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Ushering in the Lord's Return Through Prayer

Session 1: Introduction

I. Objectives

- A. To communicate God's desire and purpose for day and night prayer and worship.
- B. To reveal the key biblical motivation for persistent prayer that is enjoyable, sustainable, and transformational for our lives and communities.
- C. To fascinate our hearts with the awesome power, wisdom, grace, and beauty of God as demonstrated in His plans and prophetic promises for the generation of believers that will usher in the second coming of Christ through prayer.
- D. To begin preparing our hearts for our destiny at the end of this age and in the age to come.

II. Why Study the End-Times?

- A. Jesus and the apostles taught us to understand the signs of the times and Jesus even rebuked those in Israel in His generation who did not recognize the hour (season) of their visitation. (*Mat 16:1-3; Mat 24:32-34; Luk 21:25-31; 1 Thes 5:1-6; 2 Thes 2:1-11; Luk 19:43-44*)
- B. It reveals the character of Jesus and the destiny of the saints in ways that cannot be discovered in any other course of study.
- C. There are 18 revelations of Jesus' beauty and majesty in Revelation 1, alone. There are 16 more specific descriptions of Jesus in Revelation 2-3.
- D. It is essential preparation for the Church:
 1. To be victorious in love with power during the most dramatic time in history.
 2. To rightly interpret and respond to the coming crisis (rather than being offended by it).
 3. To participate in the coming global revival and awakening (rather than neglecting or resisting it).
- E. It strengthens our confidence in God's sovereignty by knowing that come what may, He is in control and is never surprised.
- F. It awakens us to urgency in intercession in knowing our prayers can minimize evil and increase victory in specific regions (*Joel 2:13-14; Zeph 2:3*).

III. 8 Attitudes That Hinder Our Study

1. Intimidation: *"It's too complicated."* or *"We weren't meant to understand it."*

- A. The scriptures were written *by* simple people *for* simple people. We take a literal approach to the scriptures unless they instruct us to do otherwise.
- B. *"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter."* (Proverbs 25:2)
2. (Obsessive) Intellectualism: *"I don't want to be that guy."*
 - A. A purely academic pursuit will always lead to pride and/or error in doctrine.
 - B. We cannot hope to understand the mind of God if we are not deeply connected to and in agreement with the heart of God.
3. Fear: *"That stuff's scary, man."*
 - A. We fear what we do not understand.
 - B. The more we contend for revelation concerning the end times, the more God fascinates us with His wisdom, power, and beauty, and the more we are drawn into deeper levels of love.
 - C. Wholehearted lovers have nothing to fear! (*see 1 John 4:16-18; Job 13:15; Isa 26:8*)
4. Complacency: *"It'll all 'pan' out in the end."* or *"We're not going to be here anyway."*
 - A. Study of the end-times is not optional for the Church. There are more chapters in the bible dealing with End-Time events and specifically the Lord's return than there are chapters in the gospels. The subject is emphasized for a reason.
 - B. The doctrines of a pre- or mid-tribulation rapture are great errors in the western Church today. Both are relatively new teachings (less than 150 years old) and are based entirely on inference rather than on clear declarations in scripture. For 1900 years of church history, believers have understood that the Church will experience the Tribulation.
 - C. *Revelation* was written to encourage the Church to overcome in the midst of persecution and tribulation (note John's use of the phrase *"him/he who overcomes"* 7 times in the first 3 chapters of Revelation and once again at the end in Rev 21:7). For that reason, it is the favorite book of the persecuted Church in China and other nations.
 - D. Does your doctrine of the end-times...
 - ❖ Prepare you to be an "over-comer" in the face of trouble and persecution
 - ❖ Motivate you to seek a deeper intimacy with God, to know and agree with the plans that are in His heart, and to release them through prayer and worship?
5. Scoffing: *"Every generation since Jesus thought it was the last..."*
 - A. *"...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." (2 Peter 3:3-4)*

