

Tom Hare // Day of Seeking Presentation:

“Knowledge of the Promises of God” (prophetic promises re: CLE/NE Oh)

(Drawing from Revelations 1-3)

I. Introduction:

One of the driving forces that has motivated believers & leaders alike to have hope, lean into intercession, and engage in Citywide Church efforts in NE Ohio has been a series of higher profile prophetic proclamations about God’s higher purpose for God’s people in this region.

Following is a sampling of some unique aspects of NE Ohio and some prophetic promises of which many believers have become aware over the past couple decades.

II. A Few Early Historical References / Events:

A. Earlier American History snippets:

Three early American figures from the 1780s are tied to statements about NE Ohio:

George Washington, reportedly described the region as “the heart of the nation” and further stated that “where the Cuyahoga River joins Lake Erie shall arise a community of vas importance.” (Possible roots of Ohio slogan chosen in 1984 by Ohio Dept. of Tourism: “The Heart of it All.” Some sources say the name chosen because state “looked kind of like a heart.”) **Ben Franklin** also has a statement attributed to him about the area & reportedly said: “Here should grow an important American city.” And lastly, **John Heckewelder** – a Moravian Missionary who worked with the Indians & did church planting in Ohio – reputedly spoke prophetically in the Cuyahoga River Valley and said that a city of great importance would arise here. (Drawn from Booklet: *Cleveland: The City of God’s Dreams*. Note: I was NOT able to independently verify these attributions.

B. Some Early Spiritual History Pieces of interest re: NE Ohio to the 1920s:

1. Early on Greater Cleveland was divided between Ohio city on the West bank of the Cuyahoga River, and Cleveland (officially founded by Moses Cleveland in July 1796) was on the East bank. These two cities joined to become one Greater Cleveland in 1854).

2. Cleveland was established by the Connecticut Land Company as a commercial venture, and never had much of a religious foundation as some other cities. In June 1819, the Union Sunday School began meeting, and on September 19, 1820, fifteen Clevelanders, some 10% of the then-village’s population, signed a charter officially establishing the congregation that became the Old Stone Presbyterian Church. The Old Stone Church is the oldest building on Public Square.

3. In 1833, Oberlin Collegiate Institute opened its doors with 30 students. It became an early center of a training institution that combined practical and ministry training, opened it’s doors equally to Blacks, Caucasians, men and women, and was at the cutting edge of anti-slavery proclamation. By 1837 Charles Finney was deeply engaged ministering at Oberlin, and became college President in 1852.

4. In 1839 the first dozen or so Jewish families formed the Cleveland Israelitic Society, with its first synagogue on Eagle Street (fka Jacobs Field, now Progressive Field).

5. The 1st Great Awakening had minimal impact on the area, but the 2nd Great Awakening brought a number of reform movements into the Cleveland area focusing on the poor, temperance (anti-alcohol) and slavery. By 1845, the number of protestant congregations grew from 3 to 12, to 34 by 1860. In 1847, the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland was created with about 10,000 Catholics, with their first seminary opening in 1848. *It was reported that the Prayer Revival of 1857-1859 saw upwards of 2,000 / day congregating for intercession in Cleveland.*

By 1860, Cleveland was regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the nation with a population of about 40,000, with almost half of those immigrants. Rapid growth ensued over the next several decades. By 1870 Cleveland had nearly 100,000 residents and was the 15th largest American city. By the 1930s Cleveland proper was over 900,00 and the 3rd largest city in America, only behind New York and Chicago.

6. In 1872, a unique prophetic event took place with the arrival of the Salvation Army from England for the 1st time on American soil. A Salvation Army missionary by the name of James Jeremy located in Cleveland. He linked arms with another Cleveland resident, a black man by the name of James Fackler. Through the united efforts of these 2 James “brothers” a revival broke out. The work exhausted these men, and when a request for help to General Booth in England - which request was denied. The work folded. In 1880 the SA launched a new outreach to Philadelphia, and date their continuous existence in the US to that date.

7. In 1885 until 1920 summer revival meetings began to be held at Beulah Park (now Euclid Beach) in Cleveland. A.B. Simpson (C&MA) conducted many of these meetings that had a great revival impact in the region. In 1921, the Cleveland property was sold and Beulah Beach moved to Vermilion, Ohio – where many “spiritually weighty events” took place during the late 1980s -1990s with the Christian Leadership Alliance leadership unity movement out of NE Ohio.

8. The Azusa Street Revival (1906) that impacted the world came to NE Ohio as well. It seems that the oldest “Pentecostal” congregation formed in the region sprang from the Christian Messiah Alliance Church (C&MA – founded 1892) that became “re-branded” as the First Assembly of God Church in 1911.

