

Session 6 Negative Spiritual Sign Trends in the Church and Society

I. REVIEW

- A. As the darkness increases in society, so the light of God’s glory will be manifested more and more. Most of the positive and negative trends that will *come in fullness* at the time of Jesus’ return are *occurring now* and will *continue to increase* until He comes.

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)

We are in Mark 13, if you want to follow along in your own Bibles. And, we are in session six of a twelve-part series, this course of twelve classes. This is a very heavy subject tonight: the negative spiritual trends that are going to increase and come to a crescendo in a negative way in the generation the Lord returns. This is a very heavy subject, so if it is your first session in this series, well, last session we looked at the positive trends. I did that on purpose so that you could kind of get the big picture of the positive first, as the unique dynamics of the generation the Lord returns contains both the intense positive and the intense negative in the same generation. It is the most intense positives of history and the most intense negatives of history in the same timeframe globally. That is why we talk about the unique dynamics of situations in the lives of people in the nations. Now this subject is far bigger than one session, as are all the subjects that we are covering in this course. The idea is to get you aware of it so that you could be watching, you could be studying, you could be paying attention. You are alerted to these subjects.

Just a quick review. Isaiah 60:2 speaks of a time when deep darkness covers the earth. In the generation where deep darkness covers the earth, the glory of God breaks out as well. Now, regarding the positive trends and the negative trends that come to fullness related to the coming of the Lord, those trends are actually right now increasing in the nations. They are going to continue to increase. As those positive and negative trends are increasing, many believers, sincere believers, do not connect the dots to the reality. They do not connect the ideas that this is part of God’s narrative, that it is part of His story for a generation. They do not see the end-time value or the eschatological value—it is a big word which means the end times. They do not see the positive and the negative trends. They do not see that it has significance in history in the end-time plan of God’s narrative. So they observe them, but they observe them more as isolated trends. They think, “Wow, that is kind of interesting,” or “That is troubling,” or “That is encouraging,” depending on if it is positive or negative.

If, when we see them, we connect the dots and we understand, “This is that,” which the Word of God has spoken about, then we see the whole composite storyline.

- B. Eight times Jesus exhorted God’s people to watch and pray related to the end times (Mt. 24:42; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33, 34, 35, 37; Lk. 21:36; Rev. 16:15; cf. 1 Thes. 5:6; 2 Tim. 4:5). He gave this exhortation so that His people would grow in understanding and strength to stand and not fall to compromise (Lk 21:34-36). We increase our understanding of what is happening by *watching* what the prophetic scriptures say will happen in the end times and seeing them progressively unfold. Watching speaks of focused attentiveness—which is far more intentional than an occasional, curious “glance” at what the Bible says will happen in that hour.

³³Take heed, watch and pray...³⁵Watch...for you do not know when the master...is coming...

³⁶lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.³⁷And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch! (Mk. 13:33-37)

Eight times Jesus exhorted His people, “Watch.” When He was talking about the end times, He said, “Watch.” Watch means to pay attention to what is happening in the culture and connect it to what the Bible said would be happening. Now not everything in the culture has a Bible verse that talks about it, but there are trends happening in the culture that were foretold 2,000 years ago in the Bible. Watch means pay attention and connect the Bible prophecies with the trends that are happening so that it pulls us out of the bubble of our own life and concerns and so we get into the larger biblical narrative of what is happening in the nations so we have urgency, so we have solutions. We are not overcome with fear. We get the storyline. We are participating with God. Jesus says it over and over, to watch.

Look here in Mark 13:33-37, it says it three times in one passage after He has talked about the end times earlier in Mark 13. “Take heed,” verse 33, “watch.” In other words, pay attention to what is happening in the culture related to what the Bible said would be happening in the culture; that is what watching means.

Now notice He did not say glance. A lot of believers glance at what is happening in the culture, and they connect it. They said, “I went to the Signs of the Times class; I got it.” They glance and move on.

The Lord is saying, “No, no! I want you intentional, focused, attentive, paying attention and engaging with the information.” Meaning it is moving you and you are getting the larger storyline of what is happening and what it means. Verse 33, watch.

Verse 35, watch. Verse 37, and what I say to you I say to every believer, watch. Some believers think, “Well, I am not really into that stuff. I am not really into the end times. I am not into the end times—I am into whatever Jesus taught; that is what I am into.”

Jesus said in verse 37, “I say to all of you,” watch what is happening so you are not caught unaware, you are not separated from the unfolding drama of the positive and the negative and its biblical, end-times significance. It is not enough to glance. Focus attentively. That is what this class is meant to do: to give you a small grid in twelve classes in this course. We cannot cover that much, and there is much more to cover.

II. JESUS IDENTIFIED 12 NEGATIVE SIGN TRENDS

- A. Jesus gave 12 negative sign trends that will bring distress to the nations and indicate the generation of His return (Mt. 24:4-14; Lk. 21:11, 25). Matthew described nine trends; Luke added three more. They include **deception** by false christs/prophets (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24), **ethnic conflict** (Mt. 24:7), **economic warfare** (Mt. 24:7), **famines, pestilences, earthquakes** (Mt. 24:8), **hatred of believers** (Mt. 24:9), **relational breakdown** in society (Mt. 24:10), **lawlessness**, or a great increase in sinful behavior, rebellion, and anarchy in all spheres of society (Mt. 24:12), **fearful sights** (Lk. 21:11), **great signs in the sky** (the sun, moon, and stars) and **disturbances in the sea** (Lk. 21:11, 25).

⁵“Many will come...saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many...⁷For nation will rise against nation [Gk. *ethnos*, or ethnic conflict], and kingdom against kingdom [economic warfare]. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places...⁹and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. ¹⁰And then many will...hate one another...¹²And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Mt. 24:4-12)

¹¹“...there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven...²⁵in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things...” (Lk. 21:11, 25-26)

Jesus identified twelve negative trends. We are only going to speak of a few of them tonight. He mentioned twelve of them in the Olivet discourse, which is a teaching He gave on the Mount of Olives. That is why they call it the Olivet discourse; it is the “Sermon on the Mount of Olives.” So we are putting together Matthew 24 and Luke 21 because it is the same message. We are identifying twelve negative trends from the two together.

Now these twelve trends in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 focus on human behavior and how it affects trends in society, how it affects trends in public life. That is what this passage is about: human behavior and how it affects public life and trends in society. In another passage—2 Timothy 3—it is talking about human character and the inner life of people. Now He is talking about the outward expression and how the negative human behavior happening will affect the public life or society as a whole.

