

Convergence of the Missions Movement and the Prayer Movement

I. TWO SIGNS OF THE TIMES: THE GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS & UNITY IN THE CHURCH

- A. **Sign #1:** Jesus linked the evangelizing of every nation to His return. Top missions leaders say that all 12,000 ethnic groups will have the gospel preached to them by 2020. The diminishing task is measurable in the ratio of non-Christians to believers. According to the US Center for World Missions, in 100 AD, the ratio of unbelievers to believers was 360:1 (less than 1%). In 1500 AD, it was to 90:1 (1%). By 1900 it was 25:1 (4%), and in 2000 it decreased to 6:1 (20%).
¹⁴This gospel...will be preached...to all the nations [ethnos] and then the end will come. (Mt. 24:14)
- B. **Sign #2:** Jesus linked unity and cooperation in the Church to the evangelizing of the nations. *Convergence:* we can do something together that we cannot do separately. Jesus is bringing a new level of unity to His Body across the nations as three generations of the Body of Christ combine their giftings to work together to serve the Great Commission.
²¹That they all may be one...that the world may believe that You sent Me. (Jn. 17:21)
- C. Before Jesus returns, the Church will see the greatest harvest of souls in history. Simultaneously, the Spirit will raise up the greatest prayer movement in history. There are biblical indicators of this (Ps. 102:15-22; Isa. 24:14-16; 30:18-32; 42:10-15; 51:11; 62:6-7; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Zech. 8:20-23; 10:1; 12:10; 13:9; Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 8:3-5; 22:17). By many ministries working together, we will see the gospel preached, alongside 24/7 worship and prayer in every tribe and tongue.
- D. **Jesus** (Mt. 6:10; 9:38; Lk. 10:2; 18:7-8; Jn. 17:20-26), **Paul** (Rom. 10:1; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 4:2-4; 2 Thes. 3:1-2), **John** (Acts 4:29-31; Rev. 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 22:17), **David** (Ps. 2:8; 102:12-22) **Solomon** (2 Chr. 7:14), **Isaiah** (Isa. 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 54:1-3; 62:6-7; 64:1-6), **Joel** (Joel 2:12-17), **Zephaniah** (Zeph. 2:1-3), and **Zechariah** (Zech. 8:20-23; 12:10) connected the prayer movement to the missions and justice movement in God's global plan to win the nations.
- E. The prayer and missions movements are accelerating together as Jesus' return draws closer.
- F. Jesus' command to pray for laborers to be sent out by the Lord carries with it a promise to enable us to overcome the obstacles (political, financial, relational, etc.) so that the laborers succeed.
³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (Mt. 9:38)
- G. The work of missions/justice is most effective when combined with prayer, sharing the gospel, and good works. It is best not to separate these activities which God has joined together. *Let no man separate what God has joined together.* Prayer changes the spiritual atmosphere of the region in focus so that the work of the gospel goes forth more effectively (Dan. 10:13, 20).
⁷Shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night...? ⁸He will bring about justice for them speedily...when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith...?" (Lk. 18:7-8; NAS)

- H. In January 2008, a historic meeting of global missions leaders, prayer leaders, and church planters was held: the ***Call2All-Orlando***. (The CEOs of 170 of the primary missions organizations in the world attended.) These leaders recognized God’s hand in forming new ***strategic alliances*** in completing the task of bringing the gospel to every nation by 2020. In twenty-two Call2All congresses (2008-2012) 35,000 leaders made commitments to start **7,000,000** new church plants and **700,000** new prayer watches or houses of prayer by 2020.
- I. On Dec. 25, 2006, Mark Anderson had a prophetic dream in which the Lord revealed to him that the ***missions movement*** and the ***prayer movement*** are the ***same movement in God’s heart***.
- J. The eternal identity of the Body of Christ is to be a “house of prayer” (it is not just for ministries focused on 24/7 prayer). God sees all the local churches in an area as part of His one house of prayer in that region. To function as a house of prayer implies that ***God speaks and moves our heart, and then we speak and move His heart, so that He releases His resources***. God’s resources include wisdom, creative ideas, unity, money, impact, etc., being released on earth.

⁷For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isa. 56:7)

II. THE MYSTERY AND MAJESTY OF INTERCESSION

- A. ***The mystery of intercession*** is in its simplicity. We tell God what He tells us to tell Him as the means of releasing His power. Its mystery is in its “weakness,” humility, and accessibility to all.
- B. ***The majesty of intercession*** is that Jesus intercedes forever (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; Ps. 2:8). He will govern the earth forever in partnership with His people, flowing from intercession.
- C. The Father had ***plans*** in His heart, in which Jesus ***spoke out*** (intercession) and the Spirit ***released*** God’s power (Gen. 1:3, 9, 11, 15). Jesus is the Creator, who said, “Let there be light” (Gen. 1), and He sustains the universe by His word (Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:2-3).

²The earth was without form, and void...the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.” (Gen. 1:2-3)

III. THE CENTRALITY OF INTERCESSION IN GOD’S PLAN

- A. Central to God’s purpose is an eternal worship sanctuary, as described in Revelation 4-5. The worship order that God desires is ***continual, musical, and God-centered*** (Rev. 4:8; 5:8-9; 14:2; 15:2). Those nearest His throne agree with Him in 24/7 worship and intercession (Rev. 4:8). The Lord desires to be worshiped on earth as He is in heaven (Mt. 6:10).
- B. Throughout history, the “house of prayer” reality has been a central part of God’s plan to advance His kingdom. Human history began with daily prayer in the ***garden of Eden*** (Gen. 3:8).
- C. Israel began as a nation in a prayer meeting at ***Mt. Sinai*** (Ex. 19), when God revealed their “house of prayer” identity in calling them to be a kingdom of priests who worshiped, etc. Israel’s first building project, ***Moses’ tabernacle***, was a worship sanctuary or “house of prayer” (Ex. 25).

