

Session 5 Positive Spiritual Sign Trends in the Church

I. END-TIME REVIVAL

- A. We stand at a critical juncture in our nation’s history. The Holy Spirit is visiting His people as the darkness increases. The light is getting brighter as the darkness is becoming darker.

²Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isa. 60:2)

Okay, you can turn to Isaiah 60 if you want to follow along in your own Bible. Again the reason that we study the signs of the times is that, as just I prayed, there is a global narrative going on of which the Father is the author. There is a storyline that is unfolding. By nature all of us are stuck in our small, little bubble of our own life with its challenges, goals, and agendas. It is not natural to get outside of that little bubble to catch what is going on across the earth. But, it is not just the report of the newscasters; it is God’s story. There is one generation in history where that story is building dramatically. Within a generation it is building very discernibly. It is building rapidly. It is accelerating within one generation in a dramatic way. The Lord wants His people in that timeframe to be a part of that story and to understand it. When we see what it is going on, it pulls us out of that bubble of our own self-focus, which is very natural for all of us to be in because it is our life and we are responsible for it.

We are going to start with a big context, the larger context, in Isaiah 60:2. “Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness will cover the people, but the Lord will arise over you; His glory will be seen on you.” So in the hour where there is moral and spiritual darkness increasing, the prophet Isaiah says that it is not just darkness covering all the planet, but it is deep darkness. It is talking about moral and spiritual darkness. He says that in the midst of it the glory of God will be breaking out as well.

So it is that tension: is it going to get better or is it going to get worse? The answer is both. The light will get lighter; the darkness will get darker. There will be greater moral and spiritual darkness, but also a greater brightness of the glory of God in the midst of His people.

- B. The greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history will be released before Jesus’ return. The Spirit is raising up a glorious Church that will walk in truth, power, purity, unity, and maturity as modeled by the New Testament Church (Mt. 16:18; Jn. 17:21-26; Eph. 4:13; 5:27; Rev. 7:9; 12:11; 15:2; 19:7-8; 22:17).

²⁷He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle... (Eph. 5:27)

¹⁷“It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh...

²⁰before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.” (Acts 2:17-20)

⁷“For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” (Rev. 19:7)

If I had to give one paragraph to sum up where we are going in this session, this is it. In session five tonight we are considering the positive spiritual trends, but they are more than just trends. They are sign trends, meaning they are trends that are prophetic signs of the times. Why do we call them “prophetic” sign trends? If they are announced in the Bible a couple thousand years ahead of time, and now those trends are happening around the earth and are increasing in a marked, discernible way, then they are more than trends. They are prophetic sign trends because the Bible identified them 2,000 – 3,000 years ago.

Then paragraph B. would be kind of the broad strokes of this whole session. The greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit in all of human history is yet ahead of us. When the Lord returns, according to Ephesians 5:27, He is coming for a glorious Church. Right now the Church has a significant amount of compromise. There are elements of glory, and there is a significant amount of division, as well as significant amount of passivity amongst the people in the Church. The Lord would say, “I am going to change all of that. I am coming back, and My Church will be filled with the glory of God.”

That does not mean things will be easy. Some people think, “Glory of God, outpouring of the Spirit, wow! It is going to be fun.” It will be in the midst of profound challenges and pressures and deep darkness in the nations. The light will overpower the darkness even before the Lord returns. People will be walking in that dimension of light.

The well-known verse in Acts 2, “In the last days the Spirit will be poured out on all flesh” means all the nations. All flesh means individuals in the nations. So it is not an outpouring here, an outpouring there. It is global, and everyone in the Body of Christ will be touched by the Holy Spirit. That is remarkable. This is going to happen, verse 20, before the Lord returns.

*Then Revelation 19 tells us that when the Lord returns, the Bride or the wife has made herself ready. Now the Lord has done the work by His grace, but she has responded. So she **will** respond. There is going to be a radical shift before the Lord returns, and we see that already. I mean thousands, even millions, small number of millions, but millions are worldwide are becoming more radical for the Lord. There is a clear shift. It is still a small percent, but it is growing. Millions of people are wanting to be red hot for the Lord, on fire for the Lord, in a way that goes beyond previous times.*

- C. Jesus is building His Church; it functions locally as a spiritual family that walks out love and honors all its members, e.g., gender, age, ethnicity, economics, etc. (Mt. 16:18).

¹⁸***“I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (Mt. 16:18)***

- D. **Premise:** The trends that will *come in fullness* at the time of Jesus’ return are *occurring now* and will *continue to increase* until He comes. Thus we believe that God will release the greatest revival in the Church and the greatest harvest of the lost in the midst of the escalating darkness.

A premise for this session—and we will use it for some of the other sessions as well, even the negative trends—is that the trends, the positive and the negative ones, that come in fullness at the coming of the Lord are occurring now, they are increasing, and they are going to continue to increase. It is like the prayer movement that is increasing now. It is not at all in fullness, but it is clearly increasing. It is one of those trends we will look at in a moment. This premise is the same with the negative. The darkness is getting darker, and it is going to get darker and darker. The light is getting lighter, and it is going to get lighter and lighter. The contrast is going to be greater and greater.

II. POSITIVE SIGN TRENDS IN THE END-TIME CHURCH

- A. **Gospel preached to all nations:** Jesus connected the timing of His return to the preaching of the gospel to all nations (12,000 people groups). Leading mission leaders project that the gospel will be preached to every people group by 2020. The greatest harvest of souls in history is occurring now.

¹⁴***“This gospel...will be preached...to all the nations [ethnos] and then the end will come.” (Mt. 24:14)***

Let's look at some of these sign trends. Again it is a sign trend, a prophetic sign trend. The idea is that it is a sign of the times because it was identified in the Bible 2,000+ years ago. Many of these are in the Old Testament as well. So God identified them in the Scripture ahead of time, strategically identified them knowing they would escalate, accelerate on a global level in a discernible way within one generation. They would greatly increase within one generation.

I will mention this first one very briefly because we have already touched this for a moment in the other ones. It is the gospel preached in all the nations. Jesus said in Matthew 24 that when the gospel of the kingdom is preached in all nations, then the end will come. He linked His return to the gospel being preached in every nation. Now again the word **nation** is **ethnos**; it is every ethnic group. There are 12,000 people groups in the earth, 12,000 distinct people groups.

The leaders of the missions movement are saying that by the year 2020—in four years they said—every single people group, all 12,000, for the first time in history will have a witness of the gospel in that people group. Not a permeation of that nation or that people group, but at least a witness. Beloved, for 2,000 years and even a hundred years ago we were not even close to that. It is accelerating so fast the last few decades. This sign is so stunning that it is second only to Israel becoming a nation. I mean this is just remarkable. When I first started as a pastor forty years ago it did not look like this was going to happen in my lifetime, but it has accelerated so rapidly in the last couple decades.