Matthew identifies nine trends. Luke mentions some of them, and adds three more. Now it is interesting that Matthew focuses again on human behavior, whereas the three that Luke adds, the three distinct ones that Luke adds in Luke 21, focus on creation and nature, which are far more dramatic signs than human behavior.

Let’s read it, verse 5. “Many will come saying, ‘I am the Christ.’ They will deceive many.” The very first negative trend that Jesus says, and He says this more than any other point, is the issue of deception. He mentions it four times in this passage. He does not mention any other one feature four times. He speaks of deception more than He does persecution or tribulation. Many people get more focused on persecution or tribulation, but more dangerous to them is deception.

Now the problem with deception is that when people think deception, they imagine it is somebody that has horns. You know, he has a creepy countenance, and he has a funny voice and a long, pointed finger. No, that is the Wicked Witch of the East. You got the wrong image. Deception is dressed up in a happy countenance and positive messaging. The presentation of deception is very, very positive most times, though there are a few exceptions. Deception is the most dangerous of all of the negative trends because we are unaware of it. It is right next to us, and it is positive, and it is happy, and it is affirming, and, yes, it feels good. “Boom, we got you.” That is what the enemy would say. Jesus said that this is number one.

*Then number two, nation will rise against nation. Again the word for nation is *ethnos*. It is ethnic conflicts. It is not just one political entity against another, but it is conflict within ethnic groups and with one another. That is the second thing that He highlights: the conflict in culture, in society, civil disorder between different people groups. Beloved, that is exploding in the earth right now or, let’s put it this way, it is really increasing in a noticeable way.*

Kingdom against kingdom, I think this is different than nation against nation. I think He is talking about political and economic issues, economic warfare. Today nations are more engaged in economic warfare by forcing other nations to embrace their agenda by economic pressures.

Then He talks about three things that really create crisis or bring crisis to another level: famines, pestilence, earthquakes. These exasperate the tensions that people have between races and between nations. Nation against nation, it is exasperated when famines, pestilence, and earthquakes come into the dynamics.

Then He goes on, “Let me tell you about the social environment: they will hate Christians.” Jesus said, in effect, “Get it clear. Get away from this pipe dream of a popularity contest where everyone is good and most people are going to like you if you are faithful.” He says, “No, the climate of society is going to change. They are going to become hostile to truth, and they are going to hate people who stand for it.” For some folks this so surprising and disillusioning. They signed up to be popular, and they thought it would work well, that if they talked about Jesus, people would think they are so kind, so reasonable, and that what they are sharing is really

great. No, they will hate you is where it is going at the end. We are not at that level yet. Right now they ridicule the saints, and they kind of mock and make fun of believers, but it is going to go way beyond that.

He told us these things so that we would not be confused and would not be offended at God because of it happening. That He allows hatred to come is part of the storyline that brings God's purposes to pass; it creates a context for the gospel to forth far more powerfully.

He said that not only will they hate believers, verse 10, but it is going to go beyond that. Hatred towards one another—unrelated to faith—hatred in the culture is going to be common at a level beyond what it is now. We can see it increasing. Never in my forty years of ministry have I seen the social context in which people are so easily offended. I mean so sensitive and preoccupied with their honor and how they are treated and all these things. Powder kegs are just everywhere! Just a phrase will set off a riot at a university or a city or a college or a nation. Because there is this incredible shift of the emotional climate in society, it is going to get far more intense. It is in the context of that darkness where people who really walk in love and are faithful and kind and humble even when hated will shine brightly; the light shines very bright in that context.

Then He goes on in verse 12 and says that there is going to be lawlessness, wickedness at every level. It is going to abound. Wickedness in many, many different forms. Lawlessness, or wickedness, is going to abound beyond any time in history.

In Luke 21 when it talks about behavior, it is repeating what Matthew said. Then in Luke 21, Luke adds three more dimensions that Matthew did not give. These are signs from creation and nature. He says there are going to be fearful sights, whatever that is. I have looked at that over the years. I think, "What does that mean?" Wow! I am not sure I want to see them. Fearful sights? The Lord is a Prophet; He just lays it out there. He said that it will be clear, but it will be terrifying. There will be great signs in the sky secondly, and there will be signs in the sea. The waves will be roaring. So signs in the sky, great fearful sights. I believe in the created order fearful sights will appear.

- B. Some of these trends have always existed, but in the end times they will have a distinct intensity than will make headlines to such a degree that they will constitute a prophetic sign with a message from the Lord that can be discerned by the Body of Christ worldwide. Now, for the first time, most of these trends and the developments leading to sign events are happening on a global basis.

Some of these trends have existed throughout church history. In the end times they have a distinct intensity. That is the point. They make global headlines in a way they never did before, so they constitute a sign. Some theologians look at these and they remark, "Well, those have always been there. There is no sign in just the general trends of history." This is talking about a heightened level that is distinct enough so that it constitutes a sign to the watching church.

In the sign there is a message from God. My point here is that now for the first time in history most all of these signs are escalating, increasing on a global level for the first time. Almost every one of them are happening in a discernible increasing way on a global level.

III. LAWLESSNESS WILL ABOUND (MT. 24:12)

Let's look at this really kind of heavy concluding word that Jesus gave in Matthew 24. Lawlessness will abound. Wickedness, lawlessness, evil in many forms will abound. It is not going away. Though there will be a great revival, wickedness will increase beyond any time of history.

Now in order to get the whole picture there are three lists that I think of when I think of the end times. It is right here in Matthew 24, and of course the Luke 21 and Mark 13 parallel passages with it. Then there is another passage in 2 Timothy 3 and another one in Revelation 9. I have them all there. We put all three of those list together we get a more clear picture of the negative.

- A. The increase of evil is a prophetic sign of the end-times. Humans will reach the highest potential for evil as sin reaches its fullest expression (Mt. 24:12; Rev. 9:21; 14:18; 17:5; 18:5; cf. Dan. 8:23).

¹²***Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (Mt. 24:12)***

²³***In the latter time...when the transgressors have reached their fullness... (Dan. 8:23)***

The increase of evil is a prophetic sign. Again, we do not like it, but it creates a contrast where there is humility and patience and kindness in the context of evil. It shines so much brighter, and it is so attractive. Look at what the angel Gabriel said to Daniel in Daniel 8:23. This is the angel Gabriel talking in Daniel 8:23. He said, “In the latter times when transgressors”—when sinners—“reach the fullness” of their capacity. Beloved, there is one generation where sinners, transgressors, people who are bold and proud about sinning, reach levels never reached in history before. This is Gabriel telling this to Daniel the prophet.

