

The Need of This Great Hour of History: Isaiah 60:2

Open up your syllabus, your teaching notes, to page one. Again, we are not going to cover it word for word—nothing like that. We will not cover even fifty percent of the teaching notes, but they are there for you to study, and to take back home. Again, all of these are on the Internet right now. They are electronic copies, and our copyright is “the right to copy.” We are going to look at a little bit of this first session called, “The Need of this Great Hour of History.” This is a great hour of history in which we live, but there is a need in this hour.

It is for God’s people to understand the time we live in, and then to respond to the Lord appropriately to become forerunners who lift our voice boldly. Tenderly, yes, but boldly, fearlessly, and declare what the Spirit is saying to the Church; we declare what the Spirit is saying to the nations without drawing back with a political spirit, without drawing back in the fear of man, and without a man-pleasing spirit. But, we choose to tenderly and boldly say what the Spirit is saying.

THE GREATEST REVIVAL IN ALL HISTORY

The Church in this hour in the Western world is in a very, very serious, and dangerous position right now. Two things are happening simultaneously: The Lord is pouring out His Spirit, and He is calling people to Himself like no time in history. The greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit in all of human history is already begun. The mission movement around the nation is exploding. The prayer movement around the nations is exploding numerically. The Lord is visiting in power.

But, at the very same time, particularly the Church in the West, more and more people who name the name of Jesus are living lifestyles of compromise, they are letting go of their commitment to be the faithful witness of the Word of God; they are backing off from what the scripture says because it is unpopular and politically incorrect.

So, at the very same time things are getting better, and things are getting worse. It says here in paragraph A, in Isaiah 62:20: “Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people” or the nations. You could put the word nations. “But, the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen on you” (Isa. 60:2)

CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN HISTORY WITH TWO THINGS HAPPENING

So, notice two things are happening. The darkness is increasing. Deep darkness over the nations, but it is not a time for despair because the glory of the Lord is being poured out on the people of God at the same time. So someone says, "Is it going to get better or is it going to get worse?"

The answer is "Both." The greatest revival in history has already begun that will lead to the second coming of Christ, and all the nations will receive a witness of the gospel of the kingdom in power. At the same time, the greatest falling away in history will happen simultaneous to the greatest revival. Now, the Holy Spirit is speaking clearly to His Church right now, and a lot of people are responding. But, a lot of people are ignoring it, and are casting it off with a spirit of cynicism, mocking, and they are saying, "Oh, I do not care about all that. Let's be practical."

Beloved, let me tell you this, there is nothing more practical than knowing the truth about the crisis that is emerging in history, and the great revival that is increasing. There is nothing more practical than understanding this from God's point of view, and preparing your life and throwing yourself into this great plan of God.

GREATEST REVIVAL AND CRISIS IN HISTORY IS SOON TO COME

Paragraph B. The greatest revival in history is being released, the outpouring of the Spirit. Look what it says in Acts 2:17: "It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh." Every single nation on the earth will have an outpouring of the Spirit. Acts 2:17-20: "Your sons and daughters shall prophecy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. I will pour out My Spirit in those days; they shall prophesy." Now, notice, this great outpouring will happen before, before the second coming of Jesus.

Now, it is true, this outpouring, this promise in Acts 2, began on the day of Pentecost, and it has been ebbing and flowing throughout church history in seasons of revival. However, just before the coming of the Lord, this will accelerate on a global level beyond any time in history. The greatest outpouring of the Spirit that will surpass the power, and the miracles of the book of Acts, I believe will happen in the lifetime of the people in this room. I believe we are in the beginning days of that revival right now.

It is building, and many of God's people, many in their teens and their twenties, they are responding extravagantly to Jesus, aggressively with a deep allegiance to

Him. But, many are going the other direction. They are buying into compromise. They are trivializing the truths of the Bible. They say, "Yes, I am a Christian, but we have got to be practical," and they are dummifying down the truths of the Bible, and they are negating them. A great falling away is already beginning.

EARLY DAYS OF THE GREATEST FALLING AWAY FROM THE FAITH

We are in the early days of the greatest falling away from the faith in history, and the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in all of history. Look at Matthew 24:14, "The gospel will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." The mission leader, of the top mission leaders across the earth today, we are blessed to have one of the premiere leaders of the twentieth century in this building tomorrow, Loren Cunningham with YWAM, Youth With A Mission.

