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 All Scripture References are NAS, unless indicated.

Lord, we stand here as a desperate people, hungry  
 for the things of you.

Come quiet the storms that rage all around us so  
 that we hear the passion that beats through your  
 heart.

Spirit, put healing in our hands, put life in our  
 words, and drive a passion for the lost deep in the  
 hearts of your people.

Inhabit the praises of us, your children,  
 and Father, send us out with a reckless passion.  
 Deliver us from evil, and set a standard of unity  
 to break down walls and to heal your people.  
 Unity is the cry of your church, Lord. Reconcile the  
 children to the fathers, and with forgiveness and  
 mercy, rush through the hearts of our land.

We cry out our deep need for you, Jesus. Oh God,  
 come in power and bring glory to your name..<sup>1</sup>

—A spontaneous prayer from a young woman for our  
 Generation during the live worship event,  
 “The Road to One Day”, 2000.

## Dedication & Thank You

A special “thank you” to my tireless editor, Karen Miller, (*who caused me to re-think and re-work nearly every thought from 1995 in this book!*), Suzann Beck for her awesome cover design, and Lance Wonders for his thought-provoking Preface.

To my natural and spiritual parents and relationships, the mentors who sacrificially took the time to help me carve out and discover my path to life in Jesus Christ. I honor you.

To my flawless wife Sarah Elizabeth, the wife of my youth, without whom I would be a wreck. You are my sweet. I thank you for your continuous support and encouragement.

And to my two sons, Ethan Whitefield and Gideon Wesley, the true next generation I am responsible for helping raise up. I pour out my life for you. May you run faster and run farther than your daddy ever did.

*“Each age, it is found, must write its own books,  
or rather, each generation for the next succeeding.  
The books of an older period will not fit this.”<sup>2</sup>*



## CONTENTS

<b>PREFACE</b>	9
<b>AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION:</b>	
<b>"THESE TIMES DEMAND A SPECIAL RESPONSE"</b>	13
<u><b>Section the First: "X MARKS THE SPOT"</b></u>	33
<i>Where we are, how we got there, and where we're going.</i>	
<i>Visionary in nature.</i>	
<b>1. GENERATION DESTRUCTION TO GENERATION XTREME</b>	35
<b>2. HARVESTING THE FIELDS OF THE FATHERLESS</b>	57
<b>3. THE SPIRIT WHO POSSESSES YOU</b>	85
<b>4. MARCHING ORDERS</b>	101
<u><b>Section the Second: "ABBA &amp; MAMA"</b></u>	119
<i>Theoretical and theological in nature. Can God relate as father and Christ's Church as mother (in the Spirit) to our generation?</i>	
<b>5. WHO'S YOUR DADDY?</b>	121
<b>6. BIG MOMA'S HOUSE</b>	137
<u><b>Section the Third: "OF APPRENTICES &amp; MASTER MENTORS AROUND THE TABLE"</b></u>	155
<i>Tips for making who we are into what we can become. Practical in nature and geared toward both spiritual mentors and Gen X. apprentices.</i>	
<b>8. CREATURES OF CHARACTER</b>	157
<b>8. UNDER COVER</b>	189
<b>9. THE MENTOR OF MONTE CHRISTO</b>	207
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	
<b>"IGNITING THE FLAME: GRASPING THE PASSING BATON"</b>	227
Appendix A: Ministry & Study Resources / For Further Study	241
Appendix B: About the Author	247
Appendix C: Response Form / Contact Us	249

## PREFACE TO CHANGING OF THE GUARD

**Carl Anderson is right – Generation X is indeed a generation of great destiny!**

As Carl transposes the “X” of this title from the English “X” – a supposed “unknown quantity” – into the Greek “X” – the letter “Chi” which functions like a “ch” in English and is the first letter in “Christos” or “Christ” – he claims a special relationship between this generation and its returning Lord.

Interestingly, the Two Witnesses of Revelations 11, who prepare the way for the Lord’s return in the last days, are modeled after Moses and Elijah – two figures who are prominently featured in this book as biblical examples of mentors. Moses and Elijah were mentors of Joshua and Elisha respectively, who went beyond them by God’s grace and brought their ministries to completion. If Carl is correct in his metaphors, then it becomes *good news* that if and when the “old guard” Moseses and Elijahs finish up their work by passing the baton to a whole “new guard” of Joshuas and Elishas, they will be endued by God with a “double-portion” of His Spirit.

Nevertheless, as Carl points out, this “generation of destiny” has drawn the Enemy’s attacks. First, there has been the attempt to

destroy it physically before it is even born via abortion; secondly, there has been an attempt to rob it socially of its necessary nurture from “fathers” and “mothers;” and thirdly, there has been an attempt to twist it philosophically by muddying its backdrop of faith via secularism, relativism, pluralism, and post-modernism. Thus, even if this generation is born physically, it will be incredibly difficult for it to be “reborn” and “grow up” spiritually and intellectually to have any measure of practical influence in a world that “remembers not Joseph” – nor Moses, Elijah, nor even Jesus Christ Himself.

The Lord seems to have chosen to pour out the same pre-planned measure of His Spirit upon this generation; however, with fewer “vessels” or “instruments” to do His work, He then pours that much *more* of His Spirit into the life of each one who is willing to be used! Thus, instead of dispensing billions of warriors with a little bit of His Spirit, He fills hundreds of thousands (even millions?) worldwide with a *great deal* of His Spirit who will be *more* intense, *more* committed, and *more* radical than the average Christian in the average generation has ever been before!

Even with this book’s strong focus on the Joshua generation, thankfully, Carl also foresees a place for the Moseses (like yours truly) of the “old guard” who have a “different spirit” in them (a Joshua/Caleb spirit, yet aged as the Moses generation) and can be useful partners in this last-days (or at least next-to-last days) work. Hopefully, we can cover our more youthful partners while they are more often on the frontlines and taking the greater risks.

Carl also emphasizes the importance of “intimacy” with God, who is experienced as a true Father, but also as one with “motherly” compassion. In an era of distant and sometimes self-absorbed, workaholic, or performance-oriented fathers and mothers, the Lord Himself – along with His Church, our “mother” through the Spirit – must fill a lot of holes in our souls.

Mentors are a significant means for this to happen, although sometimes God alone is fully able to make up the difference of what has been lost.

Behind the scenes, Carl seeks to fully live out the challenge he brings to you in these pages. He is a “prophet” of sorts – moreso in the “exhorter” and “encourager” modes than in the “reading of hearts” or “prediction of the future” modes, though the Lord occasionally uses use him in the later modes as well. He is a student of history – *salvation history* – not simply to collect more facts, but in order to quicken and inform his own faith, since the God who did mighty wonders in the past is the same God today!

Carl’s style is passionate, anecdotal, and eclectic – but there is rhythm, rhyme, and reason in what he gives us here as well. This is a “living” essay, rather than a dead and dissected theological treatise, yet there is good theology in here as well! Even “old” theologians like myself can find fresh bread in many of these insights!

May the Lord truly use this book as a manual of inspiration to Gen-X’ers of *whatever* age, to stand together and finish the task of restoration, harvest, and daily laying down our lives in obedient witness until He comes again. Whether or not it ever becomes a best-seller is in the Lord’s hands, but may it fall into the hands and hearts of the *right* fellow-soldiers who can understand, appreciate, and put into practice the vision that our brother describes.

To God alone be the glory, both now and until the King and the Kingdom come in full measure, and may we be found faithful until that proper time. Amen and Amen.