- B. In Psalm 2, David prophesied that the nations would rise up in rage against Jesus’ leadership (v. 2).

²***The kings of the earth...and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD...saying, ³“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” (Ps. 2:2-3)***

Psalm 2, we have looked at this. David prophesied about this before Daniel did. Psalm 2 is one of the classic, really important psalms. He speaks in verse 2 of the kings of the earth, the rulers of culture, the rulers of society, and in verse 3, they want to cast the influence of the Word of God out of culture. They call the Word of God, “God’s bonds and cords.” They look at the Word of God as bondage. They say, “We want to cast God’s chains off of us, and we want to live free from God.” That is the kings and the rulers of the earth in that final generation.

Beloved, we are watching that as it is increasing right now. I think of what Tony Perkins said just the other day. He is the president of the Family Research Council and meets with top political leaders on a regular basis. He says that cultural time bombs were set in the last eight years. These cultural time bombs are all set, and they are going to go off. The disaster will be beyond anything we could imagine if the Lord does not stop what he called “cultural time bombs.”

- C. The hostility of the rulers will be focused on seeking to remove the influence of God’s Word (v. 3) from society. They will see God’s Word in a negative light, as though it were “bonds” that enslave them and “cords” that bind them to His morality and His righteous ways. We see an acceleration of attack against God’s commands, seeking to remove all moral boundaries from society.

- D. The chief sins embraced in that hour will be murder, sorcery, immorality, and theft (Rev 9:21).

²¹***They did not repent of their murders...sorceries...sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:21)***

1. ***Murder:*** as a primary sin on earth (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 9:21; 13:7, 10; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 9:2; cf. 2 Tim. 3:3 (brutal); Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33-35; 12:7, 10; Mk. 13:12-13)

2. **Sorceries:** Occult and demon worship will abound (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12-15; 14:11; 16:13-14; 18:23).
3. **Immorality:** Sexual perversion will increase greatly (Rev. 9:20-21; 16:13; 17:2; 18:3; 19:2).
4. **Theft:** legislation and persecution motivated by theft (Nazis used laws to steal property)

In the book of Revelation John the apostle gives a different list than Jesus did in Matthew 24. He takes it from a different angle. He goes to the most extreme, and by the Holy Spirit he identifies the four most extreme expressions of lawlessness. The point that he is noting is how the four are combined together on a global level. The idea is that we watch these; they are going to increase noticeably on a global level. The combination of the four of these at an all-time high alerts us to the very, very challenging scenario that is ahead for the nations in terms of evil, while there is also a glorious scenario ahead in terms of the power of God being ministered in His Church.

Look at the four most extreme expressions of lawlessness: murder, sorcery or occult (demon activity, demon worship and demon activity), immorality—sexual perversion mixed together with a murderous spirit and demons—and theft. He puts the four together, and when those four are in combination there will be a spirit of defilement that will be beyond what we can really grasp.

Regarding theft, some people think theft is somebody breaking into your house when you are not at home and they take what is yours. Yes, that is theft, but that is one of the lower levels of theft. One of the most prominent types of theft is theft that the government orchestrates by their laws, like in the Nazi Regime when the Nazi officials were persecuting the Jewish people as well as the Gentiles. In the Holocaust there were eleven million people killed in the Holocaust: six million Jews, five million Gentiles. Eleven million people that the Nazi Regime put into camps and killed, eleven million. We kind of pay attention to the storyline of Hitler’s anti-semitism, to which it is very, very important to pay attention.

There is another storyline that is about the Nazi officials. They did not care if people were Polish or Jewish or you know from Albania, the different places where the Nazis went. They just wanted their houses and their bank accounts. They thought, “I am not against any group per se; I just want that guy’s house.” Because, when they took them to the camps, they stole all of their property. It was as much about theft to many of them as it was hatred of a race to some of the leaders at the very top. Theft, the spirit of theft, is going to be involved in the persecution. They wanted their property, and they obtained it. They got it. They took their lands, their bank accounts, their houses and everything in it.

- E. Paul prophesied a great increase of wickedness and selfishness in the end times (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Self-centered narcissism will dominate the culture. People will lack self-control and be brutal. The distinguishing characteristic is being “lovers of pleasure, not lovers of God” (3:4).

¹But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God... (2 Tim. 3:1-4)

Paul gives a description that is different than Matthew 24, the one Jesus gives, and the one that John gives in Revelation. Now this third description is talking about personal character traits in terms of how the inner life is fully defiled. He is not talking as so much focus of the outer life but he is describing the emotional defilement and darkness of people. He is looking internally.

2 Timothy 3 describes the narcissism that is growing so fast today in the culture. It is growing, and the catalyst of the narcissism is the social media. What do I mean by this? I mean people are sinful, and that is where it comes from, but social media is playing a large role in stirring it up. I do not mean they look at their own pictures; that is not what I am talking about. I mean that they are hearing the opinions of people who are offended, and they hear ten or twenty or thirty stories, and it seems like it is a million. They get captured into that mindset, into that offense. That is the narcissism I am talking about. Not the “showing all their friends how cute their kids are on social media,” that is not what I am talking about.

I am talking about something far more intense where the nations, billions of people, are hearing the opinions of people who are self-occupied and offended, and they are buying into the narrative. They are saying, “Yeah, me too.” They are shifting on the inside. That is what I mean by “social media is the catalyst.” Because now they are not being influenced mostly by a few news outlets, like in the 1960s and 1970s, or by pulpits or classrooms. They are being influenced by all kinds of voices now. The voices, many of them are offended, and they are creating a mindset where offense is the new norm.

It is spreading rapidly, and it is making people preoccupied with their honor, their reputation, how people feel about them and all that stuff that a few years ago they did not even think about at the same level. Now it has come to a whole other level. That is what Paul is describing here. I believe the recent development of social media—I mean just the last ten years I am talking about, not the last 100, just the last few years—is really exacerbating this at a whole other level and fueling it in a catalytic way.

2 Timothy 3:1 he says—notice what Paul says—“Know this.” I would like you to circle that. You do not have to really circle it, but put a little star. “Know this,” Paul said. This is need-to-know information. This is not just kind of casual information. He said that this is need-to-know information. In the last days perilous times will come because the emotional dynamics of billions of people are going to shift to an increase of evil and selfishness. So he is talking about the emotional dynamics of the planet, though not all of them because the Spirit of God is moving in the opposite direction. He said to pay attention and do not be captured unaware by this.

