

The Confessor's Tongue for September 27, A. D. 2020

16th Sunday after Pentecost; Martyr Callistratus

In honor of St. Maximus the Confessor, whose tongue and right hand were cut off in an attempt by compromising authorities to silence his uncompromising confession of Christ's full humanity & divinity.

On the Prophecy of an Earthquake

Metropolitan Neophytus of Morphou, Cyprus

This follows the one last week from the same source.

Why does God, through His prophets and saints, disclose to us events that will take place, things that sometimes alarm us and other times please us. The prophecy of Jonah and the three day destruction of the great city of Nineveh that didn't happen, causes us to wonder.

We believed that God had decided to destroy this city due to their great sin; however it seems that the repentance of the people in that city, impacted the outcome. Can God be refuted? How far can we accept the words of the prophets as heavenly calls of persuasion that urge us to repent? To cry, to kneel, and to acknowledge that with our actions we are not living in the spirit of the Lord's commands. Truly, if we do all this, can God be refuted?

Metropolitan Morphou Neophytos, during an interview that he granted us, explained why God sends prophecies. We asked him to tell us about the really big earthquake that is coming, for which he has referred to many times in his homilies:

"And as you stated, the conclusion from a heavenly information source, is that a large earthquake is coming, also to our parts in Greece, and in Turkey, and other neighboring countries. Many earthquakes have already started from the time that we first shared this prophecy; I am not a prophet, but I study and relay prophecies. Like a philologist – who doesn't write poetry but is occupied with the study of language.

I likewise study prophecy, due to a responsibility I feel, from around 2012, where all that I have heard from the holy Fathers and Mothers, I share so that our people can prepare, and the prophetic word that I have shared all these years my dear Constantino, is focused on repentance, not panic, or fear. Certainly at many times prior to finding repentance, we feel fear and panic. Let's not forget that the principle of wisdom is the fear of the Lord (αρχή σοφίας, φοβού Κυρίου). This is a lesson from the Old Testament shared with us through the psalms.

Now about the earthquake, let's say something else. We heard from some Holy people that a great earthquake is coming to Greece. Very large.

St. Porphyrios would say, that prophecy is granted to the people with the hopes from the Holy Spirit that it will not be fulfilled. What an amazing statement this is. What great love and charity!

Why then does the Holy Spirit grant the prophet words that are sometimes alarming and which we cannot bear to hear? To hear that your home and your city will be destroyed, that your life will be interrupted...it is meant to accomplish that which did

not happen when you were in a rhythm of quiet, in a rhythm of complacency, or in a rhythm of wear and tear. We must remember what Jesus intended by giving us His life, His body, His blood...to grant us eternal life. God did not intend that we should all live for 100 years on this earth. You see that one child leaves at 2 years old, another at 20 and another reaches 80 and 100 years.

What happens after we live those years? Eternal life. Eternal union with the Triadic Light for the righteous is paradise, it is rest, it is love, it is knowledge and communion with the saints and the Theotokos and Jesus Christ, the incarnate Logos.

And the unjust, those that hate, who don't want to forgive, who are jealous, who oppose the laws of God, who don't love abstinence, who don't love the law of Jesus, that don't love and cooperate with the Holy Spirit, then for those it will be hell.

The same light, not another light, simply said for the righteous is a bright light, it is cathartic, holy, and for the unjust it is hellish because their guilt and evil will multiplies it and they will refuse and not be able to bear the presence of the uncreated light. It's a frightful thing. That is what hell is and that is what paradise is. One Light. For the just and the unjust...for those that will be saved and for the others... The good thing is that until the second coming of Christ, Hades is open, and eternal life awaits for us all.

So...returning to the subject of prophecies. Prophecy is given as a means of repentance so we can prepare for the eternal life...since we didn't prepare in times of well-being, then with difficulty we will. Sickness and trials provide an edifying lesson for a person to recognize their eternal best interests.

Some Christians understand this in this world and they learn from a young age to love fasting, prayer, vigils, forgiveness, love, and they see that God's commandments cannot be performed with our own strength...we need to begin to work with the Holy Spirit, and if some don't learn how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit the easy way, then the difficult events will come.

I don't call it "bad". God doesn't desire there to be earthquakes, to be illness, God wants us to be healthy. That's why in the eternal life there will be no death, no illness, no pain or grief; we won't have earthquakes or floods, guilt or regrets. Only if we desire it. Therefore, prophecy is given to help our sickened will. And according to St. Porphyrios, what does our Triune God do? He waters a prophet or many prophets, and the prophecies that I share are only those that I have confirmed have been said by at least three of God's people. We must crosscheck these things.

