

What is the Holy Spirit Saying to the Church Today?

I. SERMON ON THE MOUNT: CORE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The Holy Spirit's first agenda is to restore the First Commandment to first place in the Church.
³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment." (Mt. 22:37-38)
- B. In Mt. 22:37, Jesus quoted Moses' prophecy about Israel in the End-Times loving God.
¹ When all these things come on you...and you call them to mind among the nations where the Lord drives you, 2 and you return to the Lord...5 Then the Lord will bring you to the land...6 and will circumcise your heart...to love the Lord God with all your heart.... (Deut. 30:1-6)
- C. The Sermon on the Mount is the constitution of God's Kingdom. It is the litmus test to measure spiritual development and ministry impact. We measure our impact by how much people walk out the Sermon on the Mount values (not by the size of our congregation or ministry budget).
- D. The foundational call in the Sermon on the Mount is to live out the 8 beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12) as we pursue 100-fold obedience (Mt. 5:48; 6:22). The beatitudes are like 8 beautiful flowers in the "garden in our heart" that God wants to fully blossom. They define love, godliness and maturity.
- E. These 8 flowers need to be carefully and continually cultivated as we "weed our garden" by resisting the 6 negative influences (toxins/poisons) related to our natural lusts (Mt. 5:21-48) and as we "water our garden" by pursuing the 5 positive nutrients (prayer, fasting, giving, serving and blessing enemies, Mt. 6:1-18) that position us to receive the Spirit's impartation of grace.
- F. The quality of our life and ministry will be tested by storms that periodically test each believer throughout our lifetime and culminate at the end of the age (Heb. 12:26-28).
²⁴ Whoever hears these sayings of Mine (Sermon on the Mount), and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall...26 Everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man...27 the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall. (Mt. 7:24-27)
- G. One of the greatest challenges for the Church in the End-Times is the falling away from the faith. (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3).
¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons... (1 Tim. 4:1)
- H. Paul gives two of the most significant signs of the nearness of Jesus' Second Coming. They are the falling away and the revealing or the appearing of the Antichrist on the stage of history.
³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed, the son of perdition... (2 Thes. 2:3)

II. DAY OF THE LORD: THE 2 EXTREMES RELATED TO JESUS' RETURN

¹¹ For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)

⁵ I will send you Elijah...before...the great and dreadful day of the LORD. (Mal. 4:5)

- A. The great Day of the Lord refers to the unusual events (positive and negative) that suddenly escalate in the final years before Jesus returns. It is “His Day” because it is a unique time frame in which Jesus acts in the earthly arena in great power for His people and against His enemies.
- B. The 2-fold nature of the day of the Lord is seen in the great blessing it releases for those who call on Jesus and it is terrible in judgment for those who refuse Him.
- C. The Tribulation will be the most difficult time in history for Israel, the Church, and all nations.
²¹ Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (physically preserved); for the elect's sakes those days will be shortened. (Mt. 24:21-22)
- D. The main emphasis of the Great Tribulation is God's judgment or tribulation against the Antichrist's worldwide empire by releasing the judgments as seen in Revelation (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls). The second issue is the Antichrist's rage against God's people.
⁹ God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through...Jesus... (1 Thes. 5:9)
- E. *The principle of God's love in judgment*: God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will in training the future rulers of the earth. The Goshen principle will be operative in this hour (Ex. 8:22-23). God's judgments remove all that hinders love by removing options (temptations) which function as the props we trust in and the temptations we refuse to resist.

III. GREAT DAY OF THE LORD: THE CHURCH'S GREATEST HOUR

- A. The greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history will be released just before Jesus' Coming. In this great revival, the Spirit will release the miracles seen in the book of Acts and the book of Exodus combined and multiplied on a global scale and will result in the following positive trends.
- B. The Church will be victorious and full of God's glory (Mt. 16:18; Jn. 17:21-26; Rev. 19:7-8).
²⁷ That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish (compromise). (Eph. 5:27)
- C. The Church will be effective in the Great Ingathering of souls from all nations with over 1 billion new souls (Rom. 11:12-15, 26; Mt. 24:14; Rev. 5:9; 7:9; 14:6; 15:4; Ps. 66:4; Zeph. 2:11; 3:8-10).
⁹ A multitude...no one could number of all nations...out of the Tribulation... (Rev. 7:9, 14)

