Session 9 Answered Prayer and the Greater Works (Jn. 14:12-14)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Review*: Jesus commanded the disciples not to let trouble dominate their hearts (Jn. 14:1).

¹"Let not your heart be troubled...believe in Me...²⁷My peace I give to you..." (Jn. 14:1, 27)

For about one or two years we will be on John 13-17, verse by verse and line by line, not getting in a hurry. Tonight we are on Session 9 of John 14. Our next semester will be on John 15, then the next semester John 16 and the next semester John 17. We will come back around and pick up John 13 because we did not start with that.

I am going to give a quick review of the opening command that Jesus gave in John 14. He commanded them—and this is a very important and practical command—not to allow trouble to dominate their heart. As I have said every week, there is a human responsibility and a human dynamic involved in us doing our part of resisting troubling thoughts which trouble our emotions and bringing our mind into alignment with the truths and the promises that Jesus sets forth here in John 13-17, and really in the whole Bible. Here He is saying, "I want you to take the words I am telling you, the truths, and bring them into conversation with Me. Resist the troubled heart that is like a storm which just rages in the minds and hearts of many, many believers." The Lord says, as it were, "If you will resist it and realign your heart and mind with My promises that I am giving you in these five chapters and the whole word of God," verse 27, "I will give you supernatural peace; I will calm the storm if you do your part."

B. One of Jesus' primary themes in John 14 is what the Father's personality is like and how God's people are to relate to the Father. We are called to *participate in the family dynamics of the Trinity* as described by Jesus in John 14:7-24. Jesus described His relationship with the Father *as a Man* (14:7-11) and applied it to His people who are to relate to the Father in a similar way (14:12-24).

⁹"He who has seen Me <u>has seen the Father</u>… ¹⁰Do you not believe that <u>I am in the Father</u> and <u>the Father in Me</u>? …The <u>Father who dwells in Me</u> does the works." (Jn. 14:9-10)

One of Jesus' primary themes in John 14 is that He wanted to reveal what the Father is like, and secondly, very important, He wanted to reveal how God's people should relate to the Father. This is a very important theme. He says, in effect, "I want you to relate to the Father in the way that I am relating to the Father in My humanity, as a man filled with the Holy Spirit." Of course, Jesus is more than that as He is fully God.

What is really happening—I just love to say this sentence and say it every time,—is we are called as believers to participate in the family dynamics that occur in the Trinity, the way the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit interact. There are dimensions of that which the redeemed are called to participate in, not every dimension, but many dimensions.

Jesus here in John 14—which we have covered in Session 7 and 8 and we are now in Session 9—was describing His relationship to the Father as a man. He was not saying, "This is how I as God relate to the Father as God." I mean, there is a lot of truth in that, but He is saying, "This is how I as a man filled with the Spirit relate to the Father. The Father is in Me and I am in the Father." Then He goes on in verse 20 and says, "I am going to be in you and you are going to be in Me like I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. We are in this in a supernatural way with intimacy." That is what He is calling the Church to.

- 1. *I am in the Father*: This includes Jesus' thoughts, feelings, values, words, and acts being in the Father's heart—in the sense of bringing great delight to the Father. Jesus was saying, "My thoughts, feelings, values, words, and actions deeply move My Father's heart."
- 2. *Father in Me*: This includes the Father's thoughts, feelings, values, words, and acts being in Jesus' heart—in the sense of bringing great delight to Jesus. Jesus was saying, "What the Father thinks and says deeply moves Me."
- C. The fruit of this union with God is *miracles* (14:12), *answered prayers* (14:13-14), *obedient love* (14:15), and enjoying *God's manifest presence* (14:21-24) by the power of the Spirit (14:16-17).

This union of the Father being in the Son and the Son being in the Father, we looked at a little bit of the details of that in Sessions 7 and 8, and all of that is on the website. Then us being in Jesus and Jesus being in us and the fruit of that throughout John 14, we are going to look at tonight.

Number one, the very first application is that He says, "You will do miracles. You will actually operate in greater works than these." I find it very interesting that is the very first application Jesus gave when He laid out the relationship of being in the Father and the Father in Him and Him in us. He said, "I want you to know this is real, and this is where this is going. The works that I do, you will do and actually greater works than these." This is the actual first statement of application that He gave to the disciples.

I thought, "Boy, that is a pretty big beginning application point." Of course, that is going to happen in fullness in those final years leading up to His return which we will get to in a moment. Then the fruit of the union is not only the great miracles, but it is answered prayer. It is this deep partnership with His heart. It will result in obedient love and enjoying God's manifest presence which we will break down week by week as the Lord permits.

II. JESUS ANSWERS PRAYER THAT AGREES WITH HIS LEADERSHIP (JN. 14:12-14)

A. Jesus applied the truth of how He related to the Father *as a man* to His people (Jn. 14:12-14). Jesus answers prayer and uses His people to work miracles as an expression of His partnership with them.

¹²"...he who believes in Me, <u>the works that I do he will do also</u>; and <u>greater works</u> than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³And whatever you ask <u>in My name</u>, that I will do, that the Father may be <u>glorified</u> in the Son. ¹⁴If you <u>ask anything</u> in My name, I will do it." (Jn. 14:12-14)

He is going to give the very first application of what He has said in John 14:1-11. He said here is where it starts and how you are going to relate to the Father as I relate to the Father in My humanity—verse 12. I mean, these words are so big that it is really easy just to set them aside and not really engage in them, but Jesus is telling us that this is real. This is not poetry or symbolism. He said, "He that believes in Me"—meaning interacts with Me—"like I do the Father," more than just the casual mental ascent of "We believe You are God and thank You that You forgave us and it is very important to us." When He said, "Believe in Me," He is talking about that interaction that He just described in verses 7-11 which we have looked at in the last two sessions.

He said, "The works that I do, he will do them also," but it is going beyond that. "Greater works than these shall they do"—shall this person do—"because I go to the Father. The point is: "because I am going to give you the Holy Spirit." Then in verse 13, "Whatever you ask in My name I will do it so that that Father is glorified in Me doing this when you ask. If you ask anything in My name," and that is the key phrase in My name—"I will do it."

Now Jesus is telling them He is going to answer their prayers, and He gives very clear conditions. It starts off in verse 12, "He who believes in Me," and, again, the context is that "they are interacting with Me like I interact with the Father." So it is more than just the casual, introductory confidence in Jesus as our Savior. It is talking about this living interaction with Him at the heart level. He said, "I am going to answer your prayers., and more than that I am going to use you to release My greater miracles. The reason I am doing it is it is an expression of My desire for partnership with You."

This is literal—that the saints will do "greater works than these." Now, this is difficult to embrace, and in verse 16, He tells us in effect, just a few verses later, "I am praying, and the Father will give you the Spirit because you are going to need the Spirit to believe and to interact with Me at this level. You are not going to be able to even believe this with just your natural mind"—Verse 16—"Because you are going to need the help of the Spirit to enter into this." In verse 26 of this same chapter, He said, "The Spirit is going to teach you these things." That is, "He will mark your heart and give you what you cannot understand without Him marking your heart with living understanding."

First He makes these dramatic statements that you just cannot even grasp. One reason it is difficult to grasp is because the fullness of these statements is going to happen in a very specific timeframe in those final forty-two months leading up to the Lord's return. So it comes to fullness then, but there will be more believers on the earth at that time—my guess—there will be more believers on the earth than there are in heaven. There will be more of God's family on the earth in those forty-two months than there is God's family in heaven. He really means that the majority of the Body of Christ is actually going to see this in that very specific timeframe leading up to His appearing in the sky.

We see little expressions and installments of it, down payments of it, here and there throughout Church history. The Lord has always had servants, different ministries, who have had unusual miracles here and there, so He has always done a little bit of this for the two thousand years as you study Church history, but it has never been commonplace. So it is easy to write this off or to figure out some way to explain this passage away, but it is literal, and it is real. It is the first application of this dynamic relationship that the Body of Christ globally is literally going to have as seen in John 17. Before the Lord returns, there is going to be this massive invasion of the Holy Spirit and transformation of the global Body of Christ in those final forty-two months. I mean even before that, but leading up to it. It really picks up the pace as the Church comes to a place of being a prepared and matured Bride.

