INTRODUCTION
Tonight we’re looking at the third session in the Knowing the Signs of the Times series. We’ll cover eight sessions total. From the biblical point of view there are two types of signs of the times. There are sign events, distinct events that are unmistakable when they happen. The nation of Israel becoming a nation: that was an event that isn’t mistakeable; it happened. Then there are sign trends. They’re trends that, typically, are accelerating.

As we pay attention to these events and these trends, they build our faith, and that’s important. It’s not secondary. But, even more than that, they inspire intercession. Tonight is one of those, where as we see what’s happening, our inspiration for intercession is strengthened. But as they all happen together simultaneously, it becomes clear to us that we’re in or approaching the time frame where things are going to escalate in a very dynamic way. In the generation of the Lord’s return, there will be greater pressures, greater evil, but there will also be a far greater manifestation of grace, beyond what happened in the book of Acts.

So as we see these sign events and these sign trends happening simultaneously on a global level, we understand that the pressure will increase but we also understand that there will be a dynamic increase of grace, and we’re involved in the most dynamic time in human history. I believe we’re in the early days of that generation. That’s my personal opinion. It’s a very strong opinion, but it’s based on biblical observation of the signs of the times.

THE CHURCH WILL BE VICTORIOUS IN THE GENERATION OF THE LORD’S RETURN
We’re not going into any sort of detail, but the Bible makes it clear that the Church is victorious in the generation the Lord returns. It’s victorious. So I just want you to catch the tone of these verses. We won’t break them down. I mean, I’m tempted to do so, as some of you would be if you were presenting this, but I just want you to get the tone. Then we’ll go look at the details that are implied by this proclamation, this prophetic proclamation in the Bible of the victorious end-time church.

THE CHURCH WILL BE UNIFIED AND MATURE BEFORE THE LORD RETURNS
In Ephesians 4, we see the fivefold ministry—apostles, prophets, etc. (Eph. 4:12). They will equip the saints until something happens. Look at verse 13. The word until is the key word. All the Church will be unified before the Lord returns. That’s a remarkable statement, but there’s going to be a release of grace and a release of pressure that will cause the true Church to come together in unity.

But not only will the whole Church be unified; it will be mature, or—as the NKJV says—perfect. It will be perfect, unified, one man before God. When the New Testament uses the word perfect, often you could use the word mature, or “complete in obedience, complete in faith.” The Church will be mature. It will be perfect in that relative sense of what perfection means. We will be mature, the Body of Christ worldwide. The Church will be glorious, filled with glory, as some translations have it (Eph. 5:27). The Church will make herself ready before the Lord returns (Rev. 19:7). The Church will be ready before the seventh trumpet. Before the trumpet is blasting and the Church is raptured, it will be mature and ready.
That’s one reason you know He isn’t coming any minute. The Church is nowhere close to being made ready—but it will be. Again, I believe we’re some decades away just from that one verse, even though the Lord will accelerate the maturity process.

**IN THE MIDST OF INCREASING DARKNESS, THERE WILL BE INCREASING GLORY**

In Revelation 15, we see that the end-time saints will have victory over the Antichrist. They won’t yield; they will be victorious. They won’t be defeated; they will overcome (Rev. 12:11). Paul talks about when Israel will be saved in the generation of the Lord’s return (Rom. 12). What happens before this takes place is what the Bible calls the fullness of the Gentiles. That’s the full number saved, but it’s also the full glory and power of God among the Gentiles. The fullness of the Gentiles is quality and quantity.

So we know that before all of Israel is saved the Gentile church will operate in the fullness of the grace of God. Jesus prophesied in Matthew 16 that the gates of hell will not prevail (Mt. 16:18). There will be a time when it’s openly manifest, not in some symbolic way, that the Church is prevailing against the powers of darkness—openly for all to see. This isn’t when Satan is gone; this is when Satan is still operating. The Church will be binding, loosing, and gaining victory; in the midst of the increasing darkness there will be increasing glory.

Now many of the prophetic signs in Scripture—these positive sign trends particularly, that we’ll look at tonight—give us insight into the victorious church. The signs are just different aspects of this one diamond called “the victorious church.” There are many faces to this diamond. There’s the prayer movement. There’s the preaching the gospel in all the nations. There’s a release of power at a whole new level. Granted, we must operate in the power of God today. We operate in the power of God today while believing for a greater increase, not waiting for the increase to operate in power. It’s critical that we’re about the work in full steam today, but with confidence and contending for yet a greater release of grace in the midst of our current labors.

Well, these signs not only give us insight into the many facets of that diamond that I’m calling the victorious or the glorious church. As exciting as that is, these signs also mark a generation as being that generation. When you see all of these signs together operating on a global level for the first time in history in a way that’s measurable—meaning we can see it and actually measure it—then you know you’re in a unique time in history.

Beloved, I don’t have them all. I have most, but not all of them. As I study and pray over this, I’m excited. As we were driving over here, I said to those who are with us, “I’m ready! I’m ready to go.”

**THE WHEAT AND THE TARES MATURE TOGETHER AT THE END OF THE AGE**

Some say, “What’s the deal? Does the darkness get darker or does the light get brighter?”

Both happen simultaneously. Things get better and things get worse. In the context of the Church, things get better. In the context of the unbelievers, in terms of their lifestyle, what they’re doing, things get worse until they repent. Many won’t repent and many will repent. Isaiah prophesied about the time where deep darkness would cover the earth, but the light, the glory, would also be seen in the context of the deep darkness (Isa. 60:1-2). It’s the glory and the darkness. It’s common for some groups to pick one or the other. Some groups only see the darkness, and they’re just giving up and holding on until the rapture. We don’t want that approach. Others only see the glory and they’re not being girded for the greatest battle in human history. We see the glory and the darkness increasing at the same time.
In Matthew 13 Jesus gave us the parable of the wheat and the tares. The wheat is good and the tares are bad. He says both will mature together until the harvest, which is the second coming. Both of them mature together at the same time.

