



A Word from The Lord for 2018

This year, 2018, is a new year. Not just a new year in time, but a year for the new. It is much like the passing of a long winter into a fresh spring and summer. While the land location may be the same, things that looked dead or bygone will spring forth with new life. The roots of these healthy endeavors are deep and established, but the growth, the branches, have been trimmed back to maintain health and allow for new growth. The burning of the trimmings are not painful or hard- they are cause for a joyous bonfire about the good of it all. The branches are not gone, My friend, they are groomed for better production and more glorious living. Though much internally is still the same, the outside will appear fresh, renewed, and revitalized. This is good! There is a quiet glory about this tree.. Much like a rare species that was suddenly discovered to be precious. Once misunderstood and slated to doom, now treasured and preserved for its rarity! As in the days of Mordecai the Jew; this breed will be known for its value and distinction. It has been planted purposefully in just the right spot for proper display. Much of its establishment in the Earth has gone unnoticed, yet there it is- in full splendor! Only God can make a tree! We can study them from seed to sapling- but His awesome creation and growth process cannot be done without Him. And so it is with His people and their seasons. We are designed to grow where He plants us, and will ever endure the process of change and flourishing.

As in the days of Esther, this is a year for special petitions. We have an open door of communication to our Father, yet this time is different. There is a fresh realm of possibilities being opened for such a time as this. The people of God have been strategically prepared and then placed in position, and will be given favorable opportunities to speak special requests for themselves. The normal chain of command will be in place, but the process for receiving their audience will be supernaturally arranged and welcomed. This is a time for a great refreshing and rejoicing. Esther's path to petition the king for her people's lives was extraordinary. And yet she came to the day when she stood before King Ahasuerus to make unscheduled requests. We know that God had been positioning her all along, and His hand was upon her. For Esther, this appointment came as a "suddenly" in response to eminent danger. Through the wise counsel of Mordecai and the steps of obedience and honor of Esther, the Jews were not only saved from death but were given the right to fight, plunder, and prosper. Even today, Purim is a time they celebrate this victory. There was such a turning of events in Esther's story, and so it is with 2018. Where it has either looked like or been declared death and failure we shall recognize awesome opportunities to prevail and prosper. A scepter of favor and unique distinction is being held out in front of us, for the taking. Unheard of opportunities, positions, and turning of events are being offered before us- to handle with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the honor of God Almighty. They will stand out to us in years to come as "the day it all changed" and "the Golden Year". The time when pure gold emerged from a fiery mess and marked the fate and prosperity of God's people, privately and publicly.

Hidden positioning revealed as an opportunity for promotion...Honor breeding influence...Bad reports converted to open triumphs...Preparation rewarded...Marked change in status...

- Rev. Tamara E. Nichols