We are watching it, and we understand that is where it is going, that is where it is going. Let’s just settle it and not be offended by it, and let’s minister into it with kindness and patience and not be so troubled by the folks who are even in our world close to us relationally. I am talking about different people all over the Body of Christ who are actually functioning like this and are developing this way in their inner life.

- F. Sound doctrine teaches obedience and allegiance to Jesus; thus it requires endurance. To *turn the ear away* means that people will no longer desire to hear what God intended in various passages.

³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn their ears away from the truth... ⁵But you be watchful in all things... (2 Tim. 4:3-5)

Paul develops this a little bit further. We looked at 2 Timothy 3, and now it is the next chapter. Paul said, in effect, “Let me tell you where this is really going.” He said, “The time will come,” and he was talking about the latter days, the “last days” of 2 Timothy 3. We are now in 2 Timothy 4, and he said, “That time that I referred to back in 2 Timothy 3, in that time many in the Body of Christ will not endure sound doctrine. They will reject sound doctrine, but they will hear the deceptive, yet positive affirming upbeat voice of the false messengers and the distortion.” Although the gospel message has positive upbeat and many blessings things, but that is not the whole message. There is another dimension in the gospel message.

He said that in the Body of Christ they will not endure sound doctrine. They will look at sound doctrine and they will say, “Ugh, I am not interested in that. I am interested in what I am interested in.” They will look out for teachers according to their desires. They will say, “I am going there because I am being fed,” but what is really happening in this context, they are going there because they are being affirmed in their own agendas that are different from God’s agenda. He said that they will heap up for themselves teachers. They will look for teachers anywhere that will say what they want said, and it will affirm them.

Verse 4, “They will turn their ears away from truth.” He is talking about key people in the Body of Christ. So do not be shocked when this happens. You are not going to win some of these folks by Bible arguments. So you do not have to get into an argumentative spirit and all that, because they have turned their ears away from truth. Logical, sound biblical doctrines and arguments are not what this group of 2 Timothy 4 is interested in. They want to be affirmed in their own agenda, regardless if it is in the Bible or not. They will twist any Bible verse to make it fit. So, because I understand that, I can have a calm spirit and just not get exasperated, “Why will you not be honest and listen?”

You know what the whisper of the Lord might be, and you know you always want to be helpful and try to make an influence. But you do not want to get caught up into that negative spirit that so many believers get into. They say, “These people will not listen!”

I respond, “That is exactly right because they are not really interested in the true biblical presentation. They are looking for teachers who will say what they want said.”

IV. THE DAYS OF NOAH (VIOLENCE) AND THE DAYS OF LOT (IMMORALITY)

- A. Jesus compared the generation of His return to the days of Noah and the days of Lot (Lk. 17:26, 28). Violence and immorality often occur together.

²⁶As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man...²⁸Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold... (Lk. 17:26-28)

I told you this was a negative session. Well, this is my least favorite of the twelve sessions. Last week was my favorite one. Luke 17:26, Jesus said, “As in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man,” meaning in that final generation, those decades leading up to those final moments when the Lord comes. The day of the Lord is not just a moment He appears; it is those events, positive and negative, leading up to that glorious appearance and that crescendo of His glory in the clouds.

He said that it will not be just the days of Noah; verse 28, it will be the days of Lot as well. Now He mentioned that in both of those situations they were living business as usual, casually, completely unaware of fierce judgment mounting up from heaven to break in on the earth, completely unaware and completely unconcerned about it. Sometimes we read this passage and we think that, well, they were just eating, drinking, and going about business as usual. That is true, but we are talking about Noah—the greatest judgment in human history generation—and we are talking about Lot—the most dramatic judgment of a city ever that I know of. I mean, fire came down from heaven, not from an enemy, not from an enemy military camp, but from heaven. If the enemy is attacking a city, at least they can pray and ask God, “Oh, have mercy!” When God is attacking a city, it is a whole different problem. You cannot bind Jesus in the name of Jesus.

The point is you go back to the biblical narrative of Genesis 6 for Noah, Genesis 19 for Lot, and this fierce intervention of God to confront the negative was moments away. They did not care at all. That is the point. They

did not care at all. They were in the most dangerous hour that they could possibly be in, completely unaware, completely unconcerned. He said that it is going to be like that.

B. **The days of Noah:** Those days were characterized by great violence (Gen. 6:11-13).

¹²**God looked upon the earth...it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.**

¹³**God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence..." (Gen. 6:12-13)**

We could characterize the days of Noah several different ways, but the way that God highlighted the days of Noah back in Genesis 6:13 was this: God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me." Meaning the idea of a global judgment is on My divine agenda. He said, "It is there before Me." Whoa, that is intense! The earth is filled with violence. So the distinctive characteristic of the days of Noah is violence. It warrants a whole study in itself, the violence that was going on in Noah's day. Well, we are in that timeframe of history, but it is going to increase far greater than now.

1. The last hundred years or so has been the most violent time in history—42 million deaths as a result of combat plus 83 million deaths associated with genocide (ethnic cleansing) and tyranny (44 million died related to government-induced starvation). Violence includes terrorism, wars, genocide, civil disorder, abortion, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

The last 100 years has been the most violent timeframe in history, the last 100 plus years or so. I have just a few stats here. I mean you could spend hours on this subject. I just want you alerted to it. Forty-two million deaths as a direct result of combat, and eighty-three million because of genocide, because of governments wanting to do ethnic cleansing to peoples, many times within their own nations, and tyranny. So you put together and that are 135 million who were murdered or killed in combat. It is that level of violence. There is nothing like it in history, and it is increasing and increasing is the idea.

2. **Ethnic conflict:** The ethnic wars in Cambodia, Albania, Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Sudan along with Stalin's purges, and China's Cultural Revolution exceeded 150 million deaths.

I just have a few little points here. We will look at all of the trends of Matthew 24, but I just wanted to give you a little snapshot of a few things.