**WORKERS IN THE FIELD AND INTERCESSORS BEFORE THE THRONE**

We’ll look at a few of these sign trends tonight, but I want to highlight four of them in particular, because four of them come directly from the lips of Jesus. I mean, the Holy Spirit has inspired all of them. Obviously, they’re all the sign trends in the Bible, and Jesus is obviously connected to them but He spoke four of them with His own lips. He talked about the gospel going forth to all the nation, and the Jewish leaders accepting Him with their own lips. He talked about the night-and-day prayer movement and He talked about the unity movement. He prayed for it. He prayed for it, and He said that when it happens the nations of the earth will know that Jesus is God. Of course that has happened; all of these have happened a little throughout history, but there’s a very definitive acceleration on a global level that’s unique in history.

So we’ll look at those four first. Of course we can only hint at them. We don’t have time, although I will spend the most time on the gospel going forth in the nations, because even as intercessors and as workers in the gospel this encourages us to stay steady, to proclaim the gospel in the highways and byways.

It also strengthens us to intercede for the release of power to continue to increase. We don’t choose the two; we do both. We’re workers in the field and we’re intercessors before the throne. Some folks say, “Well, I’m one or the other.”

No. Now we’re all called to both. Different ones have different percentage, but everyone is to do both of those. We’re to be workers in the field, in the harvest field, and we’re to cry out before the throne. Every believer is to do both. Certainly as a ministry here at IHOP-KC we made a commitment at our ten-year anniversary that we would combine by the grace of God twenty-four-hour prayers for justice with twenty-four-hour works of justice to labor in the harvest. Of course that’s going to take the supernatural grace of God to do it but we’re resolved as a people to do it, to go full blast twenty-four hours a day. Of course you need an army in order to do that. No one person can do this at all hours of the days, but with an army you can do it together.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE NATIONS**

Well, one of the greatest signs and the most exciting sign of the approach of the coming of the Lord is the fact of the gospel being preached in all nations. Jesus connected the timing of His return to the preaching of the gospel in all nations. He connected the two together. Let’s read it: Matthew 24:14. We all know it, but just as you read it ask the Lord for a fresh infusion of faith.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Mt. 24:14). Then Jesus will return. The word *nations* is the word *ethnos*, where we get the word *ethnic*. We speak of ethnic groups. There are approximately 12,000 distinct ethnic groups in the earth.

John on a number of occasions, not just in the one verse we’re looking at but on a number of occasions in the book of Revelation, saw the harvest of all the nations, in every people group. Every time he mentions it, four or five times, he mentions seeing every tongue, tribe, and nation, so no one could confuse what he was talking about. There are about 262 nations but there are 12,000 people groups, so it isn’t just the 262. Not including territories, there are 238 nations if you’re just going to lock into nations as they’re traditionally counted.
Now John saw this great harvest specifically in the context of the Great Tribulation. He saw a great multitude from every nation, every ethnos, from every tribe, every tongue. Then he asked, “Where are they from?” and you can read the whole context at another time, on your own time.

The angel tells him, “These have come out of the Great Tribulation” (Rev. 7:14, paraphrased). Of course there are many reasons why I believe the Church is here in victory throughout the Great Tribulation, but this is one of the great ones. Can you imagine 2,000 years of praying and laboring, and at the time of the harvest the Church is gone? I can’t even fathom the concept.

I remember Asher Intrater preaching here once. He’s one of the really dynamic prophetic teachers from Jerusalem. He says, “If somehow I’m wrong and the trumpet sounds, I’ll say, ‘Sorry, I’m staying down here for the great harvest. See you at the end!’” I don’t think it works that way, but I thought that was pretty neat.

I don’t think you’ll have to worry about that choice, but could you imagine the great harvest? We will be involved in power, binding, loosing, preaching and prevailing in that hour of history.

WITHIN TEN YEARS, THE GOSPEL WILL BE PREACHED IN ALL NATIONS

This is the projection of the leading missions organizations. They project from statistics, from real data, that by the year 2020 all 12,000 people groups will have the gospel preached for the first time in history. That will happen within ten years. Some of them are saying by 2015. Others say, “Let’s be conservative.” I mean, 2,000 years later this is happening for the first time in history.

But not only that: the other facets of this diamond called the victorious church, the other trends are happening as well on a global level, accelerating at a very remarkable pace. It’s exciting. Steven Douglas with Campus Crusade, Loren Cunningham with YWAM—Youth With a Mission—we really want to know the names of these two guys, because they’re generals in the army today. These two organizations have 25,000 full-time workers each. The prayer movement ought to be just absolutely gripped by these two organizations and laying hold of them in a very informed way, meaning we need to know who they are. Some intercessors have never heard of them and we want to get rid of that concept. We want to know who these generals are and stand with them.

Anyway, the point I’m making here is that they’ve publically and boldly proclaimed that by the year 2020 they expect this to have happened. When guys with that kind of history and that kind of credibility make statements like that, you know they’re informed. Their data is second to no other. The Bible has been translated in over 2,000 languages. As of today 98 percent of the languages of the earth have a Bible. This is a new phenomenon. At present there are only 600 groups left out of 12,000. It’s called “the UUPG.” Say UUPG. OK, what does it mean? “Untargeted and Unreached People Group.” That’s a term the missions movement uses often. Of the 12,000 people groups, a few years ago 600 of them were untargeted, meaning no mission organization had made it one of their goals to go after that nation specifically. But as of the last couple of years all 600 of them are now targeted, meaning a major mission organization has specifically identified them as part of their vision. Of those 600, 300 of them are more than targeted. They’re actually now engaged in that nation—just in a beginning way, but they’re actually engaged. The other 300, they’re not yet engaged, but these organizations are focused on them.
THERE ARE MORE BELIEVERS COMING TO CHRIST THAN BABIES BEING BORN