Lance Wonders  
October 30, 2004



AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

THESE TIMES DEMAND  
A SPECIAL RESPONSE

*“Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses,  
and said, ‘We should by all means go up  
and take possession of it,  
for we shall surely overcome it.’”*

— Numbers 13:30

THESE TIMES DEMAND A SPECIAL RESPONSE



This book is unique. Apart from the following introductory remarks (and a thorough re-write after a recent editing) it was composed almost entirely in an intense five-day period toward the end of 1995, as a prophetic *voice* from the Lord, a call to ignite spiritual passion and cast vision for a whole generation that the world and the church has written off.

What has followed these past nine or ten years has been *the echo*. It has been an echo of confirmation both in the secular world as well as the realm of the Church, and the time is now for this book to enter widespread distribution. In other words, this book is rare in that it was written and finished some years before many other voices and ministries were raised up in the heartbeat of God to begin to impact the young generation. And this introduction will document some of the 'echo's' that have resounded over the past nine or ten years in confirmation of the 'voice' of this work.

What you are about to read in the chapters ahead is a combination of prophetic seeds that I had received from the Lord during the years 1990-1995, while I was a young spiritual cadet and apprentice in my early twenties. During that time I was mentored by a special group of spiritual fathers, mothers, uncles, & aunts and ministered evangelistically throughout America, Europe, and Asia. Back then, I felt this vision was going to be significant within a few years, perhaps the late 1990's or early 2000's. So I finished the book in December 1995, put it away, dug in my trenches, and waited. Soon it would be time for the Changing of the Guard.

What was I waiting for? I needed confirmation from other leaders around the world that "my generation" was indeed to be special for the end times before I could cast broader vision. Would other leaders, young and old, see what I was seeing? The older generation is passing away; the anointing to go further is upon

the youth of my generation. The Guard has changed. Moses is dead, and Joshua is alive. The baton has passed from the old to the new. This book is also unique in that it is written from an X'er to X'ers and mentors, from an X'er's prophetic perspective.

Why is this book important? A recent study, conducted in 2002 by Research International, a market research bureau, polled diverse Generation X'ers working for a variety of companies in

## IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR MEMBERS OF OUR GENERATION TO KNOW THE BIGGER PICTURE

the marketplace and stumbled upon an amazing truth. They realized that to keep an X'er on board, you must share with them that they are part of a larger whole. They must know how they connect to the broad vision of what they are doing, rather than keeping them stifled in one particular skill. It is imperative for members of our generation to know the bigger picture; therefore, a pioneer is needed to cast the vision so we each know how our little piece fits into the greater whole. Nine years ago I was such a pioneer, and the time has come for this book to join other such pioneers in describing the big picture of God's last days purpose for Generation X.

In his book, Inspire the Fire, Ron Luce, a modern day Moses to this Joshua generation, shares, "The excitement of the world won't make our teens zealous for the Lord. The only things that will maintain genuine spiritual fervor are purpose, commitment and a sense of belonging to something greater than anything

this world offers."<sup>3</sup>It is with this in mind that the following book was written. It is meant to be a spark in your spiritual fireplace, a fuel added to your smoldering embers to ignite a larger flame of passion and purpose for our generation.

### WHO IS GENERATION X?

Let's define our terminology. "Our generation" - what is that? I was born in 1970, just three years before the Supreme Court of the United States legalized abortion. My parents were both born in the 1930's and grew up in a generation that has been termed the G.I. generation. The Great Depression and WWII shaped them. Next came the so-called Baby Boomers, those born in about 1940-60. The Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal shaped them. Then we come to what has been termed, "Generation X." Many statistical references set the years of birth at about 1962-82.

Let me diverge from normal worldly thinking for the vision of this book. In God's terms, a "generation" lasts for forty years. The generation of people which abandoned God in the wilderness and were left to die there lasted forty years. Only after forty years were complete was the new generation allowed to rise up and take the land. The number forty itself is significant throughout the scriptures. For example, Moses spent forty days on the mountain, receiving the law of God, and Jesus spent forty days fasting in the wilderness, completing a significant testing period and then entering into the fullness of the Spirit. Both of these periods of forty were symbolic of a complete period of time. The actual Hebrew word for, "generation" means, "a revolution of times."

So for our purposes in this book, we are going to define "Generation X" as anyone born in the approximate years 1960-2000; that's forty years of babies and a whole lot of people!

There are other terms being given to those born more recently, such as, "Generation Y" and "Millenials," but I feel that God's purpose is to put an anointing on a massive number of young people, encompassing even some being born at this time.

So when you read the term Generation X in the following pages, be thinking in God's terms of a forty year period and not in terms of a twenty year period. Interestingly, you can ask anyone in their 30's, 20's, or teens today where they were when they heard about the Columbine shootings and they can tell you. The previous generations had the assassination of Kennedy or the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima as moments of personal impact<sup>4</sup>.

We will be using various terms in this book to define the same generation, Generation X, we are currently addressing. One of these terms is, "Joshua Generation." It may benefit the reader to take a few minutes and read over some passages of scripture

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OTHER YOUNG WARRIORS  
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PREVIOUS GENERATION**

which point to the relationship, calling, and equipping of Joshua through the ministry of Moses which are found in Exodus and Deuteronomy. The reason we use the term "Joshua Generation," is that Joshua, a leader of strength and training

under Moses, rose up and led other young warriors to possess the land that God had promised in the previous generation. Some of these passages include Exodus 24:13-18, 33:7-11, and Deuteronomy 31:7-29.

We will also be using the terms, "Generation Yes," "Generation Extreme," "Generation Miraculous," "Generation For Jesus," and "Generation Destruction." All of these terms fit the same period of time of which even the author himself and his children were born into: about 1962 to 2002, give or take a couple of years. The, "Joshua Generation" and Generation X are synonymous with all these terms in this book.

To sum up, this book is targeted to two main groups of warriors...first to those under forty years of age, born between 1960-2000 or so, the "Joshua's," and to those born before about 1960, the "Moses'." For the "Joshua Generation," you will be challenged and filled with inspirational vision to carry you forward in your growth in God. For the "Moses Generation," you will gain valuable insight into the youth of our culture, and fresh understanding of "what makes us tick." What is the vision of God for us in this hour? How does our culture relate to each other and especially to you? How can you relate and pass on the wisdom you have gained and be heard and understood by us? These and many other themes will be discussed in the following pages.

It is to many of the youth (all those aged about 40 years old and younger), that God is granting unique authority in this hour. He is granting it to those who would choose to respond when their name is called from among the ranks to serve Him and walk in Gospel Power. In one sense, to any of any age who would choose to swim against the stream of tradition and seek Him for fresh direction; to any of any age who would respond to a call to advance the Kingdom in a path that's never been tread

before. This includes both generations, Moses and Joshua.

Once again, this introduction is meant to spur you on to see how the original revelation given to the author in the early 1990's is a voice which has been echoed sufficiently to be released with urgency for the current decade or two ahead. This brings us to the first in a series of "echo-type" confirmations about the timing of this book and the call to our generation to arise and do great exploits in the name of Christ.

The following are some prophetic 'echoes' to the original 'voice' of this publication. They include a couple of book references which the author has included in the appendix under 'Ministry Resources' as well as a number of testimonies and emails.

#### "CONFIRMATIONS"

In this introduction, I will quote a variety of sources which confirm the themes composed back in 1994-1995. Space will not permit a complete compilation, but know that there are hundreds of leaders and ministries who have hearts and callings to also come alongside the radical uprising of our generation. I will assemble them in chronological order.

