

## *Session 2 The Positive Trends, People, and Events*

### I. THE DAY OF THE LORD

- A. The Day of the Lord refers to the unique events (positive and negative) that will escalate in the final 3½ years before Jesus returns. This biblical theme is mentioned nearly 100 times.

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

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

- B. *It will be a great Day* for those who call on Jesus' name. They will experience the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history, leading to Jesus' return to earth (Joel 2:28-32).

- C. *It will be a terrible Day* for those who persist in rebellion against God (Rev. 6-20). Jesus' end-time judgments will shake all that can be shaken on earth (Hag. 2:6-8; Heb. 12:26).

### II. THE DAY OF THE LORD—A GREAT DAY: POSITIVE TRENDS

- A. *Great revival*: The greatest revival and outpouring of the Spirit in history will occur in the end times, resulting in a victorious Church filled with God's glory (Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:17; Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 15:2; 19:7). It will include miracles such as were seen in the book of Acts and the book of Exodus, combined and multiplied on a global scale (Mic. 7:15; Acts. 2:19; Rev. 11:3-6).

*<sup>27</sup>...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)*

- B. The spirit of prophecy will operate in the Church in a measure surpassing any time in history.

*<sup>17</sup>"...in the last days...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...<sup>19</sup>I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke...<sup>20</sup>before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD." (Acts 2:17-20)*

- C. *Great harvest*: There will be a great ingathering of new souls brought into the kingdom from *all nations*—possibly well over 1 billion new believers (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9; 14:6).

- D. ***Bridal paradigm***: A bridal perspective of the kingdom will equip the Church with confidence and courageous love as they encounter Jesus as their Bridegroom King (Rev. 22:17).  
*<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)*
- E. ***Prayer and worship***: The end-time prayer and worship movement will result in the release of great power (Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 22:17; cf. Isa. 25:9; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 62:6-7).
- F. ***Supernatural protection***: There will be occasions when the Lord will supernaturally protect His people in the end-time shakings. God did not allow His judgments to touch the land of Goshen where His people lived: Israel's livestock did not die (Ex. 9:4-6); their land was not affected by hail (Ex. 9:26), swarms of flies (Ex. 8:22), or the judgment of darkness (Ex. 10:23). This "*Goshen Principle*" will be operative in some places (Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4-6, 26; 10:23; 11:7).  
*<sup>22</sup>I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there...<sup>23</sup>I will make a difference between My people and your people. (Ex. 8:22-23)*
1. God "made a distinction" in sending rain to some cities and not to others (Amos 4:7).  
*<sup>7</sup>I also withheld rain from you...I made it rain on one city; I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered. (Amos 4:7)*
  2. There will be areas where some will be hidden or protected from God's judgment.  
*<sup>3</sup>Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth...it may be that you will be hidden [protected] in the day of the LORD's anger [judgments]. (Zeph. 2:3)*
- G. ***Supernatural provision***: There will be occasions when the Lord will supernaturally provide food and water like He did when His people left Egypt and journeyed through the wilderness where He caused manna to fall from the sky and water to flow from a rock in the desert.  
*<sup>15</sup>As in the days when you came out of...Egypt, I will show them wonders. (Mic. 7:15)*

### III. THE DAY OF THE LORD: POSITIVE PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- A. **Return of Jesus:** The second coming of Jesus will be seen by every person on earth (Rev. 1:7). Jesus will make a "royal procession" that will be seen over every inhabited place on earth.  
***<sup>7</sup>Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. (Rev. 1:7)***
- B. **Rapture:** The rapture will occur as Jesus returns to "catches up" all believers in the air. It will not be a secret event, but one witnessed by all (1 Thes. 4:13-5:11; Rev. 1:7).  
***<sup>29</sup>"Immediately after the tribulation of those days...<sup>30</sup>All the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds...<sup>31</sup>He will send His angels...they will gather together His elect [the rapture] ...from one end of heaven to the other."** (Mt. 24:29-31)*
- C. **Two witnesses:** There will be two prophets who will preach with great power for 3½ years during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 11:3-6). They will do great miracles like Moses and Elijah did.
- D. **144,000:** The Lord will anoint 144,000 Jewish believers (Rev. 7:4-8; 14:1-5) who will be supernaturally sealed or protected by the power of God so that they cannot be harmed.
- E. **New Jerusalem:** The Holy City will descend to the earth in two stages—at the beginning (Rev. 21:10) and at the end (Rev. 21:2) of the Millennium. The resurrected saints will live there.  
***<sup>2</sup>I, John, saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven... (Rev. 21:2)***

#### IV. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. Jesus will return to rule over all the earth for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4-6). This is often referred to as the millennial kingdom—*mille* is Latin for "one thousand."

***<sup>4</sup>And I saw thrones...and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...<sup>6</sup>they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)***

- B. At this time, God's kingdom will be openly manifested worldwide, affecting every sphere of life (political, agricultural, economic, educational, social institutions, etc.). Jesus will restore the agriculture and animal life to the conditions seen in Eden (Isa. 11:6-9; 51:1-8; 65:17-25).