6. Offense: “How could a loving God kill half of the population of the earth?”
 - A. “This child [Jesus] is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.” (Luke 2:34-35)
 - B. God offends the mind to reveal the heart.
 - C. The #1 obstacle to our wholehearted devotion to God at the end of the age will be the offense that creeps in our hearts as He purifies His bride and pours out His wrath on the nations. (See also Psa 2:10-12; Rom 11:22; Isa 26:8-10; Hab 1)
7. Misunderstanding: “We’re not appointed to suffer wrath.”
 - A. Judgment disciplines the people of God to produce wholeheartedness.
 - B. Judgment destroys the enemies of God.
 - C. Judgment rescues God’s people from evil and oppression.
 - D. Judgment exalts the name of God by displaying His awesome power and justice.
 - E. Judgment is always poured out from God’s heart of kindness and love in order to produce greater depths of love for Him in the hearts of His people.
 - F. Judgment is never about an angry God losing His patience with His people. Rather, it is about God using the least severe method...to produce the deepest levels of love... in the shortest amount of time...in the greatest number of people... without violating their free will.
8. Irrelevance: “Signs and wonders have ceased.”
 - A. Compared to the Church in the New Testament, the western Church today is perceived as utterly irrelevant in its impact on the political, economic, and cultural realms of our society. That perception is reinforced by our compromised lifestyles and impotence in the place of prayer.
 - B. Jesus promised that we would do “greater works” than He did. The days are approaching when a purified Bride, fully united with the Holy Spirit and one another, will fulfill the words of Jesus and execute the judgments and miracles of God in ways and on a scale never before seen in human history.
 - C. Biblical Prophecies of an End-Time Prayer Movement
The great conflict at the end of the age will be between two “houses of prayer,” or worship movements. The Antichrist will raise up a worldwide worship movement (Rev 13:4,8,12,15). At the same time, a prayer and worship movement in the Church will arise in opposition. Millions of the faithful will be martyred in that day.
 - D. As was the case with every revival occurring in the Old Testament since the time of David, Amos prophesies of a revival that will occur in the last days, especially during the tribulation, in which the Tabernacle of David (2 Sam 6; 1 Chron 15-16) will be restored. This restoration speaks of a renewal of continual night and day prayer and extravagant worship that will sweep across the nations prior to the coming of the Lord. Amos’ prophecy is further confirmed by the apostle, James, in the book of Acts.

IV. **Biblical Prophecies of an End Time Prayer Movement**

“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David, the fallen hut or booth, and close up its breaches; and I will raise up its ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old, That they may possess the remnant of Edom [so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord (Acts 12:18)] and of all the nations that are called by My name, says the Lord Who does this.”

- Amos 9:11-12 AMP

- A. This restoration of prayer and worship will continue on the earth through the millennial reign of Christ.
- B. Isaiah prophesied of a generation that would continue in unified 24/7 prayer until Jerusalem is established as a praise in all the earth (i.e. until Jesus returns and establishes His throne in Jerusalem).

“On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; And give Him no rest until He [returns and] establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

- Isaiah 62:6-7

“Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, They shout joyfully together [in prayer and worship]; For they will see with their own eyes when the LORD restores Zion.”

- Isaiah 52:8

- C. Isaiah also prophesied of the generation that would worship and pray from the ends of the earth until Jesus goes forth as a mighty man of war at the time of His Second Coming.

“Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth... Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice... let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare His praise in the coastlands. The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man [Second Coming]; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. I will lay waste the mountains and hills...”

- Isaiah 42:10–15

- D. Jesus prophesied of the Church He would build—a Church growing in maturity in prayer, and growing in power and authority even as evil increases in the last days.

"...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven [authority in prayer]; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven [power in prayer]."
- Matthew 16:18-19

- E. Jesus also spoke of a generation that would release end-time judgment through 24/7 prayer.

"And will not [our just] God defend and protect and avenge His elect [His chosen ones], who cry to Him day and night? Will He defer them and delay help on their behalf? I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?"
- Luke 18:7-8 AMP

- F. Hosea prophesied of the Church (to include a Jewish remnant) that will seek the Lord with trembling in the last days.

"For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols. Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days."
- Hosea 3:4-5

- G. This trembling is produced by an overwhelming awareness of the goodness of God as expressed in His terrible end-time judgments. Hosea's words have been fulfilled in part beginning at Pentecost and will be fulfilled in increasing measure as we draw nearer to the Lord's return.
- H. This end-time prayer movement will play a crucial role in the repentance and salvation of the Jewish remnant just prior to the return of the Lord.

