

## ***Speak Boldly: Being a Faithful Witness***

For those of you just visiting us in the December 2008 One Thing Conference, I made a call for people to make a seven-fold commitment. We called it “the sacred charge,” as this is a commitment to intentionally and diligently prepare to operate in the forerunner ministry. This means being prepared to prepare others for the unique dynamics of the generation of the coming of the Lord. Even if His coming is many decades away, which I personally believe it is, we are being prepared to prepare others for these unique dynamics. I have been going through each of the commitments. Tonight, we are looking at one of them that we refer to as speaking boldly, or “being a faithful witness to the truth.” Of these seven commitments, this one is the most challenging and the most costly. All the other six are pretty dynamic challenges as well to our inner man.

### **JESUS IS THE FAITHFUL WITNESS (REVELATION 1:5; 3:14)**

Revelation 1:5: “From Jesus Christ, the faithful witness.” “Faithful witness” is the first title of Jesus in the book of Revelation. This title emphasized His prophetic teaching as a witness to the truth. He spoke the truth faithfully. He did not back down, and He did not overshoot it. He did not back down in fear, and He did not exaggerate it, or speak it in a wrong spirit. He was faithful in the speaking of it. He was precise not just in the content, but also the spirit in which He spoke and the timing in which He spoke truth. He was faithful in those dimensions. He would not back down; He actually was killed because He spoke the truth. It was not the miracles; it was the speaking of the truth that led to His death from the human point of view. There is the divine point of view, which is a much bigger and grander story. From the perspective of man, they killed Him because He would not back down. Therefore, He understands the dilemma that we now face. We are called to be faithful witnesses of the truth in every generation and not just the final decades leading to the coming of the Lord. We may not be in those final decades; we might be just a little before those final two, three, and four decades. Who knows? Nobody knows the day, or the hour. We are getting close enough where we need to start thinking of those unique dynamics. Even if it may be our children, or our children’s children who bring it to the full completion, meaning that they accomplish the purpose of God before He returns.

### **JESUS DID NOT HOLD BACK ON THE NEGATIVE OR EXAGGERATE THE POSITIVE**

Paragraph C. Jesus would not back down on the negative. He did not exaggerate the positive. The reason I say that—I do not mean to say this in a wrong way—is because I have done it plenty of times, but most of the preaching and prophesying today, at least that I am aware of, is almost all positive with a touch of flattery. It is exaggeration and flattery in the positive—not all preaching but lots of it is. A lot of guys who say, “I am prophetic,” only prophesy that which excites people. I think that most of what God is saying should focus on the positive, but there is the negative dimension that we have to be faithful to. That is an important part of the prophetic call.

### **WE ARE CALLED TO BE FAITHFUL WITNESSES TO THE TRUTH**

Roman numeral two. Paragraph B. A witness speaks what they have seen with firsthand knowledge. That is the definition of a witness. So we have to be people of the Word of God. We have to have firsthand knowledge. I do not mean to just know a Bible verse. We have to have personal insight. It needs to connect to our heart before we have firsthand knowledge of it. It is more than intellectual knowledge.

We need to be people of the Spirit because we speak what we see and not just an open vision. There are only a few who have open visions, though more of those things are happening. We cannot just speak from second

hand. It is good to speak what others teach you, but you are only a witness when you are actually speaking what you have seen with your own heart, or heard with your own ears.

### **WITNESSES SPEAK FROM FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT DRAWING BACK IN FEAR**

To be a faithful witness, we must first experience the witness part; you have to see it, and you have to encounter it. That is what we are doing now. We are intentionally spending a life in the Spirit and in the Word, so we really can be a witness, a voice, and not just an echo. There is another dimension: We have to be faithful. We do not draw back. We do not draw back; we say the whole truth that the Lord told us if in fact He wants us to tell the whole thing. Sometimes it is His wisdom to only tell part of it. We do not draw back because of fear; we draw back because of wisdom when there are times to draw back.

Paragraph C. The most difficult of the seven commitments of the sacred charge is this one because it affects our relationships. It affects our image, identity, and destiny in a really deep way. The way we are seen and the way people respond to us. If you get outside just the boundaries of telling people how good they are and how good things are going to be, if you touch outside of that, they start getting really nervous. They take it really personally.

### **BROTHER YUN SPEAKS OF THE UNJUST CRITICISM AND REJECTION**

Brother Yun, the Heavenly Man, who was in the Chinese underground church, went to prison, and suffered incredible persecutions and beatings. They broke his legs. Just the cruelty that he went through is amazing. He spent a day or two with us. He told us something quite remarkable. He said, “The criticism I receive as a witness of the truth actually hurts me more than the persecution I endured against my body.” When he said this, I said, “Surely this cannot be true.”

