

I. THE TWO FUELS OF CULTURES OF PRAYER

- A. I believe there are two fuels that sustain a healthy fervent culture of prayer. They are the regular teaching of intimacy with God, and the regular teaching of the end times, which includes watching in prayer and growing in knowledge and understanding in order to interpret the signs of the times correctly.
- B. I believe it is the hour of having both the oils of intimacy, restoring the first commandment to first place in our hearts, and the oil of urgency, understanding and interpreting the signs of the times correctly in order to be prepared and prepare others.

II. WE CAN KNOW THE SIGN OF THE TIMES AND GOD'S ENDTIME PLAN

- A. God's biblical endtime plan and the signs of the times have been given to us in the bible so we can know and understand God's seasons and times in order to alert the church and the nations to the reality of the second coming of Jesus the Messiah.
 - 1. ***"The anger of the Lord will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly". (Jeremiah. 23:20)***
 - 2. ***"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night". (1Thess. 5:2)***

III. LEARN FROM THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

- A. In response to Jesus' largest and most detailed teaching found in Mathew 24 regarding His second coming and the end of the age events He gives us a parable about a Fig Tree.
 - 1. ***"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near." So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!"Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take***

place. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Matt. 24:32-35)

- B. The lesson from a fig tree is easy to understand. A fig tree loses its leaves in wintertime. Its leaves *begin* to come forth in the spring, and figs become ripe in the summer. When we see the leaves sprout in the spring, we know the summer harvest is near. Thus, when the biblical signs of the times begin to take place, we know that the end of this age is near.

IV. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT OBSERVING AND KNOWING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- A. In Luke 12 Jesus does not only rebuke the religious people of the time but also the common people, including His own disciples for not discerning His first coming.
- B. There were incredible amount of signs that pointed to Jesus' first coming that the majority of the world missed.
- C. Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies about His first coming from the exact timing of His coming, how He would be born, where He would live, how He would die and even the sign of John the Baptist be sent to prepare the way of the Lord. These were clear and obvious signs that people missed.
- D. Jesus teaches us that there is a consequence of not watching for and interpreting the signs of the times. Jesus declared in Luke 19:42-44 " ***Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."***
- E. It is the responsibility of each believer in Jesus to both pray and watch for the signs of the times in order to prepare people for what is to come. ***"and those of the people who understand will instruct many" (Dan. 11:33)***

V. THREE TYPES OF BIBLICAL SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- A. There are three types of biblical "signs" that indicate the end of the age events and when the Lord's coming is near. These three are called "positive sign events", "negative sign events", and "birth pangs/beginning of sorrows"
- B. **Sign events can be both positive and negative.** These are biblically predicted events that indicate the nearness of the second coming of Jesus to the earth. (Matt. 24:4-35) (2Thess. 2:3-4)
- C. ***The purpose of these events is to alert the church of the timing of Jesus' return and to exhort us to continue to warn and prepare as many people we can.***

VI. THREE SIGNIFICANT PROPHETIC TIME FRAMES OF THE LAST DAYS

- A. There are three major prophetic time frames that must occur before the transition into the new age and the Kingdom of God is established on the earth.
- B. The first one is the time frame of the birth pangs, the second, is the 3.5 years of false peace brought forth from the Antichrist, and the last one is the last 3.5 years called the great tribulation.
- C. **It is my personal opinion that we are in the generation that has seen the start of the first period and very possible that we will see the last.**
- D. Many students of the end times including myself believe that we entered in the first period after Israel became a nation in 1948.

VII. POSITIVE SIGN EVENTS IN THE CHURCH

A. **THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL TO EVERY NATION**

- 1. ***"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* (Matt. 24:14)**
- 2. For the first time in history, it is possible that every tribe, tongue, and people, will have heard the gospel. Important to distinguish nation and ethnic groups of people. The gospel has come to nations but not necessarily the different ethnic groups within the nation.
- 3. There are over 3 Billion people in the world who have not heard the

gospel.

