



# Spirit Empowered C H U R C H

## Spirit Empowered Church

### Part 1

June 12, 2022

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 24:3-14, <sup>3</sup>As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup>And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,

and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. <sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word. Amen and Amen. You may be seated...

Today we will begin a new series entitled the Spirit Empowered Church during which we will discuss several topics that orbit around this emphasis. The First Century Church was a Spirit Empowered Church and the End Time Church must be a Spirit Empowered Church as well.

And I believe that a part of this empowerment is connected to the Prophetic Move of the Holy Spirit. Church Family, A Spirit Empowered Church is a Prophetically Inspired and Prophetically Insightful Church.

Now there are many views and perspectives regarding the Prophetic; of this I understand. However, I firmly believe that the End Time Church is a Prophetic Church and today I will endeavor to begin unpacking this specific topic; The Prophetic and Its Necessity to the Church. Prophecy gives us warnings of things to come... So with that said, Point #1...

## 1. Prophetic Insight can give us Warning of what is Coming thus Granting us Time to Prepare.

- a. The Gospel of Saint John 16:12-13, <sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”
- b. Some may read this text and focus on the first half but I want to draw our attention to the end of this passage of text. “and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”
- c. One noted demonstration of this truth is found in the Book of Acts with a prophet by the name of Agabus.

d. Notice with me in the Book of Acts chapter 11:27-30, “<sup>27</sup> Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). <sup>29</sup> So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. <sup>30</sup> And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.”

e. Take note how the Prophetic revealed a forthcoming problem to allow the church time to prepare itself before the impact of this forthcoming famine. And it was this prophetic word that divinely positioned the church to be protected by resourcing it with the means necessary to take care of itself, to sustain the faith community, and to ultimately reach the community around itself. And all of this was possible because the Church had foresight of things to come.

f. God had a plan for the problem but the Church had to be warned of this forthcoming problem, be inspired by the plan of response, and be willing to follow through on the warning and the plan to ensure that the Ministry of the Gospel was not hindered.

g. The Prophet Amos proclaimed in Amos 3:7 the following, **“For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.”**

h. And God has raised up Prophets in this hour and in times past to warn the Church; Such as Kent Christmas, John Paul Jackson, Kim Clement, Robin Bullock, Jonathan Cahn, Steve Cioccolanti, David Wilkerson and even Perry Stone. (Book References)

i. The Lord has raised up true prophets in this season, and in the past, who have been given Visions that are not sunshine and rainbows which are speaking to the current season in which we live.

Ladies and gentlemen, all is not well in our Nation nor our World:

- i. Fuel Shortage Crisis on top of Massive Fuel Cost Spikes - We were energy independent and a net exporter of energy less than two years ago and now we have shortages around the nation and massive cost increases; more than double in less than 18 months. Diesel prices will directly impact our food prices in the coming months.
- ii. Baby Formula Shortages and Food Shortages due to manufacturing issues and delivery problems.

- iii. Food Storage and food manufacturing facilities mysteriously burning down around our nation
- iv. Inflation / Shrinkflation of Commodities on a national scale
- v. The Buying Power of the US Dollar is Plummeting due to inflation
- vi. Our national debt is over 30 plus trillion dollars and counting
- vii. Our stock market is all over the board
- viii. Global Commodity Markets are vastly unstable
- ix. The threat of a Global Famine is real and foreign countries are preparing for it by stopping their exports of food and grain
- x. Global Military Conflicts are happening and are getting worse
- xi. Political Divisions within our Nation - Roe vs Wade / Gun Legislation

But, in spite of the obvious, our nation's leaders are acting as if nothing is wrong...

- j. Remember, Prophetic Insight can give us Awareness of what is Coming thus Granting us time to Prepare and get our House in Order. Point #2...

**2. Prophetic Insight can give us Awareness of what is Coming thus Giving us Insight regarding what We should Do.**

a. In 1 Chronicles 12:32, the text records, “Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...”

Why does the Text read in this manner?

b. The Sons of Issachar had an understanding of the times in which they lived and it helped them to know what the future held and how to prepare for when the future became the present.

c. Pay close attention to what I just said; how to prepare for when the future becomes the present.

d. The Apostle Paul wrote the following in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”

e. Why does this verse read this way? Because they were not paying attention to what was going on around them or rather had deceived themselves into believing that nothing was wrong.

- f. Far too many in this Nation are declaring peace and security but a spirit of lawlessness and destruction is manifesting in the streets of America; but no one seems to want to address the elephant in the room. We are seemingly whistling past the graveyard.
- g. There are countless people that are intentionally turning a blind eye because no one seems to want to come to terms with our present reality and our potential future reality. So many are calling out for “normal” to return or establish a “new normal” but there is absolutely nothing normal about these past 2 and a half years.
- h. And sadly a Pastor is called to be a “fear monger” or a “doomsday preacher” if any of us even dare to address our political issues or speak to the obvious truths of our current conundrum; I’m not making any of this up! I am not an Alarmist; I’m simply telling you what you already know. It’s headline news on a daily basis. What many once called conspiracy is now common knowledge; and on that note, asking questions doesn’t make you a conspiracy theorist, it means you are intelligent enough to not go along with everything you are told without question. The Jews never believed they were being taken to gas chambers until they were in the chambers themselves. And this is why the Nation of Israel’s slogan phrase is “Never Again!”