3. **War:** An unprecedented escalation of war in the twentieth century made it the bloodiest time in history (with well over 100 million people killed). Since World War II, over 150 major wars have occurred with a death toll of over 25 million people.
4. **Terrorism:** The militant Islamic leaders have targeted Israel, the USA, and Western Europe.
5. **Abortion:** There are 50 million abortions worldwide each year (over 100,000 per day). The abortion pill will cause this number to increase. In the USA, over 60 million babies have been aborted since 1973. Over 1.5 million babies are aborted per year (4,000 per day) in the US. Estimates of the total number of abortions worldwide (1920-2000) are well over 500 million.¹

Again this is not comprehensive; this is kind of a glance. This is a big subject, the days of Noah. This is a big subject, the violence part of what Jesus said in Matthew 24. Look at number five, abortion. Now we all know

¹ "Deaths by Mass Unpleasantness: Estimated Totals for the Entire 20th Century." Historical Atlas of the Twentieth Century Website

abortion is bad, but this is a tragedy of proportions that we cannot get a hold of. Grasp the magnitude of what abortion is from God's point of view on the globe. Fifty million babies killed every single year in the earth. Babies murdered in their mother's womb by the participation of the fathers, the family members, not just the mother. You know sometimes we think of the mother as the guilty one. There are a whole lot of people participating in that decision. Fifty million, that is staggering. Now the abortion pill, which aborts a conceived child in the womb privately, means we have no way of knowing those numbers. The numbers are staggering. This is a sign of the times. In America there has been sixty million killed since 1973, the last forty plus years, sixty million. Worldwide, it is 500 million. I mean, 500 million! What is that doing to God in heaven looking at the earth? Beloved, it is violence. I mean if we understand what an abortion really is, which I do not want to go into the details, it is violence of the most horrific level.

Now undoubtedly some of you in this room have participated in abortion, either had one or talked somebody into one or whatever. I am not trying to condemn you here. If you are feeling, "Oh my gosh! I am just completely disconnected now," it is a crisis, but there is the Lord's mercy in that. There is a new beginning and the Lord's restoration in those situations. So I do not want to just leave that abruptly with your heart just tender and feeling horrified.

The point I am making in this context is that violence is increasing in a way unheard of in human history. It is a sign of the time, but we do not necessarily connect to this one. Jesus said, "Watch." He says to us now, "Connect the dots. I said violence would explode." There is nothing that I know of more violent in human history than this subject. A lot of believers do not connect it with a biblical narrative of increase of violence in the days of Noah, but there is nothing like it in history that is happening in this hour of history along with the other twenty or thirty or forty things that are happening for the first time at a global level in this hour of history.

6. **Human Trafficking:** Biblical prophecy describes slavery or human trafficking as a predominant sin in the end times (Rev. 18:13; cf. Joel 3:3). There are currently 35 million slaves on the earth. It is growing at a rate of nearly 5 million per year. Over 80% of human trafficking victims are female and children, forced into the rapidly growing sex trade that generates over \$40 billion per year.

¹¹"*And the merchants of the earth will weep...for no one buys their merchandise anymore:*
¹²*merchandise of gold...¹³cattle and sheep...and bodies and souls of men. (Rev. 18:11-13)*

³*They have...given a boy as payment for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine... (Joel 3:3)*

I am talking about what those generations were known for from a biblical perspective. So often we speak of the violence of the days of Noah and the immorality of the days of Lot, but Lot's had violence too. Each generation had a lot of a lot of things. Lot's generation was known for its immorality. Human trafficking is probably the most extreme combination of violence and immorality brought together in the most terrible, horrific way.

Well, John the apostle prophesied that at the end of the age human trafficking would be notable. It makes the list, and it stands out in Revelation 18. John was speaking of the rich men of the earth, the merchants of the earth—well, rich men and rich women, it is merchants. It is not male or female in this context—and he is talking about their merchandise when the Lord's judgment puts a stop to it. They are grieving. He gives a list of the merchandise that is highlighted in that hour of history in the end times. Most of the merchandise is predictable as merchandise that is sold through history. Verse 13 it says, speaking of merchandise, "and the bodies and the souls of people." People are going to be sold like cattle and like horses.

Now we have seen slavery through history, and it is so horrific. The history of slavery in our nation is, I believe, our greatest failure as a nation. What we did to the Africans when they came over is equal and parallel to what we did to the Native Americans. It boils down to slavery. It is human trafficking.

Now I do not think that one generation has more pain in it than another, but the numbers of it are staggering in the generation the Lord returns. The amount of people right now, there are thirty-five million people being trafficked in one way or the other, mostly sexual, but not always sexual. Sometimes it is labor, but it is against their will. They are sold into slavery for labor.

The new idea in this generation is that it is profoundly about sexual immorality. I mean all slavery is immoral in one sense. The Bible said this would be notable because it makes the list. I mean of all the things that are sold in merchandise, of the thousands of things that could be on the list, only a few things make the list,. This one is different from all the other ones.

So, through 2,000 years of church history, it is like you mean this slavery thing is going to go to a whole other level? Yes, and it is right now. Human trafficking is growing right now at the rate of five million new victims a year. I mean it is growing so fast. That is, again, a sign; it is a horrific sign of the time.

It is not a disconnected piece of information that is not a part of a larger story. We don't want to be just saying things like, "Wow, abortion is tragic, and trafficking is tragedy, and darkness is increasing, and you know lawlessness is increasing." If we are paying attention to the Bible, we are actually seeing where we are going. We put it all together; there is a whole thing presented quite clearly in the Bible. Again we are looking at the negative part of it in this session. I want to hurry up and get through with this session. I don't even like this session.

C. *The days of Lot:* Those days were characterized by great immorality (Gen. 19).

This is going to get even more ugly. Well, the last few minutes seems as ugly as it gets, but this is going to get ugly again. "The days of Lot," the Bible makes it really clear in the last days immorality is going to go to a whole other level. The reason the Bible makes it clear is because it is mentioned. When the Bible mentions something in prophecy five, six, eight times—very few things are mentioned ten times in prophecy—if it gets mentioned twice, it is big.

You know, like the trumpet, Jesus appears in the cloud, every eye sees Him. Do you know how many times it is mentioned that every eye sees Him? Three times in the whole Bible. That is big. Three is big. You know how many times the trumpet is mentioned? Five times. Five mentions of one feature is a big emphasis.

Immorality is mentioned many times, many times. The number of times it is mentioned tells us the weight that it has in terms of the gravity it will have in that hour.

1. Biblical prophecy describes immorality greatly increasing in the end times (Rev. 9:21; 14:8; 17:1-4; 18:2-4, 9-10; 19:2; 21:8). This is seen in many ways.
2. ***Pornography:*** Over \$100 billion is spent annually on pornography worldwide—with 5 million pornographic websites that consist of over 500 million pages. The pornography industry is larger than the revenues of the top technology companies combined, including Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Ebay, Yahoo!, Apple, Netflix, and Earthlink.