He says, “It is true. Since I have been out of prison, the pain that touches my heart because of the brethren—not unbelievers—but what the brethren say about me hurts me more. I feel more pain about this than what they did in prison when they beat my body.”

### **OUR WITNESS FOR TRUTH MUST BE CLEAR, BOLD, FEARLESS, AND TENDER**

Paragraph D. John claimed to be a faithful witness. He made that statement several times in the book of Revelation. He was in prison because John was a faithful witness—that was his testimony to the truth before he went to prison. John continued as a faithful witness by giving the message of the book of Revelation. We receive the book of Revelation because we say, “Hey, it is in the Bible, what is the problem?” When John first received the message, it was not in the Bible yet. Can you imagine releasing that vision or series of visions? That is pretty intense. I do not mind quoting his vision particularly after it is in the Bible. This was an issue of him being a faithful witness not only the decades leading up to his imprisonment, but also John being faithful to the speaking of that message. Today, it is still a stigma to stand for the message of the book of Revelation. John might say, “You think it is hard for you? You have no idea what happened the first time I said that, and the response that I got.”

### **THE TWO GREAT PROPHETS WILL BE WITNESSES OF THE TRUTH (REVELATION 11:3-10)**

Paragraph F. The two witnesses are the two great prophets; there are two great prophets who are going to be raised up in the final three and a half years before the Lord returns in Revelation 11. It is interesting that they are called two prophets, but they are also called two witnesses. They will witness to the truth in a unique way.

There are many dynamics; we are going to look at seven different dimensions of witnessing to the truth but particularly in the generation of the Lord's return.

Most of these dynamics have been true in part for 2,000 years. Some of them have a unique expression related to the unique dynamics of the Lord's return. It is interesting: the Bible titles them as two witnesses. They are faithful witnesses. What they do gives us insight into some of the implications of being a witness to the truth. It is more than the truth of personal salvation. It certainly includes that. It goes beyond giving a witness of how somebody can receive the forgiveness of their sins and receive eternal life. The witness to the truth involves more than that. That is so dynamic; we never graduate from that glorious reality. The angels still sing when the message of salvation and forgiveness goes forth.

### **WE HAVE TO BE CLEAR, BOLD, TENDER, AND HUMBLE WITNESSES OF THE WORD OF GOD**

Paragraph H. Before we get started in the seven different expressions and purposes that are accomplished in being a faithful witness to the truth, I want to give five different ways that we speak the truth. Paragraph H. Number one: first, we have to be biblical to be a faithful witness; we have to stay in the boundaries of the written Word of God. A lot of folks in the prophetic, under the banner of prophetic, they say things that violate the Scripture. We have to honor that which is in the boundaries of Scripture. It is not enough to have a vision. The vision has to support the truths that are written in the Word of God.

Number two. Being a faithful witness has to be clear—without a political spin on it—it has to be straightforward and understandable. One might think, “Well, trouble is coming. I think it is mostly coming to the people you do not like you—that is where trouble is coming.” We might wrongly think, “Well, it might be coming to that guy also. It is not really going to touch you, but it is going to touch the really bad guys only.” That might be true, but the point is that a faithful witness needs to be clear and precise. It must be precise and not fuzzy.

### **BOLD, TENDER, AND HUMBLE WITNESSES**

Number three: we need to be bold. If we are going to be faithful, we cannot draw back with intimidation. That is a big temptation: to hedge in, draw back, and even to speak the message with timidity. That takes the anointing of the spirit to not be timid when we are actually speaking the truth that God is proud of. God is proud of His truth. He is not ashamed of it. It takes the power of God to be bold. This is part of being a faithful witness.

We have to be tender. When people treat you wrongly, or even those who are persecuted, they do not speak the message, “So there! God is going to get you back.” We speak it with tenderness—with no bitterness or anger. We are actually speaking it for the benefit of our enemies, not to get even with them, but to give them a chance to make a change. It takes a right spirit to be a faithful witness. Then, we have to speak it with humility—meaning some people build their ministry around just the uniqueness of being negative. It is their image. They want to be known, so they get a crowd. They build a ministry. Following around the negative, or the positive. The Lord does not want us giving testimony to the truth with an eye on building a crowd, ministry, or getting a large following going. He does not want us to argue the truth to win an argument.

As I have taught on the end times over the years, I have guys who want to debate the end times. I believe there is a place to go back and forth in friendly dialogue. I do not want the people in this ministry debating to win an argument. I want to be a faithful witness, leave the truth at the feet of Jesus, and before the hearts of the people—not to win an argument. Like leave the context thinking, “Boy, we got them.” I do not want to win

arguments. We want to give testimony in humility to truth, and let the truth stand where it stands. We are going to look at seven different purposes of this global witness of the kingdom.