Today the statistics claim 2.1 billion Christians. We’re not talking about born-again Christians as we know, but those that were baptized as a baby—not necessarily walking in the faith. I mean, many of them aren’t, but the same statistics estimate that one billion of the two billion are actually born again. Look at the increase that’s happening in this generation. In the year 100 AD less than 1 percent of the population of the earth had heard the gospel. And 1,000 years later it was still less than 1 percent. I have all the information right there on your handout. If you don’t have it you can get it on the Internet if you want it. Beloved, by the year 1500 still barely 1 percent of the earth had heard the gospel. In the year 2000, 20 percent had heard it. It’s growing so fast. These are people who have heard a presentation of the gospel in a real, direct way. It hasn’t just been made available to their nation; I mean they’ve actually have been confronted with the gospel in a personal direct way.

Christianity is by far the largest religion in the world. It’s not Islam. Christianity is twice the size of Islam, if you include all people who claim the name of Muslim. Some get this idea that Christianity is kind of phasing out; not even close. It’s growing faster, much faster than the population rate of the earth. There are more believers coming to Jesus than there are babies being born. It’s happening faster than the population rate.

People in the West say, “Hey, what do you mean? It looks like things are bad.”

Well, North America and Europe: I’m sure you all know this, but in case one of you just hasn’t been paying attention at all, the West isn’t leading the earth anymore in the kingdom. It’s been quite a while. The southern hemisphere and Asia are leading. The numbers are staggering. They say there are 100 million believers in China alone; 30,000 converts every day in one nation. And that’s a conservative estimate! By the year 2025, in 15 years, they’re estimating 600 million. Not 100 million, 600 million believers in Asia. Right now there are more than 100 million believers in Asia. I’m talking about 100 million in China alone. There are 600 million in Africa, the continent of Africa—fifty-three nations, plus three more that are a different designation. We need to focus our prayers and get behind this push as well as be involved in a practical way with them as well; not just praying but actually being involved with them in practical ways. There are many ways to do that.

TAKING THE GOSPEL BACK TO JERUSALEM ALONG THE SILK ROAD

David Aikman, a former Time Magazine writer, said that within twenty-five years, 25 percent of China will be born again. They’ll be the largest Christian nation in the earth. The largest missionary force is coming out of Asia right now. Right now there are about 220,000 missionaries in the earth. They’re saying that within fifteen years the Asians alone will double the work force of missionaries in the earth.

Of course, famous isn’t the right word—they wouldn’t like that word, but the most prominent movement is the movement back to Jerusalem. They’re talking about bringing the gospel through the Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu nations, from Beijing all the way back to Jerusalem. The Asian believers are saying, “We’re doing this.” It’s mostly a Chinese movement but many are taking hold of this, bringing the gospel from Beijing to Jerusalem along the Silk Road.

Here’s one of the things that happened during the “Cultural Revolution” in 1966. That sounds like a wonderful thing, but it was communism dominating the nation in a reign of terror. Many Chinese believers were thrown into prison, and, because of the suffering, these believers are not afraid. They’re not afraid of the rigors and the difficulty of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. The West looks at it, and some will go, but most say, “We’ll just pray! We’ll watch the videos.”
But somewhere in these several decades of the communist regime there was an iron and a strength imparted. I mean, the devil overplayed his hand, because it ended in a fiery workforce of missionaries who are willing to go straight through Asia, through the Middle East, right into Jerusalem, and bear whatever sacrifice they need to bear.

**ABANDONMENT, POVERTY, SUFFERING, SACRIFICE, AND DEATH**

Now when this movement started, they built their ministry around five words: *abandonment, poverty, suffering, sacrifice, and death*. Those words are still the basis of their movement; words rarely mentioned in the West, ever. We bind and loose those words to get rid of them! The Western church says, “Who are you kidding?”

Let’s read those words again. Lou, what do you think about this? They’ve said this in their spirit. This is the resolve. They’re bringing the gospel through the Middle East, into the 10/40 window, willing to be abandoned and to live with nothing in the journey. They’re willing to go into the suffering of imprisonment, and many of them will be killed and live in poverty inside a prison cell. How many of you know that when you’re in a prison cell for the gospel, that’s poverty? But these are the rigors they’re willing to take hold of.

The reason I put that in there is because we’re really talking about positive sign trends. That’s just inspiring. I said, “I have to drop that in there!” It isn’t really the subject of sign trends but I just had to throw that in there.

**“EVERY HOME FOR CHRIST”**: AN ARMY TRAINED FOR GLOBAL HARVEST

“Every Home for Christ,” with Dick Eastman. He’s in Colorado Springs. Last year I had the privilege of just being with him; I went out there and dedicated their prayer room. I mean, it’s one of the most aggressive missions organizations in history. I was with all their top leaders from around the world. They came in to dedicate this building. They had an IHOP-KC team come in, and I thought, “What a privilege,” because back in the 1970s I heard Dick Eastman preach, and it was the first time I had ever heard anyone teach on prayer. I was twenty-three years old. He talked about praying for an hour a day. I thought, “Huh!”

I prayed devotionally: “I love You, Jesus; help me score touchdowns and make good grades in college”; but he talked about interceding for the harvest.

So as I went out there I learned that his missions organization mobilized, in 2008, 25,000 workers. They led ten million people to the Lord, planted 10,000 churches, and they had the humility to say, “Would you, IHOP-KC, join us in prayer and pray for us?”

I thought, “Well, you guys are kind of already doing it, but yeah!” I mean, why not jump on a winning team? I said, “Yes. Yes.”