Well, we all do not need to hear stats about pornography. The only reason I am mentioning it is that it is a global crisis. It is a new crisis. I mean there has always been a little pornography in various forms over

centuries, various ways that it has been manifest. But in the last ten, twenty years, and even more so the last two and three years, but the last twenty or thirty years it has been escalating so rapidly that there is nothing like it in history.

Again the gravity of the situation stands alone as a sign. The magnitude of it is a sign. There is nothing like it in history. I have a few stats here. 100 billion dollars are spent on pornography every year, 100 billion dollars by the customers. Five million pornographic websites, five million right now today on the earth, 500 million pages. Twenty years ago that number was much, much smaller. I do not know what it was twenty years ago, but it is growing so fast now.

- a. In every second of every day, over 30,000 internet users view pornography. These numbers are rapidly increasing worldwide.

Every second 30,000 people are viewing one of the websites, 30,000 people every second of every day.

- b. Every 39 minutes a new pornographic movie is being created in the United States.
- c. There are 68 million daily pornographic search engine requests and nearly 3 billion pornographic emails sent daily.

Sixty-eight million search engine requests every day, sixty-eight million search requests for pornography. Look at the next line. Three billion emails are sent a day with pornography content of some sort in it. Daily, three billion.

- d. The average age of first internet exposure to pornography is 11 years old; over 80% of all 15-17 year olds have had multiple exposures to it; over 90% of all 8-16 year-olds have viewed some pornography online—most often while doing homework.

3. Holograms and virtual reality will enable people to experience far more sexual perversion.

This is really the technology: holograms and virtual reality have been in the process of being developed rapidly in the last ten years, and in the next ten and the ten after that we cannot imagine where the perversion industry is going to drive those realities. The point being that the generation in which the Lord returns will be like the days of Lot. Not just that the people are buying and selling, no. They are buying and selling being immersed in immorality, with their fists raised up to heaven, with zero concern about the destiny that was about to happen just as it did to the city of Sodom and the city of Gomorrah. Complete disconnection from the reality of the situation they were in.

4. **Forbidding marriage:** Paul prophesied that the institution of marriage would be outlawed in various places in the end-times (1 Tim 4:3). There is currently an assault on the definition and institution of marriage itself from activist homosexuals seeking to redefine marriage legally.

¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³forbidding to marry... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)

We have talked about this before so I will not spend time on it: the forbidding of marriage. Paul talked about that in 1 Timothy 4:3. He said that the days are going to come when they are going to forbid marriage. Now forbid marriage; that is a legal concept. It does not mean everywhere in the world, but there are going to be

places where marriage will be actually outlawed, it will be forbidden legally. That was unthinkable ten years ago, and the reason I say that is that is a personal statement. I remember being in a leadership meeting. We were talking about end-time prophecy. One of the guys brought up 1 Timothy 4, this verse. He said, “Forbid marriage?” I remember, it was 2005. He asked, “What do you think it means?”

I said, “It looks like it means forbid marriage. But I cannot picture that. I cannot.” This was ten years ago, and I mean I am really focused on these subjects. I said, “I cannot picture what that would look like.”

Ten short years later, after the Supreme Court decision in 2015 in June to legalize gay marriage, and the whole domino effect of all the laws being set in and how that affects money and inheritance and conflicts, already conservatives and liberal voices are saying, “Why don’t we just do away with the institution? The conflict is so intense. Why don’t we just do away with it?” They are talking about that in the last year.

I mean this thing is exploding; it is moments away. I could not have imagined this ten years ago. Someone asked the question. I remember thinking about it when they asked what did it really mean. I said, “I think it means actually forbidding marriage, but I do not think in our lifetime. I mean I cannot imagine that.” It is speeding up that quickly is my point.

5. **Breakdown of the family:** The divorce rate is exploding worldwide (in the US it is 50%). Jesus prophesied that family members would betray one another (Mt. 24:10).

*¹⁰Then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.
(Mt. 24:10)*

The breakdown of the family, Jesus talked about family members, that they will be against one another. I did not put the verses here, but in Matthew 10:21 and 36, Jesus said that a man’s enemies will be in their own household. Here in Matthew 24:10 He says that many will be offended. I believe that there will be offense, betrayal, and hatred all through society. I believe one of the most painful places of betrayal will be in family units. When I look at the breakdown of the home, it is rooted in offense, betrayal, and hatred that grows.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:36—the verse I just mentioned I do not have on the notes—that a man’s enemies will be in his own household. There will be so much conflict in the culture that if people are not pursuing the grace of God they are going to be caught into that sway, that mindset of offense. Again, you get on social media and so many people are sharing the reasonableness of why they are offended. People are thinking, “Yeah, me too.” The thing is escalating so rapidly because of that ability of technology. It is not that humans are more sinful. Humans would have done it 1,000 years ago if they had had the technology to be able to be emboldened by other people’s ideas in the way that we, the human race, are able right now.

6. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention website reported in 2006 that there were almost 20 million new sexually transmitted diseases and infections occurring each year. Cases of three nationally notifiable STDs – chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis – have increased for the first time since 2006, according to data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the 2014 STD Surveillance Report, one by as much as 15%.
7. Tony Perkins spoke about Obama’s “cultural time bombs” as destroying America morally and culturally (Feb. 2016). He warned about the imminent cultural and moral demise of the USA.

V. PERSECUTION AGAINST BELIEVERS

- A. Jesus prophesied that true believers will be hated in all nations of the earth (Mt. 24:9).

⁹Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. (Mt. 24:9)

Well, there is persecution, and it is increasing. We are watching it increase right now. It is a sign of the time as well. Jesus said, "They will deliver you up, and they will kill you. They will hate you in all the nations." Every nation, though not everybody in every nation, because there will be a great revival as well. There will be the greatest revival in history.

Beloved, we just need to settle the issue that we want to be faithful and we want to grow in love unrelated to if we are popular or represented rightly. We are not going to be represented rightly. When people hate you, they do not just hate you and stand at the side and say, "I hate you." They tell lie. They spin. They try to take your money. They discredit you. They want to ruin you. When they hate you, they do not just say, "I hate you." They take to the airwaves, and they want to spin your life with half-truths and all kinds of turns and twists.

The Lord would say, "You walk in love, you live under My leadership, and the light of the glory of love will shine in that context, but do not be offended by the fact that the spin is happening against you."

I mean I have talked to many believers who are saying, "I cannot believe that they are saying that about me. They know it is not true."