### **THE SEVENFOLD GOSPEL WITNESS OF THE KINGDOM: SEVEN DISTINCT PURPOSES**

Roman numeral III. There is a sevenfold, global witness of the kingdom. Matthew 24:14: “The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come.” This witness involves much more than personal salvation. It is a full witness of the full kingdom. It is a complete witness to the truth about the full kingdom. This is what the Lord wants us to be prepared to do. It does not say, “The gospel of forgiveness,” though that is a critical beginning point. I do not want to minimize that. That is so exciting. That is one of the facets that the angels rejoice over every time the truth is communicated in that way. However, a witness of the kingdom is a bigger subject than the offer of forgiveness.

Before Jesus returns, there will be a witness of the kingdom—a complete witness of the full message of the kingdom—in every nation on the earth. There is going to be a tremendous revival of understanding for this to happen. Right now, the way I see it, is that so little is going forth in the earth in terms of a full witness. I do not understand the points of the full witness, even the points I have here, I do not understand them all. They are beckoning me to gain more understanding on each one of them. It is the full message of the kingdom. A king is coming to take over the earth. When He is resisted, He will take over the earth in context to a great conflict. That is part of the gospel of the kingdom. A King is coming to the earth to take it over. There are implications that are positive and negative, and there is a storyline. There is a dramatic unfolding of events that will happen that need to be witnessed to that is related to the King coming to take over the earth.

### **A COMPLETE WITNESS OF THE FULL GOSPEL AND PERSONAL SALVATION**

The preaching of the gospel of the kingdom is much more than the gospel of forgiveness. I call it the full gospel message. It is much more than tongues and healings. To a lot of people, “full gospel” means tongues and healings. It is a King coming to the earth, taking over, and confronting the negative with power and releasing power on the positive responses.

It is a glorious, full-orbed story. It must be witnessed to in every nation. The Lord will not come back until the whole story, the main parts of it, have been given a clear witness in every nation. That is what must happen before the Lord returns. The beginning of it is the message of forgiveness. That is where it begins. We are at the place now where the missions movements forecast that within the next five or ten years, every nation will have a witness of the gospel. This gospel that is preached is at least the gospel of forgiveness, not the gospel of the kingdom and all its full implications. The gospel that is preached is a testimony of how to be saved by the blood of Jesus. That introductory message, which is critical and is the foundation stone, is the beginning but not the completion.

The goal is not be forgiven. The goal is to be involved with the King forever. You have to be forgiven to be involved with Him. The message is not how to escape Hell. The message is a King is taking over the earth, and He wants you to be involved.

You say, “How can I be involved?”

“You have to be forgiven first and come under His leadership.”

“OK, I want to do it!”

That is the message of forgiveness. Now we are in the kingdom, and the kingdom message unfolds in its fullness.

### **PERSONAL SALVATION IS A GLORIOUS REALITY**

Paragraph C. The first dimension is personal salvation, which is a most glorious reality. Again as I said, the angels rejoice over this every time the truth goes forth and is received in this regard. It says in Revelation 7:9: “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”

It is as if John said to the angel, “Sir, where do these guys come from?”

The angel responds, “They came out of the Great Tribulation.” The great harvest in its fullness happens in context to the final three and a half years. The closer we get to revival breaking out; it is in itself a sign of the time that we are getting closer to the Lord’s return. No matter how good it gets between now and then, it will increase in power in the final three and a half years. Whatever is happening anywhere in the world, it will be far more dynamic in power when we come to those final three and a half years.

### **EXPOSING LIES THAT SEDUCE AND DECEIVE PEOPLE INTO ERROR**

The second purpose of giving a witness to the truth is to expose lies. This is a tough one—to expose lies. The saints are to expose lies that deceive and seduce people into error. 2 Peter 3:17, Peter said, “You know this beforehand.” In 2 Peter 3, Peter talked about the end times. He said in 2 Peter 3:17, “Since you know this beforehand, beware lest you fall from your steadfastness, being led away by error of the wicked.” When people believe err, they are led away from their steadfastness. Error really matters. Peter said when you buy into things that are error; you do lose your steadfastness. Revelation 2, Jesus honored the leaders at the church of Ephesus because they tested the false apostles, and they found them to be liars. In other words, they judged them and tested them; they did not bear the fruit of a true apostle.

### **BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS**

Paragraph E. We looked at this last night talking about the signs of a false prophets and the signs of cults because cults are going to increase in huge numbers as get closer to the Lord’s return. In Matthew 24:4-14, again we looked at this last night, but we will look at it again for just a moment. Jesus said, “Take heed that nobody deceive you. For many will come in My name saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many . . . Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many . . . This gospel . . . will be preached in all the world . . . then the end will come.”

