Within the fold of Christianity there are to be found increasing numbers of persons whose religious lives are marked by a growing hunger after God Himself. They are eager for spiritual realities and will not be put off with words, nor will they be content with correct "interpretations" of truth. They are athirst for God, and they will not be satisfied till they have drunk at the Fountain of Living Water.

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Prayer Study #341

THE LAST DAYS

PART TWO

The Major Events of the Last Days

1. **The Falling Away:** *While He was seated on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately and said, "Tell us, when will this take place, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end-that is, the completion, the consummation-of this age?"* Matthew 24:3 AMP

   "…the love of the great body of people will grow cold, because of the multiplied lawlessness and iniquity." Matthew 24:12 AMP

   (**Note:** I, as I understand it, want to define *iniquity,* which is often wrongly interpreted sin. *Iniquity* is not the actual act of sin. It is the drive that is behind the sin. For example, if a person had an iniquity drive of lust, the sin might be adultery, fornication, molestation, or sexual perversion. Iniquity drives cannot be cast out like demons. One must pray over a period of time, until one day they wake up and realize they no longer have that drive to sin in that particular area.

   Iniquities can pass down from generation to generation. That's why we so often see "like father, like son" and child abusers raising child abusers. Numbers 14:18 tells us, *"The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.* The Good News is that Jesus was bruised for our iniquities, and so we can overcome these drives in us by prayer, confession, pleading the blood, accepting the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross for us, and by being genuinely sorry for allowing these drives to overtake us. Isaiah 14:12-17 shows us the five "I WILL" statements Lucifer said in his heart. These are the roots of the main iniquity drives we see today).

2. **The Persecution of Christians Worldwide:** ***"Then they will hand you over to suffer affliction and tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake"*** *(Matthew 24:9 AMP).*
3. **Men's hearts will fail because of fear:** ***"And there shall be signs in the sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth[there will be] distress (trouble and anguish) of nations in bewilderment and perplexity [without resources, left wanting, embarrassed, in doubt, not knowing which way to turn] at the roaring (the echo) of the tossing of the sea; the sea and the waves roaring. Men swooning away or expiring with fear and dread and apprehension and expectation of the things that are coming on the world; for the [very] powers of the heavens will be shaken and caused to totter."*** (Luke 21:25-26 AMP). Where are these powers that are going to shake and totter? I assure you they are not in the Paradise of God, which we call heaven. Paul said that he knew a man who was caught up in the third heaven: *"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-whether in the body of our of the body I do not know, God knows-was caught up in the third heaven. And I know that this man-whether in the body or away from the body I do not know, God knows-was caught up into paradise, and he heard utterances beyond the power of man to put into words, which man is not permitted to utter."* If there is a third heaven, there has to be a first and second heaven. This puzzle is easily solved. There is the first heaven, which is what we will see if we go outside and look up into the sky. Then there is the second heaven where there is great warfare going on with the holy angels fighting against the demonic princes who were kicked out of paradise. We know these princes exist because of Ephesians 6 and because of Daniel 10. Then there is what we in American society call heaven, which is the Paradise of God. This third heaven is not shaking and tottering. I believe the demonic princes in the second heaven are being referred to here. This second heaven is the domain of Satan who not only stands in the second heaven to accuse the brethren (Revelation 12), but also goes about on the earth like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour: *Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour* (1st Peter 5:8).

4. **The Great Harvest:** *…Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house, and his disciples came unto him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." He answered and said unto them,* ***"He that sows the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sows them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of this age. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend and them who do iniquity and shall cast them in to a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear"*** (Matthew 13:36-43). We see from this scripture that the Great Harvest is at the end of the age.

   Therefore, He said unto them, ***"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest"*** (Luke 10:2). The number of people coming to Christ at the end of the age will be great. Yet sadly there are few laborers. Perhaps it is because so many will fall away and be lukewarm and cold hearted towards the Lord.

   Do you not say, It is still four months until harvest time comes? Look! I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields and see how they are already white for harvesting (John 4:35). The two things that usher in revival are intense corporate prayer and repentance. Yet we never know when the Lord is going to show up in a service. In the Asbury Revival in Kentucky in 1970 they were having a typical weekday chapel service. No one, I am sure, went to that mandatory chapel thinking that the Holy Spirit was going to come down on that body and use those people to carry revival all over the world. They were so caught up in the Lord that classes had to be called off because everyone was spending as much time as possible in Hughes Auditorium. Oh, that the Lord would grant our prayer that His Presence fall here and revive us and fill us so that we can go with the anointing to all the world!