1. Many are asking for over one billion new souls to come Jesus (Rom. 11:12-15, 26; cf. Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9; 14:6; 15:4; Ps. 66:4; Zeph. 2:11; 3:8-10; Amos 9:11-12)

⁹***A multitude...no one could number of all nations...¹⁴ out of the tribulation... (Rev. 7:9, 14)***

⁶***I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people... (Rev. 14:6)***

2. The Bible has been translated into 2,000+ languages (used by 98% of the world's population).

Now the Bible has been translated, or at least a portion of the Bible, into 2,000 languages. Ninety-eight percent of the world's population has a Bible in their native language, ninety-eight percent of the world's population. Again this is a brand new reality; it is staggering.

- B. **Salvation of Israel:** Messianic (Jewish) congregations in Israel are seeing more Jewish people come to Jesus than at any time since the first century. There are 120+ Messianic congregations in Israel, totaling more than 15,000 believers. There were only two Messianic congregations in Israel 1970.

¹⁹***“Repent therefore and be converted [Jewish people] ...²⁰ that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you [Jewish people] before,²¹ whom heaven must receive [retain] until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by...His prophets... (Acts 3:19–21)***

We mentioned the salvation of Israel last session. You know as one of the signs happening, in Israel 1970 there were only two Messianic congregations in the land. After 2,000 years, there were only two congregations of Jewish believers in Yeshua, in Jesus. Now there are 120. In forty plus years it has gone from two to 120. There are 15,000 believers, and there were maybe twenty believers in the land back in 1970 or some small number like that. I am talking about Messianic believers.

There is a trend going on today of the Church moving in a definitive, new way for Israel. It is the opposite of anti-semitism. Anti-semitism is being against the Jewish people. That movement is growing rapidly as well, the

anti-semitism movement. I want to talk about the positive. Again I am using my own life, my forty years of ministry. Twenty years ago most people were neutral. They said, “I do not know. I do not even think about Israel.”

I remember the first time I talked to Bob Jones when I first met him in 1983. He said, “The Lord is going to use you to pray for Israel.” He asked, “Do you pray for Israel now?”

I said, “I never think about Israel, no. I do not do the Israel thing.”

He said, “You will. Trust me.”

My point being that I knew only a few people who were, quote, “into Israel.” What I mean by “into Israel,” they understood God’s purpose, the biblical purpose for Israel, at least in part, and they were committed to it. Today the number is growing radically. The negative is growing, but so is the positive. It is a sign of the time. There has never been a time in church history where so many believers are taking a stand for Israel. It is in itself a sign of the time.

1. Gentile believers will one day provoke Israel to jealousy to know Jesus (Rom. 10:19; 11:11). Love for Israel in the Body of Christ is increasing rapidly. The Lord requires the Church to stand with Israel in time of trouble, like Corrie ten Boom’s family did during World War II.

¹¹...to provoke them [Israel] to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:11)

Scripture says that the Church, the Gentile believers, would provoke Israel to jealousy. Well, that has never happened in 2,000 years. Israel is not provoked to experience the faith that we walk in. They look at our faith and they say, “No, thanks.” The Bible said before the Lord returns they are going to be provoked. That implies there is going to be a tremendous loyalty, an understanding, and an embracing of God’s purpose for Israel. That is growing rapidly, I do not have numbers but there is significant increase in even the last twenty years. It has never happened like this in church history ever, and it is happening right now.

2. God called the Church to stand with Israel (Isa. 40:1-2; 62:6-7, 11; Jer. 31:7-10; Mt. 25:31-46; Rom. 11:11, 20-22). The Church must take a stand to boldly pray, declare, and sing the message of God’s purposes for Israel so that all the nations hear it clearly (Jer. 31:7-10).

⁷Thus says the Lord: “Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord save...the remnant of Israel!’ (Jer. 31:7)

Now this is a verse you just need to know, Jeremiah 31:7. You really want to know this. It is talking to the international church, the Gentile church. It is telling the Gentile church to sing with gladness, be enthusiastic for Jacob—Jacob means Israel—be enthusiastic. Well, if you looked at that 100 years ago, the international church was not enthusiastic or singing with gladness for Israel. They would have said, “What? I do not think about Israel.”

Jeremiah said that the day is coming. In essence in this very passage by the very fact that God mandates it and the church is going to be filled with glory, it means they are going to be doing this. Again I am watching this increase in a clearly marked way in the last decades, in a way unprecedented in church history, where there are more and more people doing this. We are numbered amongst them as a spiritual family. There are thousands of them, thousands of them. It has really been grabbing the church in Asia in the last couple decades, this tremendous zeal, this gladness, this praise, this understanding that it is a privilege to stand with “Your people Israel.” It is a joy to do that verse. Jeremiah 31 is indicating there is going to be an enthusiastic embracing and

proclamation of all the things related to God saving Israel. There are many sub-plots or sub-themes to this one big statement concerning God saving the remnant of Israel. The Church is going to embrace it with gladness.

- C. **Unity:** Jesus prayed for the Church to walk in *oneness* leading to global witness of the gospel with a greater release of God's glory. The Father is determined to have the Church function in unity across cities and nations. We can do so much more together that we cannot do separately. Different parts of body of Christ are to honor other parts of the body and embrace those with a different calling.

²²***And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:***

²³***I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (Jn. 17:22-23)***

Another great sign of the time that is new in the last couple decades is unity. Now we are not nearly there, but we are a lot further than we were forty years ago. Even just forty years ago so many ministries were stuck in their own mindset—or again I will use the word “bubble”—the bubble of their own denomination and their own stream. It was not very common for pastors and leaders in this stream to be working with other streams. Maybe they would go to a citywide meeting once every couple of years, you know and just kind of smile at each other.

There is a whole new level of ministries and leaders in ministries crossing the boundary lines of their own denominations or the stream that they are in, whatever you want to call it. There is a whole new cooperative spirit in even the last ten or twenty years that is so discernible. It is normal to see Pentecostal and Charismatic with non-Charismatics, the Baptist with the Methodist and the Nazarenes, the non-denominational working together.

Now it is not widespread like every congregation in every city, but it is so much further than it was twenty years ago and 100 years ago and 200 years ago. Jesus Himself identified this as one of the markers. Jesus is the one who said, “When the gospel is preached to all the nations, I am coming.” He also said, “When you walk in unity all the world will know.” He linked the world knowing about the gospel to unity in the Body. So He was saying that there is going to be a glory of God that is going to move the Church forward in unity.

So many of you are young and have not been in a full-time ministry situation, so you will not understand how dramatic it is. Even forty years later, it is tremendous, the movements in that direction. Beloved, we can do so much more together when we honor one another's differences and different personalities, different callings, different focuses. We get the big picture of what is going on.

Now this thing is increasing, and it needs to increase more, but it has increased in a marked way compared to 2,000 years of church history. Beware, for the enemy wants to pervert unity because the enemy has a plan to push for a unity of all the world religions without any regard to truth. I am talking about the unity that Jesus prayed for, that is based on loyalty to Jesus' Word and Jesus' leadership. I am talking about the unity that is rooted in loyalty to Him. The enemy is offering a unity with no regard for truth and no regard to Jesus' leadership. If you stand for truth, they call you divisive. They call you bigots and they call you haters if you stand for truth. So while I am talking about the glory of unity, do not be naïve and not understand the enemy's counterfeit of what he is doing in the nations in this day as well.