9. In 1911 a notable “unity” movement emerged in Cleveland called “The Federated Churches of Cleveland. This organization reportedly grew to nearly 500 churches working together by 1922! Seeing the whole city as their responsibility, these churches worked together on many joint projects, and engaged in an evangelism effort that claimed to see over 10,000 new members added to these churches. They also saw the closure of the segregated vice district and introduced Bible studies to public schools.

III. Some Spiritual History Snippets of NE Ohio from 1970s to Present:

(Admittedly, I do not have much information for the period of the 1930s – 1980s, although doubtless God was at work in various ways in the region.)

A. Certainly three major NE Ohio events during this time period occurred in the 1970s:
The first of these was the visit of Billy Graham to Cleveland in 1972 to host a Gospel Crusade.

Second, in 1973 the prayer organization known as Intercessors for America was launched, and it has become a global organization focused on prayer and intercession.

The other major event during this period was the explosion of the charismatic movement among the Catholic community across the US, including in Cleveland in the mid to late 1970s, when hundreds of Catholic believers began experiencing the “Baptism of the Holy Spirit.” Over the next decade many of these “renewed” believers matriculated into many Pentecostal and independent charismatic and evangelical churches.

B. The mid to late 1980s saw the earliest emergence of prophetic insights concerning Cleveland:

1. In the spring of 1985, a seasoned older prophetic minister (Laddie McDonough from Arkansas) proclaimed to a small group of leaders in Cleveland Heights that he had a vision that he saw of a wave coming from the East that then illuminated a crescent hi-lighting NE Ohio, which then burst into a fire of revival all across Ohio, ... and that God was going to impact the city through leaders banding together.

2. In October 1985 a gathering was called that engaged representatives from 40 area churches to have a week of round-the-clock prayer on the 18th floor of the Holiday Inn, Lakeside called “Quake on the Lake.” (In January 1986, 3 months later, Cleveland experienced a 5.0 earthquake which many believed was a spiritual sign that God was going to shake things in Cleveland.)

C. Three years later, in April 1988, two unity-focused pastors’ groups spontaneously emerged in the same month, just days apart, although both formed without any knowledge of each other’s existence: The groups were the mostly suburban (primarily Anglo) Christian Leadership Alliance (CLA) - the fore-runner organization of HarvestNet, and the (primarily Black) United Pastors in Mission (UPiM).

E. Additional prophetic proclamations occurred through the 1980s – 1990s amplifying God’s sovereign purpose for the citywide Church in Cleveland by various proven, tested and mature prophetic voices over the ensuing decade. Some examples are:

1. Beginning in 1989 through a connection at a conference by a number of leaders in the CLA with the emerging prophetic movement out of Kansas City (Mike Bickle, et al), one of the earliest extensive prophetic proclamations about what God was beginning to do in Cleveland was given to a group of 12 NE Ohio leaders by prophets Bob Jones, James Goll and Francis Frangipane. It was referred to as the Psalm 18 prophecy which spoke of the emergence of the “Cleveland Brotherhood” that would be foundational to revival, would be able to withstand great persecution, would witness the rise of a (corporate) apostolic man, and be engaged in a coming harvest. Additional insights were gleaned during the following 12 months regarding spiritual warfare/opposition in Cleveland / NE Ohio via the context for Psalm 18 which is I Sam. 21:15-22 & II Sam.22. (Note: Complete transcript of this prophecy is available.)

2. Also in 1989, another respected prophetic historian (Rick Joyner) reported a vision in his Morningstar Journal that he saw 12 cities in the U.S. that would become strategic centers representing various streams of the Church, but that one of the areas was not really a city, but a whole state: Ohio.

3. In September of 1991, over Yom Kippur as it turned out, a 3-day Prayer & Fasting Solemn Assembly was hosted by the CLA at Beulah Beach attended by 84+ pastors from NE Ohio. Many quite extra-ordinary things transpired at that Solemn Assembly (including a pastor who had a vivid dream showing a Billy Graham

Crusade to come to Browns Stadium in Cleveland, filled to capacity with young people – which came to pass 3 years later in 1994, after which Browns Stadium was torn down!). One other very unusual prophetic event that also happened was when a prophetic brother from Kansas City showed up (James Goll) for the Solemn Assembly. At a certain point, he stood up and called out another aged prophetic man (Laddie McDonough) who also happened to have shown up. He was the same minister who had given the 1985 prophecy about a revival crescent in NE Ohio and the banding together of leaders to impact the city, and in turn would impact the state). Then, James Goll proceeded to prophetically describe in stunning detail a vision that he (James) was seeing a vision of Laddie receiving a vision from God – and it was the identical one verbatim to what I had heard Laddie McDonough share years before.