They said, “If we get the prayer movement behind us we can double those numbers,” though they are in themselves a prayer movement; but they’re really focused on the work out in the field. They said, “We need the prayer movement.”

I said, “Yes. Yes.”
SIGN TREND NUMBER TWO: THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL

OK, we spent a lot of time on the gospel going to all the nations, but to me that was kind of fun. The second sign trend is the salvation of Israel. Now this is happening simultaneously, concurrent with the gospel going to all the nations.

Again, don’t just hear this as a teaching and say, “Well, that’s a nice teaching.” Take a minute, take a step back, and think, “This is amazing. All of these are happening simultaneously for the first time in history on a global level. Is there a message in this?”

Yes. Yes, there is. The Lord is saying, “Look up. Your redemption is drawing neigh. It’s drawing near. Be encouraged. There’s an increase of grace. There will be an increase of pressure, but you’re in the balance of the whole thing, My ambassadors. So gird your loins and begin to operate at a new level of faith.”

Number two. The second one that Jesus referred to is the salvation of Israel. That isn’t the word He used, but that’s what it means. He prophesied it with His own lips.

Let me say first, there are more Jewish people coming to Jesus than any time since the first century. There are 120 Messianic congregations in the land of Israel. Messianic means they’re born-again believers, but they’re Jewish people. They love Jesus, or, as they say in Hebrew, Yeshua. They love Jesus but they’re fully Jewish and they number in the land over 15,000 believers.

You say, “Well, that doesn’t sound that great!” But look at it this way: that’s a 500 percent increase in ten years. I mean, ten years or ago there were ten or twenty congregations. Well no, it was smaller than that. Let’s just go back twenty years ago. There were so few Jewish believers in the land, and so few congregations. I don’t have the exact number: it was like two or five congregations. Now, after 2,000 years, there are 120 congregations. Twenty years ago there were a couple of home groups, and in the last ten years it’s exponential; if you were graphing it, it would go straight uphill. It’s not an accident; it is in itself a sign of the times.

It’s no accident that the gospel will be preached in all 12,000 people groups for the first time in the next ten years. I mean, it’s happening alongside the salvation of Israel.

“BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!”

Here’s what Jesus said. Now, you might not catch this on a first reading. If you’re new at this, you might say, “I don’t get it.”

Just think for a minute. Jesus is telling the Jewish leaders, the ones who are going to crucify Him—those who would today be the Knesset and rabbinic leadership—“I will not come again, I will not come back to you, until you say to Me, ‘You are of God.’ ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’” (Mt. 23:39, paraphrased).

The leaders of Israel thought Jesus was a false prophet. He told them He wasn’t going to return until they acknowledged that He was of God.
So for 2,000 years people have looked at that prophecy of Jesus and said, “Well, it doesn’t look like anytime soon anyone in Israel in leadership is going to say Jesus is of God”; but suddenly in the last ten years, this is turning around dramatically. There are so many Jewish people being saved.

**JESUS WON’T RETURN TO JERUSALEM UNTIL THOSE IN JERUSALEM CALL HIM BACK**

Peter referenced the conversion of the Jews in Israel after the day of Pentecost. He warned them to repent and be converted; to be forgiven, that their sins might be blotted out (Acts 3:19). That means receiving forgiveness. Peter then goes on to describe the second coming: “... that He may send Jesus Christ... whom heaven must receive”—or retain—“until the times of restoration of all things” (v. 21). He must stay in heaven until Israel is converted and they’re repenting and crying out for Him. He isn’t coming back to Jerusalem until the people in Jerusalem call Him back.

There has to be a move of God in Jerusalem. Twenty years ago it was barely existent. I mean, there were Gentile believers in the land. There were Gentile ministries in Jerusalem preaching Jesus, but very few Jewish believers would have anything to do with Him as recently as twenty years ago. Suddenly there are 15,000 believers, and many of them in the city of Jerusalem. I tell you, heaven is going to keep Jesus, is going to retain Him there, until the Jews are converted and call on Him. I don’t mean the whole nation, but a substantial remnant. Only God knows the number. But it isn’t just one or two guys here and there. There has to be a move of God in the city of Jerusalem before this happens. We’re watching it right now.

**THE SPIRIT OF POWER AND THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER WILL DESCEND ON JERUSALEM**

Zechariah said the same thing. He prophesied it. This is all talking about a move of God touching Jerusalem before Jesus returns. “The Holy Spirit will pour out on the people who live in Jerusalem”—not just the Jewish people who live in America, but the Jews in Jerusalem—“a spirit of grace” (Zech. 12:10, paraphrased). There’s a power that will strike them. But it’s not only a spirit of grace; it’s a spirit of supplication, which is a spirit of prayer (ibid). There will be a spirit of grace—a spirit of power—and a spirit of prayer. They will cry out to Jesus.

In context, this is describing the time of the second coming; but the spirit of power will be on them before the second coming. They’ll be crying out to Jesus and massive numbers will be converted. As a matter of fact, one-third will be saved (Zech. 13:9). Right now there are about six million Jews in Israel. If it happened now, two million would be saved in the context of this. Two million! There are 15,000 now. There were only a few twenty years ago, but it’s building. It will be a quick work.

As I’ve talked to the Messianic believers in Israel, they’ve said, “There’s a critical mass.” We’re getting close to it. There will be more workers in the harvest more prayer rooms crying out, more people testifying and there will be a move of the Spirit that will multiply the laborers.

**SIGN TREND NUMBER THREE: THE WORLDWIDE PRAYER MOVEMENT**

OK, now we’re moving on to the next one, to the third sign trend: the worldwide prayer movement. Jesus also prophesied this, as did others in the Bible.