- i. Our nation is encountering one disaster after another with no end in sight; is anyone else seeing what I am seeing? Surely, I am not the only one who is paying attention.
- j. Too many Men of God, who sincerely care about the Church, are being attacked by political leaders, church leaders and even church members because no one wants to hear truth anymore and no one wants to be told that our Nation is headed for a serious crisis unlike anything that we have ever seen before.
- k. And here's the truth of the matter: In October of 2020, I preached a message from this pulpit and prophetically declared these current matters were coming; some listened and others scoffed. Some even left our church over what I shared.
- l. But here we are dealing with exactly what I said was coming; I do not say this as a slight against anyone, nor as a self-elevating statement, but rather in hope that the fruit of my ministry would lend to your ears the willingness to listen to me now.
- m. The Apostle John wrote in the Book of the Revelation... "He that hath an ear, let Him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches..." and I pray in the Name of Christ that you are listening to me today.

- n. I believe that the days ahead may very well be the best of times and the worst of times at the same time. I believe that a Revival and a Reckoning in our nation and world are both traveling on the same track. I believe that as it was in the Book of Exodus; there was Darkness in Egypt but there was Light in Goshen; Darkness in the World but Protection and Prophetic Light in the Church.
- o. And just as in the Exodus story, I also believe that there will be a great wealth transfer to the Church as a part of the End Time Revival before the Rapture of the Church. Jubilee is Coming to our Church says the Lord!
- p. I believe the Lord is warning His Church just as He did through Agabus in so that we can Further the Gospel, Minister to the Hurting, and Demonstrate the Power of the Holy Ghost in the coming days, months and years ahead.
- q. There is no better time for the Church to demonstrate the Power of the Lord Jesus than when crisis hits...And I firmly believe that the Lord is preparing His Church to do just that...
- r. The Lord is Warning His People... My question for all you is are you listening?

- s. I need you to remember, Prophetic Insight can give us Awareness of what is Coming thus Giving us Insight regarding what We should Do. And Point #3... (P Brad to Come...)

### 3. Prophetic Insight can give us Understanding of what is Coming thus Giving us Hope that His Warnings are also His Grace.

- a. Prophecy is meant to give us hope in our current moment by giving us insight into the future and the victory that is found there! He warns of us because He loves Us!
- b. 2 Peter 1:17-21, <sup>17</sup>“For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”<sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup>And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

- c. The Prophetic is meant to give us insight thus garnering hope and joy even while navigating difficult moments or seasons of time. Note how Peter refers to prophetic insight as being a lamp shining in a dark place and it is this prophetic light that I desire to be made manifest in our church body; I desire this with all of my heart.
- d. I want the purity of the prophetic to be a lamp in the darkness of the world around us and for that light to shine forth from our church into our community and state.
- e. Church, the world around us is unstable, it's godless, and it is riven with conflict; darkness is falling upon our world and it is the prophetic light that Holy Spirit brings through the local church that will be not only a moniker of His favor upon His Church but also a beacon of hope that will mark safe harbors for a wayward humanity that is caught in the throes of an unstable world. I fear that the refugee crisis in eastern Europe is only the beginning...
- f. It is that light, the prophetic, that will shine hope and salvation into an ever darkening world and when catastrophe strikes, when kingdoms crumble, when chaos reigns; Christ will reign in our hearts by faith and we will be the light bearers, the Christians, that

will light the way home. Darkness may be coming upon the Earth but never lose sight of the fact that Christ is coming as well!

g. Remember Church, Prophetic Insight can give us Understanding of what is Coming thus Giving us Hope that His Warnings are also His Grace.

Many of you may be saying, “Pastor what do you need us to do?”

- Get right with the Father - Born Again and seek the Holy Spirit
- Be unwaveringly faithful to His Church: attendance, serving, giving
- Be willing to love and serve your neighbors - Love the Lord; Love your Neighbors as yourselves
- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you in what He would have you do. Just as with the church’s response to Agabus, they did not run from the warning found within the prophetic word, they made a plan in light of the warning to ensure the Gospel Light went forth.
- Be prayerful, be aware, and be vigilant in your faith, your hope, and in your love for the Lord and for others. Do not allow the difficulties of this life to cause you to wax cold in your love for the Lord and for His Church. Remember the Words of Christ, “They that endure until the end shall be saved!” May we all endure no matter the cost!

- In the Words of John the Apostle at the end of his life, “Little children, love one another. For if you do this, you do well.”
- The King is Coming and it is time to ensure we have Oil in our Lamps!