"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they [the Jewish remnant] will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn"
- Zechariah 12:10

- I. Isaiah also connects an end-time prayer movement to the judgments of God. He prophesies of an expectant people lovesick and longing for the coming of the Lord and rooted in the understanding that the judgments of Jesus, *dispensed out of His zeal for His Bride*, will consume His enemies, produce righteousness in the earth, and establish His name and renown forever.

“Indeed, while following the way of Your judgments, O LORD, We have waited [prayed] for You eagerly; name, even Your memory, is the desire of our souls. At night my soul longs for You [as a lovesick bride], Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; For when the earth experiences Your judgments The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness...O LORD, Your hand is lifted up yet they do not see it They see Your zeal for the people and are put to shame; Indeed, fire will devour Your enemies.”
- Isaiah 26:8-11

J. David prophesied about a generation that will release through worship and prayer the written judgments of Scripture upon the nations.

“Let the godly ones exult in glory; Let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword [the Word of God] in their hand, To execute vengeance on the nations And punishment on the peoples, To bind their kings with chains And their nobles with fetters of iron, To execute on them the judgment written; This is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the LORD!”
- Psalms 149:5-9

K. According to David, releasing judgment by prayer is the honor of all saints.
At the climax of the seven seal judgments in Revelation, John sees the disposition and power not just of the prayers of all the saints throughout history, but also that of the prayers of the entire Body of Christ united globally and releasing the trumpet and bowl judgments that follow.

“Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of ALL the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.”
- Revelation 8:3

L. Isaiah and Revelation tell us that Jesus' Second Coming is actually in response to prayers offered by the saints, both by the Messianic believers who will confess Israel's sin with identificational repentance (see *Isa 64:5-13*) and by a lovesick Church, united and rooted in its bridal identity and in agreement with the desire of the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, that You would rend the heavens! that You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence... to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations [Antichrist's armies] may tremble at Your presence...”
- Isaiah 64:1-2

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’”
- Revelation 22:17

Session 2: Revealing Our Destiny in Prayer

I. Getting the Right Paradigm: The Exodus Model

- A. Just as the plagues of Egypt were sent by God, released through Moses in judgment upon Pharaoh and the idol worship of Egypt, the Tribulation is sent by God, released through the praying Church in judgment upon the Antichrist and the idol worship of this age.
- B. Just as the plagues of Egypt rescued the Israelites from captivity and oppression, the Tribulation again serves to rescue the people of God from oppression and produces the greatest harvest in human history. (see Rev 14:14-17)
- C. Just as the Israelites were sheltered from the plagues in the land of Goshen, their will be pockets of protection/cities of refuge for the people of God in the Tribulation. (Gen 45:8-11, 16-18; Exo 8:22; 9:26, Psa 91; Zeph 2:3)
- D. Jesus prophesied that His disciples would perform even greater signs and wonders than He did while on the earth (John 14:12). In the last days, the miracles of Moses in Exodus and the apostles in Acts will be combined, multiplied, and released by the praying church on a global scale (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-21; Rev 8). The End-Time Church will confront the End-Time Pharaoh in unprecedented power!

We are not meant to escape or avoid the Tribulation; neither are we victims of it...We are the agents who usher it in!
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II. The Escalation of the Prayer Movement in Revelation

- A. Structure of the Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls of Revelation
 1. There are 21 consecutive, numbered events that constitute the judgments of God upon the antichrist system at the end of the age. Each is progressively more severe than the one preceding it.
 2. The 21 events are made up of 7 Seals, then 7 Trumpets, then 7 Bowls.
 3. In each of the Sevens, the first 4 judgments form a group, 5 & 6 stand alone but are similar, and the 7th is very different.
- B. Harp & Bowl Worship and Prayer: Establishing a Church Mature in Prayer
"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls FULL of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."
- Revelation 5:6-8

1. Jesus will not release (break) the Seal judgments until the bowls of prayer around the throne are full. In other words, the end-time Church will be mature in prayer BEFORE the final 3½ years of the Tribulation.
2. One of the key factors in producing this maturity will be persecution and martyrdom.

