

I. Introduction

- A. Every year I give the State of the Church Address and with a prophetic word for the year.
- B. Last year the prophetic word was Elevation.
  - 1. Little did we know that the eyes of the world would be on Maui due to the tragic fires and because God raised us up strategically to be a help to this community as national and international media outlets asked for interviews.
  - 2. We moved closer to fulfilling the 12/120 Vision.
  - 3. We ministered to more people on a weekly basis than we ever had in our 43 years of ministry together.
  - 4. God elevated us financially; people walked by faith, being sensitive to God's prompting and including what was given to the Maui Relief fund about \$31,500,000 came into the U.S. church.
  - 5. Many testified that they experienced elevation in their jobs, in their ministry, in their finances, in their influence in their family, and the list goes on and on.

II. A look at the text.

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." **When he had said this, he fell asleep.** 8 And Saul approved of their killing him. 8:1 On that day **a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem**, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

A Review of what was happening in the church recorded in the book of Acts.

- 2. In Acts 2 the 120 gathered in obedience to the Lord and were empowered by the Holy Spirit.
  - a) On that day Peter preached and 3,000 people were added to the church
  - b) Acts 2:47 states that God added to the church daily those who were being saved.
  - c) Acts 4:4, Peter and John are used by the Lord to heal a lame man. And the result was 5,000 men besides women and children caused the church to grow over 20,000.
  - d) Persecution raised its ugly head and threatened Peter and John.
  - e) The church continued to grow through signs and wonders because the church leaders continued to obey the Lord. Acts 6:7
  - f) In spite of the Apostles being publicly beaten the church continued to grow.
  - g) Stephen, a Greek speaking Jewish believer is stoned to death for his ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit and speaking the truth to the religious leaders.

B A great persecution comes against the church with Saul becoming one of the chief persecutors.

C It is at this point in the history of the church in its seeming darkest moment a shift happens as seen in verse 4 and 5.

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  - 1. Saul is converted and becomes the Apostle Paul and the result is seen in Acts 9:31.
  - 2. The Apostle Peter's ministry exploded with miracles.
  - 3. The church spread to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch.

D In chapter 12 King Herod Agrippa, "I killed the apostle James and imprisoned Peter, hoping to kill him after Passover," yet Acts 12:21 states, "the word of God grew and multiplied".

III. THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR 2024 IS **BREAK OUT**.

A. A picture that came to mind of "Break Out" is found in the movie, "Top Gun Maverick".

B. Break out is God's answer to the outbreak of persecution for the church in Acts and for the attacks on the church through the outbreak of the covid virus.

C. We see break out recorded in Acts that God broke out His servant out of prison three times.

- 1. God broke them out of prison because they were obeying Him to minister in the power of the Spirit and extend God's kingdom and **we must commit ourselves to passionately serve the**

Acts 5:15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed. 17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the

2. God broke Peter out of prison because in Acts 12:5 says the “constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church”, **we must be committed to pray.**

Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in prison, but *the church was earnestly praying to God for him.* 6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. 7 Suddenly *an angel of the Lord appeared* and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

3. God broke Paul and Silas out of prison because instead of complaining they praised the Lord. Ps98 **We must praise the Lord even we go through hardship**

Acts 16:23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight *Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God*, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was *such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken.* At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.

IV. God is speaking to us. Kings, get ready for God to break out in our church and through us individually

- A. There will be an ever-increasing flow of the Holy Spirit Isaiah 35:6
  - 1. Miracles will be more frequently seen.
  - 2. The revival we have prayed for will be manifested in greater measure.
  - 3. The church will move closer to fulfilling the vision God gave us.
- B. God will allow us individually to experience a personal break out.

Breakouts in 4 areas

1. Breakout of the Holy Spirit; strong presence, signs and miracles, revivals happening.
2. Breakout from spiritual prison: Free from evil spirits, free from past wounds and bad habits and diseases, salvation will take place
3. Breakout in praise and worship : Worship and gospel will take off.
4. Breakout in business: Rapid growth in personal and church business

➔ Application for this word ‘Breakout ‘

Let us be like the saints in the book of Acts.

1. We must commit ourselves to passionately serve the Lord
2. We must be committed to pray
3. We must commit ourselves to praise God  
Believe the Word of this year in your heart and confess and declare it out loud
4. Make a list of areas where you personally need a breakout. Pray and go for a year