He is going to be with us, and there is nobody, in my opinion, alive today who has more experience in the mission movement. The other man who comes to mind is Bill Bright who went home to be with the Lord a few years ago. Then, there are others like Dick Eastman, and others who have been holding the line for many years preaching the gospel in the nations, but one of these great patriarchs will be with us tomorrow. But, here is what they are saying; they are saying that within the next ten years, there will be a witness of the gospel in every single nation and people group of the earth within ten years. This is a unique dynamic. It has never happened before in history.

We are in the timeframe where the gospel will be preached in power to every single nation of the earth in the great outpouring before the great and terrible day of the Lord.

RADICAL ISLAM, ABORTION AND OTHER MODERN-DAY CRISES

Paragraph D. It is not just a great outpouring. We are going to spend a lot of time talking about the outpouring. We are going to spend time talking about the positive things, but we are not honest with you, if we do not talk in a straightforward fashion about the negatives. There are a lot of folks today in the Body of Christ who will only talk about the positive. They talk about the great revival, and the great increase, and we need to go over and over and over again.

But they are silent about the crisis that is coming to the planet, and the crisis that is coming to our nation. Now, I have no clarity as to which ones should be speaking

up, and which ones should not. I do not know. It is none of my business who says what in the kingdom of God. That is the Lord's business. But, I know this: if you only think a great revival is coming, and you are not prepared for the crisis, you will be ill-equipped for the most glorious and terrible time in human history that I think will happen within the lifetime of the people in this room.

THE GENERATION OF THE LORD'S RETURN

It is essential that you respond to the Lord in these early days of what I believe are the generation of the Lord's return. I believe that there are people alive in this room who will see the Lord's return with their eyes. I do not know if it is the twenty-year-olds. I do not know if it is the two-year-olds. But, there are people in this room who will see the Lord, I believe with all of my heart, with their eyes in their lifetime. I may see the Lord. It may be a little passed my time. I do not know, but I believe with all of my heart that many of you will see it with your eyes.

If that is true, the Bible has a tremendous amount of clarity about the unique dynamics, positive and negative, for those final decades leading to His return. Here is my question: do you know what those unique dynamics are? The positive things? The great revival, and what are the many other things that are associated with it?

Do you know what the unique negative things are, do you know how they will interwork together, and how they will effect the nations? Maybe some of you say, "No, I do not." Well, nobody has all the understanding of that, but the Bible speaks with clarity about many issues.

God is raising up forerunners in this hour of history, and these forerunners who are announcing the coming of the Lord, and they are announcing the unique dynamics of events good and bad, positive and negative, unique events that will happen in the decades leading to the coming of the Lord.

God is raising up forerunners who will speak with clarity that Jesus is coming, and unique dynamics, positive and negative, will be occurring. They will give understanding; they will operate in power. They will operate in faith. They will not waver in fear, and they will not draw back in compromise because they understand what is happening.

FORERUNNERS PREPARE NOW TO PREPARE OTHERS

One of the things the Spirit is saying to the Church in this hour is He is raising up forerunners who will move in the power of God today, who will lead people to the Lord today, who will heal the sick today. But, at the same time, they will be going deep in the Word to gain understanding, to be one who prepares the unprepared for the unique dynamics that are yet ahead. There are many forerunners in this room right now. Many of you know that you are a forerunner. Some of you do not know.

There are many forerunners who are joining us right now through God TV. You are in your living room right now, and you are saying in your heart, "I think I am one. I want to be one who moves in the power of the gospel today." But at the same time, I am preparing in my understanding for the unique things that are going to happen only in one generation, and I think it might be my generation." Beloved, if these things are true, and I believe they are true with all of my heart, we must be zealous. We must be extravagant in our going after Jesus, in going deep in the Word, and in learning to flow in the power of God right now. We do not have five or ten years to kind of put this on hold, and get around to it later. God is raising up forerunners, and many of them are in their twenties and in their teens right now.

He is marking them. That is how we ended last year's conference. Five thousand young people came forward and made a seven-fold commitment of a lifestyle. They made it for a several year period of time. Some made it longer and some shorter, but to prepare themselves in an intentional way while preaching the gospel, healing the sick, growing in holiness today, and not putting it off for a future day.