- D. **Prayer and worship movement:** Before Jesus returns, the Spirit will raise up the greatest prayer movement in history. There are many indicators of this in the Scriptures (Ps. 96:1, 9, 13; 98:1-9; 102:15-22; 122:6; 149:6-9; Isa. 19:20-22; 24:14-16, 23; 25:9; 26:1, 8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19, 29, 32; 35:2, 10; 42:10-15; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6-7; Jer. 31:7; 51:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Zeph. 2:1-3; Zech. 8:20-23; 10:1; 12:10; 13:9; Mt. 21:13; Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 14:18; 16:7; 18:6; 22:17).

⁷**“Shall God not avenge [bring justice to] His own elect who cry out day and night to Him... ?**
⁸**When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith [agreement] on the earth?” (Lk. 18:7-8)**

Well, I love this one, but I will not spend so much time on it because we have talked about it a bit: the prayer and worship movement. The Scriptures make it clear that the Holy Spirit is raising up the greatest prayer and worship movement in history in one generation. Beloved, I believe we are in the early days of that generation. It is growing so fast.

Now look at Luke 18:7; we all know it. Shall not God bring justice if you cry night and day? We all know that “if you cry night and day, then justice.” I mean we have it on the wall at IHOPKC, right there on the wall. It is verse 8 that I want you to pay attention to. This is Jesus talking. He links the night and day prayer for justice to the second coming. Often verse 8 is lost because we are focused on verse 7, the night and day-ness.

He said, “When I come”—that is Him saying, I want to talk to you about night and day prayer in the generation of My return—“will I find faith on the earth?” Some people misunderstand that verse, and they think Jesus is saying that the Church is going to backslide so far that will anybody even stay born again. That is not what He is saying. He is not asking that question. He is saying, “Here is the question of the hour in the generation I return: will the people of God agree with me?” That is what faith is; it is agreement. “Will they agree with Me that the most significant way to release justice in the world is through night-and-day prayer behind it?” He was saying, “Will the people agree with that strategy? Will they have faith that the time and resource and energy it takes to do night-and-day prayer are critical to the release of justice?” I mean we have to do the deeds of justice as well, but He linked it to night-and-day prayer at the hour of His coming. He asks, and the answer is yes because the prophets give the answer all through the Old Testament. There will be prayer and worship exploding around the earth in that time. The book of Revelation describes it as well.

So are we going to attempt, like so often through church history, to establish justice divorced from night-and-day prayer? That is what Jesus is asking here in verse 8. He asks, “Will I find faith? Will the people of God agree?” I think He was smiling thinking, “They will. Go read what the prophets say. Yes, they will approach justice the way I have taught them to, with a foundation of night-and-day prayer.”

1. In 1984, the number of 24/7 houses of prayer in the world was fewer than twenty-five. Today there are more than ten thousand, and most of the growth has occurred in the last ten years. Prayer initiatives are springing up all over the globe at a staggering rate. Such momentum in prayer must be attributed to the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit, not to human ingenuity.

I just love to say this fact: that in 1984—I said this two weeks ago—a group of leaders searched around the world for every 24/7 house of prayer they could come up with. There were fewer than twenty-five. Twenty-five houses of prayer that were 24/7. None of them had music, at least that I know of. They were normally prayer chains, one or two people in a room for an hour, then somebody would come an hour later. There were twenty-five of them. I was pretty excited when I heard that number years ago. I thought, “Wow, twenty-five! That is amazing!”

Now there are well over 10,000. Ten thousand is a conservation number. The men that came up with this number studied it for thirty+ years, forty years even. I talked to them just a few years ago. They said there were well over 20,000 twenty-four hour houses of prayer, though many of them are a prayer room with one person in it at a time. It has gone from twenty-five, they said, to well over 20,000. I said, “Man, I am just going to put 10,000. I am going to go with ten.”

The guy said, “I am positive. I know the statistics.”

I said, “Well, I am going to put ten anyway. I think that number is too big. That is too intense.”

He said, “It is picking up steam.” Because, you see, most of them have started the last ten years. I mean it is a remarkable story.

I remember the first time I heard of somebody having a prayer room with one person in it for an hour, then one more person for an hour, then one more person for an hour for twenty-four hours. I was blown away. I thought, “Really, how did they make that happen?” Now there are well over 10,000. The men I talked to said that it is 20,000, but you can say what you want.

2. Call2All hosted a congress in Orlando (Jan. 2008) and 170 CEOs of most of the top missions organizations made a commitment to start 70,000 new houses of prayer by 2020. In the Hong Kong Congress (June 2009) 3,000 leaders committed to start 400,000 house of prayer by 2020. In Nairobi (August 2008) leaders committed to start 75,000 new houses of prayer. In Call2All congresses, leaders have committed to start over **500,000 houses of prayer**.

Now this is exciting. The Call2All is a mission organization run by our own Mark Anderson at YWAM right here in Kansas City, one of my dear friends, one of my very close friends. He is the leader and leads it in cooperation with many top mission organization leaders. They have these congresses where they go to a city, and some three, four, five thousands leaders from all over the Body of Christ from that part of the world come. They plan together how they can bring the gospel to every place that does not have the gospel, how they can get the Bible translated, and how they can build houses of prayer. I do not know how many of these congresses they have had, but quite a few of them in the last eight years. I have a little bit of detail there in the notes.

So after three or four days, they get them together and ask each leader or group of leaders, “Okay, how many people groups will you adopt?” Maybe they will say they will adopt nine people groups that do not have the gospel preached to them yet, of the 12,000. There are only a few left.

They ask them how many of houses of prayer they commit to build, all of them together from many different streams, as they gather in a city like Hong Kong or Nairobi or in Orlando. Look at this number at the end of paragraph two: leaders that have great influence in the Body of Christ collectively over all these different congresses in a number of different cities have committed to 500,000 new houses of prayer.

So one group commits, “We will do ten in our ministry.”

Another group says, “We will do ten.”

This group says, “Well, our denomination will do 800 in the next twenty years.” Adding them all up together from tens of thousands of leaders: 500,000 new houses of prayer. Beloved, this is a staggering number. This is a sign of the times. There was nothing like this twenty years ago, and nothing to even close to like this for 2,000 years of church history.

The Lord makes it clear, when you read the Bible verses, that He is going to have 24/7. He is going to have night-and-day prayer across the earth.

- E. Isaiah prophesied 24/7 prayer ministries continuing until Jesus returns (Isa. 62:6-7). Only one generation will see the fulfillment of God’s promise to “set” intercessors in place worldwide to cry out night and day until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth, which happens when Jesus returns.