Even earlier in the decade of the 1990's, God was speaking. In a vision from John Yemma, Generation X leader from the Vineyard Movement, dated July 18, 1991, he shares,

"The Lord is telling me He is going to reform youth ministry as we know it...he is going to place the anointing for youth ministry in the hands of the youth themselves. They will do the ministry of Jesus. The Lord will do miracles through the youth, they will disciple those friends who come to Jesus and great waves of anointing will flow from them. No worldliness will be

found in them; they will walk holy and pure with their God. Some will be persecuted...for their radical stand for Jesus. 'Follow Me,' says the Lord, 'Follow Me as I gather millions of young people to love me only and serve their God.' Sons will be brought back to fathers and fathers to sons, and the same shall be for daughters. This generation shall not only raise the spiritually dead but shall also see the physical resurrection power of God."<sup>5</sup>

Back in 1996, Rick Joyner had a remarkable vision. He writes, "I saw multitudes of young people, black and white together, marching and demonstrating. They all carried banners but there was nothing written on them. I then heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Who will give them their cause?' I saw a long line of men

**THE YOUTH ARE GOING  
TO BE MOBILIZED AGAIN,  
AND THEY ARE WAITING  
FOR A CAUSE**

and women waiting to speak to the crowd. They represented many different causes, but to my shock most of them were Nazis. I then felt a gripping urgency to speak to this great crowd before they did." He explained the application, "The youth are going to be mobilized again, and they are waiting for a cause. They will respond to radical Christianity, but they will be repulsed by watered-down versions. If the church does not fill the void in youth that demands a cause, they will turn to a power that will mobilize them for the most sinister reasons."<sup>6</sup>

In 1998 another prophetic word burst forth on the email lists from Irene Mederos. "There is a new generation that is catching

on to this fresh flame; a new breed of God's chosen to do mighty exploits in His name. It's not only a sound of music but also a cry of the Spirit in the wilderness preparing the way of the Lord for end-time harvest. It is the cry of the Spirit in the spirit of Elisha, picking up Elijah's mantle with a double portion anointing. This new generation is a prophetic bunch of revolutionaries that are dissatisfied and tired of the same 'ol, same 'ol. They are warriors, defiant against Satan. One by one, they are catching the vision, writing it down, and running with it and nothing will be able to stop them because God's power, anointing, and authority is on them."<sup>7</sup>

Even in the realm of the natural, this great plan of God to put a special purpose on an entire generation is being confirmed. The shaking that is happening is effecting both natural and spiritual realms. In August of 1998 there was a special gathering of young Gen. X leaders in their twenties, many of whom were not Christians. Duke University brought together fifty of the brightest minds of the next generation of leaders together. They formed a document labeled, "The Content of Our Character: Voices of Generation X." In it, they wrote, "We gathered to share ideals with one another and begin to construct our vision for this American generation. We strive to honor the enlightened values that forged this country, and we further propose new ideals that echo what Vaclav Havel describes as our 'higher responsibility.'"<sup>8</sup>

This great shift in the Spirit realm is affecting even the political and natural realms for our generation! If the world system itself can jump on the band wagon and begin to recognize the tremendous need in this hour for a 'higher responsibility,' then so can we, the Church.

One of the greatest pointers in our time of this great uprising of passion and purpose is the music that God is bringing to change

praise and worship forever. Again, space would not permit listing the many passionate worship leaders and song writers God has raised up in the past eight years, and the many number that will be raised up in the years to come. Louie Giglio of Atlanta, Georgia has been a key leader organizing a vision of passionate worship and worship leaders to our generation. Birthed in 1995, the vision has seen the organization of huge gatherings of young people called "Passion." These gatherings continue to grow every year. In a recent journal entry from his website, he poetically writes,

"While we yet have time, we must ask God to riddle our pride.  
While we still can, we must consider the cost.  
While day lingers, we must work as if night is coming.  
While the world sleeps, we must heighten our senses.  
While most waste away, we must renew within.  
While earth settles down, we must continually look up.  
While many fear death, we must embrace life.  
While others play it safe, we must risk it all."<sup>9</sup>

"Sometime in the first half of 1999, something snapped," writes Dr. Michael Brown in his preface to Revolution! A Call to Holy War. "Perhaps it was the Columbine killings; perhaps it was the accumulated frustration mounting from years of political corruption and moral decline in America; perhaps it was the realization that the American Church had gone as far as it could with its present mind-set and methods. Whatever the exact factors were, I am sure of this: Believers across the land began to say, 'Enough is enough. We need a revolution!'"<sup>10</sup> The Brownsville School of Revival, alongside another training center where Dr. Brown teaches, has trained thousands for radical faith in the past few years. His book is a marvelous compilation of themes around the holy revolution that is sweeping our nation; it is a must read.

In the last chapter of this book, under the heading, "Passing the Baton," I prophetically talk about the death of certain individuals who will birth this new thing, kind of like the idea that it was only after Moses died, representing the last of the previous generation, that Joshua arose to take the land. The death of the old is the birth of the new.

In an email dated August 8, 1999, entitled, "The Torch Has Passed," David Works gives a synopsis of the funeral of young Rachel Scott. She became a martyr and hero to our generation when she faced a gunman in her school and died for her faith. At her funeral, Pastor Bruce Porter asked the young people present how many would pick up the torch that Rachel carried. The response was incredible. "Hundreds rose up and said, 'Yes!' Kent Henry led worship; then powerful testimonies were given by Ron Luce, Bob Weiner, Josh Weidman, and Melody Green. Cindy Jacobs also shared that she sensed prophetically that the way to avenge the blood of the martyrs is to bring in as many new souls as possible into the Kingdom. Her sense was that there is a special place in this revival for young girls and that it will be marked by the sign of raising people from the dead."<sup>11</sup>

In a unique email message entitled "Generation Yes," Bobby Conner prophetically shares how the death of young martyr Cassie Bernall, who on the morning of April 20, 1999 was gunned down in the Columbine shooting, is a sign that God is raising a whole generation like her, who say "Yes" to Jesus no matter what the cost. A year earlier sixteen year-old Cassie wrote, "I will die for my God. I will die for my faith. It's the least I can do for Christ dying for me." Conner writes, "The end-times generation will live life passionately with an all-or-nothing attitude. They will give the yes of someone who truly believes they have found something worth living for. They will say yes to God with a zeal that amazes older believers and overcomes the world. God is releasing upon this upcoming genera-

tion a passion for the presence of the Lord. It is this passion that will allow them to be filled with such a resolve."<sup>12</sup> In 1994, God also gave me personal confirmation of this word. I will share it with you in the first section of this book under the heading: "Generation X...Generation Yes."

### A GENERATION BEING BORN

Returning for a moment to Bobby Conner, in another email message printed in 1999, he shares, "There is coming a worldwide youth revival, the Spirit of God will release such 'passion' for the presence of the Lord. This coming awakening will sweep across the earth, like a wild fire, nothing will be able to stop, nor stand in the way. These youth will begin to come together in the year 2000, and by the year 2002 they will be on the move. Their message will be the words of Micah 3:8 'But as for

**BUT AS FOR ME,  
I AM FILLED WITH POWER,  
WITH THE SPIRIT OF  
THE LORD**

me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.'" (NIV)<sup>13</sup>

In another email message from 1999, Catherine Brown from Scotland saw a similar picture. "I saw a vision of the earth splitting wide open and one by one, young men and women were attempting to come forth from creation. As I looked more closely, I saw that there was a covering over the place where the young people were trying to come out of. It had the appearance

of an amniotic sac and the young people were struggling to push their way out. I immediately was impressed by the Spirit that this was a birthing process and that it was a difficult birth. I heard the Spirit say, 'Push, Church, Push.' Simultaneously with this vision, I saw a vision of the Lord, and from the center of His being, many young people were running out from Him. From the womb of the dawn the warriors came forth."<sup>14</sup>

Around this same period of time, Randy Clarke's ministry spread and caused dozens of ministries to sprout up with a focus on releasing the younger generation in the power of the Spirit. Among them was Global X-Stream with vision to impart and train the youth in the anointing of the Spirit.

