always be about God's loving intentions to build and heal your life naturally and spiritually.

## On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

