

THE NEED FOR THE MATURING OF THE SAINTS-21 DAY FAST

ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

I. GOD PROMISE TO SET INTERCESSORS IN PLACE IN THE END TIMES

A. Isaiah gave a most significant prophecy for the end-time Church concerning her activity in the spirit upon the earth. It speaks of a people that would reach a point of maturity that will supersede the fallen ways of our hearts to the majestic ways of His.

‘I have set watchmen [intercessors] on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace [be silent] 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)

B. Right now, and for some time, the Western Church has been in an identity crisis. We are either so “domesticated” and institutionalized (to incorporate into a structured and highly formalized system) or the equal danger of deconstructionism a process of critically dismantling biblical understanding that results in the abandoning of biblical faith in Jesus and His divinity that leads to a deconversion.

C. This current prevailing danger works in opposition to the biblical expectation of the end time church. While Jesus is promising a church that the gates of hell will not prevail the church is opening her gates to the prevailing culture of the day: relative truth, fluid identity, victimization of the elite, cancel culture, etc.

Cast all your anxiety on Him, [and not social media] because He cares for you. Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in your faith and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering... (1 Peter 5:7-8)

D. Prayer for God’s purposes for Jerusalem is central to God’s end-time plan. Jerusalem is one of the most essential but most difficult areas on earth in which to bring full revival. The battle for the control of Jerusalem is a political, and military battle but it is spiritual first and foremost.

E. One of the maturation indicators of the church will be our attitude towards the salvation of Israel. That the church of the last days will be awakened to pray for the peace of Jerusalem found in their discovery of the Prince of peace, their Messiah Jesus. Knowing that Israel is at the center of God’s plan and the church is the end days agent to be a witness to Israel first of the good news of Yeshua’s resurrection from the dead.

Pray for the peace (shalom: completeness, welfare) of Jerusalem may they prosper (shalah: be at ease) who love you. Peace (shalom:) be within your walls, prosperity (shalvah) within your palaces. For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, “Peace be within you.” Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:6-9)

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“Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; Proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD, save Your people, the remnant of Israel.’” (Jer. 31:7)

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”(Rom. 10:1)

For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Cor. 3:14-17)

- F. Another sign of the maturation of the church will be our earthly relationships. There will be an increase of love and forgiveness at every level of human relationship. This is not an automatic thing but as the revelation of the Holy Spirit continues to convict our hearts there will be an increase in an “attitude of gratitude” as we join with all creation for the revealing of the sons of God.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” (Malachi 4:5-6)

Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God. (Eph. 5:17-21)

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish... Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph. 5:22-27,33)

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt. 22:36-40)

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II. THE GENERATION THE LORD RETURNS: THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF PRAYER

- A. There are approximately 2 billion people that align themselves with Christianity in relation to the 8.1 billion in the world. 1 billion are Catholic and the 1 billion are Protestant with 600 million being Pentecostal/Charismatic. In light of this, the expected revival that is yet to take place can bring about the greatest number of believers on the earth in history. If disciplined in accordance with the pattern of scripture, there will be more prayer arising from the earth in the days ahead of us than at any time in history.
- B. Joel 2/Acts 2 and Luke 18 will be an emphasis of that last generation as the Lord will empower the church to be what He expects when He comes. The greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history will be released just before Jesus' Coming and will result in an increase of prayer and the prophetic.

And 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, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. (Acts 2:17-18)

Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

- C. In Luke 17, Jesus warns about prevailing attitudes within the church in the days just prior to His return. He speaks of offences that will be on the increase and the great need for forgiveness and restoration (Luke 17:1-4). He dismantles the expectation of fame and favor as a motivation for the increase of faith (Luke 17:6-10). He uses the opportunity to heal 10 lepers to show the lack of gratitude and gratefulness in the last days (Luke 17:11-19). And finally in Luke 17:20-37 Jesus describes the dismantling of a "Kingdom Now" mindset and a time of suffering and persecution to be expected leading up to His being revealed as the Messiah of Israel.

Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. (Luke 17:33)

- D. Luke 18 is the 8-verse prescription to the Luke 17 end time diagnosis:

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ² saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor ³ regard man. ⁴ Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ⁵ 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' ⁶ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁷ yet because this widow troubles me I will ⁸ avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' ⁹ Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. ¹⁰ And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ¹¹ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. ¹² Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1-7)