In November of 1999 a group of apostolic and prophetic elders under the leadership of C. Peter Wagner, met in Colorado Springs. One of the reports that was given is as follows: "A great youth revival is coming to America. Schools will be shaken for the glory of God. Many young people will be drawn into the church as they were during the Jesus movement. God warned us that we must be ready to receive them or we might miss this move of God."<sup>15</sup>

Also in late 1999, God put a spirit of passion into Pastor Che Ahn, Lou Engle, and a group of other key leaders from around the country to launch a cooperative effort to fill the Capitol Mall with 1,000,000 youth in Washington D.C. This event was appropriately named, "The Call DC." Hundreds of thousands of youth responded when the event was organized in 2000, and this was followed later that year by a forty day fast in which thousands of youth participated in. A true awakening had begun. Similar gatherings are scheduled in the next few years in New York, Texas, California, and other states. Since then streams of leaders have begun assembling together. One example is Mike Bickle from International House of Prayer (IHOP) in Kansas City, linking together with Che Ahn and Lou Engle

for synergy to ignite Generation X through special annual conferences like "One Thing" and "The Call."

### **YOUR OLD MEN WILL SEE VISIONS, YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS**

Bob Jones and Keith Davis, in their newsletter entitled, "Shepherd's Rod 2001," begin by quoting Psalm 4 and sharing, "There will be a measurable increase in the anointing falling upon young people. Bob was awakened at 4:00 a.m. and informed by a vision from the Holy Spirit that Psalm 4 specifically applied to the youth. In the vision, he saw large gatherings of young people whose character and nature was being forged and molded into the very image of Christ, thus imparting His divine nature qualifying them to carry the powerful anointing promised in the days ahead."<sup>16</sup>

**THERE WILL BE A  
MEASURABLE INCREASE  
IN THE ANOINTING FALLING  
UPON YOUNG PEOPLE**

You see, the old men dream dreams of what has been already; they ponder the glory years of the campaigns already fought and the battles already won. The "young men" (and, of course, "young women") see visions - visions of what is yet possible for their own generation if they put their hand to the plow and never look back.

Finally, in the long list of potential email confirmations from hundreds of various entries, are three that are strong confirmations of the title and message of this book. First, evangelist Todd Bentley,

an X'er himself in his twenties, wrote a fascinating message entitled, "Generation Miraculous." He contends, "I believe that Generation X is a parallel to Joshua and Caleb who tasted of the fruit of the vine and were no longer satisfied with unbelief but wanted the full destiny of God. It was in this move of the river that many X'ers were greatly impacted and saved. There have been a few of this generation to really abandon themselves to God and be a voice of revival; for whatever reason we only have the first-fruits. I was praying into the destiny of this generation and God said their purpose is the gospel with power miraculous. We will cross the Jordan, stir the church out of unbelief and make them hungry for what we tasted; God will release new preaching anointing and music with new songs being birthed out of heavenly experiences. We are crossing the Jordan into a new day."<sup>17</sup>

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The two final prophetic words directly confirm the title of this book, *Changing of the Guard*, which was named in 1995. They are two 'echo-type' confirmations of the voice of destiny in the following chapters. First, from Dave Bodine in May of 2000. "Yesterday I heard the Holy Spirit say, "divine realignment" and "changing of the guards." This is going to bring much change. Divine order will come forth... a holy fear will come once again upon the church of Jesus Christ."<sup>18</sup>

The second one comes from the fateful morning of September 11, 2001, when terrorism would forever shake the country of America. Phil Buckler, himself a Moses-style mentor to Generation X, was in an early morning prayer meeting at his church, and heard these words from the Spirit, "This is the changing of the guard. I am transforming the leadership in this country from the wicked to the righteous." Phil understood the application of this to include the political and social realms as well as the spiritual at the time, but the word the Lord gave him

is also a powerful confirmation of the title and message of this book. It is now high time for the change. The old must move over, and make room for the new. The Guard is changing.

It is time for us as the next generation to arise and go forth, for the Lord our God is with us. Moses is dead. "Now arise, and cross this Jordan." The key is, we must start now. Martin Luther's godly mentor, Spalatin, once counseled Luther on the importance of immediacy in making decisions and acting firmly upon them. He remarked to Luther, "Don't put off 'till tomorrow! By delay Hannibal lost Rome. By delay Esau forfeited his birthright. Christ said, 'Ye shall seek me, and ye shall not find.' Thus scripture, experience, and all creation testify that the gifts of God must be taken on the wing."<sup>19</sup>

Here's a summary of the key issues I feel God is wanting to bring to the forefront in this book. There are three main sections. The first contains the issues of who we are as a generation. It is visionary in aspect. I examine themes of: the attack of Satan upon previous generations which were unique in God's timetable, and his attack on this current generation through abortion, secularism, and the fatherless aspect of our generation. I look at the characteristics of our generation and how we respond to life. I quote various statistics from publications which give data necessary to understanding our generation, and also share some stories from church history who lived in parallel worlds of darkness like ours but decided to cast off the works of darkness and embrace the armor of light. I use inspiring historical examples of others God has used significantly. What Satan and man have planned for evil God will turn around for good. Our greatest weaknesses as a generation are also our greatest strengths.

The second section is geared toward Gen X'er's and also helpful to any of the "Moses Generation" who want to know who we are in light of our identity as being in The Father, and that, by the Spirit, the church herself is positioned by God to be our

“mother”. Too many in our generation have lacked the fullness of a father and mother figure, and the two chapters in this section shed light on our unique place as sons and daughters of the Almighty. I share various truths and weave them together from both scriptural and personal examples.

The third section is also more practical, with theme of living a radical lifestyle for Jesus in spite of the culture around us. The themes of character, apprenticeship and mentoring, responding to the call and going into ministry on any level are included. This section will also be helpful to those who are Moseses as it gives scriptural and historical examples of proper mentoring and apprenticing and what works and doesn't work in affecting our generation for the gospel.

I close the book with a challenge and then add some helpful resources in the appendixes. My aim is to introduce a number of themes and weave them together into this great vision of following Christ in a radical way in our generation, and how we are connected in the plan of God to usher in the very end of days. The other authors listed at the back have fuller resources available which teach and describe the themes covered more fully.

#### **A TORCH IS BEING PASSED TO LIGHT THE DARK PLACES**

As a final confirmation to the themes of this book, I will share a few quotes. Arnold Dallimore once wrote a special two-volume set on the life and times of evangelist George Whitefield. I write more about him in the third chapter of this book, as he was perhaps the best known household name of his own generation. He started preaching at age twenty-one, and blazed a trail of field preaching that hundreds followed in the next generation. Now long dead, his life and testimony continue. As you read this quote, please note that it applies to young men and young women alike and be stirred. Dallimore writes,

“Yea, this book is written in the desire—perhaps in a measure of inner certainty—that we shall see the great Head of the Church once more bring into being His special instruments of revival, that He will again raise up unto Himself certain young men and women whom He may use in this glorious employment. And what manner of men will they be? Those mighty in the majesty and holiness of God, and their minds and hearts aglow with the great truths of the doctrines of grace. They will be those who have learned what it is to die to self, to human aims and personal ambitions; those who are willing to be ‘fools for Christ’s sake,’ who will bear reproach and falsehood, who will labor and suffer, and whose supreme desire will be, not to gain earth’s accolades, but to win the Master’s approbation when they appear before His awesome judgment seat. They will be those who will preach with broken hearts and tear-filled eyes, and upon whose ministries God will grant an extraordinary effusion of the Holy Spirit, and who will witness ‘signs and wonders following’ in the transformation of multitudes of human lives.”<sup>20</sup>

