

Session 01 The Forerunner Ministry: Preparing for the Day of the Lord

I. DAY OF THE LORD: THE 2 EXTREMES RELATED TO JESUS' RETURN

¹¹ For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)

- A. The Day of the Lord refers to the unusual events (positive and negative) that will escalate dramatically in the 3½ years just before Jesus returns. The 2-fold nature of this time is seen in the great blessing it releases on those who call on Jesus and the judgment for those who refuse Him.
- B. ***It will be a great Day*** to those who call on Jesus' name because they will experience the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history leading to Jesus' Coming (Joel 2:28-32). In this great revival, the Spirit will release the miracles that were seen in the book of Acts and the book of Exodus combined and multiplied on a global scale and will result in the following ten positive trends.
- C. ***It will be a very terrible Day*** to the rebellious who will experience the most severe outpouring of God's judgments in history in the Great Tribulation which occurs in the last 3½ years of this age.
²¹ Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (physically preserved); for the elect's sakes those days will be shortened. (Mt. 24:21-22)
- D. The main emphasis of the Tribulation is Jesus' judgment against the Antichrist's empire in releasing the judgments seen in Rev 6-20. Secondly, is the Antichrist's attack on the saints.
- E. The prophets asked, "Who can endure the Day of the Lord events?" Who can experience God's favor, deliverance and power in this unique time? Forerunners will have the answer to this.

II. WHAT IS THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY?

- A. One of IHOP's primary callings is to minister with a "forerunner spirit". Forerunners prepare the way for the Lord by preparing people to respond rightly to Jesus in light of His Second Coming.
³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God...5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together (at Jesus' Second Coming)... (Isa. 40:3-5)

¹⁰ Prepare the way for the people; build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples! ¹¹ Say..., "Surely your salvation is coming..." (Isa. 62:10-11)
- B. The highway God walks on is the voluntary agreement of His people as they partner with Him. Forerunners are messengers who proclaim "now" what the Holy Spirit is "soon" to emphasize in a universal way across the nations. They are "one short step" a head of what the Holy Spirit is about to openly release so they can ***prepare the people to respond rightly to Jesus*** by making known God's plans so the people can make sense of what will happen before it actually happens. Forerunners bring new understanding or paradigms of God and His End-Time activity and plans.

III. SEVEN THEOLOGICAL PREMISES OF THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

- A. Forerunners are “messengers” who function with a specific message in different spheres of life. For example, they are preachers, artists (singers, musicians, actors, etc.), writers (books, internet), media, marketplace or intercessors as well as those who disciple people one-on-one in the church, university or home (moms and dads are some of the most important forerunners).
- B. Premise #1: There will be “**unique dynamics**” in the generation the Lord returns.
1. It will witness the **greatest demonstration of power** both God’s and Satan’s (Rev. 13). The three “supernatural generations” in Scripture are the generation of Moses (Ex. 7-10), the generation of the apostles and the generation Jesus returns in which the miracles done by Moses and the apostles will be combined and multiplied on a global level.
 2. It is the generation **most described** by God in His Word.
 3. It is the generation that is **most populated**. Some estimate that there will be more people alive in this one generation in one life span (70 years) than in all history combined.
- C. Premise #2: The Holy Spirit will emphasize the **revelation of the Father** in bringing God’s family to maturity. God will raise up those who release the Father’s heart in the home, church, marketplace and government (Ps 68:5-6).
- ⁵ ***I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.*** (Mal. 4:5-6)
- ²⁶ ***I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.*** (Jn. 17:26)
- D. Premise #3: The Holy Spirit will emphasize **three facets of the beauty of Jesus** as clearly seen in Scriptures that describe God’s End-Time plans (Rev. 19; Mt. 24-25; Isa. 60-62). The beauty of Jesus will be revealed in an unprecedented way by the Holy Spirit in the End-Times.
- ² ***In that day the Branch of the Lord (Jesus) shall be beautiful and glorious...*** (Isa. 4:2)
1. Jesus as a **passionate Bridegroom**: with great tenderness and deep desire for His people
 2. Jesus as a **powerful King**: releasing power in confronting darkness and winning the lost
 3. Jesus as a **righteous Judge**: upholding standards of conduct (holiness)
- E. There will be no contradiction in Jesus’ heart and ministry as He manifests His glory as a Bridegroom, King, and Judge. He does not suspend one attribute to exercise another.