5. **The Gathering of the Remnant:** *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be* (Genesis 49:10). The

Old Testament is not obsolete, as some teach, and has great significance for today's new millennial Christians. St. Augustine reportedly was the originator of the famous quote: *The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed. The Old is in the New revealed.* Paul backs up this theme when he told the Corinthians that everything that happened to the Old Testament followers of Yahweh happened to them so as examples for us (1st Corinthians 10:11). The fact of the matter is that no one can understand the New Testament very well without some knowledge of the Old. Shiloh, for example, is a type in the Old Testament of Christ Jesus, the Messiah, and this scripture speaks of the gathering of the people. What it is referring to is really the people who will walk in obedience to Christ. This gathering together of the people is usually just a remnant of people who really make Jesus the center of their lives. God has always had a remnant. Perhaps the most well known is Gideon's Army. There are many, many more. I will just name a few: "The Zion Company," "The Manifested Sons of God," "The Elijah Company in Malachi," "The Bridal Company," "The Third Day Church in Hosea," and "Those who have kissed the Son in Psalm 2." I believe, however, that He is saving the best for last and that the remnant of the Last Days is already being gathered together.

A Remnant is Rising in the Land
By Robert Stearns

They will not be bought or sold with position or money. They are remembering why they "got into this" in the first place-for the Lamb, for Jesus Christ's honor, for the sake of His worthy name. Their backbones are being steeled in the furnace of affliction, and purified of contemporary dross. They are old-school, hard-core Jesus freaks, and they are not apologizing for it. The remnant is not ashamed.

They are blood-bought and fiercely committed to the Word-the Logos and the Rhema.

Something within them stirs because they know they are here on a kairos assignment. They realize that they may have forgotten for a moment, diverted off the path for some years, but like soldiers who remember drills from long ago, they are coming to attention and position and awareness.

They are here on purpose. They are necessary to Heaven's narrative. They are not bystanders. They are players on the stage of His-story.

This army is realizing they never should have eaten Babylon's food in the first place, even if it was served in halls decorated to look like a cheap imitation of Zion. They would rather be pilgrims than settle. They would rather be fools for Christ than wise in the world's eyes. They would rather be known in heaven and feared in hell than recognized on earth.

What happens to them in the world really doesn't matter. They have locked gazes with the Lamb's eyes and locked step with the cadence of Heaven's march.

His remnant understands that this is the Final Act, and there is no turning back now.

I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back. No turning back. We have decided. Have you decided?

6. **The Rise of the Antichrist:** *And the king shall do according to his own will; he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. He shall regard neither the God of his father nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things* (Daniel 11:36-38). Some believe this wicked man, who will be totally demonized and a Satanist, is already on the earth today. Because of the above passage, some believe that he will actually be Jewish. Others believe he will come out of the old Roman empire and be Muslim. Still others believe he could come from most anywhere, and some have even suggested that certain men living today are the Antichrist. At any rate he will not receive his full power until Satan gives him that power to subdue the people on the earth (Revelation 13:1-4) He most likely will not be

publically known, at least on a worldwide basis, until he has taken his position as a world ruler. His rule shall be for 7 years, and there will be great tribulation on the earth. He will make a peace covenant with Israel but will break that covenant after 3 ½ years. The Antichrist will eventually declare himself as God and will enter the temple in Jerusalem and set up his throne in the holy of holies. This is referred to in Scripture as the "abomination of desolation." In Scripture the Antichrist is called the Man of Sin (2nd Thessalonians 2:3), Son of Perdition (2nd Thessalonians (2nd Thessalonians 2:3), the Lawless One (2nd Thessalonians 2:8), the Antichrist (1st John 2:18 & 22), the Beast (Revelation 11:7). He is described as lawless (2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12), opposing God (2nd Thessalonians 2:4), working wonders (2nd Thessalonians 2:9), deceiving the world (2nd John 7 & Revelation 19:20), persecuting Christians (Revelation 13:7), Satan-inspired (2nd Thessalonians 2:9), denying Christ (1st John 4:3 and 2 John 7), and seeking man's worship (2nd Thessalonians 2:4).

He is coming in the last days (1st John 2:18), before Christ's return (2nd Thessalonians 2:3&8), and he is coming by Satan's deception (2nd Thessalonians 2:9 -10). He will be destroyed at Jesus' return (2nd Thessalonians 2:8 & Revelation 19:20) and he will spend eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

John reminds us in 1st John that there also are spirits of antichrist in the world and have been since the days of Jesus. *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, of which ye have heard that it should come and even now already is it in the world* (1st John 4:3). John is not suggesting in any way that there will not be *an Antichrist* ruler of the world at the end of the age.

