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Week 50: Fall Mission Feeding

Sheila Walsh

Dr. David Jeremiah

SHEILA: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Sheila Walsh. I'm so glad you joined us, and you're going to be really glad you joined us too. One of the great things about working here at *LIFE* is I get the privilege of reading so many amazing books. But every now and again, one book comes along, and you think, this is a book for this time. This is something God-breathed! And that's certainly how I feel about this book. It's called *Where Do We Go From Here?* It's by one of my favorite people on the planet. Welcome Dr. David Jeremiah.

DAVID: Sheila, thank you for having me!

SHEILA: We're thrilled that you're here! I wanted to ask you first, as a pastor, have you ever known a time that is as chaotic as this?

DAVID: Sheila, I have a little thing that I've said for years, wisdom is best defined as doing the right thing without precedent. I've thought to myself, we need wisdom now because everything is unprecedented. We have never had any time like this. There is nothing to which we can compare it.

SHEILA: You have a passionate commitment to biblical prophecy. Why is that so important to you?

DAVID: Well, first of all, prophecy is one-fourth of the Bible. A lot of people say I don't preach on prophecy. They've already admitted that they only preach 75% of the Bible. But prophecy is -- one of the things I learned when I first started doing this was wherever

there is a prophetic passage, there is a practical application to it. For instance, I'll just give you an illustration. One of the best-known prophetic passages is John 14: Let not your heart be troubled. In my Father's house, there are many -- there is the prophecy, and there is the practice. Don't be troubled because God's got this. That's the way prophecy is. Throughout all of the prophetic scriptures, prophecy has an ultimate meaning and a current meaning. And the current meaning is always vibrant and very helpful.

SHEILA: I love the subtitle: "How tomorrow's prophecies foreshadow today's problems." What did you mean by that?

DAVID: I kind of discovered that when I was beginning to think about this project. I began to realize that, um, for instance, at the time I wrote this book, we were in the midst of a pandemic. And there are a lot of things in the Bible where Jesus spoke about it; in the end times, there is going to be pestilences. I used to think that was important information, and I believed it was true because it was in the Bible. But I couldn't imagine a worldwide pestilence. Then one day, I realized, oh, my goodness, what Jesus said is going to happen in the future, some of it is happening right now. How the future prophecies foreshadow our current problems. That's where that came from.

SHEILA: Does God use something like a pandemic like COVID 19 to get our attention?

DAVID: Well, I don't know if he does or not. It doesn't seem to have worked.

[Laughter]

I look around, and I see people going back to the same old stuff. I remember when 9/11 happened. We had this incredible surge in our churches, and everybody was saying that America was coming back to God. People were coming back to God. It was that way for a few weeks until everybody settled back into their norms.

What I think happens with pandemics, which are more prolonged than 9/11, they just

make you do things you've never done before in a way you've never done them before, and you can't get away from it. You have to change. Some of the changes are for good.

SHEILA: In the book, you break it down into ten different subjects, and we will get to as many as we can. But I want you to talk about an international prophecy, globalism. What does the Bible have to say about a more global world?

DAVID: Well, Sheila, the first great globalist was Nimrod, the guy from the Old Testament, who built the tower and tried to bring everybody together. And they all had one language, and they were going reach up, and they were going to be God; that's what they hoped to do. And God saw that, as you know, and he confounded the languages. Since then, men have been trying to figure out a way to bring everything together to be under one. In the Bible, it tells us that in the future, that's going to happen. The Antichrist will come, and he will rule over every tribe, every people, every language; that's what the book of Revelations says.

So there's this attempt today -- in fact, very interesting, right when this book was being written, somebody sent me a picture of the new religion center which is in Dubai. It is being built primarily by the Roman Catholic church and Islam. They're coming together to find out what things they can agree on so they can lead into this new "global religion." So it is very present with us.

SHEILA: I read a statistic just the other day, and I don't remember who did the survey, but they said that 70 percent of people who consider themselves evangelicals believe there is more than one way to God. I find that shocking.

DAVID: Yes. Well, it's among a number of things that you would assume would never be true if the Bible were taught in a church consistently. So that probably tells you the Bible is not being taught in the church consistently.

SHEILA: Wow, that's scary. Let's talk about a geographical prophecy, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem has always been so center in world history. Why do you think that is so important in this world and for the future?

DAVID: Sheila, I've been to Jerusalem, I think eight times. And the first time I went with my father before they had any of the modern conveniences, it just about killed me. I thought I'd never do it again. You had to lug your luggage everywhere. And of course, we now travel with a special guy who makes sure that doesn't happen. Since I've been going back, I've just fallen in love with the country.