I say, "So what? So they are saying it. I mean it is going to happen more and more and more. Settle it, get your center based with the Lord and His Word, get connected, and do not be thrown off by that. Do not get swept into the narrative of paying them back with a like story, no." We are going to excel in love. That is where the contrast is going to be. I am talking about the Body of Christ that is saying yes to the Lord all over the earth, and that is the narrative they are listening to. They say we know what is happening.

- B. **Martyrdom:** The amount of persecution will be unique in the generation in which Jesus returns (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33-35; 12:7, 10; Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9, 14; 9:21; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5-7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; cf. Mt. 10:21-22, 28; 24:9; Lk. 12:4-7; 21:16-19). According to the *World Christian Encyclopedia* (2001), the number of martyrs recorded over 1,900 years of church history was nearly 25 million. In the 20th century alone, there were over 45 million martyrs.

⁹When He opened the fifth seal, I saw...those who had been slain for the word of God...

¹⁰They cried...saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood...?" ¹¹...it was said to them that they should rest...until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. (Rev. 6:9-11)

For martyrdom, we have the World Christian Encyclopedia stat here. In the first 1,900 years of Christianity, there were twenty-five million martyrs. In the twentieth century almost fifty million, almost double, and the number is increasing. The amount of martyrdom is going to increase, with the terrorism and the whole radical Islam and all of this kind of stuff. It will increase.

I should have the verse, Revelation 20:4, here where John the apostle talks about beheadings in the last days. You look through history, well where are the beheadings? Nobody is being beheaded. You see a little here, a little there, but nothing that is prominent enough to be featured as having a particular reward related to it because of the magnitude of people being beheaded. All of a sudden in the last few years beheadings are now

making global news regularly, and that storyline is here to stay. The fact that it is happening now, and it is in the global news commonly, this is a new reality. John said it 2,000 years ago.

So we look at that and we put that with the other verse, the other verse, the other verse, the other verse, all the negative ones. I mean you could sink under all the negative ones piled up. Put them with all of the positive ones, put them with all of the political signs that we have not looked at, all the other globalization signs, you put them all together and say, “Lord, what hour of history are we living in?”

The Lord says, “Watch, pay attention, get involved in the storyline. Do not be stuck in your bubble unaware and then confused when it escalates into your private life, when it touches you. No, be settled where things are going so you can be resolved, operating in love and in confidence and in faith.”

- C. I do not believe the majority of believers will be martyred, but each will face the possibility and have to decide if they will stand for Jesus. This will have a sanctifying effect on many believers.

³³***“They shall fall by sword...³⁵ Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:33-35)***

- D. ***Anti-Semitism:*** The Hebrew prophets foretold that Jerusalem would be persecuted by all the nations and be at the center of world controversy (Zech. 12:3, 9; 14:1-3; cf. Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8). They also prophesied a significant increase of Arab hostility against Israel (Ezek. 35:1-15; Joel 3:1-7).

²***I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant...shall not be cut off from the city. (Zech. 14:2)***

Anti-Semitism is rising. It is not at the explosion point, but we can see the embers are increasing. It is not exploding yet. That would be an exaggerated statement right now. You can see the stage set for it to explode is more accurate way to speak of the shift even in the last ten years across Europe and the influence of the Middle East migration into Europe and the governments that are starting to buy into new rhetoric. The different thing that is happening on college campuses, just in the last few years I am talking about. It is a distinct increase, and it has not exploded yet, but it is moving in that direction. We know where the Lord stands, and we know that we stand with the Lord in that for His people, for the Jewish people.

I have here the increase of Arab hostility. Go to Ezekiel 35. There has always been a little bit of Arab hostility, but there were not armies and internet and international governments and alliances like they have today. Ezekiel 35 talks about a whole emergence of Arab hostility that makes a part of the end-time storyline. We are watching that happen at a whole other level. I mean there has always been hostility, but it has not had the global implications that it does not quite have yet, but we can see the embers of the fires that are burning. It does not take a whole lot of insight to know where this is going.

VI. FALLING AWAY FROM THE FAITH

- A. Jesus and Paul prophesied about a falling away from the faith in the end times. This prophetic word is one of the greatest challenges facing the Church at this hour (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3). A “doctrine of demons” is a teaching inspired by a demon.

¹***Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons... (1 Tim. 4:1)***

We have talked about the falling away a few times. I am not going to take much time on this. Paul said in 1 Timothy 4:1, “The Spirit says expressly,” explicitly, which means the Spirit is emphasizing it, “in the latter days some will depart from the faith.” When it says, “some will depart from the faith,” for it to be an end-time prophecy, it is of a level that will be recognized by the Body of Christ. It is not a few who kind of slipped out the back door and we do not know what happened to them. So there is going to be a great revival too, but there is going to be a distinct leaving of the faith by people who profess Jesus.

- B. Paul highlighted two prophetic signs to indicate the time of Jesus’ coming—a falling away from the faith combined with the revealing of the Antichrist on the world stage.

³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day [Jesus’ coming] will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin [Antichrist] is revealed... (2 Thes. 2:3)

Paul says it quite a bit stronger in the next passage we are considering. Actually, since it is 2 Thessalonians, chronologically he said that first. He said, “Let no one deceive you.” Look at 2 Thessalonians 2:3. “Let no one deceive you” for the Lord will not return until two things happen. He says, “the Day will not come” or the Lord will not return. He said there are two major signs that have to happen before the Lord returns. These are two at the top of Paul’s list. The falling away. Like, “Ugh.” The falling away is that big of a sign? And the appearing of the Antichrist on the global stage.

Here is my point: the appearing of the Antichrist on the global stage is a really big sign. I think Paul would say that the falling away will be just as distinct. It will be parallel in its global impact; it will be that recognizable. It is not a little trickle. I have read some theologians. They say, well the falling away has been happening through 2,000 years; there has always been a few doing it. No, it is a sign of the times.

In my opinion—again it is not a prophecy, but it is my opinion—I think that falling away is already beginning. I think we are in the early days of a literal end-time falling away. The amount of people I have seen in the last ten years of forty years of ministry, in the last five to ten years who are abandoning to their faith after having walked with the Lord ten, twenty years, I have never seen anything like it in my years of ministry. The numbers are increasing rapidly.

The numbers of churches that are letting go of the standard principles of the faith and are promoting doctrines and practices that are in direct contradiction to the Bible, they are doing it boldly in the last five years at a whole other level. I mean mega ministries, famous ministries, with big influence, just boldly contradicting the Scripture. They have the affirmation of others like them, but it is a whole other level of growth. In my years of ministry I have never seen anything like it. All the leaders I have talked to are saying the same thing. This is unprecedented in our time. This is, in itself, a sign of the times.