- D. The Church will operate with the spirit of prophecy resting on every believer (Acts 2:17; Jer. 31:9; 23:20; Dan. 11:33-35; Isa. 26:9; Rev. 11:3-6; 18:20; Mt. 17:11; Mal. 4:6).
¹⁷ 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...¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath...²⁰ before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. (Acts 2:17-20)
- E. Jesus will release supernatural power and provision (food and water, etc.) as in the Exodus.
¹⁵ As in the days when you came out of...Egypt, I will show them wonders. (Mic. 7:15)
- F. There will be supernatural protection (pockets of mercy). The “Goshen Principle” (Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4-6, 26; 10:23; 11:7) was seen in the time of the plagues of Egypt. God did not allow His judgments to touch Goshen, where His people lived as slaves.
²² I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there...²³ I will make a difference between My people and your people. (Ex. 8:22-23)
- G. The Rapture of the Church will NOT be a secret event, but a dramatic one witnessed by all believers and unbelievers at the end of the Tribulation. The Church will go through the Tribulation in victory and great power. I honor the ministry of many who hold the pre-tribulation Rapture view, but see it as a mistake that will leave many unprepared for coming pressure.

IV. WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE END-TIMES

- A. The Book of Revelation is the “revelation of Jesus” because it reveals His heart and leadership.
¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants... (Rev. 1:1)
- B. The four Gospels (totaling 89 chapters) give us a record of Jesus' heart and power at His first coming when He accomplished redemption. There are over 100 chapters in Scripture that reveal Jesus' heart and power as He takes over the leadership of the earth. The Gospels and the End-Time Scriptures reveal the same Jesus operating in the same power of the Spirit. For more teaching resources on the End-Times see IHOP's website www.IHOP.org.
- C. The Scripture requires those in the generation the Lord returns to know the prophetic signs and to respond appropriately. Jesus and Paul emphasized the know-ability of the prophetic signs of the End-Times (Mt. 24:32-34; Lk. 21:25-29; 1 Thes. 5:1-6; 2 Thes. 2:1-11).
³² Learn this parable from the fig tree...it puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors! (Mt. 24:32-33)
²⁵ There will be signs in the sun...and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations...²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up (have a heavenly perspective) and lift up your heads (be encouraged in faith), because your redemption draws near... (Lk. 21:25-28)
¹ Concerning the times and the seasons, 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...⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief... (1 Thes. 5:1-4)

V. COMMON LIES RELATED TO END-TIME PROPHECY

- A. The most common lie is that End-Time prophecy is not relevant, but is only for the curious. Gaining understanding about the End-Times is a key to preparing the Church to be victorious in the most extreme glory and pressure in history. It provides us with a compass in the storm. Having understanding about the End-Times will be an issue of life or death to many in that hour.
- B. Another common lie is that End-Time prophecies are impossible to understand except only by scholars. The Scriptures on the End-Times were written to be understood by all. The majority of people throughout history have been uneducated peasants.
- C. A third common lie is that the Church in every generation believed they were the final generation. It is true that small numbers (probably less than 1%) of many generations thought they were at the end. Only in the generation of the early apostles was there a universal sense among the majority of God's people that they would see the return of Jesus.

VI. VICTORIOUS END-TIME CHURCH: PROPHETIC WORSHIP AND INTERCESSION

- A. For the first time in history, the Spirit will universally emphasize our spiritual identity as Jesus' Bride giving us courageous love for God. The Bridal message focuses on the revelation of Jesus' emotions, affection and commitments to us as a Bridegroom God.
¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)
- B. The End-Time prayer and worship movement will be mature and operate in great authority (Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 21:13; Is. 62:6-7; 25:9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; Joel 2:12-17). The "bowls of prayer" will be full in heaven before Jesus releases the seven seals of judgment on the earth.
⁸ When He (Jesus) had taken the scroll...the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Rev. 5:8)
- C. God promised to establish intercessors who will never be silent until He restores Jerusalem.
⁶ I have set watchmen on your walls...they shall never hold their peace (be silent, NAS) day or night...⁷ give Him no rest till He establishes...Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isa. 62:6-7)
- D. The End-Time Church will "pray in conjunction with prophetic singing" to invite Jesus to return.
¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea...¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages...let them shout from the mountains...¹³ The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out...He shall prevail against His enemies... (Isa. 42:10-13)
- E. David prophesied that prophetic worship will be used in releasing God's End-Time judgments.
⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their mouth...⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; ⁸ to bind their kings with chains...⁹ to execute on them the written judgment-- This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD! (Ps. 149:6-9)