Of course, we know well the passage in Luke 18, where He says they will cry day and night for justice (Lk. 18:7-8). But you have to read Luke 18 in context. Many people start the chapter in verse 1. There was no chapter break when Jesus was speaking. It’s one message. Go to Luke 17. Don’t get the middle of the teaching.
Go to the beginning of the teaching. In the context of Luke 17, He’s giving one of His main teachings on the end times. Then He connects the night-and-day prayer for justice to the end-time teaching. He’s actually talking about the generation in which the Lord returns.

THE CRY FOR JUSTICE WILL BE A POIGNANT CRY IN ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH

Now of course, for anyone throughout history who cries out night and day, that’s really good. There have been a number of ministries throughout history, and they’re fulfilling this passage in part, but there will be a wholesale night-and-day prayer movement that will fill the nations. Not just in Jerusalem but across the nations they will cry out for justice.

Right now we understand justice a little. We understand justice because we look at the people who are oppressed and we understand it a little, but one thing that we don’t fully grasp—I don’t fully grasp it, and none of us do, because it’s too surreal to really get our minds around—is that when the negative in the end-time scenario develops, there will be an evil man who arises with a worldwide empire—a man called the Antichrist. He will be far more evil and far more powerful than Adolf Hitler, and the cry for justice won’t just be some people across the land captured in human trafficking. The cry for justice will be a poignant cry in all the nations of the earth, because the great oppressor will be oppressing like never before.

People look at justice and say, “I get it.”

I say, “No, we touch it.” It’s real; we touch it, but this thing is going to have a capital J, Justice to it. It will be the greatest hour of oppression.

Different people say, “You know, I don’t understand the judgment.” That’s because they don’t have revelation of an oppressor. You talk to the people in the death camps in Nazi Germany; they wanted judgment on the Nazi regime. I mean, undoubtedly many of them didn’t know God. “Whoever You are, God, please do something now!”

Just judgment can’t be understood until we see the oppressors and they touch our life. Then it becomes really personal. Imagine if your family was in a Nazi death camp. What would you be doing before God? “Release them!”

“The only way I can release them is by removing the Nazi regime in a very direct way.”

“But it, please! Do it tonight.”

There you have it. The night-and-day prayer movement is increasing exponentially right now, but as the oppression increases, night-and-day prayer will literally cover the earth. But until we see an oppressor, the night-and-day prayer thing can remain something we just experience casually in our free time. That’s changing; but right now, my point is this: Jesus is the One who talked about the night-and-day prayer movement, and He put it in the context of the coming of the Son of Man (Lk. 18:8). Of course, that’s what He’s talking about in Luke 17, but it’s the same message, and in Luke 18:8, He ties it into His second coming.
THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE PRAYING BRIDE

There was another occasion when Jesus talked about the prayer movement: in Matthew 16, He prophesied a time when His people would bind and loose. They would bind the negative, and they would loose the positive. They would bind the work of darkness and loose the power of the Spirit. They would do it consistently until hell was openly manifest as defeated.

We know that Satan is already defeated 2,000 years ago, on the cross but when you look at society he has strongholds all over society. The gates of hell, the authority of Hades, is the same thing. Hades and hell are the same, and you can use the word authority. The authority of hell will be openly seen as defeated in society, but before that defeat is openly manifest there are people binding and loosing. They’re loosing the power of God. I’m talking about the gospel going forth, in signs and wonders, in healing, in all kinds of power dimensions. They’re binding the works of darkness as well.

Now this has been true for 2,000 years, but it’s never been true on a global level. This is going to prevail globally, and it’s linked to the cry for justice that goes forth night and day. I just gave you those verses. There are about twenty-five verses that talk about the end-time prayer movement. I don’t mean they just exhort us to pray; they’re actually talking about prayer in the context of the end times.

THERE’S A DYNAMIC CONTINUITY OF THE PURPOSE WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD

In Revelation 5, when Jesus takes the scroll, the four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, will fall down before Him. They’ll each have a harp and a bowl, but notice: the bowls will be full. That’s the word—full (Rev. 5:8). That’s what I want you to catch. And the bowls are the prayers of the saints.

Here’s the point: in the next verse, Jesus opens the seals, and in context the opening of the seals is the releasing of the judgments in the book of Revelation. That’s what they are: they’re the judgments in the book of Revelation.

Here’s the point I want to make: the bowls have been receiving the prayers of the saints for 2,000 years, and those bowls are accumulating throughout history. They’re real, they’re powerful, and there’s a continuity from the saints in the second century and the eighth century with the saints now with the saints even after the Lord returns. There’s this dynamic continuity in the purpose of God with the people of God. We’re building on the shoulders of the intercessors from 1,000 years ago. A thousand years from now we will still be building on the prayers of this generation, as we are the prayers of the saints throughout history.

Here’s the point I’m making: there’s an hour in history, and it hasn’t yet happened, when the bowls will be full, and then the end-time scenario is released; so the building up of the prayer movement on the earth that we see in the natural is contributing to the accumulation of prayers throughout history. The more the prayer movement is exploding, the closer we’re approaching to the end-time scenario.

“They shall never hold their peace day or night”

In this passage, Isaiah is prophesying, speaking for the Lord. “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth” (Isa. 62:6-7).
It’s talking about twenty-four/seven prayer. He promises to appoint watchmen. Now we know that the watchmen are prophetic intercessors. They will never be silent. Isaiah is prophesying twenty-four/seven ministries.

JERUSALEM WILL BECOME A PRAISE IN THE EARTH
This is actually the passage Jesus is quoting in Luke 18, when He talks about crying out for justice night and day. These ministries will continue until what? Until something happens—until Jerusalem is a praise in the earth.

Now Jerusalem today is hated in the earth. It’s not a praise in the earth. And that hatred is only going to intensify. So this twenty-four/seven prayer is building and building and building; Jerusalem becomes a praise in the hearth at the time of the second coming, so there’s something that’s building before she becomes a praise. In the years preceding the coming of the Lord they’re crying night and day and they’re appointed by God.