⁶I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace [be silent, NAS] day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, ⁷and give Him no rest till He...makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth [at Jesus' return]. (Isa. 62:6-7)

If you have been around here for a while you have heard Isaiah 62:6 so many times. We are so used to this verse in Isaiah that we can become kind of indifferent to it. I urge you to read this verse with fresh eyes. I have preached on this verse so many times in the last thirty-five years. I do not want to lose the freshness of what is being said here. In verse 6 God is speaking. "I," says the Lord, "I will set watchmen"—those are intercessors. They will cry night and day and they will not stop until Jerusalem is a praise in the earth, which is synonymous with "they will not stop until Jesus returns." Because Jerusalem does not become a praise in the earth until Jesus returns. That is, it is Jesus' presence in Jerusalem that makes the whole world praise Jerusalem. Right now most of the world is not very happy with Jerusalem. They are not praising Jerusalem right now. They are mocking or speaking down at Jerusalem. The day is coming when a Man sets up His throne in Jerusalem, and the whole earth will sing and talk with affirmation about the city of Jerusalem. That is the time of the second coming.

So what Isaiah is saying is that, in the decades leading up to the second coming, something unique is going to happen. The Lord says, "I am going to set watchmen in place." He identifies a very, very specific group. It is people that He starts them off praying and they do not stop until the Lord returns.

So someone might ask, "Well, are we one of those groups?" I do not know. If we continue until the Lord returns, then we are one of those groups. Beloved, there are 10,000 24/7 houses of prayer right now or according to this group of men there are 20,000. I believe that many of them are going to continue until the Lord returns. So it is a unique group, and it is a unique definition that the Lord is talking about. He initiates them, He moves them to do it, and He sustains them. For all the good reasons that people want to quit, He is going to see to it they don't. He is going to keep motivating them, and they will not. Some decades will go by, they will look back, and they have done it until Jerusalem is a praise in the earth, until the Lord returns.

It is a unique hour of history. There is only one generation in which prayer ministries will be started—many around the world—that will continue 24/7 night and day, never ever silent, until the Lord returns. We are in that explosive hour. Again, forty years ago I could not have imagined this. I mean I could imagine twenty-five groups doing it, you know, as passing the prayer baton, one person at a time for an hour in a prayer room. I could not even imagine how it is exploding today. I think ten years from today the number is going to be so far beyond the ten or twenty thousand houses of prayer. It will actually be the prayer culture in the church. You do not have a prayer room that is 24/7. That is not the point. Isaiah identified night-and-day prayer. He said, "I will be extreme. God is going to set up groups, get them going, and keep them going until the second coming. Watch it." I do not even know how Isaiah would have understood that because it is too extreme of a description of a ministry to do this clear until the Lord returns all over the earth. Well, beloved, it is happening, and it is glorious. It is a remarkable, remarkable reality.

- F. The Lord desires to be worshiped on earth as He is in heaven (Mt. 6:10). In Revelation 4-5, John describes the worship order that was established after God's own heart. It reveals how He wants to be worshiped. The heavenly order of worship is **continual**, **musical**, and **God-centered** (Rev. 4:8; 5:8-9; 14:2; 15:2). God-centered worship focuses on God and His personality and actions.
- G. In Isaiah 42, Isaiah prophesied about a global intercessory worship movement (v. 10-12), which would usher in Jesus' return (v. 13) and release His end-time judgments (v. 14-15).

¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands...¹¹Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains...¹³The LORD shall go forth [Jesus' second coming] like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies...¹⁵I will lay waste the mountains [earthquakes]..." (Isa. 42:10-15)

By the way Isaiah wrote with more details about the prayer movement in the generation the Lord returns than any other person in the Bible. So there are quite a few verses we could have pulled out on this. Here in Isaiah 42, Isaiah says something that seems normal to you, but it was very strange, even in my early days, very strange. He said that these prayer meetings would have music in them.

Now today, 2016, you cannot imagine a prayer meeting without music in it. The first twenty years, or whatever the number, fifteen, twenty years that I went to prayer meetings, I never went to one with music in it. I don't know that I ever went to a prayer meeting that did, other than odd-off one where they worshipped for fifteen minutes and then we prayed. I do not remember, but I am sure I went to one or two like that. There were no prayer meetings that I remember that had music during them. I remember when we first started doing it people would say, "Well, it is kind of distracting with the music. Why don't stop you the music?" Some groups suggested that we put the music in that room and we pray in this room so it is not distracting.

- H. ***From the ends of the earth:*** five challenging areas that will engage in the worship movement
1. ***Go down to the sea:*** includes the nearly 12,000 inhabited islands of the earth
 2. ***Coastlands:*** includes the major population and resource centers on the coastlands
 3. ***Wilderness:*** includes the small cities in the wilderness and desert regions
 4. ***Villages of Kedar and Sela:*** Islamic villages in Jordan (Sela) and Saudi Arabia (Kedar)
 5. ***Mountain tops:*** a difficult place to assemble people for worship and prayer

All over the earth now it is so common to mix music and worship, and that is what Isaiah talked about here. Look at there in Isaiah 42. I mean really pay attention to this. He said that there are going to be songs from the ends of the earth. Now I am not going to go through the details here, but Isaiah identified five different locations of the earth. He listed the mountaintops, the coastal cities, and the islands. There are 12,000 inhabited islands on the earth. Then he identified—look here in verse 11—Kedar and Sela. Those are Arab villages in Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He said that in Islamic nations there is going to be prayer in the name of Jesus, worshipping Him boldly. In little, dinky Islamic villages around the world it will happen. In other words, Isaiah was describing this music-led prayer across the earth that would go to mountaintops, villages, coastal cities, Islamic towns, deserts, it would be everywhere. It was like, "Hey, Isaiah you are getting a little enthusiastic here. I mean maybe everywhere there is one guy praying by himself."

"No," he says, "No, no, no, no! They are going to be singing, and they are going to be playing instruments. It is going to be music-led. It is going to result"—verse 13—"in the coming of the Lord." The Lord is going to come from heaven in answer to a global worship movement.

Again, twenty to forty years ago I couldn't hardly picture this music dimension. It is sweeping the earth so fast. Now I do not go to a prayer meeting that does not have music in it. You know if I am in one, people start getting nervous. Get a guitar, turn the web stream on, something. I mean my goodness! It is so different now.

- I. Psalms 96 and 98 prophesy a time when singing to the Lord will arise from all the earth. May the Lord establish 24/7 prayer with worship in every tribe and tongue on earth before Jesus returns! This may happen across a city, not just in one building, with many ministries working together.

¹Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth...⁹Worship the Lord...tremble before Him, all the earth...¹³For He is coming to judge the earth. (Ps. 96:1-13)

**¹Sing to the Lord a new song...³All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
⁴Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song...and sing praises. (Ps. 98:1-4)**

Look, the psalmist does this same thing. Now I want you to notice in Psalm 96 and 98 how many times the psalmist uses the phrase, all the earth, and then how he ties it to the second coming. So these Psalms, 96 and 98, are about music, praise, singing, all the earth. There are 200+ nations in the earth and 12,000 people groups, all the earth. Well, all the earth cannot do it until all the earth has the gospel preached in all the earth. So this is clearly an end-of-the-age passage. It describes the end of the age, the coming-of-the-Lord dynamics here. Notice there is music. Remember that through history some prayer ministries had chanting of psalms. That was very rare, but some of them through the centuries would chant the psalms.