Cults are going to be raised up with lots of people in them. Many are going to buy into the false thing. Matthew 24:11: “Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” There it goes again. Many will respond to them. Verse 14: “This gospel . . . will be preached in all the world . . . then the end will come.” The gospel will be preached in all the world. The idea is that as the truth accelerates, the light accelerates, and the false message will also accelerate.

There will be a large increase in the number of cults, and a large increase of the number of people in those cults. The faithful witnesses to the truth must expose these lies. That is not fun to do that because people really get mad when you expose lies among people who name the name of Jesus. That is what makes them a cult. If they do not name the name of Jesus, they are just a false religion. If they name the name of Jesus, saying they are Christian, that is the definition of a cult. They claim to honor the written Word of God.

### **CULTURE OF HONOR: WE BLESS BUDDING VIRTUES REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES**

Paragraph F. Now lest we get trigger happy, there are not many who will, but there is always that one guy who hears a message like this and gets so excited. I call this one guy the bold Rambo guy. They get trigger-happy, and it is a tension. It is very important that we say the other side of this exhortation to expose error. We need to expose it with tenderness and with tears—not with a “so there” spirit, or “how about that.” Or, that is what you get for what you said to me two years ago. There is no vindictiveness. There are tears and tenderness in the exposing of error.

### **TEARS AND TENDERNESS WHEN EXPOSING LIES**

When a man is exposing a person’s error, and they do not have tenderness, then it is in a wrong spirit and probably the information is wrong too. I have seen people expose error with tenderness, and it is beautiful. It does not mean the guy exposing the error is completely right, but there is a much greater chance they are right when there is tenderness and tears in it. The tension is in the Body of Christ; our general attitude is we bless the members of the Body of Christ.

We look at the budding virtues in other ministries meaning virtues are not mature yet. Like our own life and ministries, we have virtues that are not yet mature. We care about them, meaning we want to grow in them. The Lord wants us to see the budding virtues in other ministries, bless those other ministries, and call them forth—not criticizing them. Every ministry has deficiencies. No ministry has all the instruments in the symphony. Some ministries are real good at this, but not so good at that. Everyone has deficiencies, and we all have differences.

The Lord says, “You bless, regardless of deficiencies and differences. Bless them. Do not criticize them.” One of our family values at IHOP-KC, we do not allow anybody to criticize any ministries. If they do, they have to acknowledge it and repent. This is something we have held our leaders to. We really care about this. “Look, that ministry does not do this and that.” They have deficiencies, no problem, so do we.

We do not argue over differences in ministry style, focus, etc. John 7:24: “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” There is a time to bring righteous judgment to ministries that have destructive doctrines and destructive behavior. That is different than deficiencies and differences, rather this is destructive doctrines and behaviors. We have to expose them if we are connected to them in any way.

### **RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT**

We have to expose them in the right way and with a right spirit. Jesus talked about in John 7:24: “Do not judge according to appearance, but give righteous judgment.” The righteous judgment was that Jesus was right, and the religious leaders were wrong. That was a righteous judgment. The carpenter with no ministry résumé was the right judge, and the guys with all the résumé were the wrong ones. That was righteous judgment.

## **HERESIES, DECEPTIONS, AND ERRORS**

Paragraph H. This is just my use of the words. There are three words I use. I am not making these biblical definitions because you can argue depending what translation of the Bible you use; you can use these words differently. This is what I use for my own grid when I think of exposing people. There are heresies, deceptions, and errors. Again, this is not a theological definition, but three categories in my thinking.

Heresies are denying the deity of Jesus etc. Heresies keep somebody from being saved. They are really serious. Deceptions, they are not as serious as heresies. They keep us from fellowshiping with God, or other believers in the full way God ordained. They have to be addressed. Deceptions hinder the fellowship of ministries of the larger Body of Christ. Then, there are errors. Errors keep us from the full understanding of God's ways. Everybody has errors. They are the secondary issues of the kingdom.

I have never met a person who has every single point right. The good guys baptized Jesus this way and that way. The good guys take communion this way and that way. The good guys believe once you are saved, you are always saved, or once saved, you can be lost. There are good guys on all those spectrums. We have to, in the place of error, we have to bless one another. Our response is that we refuse to expose heresies in the right way and in the right spirit.

We refuse to fellowship with people who preach heresy. That does not mean we are not kind to them. It does not mean that we do not try to win them, but the Bible makes it clear that we refuse to fellowship with them. Meaning we do not sit around the table with a common understanding where they think that we think we are serving the same God. We can meet around the table, have a kind spirit, but we are not at the table with the presupposition that we are serving the same God. We do not talk like we are on the same journey. We are not on the same journey. We will be kind to you, we will serve you, and we will try to lead you to the Lord.

