

GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER IS A HOUSE OF PREPARATION

PART 02 • UNDERSTANDING THE DAY OF THE LORD

HOUSE OF PRAYER SERIES • J.S. BOEGL

I. Understanding The Day of The Lord

The Day of the Lord is great and terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)

- A. The Day of the Lord is a Biblical term. It occurs 86 times in both the Old and New Testaments. It refers to a period of years between, or act as a threshold into, the next age.
- B. The Day of the Lord will be filled with great calamity (***terrible***) and it will be filled with (***great***) Kingdom opportunity. The Day of the Lord will combine the most severe *persecution* in the history of the world with the most catastrophic calamity in the history of the world. It will result in the death of billions worldwide. The Day of the Lord will also entail the most fruitful outpouring of the Holy Spirit the world has ever witnessed. Billions will be brought into God's family.
- C. The great and terrible Day of the Lord will be prefaced by a ***great falling away***. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3)
 1. The ***great falling away*** isn't a sudden occurrence. It consists of an exponential compounding of the curse of sin and the groan of creation. It's chief component is a compounding confluence of unrighteousness. This confluence entails political, racial, national, social and justice issues that will produce a mounting storm of hostility and alienation in human relationships.
 2. This storm is already raging (Psalm 2) in the nations. It's also raging in our nation.
 3. Make no mistake. This is the Lord's storm! And He's using it on numerous levels:
 - a. He's challenging humanity with the notion that He is the rightful Leader of every nation, race, gender, religion, family and individual. He's also offending individuals with the *way* that His Chosen Leader leads.
 - b. He's issuing those who have eyes to see, *the one solution* to the curse of sin that plagues every soul, and destroys every relationship.
 - c. He's driving the casual, lukewarm Church to the cross and to first-commandment love for Jesus.
 - d. He's offending governments and races by choosing & preparing one nation, Israel, for His habitation and glory.
 4. Beloved, we won't believe where this storm will be in another 12 years.
- D. ***"Who can endure it?"*** is a question that God is challenging us with *now* so that we *"count the cost"* and do the difficult, disciplined, necessary work *today, before the great and the terrible events unfold*.
 1. The Father asks us this question because He knows that this work is the only way we'll be prepared to endure the level assault that will befall our hearts. Without digging these footholds of strength, we will not remain faithful to Jesus through the Day of the Lord.
 2. Although God warned Noah of the impending judgment, Noah needed to do the years of hard work to prepare himself and his family with a structure that would *endure* and survive the cataclysm that was about to overtake him.
 3. A status quo Christianity will not be sufficient to keep us steadfast through these storms.
 - a. Our sterile, theological statements of belief now, in a day of relative calm will not be enough to withstand the great torrent of lies, offense and accusations that will buffet our hearts in that hour.
 - b. Being nominally involved in the life of an evangelical church will not keep our spirits alive in the love of God... (Those who have no connection to the Lord of glory, those who caught up in liberal, humanistic churches, or those who have no connection to a Bible-believing, praying, Spirit-empowered fellowship, will swiftly be swept away.)
 - c. Casually reading the Word will not give our faith the roots of assurance that we'll need to withstand the wiles of satan, and the host of strategies he'll marshal against God's anointed...
 - d. Lives that care little for prayer; that merely mouth heartless, on-the-run-prayers won't be able to access the resource lines of grace that our souls will need to survive...

II. The Mounting Temptations that Humanity Must Transcend

- A. Through the intensity of this hour of human history, all 7.4 billion of us must prepare ourselves to resist the dynamic temptations that will increasingly assault our heart. These are the great snares that Jesus warned his disciples about.

For these great snares will overtake all who live on the face of the whole earth. (Luke 21:35)
- B. These ***great snares*** are bitterness, condemnation and unforgiveness that we hold against others, and the accusation, offense and judgement that we harbor against God; usually over issues of justice and personal loss. These great snares will be responsible for the destruction of billions of souls.
- C. All sin is rooted in unbelief: a lack of affirmation of the truth about Who God is, and how He provides for, and responds to each of His children. ***For whatever is not of faith, is sin.*** (Romans 14:23) As our

belief in Who God is wanes, our susceptibility to the ravages of sin naturally increases.