God is appointing intercessors all over the nations. He’s putting them in their place. He says, “Don’t be quiet until the breakthrough comes in Jerusalem.”

There are thousands of twenty-four/seven ministries on the earth today, and it’s very powerful to God. I mean, it may be one person who schedules one or two hours at a time, or it may be thousands. Most of them have been birthed in the last ten or twenty years. It’s a new phenomenon in history. Now of course that number is going to have a few zeros put on it. This isn’t just an idea you came up with one day: “Hey, I want to do twenty-four/seven praise and worship.” This is a spirit of prophecy moving in one time of history on a global level, and it will build and build and build until Jesus comes and personally makes Jesus a praise in the earth. I’m talking about Jerusalem literally becoming a praise in the earth.

They’re crying night and day before Jerusalem has the breakthrough. That’s in these very days. Beloved, we’re living in the hour of history where Isaiah’s prophecy is being fulfilled. In the last ten or fifteen years we’ve seen an explosion if you’re paying attention, and many of you are, to the prayer movement. It’s an explosion worldwide. It’s a full sign of the times. In the 1970s and 1980s, there was nothing like it. In the 1990s, we saw whispers of it. There were stadium events. Prayer movements all over the earth are exploding at the same time Israel is getting saved and the gospel is going forth to the nations. That’s not an accident. It’s the only time in history these have all happened together on a global level.

You can read some more about that. Mark Anderson is one of the top leaders in Youth With a Mission, and he leads The Call2All ministry that’s actually a Campus Crusade ministry. So he’s one of the few guys that’s at the top of the leadership in the Campus Crusade and YWAM. It just so happens that he lives in Kansas City, so it’s really exciting for us, but he’s at the top of both of those organizations. He leads a Campus Crusade ministry called Call2All, and it gathers all the top missions movements around the world together.

They have these congresses. They’ll have forty of them over five years, where they go to the regions of the earth and call many of the primary leaders of that region and strategize on how to bring the gospel to the nations and how to build houses of prayer. The point is to join the missions movement with the church-planting movement with the prayer movement, in order to bring the three together in an intentional cooperation. This in itself is already a sign of the times.
THE WORSHIP MOVEMENT AND THE PRAYER MOVEMENT ARE UNITING AS ONE

Well, Lou and I had the privilege of going to the first one in January, and they called the CEOs of 170 of the top missions organizations in the world: the main leaders of YWAM, Wycliffe, and on and on. They were there. Many of these are CEOs over 10,000 or 20,000 workers. They made commitments. We got around the tables with 600 different leaders—prayer leaders and church-planting leaders—and we made commitments. In that one three-day meeting they committed to start 500,000 new houses of prayer before the year 2020.

They had another Call2All congress in Hong Kong a few months ago in June ’09. They committed to 400,000 houses of prayer. They had one in East Africa, in Kenya. They committed to 75,000 new houses of prayer. There are a million just in those three meetings. They’re going to forty different regions of the earth, and all these mission leaders, church-planting leaders, and prayer leaders are walking in a gracious cooperation together. It’s dynamic.

When we talk about the prayer movement, this is slightly different but it’s the same; but it needs to be mentioned. There’s a worship movement. The worship movement and the prayer movement are the same movement from heaven’s point of view. But something has happened in the last five to ten years: the worship movement and the prayer movement is converging as one reality. For years we had the worship movement and we had the prayer movement. I appreciate prayer without worship; I did it for years. I called it “rock pile prayer.” It still means a lot to God. I was just pounding the rock, one by one, scowling at the next guy: “It’s your turn to get up there!”

The other guy says, “I’m tired! I don’t want to!”

“Get up there and pray!”

“I’m tired tonight!”

“Well, so am I!”

“Well, come on and get up there!”

We did that for years. It moves God the same. But when you add worship and a prophetic spirit, it moves us differently. It doesn’t move God differently; He loves anything. We groan and say, “Umm, in Jesus’ name…” He hears it; He gets it. It’s called “the throne of grace.” It’s not called “the throne of literary accuracy and eloquence.” It’s the throne of grace. He hears the groans of the prisoner.

But I tell you, I did it for years one way, and I really like this new way. But for the twenty-somethings, it’s bizarre that anyone ever separated the two. They can’t even imagine it; all they’ve ever known are the two together. This is a convergence. Lou, you remember those days; but it’s exploding! The big movements are joining the two together.

TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EMERGING FROM THE CLOSETS OF DARKNESS

Isaiah gave over 100 verses about this, almost all of them related to the end times. There’s a biblical backlog of information. There’s a resource of prophetic information about the end-time worship movement. It’s a sign of the times. Of course the Internet is helping it dramatically. I don’t think it’s biblical to ever feel sorry for the
Now the devil, and I don’t, but the devil has financed a whole lot of this: ten-year olds getting on TV and the Internet and learning how to play guitar with all these different bands of darkness. These guys get converted, and by the time they’re fourteen, they already know their instrument well, and they shift over to the new kingdom. Again, it’s not right to feel sorry for the devil, but he’s financing a youth movement in the early days that’s going to come back and wreak havoc on him. Many of them are coming out of the closets of darkness and the rooms of darkness and they’ll be excellent in their craft when they get a heart for Jesus—I mean millions worldwide because of the Internet and TV and all these things. All over the earth they’re learning how to play these instruments at nine, ten, eleven, and twelve. There’s never been anything like it in history.

The end-time unity movement: I’ll let you read that on your own, but Jesus prayed that when the world, or the nations, would believe, there would be a unity—a unity that’s increasing right now. There’s coming a unity. There’s a new spirit of cooperation in ministries all over the Body of Christ. It isn’t mature in the full sense but it’s distinct and it’s a new sound in the earth. It’s becoming very common for the missions leaders to work with each other, with the local pastors and with the prayer movement; it’s becoming so natural in the spirit for so many to work together. It’s a brand-new phenomenon that’s happening, and it’s growing quickly, but it’s like in the last five or ten years, again, the graph is going straight up.