He is really going to do it. I have read commentaries over the years, and it is easy to say—I get this, and I don't say this critically, but I just do not want you to dismiss this passage with this common explanation—they say, "Well, Jesus could preach and would touch multitudes, but now through television and media we can touch millions, and that is the greater works, the mass evangelism through the technology of television and modern technology etc."

I say, "No. I appreciate that, but that is not what He is saying. He is not saying that you are going to have more people impacted through TV if you believe Me." He is actually saying, "You are going to do the very works that I do, and actually greater works than these."

We are going to spend time unpacking some of this. As I say regularly, I have a couple more pages that I am going to add to the updated version of this on the internet in a couple of days. I do not know when I will get it done, but I am almost done with it, where I put all of the miracles in the Bible and all the ones promised by the Old Testament prophets, all of them listed in a row. This is a picture of where the end-time Church is going, and the Lord has said it so many times in the scripture. He has laid it out, line by line, and just on these few pages here we are going to do a quick overview of some of it. In preparing this my heart was just, "Wow! You are

really, really zealous about declaring this throughout history that this is what You do in the midst of Your people!" We are so used to it not happening that we are imagining that it will not happen. However, it is going to happen on a global level!

Let's go back to this issue of Him calling them, promising them that in a life of prayer He is going to answer them. Prayer is going to move His heart is really what He is saying, because He is not just talking about getting the job done, and of the kingdom of God increasing. He is talking about the heart of His people interacting with Him and the Father like He interacts with the Father. He is really talking about intimacy right now.

B. Prayer is not about informing or persuading God, but about connecting with Him in relationship. Jesus spent whole nights in prayer to commune with the Father, not to get more power. We do not *earn* answers to prayers by our persistence, but we position ourselves to grow in transforming union and deep partnership with Jesus. This happens as we cultivate an ongoing conversation with Him.

As He sets forth this call to prayer, it is important that we understand that prayer is not about informing or persuading God of anything. It is about connecting with Him in partnership and relationship. We are not telling God anything He does not know. We are not wearing Him down because we are so persistent so that He says "Okay! Okay! Stop! I will do it!" No, it is not like that. He says, as it were, "I don't need the information, but I want the conversation because I am a Father and you are My beloved children." Jesus would say, "You are My Bride, you are My partner, you are My eternal companion forever, and I want the conversation. I do not need the information, but I want you interacting with Me. We are going to withhold many things until you talk with Us because We want your heart, and that is what we are after."

Jesus spent whole nights in prayer to commune with the Father, not so He could get more power. You know He was not saying at two o'clock in the morning, "Father, if I go another hour, will you give Me more miracles tomorrow?" That is not what was happening. He was communing with the Father. We do not earn answers to prayer through persistence in prayer, but rather through persistence in prayer we position ourselves. We position our cold hearts before that bonfire of God's presence is what I call it. Our cold heart softens and thaws out and gets tenderized. By persistence we position ourselves to grow in that transforming union that Jesus just described in verse 7-11. He just got through laying it out the way that He interacts with the Father.

C. **Ask**: God knows all our needs (Mt. 6:32) yet requires that we ask Him for them. Asking causes us to connect with His heart and to associate specific blessings from God as His answer to prayer. Answered prayer causes us to know that what we say moves God's heart.

Jesus said, "Ask," and we know the verse in James 4:2, "You have not because you ask not." God knows all of our needs, Jesus said that in Matthew 6. He knows it all. He is not looking for information. However, He requires that you engage in conversation with Him, and He is going to hold back until you do. We will persevere many times because we want things, and He will hold off because He wants the conversation; He wants our heart.

Eventually we will say, "Wow, you know, those things are great, but surprise! Surprise! Wow, we are communing with You! We never knew it was going to be like this!" I remember: it was forty years ago almost, 1983 when we first moved to Kansas City, and we had that 21-day solemn assembly in May of 1983, and the Lord spoke audibly, "24-7 Prayer in the Spirit of the tabernacle of David with singers and musicians!"

I remember we had daily prayer meetings as we started the church forty years ago. We had prayer meetings every day, and when the Lord said "24-7 prayer," I thought, "Bah, humbug!" I did not say, "Wow!"

People said, "It must have been amazing!"

No, it was not! I said, "Lord, truth be known, I do not like prayer! I want revival, and I will endure prayer if You promise me revival!" Over time I thought, "Wait a second! I want revival, but I discovered something I did not understand. This is really where it is at!" The Lord surprised me. He ambushed me and surprised me with joy. C.S. Lewis coined that phrase; he said, "Surprised with joy!" I thought, "Wait, I was enduring boring God so I could have good revival, and I found out that boring God was very dynamic and fascinating, and though I really want revival, we are going to be walking in this prayer relationship forever and forever unrelated to revival."

They cry out in worship night and day around the throne, not because they want revival around the throne, but because they are fascinated with a Person—with the Father and with the Son at the right hand. Asking causes us to connect with His heart, and when we ask, "Lord, would You do this?" and that specific blessing comes, we connect it with asking, and then we say, "Wait a second, I needed that financial breakthrough specifically. I need that healing specifically. I needed that open door specifically, and it came specifically! Wait! You are moved by what I say!"

The Lord would say, "You are getting it! That is why I want you to connect it. If you say the prayer, you are more likely to connect that My heart is moved by you when I answer." Wow! I mean, I have had, like many of you have had, many specific prayers answered and the idea that the Transcendent, Uncreated God is moved by my words! This is remarkable, this is amazing! The Lord would say, "You just do not even know where this is going! I love you more than you can imagine!"

D. *In My name*: Prayer that Jesus endorses—it agrees with His leadership and expresses His heart.

He says, "Pray in My name." That does not mean to add the verbal phrase, "in the name of Jesus," although we do that for sure, but to "Pray in My name" means to pray in a way that He can endorse it. That is what He means by "in My name": "to pray in a way that agrees with My leadership and expresses My heart. That is how you pray in My name." I believe in saying it, and we ask "in the name of Jesus." I love to do that, but it is more than verbally.

Some people say, "Well, He said anything we want in His name."

He said, "Anything you want ask Me, and if I can endorse it and if it is in agreement with My leadership, not just what I will do but with the timing and the way I want to do it." What God does and the how He does it and the timing that He does it is all a part of praying in His name. Typically, I want something in a certain way and in a certain timeframe, typically like now, and He says "No, no, I will give it to you in My way, at My time and I will give it maybe not how you are asking it, but in a different version because you do not quite know you are asking. However, I know you, and I know the end from the beginning, and I am committed to your heart."

E. That the Father may be glorified: This is the primary condition for answered prayer.

Jesus said, "When you do this, the Father will be glorified when I answer you." The Father will be glorified. That is one of the primary conditions for answered prayer. Now, when we think of the Father being glorified, some people have a skewed idea like God is up in heaven, and He is just so hungry to get the attention of everybody, and if somehow we look another way, then He says "Oh no! No, no, wait! What about Me? I want all of your attention!"

That is not what is moving Him. He wants our full attention because He sees the glory of the love relationship. He sees the glory of what love is about and when the Father is glorified that includes: He answers, and our heart is moved, and we see and celebrate how He feels about us! It is like "Wait! This is the kind of God You

are!" The discovery, the celebrating of who He is and finding delight in Him moves His heart. He is glorified when we find delight in how He leads us because He is a Father.

I love John Piper's statement that he made famous for many years: "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

God is glorified, and He is not saying, "Tell the world I flexed My muscles to show how strong I am!" He would say, "No, show Me and show others how we delight in one another, and My name is glorified in that. My purposes advance in that!"

So, this is actually a warm and a tender phrase. It is not like a cold phrase from a distant God who wants to make sure that everybody is giving Him so much credit that nobody else gets in the conversation. He would say. "No, that is not it at all. You are My family, and we are doing this together, forever!"

III. UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT FOR THE END-TIME CHURCH

- A. Jesus is returning for a spiritually vibrant church that walks in victory as a prepared Bride (Jn. 17:21-26; Rev. 19:7; 22:17). This implies millions of "weak" people will be empowered in a great measure to walk in mature love, peace, joy, courage, unity, and power by God's grace.
 - 7...for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and <u>His wife has made herself ready</u>. (Rev. 19:7)
 - ²²The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one... (Jn. 17:22)

I am going to be brief on this because I have covered this so many times. We have to understand the context of the end-time Church to understand the reality of the phrase "greater works than these" because it is literal. He means it for real, and when we see what He has done and what He has promised, and the miracles He has done throughout the Bible, they are down payments of what He is going to do in fullness. They are seeds. Even in natural history before the Lord returns, He is going to bring these seed miracles to fullness, and they are going to be seen across the earth. He has documented them from Genesis to Revelation. This book is our reliable source of information as to what He longs to do, and not just to make our meetings more exciting. He likes that and does not mind that, but He wants us interacting with His heart and desires people to be awakened to His love, His power, and His goodness through these miracles. This is so that the family of God is going deeper and deeper together and in God, which is the whole John 17 prayer.

We know that Jesus is returning for a spiritually vibrant Church that is living and walking before Him as a prepared Bride. That is such a giant statement: that the Church will be a prepared Bride. This is before He returns. This is not everyone in the resurrection, with the devil in prison, and we have no sin in our body so now we are prepared. No, He says, as it were, "That is good, but I am going to move in a way that you will choose—I will not violate your freewill—you will choose voluntarily to love Me in this fallen world by the power of the Spirit because of the way I am going to lead history. My Church will be a prepared Bride before I return. I am coming back for a prepared Bride."

In John 17, Jesus gave a hint of that when He said, "I am going to give you glory. I am going to release a Spirit of glory!" He gave a little bit of this glory to them; they witnessed the power of God in His three-and-a-half-year ministry and then in the early days of the book of Acts. They had just a little bit of that heightened measure of glory, but this glory is going to far surpass what happened in the book of Acts.

B. *Great revival*: The greatest revival and outpouring of the Spirit in history will occur in the end times, resulting in a victorious, unified Church filled with God's glory (Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 15:2). The Holy Spirit will establish the first commandment in first place in the global body of Christ. There will be a great new harvest of souls—"the billion-soul harvest" (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9; 14:6).

The greatest revival in history, the greatest outpouring of the Spirit is yet future, far beyond the book of Acts. It is far beyond the book of Acts.

C. The greater works include the miracles associated with Moses in Egypt and in the wilderness.

¹⁵"<u>As in the days</u> when you came out of the <u>land of Egypt</u>, <u>I will show them wonders</u>." ¹⁶The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might… ¹⁷They shall lick the dust like a serpent; they shall crawl from their holes like snakes… They shall be <u>afraid of the LORD</u>… (Mic. 7:15-17)

The greater works include that generation who saw more miracles than any other generation in history: the generation of Moses. That is why Moses is the template used by the prophets right through the scriptures. Moses' generation and what God did in His power is like the gold standard of what God is going to do in the generation of His return and what God did through Jesus and then in the book of Acts.

Look at Micah 7. This is one of my favorite prophetic passages in the whole Bible. The Spirit of the Lord says that "as in the days when you came out of Egypt, I am going to show you those miracles again." That is, "The miracles that I released to you, Israel, when I brought you out of Egypt and took you through the wilderness, you are going to see those miracles again." I have listed them on the next couple of pages in a kind of "rapid-fire way" of listing them. We are not going to read them all, but just look at them and say, "Wow, this is real!"

However, I want you to understand that He is going to do the miracles that He did in the days of Moses. What is going to happen, verse 16, "The nations will see and be ashamed of their might," and on to verse 17, "and they will be afraid of the Lord!"

We think, "Wow, that is really something! The nations will see and will be ashamed." Remember the context at the end of the age: multitudes of the nations are under the leadership of the Antichrist. They have more military resource. They have more popular support. They have more state-of-the-art technology. They have more financial resources, larger armies, and they are not afraid of anyone. An army is coming forth that is so much stronger than any empire in human history, and they will be filled with arrogant boldness. The Lord says, in effect, "When they see the miracles that I did through Moses, they will see and they will be ashamed of their power."

They will say, "You know, we just have a one hundred-million-person army and trillions of dollars, and that is all we have, but you have the Genesis 1 God!" They will bow down; it says that they will fall down to the ground, ashamed of their might, and this will be the mightiest military resource in human history completely broken and ashamed that they had thought they were invincible, when God does the miracles of Moses again. The nations will be afraid of the Lord. Well, yes, they will fear the Lord eventually but this is afraid of the Lord, afraid of the God of Israel as these miracles are unfolding.

D. **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 when He caused *manna* to fall from the sky and caused *water* to flow from a rock in the desert (Mic. 7:15).

There will be supernatural provision. I mean, in Moses' day food appeared every single day from the sky! For forty years! We know that story so well it does not move us. Like, every single day food came! I know the

Sabbath, the two days; we have that! Water came out of a rock! We are not talking a little drinking fountain, we are talking about two to three million people and cattle and livestock in a desert that is one hundred degrees or whatever it really is, out in a desert with no shade and water, a river is flowing out of a rock day after day after day, and the rock moves with them. What?

The Lord said, "When I come back, I am going to do those miracles again." This is actual. This is greater works than these. This is not about television ministry. This is actual greater works and the global Body of Christ. Not everybody, but many will be living in this transforming union with the Lord, this deep partnership that is described in John 13 through 17 which really comes to a head in John 17.

E. **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 Goshen, where His people lived (Ex. 9:4-6; 8:22; 9:26; 10:23). This "Goshen Principle" will be operative in places.

There will be supernatural protection. There will be occasions—we do not know, and I do not think we will be protected one hundred percent and that sort of thing—but it will be dynamic, and it will be real. In the days of Moses when the children of Israel were in Egypt, when the judgments of the ten plagues came upon the land of Egypt and was destroying the Egyptian army and their resources and confronting Pharaoh, the Jews lived in a land called Goshen. That was one part of Egypt. I am sure it was not a very nice subdivision that they lived in. Goshen was probably really pretty bad as they were all slaves, but none of the judgments that hit the land of Egypt hit Goshen. The strangest one and I do not know how this works, but when darkness came over the land of Egypt as one of the plagues, there was light in Goshen. Like, "How does that work?" I do not know. We will figure that out when we get there!

When we look at what happened to the slaves in Goshen, we can have our holy imaginations stirred as to what some of the dynamics will be for the saints in the final forty-two months in the Great Tribulation. The Lord will be doing glorious and wonderful things in the midst of the saints at that time. It will be glorious and wonderful, and that is why this Moses story really is part of the template. It is the Moses miracles and miracles of the book of Acts combined and multiplied on a global level that is the context of the years leading up to the coming of the Lord when He appears in the sky.

F. The spirit of prophecy with power will be released in a measure surpassing any time in history.

17"...<u>in the last days</u>...I will pour out of My Spirit on <u>all flesh</u>; your sons and your daughters <u>shall prophesy</u>...¹⁹I will show <u>wonders</u> in heaven above and <u>signs</u> in the earth beneath: <u>Blood and fire and vapor of smoke</u>. ²⁰The <u>sun</u> shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, <u>before</u> the coming of <u>the great and awesome day of the LORD</u>. (Acts 2:17-20)

Read this like it is the first time you read it. I mean, we read this so often at IHOPKC, and we pray it so often it is hard to read it with fresh eyes. The Spirit is going to be poured out on all flesh, can you imagine a time when every single believer is operating in a spirit of prophecy? I mean it says "all flesh" It did not say "To the Charismatic churches on the north end of town or something. It says, "all believers that call on My name." There are a billion believers in the earth they say—some say more and some say less—and a billion coming in the great harvest. Could you imagine a couple billion people where every single believer is operating in the Holy Spirit? Again, we are so used to that passage, that word "all" just fades away. Do not let it fade away. The activity of the Spirit is increasing in the Church, right now. Now, we are not at all satisfied, but I am telling you, those of you my age—I am sixty-six now and started pastoring forty-five years ago—I am telling you right now the power of the Spirit and the amount of prophecy operating in the Church is so much greater in the last ten and twenty years than it was thirty and forty years ago.

I remember when I moved to Kansas City right at forty years ago. I had been a pastor for seven years in St. Louis, and I remember that somebody had a dream and a vision. I remember saying this. I was in a Charismatic church where we worshipped and sang in the Spirit and prophesied, you know, "Yay, I inhabit the praises of My people!" It was a kind of weekly prophecy. Anyway, for the older folks they get that. So my point is that I remember being in Kansas City forty years ago and saying this statement, "I do not know one person that has had a spiritual dream!" Not one that I knew, and I knew lots of people.