- D. These destructive dynamics are products of rage that originate in satan, are manifest in the curse that's in the world, ultimately oppose Jesus reign of love, and must be judged and banished from His Kingdom.

III. Cultivating Jealousy for Jesus' Preeminent Glory on the Earth

- A. In this hour, the Lord is fully engaged in a plan to establish His Son as King of the whole earth in a reign of perfect righteousness. He's *jealous* for His Son to rule *and* to be acclaimed as worthy!
"Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain!" (Revelation 5:12)
- B. The Father is eager to cultivate this same jealousy with the heart of His Son's Bride, the Church. This is also the divine mandate of the House of Prayer: to encourage believers to cultivate jealousy for Jesus' glory in every aspect of our lives and society.
- C. Cultivating jealousy for Jesus' glory is the same thing as cultivating first commandment love for Jesus. By using the phrase "jealous for Jesus' glory" we are contextualizing *where* and *under what circumstances* we will love Him wholeheartedly.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30)
- D. The Holy Spirit cultivates jealousy for Jesus' fame and glory as we stand in the place of watchful, Spirit-informed, corporate worship and prayer:
1. Through "sitting at the feet of Jesus" and receiving revelation of His beauty and glory.
 2. Through "taking up our cross and following Jesus" as He ministers unto the world.
 3. Through intercession, as we **stand in the gap** between the groan of creation and the groan of the Spirit, clothed in the authority of Christ.
- As we engage Him in prayer we become zealous for the whole world to see, acclaim and live under the reign of His glorious goodness.
- E. Our perseverance in intercession produces great faith and great love for Who Jesus is.
1. In the place of intercession our groan is forced to come to grips with our rock-bottom faith in Who Jesus is. As we "wait" upon Him in prayer, we are forced to confront those places in our hearts that are slow to believe, or fear that Jesus is not all that the Word says that He is.
 2. As we continue in tears and pleas and cries, our heart reaches for, and searches out the truth of His character. Our prayers actually dig footholds of tangible faith in our soul.
 3. As we voice our petitions we confront our fears and doubts with increasingly strong faith in Who the Word of God says that our Lord is. Our prayers actually help us banish whispers, accusations and lies against His character, and we are able to route the questions and doubts of the enemy, and our own fearful heart.
 4. The more we press into God in prayer, the more He attaches our hearts to the truth of Who He is, and the more our faith grows.
When the Son of Man returns, will He find faith (re: Who the Son is) **on the earth?** (Luke 18:8)
- F. This zeal and jealousy is actually the strength we need to stand strong through the hour of great testing on the earth, so we can say: *"God, Your judgments, justice, law, mercy, wisdom, ways and timing are good and perfect!"*

IV. It's Vital that We Learn How to Engage God in Dialogue Now

- A. The only way our Christian faith will survive the calamity of the Day of the Lord is to have a vibrant, responsive, love-relationship with Jesus. The only way to have a vital love-relationship with Jesus is to cultivate a lifestyle of prayer with Him.
- B. Prayerful dialogue is the life-breath of the believer leading up to The Day of the Lord's return. It's the way **His Bride makes herself ready.** (Revelation 19:7)
- C. The tragic truth is, *most* Christians (even evangelical, Bible-believing, Spirit-filled Christians) don't know how to have dialogue with the Lord.
- D. How much more difficult will it be to have healthy dialogue with an unseen God in an hour of great calamity? On that day we're not going to *want* to suddenly *need* to do something that's abnormal to our lifestyle. You don't want to have to learn to swim in the hour your ship goes down in the Pacific.
Therefore, let everyone who is godly PRAY TO YOU in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach Him. (Psalm 32:6)
- E. If we intend to stand victoriously with Him on that Day, it's vital that we cultivate a lifestyle of prayerful, intimate dialogue with Him, today.