Psalm 96 and 98 say, “No, no, it is going to music, a whole different realm, not just a little bit of chanting on the side here.” Beloved, we are walking it out right now in history. This is a new reality on the planet that is a sign of the time, and it is growing so rapidly.

- J. The Spirit is calling the Church to work together to offer intercession flowing from prophetic worship (music) and intimacy with God to fulfill the Great Commission (to win the lost, revive the Church, and impact society). It is prayer **for the harvest, with music, and from intimacy** with God.
- K. Amos’ prophecy linked the timing of the rebuilding of David’s tabernacle to one generation—when Israel would be planted in her land in a way that *she would never be pulled up from it* (v. 15). The Lord has planted Israel in their land three times—in Joshua’s generation (about 1400 BC), in Zerubbabel’s generation (538 BC), and in May 1948 (the only time they will not be uprooted). Israel was restored to her land in May 1948—it is the *only generation* in which this prophecy could be fulfilled. It *signaled the beginning* of the time when the spirit of the tabernacle of David would be released—connected to the harvest of the remnant of Edom (Arabic & Islamic nations).

¹¹“I will raise up the tabernacle of David...¹²that they may possess the remnant of Edom [Islam] and all the Gentiles [nations]...¹⁴I will bring back the captives of My people Israel...¹⁵I will plant them in their land [1948], and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land.” (Amos 9:11-15)

Now we all know this verse here. I don’t know that people really catch the details, but we all know Amos 9:11. God says, “I am going to raise up the tabernacle of David.” Now we know that part of the tabernacle of David, not all of it but one aspect, is that David in 1 Chronicles 16 had a tabernacle, a tent. He lived next to it on Zion where his residence was. He had 4,000 singers and musicians who would go night and day before the Lord in that tabernacle. It was a brand new thing David established.

The tabernacle of David means more than that. It involves praise and worship, but it means more than praise and worship. Look at this now. Do not overlook the details of Amos 9:11. The reason I am saying this is that some people will read Amos 9:11, “I will raise up a tabernacle of David,” and they think, “Glory to God, we got it!”

No, look a little more at the details. Look at the qualifiers that are in place here. He said, I am going to do it and, verse 12, what is going to happen is that My people are going to possess Edom and the Gentiles. In effect He said, “I am going to establish the tabernacle of David, and it is going to lead to world evangelism. My people are going to possess Edom.” That is Jordan; that is an Islamic nation.

Like, “Really? Are you sure? Edom? You want to say that? You want to go on record, Amos?”

He continues, “More than that, it is going to touch all the Gentile nations.” Wow! Okay, that is pretty big. He says, verse 14—now watch the qualifier—“I will bring back the captives of my people Israel.” Verse 15, “I will plant Israel back in the land”—that happened back in 1948—“and they will never be pulled out from the land.”

So we look at history. When is the one time God planted—and I have some data here that I am not going to cover—when is the one time where God planted Israel and they are not going to be pulled up again? That is 1948. So that means there is only generation, and that is after 1948, where the spirit of the tabernacle of David is increasing around the earth, and it is linked to the time when God brought Israel back to the land never to be pulled out of the land again. Beloved, for 2,000 years this could never ever have come to pass. You are living in the timeframe when Israel is now in the land, never to be pulled out again. The spirit of the tabernacle of David is growing around the world. Beloved, it is happening right in front of our eyes. This could never have happened at another timeframe through history because it is only in the context to when Israel is planted by God never to be uprooted.

They will be attacked, and there will be some traumatic things happening, but I do believe the nation will never be uprooted again from the land. That is the hour of the spirit of the tabernacle of David, the worship dimension. Again it is more than worship and prayer, but it is spreading around the world, this worship-led prayer movement that many of you are accustomed to because you have been going hard after the Lord for just four or five years. I am telling you this is a new dimension on the world scene, and it is exciting. Old guys out there—when I say old guys, I mean people my age, so do not call us old—mature guys that are sixty like me, for us this is shocking. I mean it is shocking what is happening. It is just incredible, because the Bible said it would happen and it is happening right before our eyes now.

I want to talk a bit more about the spirit of the tabernacle of David. You know it was 1983 when the Lord spoke audibly—in a dream but still it was the audible voice of the Lord—and He said to do 24/7 prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David. He confirmed it more than just speaking it audibly in a dream. He confirmed it in a very radical way.

I remember May 1983. I thought, “Why? Why would we do that?” I could not even picture it. Then I have met the number of people I have met over the years whom the Lord interrupted their life and told them the exact same thing, maybe slightly different language. He interrupted and told them to do it when they had never heard of anyone else who had ever done it before.

I love Benji Nuñez’s story, you know Benji who is our evening section leader. It was in 2003, when he was seventeen years old. He was in Mexico; he lived in the Mexico City area. The Lord spoke to him in a very strong, dramatic way. He had never heard of anybody doing 24/7 prayer, and the Lord told him to build a house like David built, with night-and-day worship, 24/7. He had never heard of such a thing. So he started at the university—he was new at the university—calling his friends. About twenty of them gathered together and they said, “Let’s do this.” They wondered who else was doing it, but they knew nobody. “So let’s just do it. God told us sovereignly.”

Then a couple years later a business couple had dreams. The man had a dream, and his wife had a dream the same day. “Get a hold of that young guy who is building the house of prayer and strengthen him.” The couple

began a business because the Lord gave the husband and wife a dream the same night to go financially support 24/7 prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.

Beloved, I have a number of stories like this. Benji had never heard of what we were doing in Kansas City. It was some time later that he ran into it. Then he came here and he asked, “How did you guys know to do this?”

I asked, “Well, how did you know to do it?”

I remember meeting a man, Paul Gitwaza. It was remarkable. He is a pastor from Rwanda. There in Rwanda, after the terrible, great genocide happened in the 1990s, the Lord spoke to him in a dream and said, “Build a twenty-four hour house of prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.” He went and established a church in Rwanda and it grew to some 15,000 – 20,000 people, some number like that, I do not know exactly. In 1999, the same year that we started, he had this dream of 24/7 prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David. He has been running it for years.

I meet him a couple years ago and I said, “How did you know to do it?”

He said, “I heard it in a dream directly from the Lord. I had never heard of such a thought. I did not even know anything about it.” He went on, “Then I heard about you some years later.” He asked, “How did you get the information to do this?”

We told our stories. I asked, “Do you have music and singers in the night?”

He said, “Oh totally, absolutely. We do, and we have been doing this for years.” He went on, “You do this in America? We do this in Africa. God told us.”

I have had the opportunity in our seventeen years of IHOPKC to hear stories of different people and how God sovereignly told them this. I ask the Lord, “What are You doing?”

The Lord’s answer would be something like, “I am fulfilling the plan I put in place.” You are in the hour of history where it is exploding, and yet we can get so used to it. We just walk in and see it.

We hear the story of 10,000 groups and night-and-day houses of prayer springing up across the earth. Again you do not need to do it all in one building. I encourage leaders of like 100 ministries together to do it in your city though not in one building. Beloved, it is a sign of the times. This explosion of the prayer movement is unprecedented.