ABORTION KILLS FOUR THOUSAND BABIES A DAY IN AMERICA

Paragraph E. Abortion is killing four thousand babies every day in America. The sanctity of marriage is under attack threatening to destroy the moral foundations of our nation. Sexual immorality is reaching epic heights of depravity. I could spend an hour on many of these subjects, and so could many of you. Entire school systems are being given over to these perverse ways of thinking. Five and ten-year-old little boys and girls are learning that immorality is normal and abortion is normal.

The human trafficking and the sex industries are exploding around the world, and in America. I could go on and on, and I have in the notes more issues. The crisis is mounting up. There is an encroaching spirit of darkness that is increasing in our

land in a lot of believers. I am talking about prophesying men and women of faith. They are oblivious to the crisis that is moments away. “We believe for the positive.” Well, Beloved, we need to believe for the positive in context to the negative because it is the truth, and that is reality. Others do not care about the positive or the negative. They just want to be neutral. They just want to be liked.

They have a brand of Christianity that is so bland, that it is not even Christianity. We will develop that more throughout this week, and in this conference. Now, there are many in the Church, and I am not trying to be negative, I am trying to be clear, that are so spiritually dull, they cannot feel the danger of killing four thousand babies a day.

HEAVEN’S POINT OF VIEW ON THE ATROCITY OF KILLING BABIES

The danger that is looming over this nation is from heaven’s point of view—the bloodguilt. The bloodguilt of killing fifty million babies is rising up to heaven in an outcry, and God is looking and watching. He loves us. He loves this nation, but something very, very terrible and dangerous is on the horizon.

He will not look away at the murder of fifty million babies. This angers his heart. He says in Ezekiel 22 that He beats his fists with fury over the murder of the innocent. But, many in the Church are so spiritually dull, that does not even register, the danger that is looming in our future. They say, “Well, I am thinking about my career, who I am going to marry, and my ministry,” and you should be. Young adults should be thinking about their career, who they are going to marry, and their ministry, but that is not the only thing that we should be thinking about.

There is a great revival, and there is a great shaking that is coming. Many cannot feel the weight of the increase of sexual perversion that is growing so rapidly in our nation. They cannot feel what heaven feels when God is looking at this nation. A great revival is already beginning. A great falling away has already begun.

A great crisis is already in motion right now. The economic crisis is only a whisper right now. Beloved, let me tell you something, there may be a few reprieves in the economic crisis where the Lord gives us a minute to catch our breath. But, great trouble is coming to our nation economically. Great trouble is around the corner. The people who can make a difference, it is the praying Church, the prophetic Church, the people who believe the Word of God, who have a spirit of grace on

them, fasting, prayer, and they live with revelation. They are hungry for the Word. They love the power of the Spirit.

THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

The Lord says, “Let Me hear the voice of those people before My throne. Cry out for mercy. Cry out for mercy. Raise your voice against the abominations in the land. Prepare the people for the greatest revival.” That is the calling of the forerunner ministry. That is what this conference is about, giving you some language as to what we believe are some of the critical points the Holy Spirit is focusing on in our nation right now. In these teaching notes, I laid out a few of them that are representative of what our leadership team thinks.

I did not put every important point in these teaching notes, but I put many of the points, our leadership team believes that God is focusing on right now. The hour is exciting. The hour is dangerous. The hour is dark. The hour is light. There has never been a greater time to be alive.

There has never been a more dangerous time in history than right now.

The balance of our nation is not in the hands of Washington D.C. The balance of our nation is in the hands of prophetic intercessors who believe the word of God. They are fearless. They are courageous to declare the truths of the word, the positive and the negative, with no regard to a man-pleasing spirit. Everyone wants to hear that only things are going to get better. It is a lie to say that things will only get better. It is a lie. Many of God’s servants are telling lies about the future. The people are applauding, “Yes, yes, yes.” They are telling lies. It is not the whole truth. There is a great outpouring, but there is great danger around the corner. They are telling lies about Jesus. They are telling lies about the kingdom of God. They are telling lies about the Word of God. God is raising up people who will have a profound allegiance to Jesus. They will do works of justice.

They will do acts of compassion, but with an allegiance to Jesus, an allegiance to the Word of God, to the whole Word of God, the whole counsel of God, the whole purpose of God, not just the part that pleases men to hear. But, we must go deep in the Word. We must stick together because we are all weak and broken people in our flesh.

We need the grace of God. We need each other. We need the whole Body of Christ. God is raising up forerunners in all the different parts of the Body of Christ.