I was a youth pastor of a group of thousand young people who were on fire for the Lord, but I did not know one person who had had a prophetic dream. Now, forty years later, I do not know of a believer who has **not** had one. I mean, I am sure there are some that do not, but almost every single one I know has had one, some a whole lot. I do not hardly know a believer that has not had a dream. I think, "Boy, things have changed in the last forty years!" I am encouraged, but we are not at all satisfied. I am telling you from my human perspective and experience, it has really increased in the last forty-plus years. It has really increased, but it is at the beginning of the beginning of a massive increase. That is the Spirit of prophecy.

Now let's look at verse 19, the power. Wonders in heaven, that is the sky. What! There will be wonders, there will be miracles happening in the sky in signs. I mean the whole globe's attention will be grabbed and of course we see those in the book of Revelation. There will be signs happening on the earth. Well, this is what happened in the days of Moses. Wonders in the sky and signs on the earth, though in the book of Acts they did not have so many of those. They had more healings and the appearances of angels and things like that. Miracles in the created order was kind of the main kind of miracles with Moses, while miracles in people's individual lives—healing their bodies or personal provision and restoration of their lives—that is more the book of Acts. However, the end-time revival is going to be the book of Exodus, Moses, and the book of Acts magnified on a global level.

Look at this in verse 20, talking about signs in the sky. The sun and the moon are going to be impacted by the power of God in a way that the whole earth will be arrested in their attention. This will happen before, before the great day of the Lord. This is not afterward. This is before Jesus comes in the sky. We get that there is a little sign here and there. I mean, the Lord has done a little bit of that, but nothing like it is going to be.

Now notice in verse 20, "the great and awesome day of the Lord." There are quite a few passages in the scripture that talk about "the day of the Lord." Many commentators agree that "the day of the Lord" is the final three-and-a-half years of this age, and it includes the one day that is like a thousand years of the millennial kingdom and includes the whole thing. Others say that it only includes the final forty-two months. Some say it only includes the millennial kingdom and the day that is like a thousand years. My feeling is that it includes the final forty-two months and the thousand years, something like that, but whatever it is, it will include the day of the Lord. This passage would be the millennial kingdom when He comes. That is what it appears, that the Lord stands in the sky.

²⁶As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man... (Lk. 17:26)

However, notice what Jesus said in Luke 17:26. I think this is a very tender and emotional statement that He made. Meaning that it moved Him, though the guys that He said it to did not even get it. He said, "As it was in the days of Noah, in the future so it is going to be that way in the days of the Son of Man." Not the "day," but the "days." Now the day of the Lord, again, when you take all of the passages there is a twenty-four-hour day of the Lord when He appears. Then there is that long period like the thousand year reign, a thousand years is like a day. There is the longer, the greater day of the Lord, and there is the narrow twenty-four hour day of the Lord. Both of those are described in the scripture, but Jesus is saying, "I am not talking about the day of the

Lord, even that twenty-four-hour period, I am talking about those days where I am especially magnified in the eyes of the nations." This is before He appears in the sky.

There is this phrase that He used that you never hear talked about because it is kind of like you go by it really fast, but wait a second. He said it will be like the days of Noah. "It will be My days where I will have My way with My Church on the earth, My days." This is a different; this is a subunit of the bigger subject of the day of the Lord, you know the larger one, whether it is a thousand years or however you add it up, or whether it is the twenty-four-hour period. There are those days where Jesus has His way with His Church even before He appears in the sky, the days of the Lord.

In Revelation 11—I am just going to add a little bit more to this—He gives kind of the ultimate demonstration of power in human beings. Revelation 11:3-6 talks about the two witnesses. He said, "I am going to give power to two witnesses." For forty-two months or three and a half years, they are going to be able to call power down from heaven. They will be able to call fire down from heaven. They will be able to shut the rain off and cause a drought. They will turn water into blood. They will strike the earth with plagues. These guys under Jesus' leadership will release miracles that I believe will far surpass even the ones Moses did. So these are Jesus' days where He gets His way in His days, and the earth is arrested with Him even before He comes to cast the devil into prison. Even in natural history these are His, this small amount of days. That is my interpretation of the phrase, the days of the Son of Man, plural.

G. The miracles in Scripture are seeds of Jesus' power to be seen in fullness in the days of Son of Man.

¹¹He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets...¹²for the <u>equipping of the saints</u> for the work of ministry...¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... (Eph. 4:11-13)

Well, the miracles in Scripture—and I have already said this—are seeds, and I am talking about Old and New Testament. They are seeds of Jesus' power. The power of Jesus will be seen in fullness in the days of the Son of Man. Again, my interpretation of that is the final forty-two months which are the epicenter of those days before the ultimate twenty-four-hour day of the Lord when He appears in the sky. These miracles—and there are hundreds and hundreds of them—inform our paradigm or our perspective. They inform our holy imagination of what the future will look like when the power of God is operating in fullness in His people.

I read these, and that is why I am giving you so many of these verses. I have to add a few more pages and I am going to put it on the internet. The list gets bigger and bigger. When I looked at this, I said, "Lord, this is fantastic!"

I can just imagine the Lord smiling and saying something like, "I am going to see this in the midst of My people before this natural history is over. This is going to happen on the earth. It is called fullness." I believe the miracles of Jesus that He did in His ministry and the miracles of Jesus—they are still His miracles but—done through Moses, and done through the book of Acts are seeds. They are prophetic statements. They give prophetic insights. They are downpayments of an end-time revival where there is one season in natural history, one season where the Spirit moves in fullness in the global Body of Christ. Again, it is in context to that final forty-two months or that final three and a half years before Jesus appears in the sky.

Look here in Ephesians 4. Now there are about ten verses in the New Testament that talk about fullness. The word, fullness, is such a big word, and it stretches our imagination. We are like, "Whatever. Fullness what?" Paul said in Ephesians 4:11—and I just edited it down to make it fit on the page better and you can read the whole passage on your own—"He gave some to be apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists, and teachers." They are going to equip the saints, verse 13, "until we all come to the unity," that is John 17, "to the knowledge of

the Son of God," that is intimacy," to the maturity measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. The five-fold ministry is operating until we all... All? Really, Paul? All? Do you actually mean all or do you mean some? I think he meant all. The Body of Christ has a measure of maturity that reflects the fullness of Christ. What? The five-fold ministry will be equipping the saints for ministry until that happens.

Some people say there are no apostles and prophets. Everyone knows there are pastors and teachers and evangelists. I say that until the church has this level of maturity in which they are operating—I do not know because I am not big on titles, but—they have to be somewhere in the emerging. I am not one to try and figure out who they are. Lots of guys, and it does not bother me, but everyone has their own way with God, and they define them with who they are and who they are not. I am not concerned with that. I know the Lord is releasing them and raising them up. I believe that in the next ten or twenty years we are going to see with a lot more clarity.

I am not interested in titles and terms. I am interested in the impact of verse 13—"until we all come," the Body of Christ, "to a measure of maturity together that expresses the fullness." That hurts my brain to say the fullness. I mean, oh come on, is this real? Well there are about ten more fullness verses in the New Testament. They are very moving, but it just kind of boggles the mind to even look at that and think, really? The Lord said, as it were, "Yes, there is a season of fullness coming that a lot of believers are not thinking about. It is all through the Scripture and it just never connected with them, but it will before it is over. I am going to connect this to them." I am sensing this, and I have confidence in the Lord that millions and millions are going to connect with this.

²⁵...blindness in part has happened to Israel until the <u>fullness of the Gentiles</u> has come in. (Rom. 11:25)

He talks about Israel. He said there is blindness in Israel until the fullness of the Gentile believers. Until the Gentile believers come to the full number, yes, you know, in the billion soul harvest, but they come to full maturity where they express the fullness of Christ. There is a season of fullness that is yet coming.

H. The Spirit of glory will come in a greater measure on those who are persecuted (1 Pet. 4:14).

¹⁴If you are reproached for...Christ, blessed are you, <u>for the Spirit of glory</u>...rests upon you. (1 Pet. 4:14)

Peter said, when you are reproached or persecuted—let's use the word, persecuted—for Jesus you are blessed. When you are persecuted for Jesus, there is an increase of the Spirit of glory that rests on you. So it will be in the great tribulation which will be the hour of the greatest persecution and thus the hour of the greatest measure of the Spirit of glory on the Church. I believe that the final forty-two months of this age will be the Church's greatest hour.