- L. **Outpouring of the Spirit:** The Lord promised to pour out His Spirit on all believers (Acts 2:17-21). The increase of the number of believers with “charismatic” theology and experience has grown from one million (1920) to 60 million (1970) to over 600 million today—this is a sign of the times.

Okay, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I gave you these stats a couple of weeks ago as well. In 1920, there were one million people that had charismatic theology/experience—I do not know exactly how to say it, those believing in healing and moving of the Holy Spirit—a million people in 1900. There are six hundred million people now, so from a million less than 100 years ago to 600 million in 2015. The number is staggering, the increase. I mean for 2,000 years there was never a million on the earth at one time that had this theology and these experiences.

Now starting about—I forgot what year it was—2001, 2002, 2003, something like that, the people who study all the statistics say that over fifty percent of the Body of Christ in the earth embraces charismatic-type theology and claims to have experiences. It is now the majority in the Body of Christ for the first time in history from the

book of Acts. For 2,000 years it has been either a stigma or totally not existent. In 1920 with a million it was a big stigma.

I have heard stories of people who paid the price in the 1920s and 1930s and 1940s for believing in this stuff. Now it is the majority of the Body of Christ, and it is well over 600 million. The Lord would say, "I told you I would pour out My Spirit." What He did in the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost—only a 120 people were touched. There is a big, global narrative that is happening in our day.

When I was first touched by the Holy Spirit in this way it was 1972. So forty whatever years ago, forty years plus, there were sixty million worldwide. That is pretty good, although I did not know there were so many of them. There were sixty million; now there are 600 million forty years later plus. It is a sign of the times. This kind of numbers and increase has never happened ever in church history.

1. The spirit of prophecy will increase in the Church (Isa. 26:9; Jer. 31:9; 23:20; Dan. 9:22; 11:33-35; 12:3, 10; Joel 2:28-29; Mal. 4:5; Mt. 17:11; Acts 2:17; Rev. 11:3-6; 18:20).

¹⁷ It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath...²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great...day of the LORD. (Acts 2:17-20)

2. The Lord will send Elijah and the two witnesses to prophesy before Jesus' coming.

⁵ I will send you Elijah the prophet before...day of the LORD. (Mal. 4:5)

⁶ These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls...and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. (Rev. 11:3-6)

Now Elijah is coming back, literally. Some people think that is figurative. No, it is not figurative. I am saying this tongue-in-cheek, just kidding, that I am going to invite him to the Onething conference, and he will say—I am being silly now—he will say, "Since you knew for sure I was coming?" Now I may never see it in my lifetime, but who knows? My real point is that there on God's calendar, on God's agenda, is Elijah in the full power of the prophetic anointing coming before Jesus returns.

Look at Revelation 11, the two witnesses; they are prophets. The whole prophetic power dimension is going to go far beyond any time in history. It is not going to recede and go away; it is going the other direction. It is going to go far beyond any time. The 600 million that are moving forward in this direction is just a statement of where this thing is going.

3. In this revival, the Spirit will release the miracles seen in the book of Acts and the book of Exodus combined and multiplied on a global scale (Mic. 7:15; Jn. 14:12; Rev. 11:3-6).

"...the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do..." (Jn. 14:12)

¹⁵ "As in the days when you came out of...Egypt, I will show them wonders." (Mic. 7:15)

I want to talk about some of the miracles that are going to be happening. Again, 600 million people believe in it and pursue it and long for it, whereas just forty years ago the number was one-tenth that. One hundred years

ago it was ninety-nine percent less than that, or whatever the numbers are; I am not that good at math. Anyway it was really a radical shift in the Body of Christ and what is happening in it.

Before the Lord returns the miracles like those done in the book of Acts and those done in the book of Exodus will be happening. In Exodus it was the water turned to blood, and then the sea divided, and the sun became dark. So the book of Exodus had miracles in creation. The book of Acts had miracles and physical healing in people's personal lives. There are going to be miracles that affect creation—book of Exodus—and miracles that affect personal lives, healing, deliverances, etc. They are going to be combined and multiplied on a global level. That is where this thing is going. The power of God is not here to drift away, but to increase. The fact of the 600 million, the increase from a million to 600 million in the last 100+ years is a radical, radical thing.

4. God's people will do great miracles or exploits (Dan. 11:32), and there will be a great increase of angelic activity. Michael will "stand up" (Dan. 12:1) with his angels to fight Satan (Rev. 12:7-9), indicating that an increase of angelic activity will occur in the end times.

³²***The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles]. (Dan. 11:32)***

¹***At that time Michael shall stand up...and there shall be a time of trouble...*** (Dan. 12:1)

⁷***And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon...*** (Rev. 12:7)

- M. Supernatural protection: I refer to "pockets of mercy" or the "Goshen Principle" (Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4-6, 26; 10:23; 11:7) that was seen in the time of the plagues of Egypt. God did not allow His judgments to touch Goshen where His people lived as slaves. Israel's livestock did not die (Ex. 9:4-6), they had no hail (Ex. 9:26), no swarms of flies (Ex. 8:22), and they had light (Ex. 10:23).

²²***I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there...*** ²³***I will make a difference between My people and your people. (Ex. 8:22-23)***

⁷***I also withheld rain from you...I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered. ⁸So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water... (Amos 4:7-8)***

1. There will be pockets of mercy which refer to areas where God's people are protected from God's judgment (Rev. 7:2-3; 9:4; cf. Ezek. 9:4-6).

³***Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth...it may be that you will be hidden [protected] in the day of the LORD's anger [judgments] (Zeph. 2:3).***

2. God's judgments can be minimized or averted in various regions by prayer and obedience. The disaster zone can become place of blessing (revival center).

¹²***Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting...*** ¹³***so rend your heart...return to the LORD, for He is gracious... and He relents from doing harm.*** ¹⁴***Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him? (Joel 2:12-14)***

3. God will save those who live near Him and call on His name.

⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night...⁶ nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction...at noonday. ⁷A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. (Ps. 91:5-7)

N. The Spirit will establish the first commandment in first place in the Church. Jesus referred to Moses' end-time prophecy of God's people loving God wholeheartedly (Deut. 30:6; Mt. 22:37).

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart..." (Mt. 22:37)

¹ When all these things come on you...and you call them to mind among the nations where the Lord drives you, ² and you return to the Lord...⁵ Then the Lord will bring you to the land...

⁶ and will circumcise your heart...to love the Lord God with all your heart.... (Deut. 30:1-6)

O. **Many walking in righteousness:** This includes "many" believers repenting of compromise to walk in righteousness and purity with great victory (Dan. 11:35; 12:3, 10; Rev. 12:11; 15:2; 19:7).

³ "...those who turn many to righteousness... ¹⁰ ...many shall be purified..." (Dan. 12:3, 10)

⁷ Let us be glad...for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:7-8)

P. **Bridal paradigm of the kingdom:** Revelation 22:17 is one of the most informative and significant prophecies describing an aspect of how the end-time Church will function: the Church in unity with the Spirit, saying and doing what He is saying and doing. The Spirit is speaking to believers about their *identity* as a Bride and their *intercession* for Jesus to come in power.