Wow! The times in which we live demand a special response. The stakes are higher now; it is a life and death proposal for some. Who will take up the torch that is now passed to our generation? Who will stand in this wicked and perverse world, a world grown dark through dead formalistic religion and secular humanism, where anyone who rises above the status quo will be considered foolish and narrow-minded? Will you seek to exercise a fuller confidence in God’s word and His power than the previous generations? “Christians,” said Luther, “must have the vision which enables them to disregard the terrible spectacle and outward appearance, the devil and the guns of the whole world, and to see Him who sits on high and says: ‘I am the One who spoke to you.’”<sup>21</sup>

The Psalmist wrote, “Walk about Zion, and go around her; count her towers; consider her ramparts; go through her palaces; that you may tell it to

*the next generation." Psalm 48:12-13. I have been on a short walk around her towers, and what I have seen I will tell you now. It is only a portion of the bigger whole of what God is saying to His Church in these last days. Yet it is an important tower to enter and explore. Let each chapter be another level of this tower of the Lord's fortress of Zion, for you are the next generation and if you don't conquer the promised land as the Joshua and Caleb*

**WILL YOU SEEK TO EXERCISE A FULLER CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORD AND HIS POWER THAN THE PREVIOUS GENERATIONS?**

Generation, we'll have to wait another forty years of wandering in this wilderness.

As you read the following pages, consider,

Who among you, young and old, will be a flaming torch to dispel the darkness? Will you?...

—Reverend Carl Wesley Anderson, Jr., October 23, 2004.



SECTION THE FIRST

X MARKS THE SPOT

**X MARKS THE SPOT**

*“Once to every man and nation,  
Comes the moment to decide  
In the strife of truth with falsehood,  
For the good or evil side.”*

—James Russell



## GENERATION DESTRUCTION TO GENERATION XTREME

*"...and there arose another generation after them  
who did not know the Lord..." —Judges 2:10.*

In this opening section of three chapters, we have some "good news" and some "bad news." To get to the good, we have to take some time and read the bad. The bad consists of spiritual and natural attacks. Attacks of a sadistic enemy we know as Satan who hates the purposes of God (destined for our current generation) as accomplished at the cross of Jesus Christ. So this chapter will focus on the "bad news." The good is that God will yet be even greater glorified in reaping the harvest of the righteous among a generation that many have written off.

Perhaps the greatest attack on this current generation is the stigma attached to it. The stigma which says we are useless and have no particular purpose. In one sense, the attack on our generation to cause us to believe that we have no purpose is not new. The above scripture points to a similar generation as ours today. They are perhaps some of the most startling words in the scriptures. They are haunting. They echo down through the

corridors of time and drive home to our hearts and ears a truth: that it is possible for an entire generation to arise who 'know not the Lord'.

In it's simplest meaning, the text is a citation of the rebellion of an entire generation of Israelites, those who had descended from the loins of the men whom God had chosen to reveal Himself in glory and power in the exodus from Egypt and the days in the wilderness. These were the men and women who had experienced first-hand both the goodness and severity of the Lord. They had followed the godly leadership through Moses, and later Joshua, and were a part of His covenanted people whom He had chosen.

A part of me cries and mourns in agony over these people, who had experienced the One, True God, and yet had forsaken Him knowingly and deliberately. Another part of me bleeds with compassion, for except the Lord would have mercy on us, who among us could follow Him? Are we not the blind, the deaf, and in need of Him to initiate, to break in on our established, organized disorder we call our existence, to reveal to us the truth, and empower us to live it? However, there is a responsibility to the revelation which God brings. Although Israel was warned, they willingly disobeyed, and their children grew up with no moral guidelines, no restraint on wickedness, and no sense of destiny. Joshua, who had been mentored by Moses and trained and released in the ways of God, never took the time to mentor his replacement. There is no record of the leadership of his day teaching and imparting truth to the next generation. And so the book of Judges opens with those tragic words, *"...and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord."*

## GENERATION TO GENERATION

So what can we make of this, that will apply to our day and generation? Perhaps if we examine together the truth of this passage of scripture from the Old Testament in the context of the current

**WE HAVE LOST OUR  
HERITAGE AND GROWN  
COLD AND INDIFFERENT  
IN THE THINGS OF GOD**

world around us, then we can draw a parallel. Hemmingway, who wrote in the nineteen-fifties against the backdrop of a time when religion was becoming irrelevant, introduced the concept in his novel, *"The Sun Also Rises"* that society continues to ebb and flow in time as waters upon the seashore. He quoted the immortal book of Ecclesiastes which reminds us that with the rising and setting of the sun all continues just as it was, and "there is no new thing under the sun."

In the first section of the book, we want to set forth an intermingling of both the natural and spiritual causes of the issue at hand. I just mentioned that in one sense the attack of the enemy on our generation is not unique, that it happened in the days following Moses and Joshua; now let me spend a few pages from history to explain the opposite: that he knows by God's design that our generation **is unique** in the timetable of God's purpose and perhaps the final generation to usher in the return of Christ.

The issue is this: the generation that the world and the enemy has termed, "X" is the generation which will surpass the previous

generation in extreme passion for Christ and carrying the gospel forward. In the generation spoken of above, Satan had all but destroyed the witness of faith in God through man's free-will choices of idolatry. And according to Ecclesiastes, as Hemmingway discovered, there is no new thing, that is, in context, the battle between flesh and spirit, light and darkness, continues in our generation just as it had in the previous ones. However, there is a difference in our generation that has only occurred in a few others in history: and the difference is this: the enemy knows the destiny of this special generation, and is out to destroy it. This is quite a statement. Yet I believe the following chapters will substantiate it. We'll be looking at both spiritual and natural causes.

Let's begin with some visionary thoughts with spiritual roots. The business of destroying an entire generation, whose call and purpose are special in the eternal plans of God, is not a new thing. Indeed, as we shall learn next, it's been tried before.

If we were to look in a general way at the Old Testament, we could say that in essence, it is one great series of battles, where Satan, our enemy, is doing all he can to destroy that which is revealed by God and somehow stop the promised "Seed of Woman" from coming into the earth and destroying him and his works.

Back in Genesis 3, Satan successfully gained entrance and authority into the affairs of mankind by deceiving Eve and causing the fall of man in Adam and Eve's disobedience. Afterwards, he was prophetically given his sentence from the great Judge of all the earth. Somewhere, at some time, there was coming forth, born of woman, a promised seed who would "crush his head" Genesis 3:15.

So the Old Testament brings to us the warfare of souls, and the attempted destruction of the line of David from which the Promise was to come. See the children of Israel, sold into

bondage of slavery in Egypt; yet God sent Moses and Joshua to deliver them. See the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, choosing time and time again over one thousand years, to disobey the commands of God, eventually to be sold into

**THE RESULT OF ONE  
SEEMINGLY INSIGNIFICANT  
EVENT COULD CHANGE THE  
RESULTING HISTORY  
FOR ALL TIME**

Babylonian captivity; yet God in His mercy spares a remnant and they return to Jerusalem. See the silence of God for four hundred years between the testaments, where all of a sudden God begins to move again when the Jews are the subjects of scorn in the Roman Empire. He sends Jesus to the earth, and a mighty man named John the Baptist heralds His arrival. You need only read the genealogy of Jesus found in Matthew chapter 1 or Luke chapter 3 and study the history of each of the men listed there to see the awesome struggle of Satan's attempt to kill and destroy the seed of woman, and attempt to stop his own eventual downfall.

Out of all of Satan's destructive aims against the human race, God's word highlights two occasions of incredible spiritual warfare over a generation of young people.

