

GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER IS A HOUSE OF PREPARATION

HOUSE OF PRAYER SERIES • J.S. BOEGL

I. Understanding the End Times Biblical Narrative in Context with Current Events

- A. It's vital that we understand the sweep of God's perspective regarding His end-times storyline.
- B. We must give ourselves to a living understanding of the Word of God regarding the Lord's return.
 - 1. There are more than 150 chapters in the Bible that speak of the last days before the Lord's return.
 - 2. The Lord exhorts the people of God to understand the signs and be prepared.
Then He also said to the multitudes, 'Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, A shower is coming; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say There will be hot weather; and there is. Hypocrites. You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time?' (Luke 12:54-56)
 - 3. In preparation for the hour of His coming, Jesus urges us to be people who ***watch*** and ***pray always***. ***Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing (sin), drunkenness (intoxicants), and cares (anxieties) of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.*** (Luke 21:34-36) (See also Matthew 16:3; Matthew 24:42, 44; Matthew 25:13; Luke 21:7-33)

II. God's End-Times Storyline Simplified

It's vital that we give ourselves to understanding God's divine storyline so that we don't stumble over the crises that will explode in the nations during this hour of human history, and may be found "***worthy***" (Luke 21:36) to ***stand with Him*** at His return.

- A. The Father is zealous for His Son's glory. He has promised to establish Him as King of the whole earth in a reign of perfect love and righteousness.
- B. The Lord is preparing people all over the earth to transition from 8000 plus years of the curse, to a new age where the curse is banished.
- C. The Holy Spirit is preparing the Church to be the Bride of Jesus as He reigns over the nations.
- D. His chief objective is to fill God's people with a preeminent zeal for Jesus' glory that corresponds to the Father's zeal for His Son's glory.
- E. Our Bridegroom is at the door of human history - ready to return.
- F. When He returns He will eradicate the curse wherever it's found.
- G. He will banish the consummate icon of satanic-inspired humanity. (Revelation 19:11-21) as well all those who align themselves with the devil, his angels, and all who object and protest the Son's reign.
- H. Those who make covenant with Him (the Church) will reign with/under Him and His righteous administration of earth.
Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am. (John 17:24)

III. The Character of the King: God's Chosen One

The centerpiece of the Father's plan isn't a "timeline". It's a Man.

- A. He's the Father's choice to be the Leader of the whole earth. (Psalm 2:6)
- B. He's the Promised Leader the prophets have told us about...
- C. He's the Leader Who will rule every nation, tongue, tribe and family. He's the only One worthy to hold the title deed of the whole earth. (Revelation 5:9)
- D. He is Jewish. And He will rule from the geographical city of Jerusalem, in the nation of Israel.
- E. He's the Leader Who is bringing us (His Bride) into administrative partnership with Himself.
- F. He's the One True Perfect Leader. (Psalm 45:2-4)
- G. He's perfect in love. In fact, He's the enemy of every enemy of love.
- H. He's perfect in justice. (Revelation 15:3; 16:7 & 19:2)
- J. He's perfect in delegation of resource. He's perfect in His care of all creation.
- K. He knows how to bring out the best in each of us, individually, nationally, and collectively. He's filled with passion for each of our unique cultural distinctives.
- L. He's perfectly selfless. He laid down His own life for each of us... (Romans 5:6-11)
- M. His character of perfect love and holiness is precisely what our hearts have always longed for in a Leader. He is perfect integrity.
- N. He's glorious. It's only right that it be *His glory* that fills the earth. (Habakkuk 2:14)

- O. He's filled with longing and passion for His Bride to "co-rule" with Him.
- I. He is perfectly meek and humble (Psalm 45:4) and will reign with a Bride who is meek and humble (Matthew 5:5 and Matthew 10:28-30), just *like Him*. (1 John 3:2,3)

"Prepare the way of the Lord! Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain & hill brought low. The crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough ways will be made smooth... The glory of the Lord is about to be revealed. All flesh shall see it together." (Isaiah 40:3-5)

IV. 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 Testament. It refers to a period of years that stand between, or act as a doorway into the next age.
- B. The Day of the Lord will be filled with great calamity (terrible) and it will be filled with great 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 mounting confluence of unrighteousness. The confluence entails political, racial, national, social and justice issues that produces a mounting storm of human hostility and alienation in the nations.
 - 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 human hearts with the notion that He is the rightful Leader of every nation, race, gender, religion, family and individual. He's also offending individual's hearts 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 human heart, and destroys every human relationship.
 - c. He's driving the casual, lukewarm Church to the cross, to her knees 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 designed to ask ourselves if we're willing to do the difficult, disciplined, preparatory work *now* that will enable us to endure the assault on our hearts and stand in fidelity to Jesus, with the assertions of love and faith firmly established in our lives. It's *only* in this way that we will be able to victoriously stand for Him, and His purposes through that ***terrible*** day.

V. Two Aspects of the Mounting Curse of Sin Humanity Must Transcend

- A. Through the intensity of this hour of human history, all 7.4 billion of us must prepare ourselves to resist two great temptations that incessantly assault our heart.
 - 1. Bitterness, Condemnation and Unforgiveness that we hold against others.
 - 2. Accusation, Offense and Judgement that we harbor against God; usually over issues of justice and personal loss.
- B. 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.
- C. Each of these destructive dynamics are products of rage that originate in Satan, are manifest in the curse that's upon the world, ultimately oppose Jesus reign of love, and must be judged and banished from His Kingdom.

VI. Two Vital Questions Humanity Must Confront

Through the intensity of this hour of human history, all 7.4 billion of us must prepare ourselves to answer two colossal questions. In order for our souls to stand strong through the winds of calamity, it's essential that these questions be answered *both* with understanding, and with tested and approved, heart conviction.

- A. Who do you say that the Jewish God/Man Jesus of Nazareth is?
Will you cultivate loving jealousy for His preeminent glory on the earth?

- B. Will you take shelter in this Man, and through the many temptations of the storm, (through the great offense, and the many demonic temptations to sin)
Will you obediently take up your cross to follow and manifest your faith in Him?

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

- A. As noted above, 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!"***

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

- A. The fact of the matter is that our love and faith in Jesus will *only* survive as we have the capacity to dialogue with the Lord. Dialogue is the life-breath of the believer leading up to The Day of the Lord's return.
- B. The tragic truth is, *most* Christians (even evangelical, Bible-believing, Spirit-filled Christians) don't know how to have dialogue with the Lord.
- C. In the heat of the end-times crises, it's vital that we maintain a vibrant life of Jesus in our own lives, and in the lives of others. Therefore, it's also vital that we develop the muscle and the skill of dialoguing with God? This is the way ***His Bride has made herself ready.*** (Revelation 19:7)
- D. In the hour of great calamity we're not going to *want* to suddenly have to do something that's abnormal to our lifestyle. We don't want to have to learn to swim in the hour when our 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)