I understand that a lot of people believe that the Church will not be here. This will be the greatest hour for the Church and the billion soul harvest, and the Church coming into full maturity with the Spirit of glory resting on them.

I like what Ashur Intrater said thirty years ago. I have been laughing about it for thirty years. He said, "If I am wrong, and we are raptured before this, I am not going up. I am staying down."

I said, "I do not think it works that way."

He said, "I am not missing the end-time harvest. Are you kidding me? Of all the nations? That is what I have labored my whole life for." Anyway, I just thought I would throw that in. It was cute.

IV. THE MIRACLES OF JESUS: ABOUT 40 MIRACLES

A. *Only one miracle of Jesus is reported in all four Gospels*: Jesus miraculous fed 5,000 people from 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes (Mt. 14:13-21, Mk. 6:30-42; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-13).

Let's look at Jesus and greater works than He did. Let's look at what He did. We are just going to look at a few of these. There are about forty miracles recorded in the four Gospels.

It is interesting that the only miracle that is mentioned by all four Gospels is the multiplying of food. I think this is so significant, and Jesus did it twice. He did it with 5,000 told in all four Gospels, and then He did it with 4,000. He multiplied food. Moses had multiplication of food. Elijah had multiplication of food. The multiplication of food happens a surprising number of times in the Old Testament. We will not look at it all, but I have a list there and I will have more on an extended list that I will be putting on the internet pretty soon. Jesus fed 5,000 from the two loaves and five fish.

Revelation 13:17 says that when the mark-of-the-beast system is established—and it is a literal system and the antichrist is a literal person, though there is a spirit of the antichrist as well that has been operating throughout Church history, but there is coming an actual antichrist and an actual system called "the mark of the beast"—people who do not take the mark of the beast will not be allowed to buy or sell. I believe the Lord says to trust Him. They are not going to starve. They will be there with a vibrant spirit when He returns. They will not die of starvation. He has plans you know not of. I really believe it.

A lot of folks wonder if we do not get the mark of the beast, what is going to happen? I say we know one thing. When Jesus comes, the Church is walking in maturity. They did not all die of starvation so something happened. He is such a good leader, I am not concerned about it.

B. The miracles of Jesus reported in three Gospels: Jesus healed a leper (Mt. 8:2-4, Mk. 1:40-45; Lk. 5:12-15), Peter's mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14-15; Mk. 1:29-31; Lk. 4:38-39), a paralytic man on the Sabbath (Mt. 9:2-8; Mk. 2:3-12; Lk. 5:17-25), a woman who had hemorrhaged for 12 years (Mt. 9:20-22; Mk. 5:25-29; Lk. 8:43-46), a man with a withered hand (Mt. 12:9-13; Mk. 3:1-5; Lk. 6:6-10) and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead (Mt. 9:23-26; Mk. 5:35-38; Lk. 8:49-52). He calmed a violent storm (Mt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25), cast a legion of demons out of two men that went into a herd of pigs (Mt. 8:28; Mk. 5:1; Lk. 8:26) and cast a demon out of a boy that had caused him to be deaf and to have epilepsy (Mt. 17:14-18; Mk. 9:14-18; Lk. 9:37-42). He walked on water during a storm on the Sea of Galilee (Mt. 14:24-27; Mk. 6:47-50; Jn. 6:18-21).

The miracles of Jesus reported in three gospels give you a little bit more emphasis that the Spirit is saying, "I am emphasizing these more." The healing of paralytics, the raising of the dead, the calming of storms—storms are going to be calmed by the Word of God spoken in power. Storms in various places will be stopped. Jesus walked on water. Believers will walk on water, not any time or every time. I would not do it just any time. We will hear stories of this. I have read some revival stories in different places. I remember, though I do not want to get into the details, where actually some people walked across a river, and then they were blown away. The food multiplied in Asia and under great persecution. "Wait, what?" I say, but Jesus said we would do what He did. It is not very common right now. I don't mean it will be so common where it is nonchalantly happening to everybody every day. However, it will be in the storyline and the conversation of the global Body of Christ.

C. *The miracles of Jesus reported in two Gospels*: Jesus fed 4,000 people near to the Sea of Galilee (Mt. 15:32-38; Mk. 8:1-9). He cast a demon out of a man at synagogue in Capernaum (Mk. 1:23-26; Lk. 4:33-35) and out of a blind man (Mt. 12:22; Mk. 3:10-11) and out of the daughter of a Canaanite woman (Mt.15:22-28; Mk. 7:24-30). He healed a centurion's servant (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:2-10) and the two blind men who were sitting by the road on the way to Jericho (Mt. 20:29-31; Mk. 10:46-48). Jesus cursed a fig tree when entering Jerusalem (Mt. 21:18-20; Mk. 11:12-14).

Miracles reported in two Gospels: Well, feeding the 4,000 is reported in two gospels. Again, if it was reported in all four, it has a high emphasis of the Spirit. If it is reported in three, there is a message in how often it is reported. If it makes one line in the Word of God, it is important, but when it is said over and over and the Spirit orchestrated it?

I mean, here we have the demon cast out of the Canaanite woman's daughter and the centurion's servant healed. Remember, the Canaanite woman and the centurion who was a Roman were historic enemies of Israel. They would be what today Islam is to Israel. Amongst Islamic Middle East nations, powerful miracles are happening before they even believe in the Lord. They are being done by the body of Christ. So when I see that, I see a down payment, and it is way beyond just the Middle East. These are a Canaanite and a Roman centurion. These are people who are hostile to Israel, and yet God is giving miracles to them before they are born again. Before they believe in Jesus, the miracles are happening.

D. *The miracles of Jesus unique to Matthew*: Jesus healed 2 blind men (9:27-31), caused Peter to walk on water (14:28-31), caused a coin to be in a fish in order to pay the temple tax (17:24-27).

Then we have some in Matthew, miracles that are unique to Matthew. Peter walks on water. Well, we know Jesus does, and now we know Peter does. That is going to happen in the end-time Church. There are going to be storms. There are going to be upheavals in weather and roaring seas, and yet there is going to be a supernatural dimension. Again, not everybody every time, but it is going to be more than one here or one there. It is going to be part of the global conversation in the Body of Christ. So if you do not have any money, there is a coin in the mouth of a fish. How did that get in there? Was Jesus just showing off? No, Jesus is making a statement. He is saying, as it were, "I have it all thought through."

All of His signs and wonders and, in my opinion, even the onwa in the Old Testament are prophetic downpayments. They are statements. They are seeds of what will happen in fullness. I do not know how often and where, but if it is in the Book I am going for it. I mean, my holy imagination is stirred by the written Word of God. I do not want to stand at a distance and just say, "Well, whatever. I am just going to sink away in my despair."

Jesus starts chapter 14 with, "Do not let your heart be troubled." Then He describes the intimate relationship, and this is the first application: greater works than these. The body of Christ, we easily go whatever.

The Lord might say, "No, ask the Holy Spirit." Verse 16 and verse 26: ask the Spirit to help you gain living understanding. Let the Spirit stir up your understanding even of the Scripture. I don't understand much, but I want to understand more. I say, "Thank you, Lord. I buy this. I am going for this. I do not want to wait until then to see it." Whatever happens in fullness in that time is happening in part right now and in an increasing manner. Whatever is happening in fullness related to His appearing is happening in part and yet in an increasing manner right now. It is not like we are waiting until then to see this. I say, "Lord, this is what You do." It will be much more prevalent then, but this is what He is willing to do. You just do not know when it is going to happen.

- E. *The miracles of Jesus unique to Mark*: He healed a deaf man (7:31-37) and a blind man (8:22-26).
- F. *The miracles of Jesus unique to Luke*: Jesus escaped an angry crowd who sought to kill Him by throwing Him off a cliff (4:28-30), miraculously caused Peter's net to be full of fish (5:4-11), raised the dead son of the widow of Nain (7:11-18), cast the demons out of woman that had caused her to be crippled for 18 years (13:11-17), healed a man with dropsy (swelling of his body; 14:2-6), healed ten lepers (17:11-19), a blind man on the road to Jericho (18:35-43) and the right ear of the High Priest's servant that Peter had cut off with his sword (22:50-51).