VII. THE GOVERNMENTAL CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE IS IN THE “PRAYER MINISTRY”

- A. The governmental center of the universe is in the “Prayer Ministry” which includes all the Spirit inspired prayers on earth and in heaven that converge before God. God’s government flows from prophetic worship based on the beauty of holiness. God is restoring the weapons of worship with intercession in the prophetic Church greatly strengthened by prophetic singers and musicians.
- B. Corporate intercessory worship is the *primary means* God has chosen to release His government (power). It is the highest and most powerful expression of His government in time and eternity.
- C. David’s revelation of heavenly worship (as seen in Psalms) is foundational to David’s throne which is “political government in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David” or government based on 24/7 worship and intercession. David’s government flowed forth from prophetic worship (1 Chr. 23-25). David had revelation of the spiritual impact of prophetic intercessory worship (Ps. 22:3).
³ *You are holy, enthroned (release power) in the praises (singing the Word) of Israel. (Ps. 22:3)*
- D. In Dan. 10 through fasting and prayer, Daniel changed human government by hindering the demonic activity that energized the evil government. David understandably saw this.

VIII. END-TIME WORSHIP: MATURE EXPRESSION OF THE DAVIDIC ORDER OF WORSHIP

- A. David established 4,000 full-time paid musicians and 288 prophetic singers. It was extreme to finance over 5,000 people to worship full-time. It would cost about \$200 million a year to provide \$3,000 a month for 5,000 full-time people (plus buildings costs). It would cost \$3 billion a year to finance 12 Prayer Missions Bases (if each had 5,000 people making \$3,000 a month, etc.). There will be a great transfer of wealth in the generation Jesus returns (Hag. 2:6-8).
⁷ *The number...instructed in the songs of the Lord...who were skillful, was 288. (1 Chr. 25:7)*
⁵ *4,000 praised the Lord with musical instruments, "which I made," said David...* (1 Chr. 23:5)
- B. David commanded God’s people to honor the heavenly order of worship that he received by revelation because it was God’s command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:45). The worship principles are timeless and valid today, such as establishing singers and musicians in God’s House. The application of these principles would differ in each generation and culture.
²⁵ *The commandment of David...was the commandment of the LORD... (2 Chr. 29:25)*
- C. Amos (about 750 BC) prophesied the restoration of David’s Tabernacle and thus to reverse the damage of Israel’s apostasy. The fullness of the Tabernacle of David speaks of Jesus’ Millennial government over all nations that is based on 24/7 Davidic worship and intercession.
¹¹ *On that day I will raise up the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old... (Amos 9:11)*
- D. When Israel went astray, God raised up spiritual reformers with a vision to restore worship as David commanded it. All of the 7 “revivals” in OT times restored Davidic worship.

- E. Hezekiah's revival (about 725 BC) included restoring singers/musicians as David commanded.
25 He stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with...stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...27 The song of the LORD began... (2 Chr. 29:25-27)
- F. Josiah's revival (about 625 BC) restored full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.
3 He said to the Levites...4 "Prepare yourselves...following the instruction of David..." 15 The singers...were in their places, according to the command of David... (2 Chr. 35:3-15)
- G. Zerubbabel (about 536 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as commanded by David.
10 The Levites...to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David. (Ezra 3:10-11)
47 In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. (Neh. 12:47)
- H. Ezra and Nehemiah (445 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.
24 The Levites...give thanks...according to the command of David...45 The singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of God...according to the command of David... (Neh. 12:24, 45)
- I. Jehoiada the high-priest restored temple worship in the order of David (about 835 B.C) with singers and musicians and enthroned King Jehoash (Joash) when he was only 7 years old.
16 Jehoiada (high priest) made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD's people...18 Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the LORD to...the Levites...with singing, as it was established by David. (2 Chr. 23:16-18)
- J. Jehoshaphat reformed Judah (about 870) which included establishing the singers and musicians.
19 The Levites...stood up to praise the Lord...21 He appointed those who should sing to the Lord...28 They came...with stringed instruments...to the house of the Lord. (2 Chr. 20:19-28)
- K. Church history parallels Israel's history. Whenever God released a season of revival to restore what was lost, we see the aspects of David's order of worship released in that generation. Every revival in history has received an aspect of God's "new song and music" for that generation.

IX. FINANCIAL APPLICATION OF EMBRACING DAVID'S REVELATION OF WORSHIP

- A. God's order of worship teaches that we support singers and gatekeepers as revealed to David.
47 In the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day... (Neh. 12:47)
5 The tithes...were commanded to be given to the Levites and singers and gatekeepers...10 I realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field. 11 So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" I gathered them together and set them in their place. 12 Then all Judah brought the tithe...to the storehouse... (Neh. 13:5-12)