We do not fellowship with you in that sense of what the word fellowship means from a biblical point of view. We can confront those in deception, and we give grace and patience to those who are in error. Everybody has error. There might be one guy who does not. I have not met him yet, certainly not anyone in this room that I know of. We expose errors.

## **PROPHETIC INVITATION AND WARNINGS**

Number three. As faithful witnesses, we announce the prophetic invitations and the prophetic warnings of what is coming just around the corner. We announce what is coming. This announcing to the people who receive it, it is an invitation. To the people who refuse it, it is a warning. We announce what is coming, as a prophetic announcement. A revival is coming. The goodness of God is breaking in. God will confront all resistance to His goodness. It is the same message actually. The message of judgment and the message of the love of God are two sides of the coin of the same message. God says, "I am going to offer My love and to those that oppose My love and oppose the people who are ambassadors of My love. I offer My love, but I am going to confront them."

## **UNDERSTANDING JUDGMENTS: HELPING PEOPLE OVERCOME OFFENSE AND ANGER**

The judgment message is actually the other side of the coin of the love message. It is the same reality. As the prophetic announcement of what is coming next goes forth, the saints are rallied, and the saints are prepared. The very same truths that warn the unrighteous of deception are the very truths that warn the unrighteous that judgment is coming. The reason the unrighteous are warned, one of the reasons is so they can avoid the deception and the judgment.

God says, “You have to speak the judgment. I want to warn them. Do not get so into being positive and being self-protecting of your own ministry reputation. I want to warn them. It is important that somebody tells them.”

Our response to God, “Well, I want to keep it positive.”

God responds, “Well, it is not entirely positive because they are resisting me. You must warn them of deception and coming judgment so they have a chance to accept the positive.”

### **GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PROPHETS—HIS FRIENDS**

Amos 3:7: “The Lord does nothing unless He reveals it to His prophets.” Everything the Lord does, He does in justice. He warns us by telling the prophets, and the prophets tell the people ahead of time. Even if the wicked refuse it, He wants to give them a just warning. Everything He does, even His dealing with the Devil, He does in perfect justice. Even in His dealing with the wicked, God says, “I will not do anything unless I tell the prophets first.” The implication is, “And the prophets announce it to warn people.” It is announced to those who have good and bad responses. Everybody needs to hear it for the sake of justice.

Ezekiel 33: this is for the folks who do not want to say anything negative. The faithful witness needs to say both the positive and negative of what is coming. Ezekiel 33:3-5: “When he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life That is the good and the bad of a guy who is faithful to tell the message.”

It is as if Ezekiel basically says, “O messenger, if you draw back in a political spirit, and you want to save your reputation and make your ministry look really sweet so everyone will applaud you, you should think twice. Consider this in Ezekiel 33:8: ‘When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.” God warns what will happen if you do not warn the wicked. The implication is God wanted to tell the wicked man but through the voice of the prophet, but the prophet would not say anything. The wicked man does not even know the message is being given.

God says, “Prophet, or faithful witness, you must talk.”

We say, “But God, give the wicked guy a dream.”

God might respond, “No, I am telling the wicked man through your lips.”

We respond, “Tell him through somebody else’s lips.”

But God says, “I want the wicked man to be warned.”

We think, “He is not going to listen anyways.”

God might respond, “He has to be warned because it is injustice on my part, if he is judged and not warned. I want my servants to stand with me in truth.” The idea is, “When we talk about this on the last day, his blood will be on your hands, O prophet of God.”

You want to be a preacher? The Lord is looking for faithful friends. He is looking for men and women who are not looking to build their ministry and get a following. They are trying to be faithful to His heart and to truth. He says, “I need a witness in all the nations of the full message of what I am doing.”

The number four purpose of a faithful witness in all the nations is to bring understanding of God’s judgment before they happen. This is critical. It is not only the fact of God’s judgment. That is what we just covered. It is not the fact of a great revival coming. It is more than the announcing of what is coming in the future—both positive and negative. The Lord wants His messengers to make sense of the message of judgment. Because, if people understand the message, they can make sense that Jesus is not contradicting love. He is removing everything that hinders love by His judgment. He is not contradicting love. He is actually working for love. When people understand that, then they overcome the offense, and the anger that they will have towards Jesus.

### **BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO IS NOT OFFENDED BECAUSE OF ME**

As Jesus’ judgments increase, there will be significant anger inside the Church at Jesus. There will be times when the Church will be binding the Devil, yet Jesus is the One trying to wake a nation up. I tell you, you cannot bind Jesus in the name of Jesus saying, “In the name of Jesus, I bind you.” He is leaning on the door saying, “You are not opening that door until I open it.” There are times the Devil is involved, and we bind the Devil in the name of Jesus. However, one day we will announce the judgments of Jesus. There will be offense in the Church—not just in the nations.