C. The 5th Seal Judgment: Fueling the Prayer Movement Through Persecution

“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.”

- Revelation 6:9-11

1. The First 4 seals are judgments executed through evil that man commits against man as God removes His hand of restraint and gives man over to the evil in his heart.
2. The 6th seal and subsequent events are judgments executed through supernatural catastrophes and cosmic events as God removes His hand of restraint and gives to the Church the full measure of power promised in *Joel 2*, *Acts 2*, and *John 14:12*.
3. The 5th seal is the pivotal point in the unfolding of end-time events.
4. Persecution purifies and unifies the Church to walk in fullness and power (*Dan 11:35; 12:10; see also “one accord” passages in Acts*).
5. Persecution fuels both our desperation for God AND His zealous response to our cries!

D. The 6th Seal Judgment: Infusing the Church with Unprecedented Power

“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.”

- Revelation 6:12-14

1. This is the ultimate fulfillment of *Joel 2:28-31* & *Acts 2:16-21*, the “greater works than these,” of *John 14:12*, and the vengeance executed by the saints in *Psalms 149*.
2. As the Dark gets darker, the Light gets lighter – God removes all restraints both from evil man and from the Holy Spirit activity through His Church (signs & wonders).

3. The saints are loosing God's judgments through nature to consume the resources of the Antichrist and his allies and slow/halt his military conquests (*Rev 6:1-2; Isa 24*).
- E. The 7th Seal Judgment: Releasing Fire from Heaven through Unified Prayer

“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.”

- Revelation 8:2-5

1. We know from *Lev 16:13* that it took a priest about 30 minutes to offer incense in the temple. And *Luke 1:9-10* tells us that while the priest burned incense in the temple of the Lord, the “*multitude of the people would remain outside praying at the hour of incense.*”
2. In the same way, all of Heaven is silent (*Rev 8:1*) as our incense is presented upon the altar and the crescendo of the prayers of the saints rises from the earth. Even the seraphim that cry out day and night, “Holy, holy, holy,” are silent as all audible expressions of worship in Heaven cease and the holy roar of the Lord's praying Bride rises to the throne as a sweet aroma before God.
3. “*The events that follow this episode of incense offering, as one trumpet after another sounds, are the answer to the prayers of the suffering, expectant Church.*”
- Isbon T. Beckwith (General Theological Seminary, New York)
4. “*This verse [verse 5] dramatically pictures the fact that it is in answer to the prayers of the saints that God's judgments will fall upon the earth.*”
- George Ladd (Fuller Theological Seminary, California)
5. The Angel of *Rev 8:3* is given much incense (the intercession of Jesus described in *Heb 7:25*) together with the intercession of the saints (the incense in the bowls held by the 24 Elders of *Rev 5:8*) to offer on the golden altar under which the martyrs are crying out for vengeance (*Rev 6:10*).

Consider the magnitude and intensity of a fire set ablaze by all the prayers collected from all the saints of all the ages and from all the saints of the last generation united and mature in prayer, added to all the prayers of our Great High Priest who lives forever to make intercession for us, all of which are offered before God on an altar already, itself, searing hot from the cries for vengeance from all the witnesses that ever have been or will be martyred for the sake of Christ. And this hurled to the earth in a cataclysmic and unprecedented response by God to the cries of His people in judgment upon all the powers and deeds of darkness!

6. Every other reference to the altar in Heaven before God is thus a reference to the prayers of the saints ascending to God. When a judgment decree is given from the heavenly altar in Revelation, it must be understood as the result of prayer.

“The sixth angel sounded: I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar saying... “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” So the four angels... were released to kill a third of mankind.”

- Revelation 9:13

“Another angel came out from the altar... and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle... for her grapes are fully ripe.” ...And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.”

- Revelation 14:18-20

“And I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are Your judgments.”