4. Stephen Douglas, the President of Campus Crusade for Christ (the largest mission organization in the world) announced in 2009, that he believes the Great Commission will be fulfilled within his lifetime-possibly within the next 10 years
5. As of the end of 2007, it is estimated that 4.8 billion people have been evangelized, the Bible has been translated into 6,600 languages and it's available right now to 95.6% of the world's population
6. In 1800, at the beginning of the Protestant Missions Movement, nearly 75% of the global population had never heard the gospel. As of 2007 after the global population had multiplied 7 times, only 25% have not yet heard it. (International Bulletin of Missionary Research Jan 2007)
7. The Jesus film which came out in 1979 has been shown in every nation and territory in the world. Over 200 million people have made decisions for Christ *after viewing the film*.

**B. THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP OF ISRAEL AND AN EXPLOSION OF REVIVAL,
REPENTANCE AND SALVATION AMONGST JEWS**

1. ***²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, (Romans 11:25-26)***
2. One of the greatest recent fulfilled prophecies is Israel becoming a nation in 1948, and capturing Jerusalem as their capital city in 1967. This is a direct fulfillment of Ezekiel 37:21 ***"²¹ Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;"***
3. This is a remarkable fulfilled prophecy in our day. The Jews did not have a homeland for nearly 1900 years, and now they have their own land back and even Jerusalem as their capital. What's stunning about this prophecy is that no nation in history ever ceased to become a nation and then

became one again. What's also so fascinating is that this occurred in the same generation that world evangelization will be completed. ("the fullness of the gentiles coming in" as Jesus said)

4. A survey conducted in 1999 discovered that the number of Messianic Congregations in Israel had increased from 2 in 1948 to 81 in 1999. It is estimated that there are over 120 Messianic Congregations in Israel today despite Israel being one of the hardest places to preach the gospel.

C. **MORE PROPHECIES CONCERNING ISRAEL THAT HAVE BEEN FULFILLED SINCE 1948**

1. There are pools of water showing up in the deserts of Israel in places that have been desolate and without water for years. This is a fulfillment of Isaiah 41:18 ***"I will open rivers in desolate heights, And fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, And the dry land springs of water.***
2. The lost language of Hebrew has been restored. Zephaniah 3:9 ***"For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord.***

D. **INCREASE OF THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT, VISIONS, DREAMS**

1. *And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, **That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.**¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, **Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.**²¹ And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. (Acts 2:17-21)*
2. The number of Pentecostal and charismatic believers has jumped from one million in 1900 to 602 million today. Many have pursued the full release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and power. The Azusa street revival in 1905 was a real catalyst for the Acts 2:17 prophecy to begin to

manifest.

3. The amount of the outpouring of the spirit that coincide with majore prophetic moments for the nation of Israel is remarkable.

E. DAY AND NIGHT PRAYER ALL OVER THE EARTH CONTENDING FOR JUSTICE.

1. ***And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:7-8)***
2. The scriptures predict the emergence of a global prayer movement that will be marked with enjoyable prayer. (Isaiah 56:7). Joel 2:15 and Zephaniah 2:3 call believers to gather and participate in solemn assemblies of fasting, prayer, and repentance related to the coming judgments.
3. **Currently there are houses of prayer springing up all over the earth. The Pastor of the largest church in Russia and middle east area was instructed By the Holy Spirit in 2007 to build day and night prayer without him even knowing about IHOPKC**
4. For the first time in thousands of years, houses of prayer are established in Jerusalem, devoted to night and day intercession just as it was spoken in Isaiah 62:6.

VIII. NEGATIVE SIGN EVENTS WITHIN THE CHURCH

- A. The bible says that there will be incredible persecution against the church like never before right before the second coming of Jesus. (Dan 7:21, 25; 8:24, 11:33-35, Matt. 10:21-22, Luke 21:16-19, Rev 6:9-11) ***Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. (Matt. 24:9)***
- B. According to the World Christian Encyclopedia (2001), the number of martyrs recorded over 1,900 years of church history equaled 24.6 million. In the last 100 years there were 45.4 million martyrs across the earth.
- C. There will be a great falling away from the faith. Widespread heresy will sweep

across the church as many false teachers and false prophets arise in the church leading thousands and even millions in the great apostasy mentioned in 2Thess. 2:3 ***Let no one deceive you by any means, for that Day will not come unless the falling away(from the faith) comes first.***