### **UNDERSTANDING GOD’S JUDGMENTS**

Jesus told the followers of John the Baptist, He said in Matthew 11:6: “Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” What they did not know was that Jesus knew that John the Baptist was going to die and not be spared. When the disciples of John the Baptist came, Jesus told them who He was. It is as if Jesus said, “I have a message for you personally, do not be offended, and do not be angry at Me.”

They were thinking, “Do not be angry at you? Why would we be angry with you?”

Jesus answers, “You will see in a short amount of time. John the Baptist has died.”

They respond, “Wait, if that man from Nazareth was God, why did He not save John the Baptist?” There you have it. Jesus says, “Do not be offended at me.” That is a very important point. I believe that many people who love Jesus will be tempted with offense. God’s answer of mercy is to raise up messengers ahead of time who make sense of the coming judgment.

The fact is judgments are coming, number one. Many believers are just shocked by judgments. They are not even aware they are coming. It is not enough to say judgment is coming. We must also make sense of it when it comes. Jesus is not contradicting love. He is actually expressing love. To have understanding of God’s judgment is a great mercy to a city, a nation, or a ministry. All the confusion and fear that takes place when judgment happens, God wants an answer in that hour. He wants to raise up witnesses of the truth—so we will

not just be man-pleasing. We do not tell them just what they want to hear. Instead, we must tell them what God says. We might say, “Well, they will not like what God says.”

God says, “I am looking for witnesses who will tell them what I say. My truth will work far better than your flattery. Trust me. Tell them my Truth. Give them a chance to respond to Me.”

We think, “But God. They are real beat down right now; they went through a great trauma.”

But God would respond, “Tell them My truth. Explain to them what is happening.” Men and women who will do that today are very hard to find. There are a few around. Most folks just want to go on the other extreme. Every disaster is the Devil, and God is happy with everyone. There are disasters that are the Devil. There is not a question, but God is not happy with everyone. He loves them enough to wake up cities and nations. It is because He loves them that He wants to get their attention. This is because the offer of goodness did not get their attention. God believes in eternity. A lot of preachers do not believe in eternity, but God does. He wants to wake them up while there is time.

### **PREPARING THE BRIDE TO TRUST JESUS’ LEADERSHIP**

Paragraph K. Interpreting the judgment of God from the Scripture is part of the preparing of the Bride. We know the Bride is going to be prepared. Where is the Bride going to be prepared? In every nation! That is part of the witness going to every nation so that in every nation, there is a preparing prophetic word that is making sense of what is happening to the church in every nation.

So, the Word goes forth to every nation so that the people in every nation can be saved. Then, people in every nation have lies exposed so that they can avoid deception. People in every nation have an announcement of the good and the bad that is coming through prophetic ministry. People in every nation will have understanding of the judgments. They will understand why the judgments do not contradict love but in fact express love. This is part of a witness of the gospel to all nations. The faithful witnesses must become eyewitnesses. They must grasp these truths first for themselves in order to speak them with clarity, with tenderness, and boldness.

Daniel 11:33-35: “Those of the all the people who understand shall instruct many . . . And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.” It says here that the people of understanding will instruct many. Some of those of understanding shall fall; others will be refined and purified. The angel is giving Daniel insight about two timeframes. He is telling Daniel about Antiochus Epiphanies who would be a type of the Antichrist who rose up in about 175 BC. Back in 175 BC, a little bit of this was fulfilled as a foreshadowing.

### **BEING A PEOPLE OF UNDERSTANDING**

The angel’s full meaning is that this would happen in the generation of the Lord’s return. Here is the question: Do you want to be one of the people of understanding that help others help the many? Or, do you want to be one of the many who do not understand, and you need somebody to give some clarity to you? There are a people who are not just in one place, but they are all over the earth and in every nation. God will have a people of understanding. That is part of the witness going forth. They will give witness of this dimension of truth—the judgment dimension.

It will refine the people of God. It will bring purity. You can read the whole context on your own in Daniel 11. It is very significant. Jeremiah 23:20: “The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days, you will understand it perfectly.” This is talking in context about the end times and the judgments of God being released. That is the context of Jeremiah 23. The anger of the Lord will not be turned back. He is prophesying about the book of Revelation judgment.