It impresses me how many have prophesized during the 18th century, the 19th century, the 20th

century and even now during the 21st century...and even now there are holy people, hidden, and their vision is composed.

And so, what St. Porphyrios says, is that prophecy is a fact that helps with repentance, of the people, with the hopes from Christ that they will not be realized in their entirety. What does this mean practically? When we say that a large earthquake will occur of 7.5 on the Richter scale, and fear and panic take over, and just when we truly believe that this earthquake will occur, our kind and heavenly Mother Panagia, turns the switch down and instead of 7.5 it becomes 5.5 magnitude. The city shakes a little, one city, one area, and a few people repent, not many. But even with those few, or even one truly repentant person, Christ is pleased.

So now, those few people begin to pray and the events which although we can see them being fulfilled, with the repentance of those few, the harm will be lessened. God will not completely refute his prophets. But, we need to act on our prayer and our repentance, and not worry about living another ten years. I am 58 years old, so if I live another 20 years I will be 78. My grandmother lived to 98, and then what?

What will happen with the eternal life, you understand? We must all confirm, clerics and lay people, that what is waiting for us is eternal life. We shouldn't be praying or fearing for only the next ten, twenty or thirty years, they are few. My grandmother's 97 years are not enough for me. I want the eternal life of my grandmother Myrofora who I now know for certain that she is enjoying the Light of the Holy Trinity. Light is the Father, Light is the Logos and Light is the Holy Spirit.

Therefore prophecies are intended for eternal life, for our repentance and prayer, and for the frequent Divine Liturgy. That is why I was so upset when the churches closed. If there are no confessions being heard by spiritual fathers, and there are no homilies, and the prophetic word of the saints is not shared, or the bios of the modern saints heard, from the various channels because certain people that have a certain mentality are bothered by this...I'm sorry but where will our children go? Where will our grandchildren go, did we think about this? The only concern that we the elders have is to live another 10-15 years, but we are not concerned about our children, our grandchildren? How will they live being half a normal person?

We should be concerned about this fear that we have that hurts our souls, but also harms our children and our grandchildren, and our Country: for me to have half of Cyprus free and one Greece even as it is so to speak free, some others had to fight to give it to me. Here in Cyprus we feel an obligation when we go to the occupied parts, our obligation before those churches that are abandoned, destroyed, but in which you still feel the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

And now suddenly with a Corona virus we closed the churches and we changed the Holy Lavida into

spoons (koutalokia)...pity, pity, pity. And we made the icons suspect of carrying illness and we do not venerate them. So why then did the confessors martyr during the iconoclasm? You see how many theological problems arise from this climate of fear? Problems that only the Bishops and Synods must solve.

Otherwise, if the Bishops and Patriarchs do not get involved, every priest will do his own thing. This is something that I do want to take place, but I suspect that if this fearful and chaotic stage continues and the careless cooperation with the New World Order, which I hope is happening through carelessness only, then each priest will do as they see fit, and it's not good; although Christ has his plans also, I am very optimistic. The events that will take place: earthquakes, famine, floods and wars, are intended to fulfill what is said in a parable, which is 'where Satan plows, Christ sows'. This is a great time for planting, "the sower went forth and sowed his seed". What kind of sons are we? Sons.

On Anger (*The Ladder*, Step 8) *St. John Climacus*

2. Freedom from anger is an insatiable appetite for dishonor, just as in the vainglorious there is an unbounded desire for praise. Freedom from anger is victory over nature and insensibility to insults, acquired by struggles and sweat.

3. Meekness is an immovable state of soul which remains unaffected, whether in evil report or in good report, in dishonor or in praise.

4. The beginning of freedom from anger is silence of the lips when the heart is agitated; the middle is silence of the thoughts when there is a mere disturbance of soul; and the end is an imperturbable calm under the breath of unclean winds.

5. Wrath is a reminder of hidden hatred, that is to say, remembrance of wrongs. Wrath is a desire for the injury of the one who has provoked you. Irascibility is the untimely blazing up of the heart. Bitterness is a movement of displeasure seated in the soul. Anger is an easily changeable movement of one's disposition and disfiguration of soul.

6. As with the appearance of light, darkness retreats; so at the fragrance of humility, all anger and bitterness vanishes.

7. Some who are prone to anger are neglectful of the healing and cure of this passion. But these unhappy people do not give a thought to him who said: "The moment of his anger is his fall" (Ecclesiasticus 1:22).

11. An angry person is a willing epileptic, who due to an involuntary tendency keeps convulsing and falling down.

12. Nothing is so inappropriate to those repenting as a spirit agitated by anger, because conversion requires great humility, and anger is a sign of every kind of presumption.

GLORY BE TO GOD IN ALL THINGS!