Miracles unique to Luke. Jesus is in an angry crowd, and they are going to throw Him off a cliff, but the Spirit of God helps Him escape. That is going to happen again. Peter's net is full of fish. Supernaturally the Spirit moves. So, okay. you can't buy or sell? Guess what? Go fishing. Peter cuts off the ear of an enemy, a servant of the people against them, and God heals the enemy's servant. The Lord could say, "I still am who I am. Do not be shocked if you see Me do this again through your hands someday." These sort of things are just pictures and seeds of miracles that will happen.

G. *The miracles of Jesus unique to John*: Jesus turned water into wine (2:1-11), healed a royal official's son (4:46-54); healed a man who suffered from an infirmity for 38 years (5:1-9), a man born blind (9:1-7), raised Lazarus to life though he had been dead for 4 days (11:38-44), and miraculously caused 153 fish to fill Peter's net (21:1-14).

Miracles unique to John: Jesus turned water into wine, raised Lazarus from the dead after four days, the fish again, 153 fish. He told Peter to throw the net over on the other side, and he caught 153 fish. These are real miracles that have messages in them.

- H. *Other miracles in the Gospels*: Miracles done by the apostles and the 70 (Mt. 10:8; Lk. 10:17-20).
- I. *Miracles associated with Peter*: Peter healed a man who had been crippled from birth (Acts 3:2-11), Aeneas who had been bedridden for 8 years (Acts 9:34), and he raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36-42). He spoke to Ananias and Sapphira who were struck dead for lying (Acts 5:1-10). He and other apostles were delivered by an angel who opened the prison door (Acts 5:17-20), and later he was again supernaturally delivered from prison (Acts 12:1-11).

Miracles associated with Peter: I am going to mention here the two times he was in prison, at the end of the list here. He was in prison twice, and an angel appeared and opened the door. At the very end, he was in prison in Rome, and he died. So you never know if you are in prison, "Is this the day? Is it not the day?" The Lord says he will do this. We have stories of believers in the underground church in China where prison doors have opened by angelic intervention.

J. *Miracles associated with Paul*: Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus—he was later healed of blindness (Acts 9:3-18). He spoke words of judgment to a sorcerer named Bar-Jesus who then was struck blind (Acts 13:6-11). He healed a man who was born crippled in Lystra (Acts 14:8-10). In Philippi, he cast a demon out of a slave girl (Acts 16:18). Paul and Silas were miraculously set free from prison in Philippi (Acts 16:22-40). He did unusual miracles even praying over handkerchiefs that were used in healing the sick (Acts 19:11-12). He raised Eutychus from the dead after he fell out a window (Acts 20:9-12). While in Malta, Paul was personally healed of a viper's bite (Acts 28:3-6), and he healed the father of Publius (Acts 28:8-9).

I am just going to put out a few more of these. Miracles with Paul—they are amazing. I love these. When Jesus appeared to Paul—remember Paul was intense in his zeal to injure the Church with violence and death and imprisonment. He was enemy number one against the Church. In today's world he would be called a terrorist. He was killing and imprisoning every Christian he could, and the Lord appeared to him. The stories we have heard from multitudes of Muslims now is that they say the "Man in white" appears to them in a dream. The stories are being told over and over and over again. The "Man in white" is what many of them say. As the Lord appeared to what we would call a terrorist today and called him to Himself, that means the most hardened person can be turned in one moment. The miracle in Paul's life is a picture of that, and I believe we are going to see that. There are some of these top gang leaders. These top gang leaders are one category; terrorist leaders are two, and some of these will be young apostles and prophets who are one revelation away from changing over to the kingdom of God. They have incredible leadership gifts, and the Lord has prepared a lot of them. When He shifts them over, they will do damage to the kingdom of darkness. I do not care who that guy is. He is one spiritual dream away from stepping over the line.

Paul did so many miracles. I will go right in the middle of the list here: he prayed over handkerchiefs, and they would take the handkerchiefs and go lay them on some demonized person, and the demon would come out. This stuff is going to happen again.

K. *Other miracles highlighted in the book of Acts*: The apostles did many miracles (Acts 5:12-16). Stephen did great miracles (Acts 6:8). Philip cast demons out of people; many were healed (Acts 8:6-7, 13). Philip was transported to Azotus after sharing with an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:39).

Other miracles in Acts. Stephen who was a deacon. Philip was another deacon, and he was translated twenty or thirty miles down the road. He preached to the Ethiopian eunuch, and then he was picked up and translated about twenty-five or thirty miles away and preached to someone else. This is going to happen again.

L. *Miracles through Moses in Egypt*: Aaron's rod changed (Ex. 7:10-12); waters turned to blood (Ex. 7:20-25), multiplication of frogs (Ex. 8:5-14), lice (Ex. 8:16-18), flies (Ex. 8:20-24); disease on cattle (Ex. 9:3-6), boils (Ex. 9:11) and locust (Ex. 10:3-15), the release of thunder, hail, and fire (Ex. 9:23-24) and darkness (Ex. 10:21-23), and death of the first-born (Ex. 12:29-30) and the splitting the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21-31).

I really like the Moses stuff. Well, I like the Jesus stuff. I like it all. This is documented because the Moses story is a template. It is not the complete template. It is part of the template and the book of Acts and the Gospels are the other part of the template of where the end-time Church is going. Water turned into blood.

In other words, in terms of opposing Pharaoh, there is an end-time pharaoh, and he is called the Antichrist. There is an end-time pharaoh who is going to be confronted with the end-time ten plagues of Egypt. Those are found in the book of Revelation. You will find that many of the judgments in the book of Revelation are parallel to the ten plagues of Egypt. It is the Moses story told again. It is meant to be parallel. When you read the ten plagues and you read the seven trumpets and the seven bowls, you say, "Wait! Many of these are similar." The Lord might say that is why they sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb around the throne. It is the Moses story done on the global level, not on a local level, just in Egypt.

There are plagues, and this is to stop and hinder the resources of Pharaoh, which in the end-time scenario means hinder the resources of the Antichrist. There is multiplication of frogs, and I do not want to be near that. There are flies and flies and boils, and I do not want to be anywhere near that. I just want to pray and release it and stop the Antichrist's resources.

Look at the splitting of the Red Sea. There are a number of passages like in Isaiah 11:15 that the bodies of water are going to be split again. We will have that on the expanded notes that I will have on the internet soon. Several times bodies of water like the Jordan River were divided. It is also the Euphrates River and the Gulf of Suez or the Gulf of Egypt that are going to be hit by the Lord again like the Red Sea was and are going to be split. The Lord says, in effect, "I am going to do it all again. You wait and see. I am going to do it again and way more."

M. *Miracles while Israel was in the wilderness*: bitter waters were healed (Ex. 15:23-25), bread came from heaven (Ex. 16:14-15), water flowed from a rock (Ex. 17:6; Num 20:11), Nadab and Abihu were stuck dead (Lev. 10:1-2), fire burned some who complained against God (Num. 11:1-2) and others who rebelled (Num. 16:35), the ground swallowed those in Korah's rebellion (Num. 16:31-34); serpents bit those who spoke against God. (Num. 21:5), those who looked to the bronze serpent were healed (Num. 21:9); Aaron's rod budded (Num. 17:8); Balaam's donkey spoke (Num. 22:28).

Miracles in the wilderness: Bitter water turned sweet, and we want bitter water healed. That is fantastic. Bread coming from the sky, that is good too. Water coming from a rock: so there is fresh water coming from a rock where there is no water, and there is bitter water that is healed. There are all kinds of things. With Balaam and Balaam's donkey speaking at the very end here.

N. *Miracles after Israel entered the Promised Land*: The Jordan River divided (Josh. 3:16); the walls of Jericho fell down (Josh. 6:20); Joshua commanded the sun to stand still (Josh. 10:12-13); the Spirit strengthened Samson, and he killed 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey (Judg. 15:14-15); water flowed from a rock to revive Samson (Judg. 15:18-19); he pushed down the pillars of the temple of Dagon at Gaza (Judg. 17:30); the idol of Dagon fell before the ark twice in Ashdod (1 Sam. 5:3-4); the Philistines were killed before the ark (1 Sam. 5:3-4); God stuck the Philistines with tumors in Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron (1 Sam. 5:6-12), and killed Philistines for looking into the ark (1 Sam. 6:19); God sent thunder that caused the Philistine army to panic leading to Israel defeating them (1 Sam. 7:10-12); Samuel called on God to send thunder and rain to confirm his message (1 Sam. 12:17-18).