### **IN THE LATTER DAYS, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THIS PERFECTLY**

God is going to execute all the judgments in His heart; however, look at the last sentence, “In the latter days, you will understand this perfectly.” There will be a people of understanding in every nation of the earth who will understand perfectly. I do not think it means that they will have absolute understanding. What it means is it will make sense to them, and there will be no contradiction in their understanding. I do not think this means that there will be a group of people who suddenly have all knowledge. They have mature understanding, and there is no contradiction in their mind between love and judgment.

Here is the question: Are you going to be one of those people who understand so you can make sense of it to others who will be offended if they do not understand? That is part of being a faithful witness. Jeremiah 30:24, “The fierce anger will not be turned. The Lord will not return this anger.” In other words, this is the book of Revelation judgments. Jeremiah 23:20: “In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.” To consider it means you will search it out. You will study it. You will meditate. You will pray and fast. You will weigh it out. You will search this thing out.

My question: Are you one of those in the latter days who are considering these things even now so that you could be a blessing to many who will be in great confusion and tempted with great offense against the Lord? Many will struggle, even those who name His name.

### **INTERCESSORY COVENANTAL INVITATION**

Besides people getting saved—that is my favorite one—here is my second favorite one. I love this one: the witness of the gospel in every nation. One of the reasons He wants a company of believers in every nation is He desires a covenant company—God does not just want people with fire insurance who go to heaven in every nation. He wants a covenant community of born again believers in every nation of the earth. These believers will cry out with what I call an intercessory covenantal invitation for Him to come to their nation. Here is the idea. Jesus takes over a nation as His covenant people cry out, “Come to my nation.” This is what we are doing in our nation. All over the nations, people are doing this. “Come to our nation”—they are praying for revival. That is the beginning of the cry to come.

### **REVELATION 22:17: “THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE CRY ‘COME’”**

It does not end with the cry to send revival, which is the cry “come and take over my nation.” The Lord is listening to the beckoning of His covenant people. He wants a company of them in every single nation of the earth who night and day cry out, “Come Lord Jesus. Come Lord Jesus. Take over our nation. Take over our nation.” This is actually a significant part of the second coming of Christ to have a covenant people. I do not mean a little group in the corner somewhere. There will be multitudes of ministries. Some will not even know each other. They will be over the nations, especially the big nations. They will be crying out.

God honors the authority that He gave to human beings. God gave the dominion, the governmental decision-making of the earth, He gave this ability to humans. He says, “I am not coming back until the people on the

earth call Me back.” It says in Psalms 115:16: “The heavens, even the heavens are the LORD’S, But the earth He has given it to children of men.” It is as if God is saying, “The decision is yours. You want Me to come to your nation? Ask for a revival.”

The degree that we ask for revival is the degree that we will get a greater measure. God says, “I am not taking over any nation of the earth until there is a people who say, ‘Take our nation over.’” The Lord is going to have a covenant company of people saying, “Take our nation over; take our nation over.” The king or president of that nation may not know or care what they are doing. They may not even know about it; but it will have great impact in the Spirit what they are doing it. Part of the great harvest is not just getting more people for heaven. That is glorious by itself. It is rising up a greater covenant cry on the earth that will lead to the second coming of Christ. They will be a witness with a cry, which will go forth in every nation. The messengers in every nation will communicate that to The Body of Christ.

We have to cry, “Come Lord Jesus.” The Spirit and the bride, we are crying for His visitation to our nation. The prayers, the covenantal ways we open the doors to whatever is under our domain. Your heart is under your own domain. You ask Jesus to touch your heart.

Jesus says, “I will.” You ask Him to touch your circumstances.

He says “I will because that is under your domain, I gave it to you.”

We say, “Touch my nation.”

“OK, I will.”

A whole bunch of us cry, “Touch Your nation.”

“OK, anything else?”

We cry, “Take over our nation.”

“That is better.”

We cry, “Drive the oppressor away from our nation.”

That is called judgment against the Antichrist. “OK I will do that.” First, I have at the end of paragraph M. He will come in revival. It is the covenant invitation from every nation. Every nation will offer a covenant invitation, “Rule us. Come and take our nation over.” He will come in revival. Then He will have judgment against the oppressor who is oppressing the people and the others as well. Then He will come and take over and rule that nation.

### **THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL WILL BE ON THE CHURCH IN EVERY NATION**

Paragraph N. The spirit of revival: there will be a spirit of revival on every church, on every nation. Let’s say it this way. There will be a spirit of revival on the church in every nation beckoning for Jesus to come take over

their nation. We find that in Revelation 22:17, “The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come, Lord Jesus, come.’” They are not just saying, “Kind of renew our hearts a bit.” They are doing that for sure. “Come and take over.”

I like this verse in Isaiah 19 this is talking about after the second coming. It is the period before the second coming leading up to it in Egypt. Isaiah the prophet highlights Egypt. He says, “The Lord will be entreated by them to heal them.” The Lord says, “I will heal them because they asked me to. I will heal any nation where the people in the nation ask me to heal that nation. I will do it.”