- C. This will be the first time that all the kings of the earth will be born again and will base their national government on God's Word (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24).

- D. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is to establish His kingdom over all the earth as *He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together*. **Heaven** speaks of the spiritual realm where God's presence is openly manifested. **Earth** speaks of the physical realm where human process and physical sensation reach their fullest expression. At this time, heaven will be on earth.

***<sup>9</sup>Having made known to us the mystery of His will...<sup>10</sup>that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth...* (Eph. 1:9-10)**

- E. On the millennial earth, *natural human processes will be not suspended, yet they will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit*. We see aspects of the natural and the supernatural dimensions operating together when Jesus appeared in His resurrected body to teach and even eat with the apostles for 40 days (Lk. 24:36-43; Jn. 20-21; Acts 1:3).

- F. The New Jerusalem will come down in close proximity to the earth in context to Jesus' second coming (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10). The saints will live in the New Jerusalem and rule on the earth.

***<sup>12</sup>The New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. (Rev. 3:12)***

- G. There will be three types of people on earth when Jesus returns. The **redeemed** will be raptured at the time of Jesus' return. The **reprobate** who took the mark of the Beast will be judged. The **resisters** or the unsaved survivors of the tribulation who resisted the Antichrist will need to receive Christ as savior. They will populate the millennial earth (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19).
- H. Jesus will rule a global kingdom that includes two types of kings—**the kings of the earth** (those who will live on earth with non-resurrected bodies) and **resurrected kings** (saints living in New Jerusalem with resurrected bodies). Together they will establish a godly social order.
- I. Jesus' government will progressively increase (Isa. 9:7). Social improvements, or the healing of the nations, will be progressive. Infrastructure will be established in every sphere of society in each city. It will gradually increase in capacity, quality, and impact as leaders grow in wisdom.
- <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it...from that time forward, even forever. (Isa. 9:7)***

## V. THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL

- A. Israel will be the first nation in history in which every person will be born again (Rom. 11:26). This will happen in context to Jesus' second coming. Literally all or 100% of Israel will be saved in the context of Jesus' return and the Millennium (Isa. 45:17, 25; 59:20; 60:21).
- <sup>26</sup>And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written... (Rom. 11:26)***
- B. Jesus prophesied that He would not come back to the earth to rule from Jerusalem until the governmental leaders of Israel ask Him to reign over them as their Messianic King (Mt. 22:39).
- <sup>37</sup>"O Jerusalem...how often I wanted to gather your children...but you were not willing!  
<sup>38</sup>See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup>for I say to you, you [Israel's leaders] shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" (Mt. 23:37-39)***

- C. Satan seeks to exploit Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 23:39 as a "loophole" in God's end-time plan by attempting to keep the leaders of Israel from receiving Jesus as their king in several ways:
1. ***Deceiving Israel*** into taking the mark of the Beast (making an alliance with the Antichrist);
  2. ***Killing the entire Jewish race*** so there are none to invite Him to rule Jerusalem (Rev. 12);
  3. ***Causing Israel to be offended at Jesus*** by the Church so they will not receive Him as King.
- D. Jesus' return is contingent on Jewish people turning to Him. Jesus "must" be kept in heaven until the Jewish people repent and receive Jesus as their Messiah who will restore all things.
- <sup>19</sup>***"Repent...and be converted...<sup>20</sup>that He may send Jesus Christ...<sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive [retain] until the times of restoration of all things [Millennium]..." (Acts 3:19-21)***
- E. Scripture calls the body of Christ to stand with God's purposes for Israel (Isa. 40:1-2; 62:11; Jer. 31:7-10; Joel 3:14; Mt. 25:31-46; Rom. 11:11, 20-22). God will force all to decide to stand for or against Israel (Zech. 12:3). It will be a heavy stone and serve as a ***litmus test of obedience***.
- <sup>3</sup>***"In that day...I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples..." (Zech. 12:3)***
- F. Jesus chose Jerusalem or Zion as His dwelling place forever (Ps. 132:13-14; Zech. 1:14; 8:2-3). In end-time prophecy, Jerusalem and Zion are often used interchangeably. Because Jesus is so zealous for Jerusalem, we set our heart to understand, serve, and love His purpose for it.
- <sup>2</sup>***"I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her."<sup>3</sup>Thus says the LORD: "I will return to Zion and  dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth...Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain." (Zech. 8:2-3)***
- G. ***Provoked to jealousy***: Israel will desire to have what Gentile believers possess spiritually. This will only occur as the Church stands boldly proclaiming God's purposes for Israel (Jer. 31:7-10) and as they tenderly love, support, and bless the Jewish people (Gen. 12:3; Ps. 122:6).
- <sup>11</sup>***Through their [Israel's] fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles ...<sup>25</sup>I do not desire...that you should be ignorant of this mystery...that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup>So all Israel will be saved... (Rom. 11:11, 25-26)***
- H. Israel's spiritual blindness or rejection of Jesus is *neither total* (Rom. 11:1-10) *nor final* (Rom. 11:11-32).