They all have different labels. Some are Baptists. Some are Methodists. Some are Presbyterians. Some are non-denominational. Some are campus ministries. Some are in the Catholic Church. Some are in the Eastern Orthodox Church. They are all over the earth. God is raising up men and women for such a time as this. We need each other desperately. There is not a group here and a group here and a group there.

God has groups all over, but we have to be serious, and we have to be intentional about the hour in which we are living. I am excited. Now, in this conference, we are not going to give you a lot of “how-to’s.” Our messages, we are going to limit them to thirty minutes. We want to give you some bullet points.

We are expecting you to take these notes that represent what our leadership team believe—again it is not a full statement of all that we believe. We are expecting you to receive these bullet points, to be stirred in your faith, to be awakened in your understanding, to go home, and to go deep in the things of God. We are only giving bullet points because we want to have time for worship, and we want to have time to wait on the Spirit because the Spirit is moving in power in our midst.

But, we are going to give you enough bullet points that if you have a hungry heart, you will know what the Spirit is saying, and where He wants you to focus your time and energy for the next year or two. They are general truths, but they are very important truths.

SACRED CHARGE WITH SEVEN-POINT COMMITMENT

Paragraph C, no paragraph H. Last year, on this very platform, five thousand young people came forward. We spent the entire conference talking about forerunners, and the reason we spent the whole conference is because so many had no understanding of even the most simple basic truths related to the positive and negative dynamics of the generation of the Lord’s return.

That was okay, so we spent an entire conference laying out some real simple points.

Now, they were complicated to some because they were so new, but we told you last year to just stick with it, and the fog will lift. That which seems new and complicated will become familiar, and will become easy to understand. Just stay with it, not for a week or a month. Stay with it a couple of years. The fog will lift

in your understanding, and these truths will become apparent. They will become clear and easy to understand. Stay with it, and many of you have.

We called people to a seven-fold commitment. It was one of the greatest moments in my ministry of thirty-plus years. It was not the number five thousand. It is actually a very small number. There are six and a half billion people on the earth. Five thousand is a very small number, but there was a resolve. There was a yes in the spirit.

In our weakness, there was great sincerity, and the Lord honored it. Many of you made a commitment, and we all came up short in our commitments. The grace of God covers us, and He gives us opportunities to begin again and again. He is not the God of the second chance.

He is the God of the third, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth, and the seventh. Seventy times seventy. He will give us a chance to fail, and return with a new beginning, so do not look at last year, and say, "Oh, I made the commitment. It felt so right. Ugh, have I been fasting regularly? I did in January and February. Oh, not so good in March to December." How come I know that is true? I was in my twenties once, and I made commitments to fast. I know how it works.

I made lots of commitments. I meant them, and I did not have the maturity to follow through, but when I came up short, I repented, I confessed it, I pushed delete, and I began again fresh with a full heart the next day. That is what we are asking you to do. Do not worry about how much you came up short last year.

REPENT, RESET YOUR HEART, PRESS DELETE

It is a new day. Say, "Lord, I came up short. I made a commitment. Forgive me." Repent of it, reset your heart, push delete. It is a new day. It is a new beginning. It is a new commissioning. We called for a seven-fold commitment of a forerunner: those who will proclaim the coming of the Lord, and the unique dynamics in the generation. The great revival, and many things related to it, and the great crisis, and the many things related to it.

They would proclaim His coming, and the events related to it while preaching the gospel, healing the sick, and making the disciples in the here and now—not postponing their involvement in the kingdom to the future. They are deeply engaged in kingdom work now, but deeply committed to preparing themselves to go deep in preparation to prepare others for tomorrow. Forerunners live in two

timeframes. We seek to live in the fullness of what God wants today, and yet we are preparing for the fullness of what He wants for our lives in the future. We have a lot more about this in the notes. We have a book that I wrote with Brian Kim, and a lot of our team contributed to the ideas.

We laid out these seven commitments. These seven commitments are only a starting point. They are not the final statement. They are only a beginning point. We called people to pray daily, to connect with God.

THE SEVEN COMMITMENTS OF A FORERUNNER

Look at paragraph H. We are just going to end with paragraph H. Point one: To pray daily, and to connect with God while changing the world by releasing His power through prayer. Second, to fast weekly. Fasting does not earn us anything, but we position ourselves to receive more from God and to receive it faster and to have a deeper impact. Fasting tenderizes us to grow faster.