7. **The Second Coming:** ***"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect"*** (Matthew 24:42-44). We will be looking at the Second Coming of Christ more extensively in the next week's study.

Where Are You?

Steps in the Christian Walk as We Wait for His Coming

Walking out our faith while we wait for His coming is very necessary. Also the more mature ones should mentor those who are just starting out on this journey which culminates in either our going to be with Jesus or His coming back for us.

1. **Coming out of Egypt:** The brand new believer gets his start by coming out of Egypt (the world) and crossing the Red Sea (baptism). This is the born again experience together with water baptism.
2. **Wandering in the Wilderness:** After the excitement and newness of being a new creature in Christ, most believers have a wilderness experience. This is not "fun", but it is necessary for our growth. Surprisingly, this is the pattern our Lord followed: *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil* (Matthew 4:1). What shocks me about this scripture is the fact that the Holy Spirit was the One who led Jesus into the wilderness for the expressed purpose of being tempted by the devil.

   The wilderness is a place of testing and a place of strengthening. Because we are called in the wilderness to die to self and because we don't enjoy trials and testings, we, in the natural, find it difficult to praise the Lord there. Thus, the wilderness often becomes a place of murmuring and complaining. Until we can overcome this temptation to murmur and complain, we are destined to stay in the wilderness until we *can* overcome. It is here that we learn the valuable lesson of walking by faith instead of by sight (2nd Corinthians 5:7). The best way to shorten our time in the wilderness is to praise the Lord. Lack of praise makes us very vulnerable to the temptations of the enemy, because the Lord inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3), and the enemy can never win over us when we stand in the Presence of Jesus and walk in obedience to Him. His presence brings us great joy, for the Word tells us that *in His presence is fullness of joy* (Psalm 16:11), and *the joy of the Lord is our strength* (Nehemiah 8:10).
3. **Crossing the Jordan:** Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is what the crossing the Jordan experience does for us. This is a place where the carnal Christian dies to his self-will and is filled with

the Spirit. I believe this experience is going to be necessary for believers to stand and to be faithful in the days ahead.

4. **Slaying the Giants and Possessing the Land:** This types entering into spiritual warfare armed with the full armor of God as enumerated in Ephesians 6, and taking your inheritance in the Lord. The Word tells us that we are joint heirs with Jesus. *The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together* (Romans 8:16-17).

   Many Christians, even spirit baptized Christians, are satisfied to get fat and lazy spiritually and enjoy the blessings of God without putting forth any effort to do spiritual warfare. They often join "bless-me" clubs instead of joining the army of God. We obviously live in a world where there are many giants that we must slay in order to really possess the land, and today we need mighty warriors not spectators who sit and do nothing.

   Those who have entered in to the promise land find a new way of living in a land flowing with milk, the foundational truths of God's Word (1st Corinthians 3:2), and honey, the sweet Word of God which brings divine blessings and turns our mourning into joy (Psalm 119:7-11). Notice that the land is flowing with these things. That means there is great abundance there.

   We can defeat the power of the enemy, i.e. slay the giants, with the Rhema of God (Epehsians 6:17). *Logos* is the whole of the precious Word of God. *Rhema* is when the Lord gives individual scriptures specifically for a person and specifically for that time and place. Sometimes these Rhema words are prophetic in nature and brought to our remembrance by the Holy Spirit for use in our time of need to defeat the power of the enemy and thus live in victory over the kingdom of darkness. Sometimes Rhema words are for the right now in chronological time. Other times we have to put them on the shelf, so to speak, and wait for their fulfillment. At the proper time, we must make the choice to speak in faith the Rhema word that will not return void (Isaiah 55:11), if we are to slay the giants and live victoriously. This will, however, put us on the enemy's hit list, but our praise will give us strength to resist.

5. **Making disciples:** *So God created man in His own image in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and*

multiply; fill the earth and subdue it: have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth"(Genesis 1:27-28).

First the natural and then the spiritual: *However, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual* (1st Corinthians 15:46).

And He said to them, ***"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover"***(Mark 16:15-18). ***"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"*** (Acts 1:8).

6. **Knowing the Lord:** This is a lifelong quest. I certainly know him better today than I did years ago, but the more we know of Jesus the more we realize how little we have experienced of His Presence and His love and how little we really know Him. The word *know* in the Bible is a term of great intimacy, as Adam *knew* Eve, and they had a son. Paul wrote that the goal of his life was to *know* the Lord (Philippians 3:10). This was written from Rome to the Philippians. It was near the end of Paul's life, and he was awaiting execution by Nero. Yet his letter, written from prison, is full of joy and rejoicing. He had had a wonderful ministry over his adult lifetime and had some very close and intimate encounters with Jesus. Yet he recognized that there was more to know about Jesus. Unlike some of our television evangelist today, he did not come across as better than others or knowing more than his peers. This theme of humility is reflected in his life and is an evolution from where he started ministry. His own estimation of himself in scripture is very telling: 24 years after his conversion, he said, "I am the least of the apostles" (1st Corinthians 15:9). 30 years after his conversion, he said in describing himself, "Who am less than the least of the saints"(Ephesians 3:8) 39 years after his conversion, he said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief" (1st Timothy 1:15).