- D. There is a growing trend across the Body of Christ, of leniency toward immoral behavior, and sinful behavior that are in direct contradiction to Scripture. Many churches are denying Scriptures as the authoritative, infallible, and inerrant source of absolute truth.
- E. Other examples of this decline and falling away, are ordination of homosexuals into the ministry and the support of homosexual marriage. Many in the church are preaching another gospel which makes the way of salvation broad instead of narrow. (matt. 7:13, 2cor 11:4, Gala 1:6-9). Currently there is a dangerous false grace message that is promoting tolerance of sin and promoting the spirit of Babylon in the church. (Jude 3-4)

IX. FIVE BIRTH PANGS OR BEGINNING OF SORROWS

- A. These signs are ever growing and increasing today. Jesus spoke about 12 birth pang sign events that would occur in the period leading up to the final time of tribulation, culminating in the Lord's return.
- B. ⁴ **And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.** (Matt 24:4-8)
- C. **BIRTH PANG #1-THERE WILL BE FALSE CHRISTS ARISING (Matt. 24:5)**
 - 1. We have many who are even alive today who say they are Jesus incarnate. A man named Jose Luis has publically said he is the returned Christ and has a large following. Also a man in Australia has deceived hundreds to believe he is Jesus Christ incarnate

D. BIRTH PANG #2-THERE WILL BE WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS(Matt. 24:6-7)

1. In the twentieth century alone, over one hundred million people were killed in war. The nations are raging today. The world has had two World Wars in the last 100 years. (also recent wars with, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Afghanistan, North Korea and the Turkey invasion)

E. BIRTH PANG #3-THERE WILL BE FAMINES (Matt.24:7)

1. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 864 million people worldwide were undernourished in 2002-2004. In 2007, one in every three people in Sub-Saharan Africa was undernourished

F. BIRTH PANG #4-THERE WILL BE PESTILENCES (Matt. 24:7)

1. Today over two hundred different kinds of cancer kill an estimated 7.6 million people per year. The aids virus alone has killed an estimated 25 million worldwide. Also viruses like the bird flu and the Ebola virus are among the known pestilences. Many experts agree that, due to globalized travel, the trading of food and goods, and the ability of the flu virus to keep surviving, a great potential exists for a serious viral outbreak that will kill millions of people.

G. BIRTH PANG #5-THERE WILL BE EARTHQUAKES IN VARIOUS PLACES (Matt.24:7)

1. Many people claim that the decade of the 1990s has experienced a pronounced increase in both the frequency and intensity of earthquakes as compared to the earlier decades of the twentieth century. This coincidence of Jesus' prophetic statement and recent seismic events is viewed by these writers and teachers as a clear demonstration of the nearness of the return of Christ.
2. History shows that the number of killer quakes remained fairly constant until the 1950s - averaging between two to four per decade. In the 1950s, there were nine. In the 1960s, there were 13. In the 1970s, there were 51. In the 1980s, there were 86. From 1990 through 1996, there have been more than 150.
3. According to many sources, the number of Richter magnitude 6.0

and greater earthquakes worldwide has been increasing from nine in the 1950s, to 13 in the 1960s, to 51 in the 1970s, to 86 in the 1980s, and to more than 100 in the 1990s.

X. AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

- A. Jesus declared that right before His second coming that the times would be like the days of Noah. ***"and as it was in the days of Noah so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26-27)***
- B. I believe many will be stuck in business as usual lifestyles that will leave them unprepared for what is to come to the earth.
- C. I also believe that there will be a positive truth during the "days of Noah". **God is raising up thousands and thousands of "Day of the Lord Preachers"** like Noah who are being divinely warned concerning what is to come and building "Arks of prayer" in their lives and spiritual families.
- D. There is a praying and prophetic remnant in the earth that will live righteous in an unrighteous world, walk in the fear of the Lord, and divine revelation of the signs of the times in order to help prepare the church and the lost. ***"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household,***

XI. HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

- A. Understanding the signs of the times should wake us up and cause us to live sober lives of urgent intercession. I believe if we respond rightly to the signs of the times, we will be able to be prepared, prepare our families and multitudes for the end time events.
- B. I believe Jesus told us how to live in the midst of seeing these signs of the times. He told us at least thirteen times to watch and pray.

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 21:36)

