



2021 The Year of

# REST & Refreshing

## What Is God Saying In These Uncertain Times?

**Official Sermon Notes of Apostle Craig Hendriek**

Sunday, 17 January 2021

### ONLINE CHURCH - STAY CONNECTED

*This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together...in fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate the return of the Lord.*

*(Hebrews 10:25 TPT)*

In this time, God wants to move us forward as we anticipate the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*They will take root in your house, Lord God, and they will do well. (Psalms 92:13 CEV)*

God has called the church and its leadership to feed His people.

*"I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:4 NKJV)*

*You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies... (Psalm 23:5 NKJV)*

These are unexpected and uncertain times, but God has something certain for us and we can expect good days in 2021.

### WHAT IS GOD DOING AND SAYING IN THESE UNCERTAIN, FEARFUL AND DARK TIMES?

This is the question that Apostle Craig asked God towards the end of 2020 when asking Him to reveal the Word of the Lord for us for 2021.

God is generous and willing, and He wants to speak to us.

Let us be clear that this time - for many in the world and even in the church - has been characterised by stress, anxiety, fear, depression, hopelessness and even lack. And for some, it's been a time of sadness, pain and mourning as they have had loved ones depart to be with the Lord. Apostle Craig personally continues to mourn with and pray for these beloved families. Apostle Craig encourages us that we mourn with hope.

*But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 NKJV)*

God reminded Apostle Craig of what He imparted to him a few years ago: God is always doing and saying the opposite of what the enemy is doing in the world and even trying to do against the church. God is never responding or reacting to the enemy, but rather it is the enemy who is responding and reacting to what God is doing. God moves first, not the enemy. The enemy always comes after God to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

The Bible teaches us in the parable of the sower how the enemy comes to steal the Word of God straight after it has been sown into our lives. The Word of God is sown first and then the enemy tries to steal it.

Apostle Craig shared this example to illustrate: When God is ministering on restoration in our relationships, it is then that we often experience an attack of the enemy in our relationships. When this happens, we are to hold onto the Word of God we have just received and feed on it in the midst of the attack - until we see the enemy flee. The enemy knows how powerful the Word of God is.

We can know what God is doing by reversing what we see the enemy is doing.

God told Apostle Craig to say to us, His beloved church, that **2021 is our year of REST & REFRESHING!**

While the world is in unrest, God is giving His people divine rest. And while the world is growing weary, God is refreshing and renewing His people.

### JESUS IS OUR REST

*"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yolk is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28 NKJV)*

God wants us to live easy and light in 2021.

*"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with Me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matthew 11:28-30 MSG)*

God wants to give us real rest this year.

### JESUS IS OUR REFRESHING

*He restores my soul... (Psalm 23:3 NKJV)*

The Amplified Bible translation of Psalm 23:3 says that God refreshes our souls.

The God's Word Bible translation of Psalm 23:3 says that God renews our souls.

*He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait [definition: trust and hope] on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:29-31 NKJV)*

God wants to refresh you and renew you as you start a new year. He wants to give you a fresh start.

### CONCLUSION

*...I forget all of the past as I fasten my heart to the future instead. (Philippians 3:13 TPT)*

*"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19 NKJV)*

In ending, Apostle Craig prayed for our church, declaring that 2021 will be our healthiest year yet, before declaring the priestly blessing (Numbers 6:22-26).