- Revelation 16:7

Session 3: The Eschatological Beauty of God

I. Putting It All Together

- A. Jesus desires dynamic partnership with His Bride in the culmination of natural history.
1. Jesus, fully man, is the only one worthy to break the seals, yet He will only do it in response to the prayers of His Bride.
 2. Consider Jesus' command to "pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send forth workers" (*Mat 9:38*). He doesn't need our prayers. He invites, and even commands them because He knows they make our hearts alive with love as He responds to them in dramatic fashion.
 3. Consider Jesus' emphasis on persistence in prayer and the great contrasts in *Luke 18* between the unjust judge and God, and the widow and the Bride of Christ!
 4. Just as Eve was created to be Adam's help-meet, we (the Church) were created to be the help-meet of Jesus through an intimate and powerful love relationship both in this age AND in the age to come. This is the heart of the Bridal paradigm.
 5. The fiery judgments that fall at the end of the age then are called down by prayers rooted in an intimate Bridal paradigm, NOT through a warrior paradigm that prays for fire out of fleshly desire.

"And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village."

- Luke 9:52-55

"Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment—This honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!"

- Psalms 149:6-9

<p>The answer to praying for judgment with a wrong spirit, then, is to become lovesick in our preoccupation with Jesus and understand the Bridal Paradigm. We pray for revival and judgment with a different spirit when it has nothing to do with our comfort, pride, personal offense, or self-preservation, but for HIS justice and glory. This principle must be exercised DAILY at the personal heart-level before we can ever enter into its fullness corporately.</p>
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- B. Our partnership with Jesus in prayer is a force more powerful than any the world could ever know. Consider that all the armies of all the nations of the world, united under the leadership of the Antichrist, are utterly powerless to thwart the plans that are in the heart of God released through His praying Church.
1. *"The fire [of Rev. 8:5] comes from the very altar on which the prayers of the saints have been offered. This surely means that the prayers of God's people play a necessary part in ushering in the judgments of God. "What are the real master powers behind the world, and what are the deeper secrets of our destiny? Here is the astonishing answer: The prayers of the saints and the fire of God are more powerful than anything. That means that more potent, more powerful than all the dark and mighty powers let loose in the world, more powerful than anything else is the power of prayer set ablaze by the fire of God and cast upon the earth.*
- Thomas Torrance (Scottish Theologian)
- C. It is in response to the cries of His Bride that Jesus, our beautiful warrior-king, steps out of Heaven to come to our rescue and utterly lay waste to every evil that has set itself against us.

"Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength? "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save... 3 I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come."

- Isaiah 63:1-4

- D. The violent judgments of God released through the praying Church culminate in an outburst of worship unlike any Heaven or Earth has ever known.

"After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants. Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever. And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God all you his servants you who fear him, small and great."

- Revelation 19:1-5

- E. The Day of the Lord is thus “His day.” It is the mechanism by which God has always intended to save, prepare, and train His Church worldwide for one glorious reality: to rule and reign with Christ as His Bride, fully sanctified and equally yoked with Him in power and authority for all eternity. It is the consummation of the unfathomable dream in the heart of the uncreated, unsearchable God.

“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”

- Revelation 19:6-7

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new...”

- Revelation 21:1-5

II. Response

- A. The scriptures describe three transitional generations in human history that inaugurate new redemptive eras characterized by the unprecedented supernatural activity of God in the affairs of men. Each of these new eras is ushered in through prayer.

1. The Generation of Moses and the Exodus

“I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them...”

- Exodus 2:7-8

2. The Generation of Jesus and the Apostles

“And you, child [John the Baptist], will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways”

- Luke 1:76

“He [John] said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the LORD,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.”

- John 1:23

There was also a prophetess, Anna... She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.
- Luke 2:36-37

3. The Final Generation of Natural History

“Oh, that You would rend the heavens! that You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence... to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations [Antichrist's armies] may tremble at Your presence...”

- Isaiah 64:1-2

“The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!”

- Revelation 22:17

- B. It is my opinion that we are living in this last generation. We cannot minimize the urgency nor put off the command to begin preparing our hearts for the Day of the Lord.

“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom, Who cause the seat of violence to come near.”

- Amos 6:3

“Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come... If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'”

- Mark 13:33-37

“And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.”