Now Paul said that the Church will have to be unified. The apostles and prophets will work until the unity in the faith, until the whole Church is unified (Eph. 4:13). But Jesus said that the glory would come, and the world, or the nations, would believe when this happens. So there’s an end-time dimension to this, because throughout history there has been a little example here and a little example there, but never has there been a global emphasis of gracious cooperation with all the different ministries. We’re not there yet, but there are many, many that are moving in that direction and taking hold of it right now.

THE IMMINENT END-TIME OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
I spent the first four on Jesus. I’m just going to mention these really quickly. You already know them anyway. There’s an end-time outpouring of the Holy Spirit: power, prophecy, and miracles. Now the outpouring began in the last days. The last days technically began on the day of Pentecost. We’ve been in the last days for 2,000 years, but I call the end times “the final decades of the last days.” Though this prophecy had a partial down payment on the day of Pentecost, it was never fully fulfilled. There were no signs in the heavens, and the sun going black, and the moon becoming blood, etc.

The global dimension didn’t happen on the day of Pentecost. It was a very local dimension, but there’s coming a day when the Spirit will fall on all flesh. Every born-again believer in the earth will have visions and dreams and operate in power.

Now the good news is that for 2,000 years we can operate in it now. We don’t have to wait for the breakthrough. But a big breakthrough is coming. But there’s sufficient grace for right now to operate in the grace of God. We can move in the prophetic today. One hundred years ago, 2,000 years ago, the Church could operate in the power of God. So some people see this promise and they put all of their attention on the big breakthrough. No. No. We need to take hold of it right now while in full expectation of a massive increase of the manifestation. But there’s manifestation now for anyone who will seize it.
THE GREATEST GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS
The number of Pentecostals and charismatics 100 years ago was less than a million; today it’s 600 million by conservative numbers. This is according to the unbiased people who make these statistics. There are really objective ways to do this. For the first time since the early church, five years ago the number of Pentecostals and charismatics outnumbers those who are not Pentecostal or charismatic. It’s now the majority for the first time since the early church. There are more people who believe in signs and wonders in the Body of Christ worldwide than do not. It’s increasing dramatically. We’re in the beginning of the end-time outpouring. The last day outpouring began on the day of Pentecost, and for a few centuries it’s been a little here, a little there, but there’s an explosion taking place right now.

Look at this; I know I’m out of time. Philip Jenkins, the Penn State professor, wrote a book. He’s an objective historian, interested in the facts. Here’s what this professor said. He said: the greatest movement of the past century wasn’t capitalism or communism. Those were both big movements. But, he says, there’s this other movement that no one takes into consideration, and it’s the biggest one of all. It’s what they call Pentecostals. Objectively, numerically, that’s actually the most powerful movement.

It’s a brand-new reality in terms of history. I mean, it happened in the book of Acts, but it’s never exploded like this.

“IN THE LATTER DAYS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IT PERFECTLY”
The understanding of end-time prophecy. Now we’re just in the early days of this, but I have here Jeremiah 23 and quite a few other verses; you can read them. The Lord is talking in context about the end times, and He says, “In the latter days you will understand it perfectly” (Jer. 23:20)—or with maturity.

There’s coming a time—if you read all the verses—in the final years before the Lord returns, where there will be an increase of insight about the end-time purposes. For the people who are all mystified and confused by it there will be great understanding in that day. That’s what the angel told Daniel as well in several of the verses we have there. There will be skill to understand in the last days the end-time purposes.

Now, we’re just in the beginning of the beginning of that. But the whisper is going out and it’s building across the earth, and one of my—well, I can’t call it my favorite; they’re all my favorite. The bridal identity: John connected the return of Jesus to the believers understanding their identity as a cherished bride (Rev. 22:17). There’s a time coming where it won’t be the Spirit and the army saying, “Come, Lord Jesus,” though we are the army. It’s not the Spirit and the family, though we are the family. It’s not the Spirit and the body, though we are the body. It’s not the Spirit and the kingdom, or the Spirit and the temple, or the Spirit and the priesthood. That’s our identity forever, but there’s one time frame where the Spirit will emphasize the bridal identity and they’re crying out, “Come, Lord Jesus!” It’s right before the coming of the Lord.

And over the last ten years, there’s been an explosion of understanding. We’re still at the beginning of the beginning, but globally we’re seeing the bridal identity and the awareness that there’s more to our relationship. We’re warriors but we’re lovesick warriors. We’re warriors who are resolved and we have zeal to go forth and seize the kingdom, but we’re motivated by love: by being loved and by being in love. Lovers will always outwork workers.
“AND HE WILL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN”
The final one is the global—well, I say “youth focus.” I need to say it more strongly. It’s the focus on the fatherless. It’s a prophecy. Before Jesus returns there will be a wholesale turn to the fatherless. We’re seeing it: in the cry against abortion, the adoption movement, the orphans, the human trafficking, the poor: on and on. Now again, maybe I’m just making up the numbers. I don’t really know. I would say 10 to 20 percent of the Body of Christ is focused that way. I’m just pulling that out of the air, but it’s a lot more than ten years ago. Many of the Body of Christ aren’t there yet, but the numbers are a new reality. I mean, ten or twenty years ago, you didn’t hear much about this. There’s always that one guy, that forerunner guy who was pressing the envelope. No one got it, but now massive numbers in the Body of Christ are turning their hearts to the fatherless.

Look at this. By 2020, the Body of Christ will have reached all 12,000 people groups. We’re seeing 500 times the increase in Israel over the last ten years. We have the unity movement going forth. We have signs and wonders. We have the bridal paradigm, the spirit of prophecy, the prayer movement exploding worldwide, the focus on the fatherless.

