

I. GOD IS ORCHESTRATING THE EVENTS IN THE END TIMES SO THAT THE GREAT HARVEST COMES FORTH AND THE CHURCH IS PURIFIED (MAL. 4:5)

NKJ Joel 2:11 For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?

- A. The great Day of the Lord refers to the unusual events (positive and negative) that will escalate in the final 3½ years before Jesus returns. *The Day of the Lord will be a great Day* to those who call on Jesus' name because they will experience the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history (Joel 2:28-32).
- B. *It will be a very terrible Day* to the rebellious who will witness the most severe outpouring of God's judgments ever seen (Rev. 6-20).

II. THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BE A GREAT DAY.

- A. We will be experiencing the greatest revival the world has ever seen. (Eph. 4:13; 5:26-27; Mt. 16:18; Jn. 17:21-26; Acts 2:17-21; Rev. 7:9; 12:11; 15:2; 19:7-8; 22:17).
- B. Great Ingathering of souls with possibly be over 1 billion (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 5:9; 7:9, 14; 14:6).
- C. The salvation of Israel (Rom. 11:12-15, 25-26).
- D. The worship & prayer movement in maturity and operating in great authority (Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 21:13; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 22:17; Is. 62:6-7; 25:9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; Joel 2:12-17).
- E. God will manifest His provision like He did in the Exodus (Mic. 7:15)
- F. Jesus will return and establish his Kingdom on the earth (Rev. 19:11-21; Zech. 14; 1 Thes. 4-5; Matt. 24; Lk. 21; Mk. 13).
- G. Satan will be thrown into "prison" for 1000-years (Rev. 20:1-3).
- H. Heaven and earth will be joined together (Rev. 21:1-3; Eph. 1:9-10).

III. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS ALSO A VERY TERRIBLE DAY.

- A. The great harvest is both positive and negative (Matt. 3:12). The Great Tribulation will be the most severe time of pressure in all of history. (Matt 24:21; 2 Tim 3:1-5).
- B. Scriptures warn us ahead of time, so that we can watch and pray (Rev. 6:8; Gen. 11; Rev. 17-18; 14:8; 18:2)
- C. In the Great Tribulation, pressure will come from four sources. The wrath of God, the rage of satan, the actions of evil people, and the convulsions in nature.
 - 1. God's purpose in allowing the Great Tribulation is to purify His people through affliction (Dan 11:35; 12:10), aid in the great Ingathering of souls, vindicate the saints, expose false believers within the Church, and demonstrate God's power in protecting His people (Rom. 9:17). It also expresses God's justice in punishing sin (2 Thes. 1:6-10; Isa. 26:21), and purging the earth from sin (Isa. 24:4-6; Zech. 13:2).

2. The principle of judgment: God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will in training the rulers of the earth.

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RESTORING AN APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

- A. God is preparing a Bride for Himself, and she will be pure and spotless (Eph. 5:27).
- B. When it starts to rain is not the time to start building an ark (Mt. 24:37). So what do we do now in light of events that will soon come upon the earth?

V. SOLEMN ASSEMBLIES (JOEL 2:12-17). E.G. HOUSES OF PRAYER

- A. In this passage, the Lord tells us what we are to do to receive His mercy and deliverance in a time of crisis.
- B. This is God's primary call to a people in crisis.

VI. THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF HOUSE CHURCHES IS BEING RESTORED.

- A. Believers are gathering together not only in big congregations (temple courts, synagogues, lecture halls), but also as small groups in their homes to build each other up in Christ and to be witnesses to the world (Acts 2:42-46; 5:42; 8:3; 12:12; 16:40; 20:20; Romans 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Philem. 2).

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart (Acts 2:46).

Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ (Romans 16:5).

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house (1 Cor. 16:19)

Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house (Col. 4:15 15).

To the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house (Philemon 2).

- B. Our current "nets" cannot contain the harvest that is about to come (Lk. 5:10; John 21:11)
- C. Persecution will intensify tremendously before Jesus returns (John 15:20) and house churches are thriving in parts of the world where there is open persecution (2 Tim. 3:12; John 16:33; Heb. 10:25).

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching (Heb. 10:25).