I remember standing in front of them when I was there two times ago saying, "My love for you is unparalleled. I want to bring a thousand of my friends back here because I know it helps your economy. It will be a blessing to them, and it will be a blessing to you." I did it. The next time I went, I took 1,000 people with me.

SHEILA: Wow!

DAVID: But Jerusalem is in the headlines now because of the Abraham Accords and also because we've moved our embassy to Jerusalem. Everybody wanted to know what does that mean prophetically? I think the best answer to that is now that Jerusalem is the home of our embassy. Someone said the final stage is set for God to do everything that the Bible says will happen. One man wrote, "If Jerusalem wasn't as it is, Jesus can't come back." But he will come back, and he will come back to the place from which he went. And he will land there and set up his kingdom. One of the things that really, I got personally blessed by this in the process. You've been to Israel.

SHEILA: I've never been.

DAVID: You've never been to Israel? Oh my goodness.

SHEILA: I want to be one of your thousand.

DAVID: We have to fix that! But when you go to Jerusalem today you walk through the city. There is the old city, and you see all the different things that are happening there. There's an aura that comes over you. I don't think I'm the only one who feels that way. I've always thought, well, that's where Jesus walked, that's where the Bible happened, and all that. But it is more than that, and I found that out when I did this study.

Do you know that the Bible says that Jerusalem is God's own city? It is the only city in the Bible where that's said to be true. That city belongs in a special way to God. In the book of Deuteronomy, there is one chapter where he says it five times within a few verses. And all of a sudden, you realize when you're walking around Jerusalem, you're walking in God's city. It is God's city in a way that no other city could ever be. And there's no way to explain. I'm not a sensationalist, and I'm not trying to make something mysterious out of this; there is an aura about being in God's own city, Jerusalem.

SHEILA: That gives me chills. I definitely want to go. Let's move on to financial prophecy, economic chaos. Why does money play such a central role in the end times?

DAVID: Well, maybe the bigger question, Sheila, is why does money play such a main role in everything? Money is the enemy of -- you can't worship God and mammon. You can't worship both God and money. You say, do people worship -- oh, yes, they do. And it's the big challenge you have as a believer to make sure that doesn't get its clutches into you. And in the future, money is going to be even more so. There is a chapter in Revelation where Babylon, the financial city of the world, is taken down. The whole chapter is devoted to the end of the monetary system in our world today. "Babylon is fallen, is fallen," says the scripture, and it affects everything.

So in the Bible, we're told that there is going to be -- this is sort of an adjacent topic of globalism, a coming together so that there's fewer and fewer coinage, more and more monetary centrality. We're seeing that in our country. We're seeing it around the world.

It's interesting, in light of the prophecy of the mark of the beast, that there are places now,

and I wrote about it in this book where they have now put chips in the hands of people. And so, these chips have the capability of interacting with radio frequencies. So if they go to the store, it's like their credit card. They just put their chip underneath the light, and it reads their hand or reads the material in their hand. And that's happening. There is a place in Germany where they're doing this now almost in a wholesale manner to get everybody involved. So we're living in a time like nobody ever could have imagined.

SHEILA: What would you say to believers who are afraid that they're going to accidentally get the mark of the beast or not be able to live in the world anymore if they refuse to take it?

DAVID: Well, I wouldn't say too much to them right now because this is not going to happen until the tribulation period. And if you're a Christian, you're not going to be here when that happens. The Bible talks about there being a great turning to the false prophet and the false leader, and that will involve this mark, which if you don't take you can't do business and you'll either be starved out in the tribulation or you will be killed.

SHEILA: Wow! Wow! One of the other things I wanted to move on to is, we touched on it, but the biblical prophecy with COVID-19, a lot of believers are kind of losing hope at the moment. You've been a pastor for so many years. Barry and I listen to your morning worship service every Sunday. What do you say to believers who are struggling at the moment, who feel this world is so hopeless?

DAVID: Well, there is a lot of hopelessness in the world, there is a lot of issues in the world, but the Bible always brings us back to the fact that God is in control and that none of this has escaped his -- I have a wonderful saying a little girl said one time; that God never says, "Oops!" He never says, "Oh, how did this happen?" So God wasn't overtaken by the pandemic. And the pandemic certainly has caused a great deal of challenges for a lot of people. But God hasn't changed, and he has shown himself strong in so many ways.

Even in the ministry, that's where I live; for me to say what I'm about to say, people

would say, that can't be. The ministries that I'm a part of are way stronger than they were before the pandemic happened. People began to realize that there are not very many things you can put your hope and trust in, but Jesus Christ is one. And when they put her hope in him, he doesn't make COVID go away, but he's there with you, and he helps you through it. And they can sense his presence in a way that nothing else ever appears to them.