Here is a new term for your vocabulary: nexus point. A nexus point is a term that modern-day science has attributed to a turning point in history: like a hinge on a door where mankind and her history stands in the balance, a point at which just one seemingly insignificant event could change the resulting history for all time.

We will now focus on three of those nexus points in history where Satan and his demonic forces have felt it necessary to destroy a generation of young people: one from the Old Testament, one from the New, and then the one this book is about: our current generation. We will call them "sagas" in history.

#### **GENERATION DESTRUCTION:**

##### **SAGA ONE: 'THE CASTAWAYS'**

The first of these hinge-points in dealing with the destruction of an entire generation was during the time of the captivity in Egypt, where the promised seed, who were the generations following the death of their father Joseph, were tormented, afflicted, and by order of Pharaoh, put to death. If you were to pull back the flesh-and-blood curtain and look at it in terms of the realm of the Spirit, it was Satan's attempt to kill the coming deliverer of the children of Israel. He knew there would be a man coming to bring the people out, and he tried to stop it.

Exodus begins with a king who feared the Hebrew people, and desired to put to death any son born.

*"Then Pharaoh commanded all his people saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive." Exodus 1:22*

Satan knew from a prophecy that God had given Abraham, in Genesis that God would somehow deliver His people out of the captivity of Egypt. He also knew that if he could destroy the Hebrews, he could destroy the chance for the one born who would some day destroy him. Out of these "castaways" came forth Moses and Joshua, and deliverance for the people.

#### **GENERATION DESTRUCTION: SAGA TWO:**

##### **"THEY WERE NO MORE"**

The second of these hinge points of all-out attack on a generation of young occurred at the time of the first-coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. After His humble birth the wise men from the East come to worship Him, and alert Herod to His appearance on the earth. Herod immediately orders the death of all males under the age of two. Matthew's gospel describes the painful event:

*"Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its environs, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi. Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, 'A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and she refused to be comforted, because they were no more.'" Matthew 2:16-18.*

What bloodshed! What massive spiritual warfare was taking place in the heavenlies over the birth of the promised Savior! Imagine the incredible carnage, the innocent victims slain and buried because of Satan's attempt to destroy the Seed which would soon destroy him. He is crazy - a liar, a thief, and a murderer. And he knows his time is short as a result of his failure to destroy the mighty Lamb some two thousand years ago.

#### **GENERATION DESTRUCTION:**

##### **SAGA THREE: 'THE TIME IS RIGHT NOW'**

The third saga, or hinge point of history, we will examine for the purposes of this book is the saga of our current generation. Basically from this point forward we are examining closer this whole theme.

We who are young people today are really mixed up. It's not just the external pressures we see in the natural of our culture around us. It goes deeper. It's not even just the internal pressures we experience because of our age. Ephesians 6 chronicles for us the truth that we are in a constant warfare, wrestling not *"against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."* Ephesians 6:12.

Unseen with natural eyes, yet more real than that which we see in the natural, there is a battle raging right now. Over your home, over your family, over your job, over your school, over your neighborhood, city, region, and nation there is a battle raging. Angels and demons, forces of light and darkness, strongholds of truth and falsehood: these are just a few words to describe it.

The book of Revelation does a great job in pulling together this truth of the spiritual realm and the battle of the ages raging even now: the first half, or chapters 1-11, pictures the struggle on earth and the resulting persecution of the Church by the world. The second half, or chapters 12-22, pulls back the veil and gives us insight into the spiritual realm, and what is taking place there to cause the problems and persecutions of the Church in the world. It shows the struggle of Satan and his helpers vs. the saints and their Champion, Jesus Christ.

The point is: there is a special battle being fought right now as you read these words. It is a battle for an entire generation of millions of young people. The spiritual causes being explained, let's turn our focus for a few pages to some statistics and realities of what has happened in the natural realm the past thirty or forty years to shape our generation.

## ALL IS RIGHT IN OUR OWN EYES

Earlier in the chapter we discussed Satan's attack on the young - destroying babies and infants. And when he's not able to wipe out the baby before birth, he goes into action to war against the babies' very life as that baby struggles to grow into a young person and then an adult. We read in Revelation 12 symbolically of how the great red dragon stands ready to devour the child, the child destined to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. The child is caught up to God and to His throne and soon after, a war in the heavenly realm takes place. The red dragon is thrown down into the earth, along with his followers, and proceeds to spend his time making war with the relatives of the baby who,

**NEVER IN THE HISTORY OF  
MANKIND HAS A  
GENERATION  
FALLEN SO HARD, SO FAST**

*"keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus."  
Revelation 12:17.*

That Child is Jesus Himself, the red dragon is Satan, and the offspring of the woman is the church: us. If abortion can't kill the promise, then the flood of satanic influences upon the culture can assist in doing it. Never in the history of mankind has a generation of youth fallen so hard, so fast.

I remember when I was a kid attending the public schools. We didn't have any signs up on the walls declaring: "Don't do Drugs," "Just Say No," "Don't Smoke," "Practice Safe Sex," or any such material. My classmates and I were pretty harmless in

the mid-seventies in our sheltered suburban America. The worst shock I ever had was in the sixth grade when I espied a female, rebellious classmate smoking a cigarette after class one day. Other than this, I lived in a rather sheltered condition. Boys would smoke, of course, but a girl smoking was true rebellion!

Although around me things began to change. A whole new concept came to our elementary school when I was entering the sixth grade. The concept was "latch-key kids". It was sort-of an early form of daycare for young mothers who were poor and had to work. When I, at the age of twelve, had both a loving mother and father to go home to, these young kids, at ages two and three, had only a poor, single mom to go home to. In fact statistics show that between 1965 and 1977, the divorce rate doubled. More than 40% of today's young adults had spent time in a single-parent home by age sixteen.<sup>22</sup>

My parents taught me basic moral values, based on the Holy Scriptures and values that their generation had taught them, which I adhered to and still do: stay pure for marriage, don't participate in drugs or alcohol, tell the truth, treat others with respect, pray, and believe in yourself. Yet these basic moral teachings were slowly disappearing from homes and schools all over the country even as they were being taught to me.

I still remember a time in my fifth-grade public school classroom at Hopi Elementary School in Scottsdale, Arizona. The year was 1980, and my teacher was a deep, special woman, who had us all proclaim, "I pledge allegiance to the flag" each morning and then bow our heads for a moment of silent prayer before classes started. But those times soon vanished at the turning of the tide of new legislature which banned prayer in schools in any fashion as initiated by the instructor.

Soon came the concepts of video arcades and home video games, VCRs, M-TV, home video rentals, punk and acid rock music, and

later rap, drug deals at school, increased teen violence, teen pregnancy, and AIDS. There were no "AIDS awareness" teachings or programs before I had reached my junior year of high school in 1986. It was just becoming known then and caused a great deal of fear. The concept of the 'gang' began to replace the family unit as the place of formation of young people. Gay/lesbian and women's rights began to come into play in wider extent around the nation. Other forces which shaped our generation were: homelessness, downsizing and corporate layoffs, soaring national debt, the Iran-Contra scandal, the Challenger explosion, fear of holes in the ozone layer, fear of bankrupt social security, and faces of missing children on milk cartons.

Within my twelve years of basic education, from about the mid-seventies until the late eighties, it seemed the whole world had been turned upside down, and reality was changing by the hour. We were slipping silently away as a generation.

I lived and grew in a time of innocence. Now that time is gone.

### THE END OF THE INNOCENCE

When I was in the tenth grade our family uprooted and moved away from the home we had been in for almost five years to a mid-size town in north-central Minnesota.

