

## ***Session 5 Positive Spiritual Sign Trends in the Church***

### **I. END-TIME REVIVAL**

- A. We stand at a critical juncture in world history. The Holy Spirit is visiting His people as the darkness increases. The light is getting brighter as the darkness becomes darker. Thus, God will release the greatest revival in the Church in the midst of the greatest time of escalating darkness.  
***<sup>2</sup>Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isa. 60:2)***
- B. The greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history will be released before Jesus' return. The Spirit is raising up a glorious Church that will walk in truth, power, purity, and maturity as seen in the New Testament Church (Mt. 16:18; Jn. 17:21-26; Eph. 4:13; 5:27; Rev. 7:9; 12:11; 15:2; 19:7-8; 22:17).  
***<sup>27</sup>...He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle. (Eph. 5:27)***  
***<sup>17</sup>"It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh...  
<sup>20</sup>before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD." (Acts 2:17-20)***  
***<sup>7</sup>"For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." (Rev. 19:7)***
- C. Jesus is building His Church that will totally prevail over the power of darkness (Mt. 16:18).  
***<sup>18</sup>"I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Mt. 16:18)***
- D. ***Premise:*** Most of the positive and negative trends that will *come in fullness* at the time of Jesus' return are *occurring now* and will *continue to increase* until He comes.

### **II. POSITIVE SIGN TRENDS IN THE END-TIME CHURCH**

- A. ***Gospel preached to all nations:*** Jesus connected the timing of His return to the preaching of the gospel to all nations—there are 12,000 people groups (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9; 14:6). Leading mission leaders predict that the gospel will be preached to every people group by 2020. The Bible has been translated into 2,000+ languages (used by 98% of the world's population). The greatest harvest in history is occurring right now.  
***<sup>14</sup>"This gospel...will be preached...to all the nations [ethnos] and then the end will come."  
(Mt. 24:14)***  
***<sup>9</sup>...a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations...standing before the throne and before the Lamb...<sup>14</sup>"These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation." (Rev. 7:9, 14)***  
***<sup>6</sup>I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. (Rev. 14:6)***

- B. **Salvation of Israel:** Messianic (Jewish) congregations in Israel are seeing more Jewish people come to Jesus than at any time since the first century. There are 120+ Messianic congregations in Israel, totaling over 15,000 believers. There were two Messianic congregations in Israel in 1970.

<sup>19</sup>**“Repent therefore and be converted [Jewish people] ... <sup>20</sup>that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you [Jewish people] before, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive [retain] until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by...His prophets.” (Acts 3:19-21)**

1. Two conflicting trends: love for Israel in the Church, and anti-Semitism in the nations. Gentile believers will one day provoke Israel to jealousy to know Jesus (Rom. 11:11). This implies love for Israel from the Body of Christ, which is increasing rapidly. The Lord desires the Church to stand with Israel in her trouble, as Corrie ten Boom’s family supported Jewish people in the Netherlands during World War II.

<sup>11</sup>**...to provoke them [Israel] to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:11)**

2. God called the Church to stand with Israel (Isa. 40:1-2; Jer. 31:7-10; Mt. 25:31-46; Rom. 11:11). This includes the Church singing with gladness and boldly proclaiming the message of God’s purposes for Israel so that all the nations hear it clearly (Jer. 31:7).

<sup>7</sup>**Thus says the Lord: “Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord save...the remnant of Israel!’” (Jer. 31:7)**

- C. **Unity:** Jesus prayed for the Church to walk in *oneness* leading to global witness of the gospel with a greater release of God’s glory. The Father is determined to have the Church function in unity across cities and nations. We can do so much more together than we can do separately. Different parts of the body are to honor other parts of the body and embrace those with a different calling, focus and style.

<sup>22</sup>**“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one ...<sup>23</sup>and that the world may know that You have sent Me.” (Jn. 17:22-23)**

- D. **Prayer and worship movement:** Before Jesus returns, the Spirit will raise up the greatest prayer movement in history. There are many indicators of this in the Scriptures (Ps. 96:1, 9, 13; 98:1-9; 102:15-22; 122:6; 149:6-9; Isa. 19:20-22; 24:14-16, 23; 25:9; 26:1, 8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19, 29, 32; 35:2, 10; 42:10-15; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6-7; Jer. 31:7; 51:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Zeph. 2:1-3; Zech. 8:20-23; 10:1; 12:10; 13:9; Mt. 21:13; Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 14:18; 16:7; 18:6; 22:17).

<sup>7</sup>**“Shall God not avenge [bring justice to] His own elect who cry out day and night to Him...?”**  
<sup>8</sup>**“When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith [agreement] on the earth?” (Lk. 18:7-8)**

1. In 1984, the number of 24/7 houses of prayer in the world was fewer than 25. Today there are more 10,000, and most of the growth has occurred in the last 10 years.
2. Call2All hosted a congress in Orlando (Jan. 2008), and 170 CEOs of most of the top missions organizations made a commitment to start 70,000 new houses of prayer by 2020. In the Hong Kong Congress (June 2009) 3,000 leaders committed to start 400,000 houses of prayer by 2020. In Call2All congresses, leaders have committed to start over **500,000 houses of prayer**.

