

RESTORING THE MARANATHA CRY

I want to invite you on a journey with me into a massive theme that scriptures seems to be very loud and clear on but it has not been a major focus for the Church in the last few generations. It's the scriptural theme of the Maranatha Cry. It's the reclaiming of something that has been promised in Christ. It's the reclaiming of someone who has yet to come in complete fullness. It's the aching and longing of Christ in His nearness and fullness. It's the longing of a corporate people for the eternal far more than the temporal. Do you feel the ache? Are you bold enough to allow your heart to lead you into the unknown and untapped promise of the Man, Christ Jesus Himself? Let's ask for Christ's return. Let's look at the last first and then work our way backwards.

Revelation 22:12-17 *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." ¹⁴Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." ¹⁷**And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"** And let him who hears say, **"Come!"** And let him who thirsts **come**. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

I. THE SPIRIT & THE BRIDE CRY 'COME'

- A. The highest reward and privilege of the saved and redeemed Believers in Jesus is that of being the Bride of Christ. We see the prophetic promise of the Lord through John being that His Bride will have a clear paradigm of our calling to His alone.
- B. The second thing we see in this promise is that Christ's Bride will be in unity with Holy Spirit praying the most sincere and mature prayer of all, that of *"Jesus, we want Your return."*
 - a. **The Spirit & the Bride**- There is no higher focus of the Holy Spirit than that of making Christ Jesus known to the human heart. When we see Christ, we will love Him. When we love Him, we will begin to want Him.
 - b. **Let Him Who Hears**- This invitation is for all *"who have ears"*, spiritually speaking. This is a declaration for all of the Bride of Jesus to be awakened to this heart-cry.
 - c. **Let Him Who Has Thirst**- This maranatha invitation is restorative to all who cry out for Jesus's nearness. We see that even in this invitation, it is not limited to the future but is also a present promise.
 - d. **Take the Water of Life Freely**- The Spirit transforms the desires of the human heart as we cry out in prayer to the Lord Jesus.
- C. **Come, Lord Jesus (Grk.= 'erchomai')**- *to come from one place to another, and used both of persons arriving and of those returning*
- D. **Come Lord Jesus- (Aramaic= 'maranatha')** *our Lord cometh or will come*
- E. **1 Corinthians 16:22** *If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!*
- F. *"Because maranatha had become a sort of watchword—a "secret" password—among early first-century Christians even though most of them spoke Greek. At a time when Christians were often persecuted both by Jews and Romans, an Aramaic password was a kind of code they could use to identify other Christians—one that Greeks and Romans wouldn't necessarily understand the meaning of." (www.bibleinfo.com)*
- G. The understanding and agreement of Believers and Followers of Jesus in that day could be simplified into the two meanings of the Maranatha word: **1)**. Do you believe that our Lord came once? **2)**. Do you believe

that our Lord will come again for us? If there is agreement around these two realities, then we are one family and we will obey all of Christ's commands together. Come, Lord Jesus!

II. CHRIST'S ABSENCE MEANS OUR LONGING

- A. **Matthew 9:15** *And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.*
- B. Jesus actually introduces a new paradigm of fasting and that is simply for love. Jesus said that His absence from His followers would create a longing, an aching, and a grieving that would be driven because of love for Him.
- C. **Matthew 5:4** *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- D. **To Mourn-** (Grk= 'pentheō') *to mourn, lament, bewail, grieve, etc.*
- E. Jesus told His disciples in His last private conversation that He was about to leave the earth but that His absence would be our good.
- F. **John 16:7** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

III. WHEN ALL NATIONS CRY 'COME, LORD JESUS'

- A. **Matthew 24:14** *And this gospel (good news) of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*
- B. **Gospel** (Grk- 'euangelion') *the glad tidings of the kingdom of God soon to be set up, and subsequently also of Jesus the Messiah, the founder of this kingdom. After the death of Christ, the term comprises also the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ as having suffered death on the cross to procure eternal salvation for the men in the kingdom of God, but as restored to life and exalted to the right hand of God in heaven, thence to return in majesty to consummate the kingdom of God.*
- C. Jesus defines the final generation who awaits His second coming as one who will a global acknowledgement of His Kingdom and desire for His Kingdom to be set into the earth in its finality. For this to be true, there must be a global desire for His Kingdom more than the kingdoms of this world that are failing and faltering.
- H. **Revelation 1:4-** *"...Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come..."*
- I. We were created for Christ, have been invited back into Christ, with the final promise of being fully reunited to Christ for eternity. We will not spend eternity in the in-between. We are in the waiting room of life. We are on the craftsman's table being perfected and prepared for a glorious day of presentation to the Lord Jesus as His Father's promised inheritance. Will you join Holy Spirit in His work of the preparation of your heart?
- J. All nations will declare **Rev. 22:17** the Maranatha cry! This will be a global cry for "Good News!"
- K. Jesus is scheduled to return at His second coming at the command of the Heavenly Father and in answer to the growing prayer and longing and readiness of His promised Bride in the earth.
- L. Whenever the aching for Christ becomes greater than the temporary comfort of this life, then you know that the Maranatha Cry has taken hold of your heart.
- M. **2 Timothy 4:8** *Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*