It was a new environment for me. There would be new friends to make, new teachers, new subjects. Throughout my school years, I found it difficult to make new friends, and this was no exception. For several months I didn't meet anybody to really "hang out" with. Then one day, Brian Dufour and I crossed paths. We were the same age and shared similar interests. Once I played a song on our high school radio program for him and his girlfriend, and soon we became friends. Somehow he found

all my silly jokes quite humorous. He had a laugh and a smile a mile wide that none could forget. He was a great kid.

After school was out that year we had more time to hang out. He took me golfing, and oh! I was a terrible golfer! But he hung in there with me. Then there was the dreaded driver's test. My sixteenth birthday was approaching, and we would spend much time on the phone together, as he had just gotten his driver's license and he was giving me all of the tips I'd need to get mine.

Late that summer, our family had to move back to Minneapolis because our house wasn't selling. We had to live in it until it was sold, so Brian and I parted ways. Half-way through that year, I lost touch with him and most of the other students up there. One day I came home from school, and my mom announced that one of my classmates had committed suicide.

"Do you know their name?"

"No. I just heard that one of the juniors committed suicide. It was a young man."

Several weeks passed, and I still remember the moment that I heard the news. It was my friend Brian. He had committed suicide.

Apparently he and his girlfriend had been having problems, and also he and his brother. One morning, trying to patch things up, in a desperate attempt he went to her house. There was an argument, and he walked out into his car and shot himself through the skull. That was the end of Brian Dufour.

And that was the end of my innocence. Death was staring me in the face. The Bible tells us that *"the last enemy to be abolished is death"* (I Corinthians 15:26). It had taken away my friend Brian, never to return him again. Death is real. It is cold and hard and real. And: it doesn't play fair.

Or should I say that Satan doesn't play fair? This is the truth - and I urge you to wake up to it - the enemy is after your life - he's after you and he's after me.

This point was made real to me by an incident that happened on a recent ministry trip to Orlando, Florida. I had just finished preaching at a meeting, and was tired and hungry. The facilities were rented and had to be cleaned up before we left. I got impatient and anxious. I guess my humanity was getting the best of me.

Finally, after what seemed like an endless delay, we left the building. Just outside, we were delayed five more minutes by the pastor speaking to somebody. As we got into the van and were headed down the interstate, we had to slow down because of an accident by the side of the road. Apparently, the accident had just happened, and only one police car was there. The ambulance was on its way but hadn't yet arrived. As we slowed down, I was the only one in our van to get a real good look at the accident site. A small car stood smashed in the front, with the windshield blown apart.

It must have been a head-on collision. I'll never forget what my eyes beheld next. In front of the smashed-up vehicle lay the body of a young woman. Blood streamed on the ground, matching the color of her red-checked dress. The top half of her was covered only by a blanket. She was dead. Killed instantly being thrown through the windshield of her car.

A shudder went right through me as we passed by on into the night. Sometime during that fateful night, an officer would be visiting the home of that young woman and informing her parents of the tragedy. For her, life had come to a sudden halt. No longer would she be around to experience life. Hers had ended, like a match being suddenly blown out. The pastor asked what I had seen. The image of

her body flashed vividly in my mind. I couldn't speak. Just then the thought struck.

What if our van hadn't been delayed those five minutes?

The accident had only just taken place; perhaps it was an attack and was meant for us? Perhaps Satan was out to kill us, and it could have been our van laying smashed on the side of the road.

I didn't sleep well that night, as I thought about it. It was another end of my innocence. The reality of life and death had struck home again, and I would never be the same. There are many in our generation who have only felt the hopelessness but never the loving arms of a tender Savior; who have been killed in accidents or other ways without hope.

On December 7, 1941, there was peace and quiet surrounding the US Naval Base in Hawaii. When suddenly, early in the morning, there appeared a massive radar blip on the screen. Hundreds of planes from the Japanese armed forces swooped over at breakneck speed, opening fire and dropping a barrage of bombs, killing and wounding many soldiers and causing America to enter the war to end all wars.

I recently heard a radio broadcast which declared, "This fateful day marked for America the end of her age of innocence..." And this is where we are today.

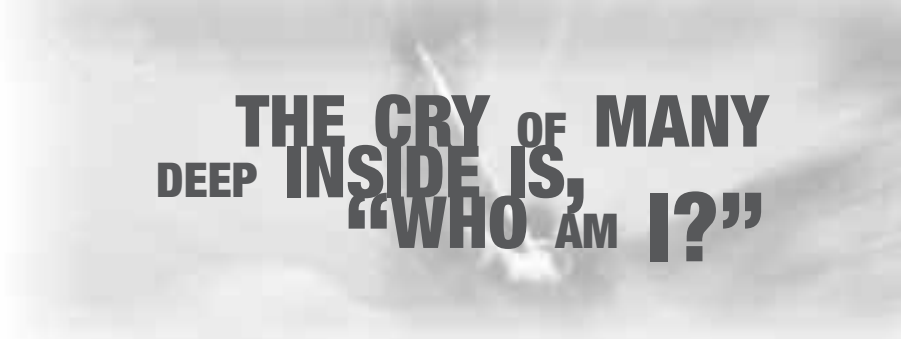
Yes, Satan is after you and me. But let's take it a step further: he's after our entire generation.

#### **CULTURAL BACKDROP OF OUR AGE: THERE IS NO KING IN ISRAEL**

Let's travel back in a time machine for just a moment to get an over-arching view which will help us in the discovery of the

roots and causes of life in our generation. It is interesting to trace the history of intellectual thought over the past five hundred years. As a people who used to be shaped by the Bible, we have taken some serious downward spirals. Most scholars of history can agree upon three phases of change of thought which have affected us in our current generation.

First, the late medieval era, from about 1000 A.D. to 1530 A.D. This is termed, "Theonomous" meaning, "the law of God." Basically, the desire for the will of God to be accomplished influenced much of society, government, and family life. Culture in the West was shaped by language which emphasized God and put His law and will at the center of existence. Next came what is known as the, "modern era," from about 1530 A.D. to 1885 A.D. This is termed, "Autonomous" meaning, "the law of the self." Basically, every-



**THE CRY OF MANY  
DEEP INSIDE IS,  
"WHO AM I?"**

thing in culture began to shift until the attitude of life centered around the theme, "what does this have to do with me?" The law of a particular group became most important....the "me, myself, and I" attitude prevailed in shaping society. The third era, of which we find ourselves in now, is termed the, "post-modern era," dating from about 1885 A.D. to the present day. It can be termed, "Anomos" meaning, "without law," a world without law, kind of like the scripture reference we began this section with, "in those days there was no king in Israel, and there arose a people who knew not

the Lord." People in our generation as a whole, and especially young adults, don't know who they are. Diversity is the accepted norm and there are no absolutes or standards by which to base one's own existence. The cry of many deep inside is, "who am I?"

Our world has grown up with many a tare sown among the wheat, many a truth mixed with a half-truth, and many a compromise with the world and how the culture around us thinks and acts. In short, we have been left with a generation of no moral absolutes, one which preaches its own gospel that whatever philosophical brand of belief you subscribe to becomes your salvation. Our educational system has become one which has left God out of the equation and stresses individualism and selfishness. Hemmingway's conclusion left him to live a life of continual compromise of moral standards, and then to die in alcoholism and sheer loneliness.