- D. One of **David's** first acts as king over Israel was to **bring the ark** to Jerusalem and to establish night-and-day worship there with 4,000 musicians and 288 singers (1 Chr. 15-16; 23:5; 25:7). David commanded the kings of Israel who ruled Israel after him to establish worship in Israel in the way that God revealed it to him (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10-11; Neh. 12:24, 45-47).
²⁵And he [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites [singers and musicians] in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. (2 Chr. 29:25)
- E. The **early church** began in a prayer meeting and grew in context to a culture of prayer (Acts 1).
- F. **Natural history** will end in the context of a global prayer movement (Rev. 22:17; 8:4; Lk. 18:8; Isa. 62:6-7; 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Jer. 31:7; Amos 9:11-12; Mic. 5:3-4; Ps. 102:17-20; 122:6; Zech. 12:10; etc.). The conflict at the end of the age will be between two houses of prayer or worship movements. Jesus' worship movement will triumph over the Antichrist's worship movement (Rev. 13:4, 8).
- G. Amos' prophecy linked the timing of the rebuilding of the tabernacle of David to the generation in which Israel was to be restored to the land in a way that they would never be pulled up from it. This time frame began in May 1948—it is the only time in which this prophecy can be fulfilled. Israel's restoration to the land signaled the beginning of the time when the spirit of the tabernacle of David was released, connected to the harvest of the "remnant of Edom" (Islamic nations). One of the keys to winning Moslems is for the Church to function in the spirit of David's tabernacle.
¹¹I will raise up the tabernacle of David...I will rebuild it as in the days of old; ¹²that they may possess the remnant of Edom [Islam] and all the Gentiles [nations]...¹⁴I will bring back the captives of My people Israel [1948]; they shall build the waste cities...¹⁵I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land... (Amos 9:11-15)
- H. In 50 AD, James quoted Amos' prophecy about David's tabernacle being restored. The fullness of God's promise to restore the tabernacle of David speaks of the release of Jesus' government across all the nations in the context of prophetic worship with intercession. It will only be completely restored in Jesus' millennial government based on 24/7 Davidic worship.
¹⁶I will rebuild the tabernacle of David...¹⁷so that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name. (Acts 15:16-17)

IV. JOHN PROPHESED OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE END-TIME CHURCH (REV. 22:17)

- A. Revelation 22:17 is a very informative prophecy. It describes the Church in unity with what the Spirit is saying and doing. The Spirit is speaking to believers about their identity as a Bride (intimacy with God) and interceding for the harvest and for Jesus to come to them in power.
¹⁷The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)
- B. As sons of God, we are to experience **God's throne** as heirs of His power (Rom. 8:17). As the Bride of Christ, we are to experience **God's heart** (emotions for us). Jesus is a King with power and a Bridegroom with desire. He is looking for relationship, not just a kingdom workforce.

V. ISAIAH PROPHESED OF THE END-TIME WORSHIP MOVEMENT

- A. Isaiah wrote more on the earthly dimension of the end-time worship movement than any man in the Bible. He prophesied that it would be **relational**—encountering a Bridegroom God—(Isa. 54:5; 62:5), **musical** (Isa. 24:14-16; 26:1; 27:2; 30:29, 32; 35:2, 10; 42:10-12; 54:1), **continual** (Isa. 62:6-7), **global** (Isa. 24:16; 42:10-12), and **missional** (Isa. 54:13-14; 62:6-12; Mt. 28:19).
- B. Isaiah prophesied of prayer ministries that will continue 24/7 until Jesus returns and establishes Jerusalem as a praise in the earth (Isa. 62:7). They will never be silent day or night (Isa. 62:6).
⁴You shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...⁵For as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. ⁶I have set watchmen [intercessors] on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night...⁷Give Him no rest TILL He establishes...Jerusalem a praise in the earth [at Jesus' second coming]. (Isa. 62:4-7)
- C. Isaiah connected the revelation of Jesus as a Bridegroom to the end-time prayer movement (Isa. 62). The bridal revelation of Isa. 62:4-5 is essential to sustaining the 24/7 prayer of Isa. 62:6-7.
- D. In Isaiah 42, Isaiah prophesied about a global intercessory worship movement (v. 10-12) that would usher in Jesus' return (v. 13) and release His end-time judgments (v. 14-15).
¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands...¹¹Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing...¹³The LORD shall go forth [Jesus' second coming] like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies... (Isa. 42:10-13)
1. Kedar and Sela are Islamic villages in Saudi Arabia and Jordan respectively.
 2. The Holy Spirit will raise up worship to Jesus in the most difficult places on the earth, even in remote Islamic villages. ***It is worth the effort because JESUS IS WORTHY.***
- E. Isaiah prophesied of a global intercessory worship movement singing from the ends of the earth.
¹⁴They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing; for the majesty of the LORD...¹⁶From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: "Glory to the righteous!" (Isa. 24:14-16)
- F. **Summary**: The Spirit is calling the Church to work together to offer continual prayer to fulfill the Great Commission (to win the lost, revive the Church, and impact society). We speak of prayer **for the harvest**, **with music**, and **from intimacy** with God (receiving God's love and responding to God with love). These elements are helpful in involving young people in prayer meetings.

The **International House of Prayer** is an evangelical missions organization in Kansas City, based on 24/7 worship with intercession (that has continued non-stop since Sept. 19, 1999). The IHOPKC staff view themselves as **intercessory missionaries** because they do outreach from a 24/7 prayer room. Staff raise their support as full-time missionaries. About 2,000 people (1,000 staff and 1,000 students/interns) serve; most of them invest about 50 hours a week in the prayer room, classroom, and outreach, etc.