- Matthew 25:10

- C. Our choices matter. We can either be swept away by the coming flood, or we can begin preparing for it now, building an ark of prayer, fasting, study, and worship, positioning ourselves to partner with the plans in His heart, living holy lives and hastening the day of His coming.

“ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...”

- 2 Peter 3:10-12

Appendix:

I. Expressions of the Current Global Prayer Movement

- A. Prayer Mountain, Seoul, South Korea
 - ❖ 24/7 prayer since 1973.
 - ❖ 1 million people annually from all over the world regularly participate
 - ❖ Yoido Full Gospel Church is the world's largest at 830,000 members.
- B. International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO
 - ❖ 24/7 prayer and worship since September, 1999
 - ❖ 84 2-hour prayer meetings
 - ❖ Thousands in weekly attendance
 - ❖ Hundreds of similar HOPs have sprung up worldwide including in Austria, Canada, China, Columbia, Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, and the UK.
- C. International House of Prayer, Atlanta, GA
 - ❖ The first 24/7 HOP to be birthed out of IHOP KC in 2006
- D. 24-7 Prayer International, London, UK
 - ❖ began in 1999 with individuals manning 1-hour blocks of time 24 hours a day
 - ❖ has exploded into thousands of similar prayer rooms and 24 hour prayer watches for weeks and months at a time in over 90 countries
 - ❖ transforming impact on the youth culture has been featured in newspapers and magazines around the world including Rolling Stone to Reader's Digest.
- E. Global Day of Prayer, Cape Town, South Africa
 - ❖ annual event organizing Christians worldwide to unite in a day of prayer/repentance
 - ❖ began in South Africa in 2000 expanding to encompass all of Africa in 2002.
 - ❖ invitation to participate extended to believers around the world in 2004.
 - ❖ millions of Christians from more than 220 countries filling stadiums around the globe participate every year.
 - ❖ unprecedented in human history
- F. Burn 24-7, Richardson, TX
 - ❖ Upon arrival in a city, the group organizes multiple groups to come together at a "burn," which is a 24-hour or longer non-stop worship and prayer meeting, divided into 2-hour shifts.
- G. Succat Hallel, Jerusalem, Israel
 - ❖ Hundreds of watchmen (intercessors) gathered for 24/7 prayer and worship in Jerusalem contending for the salvation of Israel until Jesus returns in fulfillment of Isaiah 62:7.

II. Resources:

1. Your bible... *Read it. Read ALL OF IT!* Study Daniel, Joel, Zechariah, Matthew 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 17 & 21; 1 Thessalonians 4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2; Revelation
2. Allen Hood, "The Uniqueness of the Last Generation" [IHOP Sermon Series on CD] Available @ IHOP.org
3. Billy Humphrey, Until He Comes: Understanding the End-Time Prayer Movement [Paperback] Available @ Amazon.com & IHOP.org
4. David Sliker, End-Times Simplified: Preparing Your Heart for the Coming Storm [Paperback] Available @ Amazon.com & IHOP.org
5. David Pawson, When Jesus Returns [Paperback] Available @ Amazon.com & IHOP.org
6. David Pawson, "The Book of Revelation Seminar" [CD] Available @ IHOP.org
7. Gary Wiens, Bridal Intercession: Authority in Prayer through Intimacy with Jesus [Paperback] Available @ Amazon.com & IHOP.org
8. Hank Marion, "Joel" [New Haven Sermon Series on CD] Available @ New Haven
9. Hank Marion, "Revelation" [New Haven Sermon Series on CD] Available @ New Haven
10. John Piper, "The Prayers of the Saints and the End of the World," [mp3] Available from the Resource Library @ DesiringGod.org
11. Mike Bickle, "The Omega Course" [Workbook & DVD] Available @ New Haven
12. Mike Bickle, "The Relationship of Spiritual Intimacy to End-Times Judgment" [IHOP Sermon Series on CD] Available @ IHOP.org
13. Mike Bickle, "Role of Prayer in Revelation and the End-Time Church," Available under the Resources tab at IHOP.org
14. "150 Chapters on the End Times" Available under the Resources tab at IHOP.org
15. saturday@theHOP @ New Haven House of Prayer the 1st Saturday of each month 9AM-Noon, free registration