Life has become filled with self, and selfishness runs rampant. Not that it always hasn't, but the Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, gives us a picture of a re-focusing of love in the end times. Count the number of times the word love is used in this passage and the way in which it is used: *"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..." 2 Timothy 3:1-4.* There are five indictments on man in the end times listed in this scripture: lovers of self, lovers of money, unloving, haters of good (lovers of wickedness), and lovers of pleasure. To sum up the thought, the focus is on the love of everything it seems except God. RATHER THAN "lovers of God, men become, "lovers of self," like a universal tea party:

"I had a little tea party,  
One afternoon at three;  
'Twas very small, three guests in all,  
Just I, myself, and me.  
Myself ate up the sandwiches,  
While I drank up the tea,  
'Twas also I who ate the pie  
And passed the cake to me."

—*anonymos*

#### A FIELD WITH NO BOUNDARIES

On the natural side of things, Satan has done an effective job in labeling our generation. Douglas Copeland coined the term, "Generation X" in his book by the same name in 1991. It is a tale of languid youths musing over "mental ground zero – the location where one visualizes oneself if an atomic bomb was dropped. He capsulated our generation with the stigmata of hopelessness. What he failed to realize in his secular book was that there are spiritual causes and effects of sin and lawlessness in the culture which have created the monster. On a recent Voice of America broadcast in Europe it was reported that the X'rs are "lazy, they watch too much TV, they're overwhelmed from the demands of life, their standard of living is lower than their parents, and they have no identity."<sup>23</sup>

Ron Hutchcraft, who travels the country holding seminars on relating the gospel to culture and making it relevant, recently shared in a conference that in today's world, people are "playing on a field with no boundaries. There is no sense of violation." And because our gospel no longer cuts to the hearts of our hearers, the individual sees no relevance for Christ...a savior is not needed if you've nothing to be saved from.

According a book by George Barna, "Generation X can be described as being: 1. serious about life because they have been exposed to too much too early, 2. stressed out due to all the fast moving changes in the world, 3. self-reliant due to so many of the institutions of the world that have let them down, including family and government, 4. highly "spiritual" because they have drawn the conclusion that there must be more to life than the natural things, so they are open to the supernatural realm, and, 5. survivors, in other words, able to accept what is while longing for more."<sup>24</sup>

"We are handicapped and unable to bring about the changes that are longed for," writes David Plaistad, "We see the need but are unable to prescribe the cure. Though many are not able to identify why they are struggling we are aware that we are missing something. We long for intimacy in relationship but find ourselves too afraid of being vulnerable. The result is that we fail at maintaining any relationship of depth."<sup>25</sup>

Statistics gathered in research in the mid-nineties from Glen Charles, a director of a Youth With A Mission base in Wisconsin, reveal more truth about our generation. "In the 1990's," Glen writes, "70-80% of teenagers are sexually active, and the average young person spends eighty hours each week listening to rock and roll or watching M-TV. In the 1950's, the structure for the youth was ranked in this manner:

1. Church
2. Government
3. Parents
4. School
5. Friends

In the 1970's, when I was growing up, church authority dropped to 3. Now in the 1990's and beyond, here are the statistics,

1. Peers
2. School
3. Media
4. Parents
5. Government"<sup>26</sup>

Does this sound the least bit shocking? Because of the breakdown of the family structure, the complacency and spreading liberality of the church, and the drive of the media, the authority which is supposed to be respected and followed in the family unit and in the government is lacking. Roles have been completely and utterly reversed. We now are living in a generation where "anything goes" as in the days of Judges, *"There was no king in Israel, and each man did that which was right in his own eyes"* Judges 2:10.

Peers have replaced the Church as the place where morals and character and respect for authority is formed. One example of this is the concept of gangs, who have sprung up in the poor, inner-city regions because of the breakdown of the family. According to Carroll Thompson, teacher at Christ For The Nations in Dallas, Texas, there are three basic life-structures of support by which we are given peace: the family unit, the church, and the society we live in (or government). A breakdown in any of these areas causes a crack in the individual, and he/she must find another avenue for the formation of their life. In a following chapter of this book we will discuss the implications of the "fatherless generation" which we have around us and God's mighty counterpart in becoming a Father to all who would call upon Him through relationship with His Son.

In general, there is widespread rebellion against authority. In one sense, there is nothing new here, ever since the fateful day, documented in Genesis 4:9, when wicked Cain rose up and slew righteous Abel, we have seen rebellion in the earth. Indeed, the "mark of Cain" exists everywhere, as men and women roam

about the earth, driven from the presence of their Creator, asking the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The resounding answer from society is "No!" The resounding answer from Almighty God is "Yes!"

*"...just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."*  
Romans 1:28-32.

Quite a list, yet the same conditions exist today as when Paul composed his epistle to the church at Rome.

If you want to hear the heartbeat of a generation, just listen to its music. Music is an expression of the soul. Just listen to the secular lyrics sung through the fleshly prophets of our generation, which speak of hopelessness, death, relational problems, family breakdowns. Much of the rap coming out right now is sensual, devilish, and filled with a poor choice of vocabulary.

Curt Cobane, a rock-star/drug-addict who sang the blues of this generation in his haunting parables of a lost world, recently committed suicide, and half-a-million disillusioned teenagers gathered at his estate and stayed there three days during his funeral and burial.

If you desire to see the rebellion, just look at the graffiti which surrounds you. It has taken over the inner cities like a plague.

I will say it again: there has thus arisen a generation of wanderers. On a recent ministry trek across Western Europe, I noticed

them everywhere I went. On the trains, the ships, the busses, the subways, the street corners were young people, traveling about, perhaps "in search of themselves." Many wearing backpacks, and those whom I spoke with, lost.

In his book, *Between Two Worlds*, preacher John R.W. Stott gives a startling continuance of this truth:

Seldom if ever in its long history has the world witnessed such a self-conscious revolt against authority...What seems new today, however, is both the world-wide scale of the revolt and the philosophical arguments with which it is sometimes buttressed. There can be no doubt that the twentieth century has been caught up in a global revolution, epitomized in the two World Wars. The old order is giving place to anew. All the accepted authorities (family, school, university, State, Church, Bible, Pope, God) are being challenged. Anything which savors of 'establishment', that is, of entrenched privilege or unassailable power, is being scrutinized and opposed...

In economics it (this generation) protests against the exploitation of the poor and against the new social servitude, slavery to the consumer market and to the machine. In industry it (this generation) protests against the class confrontation between management and unions, and calls for a greater measure of responsible participation for the workers. In education it (this generation) protests against indoctrination, the misuse of the classroom to bend the malleable minds of the young into predetermined shapes, and calls instead for young people to develop their own personal potential."<sup>27</sup>

It was said of Cain, who rejected brotherhood within his own family by slaying Abel, "You shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." Genesis 4:12.

So goes the cycle. Separated from God, pronounced guilty in the judgment of God against them, sentenced thus to wander in search of truth and always to come up empty are our own youth. What then is the third of these points in history? Could it be perhaps that you and I are living in it right now? Is this the time of the end, where Satan is using all his tactics in order to destroy a generation? If so, why? Let's examine even deeper the downfall of these past twenty or so years and see if we can find an answer.



## HARVESTING THE FIELDS OF THE FATHERLESS

*"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set..." Proverbs  
22:28 KJV*

*"And they will be mine," says the Lord of hosts, "on the day that I  
prepare my own possession, and I will have compassion on them as a man  
spares his own son who serves him." Malachi 3:17.*

*"The strength of a nation lies in the homes of its people."  
—Abraham Lincoln*

In the following chapter the theme of the fatherless, relationship-less generation will be more fully developed. We are a generation of fatherless sons and daughters. Tips will also be given for the Moses' out there who desire to spend their energy in building relationships with our culture and harvest the fields of the fatherless. Finally, we'll look God's way of redeeming the fatherless generation through raising up vision to grab ahold of the previous generation's anointing and bring it into the present with a new expression, as well as the scriptural warrant in these days for the Moses' and Joshua's to join hand in hand and work