The Jordan River divides. When we get the whole list, I want to add up how many times rivers were divided in history. I do not have all the numbers yet. I want how many times food was multiplied, how many times water was healed or supernaturally released where there was no water. It happens quite a number of times.

O. *Miracles associated with Elijah*: Elijah's prayers led to food being multiplied for the widow of Zarephath (1 Kgs. 17:12-16) and her son being raised from the dead (1 Kgs. 17:20-23), and fire from heaven consuming the sacrifice at Mount Carmel (1 Kgs. 18:36-38), the beginning of a 3½ year drought, and its end by a heavy rain (1 Kgs. 18:42-45; Jas. 5:17), and fire from heaven killing 50 of Ahaziah's soldiers on two occasions (2 Kgs. 1:9-12) and dividing the Jordan River so he and Elisha crossed on dry ground (2 Kgs. 2:8); Elijah outran Ahab's chariot (1 Kgs. 18:46).

Miracles associated with Elijah are fantastic. I love these stories. Elijah multiplies food again. He raises someone from the dead. Fire comes down on the false prophets. A drought is caused. The rains come by his word. The Jordan River is split again. This is a strange one. Elijah has been praying for the rain, and the Spirit of God comes on him so he outruns King Ahab in his chariot. I am like, what? How did that get in the Book? The Lord would say, "You just wait and see." A little bit of that is going to happen. Hmmm, wow, I wonder how? When? Why? Where?

P. *Miracles associated with Elisha*: Elisha's prayer led to dividing the Jordan River (2 Kgs. 2:14), healing the bitter waters at Jericho (2 Kgs. 2:19-22), water being supernaturally provided for Jehoshaphat's army in Moab (2 Kgs. 3:14-20), the multiplication of a widow's oil (2 Kgs. 4:1-7), raising the Shunammite's son from the dead (2 Kgs. 4:32-35), healing of a poisonous stew (2 Kgs. 4:38-41), the multiplication of 20 loaves of bread to feed 100 men (2 Kgs. 4:42-44), the healing of Naaman's leprosy (2 Kgs. 5:9-14), striking Gehazi with leprosy (2 Kgs. 5:25-27), causing an iron axe head to float in the Jordan River (2 Kgs. 6:5-6), and the Syrian army being struck with blindness (2 Kgs. 6:14-18); Elisha's bones revived a dead man (2 Kgs. 13:20-21).

Now Elisha. He divides the river again. Elisha healed bitter waters again. With Elisha, supernatural water was provided. Oil was multiplied. The dead were raised again. Stew that was poisonous was healed and made edible. Loaves of bread multiply again. Here is one—an iron ax head falls into the river but it floats to the top. They needed it in order to fulfill what God had told them to do. Oh no, the equipment broke! Watch this. The ax came to the surface again.

The enemy army is attacking, and they are struck blind—all of them in one moment. This is strange! Well, they all are.

Elisha's bones—they take a corpse and put it in a grave where Elisha was buried, and the guy wakes up. He gets raised from the dead. What? How did that get on the list?

Q. *Miracles after kings were established in Israel*: Uzzah was struck dead for touching the ark (2 Sam. 6:7). Jeroboam's hand withered and then was healed at Bethel (1 Kgs. 13:4-6); On one night 185,000 Assyrian soldiers under Sennacherib were killed by an angel (2 Kgs. 19:35-36); Isaiah's prayer affected the sun—the shadow of the sun went back 10 degrees on a sundial (2 Kgs. 20:8-11); King Uzziah was struck with leprosy for violating God's law related to burning incense on the altar of incense (2 Chr. 26:16-21); Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were delivered from a fiery furnace in Babylon (Dan. 3:19-30); Daniel was delivered from the lion's den in Babylon (Dan. 6:18-23); Jonah was delivered out of the belly of a whale after three days (Jonah 2:1-10).

185,000 Assyrians were killed in one night by an angel. There may be massive armies and battalions that are ready for battle, and they might all die in one night. That has happened several times in the Old Testament. Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, and the lion's den.

V. MIRACLES PERFORMED BY SATAN IN THE LAST DAYS

A. We have confidence because "Jesus is a much better leader than Satan is a deceiver."

I want to be clear—and you can read this on your own—Satan will have miracles. I want to say this. The reason I am putting this in here is that a lot of folks think well, the miracles... No, the miracles are critical. Satan is going to have miracles that are so convincing to many, many people.

The Lord is a much better leader than Satan is a deceiver. Satan has counterfeit miracles, so read them on your own. The Lord is not leaving the Church in a vacuum. I know some folks—and I say this with a heart of honor and tenderness—are Cessationists. They believe miracles have passed away. Some of them that I have talked with double-down on this. They love Jesus, and so I am sure the Lord will fix it, but they are so into the belief that there are no miracles except for demonic ones. Any time there is a miracle, their conclusion is that it has to be demonic. I am sure the Lord will shift that when they get a dream to pray for one of their children who is sick

and the child gets healed. Oh well, there you go! I guess miracles do work today. There is quite an emphasis on demonic miracles that is happening, but the real miracles will be more powerful.

- B. Satan will perform miracles as a major part of his plan to deceive people in the generation the Lord returns. Jesus warned us more about deception than persecution or tribulation (Mt. 24:4, 5, 11, 24).

 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many...²⁴ False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Mt. 24:11, 24)
- C. Signs and wonders are not a sure sign of God's activity, since they are performed by false prophets.

 9 The coming of the lawless one [the Antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (2 Thes. 2:9-10)

 13 He [the False Prophet] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven... 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image...should both speak and cause as many as would not worship [the Antichrist] to be killed. (Rev. 13:13-15)

 13 I saw three unclean spirits... 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth... to gather them to the battle of that great day of God... (Rev. 16:13-14)
- D. God's people will discern spirits operating in false miracles and messages (1 Jn. 4:1). Some Cessationists only see the demonic miracles in the future, so they dismiss all miracles as demonic.

 ¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits...because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist. (1 Jn. 4:1-3)

God's people will be able to discern between the two. It will not be confusing. There are very, very simple principles in John. We will talk about that at another time. Some people think, "Oh, I will be confused." No, if they will say Jesus is Lord, and they honor the written Word of God, and when they stumble and are disobedient they rise up and repent, if they are living in a spirit of obedience which means if they sin they attack it and they war against it and honor the written Word of God, they declare and worship Jesus as Lord, and they are in godly fellowship, the youngest believer can prevail without being deceived. It is not complicated to do it.

If you live in a spirit of disobedience, and you do not believe the Word of God is the final authority of faith and practice, if you do not say Jesus is Lord, that He is one of the top leaders, but not the Lord, then you are vulnerable to a whole lot of deception.

3...no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:3)

VI. THE END-TIME MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A. I see the book of Revelation as the "end-time Book of Acts." It is the acts of the Spirit released through by Jesus in partnership with His praying Bride. The book of Revelation is a canonized prayer manual that equips the Church to partner with Jesus in confronting Satan's authority.

I see the most dramatic miracles in human history as still yet in the future and I see the book of Revelation—I call it the end-time book of Acts—I see the book of Revelation—the miracles of Exodus and the miracles of the

book of Acts combined and multiplied on a global level—I see the book of Revelation **not** just as the end-time book of Acts. The judgments are **against the Antichrist**. They are against the end-time Pharaoh. These are the judgments like when Pharaoh and his resources were destroyed by the plagues of Egypt and the believers were rejoicing, "Wow, God is on our side. God is helping us."

In the book of Revelation, the negative is mostly about the destruction of the antichrist empire. You should not read the book of Revelation and think, "Oh no!" You look at the book of Revelation and say, "The end-time book of Acts. This is amazing." This far out-does what Moses did. I call it also a "canonized" prayer manual. What do I mean by that? When the second trumpet happens, and there are a billion saints on the earth, guess what always comes after the second trumpet? The third one. A billion saints will know what the next judgment against the Antichrist will be. What happens after the third trumpet? A billion people know number four comes after number three. They are all praying and releasing it. Then number five comes after number four. It is a canonized prayer manual, canonized meaning inspired scripture. We know ahead of time, not all of the things God is doing against the Antichrist, but some of the key ones and the saints will be engaged in prayer.