- E. The Lord desires to be worshiped on earth as He is in heaven (Mt. 6:10). In Revelation 4-5, John describes the worship order established after God’s heart. It reveals how He wants to be worshiped. The heavenly order of worship is **continual**, **musical**, and **God-centered** (Rev. 4:8; 5:8-9; 14:2).
- F. Isaiah prophesied 24/7 prayer ministries that would continue until Jesus returns (Isa. 62:6-7). Only one generation will see the fulfillment of God’s promise to “set” intercessors in place worldwide, who cry out until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth—which will happen when Jesus returns.  
***<sup>6</sup>I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace [be silent, NASB] day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He...makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth [at Jesus’ return]. (Isa. 62:6-7)***
- G. In Isaiah 42, Isaiah prophesied about a global intercessory worship movement (v. 10-12), which would usher in Jesus’ return (v. 13) and release His end-time judgments (v. 14-15).  
***<sup>10</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands...<sup>11</sup>Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar [Saudi Arabia] inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela [Jordan] sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains...<sup>13</sup>The LORD shall go forth [Jesus’ return] like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war...He shall prevail against His enemies.” (Isa. 42:10-13)***
- H. ***From the ends of the earth***: Five challenging areas will engage in the worship movement.  
1. ***Go down to the sea***: includes the nearly 12,000 inhabited islands of the earth  
2. ***Coastlands***: includes the major population and resource centers on the coastlands  
3. ***Wilderness***: includes the small cities in the wilderness and desert regions  
4. ***Villages of Kedar and Sela***: Muslim villages in Jordan (Sela) and Saudi Arabia (Kedar)  
5. ***Mountain tops***: a difficult place to assemble people for worship and prayer
- I. Psalms 96 and 98 prophesy a time when singing will arise to the Lord from all the earth.  
***<sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth...<sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord...tremble before Him, all the earth...<sup>13</sup>For He is coming to judge the earth. (Ps. 96:1-13)***  
***<sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord a new song...<sup>3</sup>All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.<sup>4</sup>Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song...and sing praises. (Ps. 98:1-4)***
- J. May God establish 24/7 prayer with worship in every tribe and tongue on earth before Jesus returns! This may happen in several places across a city or region (not just in one building), with many ministries working together.
- K. The Spirit is calling the Church to work together to offer intercession flowing from prophetic worship (music) and intimacy with God to fulfill the Great Commission (to win the lost, revive the Church, and impact society). It is prayer **for the harvest, with music**, and **from intimacy** with God.

- L. Amos' prophecy linked the timing of the rebuilding of David's tabernacle to one generation—when Israel would be planted in her land in a way that *she would never be pulled up from it* (v. 15). The Lord has planted Israel in their land three times—in Joshua's generation (about 1400 BC), in Zerubbabel's generation (538 BC), and in May 1948 (the only time they will not be uprooted). Israel was restored to her land in May 1948—it is the *only generation* in which this prophecy could be fulfilled. It *signaled the beginning* of a unique time in history when the spirit of the tabernacle of David would be released—connected to the harvest of the remnant of Edom (Islamic nations).
- <sup>11</sup>***“I will raise up the tabernacle of David...<sup>12</sup>that they may possess the remnant of Edom [Islam] and all the Gentiles [nations]...<sup>14</sup>I will bring back the captives of My people Israel...<sup>15</sup>I will plant them in their land [1948], and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land.” (Amos 9:11-15)***
- M. ***Outpouring of the Spirit:*** The Lord promised to pour out His Spirit on all believers (Acts 2:17-21). The increase of the number of believers with “charismatic” theology and experience has grown from *one million* (1920) to *60 million* (1970) to over *600 million* today. The spirit of prophecy will increase in the Church (Jer. 23:20; Dan. 11:33; Joel 2:28-29; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:17; Rev. 11:3-6; 18:20).
- <sup>17</sup>***“It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...before the...day of the LORD.” (Acts 2:17-20)***
- N. ***Bridal paradigm of the kingdom:*** Revelation 22:17 prophesies an aspect of how the Church will function—in *unity with the Spirit*, saying and doing what He is saying and doing as He speaks to believers about their *identity* as Jesus' Bride and *intercedes* through them for Jesus to “come” in power. For the first time the Spirit is universally emphasizing the Church's identity as Jesus' Bride.
- <sup>17</sup>***The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” (Rev. 22:17)***
- O. Malachi prophesied of the Lord raising up many who would turn their hearts to children (adoption, pro-life movements, sex trafficking, etc.). This will result in the largest orphan outreach in history.
- <sup>6</sup>***“And he [Elijah] will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children.” (Mal. 4:6)***
- P. ***Increased understanding of God's end-time plans:*** The Lord will raise up “people of understanding,” who will make known to “many” the unique events and trends prophesied in Scripture related to His end-time plans. “Many” will be hungry for answers from God's Word about His end-time plans. We see tokens of the significant increase of hunger to understand God's end-time plan in the fact that over 75 million books have been sold in the *Left Behind* series (Tim LaHaye, first published 1995), and over 30 million copies of *The Late Great Planet Earth* (Hal Lindsay, first published 1970). The Lord will raise up *forerunner messengers* who will “understand” what the Bible says He is doing (Isa. 62:10-12; Jer. 23:20; 30:24; Dan. 11:33; 12:10; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:17-18; Rev. 11:3-6; 13:18; 17:9).
- <sup>33</sup>***“And those of the people who understand shall instruct many.” (Dan. 11:33)***
- <sup>20</sup>***“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.” (Jer. 23:20)***