Point three: to do justly. We want to be zealous to do works of compassion and justice, but it is not enough to do works of compassion and justice. We do it with an allegiance to Jesus, and the Bible. There are a lot of movements that are doing works of justice, but with no allegiance to Jesus. We pledge our allegiance to the Lamb of God no matter what it costs us. We are in this for Jesus, and the Word of God with no hesitation and no apology whatsoever. If we lose our life in the process, it is our greatest glory, if we lose our life in our ministry in the process because people come against it. We did it for Him, and it would be worth it if we did it over and over again. That is the kind of spirit that is in this room.

Fourthly, we made a commitment to give extravagantly of our finances, not just to that little bit, but to give extravagantly. Regardless of what the amount is, it is the percentage. In the sacred charge book, *The Seven Commitments of a Forerunner*, we talk about extravagant giving. When you only have ten dollars a week, you can still be an extravagant giver in these days if you only have ten dollars a week. It is not the amount. It is the cost and it is the heart to give all to Him.

Fifth, we talked about living holy. Living holy is not just keeping a bunch of rules. It is living fascinated with Jesus. It is living in the pleasure of God exhilarating our spirit with His love, and with His beauty. Living fascinated is the way to live holy. We call it happy holiness.

Living exhilarated in the pleasures of God, not gritting our teeth, and wishing we could do the devil's lifestyle. No, we are not gritting our teeth, wishing we could live in darkness. We are pursuing a lifestyle of exhilaration in the love of God fascinated with the beauty of the man, Jesus, fully God fully man.

Sixth, we talk about living diligently, taking initiative in ministering to others. Taking initiative in leadership to make disciples, to lead Bible studies, to lead prayer groups, to be involved in the leadership team that goes out. Maybe there are five of you, all five of you are the leadership team, and you are out serving people in the name of Jesus. You are taking initiative to lead.

Then, seventh and finally is to speak boldly. This is the most difficult one because we live before His eyes, we ask for grace to cast off the man-pleasing, political spirit that is stifling the Church of Jesus in this day. To speak tenderly, but speak boldly and clearly about truths that are not popular even in the Church. Those are the commitments we made. I want to recommend that little book to you.

You can get the hard copy in the bookstore. You can get it free online, if you want it. We are not in this for the money. We are in this for the truth to go forth. You say, "I do not want to buy." Cool, do not buy it. Get it on the internet for free, take it up a notch, cut and paste, and make your own book. Put it out in your own name, use the same truths, and run forward. We would love it if you did that. We do not want your money.

TO HAVE WHOLE-HEARTED ALLEGIENCE TO JESUS ALONE FOR THE LAMB TO RECEIVE THE JUST REWARD OF HIS SUFFERINGS

We want Jesus to have your heart because He deserves it, and because it is the reward of His sufferings that a people would be wholehearted for Him.

I am going to ask you to stand. If last year you made that commitment, it is still in your heart no matter if you blew it or not, stand. We all blew it last year. Push delete and start again. Or maybe you are saying, "Hey, I was not a part of that last year, but this sounds right to me. I do not know the details, but I like the sound of this."

I am not asking you to make a holy, sovereign covenant right now, but I am asking you to set your heart in a new way before God that says, "Lord, I want to search these seven these out. I want to give myself to them in the grace of God because I

want to be prepared to prepare those people for the most dynamic, and the most difficult hour of human history that is yet ahead of us.”

So, stand if you are making that commitment. Well, everybody is standing. Either you did not understand my altar call, or I am at the right conference. Maybe that is it. Maybe that is just what you are about, these kinds of things. We are just going to be before the Lord right now. You are making your own recommitment or your initial commitment. Let us go before the Lord, “Father.” Just talk to Him in your own words: “Father, I say ‘yes.’ I am weak. I cannot do this in my flesh. I do not even fully understand it, but I want to be prepared to prepare others. I want to go deep. I want to move in power today and I want to go deep while I am doing it for tomorrow.”

Talk to Him right now. Just say, “Lord, I want to do it.”

Now, the Lord says, “Forget last year. Just push delete. Just forget it. Forgiven. Forgiven. New beginnings. Start over today, tonight, this week.” Those in living rooms of God TV, make this commitment. Give yourself to this. Those that are listening by the internet, say yes. Go with us.