The Word offends. There's a reason why it's called a sword!
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First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia
Prayer Study #343
THE LAST DAYS
PART FOUR

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

THE GOOD NEWS:

Joel 2:23-32: *Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord, your God; for He gives you the former or early rain in just measure and in righteousness, and He causes to come down for you the rain, the former and latter rain, as before. And the [threshing] floors shall be full of grain and the vats shall overflow with juice [of the grape] and oil. And I will restore or replace for you the years that the locust has eaten-the hopping locust, the stripping locust, and the crawling locust, My great army which I sent among you. And you shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord, your God, Who has dwelt wondrously with you. And My people shall never be put to shame. And you shall know, understand and realize that I am in the midst of Israel and that I the Lord am your God and there is none else. My people shall never be put to shame. And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. Even upon the menservants and upon the maidservants in those days will I pour out My Spirit. And I will show signs and wonders in the heavens, and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes* [Isaiah 13:6 & 9-11; 24:21-23; Ezekiel 32:7-10; Matthew 24:29-30; Revelation 6:12-17.] *And whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered and saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the remnant [of survivors] shall be those whom the Lord calls* [Acts 2:17-21; Romans 10:13]. AMP

Isaiah 60:1-3: *Arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you-rise to a 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! (Zechariah 8:23) For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness [all] peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you [O Jerusalem], and His glory shall be seen on you. [Isaiah 60:19-22;*

Malachi 4:2; Revelation 21:2,3] And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. [Isaiah 2:2-3; Jeremiah 3:17.]

Luke 21:28: *Now when these things begin to occur, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption (deliverance) is drawing near.*

THE BAD NEWS:

1. **Babylon will fall:** This should be, not just good, but great news for every Christian. Unfortunately, most of the Body of Christ, at least in America, is so caught up in making money that they will mourn the fall of the world system. Yet He will not come again until Babylon falls. The rain falls on the just and the unjust, and this will be a time of great suffering, but especially a chaotic and fearful time for those who do not believe because the King of Babylon or the god of this world has blinded the world to the Gospel. *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

   After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird (Revelation 18:1-2).
2. **Very difficult times are coming:** *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come* (2nd Timothy 3:1).
3. **The world will be under judgment:** *Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead* (Acts 17:30-31).

   For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot, who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her (Revelation 19:2).

THE UGLY: We are entering a time of spiritual warfare like the Body of Christ has never seen.

1. **We must mobilize the Body of Christ for battle**: *And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle* (1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV)?
2. **The devil is intensifying his efforts against Christians on the earth:** *Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time* (Revelation 12:12).
3. **The enemy is making war against the Remnant Company of the Last Days:** *And the dragon was angry with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*
4. **We desperately need the spirit of prophecy and the mantle of worship if we are going to defeat the Kingdom of Darkness:** *And I [John the Revelator and Apostle] fell at his feet to worship him [the messenger who was apparently a redeemed man and prophet when he lived on the earth], and he said to me, "See thou do it not! I am thy fellow servant and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy* (Revelation 19:10).

Who are we fighting? We are fighting the Kingdom of Darkness, not flesh and blood: *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities* [high ranking demonic generals who are princes in the second heaven and are over geographical territories], *against powers* [demonic powers that try to control governments, the educational system, the penal system, etc.], *against rulers of the darkness of this world* [demonic forces that try to influence music, literature, slanted news media, sex education, etc.] , *against spiritual wickedness in high places* [demons behind the occult, false doctrines, cults, religion, etc.]. *Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in this evil day, and having done all, to stand* (Ephesians 6:12-13).

What are we fighting? Besides many other things, we are fighting deception: *And Jesus answered and said unto them,* ***Take heed that no man deceive you*** (Matthew 24:4). ***And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many*** (Matthew 24:11). Derek Prince, in his excellent book,

Protection from Deception, wrote, "Deception, -not sickness, poverty, or persecution-, is the greatest single danger in the end of the age."

We are fighting the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life: *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust of it, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever* (1st John 2:15-17).

And we are fighting the enemies of God: *The LORD* (God the Father) *said to my Lord* (Jesus or the Jehovah of the Old Testament), *"Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool"* (Psalm 110:1)

Why are we fighting? Again, as we have already mentioned, we are fighting to bring the Kingdom of God *on earth as it is in heaven* in its fullness or at least as full as it can be on the earth until Jesus comes. At that time, i.e. the Second Coming of Christ, we will hear the host of heaven proclaim, *...The kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever* (Revelation 11:15).

How do we win? The nature of this class is not to enumerate all the weapons that the Lord has given us. This powerful weapon arsenal includes prayer and praise, fasting, travail, waiting on the Lord, faithfulness, the blood of Jesus, the Name of Jesus, and the Word of God, in addition to the weapons of Ephesians 6 and other weapons too. The Word says in 2nd Corinthians 10:4: *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds).* We can be aware of and know all about these weapons, but if we don't engage the enemy in warfare, we will not win.

The Benjamin Generation

Joseph Prince believes that the last generation will become known as the Benjamin Generation. This generation will know God's grace in a special way. The Benjamin Generation will live a life of undeserved favor and blessing and have abundant provision. In fact, this generation will be give five times more than previous generations. If the generation that will not pass, until the Second Coming of the Lord, was born with the reestablishment of Israel as a nation in 1948, this generation is already here, and if this generation receives five times more than previous generations,, then the spiritual implications are astonishing.

Quote of the Week

As we await the day when our heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, will return to deliver us fully from this present evil age, we must be set apart from the world. When the Scriptures say "world," *they generally refer to the world system-the political and social order that rejects God, is ruled by Satan, and governs the minds and manners of people who have not been saved* (2nd Corinthians 4:3-4; 1st John 5:19). *Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God secured ultimate victory over the devil. Satan may rule this world, but his reign is fast approaching its end. Our deliverance-and God's glory-shall endure for all ages. With this in mind, we are to share God's light and love with the world-not to be confused with falling in love with the world or seeking to receive its love. Focusing on our heavenly home, we must clothe ourselves with humility. We must put off all self-seeking efforts and motive. These only fuel our pride, a dangerous attitude that blinds us to Satan's deception and makes us vulnerable. And we must cling to the cross, the same instrument that deals Satan's death sentence and secures our salvation through Christ's victory.*

Derek Prince

Redemption Draweth Nigh
Gordon Jensen

Years of time have come and gone since I first heard it told
How Jesus would come again some day.
If back then it seemed so real, then I just can't help but feel
How much closer His coming is today.
Wars and strife on ev-ry hand, and violence fills our land,
Still some people doubt He'll come again.
But the Word of God is true. He'll redeem His chosen few.
Don't lose hope. Soon Christ Jesus will descend.
Signs of the time are ev'ry where,
And there's a brand new feeling in the air.
Keep your eyes upon the Eastern sky.
Lift your head. Redemption draweth nigh.