B. As Moses released God's plagues on Egypt through prayer, and as the apostles released His power in the book of Acts through prayer, so the Tribulation judgments will be released by Jesus in partnership with His praying Bride (Rev. 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 10:6; 14:18; 16:7; 19:2).

³Another angel...should offer it with the <u>prayers of all the saints</u>...⁴The smoke of the incense, with the <u>prayers of the saints</u>, ascended before God...⁵The angel took the censer...with <u>fire</u> from the altar, and threw it to the earth. (Rev. 8:3-5)

You can read this on your own. In Revelation 8, an angel has incense up in heaven—heavenly incense—and the prayer of the saints are arising from the earth, and he is combining the heavenly incense with the prayer of the saints on earth. The angel throws fire down when the prayer of the saints ascend. The prayers of the saints in the end-time Church are arising from the earth to heaven, and they are connected to the angel throwing fire against Satan's works and the kingdom of darkness.

C. The end-time judgments are written by the OT prophets, but Revelation gives the most detail.

⁶Let the <u>high praises</u> of God be in their mouth... ⁷to execute vengeance on the nations... ⁹to <u>execute on them the written judgment</u>—This honor have all His saints. (Ps. 149:6-9)

Psalm 149, with the high praises of God—or call it prayer and worship—God is going to execute vengeance on the Antichrist's empire and on the nations that are following his leadership. What vengeance is going to be released? Verse 9, they are going to execute the vengeance that is written down in the Word of God. It is in Isaiah. It is in Exodus with Moses. It is in the book of Acts. It is the book of Revelation. The judgments are already written and the praying, worshipping saints will be releasing these, Psalm 149. This is the earthly side of what we just read in Revelation 8. That is the heavenly side. The prayers of the Church, the prayers of the saints crying out, the prayers of Jesus, and the holy incense of heaven, the heavenly incense, mix together with the prayers of the martyrs under the altar in Revelation 6; all come together, and the fire is released against the Antichrist's kingdom.

D. Jesus' end-time judgments against the Antichrist's kingdom will include the 3 numbered judgment series—the 7 seals (Rev. 6), the 7 trumpets (Rev. 8:9), and the 7 bowls of wrath (Rev. 16).

We have these twenty-one different judgments, against the Harlot Babylon, particularly the seven seals, and then against the Antichrist's resources and the Harlot Babylon.

1st seal: white horse—Antichrist's political aggression (6:1-2) 2nd seal: red horse—bloodshed and final world war (6:3-4) 3rd seal: black horse—famine and economic crisis (6:5-6) 4th sea: pale horse—1/4 of humanity is killed (6:7-8) 5th seal: prayer is strengthened by the martyrs (6:9-11) 6th seal: cosmic disturbances and God's glory (6:12-17) 7th seal: prayer is strengthened by the angels (8:1-6)

1st trumpet: 1/3 of the earth's vegetation is burned (fire and hail 8:7) 2nd trumpet: 1/3 of the sea turns to blood (mountain of fire 8:8-9)

3rd trumpet: 1/3 of the water becomes bitter (star burning like a torch 8:10-11)

4th trumpet: 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened (8:12)

5th trumpet: demonic locusts from pit that torment for 5 months (9:1-12)

6th trumpet: 200 million demonic horsemen kill 1/3 of humanity (4 angels at Euphrates; 9:13-21)

7th trumpet: the rapture and the return of Jesus (11:15-19)

Look at some of these in the trumpets. The vegetation is burned. Again, this is the vegetation that is a resource to the Antichrist. The sea turns to blood, and that hinders his navigation and military moving and goods moving. The water becomes bitter. Saints are going to be causing bitter water to become clean and clean water to become bitter through the prayers of the saints together under Jesus' leadership. The sun and the moon are impacted. There are demonic locusts.

1st bowl: loathsome sores on the Antichrist worshippers (16:1-2)

2nd bowl: the sea turns to blood killing all sea life (16:3)

3rd bowl: the earth's fresh water turns to blood (16:4-7)

4th bowl: men are scorched with great heat by the sun (16:8-9)

5th bowl: darkness with pain on the Antichrist's empire (16:10-11)

6th bowl: Euphrates dried up to deceive the kings to come to Armageddon (16:12-16)

7th bowl: earthquake, hail, and the final fall of Babylon (16:17-21)

Let's look down at the bowls. Sores come upon Antichrist worshippers. The sea turns to blood again like Moses did. The water turns to blood like with Moses. There is scorching heat and pain on the Antichrist's empire, etc.

My point is this: we have this glorious leader. His name is Jesus. He would say, "I have a plan, and it is already written in the Book. The judgments that are already written will be executed against the end-time Pharaoh which is the Antichrist. My Church is going to be a mature Bride. My Church is going to be in a unity of the measure of the stature that expresses the fullness of Christ."

Jesus said that if you walk in this union of John 14—where we started—the very first thing He said is that you will be doing greater works than He did. You wait and see. There is a "greater works" season coming. A little here and there will happen through history. You don't wait until the end, but they are going to become far more prevalent in one season of history—I am using the phrase from Luke 17:26—in the days of the Son of Man. When it is His day, the whole earth will be in conversation about this Man releasing this power. Many will hate Him. Many more will love Him. "In the days of the Son of Man:" that is what it is going to be like in the generation the Lord returns.

Well, amen and amen. That is what you call rapid fire. I taught rapid fire tonight, but I love it. Let's stand before the Lord. Let's ask Him for miracles **now** because we are not waiting for "the big bang theory," like "Let's just wait and sit on our hands and then one day there will be miracles." No, there are miracles happening right now. They are increasing all over the earth. They are not as rapid as we want, but a lot faster than they were before. I tell you that for sure.

Father, here we are before You. Lord, we say we believe the Word of God. We ask for the Holy Spirit to help us. Help us. My mind cannot grab this, Holy Spirit. Teach me. Help me. John 14:16, 26—help me get this. Help me see the future through Your lens so our hearts are not troubled. We do not have to be troubled. The future is in Your hands, Lord.

I want to ask anybody here who is sick in your body and you would like prayer to raise your hand. Anyone, just anyone who is sick in your body. Keep your hand up high. I want the other folks around to turn around, and I am going to pray, and you are going to pray too. You do not have to pray really loudly. You don't even have to say a lot. It is the power of the Holy Spirit. Feel free to walk away from your seat, if somebody is ten feet away; just go ahead and walk over there. I tease and say that there is no railing on the aisle. This is a big living room. Just walk across the room and, if someone has their hand up, just lay your hand on them.

Father, I ask in the name of Jesus for miracles tonight, right now. I ask for miracles tonight. I speak to their body. Fire. Let the fire of the Holy Spirit touch them right now. Father, we want to be in that conversation with You. Greater works than these miracles, even now we want to see them. We want more of them now in this hour. Tonight, tonight, tonight, Lord. We love Your Word, Jesus. We want to believe in You like You say in John 14. We want to believe in You this way, Lord. Father, release Your creative power.

I speak against the sickness in people's bodies right now, and I say in the name of Jesus, miracles! Lord, we ask You tonight as our hearts are even stirred about Your leadership with miracles. Tonight, Lord. I ask for an increase in the prophetic spirit tonight. I ask for dreams and visions to rest on this community and on those who are visiting when they go back home, for an open heaven where dreams increase in the next weeks. You said all flesh. Every believer will prophesy. Release the spirit of grace and the spirit of power across this room.

We do not have to try to make anything happen. It is our weak hands and our weak words. All we need to say is what He says and trust Him. He does what He wants, when He wants, and how He wants, but He wants our hands to be laid on people, and He wants us to at least whisper the words. At least say, "In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus." Power. Fire. Fire. Power. Touch their bodies. Our weak words and our weak hands and Your power tonight.

Father, we ask for a spirit of revival to increase in this city and in this nation, on campuses, in the Middle East, in Israel, Lord. Release and increase in the spirit of revival on the saints. Holy Spirit, we recognize Your presence. Testify of Jesus and His glory tonight. Father, reveal Your nature tonight. Surprise us tonight with Your glory.

See my updated handout with many passages in the OT prophets indicating miracles in the end times.