7. **Bringing the Kingdom of God on the earth:** ***"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"*** (Luke 12:32). The first and the last thing that Jesus spoke of was concerning the Kingdom of God. ***"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"*** (Matthew 4:17b). Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, ***"It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*** The goal of every Christian should be to bring the Kingdom of God *on earth as it is in heaven* in its fullness. In heaven there is no sickness, no lack, no heartache, no sorrow, etc. God created the earth and put the first inhabitants in a beautiful garden with the perfect temperature and all needs met. Ezekiel calls Eden the Garden of God (Ezekiel 28:13). It was here that God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. Eden was the closest mirror of heaven that has been on earth. We will walk in a greater measure of the Kingdom than we are walking in now. The fullness of the Kingdom, however, will not come until Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom on earth. Then the heavenly host-the angels and all those loved ones who died in Christ-will proclaim Revelation 11:15…*The kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.* We advance the Kingdom of God on the earth through prayer, through scriptural confession, through worship, through faith, through spiritual warfare, through repentance and holiness, through believing that all things are possible through Christ. To help usher in the Kingdom Age is probably the most important thing we are called to do. It starts today with us making the enemies of Jesus His footstool (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:43, Acts 2:35, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13).

Biblical Symbolism of Rising and Falling or Being on the Ground

RISING

1. **Psalm 68:1a**-*Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered…*
2. **Malachi 4:2a**-*But unto them that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings…*
3. **Isaiah 60:1:** *ARISE* [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you-RISE TO NEW LIFE!]. *Shine* (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), *for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!* AMP

FALLING OR BEING ON THE GROUND

1. **Psalm 110:1** (see other places this verse appears in the top paragraph on this page): *The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at My right hand until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.*
2. **Romans 16:20a:** *And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly…*
3. **Ephesians 6:12-***For we wrestle* [literally *wrestle* to the ground] *not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high place.*

Discerning the Seasons

There was a tribe of the twelve in ancient Israel that had a special ability to discern the times or seasons. Not only did the Sons of Issachar have this ability, they were also anointed by God to be able to know what to do in these seasons (1st Chronicles 12:32). There is a great need today for people who can discern the times and direct the Body of Christ in what to do. I believe we are entering a time of spiritual warfare like the Body of Christ has never seen. If we don't run to the battle and enter in to spiritual warfare, we, as a body of believers, are going to be defeated. I believe there has never been a time so far when the Body of Christ needed mighty warriors as in this present time, which is only going to get worse as we go along.

What is our ultimate goal in this fight of faith? Our goal is to bring the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven in its fullness. We must walk in a greater measure of the Kingdom on the earth than we are walking in now. Of course, we know that the

fullness of the Kingdom will not come until Jesus (or Shiloh, as He is referred to in the Old Testament) comes to rule and reign upon the earth. Then the heavenly host-the angels and all those who are absent from the body but present with the Lord-will proclaim Revelation 11:15….*The kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.*

So what are we suppose to be doing in this season? A good place to start is found in 2nd Timothy 2:4: *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.* And we must remember that this is not tiptoeing in the tulips. 2nd Timothy 2:3 tells us: *You, therefore, must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.* We need to pray like we never have, and we need to engage in spiritual warfare against the kingdom of darkness. This is a fight that may cost you everything. You can walk in fear or faith, and the Lord is not calling the fearful to the battle. While it may cost you everything, being a faithful soldier in the Lord's Army will be worth it all, and you will reap benefits for eternity. So let us quit being spectators sitting on the bench, let us gird up our loins, put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6), and fight for the Kingdom's sake and for the love of Jesus.

Quote to Ponder

Haggai 2:7 (*…and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory, "says the LORD of hosts.*) is certainly coming true in the United States. We are being shaken physically, financially, socially, spiritually, politically and in numerous other ways, and we can expect this to accelerate and intensify in the years ahead.

There are moments in history, and we know this from Scripture, in which God removes His hand of grace and puts His hand of judgment on a country. It's not a pretty picture. How soon? I don't know. But I fear it might be a lot closer than most people, even I, realize.

Joel Rosenberg in his book *Implosion*