So I think COVID is a time for us to be sober in our thinking, maybe to re-prioritize our lives a little bit and ask ourselves, are we really living our life the way we want to? There are so many things that we thought were necessary that aren't. And um, I've just watched this unfold like that. I think it is very interesting to see how that's happened.

SHEILA: Why do you think you mentioned that? Obviously, if you're not preaching on prophecy, you're ignoring a quarter of the Bible. Why do you think that so many believers don't know their Bibles?

DAVID: Well, that is a really profound question. I've thought about it recently because I've been teaching the book of Colossians in my church. In that book, Paul is writing to a group of Christians in Colossae who are about to be overtaken by false teachers if he doesn't rush in and rescue them, which he did with this letter. It is so easy for us to become surface Christians. We just come in, we get a few things that we like, and God is there for us, and he's somebody you can talk to when you get in trouble. But if you don't study the Bible, you don't have the foundation, and you don't have the strength.

One of the things I came back from the pandemic to my church with was this, the answer to all of our problems is not in all the things people talk about, but it is in strengthening the body of Christ and making sure we're doing everything we can to disciple the people of God with an incredibly increased emphasis on small groups and on expository preaching that comes with a study guide before they ever hear the sermon. So we're doing that now to try to strengthen the faith of God's people. Because if we don't, with what's coming at us actually comes in its full force, a lot of Christians are not going to be able to

stand because they haven't built any strength. They have no roots in their faith.

SHEILA: One of the things, and you've been kind enough to say that you would stay and do another program with us, but one of the things you talk about in the book that is a real heartache to me is the number of people who once were fairly prominent believers, outspoken, but have literally not just fallen away, turned their backs on Christ. That makes no sense to me. How do you do that?

DAVID: Well, the Bible says there is going to be a great falling away right after the rapture. And when the Antichrist is revealed, there will be a falling away. And it's very particular; it is "the falling away." And the word there is the word *apostasy*. The word means: To stand apart from, to stand away from something you once said you believed.

Two or three things about that are important. Number one: If a person is truly a Christian, they won't fall away. People who are Christians don't fall away, but there are a lot of folks who claim Christ, who go through the motions, who have learned the language, who hang around the edges, maybe even as we know from, I mentioned a couple of them in the book, some pastors who did some great things and then they walked away and said, "I don't believe there is a God. I don't believe in Jesus." They renounced their family. It's a really sad story.

It reminds me though -- there's a verse in the Bible that says something like this, that in that day many will come before me and say, "Lord, haven't we done wonderful works in your name? Haven't we spoken great prophecies in your name?"

And the Lord will say to them, "Depart from me, I never knew you." He didn't say depart from me, I once knew you, and I don't know you anymore. He said, "Depart from me because I *never* knew you."

So it's possible for people, and when I wrote that chapter, there is a part at the end of each chapter that says, where do we go from here? And I said, "The first thing you should do

is make sure you know you're a Christian."

Two things for a person who worries about falling away. Number one: Make sure you're a Christian and make sure you're a growing Christian. Because if you're growing, you have that internal witness in your spirit that God is at work in your life, and you never worry about falling away. But if people just, and a lot of folks, they get into the church. They become traditional Christians. Some of them teach. We know some of them preach. But if you don't know Jesus Christ, you're a candidate for that.

SHEILA: Yeah, I got a letter the other day from someone who watches the program and said I believe -- it was from prison. He said, "I believe that God took me to a prison to set me free." Because it was in prison that somebody gave him a Bible. And he said, "As I began to dig deep into the Word of God, I know that I know that I know I'm a follower of Christ."

DAVID: Right. That is common for those of us who are into any kind of media because media goes where people can't go. During the pandemic, all our prison ministries were shut down. You couldn't visit any prisons. So all they had was what we could provide through media. And it's a reminder to us of how powerful that is.

SHEILA: Absolutely. Well, as you can probably tell, you're going to want to get a copy of this for yourself and another copy for your kids if you have kids. So I'm going to tell you how we can send you a copy today.

But first of all, as you know, here at *LIFE,* we are very committed to being eyes wide open in terms of the rest of the world. There are so many women and children, and fathers too, and grandparents, who are struggling in certain parts of the world simply because they can't give their child one bowl of food a day. But you and I, we can change that. Watch this.

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: Every six seconds another child under the age of five dies.

[Clock ticking]

Why are young children like these fighting for their lives? It is because their mothers simply have no food for them. Malnutrition, known as the silent killer, then compromises their immune system, in turn making them more susceptible to dying from common childhood illnesses.

[Clock ticking]

Statistics tell us this year alone, the mortality rate for children under the age of five will exceed 5 million, with malnutrition being a contributing factor in nearly half those children's deaths.

[Clock ticking]

The question becomes, can we stop this cycle of death for the remaining children in Southern Africa? Those who find themselves in a food crisis, urgently needing help before malnutrition claims its next victim?