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come...²⁰ Surely, I am coming quickly." Even so, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:17, 20)

The bridal paradigm of the kingdom. Now what I mean by paradigm is "perspective." Well, a paradigm is more than just a perspective. It is a way of viewing the entirety of the kingdom through the lens of a cherished Bride. It is looking at the kingdom of God not just as a workforce, but as a beloved bride. So we serve God, we have a ministry, but we are looking at the kingdom of God through the lens of a Bridegroom King who cherishes us. Our identity is rooted in who we are before Him as His eternal companion, which is much more than a workforce. It is deep partnership with an exchange of heart and feeling and tenderness one with another and so much that is involved in that.

Well, John described the Church in the generation the Lord returns—he described the Church right before the Lord appears—and he said that the Church will be in her bridal identity, not just the army of God, not just the family of God, but actually the eternal companion of the King Himself. He saw the Church in Revelation 22 in unity with the Holy Spirit. The Church saw herself in this cherished position of the Bride before the Bridegroom King.

In 2,000 years of church history there has never been a universal emphasis by the Holy Spirit on this truth and this reality. In 2,000 years there has been a little group here that emphasized it and a little group there, but you hardly even notice it on the radar when you study church history. Today this idea that we are the Body of Christ—yes, we are the family of God, we are the temple, we are the priesthood, we are the kingdom, we are the Body of Christ. We are all of these things but we are not only that—we are also the eternal companion of the

Bridegroom King Himself. Jesus is not only a King with power, He is a Bridegroom with desire for relationship. He longs for and delights in the relationship and long for His people, a whole new image of who God is.

Well in the last twenty, thirty years this idea of our identity, standing before the Lord in this secure identity as a cherished Bride, in the last twenty, thirty—I would say twenty years more than even thirty—this is growing so rapidly. Now I remember when I began to study the Bride of Christ, this subject of the Bride of Christ; it was in 1988. There are two times the Lord spoke to me in a very dramatic way using the audible voice of the Lord, two times in forty years of ministry. One time was to say to do 24/7 prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David, 1983. Five years later He told me in 1988, in same way by the audible voice of the Lord in a dream situation, He said, “Understand the Bride of Christ.” In essence that was the message.

I thought, “Bride of Christ? That is weird! I do not even want to understand the Bride of Christ.” My father was a professional boxer, you know. He was an international champion as an amateur, and he traveled the world. I was raised as a boxer. So I thought, “Bride of Christ?” I mean this was such a dramatic communication. I thought, “Lord, I do not think so. I think You got the wrong guy. Lord, why do You not give that to the women’s ministry. They’ll love it! I mean they will do just great with it.”

Then I remember asking the Lord, “Which is it? I thought You told me to do that twenty-four hour thing.” You see, we put a sign on the wall, twenty-four hour prayer. I never knew what it meant except for that phrase, twenty-four hour prayer with singers and musicians. But I did not know how to do it. I said, “What do You want me to do, the prayer thing or the Bride thing?” Frankly I did not want to do either one; honestly I did not. I thought, “I do not want to get stuck in some room with four people and a couple of whatever-Bride-of-Christ people, you know. This is not going to be good. This is not going to work for me. I am just not built for this.”

I could imagine the Lord smiling and going, “Just do it.” Two times I have received a kind of an unusual, dramatic communication about the focus, something I was to embrace in my ministry. So in 1988 I began to study it. I began to search. I got a research team and searched church history. All my favorite teachers in church history—Jonathan Edwards, and Charles Spurgeon, and so on. I said, “Get everything everybody has on the Bride of Christ.”

I had a pretty aggressive research team. They came back a couple months later and said, “We have nothing. It is non-existent in church history.”

I said, “No, no! Try again. Are you kidding? Go to the library, you know the seminary library, a couple seminaries in town, go there.” They come back with one page. I said, “I do not get it. Just find the famous teachers and surely they will have something.”

They said, “We did, and almost nobody mentions it.”

I said, “Really?” I thought, “Well, then how am I going to figure this thing out then?” Because I wanted to learn it from scholars and go from there.

Here is my point. I mean a few people taught on it here and there, but it was very remote and hard to find their teachings. In the last twenty years, because I paid attention to this subject, this truth is exploding around the world. I think, “Where were you guys when I needed you back in 1988? Come on! I mean now there are books and music. It is still not everywhere, but there are multitudes of articles, music, books, and dramas all centered around this subject. Beloved, that itself is a sign of the time. It is the first time in history this has happened. The first time in history it has happened.

1. For the first time in history the Spirit will universally emphasize the Church's identity as Jesus' Bride. As sons of God, we are in the position to experience **God's throne** as heirs of His power (Rev. 3:21; Rom. 8:17). As the Bride, we are positioned to experience **God's heart** (emotions or affections). As the Church sees Jesus as a Bridegroom King, they will see themselves as a cherished Bride. As women are the sons of God, so also men are part of the Bride of Christ—both describe a position of privilege before God
 2. Jesus is a King with power and a Bridegroom with desire. The Bridegroom message is about Jesus' emotions for us, His beauty, His commitments to us (to share His heart, home, throne, secrets, and beauty), and our response of wholehearted, obedient love (Jn. 14:15, 21).
- Q. Jesus called His people to make disciples that impact every sphere of society—family, education, government (politics, law, and military), economy (marketplace, business, science, and technology), arts (entertainment and sports), media, etc. Grace with understanding to walk this out is increasing in a dramatic way in this hour in the body of Christ.

¹⁹“Go...and make disciples of all the nations...”²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...” (Mt. 28:19-20)

*Now this idea of the Body of Christ making disciples of nations. You know what making disciples of nations is? It is more than discipling an individual. It does not say to disciple individuals, although that is included and that is what it means as well. But it is more than making a disciple of a person, which I think is a very, very significant thing to do. It is to disciple a nation, disciple a city. Like, how do you disciple a city? How do you disciple a nation? It is not just all the people in the nation, but it is **to bring the influence of the kingdom to every sphere of life in that nation.***

Forty years ago you hardly ever heard of anybody in the marketplace viewing it as their ministry. People in the marketplace, they did the marketplace job, and some of them would look with longing eyes, “I wish I could be in the ministry.” Forty years ago very few people understood that is a very significant assignment in the kingdom to disciple a nation, for the banker or the educator or the person in the medical profession or law or politics. I mean forty years ago they said to stay out politics, stay out of law or you will backslide, and you will be one of them. Today there has been such a change in the mindset of the Body of Christ because we are getting closer to the time of the Lord's return.

Therefore there is now this whole idea of viewing the earth through the lens of it belonging to God. Every sphere of society in the righteous, good sense has an assignment from heaven that has a ministry dimension to it. Though the darkness is going to get darker, there are going to be great advancements in different spheres in various places in the earth as well. I know hundreds of people, far more than that, who see their place out in the community as their divine assignment. They are just as important a facet of the kingdom as the preachers and the intercessors. It is a whole new thing again. I think that in itself is telling us we are getting closer to the coming of the King, because this is a total shift in the mindset of the Body of Christ.

- R. Malachi prophesied that God would raise up many who would turn their hearts to children (orphans, the fatherless, sex trafficking, etc.). This will result in the largest orphan outreach in history.

⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children...” (Mal. 4:5-6)

Malachi said the days are coming, and of course it is related to the time just before the Lord returns because it is when Elijah comes back. Now we do not know how many years Elijah is coming before the Lord returns; we do not know. There is one thing that is going to happen: the hearts of the fathers are going to turn to children.

There is going to be a huge shift of strong and powerful leaders, men and women in the Body of Christ, who are not just looking for networking potential and how to increase their influence. Their hearts are going to shift, and they are going to see children in their value. They are going to stop thinking things like, “This little child cannot give me anything. They cannot give me money. They cannot vote for me. They cannot open a door for me. They cannot join my network. They cannot align themselves with me. They have nothing to give me.” God is going to create this paradigm shift where people see children like God sees children.

Beloved, in the last ten, twenty years, a little bit more than that in the pro-life movement, there has been and is an adoption movement that is growing. In the Western world, and undoubtedly beyond the Western world as well, but I am just familiar with the Western world. A pro-life movement, adoption movement, an anti-human trafficking movement to liberate these young children who cannot give anything back to those leaders, those men and women, those fathers in the faith.

We are watching this, and I do not know if we have ever had a time in history where so many people are involved. The numbers are not enough, but numbers are so much greater than forty years ago. There is a turning, there is already a shift that is noticeable across the nations of the Body of Christ turning to see the value of children from God’s point of view.

- S. ***Increased understanding to know God and His end-time plans:*** The Lord will raise up “people of understanding” who will *know God* and make His heart and plans known to “many” (11:32-33). Their wisdom will be related to understanding more of Jesus’ glory and beauty, as well as His plans, including what the Bible says about the unique events and trends occurring in His end-time plan.

³²“...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. ³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many.” (Dan. 11:32-33)

In Daniel 11:33, the Lord said that there would be the people of understanding. It is not one little group here and one little group there. I think it is millions of people. It is people that have understanding. The understanding that is being highlighted in Daniel 11 is that they are understanding what the angel is telling Daniel about the unique dimensions of God’s end-time purposes. Because, in the generation the Lord returns, darkness will reach an all-time level high and righteousness will reach an all-time level high. The power of Satan will reach an all-time high, and the power of God in the Church an all-time high. It will create unique dynamics all over the earth that are very unique in history. God says, “I am going to have people who understand what the Bible says.” I am talking about a hunger as well as real understanding about what the Bible says about that generation and that is happening right now.

*There has grown such an increase of interest in the topic of God’s end-time plan in the last twenty, thirty, forty years compared to throughout history. We can look at two books that are indicators of this interest. They are not books that I have personally enjoyed, but at the same time I appreciate them. There is the **Left Behind** series by Tim LaHaye. Seventy-five million copies sold. Seventy-five million people have bought those books. That is indicating the amount of people hungry for this subject. So seventy-five million books sold, but they say that many times a book is read by two or three people, though not all the time. So it is probably that many people as well.*

*You know, I have had a chance to interact with various political leaders the last couple years. The hunger political leaders have to know what the Bible says about the end times is remarkable. Even secular leaders of society want to know what does it say. I have read a few magazines like **Time Magazine** and a few others where they have done a study, you know, and they have articles. There are quite a few of them out there in major magazines in the last fifteen years of the marked increase in the nations concerning curiosity about the coming of the Lord from the biblical point of view. There has never been a time of history when people are grappling with what the Bible says about that generation with real discussions all over the world, not in every place of the world, but many places of the earth. That is a brand new reality. I mean just that books series, seventy-five million copies, are you kidding? I mean where is the hunger at? Where did that come from?*

Look what it says here in Daniel 11:33. It says the people who understand will instruct many. When it says “many,” that shows the hunger in the nations. There is going to be hunger for answers from the Bible. Hunger like, what does the Bible say? Again I have had a couple remarkable conversations with some leaders who have had an unusual amount of influence, and their hunger to know what the Bible says—I thought, “Man, I just did not picture this level of hunger in this group or that group.”

- T. The Lord will raise up *forerunner messengers* in the end times who understand what He is doing. (Isa. 28:19-23; 33:6; 43:18-20; 62:10-12; Jer. 23:20; 30:24; Dan. 7:16, 19; 8:15-17; 9:22; 11:33-35; 12:3, 9-10; Joel 2:28-29; Mal. 4:5; Mt. 17:11; Acts 2:17-18; Rev. 11:3-6; 3:18; 13:18; 17:9).

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)

²⁴The fierce anger of the LORD will not return until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it [think deeply on it]. (Jer. 30:24)

Now look what it says in Jeremiah 23, talking about that final generation. Jeremiah 23:20 is talking about the timeframe of the Lord’s return. It says that the anger of the Lord will not turn back. That means His judgments against the Antichrist. That is the theme here. Until the Lord has executed and performed all of His plans of His heart against the Antichrist Empire is the idea.

Now listen to this, “In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.” In the last days God is going to create a spirit of hunger and understanding for this subject. It is exploding right now. It is still not the majority of the Body of Christ but the numbers, the millions that are moving into this subject of hunger, are remarkable.

Look at Jeremiah 30. He says it again. “The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it.” Again, completely destroy the Antichrist Empire is the context. Until God has performed all the plans and intents of His heart. In the latter days the people of God—is what “you” means—will consider it. They will think about it, they will be hungry for it, they will talk about it, they will weigh it. They will not dismiss it, but rather they will take it to heart and will consider it.

God is raising people of understanding. Now I think the understanding is not that deep right now, but I think you give it ten, twenty more years, thirty more years and we are going to see the prayer movement at a whole other level. We are going to see the unity in the Body of Christ. We are going to see the bridal paradigm with greater clarity, with more people, a greater flow of the prophetic, more and more touched by signs and wonders, more than the 600 million.

I think we are going to see thousands more getting saved in Israel. I mean there is a day coming where a 144,000 will be saved. 144,000, but more than that. So I am not talking about 15,000. The day is coming where there will be hundreds of thousands of people in Israel getting saved.

These things are unfolding right now before us. As I understand these, and kind of connect where the Bible says—I probably identified eight or nine things here, I did not actually count them—they are all happening for the first time on a global level and they are all happening in the same time together. So this is not an arbitrary thing. You put all these things together and you think, “Lord what is going on?”

I think the Lord’s answer would be, “I do not want you stuck in the bubble of your own life and challenges and your own goals and agendas. That is good to be in that bubble a little bit, but take a step back. There is a global narrative. I am unfolding a storyline. I want you paying attention to it. I want you to understand it. I have given you a lot of signs. I have made it very clear what hour you are living in.”

Again this generation may go a little bit longer. It may take longer to fully mature than we think, but it may go the other way, too. It may be shorter than we think. We do not know. Nobody knows the time, the day, or the hour. What I like to say is that I know now it is not too early to get clarity on these subjects. If you do not see it in your lifetime, you want to give your children and their children clarity, I mean profound clarity, from the Bible on these subjects. There is plenty of information that the Holy Spirit is giving us through the written Word of God. Amen, let’s stand.