He is healing them in the Millennium, but He is healing them because they are asking. Of course the opposite is, if they do not ask, the same does not happen. There is a witness of the kingdom that is going forth in every nation. The worship movement is a nonstop beckoning in every nation.

As the Gospel goes to every nation, it raises up a covenant community that cries out night and day. The worship movement is beckoning Jesus to come take over every nation. This cry, “Come, Lord Jesus,” it is not just a personal devotion cry. It is that. It is a covenantal, political cry. We are talking to the King on behalf of the nation He planted us in.

### **JESUS WILL NOT TAKE CONTROL OF JERUSALEM WITHOUT AN INVITATION BY LEADERS**

Paragraph O. He waits for the leaders of the city of Jerusalem. He said in Matthew 23:39: “You are not going to see me until you say, ‘Come.’ With your lips you have to ask me to come to your nation and I will.” We all understand that about Israel, but I believe this is the requirement of every nation. He is not going to come and just by brute strength and force take over nations. He is coming as the people in that nation; those who are in relationship with Him are beckoning Him. He gave the earth to the sons of men. He gave dominion to the human race.

He wants humans calling Him to take over their sphere. We know that is going to happen in Israel, but there is going to be people in America, “Come to America.” In China, all throughout Asia, Latin America, “Come to our nation.” He says, “OK, I will.” The witness of the Gospel is actually producing a covenantal intercessory cry in that nation as well.

### **PRAYING FOR JUDGMENT ON THE ANTICHRIST**

Number six and seven. They pertain to those final three and a half years. They are not so pressing in these decades right now. We want to know the Bible so that we are prepared, and we are preparing our children and our grandchildren and so on.

We want to prepare to prepare to prepare to prepare. We do not know when the Lord is coming, but we want this. We want our heritage to have preparation. Everyone that we are touching in the Gospel, we are preparing them for the scenario if it happens in the fullness in their day.

There is a witness of people that are praying in unity with the Lord against the great oppressor. This great oppressor, the Antichrist, some people do not really get this. The Antichrist will be far more evil and far more powerful than Adolph Hitler ever was—far more evil. His empire will be more treacherous and crueler and more oppressive than any evil empire in history.

They will really hurt people. People say, “I do not want to pray for judgment.” That is because you do not understand who the oppressor is and do not have a loved one touched by that oppressor. Once an evil oppressor touches you then something awakens in your heart, and the good news is the Bible already figured it out and it is in the book.

There is a witness of the Gospel in every nation that is in agreement. It is not a covenantal, “Come to us Jesus and take over our nation.” “Drive the oppressor out of our nation.” That is the cry. They have to be trained. They have to be taught. There has to be people who will witness this truth to them, as we get closer to that day. Again, that is a little down the road. It is not so heavy on us now, except you will care to be prepared to prepare others. If you care about that, then you care about this now. Someone has asked me, “Do you think you will see the coming of the Lord?”

I do not know. I do not care. I do not care or know. All I know is this, I am going to be prepared and I am going to be preparing my children and their children and their children. I am going to have a legacy in these seven things. If He comes, He comes. Anyway it goes, I am with Him forever either way. That is what I care about.

### **JUDICIAL HARDENING**

Number seven. This one is intense. We are not going to go into it. I am just going to mention it and stir up your curiosity. That is what I call the judicial hardening. That is a theological term where the witness of the truth actually results in the hardening of the people. And God knew it. Hearts harden when the truth is spoken, therefore, there is a group of people in a nation that do not receive it but become more hardened. When they become more hardened, their hatred towards God comes to the surface and they act more boldly in sin.

That is part of the scenario in the justice of God for relating to the full judgment of God. I realize that was a big mouthful. I will say that real briefly. There is a preaching of the truth that hardens the heart. It does not lead to salvation. There is a lot that does. We have already looked at that.

This is the most negative. It makes the person who hears it hardened. Their conscience becomes seared; they become emboldened in their hatred of God. They hate God more than they think they do. Like the Pharisees thought they loved God. Under the preaching of Jesus, their hatred of God was manifest. They did not think they hated God. They thought they loved Him.

The preaching of Jesus brought their anger to the surface. God wanted it at the surface. The hardness of the people in society who have chosen to hate Him, they play a role in the justice of God and God removing evil off the earth. It is pretty straightforward concept. If it is a brand new idea, you are saying, “I lost you at the sixth one.” That is OK. Just make a note to yourself, “Hey, I have to understand this number seven one. I do not get it, but I am going to go after it.” We have to have people who preach the truth to these nations. A faithful witness in the truth for this final result here. Amen.