ISAK: If we can get to these villages where this child comes from, and we can get Mission Feeding into those villages, we're able to ensure that we wind that clock back. We retell that story. That's why we say Mission Feeding saves lives because it does. Saving this child's life doesn't happen because of us. It happens because of you.

[Clock ticking]

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: Can you imagine? Six seconds -- every six seconds in Southern Africa, a child dies, and malnutrition is the major contributor. One of the things I love about how James and Betty have set up this program is they never go into a country as if well, here we are, we're the answer. They look for the people that God is using in that nation and then underwrite the work. So we were able to set up factories to produce the kind of food that these children need that has all the protein, the vitamins.

But what they discovered was, when children were showing up to get the food, some of them were able to bring something like this, a little can, to put the food in. But the heartbreaking thing with a couple of the children was they came with plastic bags. And the minute that we put this hot food into the plastic, it melted, and it was gone. And so then they came up with this great idea of these orange bowls that literally turned from death into life.

I will never ever forget my first trip to Angola; walking into that malnutrition clinic and literally watching the last six seconds of a child's life ebb away. Or the look in the mother's eyes. They're just like you and me; the moms, the dads, they're just regular people like you and me, who are in a country where there is devastating poverty and malnutrition. I remember sitting by the bedside of a little one, and it was such an effort for that little one to turn his head slightly to look into my eyes. I thought the child was maybe two months old. I discovered he was two years old.

But here's the amazing news! We can change this. I've seen it! I went from the malnutrition clinic one day where I literally, in my tent that night, I remember laying on the floor just saying, Lord, this is horrible! Then, I felt the Lord say, "Sheila, get up and dry your face because we're going to do something about it."

And then I got to go to a village the next day where we've already set up Mission Feeding. Hope in a bowl -- that's what I call it -- hope in a bowl and be able to give food to these children. So we've made a commitment this year to feed 350,000 children. That

sounds like a lot, but it breaks down really easily. Do you know that $30 will feed three children for three months? I mean, what can you do with $30 these days? You go through the drive-through with your family and it's gone. But this will feed three children for three whole months. Perhaps you could do $50, and that would feed five children; $100 would feed ten.

And we've also made a commitment to rebuild some of our clinics in South Sudan -- terrible flooding. They were washed away. I can't imagine what it is like as a mom. Some of these mothers walk for miles to get to the clinic, and it's gone. So we've made a commitment; we're going to rebuild the clinics. Perhaps you're going to help us.

Remember, please, with whatever gift you give us, request this book by Dr. David Jeremiah, *Where Do We Go From Here?* Thank you so much!

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Across the continent of Africa, children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition and even death. With food reserves gone and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us.

Call now with your lifesaving gift of $30, $50, or $100 to help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months. Also, please consider an extra gift to help immediately rebuild malnutrition clinics destroyed by record flooding in South Sudan. This urgent need is $392,000 above our normal feeding budget and is critical to help save the lives of those suffering most.

With your gift of any amount, we will send you *Christmas Grace*. This eye-opening, new 31-day devotional will give you a fresh perspective on the greatest gift ever given and the life-transforming hope found in Christ's birth.

With your gift of $100 or more, request the "Love and Thanks" tumbler set with scriptures reminding us that "God's love never fails" and to always "Give thanks." These tumblers will keep drinks hot or cold wherever you go.

Finally, with your gift of $1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Divine Servant."

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.
End of video

On the mission field
SHEILA: I'm here in just what is a small part of a massive graveyard. I've never seen anything like this in my life! But this part that I'm standing in, these are all children. The thing that has touched us as a team so deeply is the way that the parents have tried to honor their children in some way by leaving something on the grave, whether it is just little booties, a little toy that meant something to the child.

I was just back there. They've just dug four more children's graves because they know they're coming. That's why we're here, and that's why we need to do something now. We need to go into these villages and feed these children and bring hope to these parents so that these four little holes back here stay empty. So we need your help, and we need it now.
End of video

In the studio
SHEILA: Thank you so much. If the lines are busy, keep calling. Let's do this together. It is a privilege. And for any gift at all, you can request Dr. Jeremiah's book, *Where Do We Go From Here?*

I just want to ask you a final question. You have written so many books, and I've read them all. Did you feel, when you were writing this, that there was something special about this?

DAVID: Sheila, I think I told you when you were with us the last time that Donna and I were having breakfast and we had watched the news that morning. I said to her, "I feel like they're dismantling our country piece by piece." So I set out to see if there was something I could do in the framework of being who I am and what I do every day. That's where this book came from.

SHEILA: Wow! And you're going to want your own copy. Thank you so much for being with us. We'll see you next time on *LIFE Today*!