- F. Premise #4: Forerunners will participate in the **3 unprecedented activities of the Holy Spirit**
1. **To restore the First Commandment to first place** worldwide as the Church is prepared as a worthy Bride (Mt. 22:37; Rev. 19:7)
 2. **To gather the Harvest** through an unprecedented release of God's power (Rev. 7:9, 14)
 3. **To release Jesus' End-Time judgments** described in Revelation (Rev. 6; 8-9; 16). Three reasons for God's judgments:
 - a. **To remove everything that hinders love** in preparing the Church as a Bride. The principle of God's love in judgment: God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will in training the future rulers of the earth. The Goshen principle will be operative in this hour (Ex. 8:22-23). God's judgments remove all that hinders love by removing options (temptations) which function as the props we trust in and the temptations we refuse to resist.
 - b. **To aid in gathering the Harvest** by bringing eternity to bear on the hearts of multitudes of lost humanity and by manifesting God's power
 - c. **To release God's vengeance** upon those who persecute His church
 4. God's judgment will shake seven spheres of human life at the end-of-the-age.

⁶ ***I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory...8 The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts. (Hag 2:6-8)***

 - a. **The heavens** – the sky, atmosphere, weather patterns, etc.
 - b. **The Earth** – earthquakes, volcanoes, etc.
 - c. **The sea** – tidal waves, tsunamis, etc.
 - d. **The dry land** – vegetation and plant life
 - e. **All nations** – national and social infrastructures will be shaken
 - f. **Religious institutions** – as multitudes come to Jesus as the Desire of All Nations
 - g. **Economic disruption** – commercial turmoil as God transfers wealth to His people

- G. The writer of the Book of Hebrews applies Haggai's prophecy to the Church
²⁶ He has promised, saying, "...I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." 27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the REMOVAL of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may REMAIN. (Heb. 12:26-27)
- H. Premise #5: God is *preparing forerunner ministries ahead of time* in the wilderness that they may prepare others for the Day of the Lord activities. God is raising up "friends of the Bridegroom" type forerunner ministries like John the Baptist who will fast and pray as they "stand and hear" Jesus' voice as the Bridegroom God.
²⁹ The friend of the Bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine (John the Baptist) is fulfilled. (Jn. 3:29)
- I. Premise #6: Forerunners must *live a fasted lifestyle* in the grace of God as seen in Mt. 6:1-18. This is God's way to position ourselves to tenderize our heart to receive more revelation, in faster time frames with a deeper impact on our hearts.
- J. Premise #7: Forerunners are *best trained in context to the End-Time prayer movement*. The ideal base of the forerunner ministry is in the context of the local church rooted in the city wide house of prayer ministries that function in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David.

IV. THREE RESPONSES OF THE CHURCH TO GOD'S END-TIME JUDGMENTS:

- A. Offense (fear, confusion, anger) will be the first reaction of believers with an unrenewed mind.
⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me. (Mt. 11:6)
- B. Understanding will be given by the Holy Spirit to the End-Time Church.
¹⁹ Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury -- a violent whirlwind (Great Tribulation)! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The 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. 23:19-20)
²⁴ The 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. (Jer. 30:24)
³³ Those of the people who understand shall instruct many... they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering....³⁵ Some of those of understanding shall fall (martyrdom), to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time. (Dan. 11:33-35)
- C. Partnership with Jesus in intercession that releases God's judgments in the way that Moses did.
⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their mouth... ⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples...⁹ To execute on them the written judgment (written in the End-Time Scriptures)-- This honor have all His saints. (Ps. 149:6-9)

²⁰ ***Rejoice over her*** (judgment on End-Time Babylon), ***O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!*** (Rev. 18:20)

D. Three responses of God's people to the revelation of Jesus as a Bridegroom, King, and Judge:

¹¹ ***Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son...*** (Ps. 2:11-12)

1. We tremble before Jesus the Judge as He releases His End-Time judgments
2. We rejoice before Jesus the King as He releases great power to bring in the Harvest
3. We kiss the Son as the Bridegroom God who cherishes us with tender love. To “kiss the Son” is a figurative way to refer to our wholehearted love for Jesus (intimacy with God).