Now not all of these are fully mature, but they were nearly non-existent, barely a whisper, ten and twenty years ago for the Body of Christ in the earth. Now they’re all rapidly growing.

Beloved, I submit to you: we’re in the early days of a drama that’s going to end with the coming of Jesus and the shifting of natural history to the age to come on the earth.

MINISTRY TIME
Amen. Let’s stand. These are the positive signs. Tomorrow night we’ll look at the negative signs. I figured I wanted to slip the positive ones in first, because the negative aren’t nearly so negative when you have confidence in the positive. The negative are real but they’re not stronger than the positive. The positive will prevail.

Let’s just open our heart before the Lord as the worship team comes. I encourage you to close your eyes for just a moment. Let’s just wait on the Lord for a moment. Even before the worship team starts we’re just going to wait quietly for a moment.

Holy Spirit, here we are. We want to experience Your power right now, right now.

Let’s just wait for a minute. Now the way to apply this wrongly is to get excited about it and wait for it all. All of these are happening right now, today. There’s grace for every one of them right now today. Waiting for the bigger increase is good, but we’re fully engaged in the measure of the Spirit right now.

I want to call different ones. Again, just keep your eyes closed for a moment so you’re not distracted. Some of you, I’m calling you to repent. You’re saying, “I’ve put most of my attention on the breakthrough. I want to put my attention on today, tomorrow. I want to lay hold of some of these things right now.” Just take a minute and shift and say, “Lord, it isn’t then or now; it’s now and then. It’s now and it’s then.”

Take a minute and just shift in your thinking. There’s great victory for tonight. I mean, they’re out at the outreach tonight. There’s power tonight.
Lord, we say yes to You.

I want to pray for anyone who isn’t saying, “I believe this for tomorrow.” I think 99 percent of you believe this for tomorrow, but if there’s anyone in the room who is saying, “You know what? I need a shift in my faith to lay hold of it for tonight and tomorrow and Sunday and Monday. I believe it but I haven’t really laid hold of it in any practical way”; and if that’s you and the Lord is stirring your heart, I want you to come up right now if you would. Just stand up here. We’ll pray for you.

Then it’s time to shift to where we’re laying hold of. There’s the prophetic word now, there’s healing now, there’s salvation now, there’s unity now. There’s the prophetic word now, there’s the prophetic word now. There’s a prayer movement today. It isn’t just tomorrow; it will be good today. It’s important. The prayer meeting going on this minute down the road in the prayer room is important right now, just as important as the one in ten years. The Lord wants us to do the stuff now, not just believe for it tomorrow.

I’m going to ask the Lord to touch you, all over the room. You don’t have to come forward. You can say in your chair, “Lord, I want to lay hold of these things today. I want the bridal anointing. I want the prayer anointing. I want signs and wonders. I want the power to evangelize right now, tonight, today; I want to operate in it.”

Lord, I just ask You release Your power right now in this room. Right now, right now in this room I ask You for the manifestation of Your glory.

I’m just going to wait for a minute. Let Your fire come. All over the room, if you have a grace—everyone has it, but you know the Lord wants to stir up your heart for evangelism, whether you’re in the chairs or up here; you’re saying, “I know I’m supposed to be far more engaged in that right now; I know it’s my primary calling.”

Some of you would say, “Yeah, I’m an intercessor, but I know I’m an evangelist as well. I know I’m a forerunner but I’m a forerunner evangelist.” You’ve kind of laid that down and the Lord wants you to dust that off, so to speak. He wants to jump start you in a new way even today. I want you to raise your hand if you’re one of those, whether you’re in the chairs or anywhere. Just keep your hand up high if you would. I want the others to turn around if you would and look at them. Lay hands on them for just a moment. Let’s turn around. Let’s lay hands on every one of them. Some of you from around the room, come on up here if you will and lay hands on these folks. Even the others who are up here, just lay your hands on the evangelists for a moment. You’re saying, “I know that I have an evangelistic anointing that I’m not using at all or not using enough. I want to tell the Lord yes. I want to do the stuff. I want to start doing the stuff in a new way.”

I want everyone with hands laid on them. I need about fifty of you up here. Come up here and lay hands on these folks. We just right now take authority. We break off unbelief and a spirit of stupor; we break off dullness right now.

Lord, we ask You for a fresh infusion of grace: the anointing to evangelize, a fresh compassion, a fresh burden of Your heart. Let it come, Lord, right now. Release it right now, all over the room.
Again, anyone in the room can come on up here. If you love Jesus, you’re on the ministry team. If you’re in this room and you love Jesus, whether you’re visiting or not, that doesn’t matter.

Let’s just take a few more minutes. Lord, release Your glory; release Your glory on them right now. Release faith. I ask that faith would be awakened in their spirit right now. We break the spirit of dullness and the spirit of stupor. We ask You, Lord, to activate their faith. We want to take hold of this end-time scenario today, tonight, tomorrow morning. We don’t want to wait; we want to take hold of it now.

We can do this for those in the prophetic. We could do this for those in the bridal paradigm. We can do it for those with the fatherless. We can do it for every one of these issues, but I just want to focus on one. So in your personal life, apply this to each of these issues. Release Your power, Lord, right now. Lord, release Your glory.

Again, feel free to move around the room. Don’t look at those chairs as boundary lines. Those aren’t boundary lines; they’re just something to sit in. Walk anywhere around the room and just pray for people. Everyone who loves Jesus, you’re on the ministry team.

Let Your fire come. Let Your fire come right now, Lord. In about ten minutes we’ll release the folks to the outreach tonight, and we’ll release the Call folks to their upstairs meeting in about ten minutes.

Release Your glory, Lord; release Your glory right now.