4. An unusual move of the Holy Spirit called “The Toronto Blessing or Outpouring” began in January of 1994, during which one of the primary prophetic voices of that movement, Marc DuPont of the Toronto Airport Vineyard Church proclaimed: “The Ohio Valley will be the first region in the United States to experience wholesale, end-time revival.”

5. More of a prophetic action than a prophecy per se was the 1997 a citywide “Trumpet Call” 40 Day Fast which was called in NE Ohio to seek God’s Face and “break up the fallow ground” of our hearts. It was participated in by 120+ churches from across the region and beyond, and participate in by children to adults. Many experienced fresh guidance and insights from the Lord, significant Kingdom advancement, and an expanding and deepening relational networking amongst leaders in the Body of Christ. (Some also believe it created the seedbed for the transition of the CLA to birth HarvestNet.)

6. In 1998 another very significant (and since well-publicized) prophetic word was spoken at an area conference by a respected teacher-prophet from the UK (Southampton) named Graham Cooke. He shared what became know as “Cleveland, the Church of God’s Dream.” (NOTE: The full transcript of this prophetic proclamation is available through many sources.)

Also in 1998, the Intercessors for America organization celebrated their 25th Anniversary in Cleveland. George Otis Sr., an 85+ yr. old patriarch showed up unannounced and not on the program. Invited to the lectern to honor him, Otis Sr. suddenly spoke prophetically to say that “God was going to make Cleveland, Ohio the spiritual capital of the United States.” (Attested to personally by Rachel Hare / HarvestNet and Mike Noble / Cleveland House of Prayer who were both in attendance and heard the proclamation.)

7. Additional Body of Christ unifying events occurred in NE Ohio during the 1990s:

i) This included several cross-denominational “Concerts of Prayer” which were held under the leadership of David Bryant (Concerts of Prayer Int’l) at the huge IX Center at Cleveland Hopkins Airport. These concerts of prayer drew several thousand people to cry out to God together.

ii) During the same period, Marches for Jesus were held in Cleveland with thousands of Christians from all across NE Ohio marching from various points to the very central Cleveland Public Square in massive celebrations of outdoor praise and worship “for an audience of ONE.”

8. Then, in July 2000 at the beginning of the 21st century, matured prophet James Goll stated the following: “The Lord’s glorious presence remains brooding over the greater Cleveland-Akron region. Authentic apostolic

Christianity shall come forth from this city as it will be an example of ‘networking across the many streams’ to flow into one great river. A heart of unity expressed through passionate worship, extravagance to the poor, and outreach to the diverse international people are major keys to reaching this region with the Gospel of the kingdom.”

9. In 2001, in response to the 911 terrorist attacks, one final major citywide prayer event was again held at the Cleveland IX Center. It was called “The NE Ohio Call to Prayer” and it drew together leaders and people from over 200 area congregations for a huge prayer rally to entreat the Lord for mercy on our country in the aftermath of the 911 attacks.

10. In the early 2000s (2004), Dr. Henry Blackaby, a Southern Baptist minister with 4 honorary doctorates spoke at the “United Heart Cry for Revival” conference at the Cleveland Convention Center on “Experiencing God.” While presenting in the main evening plenary session, Dr. Blackaby spoke of how he had become personally convinced that a sweeping, reviving move of God was coming to America, and, he said, “I believe it is going to start in Cleveland.”

11. Finally, in October of 2005 in Cincinnati, Bob Jones (a world-renowned prophetic leader – now deceased) share a prophetic vision he had of the rising up of the Body of Christ in the United States that has come to be known as the ‘Gulliver Prophecy or Vision.’ One of the key elements of the prophecy was that “Gulliver’s head was in Cleveland in a place called Jacob’s Field” – and that when Gulliver’s head began to rise, the Body of Christ across the nation would be stirred. (This vision/prophecy can be googled).

F. Conclusion:

I conclude reminding you that this is not a comprehensive recounting by any means. It is a perspective of one observer who has tried to pick some events from the spiritual and prophetic history of the region – drawn from a combination of a bit of research, combined with personal and/or first-hand observation and records.

God has certainly done far more than recounted here, and doubtless given great and precious promises beyond those recounted here. Most of those here are broad – to the cap-C citywide Church / Body of Christ and Ephesians 4 leaders in NE Ohio. There doubtless exists much more, not to mention all the individual promises to individual leaders, families and church congregations in NE Ohio.

May His Kingdom come and His will be done, in NE Ohio – in us – as it is in heaven. And may ALL these wonderful promises by “Yes” and “Amen” to them that believe.