- C. Jesus prophesied about an increased deception in the end times (Mt. 24:9-13). There is a trend in every denomination related to an increase of doctrine and practice that contradicts the Scripture. Many ministries are currently denying the Scripture as the final authority of doctrine and practice. There is a significant increase of ministries denying the deity of Christ, His death as the only means of salvation, and the reality of hell, as well as ordaining homosexuals and supporting gay marriage.

⁴“Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name...and will deceive many...¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many... (Mt. 24:4-5, 11)

- D. Allegiance to Jesus and loving the truth are primary issues in the end times (2 Thes. 2:10). The body of Christ is to greatly value the dignity of all people and honor their religious liberties. Yet we are not willing to let them go to hell by refusing to love them in telling them the truth about Jesus.

VII. THE MOVE TOWARD A ONE-WORLD RELIGION

- A. One part of Satan’s end-time plan is for him and the Antichrist to be worshiped by all nations.

⁴They worshiped the Dragon [Satan]...and the Beast [Antichrist], saying, “Who is like the Beast?”...⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him [Antichrist]... (Rev. 13:4-8)

The move toward a one world religion. It is moving. There is a lot of energy, and there is a lot of dialogue, and a lot of rhetoric moving in that direction.

- B. There are two stages in Satan’s plan to be worshiped by all. He knows that it is too big a step for those with a religious heritage (Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, etc.) to suddenly become Satan worshipers. Thus he will first deceive them into joining a worldwide religion of tolerance, without absolutes, that teaches that all religions lead to salvation. This is often referred to as the *harlot Babylon one-world religion*. The growing movement toward a one-world religion will lead to this.

¹“Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication”...⁴The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold...having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵On her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, the mother of harlots...⁶ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints... (Rev. 17:1-6)

Now the one world religion is commonly called the Harlot Babylon world religion. The reason it is called “harlot” is because it is unfaithful to God. The reason it is called “harlot” is because it is made up of people who used to be faithful to God. They actually have betrayed their alliance to be faithful to the Lord. They let that alliance go when they have gone a different way. That is why it is a harlot.

It is not just unbelievers being swept into it, though that is true. It is made up of those who previously in their own thinking had a strong alliance to be true to God. They are abandoning it to promote a unified religion that has no absolutes, where everybody is saved, and every path leads to God. This is part of the devil’s end-time plan.

Now ultimately what the devil wants is for everybody to worship the Antichrist. The devil cannot get the nations to worship the Antichrist in one step. He just cannot say, “Worship the Antichrist,” and everybody answers, “Okay.” The devil has a two-step plan. He wants to get people from religious heritages—from Christianity to Judaism to Islam to Hinduism, whatever—the devil wants them to get them to abandon their heritage to step into the one religion where everyone is right and there are no absolutes. Their conscience gets defiled by that move. They abandon many things of their religious heritage. They are in this new religion, and now everything is right and nothing is wrong, and they know it is very different than the religion they grew up in. Once they move into that one, everything works, total toleration, everybody is right.

Here is what happened: they have left and abandoned their heritage. Their conscience is defiled. In their mind there is no going back that way. Then the devil pulls his real agenda out in the open, and that is the Antichrist religion. Let me tell you the Antichrist religion is not a religion of tolerance; it is a forced religion on the pain

of death with obedience strictly demanded. That is where he is taking the Harlot Babylon, “everybody is right, everybody is happy” crowd. He is taking them where they do not know where it is going.

Many believers are falling for this. I mean I am watching pastors in this “everybody is right and hey it is happy” thing. I say, “Do you know where that happy crowd is going to end up a step or two down the road?” The enemy has a plan for it. The Bible makes it clear there are a couple steps and then there is a one world “everybody is unified; all paths lead to God” reality first. Beloved, that is a stepping stone to a very, very cruel and demonic reality next.

I am watching believers move in that path. Once you take that step and you get into that, the Bible is not really the Bible, and it does not really matter. You get into that mindset, and it is a slippery step to the next step, and of course that is the demonic agenda.

- C. Spiritual harlotry is synonymous with idolatry and false religion (1 Cor. 10:20-21; cf. 1 Chr. 5:25; Ezek. 23:37; Hos. 4:12-13). Idolatry was usually combined with immorality (orgies), drugs, demonic rituals, and the sacrifice of animals or humans. To be guilty of harlotry requires that her followers once claimed to have had a relationship with the true God.
- D. The voluntary harlot religion will be replaced by a mandatory Antichrist religion. First, people will voluntarily join the **harlot Babylon** one-world religion of tolerance (Rev. 17). Second, all will be forced to be Satan worshipers in the **Antichrist religion** (Rev. 13:4, 8, 15).

Well, praise the Lord! I got through this session. Let’s stand. There is so much more to it. I just gave you just a snapshot. You are a people who are going to watch and pray, not for a month or a semester, but for the rest of your life. I am a “watch and pray” guy. I want to watch all of these things—not just the negative or the positive—the events, the trends, the whole storyline.

“Father, here we are.” Let’s just ask the Lord to touch us. “Lord, we say we are paying attention. We are paying attention. We are becoming biblically informed about the storyline.” You know, for some of you the enemy is whispering deception, trying to get you to make some turns and some moves off the path of truth. Again, deception can be a really positive and a happy presentation, with a lot of very affirming. Deception does not have horns and a mean countenance. It is not the “Wicked Witch of the West” lady, whatever she is; it is not that lady. It is positive and nice and happy.

The Lord would say, “Do not go that direction. Be true to My Word. Be disciplined by the Bible, not through the internet. Be disciplined by the Bible, not through social media through some of your peers. Go with the Word of God, not with the narrative of the culture that is standing against the Word of God more and more. There are a lot of young people moving that direction, the wrong direction.”

I want to encourage you, this is not a game; it is not without consequence. It has a serious consequence to it.

I want to invite people to come forward who are saying, “I want to pray. I want to stand faithful.” I do not mean because you are wavering; maybe you are wavering, maybe you are not. But you are saying, “I want to bring this clarity to other people. I want to be bold about this. I do not want to just be on the side lines, kind of confused about what is happening. I want to go forward, and I would like prayer today.” So whether you are slipping to the left or whether you are saying, “No, I am not. I am just wanting to be bold. I want to take a stand on this stuff and I want to take this thing forward and I would like prayer,” I want to invite you to come up. I want to ask the Lord to put His hand on us.