

THE ROLE AND NATURE OF THE PRAYING CHURCH IN THE END-TIMES
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“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires let him take the water of life freely.” (Revelation 22:17)

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS EMPHASIZING CORPORATE PRAYER

- A. Revelation 22:17 prophecy – The Spirit and the Bride will call Jesus back to the earth. The Holy Spirit is emphasizing corporate prayer in the end-times. The primary way of partnership has always been and always will be prayer but He will highlight and energize prayer to bring a great crescendo of prayer in the end-times.
- B. **Corporate Prayer** - The Holy Spirit is clearly orchestrating a global prayer movement in our day. Corporate prayer and worship has accelerated all over the earth in the last 20 years. We are going to see a crescendo of unity between the Spirit and the Church in prayer. Revelation 22:17 is an end-time prophecy that has great information and great implications for the Church. It reveals the global Church operating in their Bridal Identity to cry out to their Bridegroom, “Come!” There will be a global cry for the coming of Jesus from a lovesick Bride. The Church will ask the Lord to come for love, come with power, and come for physical salvation and deliverance.

“For we know that the whole of creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our bodies...Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Romans 8:22-23, 26)

- C. There will be a global Romans 8 cry of intercession and groaning for the coming of Jesus and the restoration of all things (Acts 3:19-21, Romans 8:12-27, Isaiah 24). The created order is groaning for deliverance and restoration from the defilement of sin.
- D. There will be many waves of prayer and revival that sweep nations in the next decades but the greatest revival will be during the last few years before Jesus’ return to the earth. The Spirit will bring the greatest contractions of prayer forth to birth the greatest revival in human history, and birth creation into a new era in human history, the earthly reign of Jesus.
- E. The praying Church will call Jesus back to the earth, birth the Messianic kingdom, bind Satan in hell, and see the resurrection of the dead. This is the theme of Revelation 22:17 and Romans 8. The earth is groaning for the sons of God to be revealed in the resurrection of the dead at Jesus’ coming and the removal of defilement from the earth. All of creation groans in eager anticipation for the coming of Jesus.
- F. **Bridal Identity** - The Holy Spirit is emphasizing the Bridal identity of the Church and Jesus identity as Bridegroom. The Church has many identities such as sons, servants, friends, priests, family, body and army but the primary identity will be that of a Bride. The primary theme of the Bible is Jesus as a Bridegroom and the Church as a Bride (Ephesians 5:25-32, Genesis 2:23, Rev 19:7).

- G. He is a lovesick Bridegroom King who will remove every hindrance to love on the earth with His judgments. The Church around the earth will be awakened, fueled, and strengthened in the revelation of her identity as a cherished Bride and Jesus' heart as a passionate Bridegroom.
- H. She will be awakened in her eternal identity, calling and access into the deep things of God. She will be fueled in loving obedience, fascinated worship, and lovesick intercession in His pleasures and joyful presence. She will be strengthened as a faithful witness in the face of great persecution and global confusion.
- I. Lovesick worship and wholehearted obedience are the Church's greatest weapons of spiritual warfare. Principalities are dislodged in the heavens as we connect with the fascinating beauty of Jesus as a Bridegroom and obey Him extravagantly.

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” (Revelation 5:8)

- J. The Church will be mature in her identity as a Bride and will function as a house of prayer before the Great Tribulation (Revelation 5:8). The pressures and persecution of the tribulation will intensify her maturity and her cry for Jesus' return. The bowls of prayer in Revelation 5:8 are filled by a mature Church in order to initiate the Great Tribulation.

“And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:10)

- K. Revelation 6:10 – Praying Martyrs.

Another angel...was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of ALL the saints...4 The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God...5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire...and threw it to the earth. (Rev. 8:3-5)

- L. Revelation 8:3 – Prayers releasing God's judgments.

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.” (Revelation 12:7, Ephesians 6:12)

- M. Revelation 12:7 – Angelic powers strengthened by the praying Church.

“And I heard a voice from heaven like the voice of many waters, and the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.” (Revelation 14:2-3)

- N. Revelation 14 – 144,000 Praying Jews in Israel (Revival and Judgment released).

“And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb...After these things I looked, and behold, the temple...And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen...” (Revelation 15:2-3, 5-6)

O. Revelation 15 - Praying Church in heaven – releasing God’s judgments on earth.

P. *NT/OT prophecies of corporate prayer in the end-times* - (Ps. 96:1, 9, 13; 98:1-9; 102:15-22; 122:6; 149:6-9; Isa. 19:20-22; 24:14-16, 23; 25:9; 26:1, 8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19, 29, 32; 35:2, 10; 42:10-15; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6-7; Jer. 31:7; 51:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Zeph. 2:1-3; Zech. 8:20-23; 10:1; 12:10; 13:9; Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 16:18-19, 21:13; 25:1-13; Rev. 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 12:7, 14:3, 18; 15:2, 16:7; 18:6; 19:6, 22:17).

Q. *The Church will sing to the Bridegroom God* - (Psalm 149:1-5, Isa. 54:4-12; 62:2-5; Jer. 2:2; 3:14; 31:32; Ezek. 16:13-15, 32; 23:1-45; Hos. 1:2; 2:7, 14-23; 3:1-5; Mt. 9:15; 22:1-14; 25:1-13; Jn. 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:9; 22:17).

“Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth...9 Worship the Lord...tremble before Him, all the earth...13 For He is coming to judge the earth.” (Ps. 96:1-13)

“Sing to the Lord a new song...All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises...For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world...” (Ps. 98:1-9)

“For Zion’s sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest....For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention (intercede) of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” (Isaiah 62:1, 5, 6-7)

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth... to execute vengeance on the nations...9 to execute on them the written judgment-- this honor have ALL His saints. (Ps. 149:6-9)

Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him...? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily...when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith...? (Lk. 18:7-8)

Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth...11 Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice...let them shout from the top of the mountains. 12 Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare His praise in the coastlands. 13 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. 14 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. 15 I will lay waste the mountains and hills... (Isa. 42:10-15)

“It will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them...22 The LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them.” (Isa. 19:20-22)

“They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing; for the majesty of the LORD they shall cry aloud from the sea. 15 Therefore glorify the LORD...in the coastlands of the sea. 16 From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: "Glory to the righteous!" (Isa. 24:14-16)

“Your watchmen (intercessors) shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the LORD brings back Zion.” (Isa. 52:8)

“Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save Your people, the remnant of Israel!' (Jer. 31:7)

“I will pour on the house of David...the Spirit of grace and supplication.” (Zech. 12:10)

“I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined...they will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, “This is My people”...” (Zech. 13:9)

“It shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance...” (Joel 2:32)

II. CORPORATE PRAYER - THE PRIMARY VEHICLE FOR THE RELEASE OF POWER

- A. ***Great Revival Released*** - The greatest fulfillment of the Acts 2 outpouring of the Holy Spirit will be during the Great Tribulation and it will release over a billion souls into the kingdom. The spirit of prophecy and the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit will be released upon the entire Church. The greater works power of John 14:12 will come to pass all over the globe (Revelation 14:14-16, 7:9-14, Acts 2:19-21, see online notes with end-time revival verses)
- B. ***All Israel Shall Be Saved*** – God will use the Church to bring the Jews to salvation across the globe. Israel will be the primary prayer target of the end-time Church and the entire nation of Jews that make it through the Great Tribulation will give their lives to Jesus at His coming (Romans 11:12, 26, Zechariah 13:8-9, Isaiah 62:1-8)
- C. ***Great Judgments Released*** - The judgments of the book of Revelation will be brought forth by the praying Church like Moses released the judgments of God on Pharaoh’s kingdom through prayer. The book of Revelation purposely mirrors the book of Exodus. All over the earth the Church will partner with God in prayer and release each individual judgment on a wicked Antichrist empire.
- D. The Church will go through the Great Tribulation as a victorious Church. She will experience tremendous persecution and martyrdom but she will not experience the judgments of God.
- E. ***Joel 2 Pockets of Mercy*** - There will be geographic pockets of mercy of all sizes throughout the nations as modeled by the Exodus. Israel did not experience any of the judgments of God. There was a distinction between Jews and Egyptians in that day to display God’s power. The Jews did suffer persecution under Pharaoh’s hand during this time. Joel 2:12-14 reveals God’s heart and strategy to have pockets of mercy and blessing during great judgment (Exodus 8:22-23, 9:4-7, 26, 10:23, 11:7)
- F. There will be geographic locations where God’s people cry out to Him in corporate prayer and fasting and these areas will receive blessings from Him instead of judgments. Houses of prayer will be at the center of these pockets of mercy. There will be areas where God’s glory and protection rest in stronger ways and where His judgments are less severe because of the praying Church in the location. Moses was able to bring forth and stop God’s judgments in prayer and the Church will walk in the same power of prayer. These locations will be sources of great supply, both physical and spiritual. There will still be great pressure and persecution in these locations.
- G. ***Two Worship Movements*** - There will be two worship movements in the earth just before Jesus’ return. Jesus will have an army of worshippers but the Antichrist will also have a growing

worship movement. His primary goal is to receive the worship of the nations and much of the earth will worship Him. Prayer and worship will be highlighted in God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom in the end-times (Revelation 13:3, 4, 8, 12, 15, 14:9, 11)

- H. ***Victorious Church*** - We are to view the end-time Church as victorious. The Church will not be a victim of the judgments of God or the persecution of the Antichrist. The Church will release the judgments of God on the Antichrist Empire as Jesus' first assault in His war to take over the earth again at His coming. The Church will walk in supernatural power that brings forth the great harvest of souls into the kingdom. The Church will be victorious over the Antichrist through martyrdom as well.

III. URGENCY TO WATCH AND PRAY

- A. ***Watch and Pray*** - Jesus called His disciples to watch and pray in every one of His end-time teachings. The right response to the message of the end-times is urgency, hope and prayer. To watch and pray is to grow in tenderness in our prayer lives so that we know the small movements of the Holy Spirit. Those with tender hearts in prayer will easily discern the signs of the times and will have clarity on what to do as leaders on the earth and will flow in God's power. Jesus did not call His disciples to draw back in fear, build underground bomb shelters or to stock pile food and weapons for self-preservation in those days (Matthew 24:42-43, 25:13, 26:38, 26:40, 26:41, Mark 13:33-37, Luke 21:36, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:6, 1 Peter 4:7, Revelation 3:3).
- B. There is a great need to grow in the grace of prayer and fasting right now. The Lord wants us to give ourselves to prayer and fasting to tenderize our hearts before Him for decades. He will have tender hearts who discern the times they live in and partner with Him in power.
- C. We also "watch" by studying the end-times in the Bible with prayer and fasting. The Holy Spirit will give us insight into the scriptures as we soak in the atmosphere of a lifestyle of prayer and fasting.
- D. Mankato needs a Joel 2 corporate prayer room. 24/7 corporate prayer has real power and implications for the future.