He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
Psalm 91:1

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia
Prayer Study #345

THE LAST DAYS
PART SIX

America's Role in the Last Days

What will be America's role in the Last Days? This is a country that was blessed by God because of both its treatment of the Jews and its Christian foundation. Unfortunately, we no longer qualify for the blessings of God because our government is not upholding Israel's right to the land God gave Israel and because we are not basing decisions anymore on Christian principals. Most Bible scholars tell us that God's Word is mysteriously silent about America's fate in the end times. Does this mean we will not be a major power in the coming days? According to Joel Rosenberg, "The Bible does refer to 15 specific nations and regional alliances, such as Israel, Iran, Russia, China, and Europe. Each of these will play a role in the end times. Although America is not specifically named, dozens of passages refer to God's final dealings with *all the nations.* In Haggai 2:7, for example, the Lord foretold through the Hebrew prophet that He would shake *all nations* in the last days."

Has the Lord written Ichabod over our churches? Has the glory of the formerly most Christian nation on the earth departed because of our national sins? All indications are that His glory has departed on most American churches, and I fear we have in many ways gone too far and have been given over to a reprobate mind. Let us look at the America Church and see why the Lord's glory has departed.

ICHABOD: WHERE'S THE GLORY?
HAS THE AMERICAN CHURCH LOST ITS GLORY?
1st Samuel 4:10-22

Then she named the child "Ichabod," saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.
1st Samuel 4:21

10. *So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers.*
11. *Also the ark of God was captured and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.*
12. *Then a man of Benjamin ran from the battle line the same day and came to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.*
13. *Now when he came, there was Eli, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told it, all the city cried out.*
14. *When Eli heard the noise of the outcry, he said, "What does the sound of this tumult mean? And the man came quickly and told Eli.*
15. *Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes were so dim that he could not see.*
16. *Then the man said to Eli, "I am he who came from the battle. And I fled today from the battle line." And he said, "What happened, my son?"*
17. *So the messenger answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured."*
18. *Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken, and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.*
19. *Now his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, due to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her labor pains came upon her.*
20. *And about the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, "Do not fear, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer, not did she regard it.*
21. *Then she named the child "Ichabod," saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.*
22. *And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."*

Background

Israel suffered a terrible loss to the Philistines, who are the modern day Palestinians and were very warlike. The Israelites had had a previous loss of 4000 men. This loss made the Israelites foolishly decide to take the Ark of the Covenant, the most revered and prized object in Israel, into battle as a sort of good luck charm, since it was symbolic of the Lord's presence and glory. This obviously displeased the Lord, and the Israelites not only lost, with about 30,000 killed, but also the Ark of the Covenant was stolen by the Philistines. The reasons the Philistines were so successful in battle against Israel, before David's reign, were they were more advanced in their weapons of war and used iron weapons, and also Israel's tribes were disorganized and not in unity. The most famous Philistine was Goliath. The Philistines worshiped the false gods: Baal, Ashtoreth, and Dagon. Stealing the Ark of the Covenant proved to be a terrible mistake, and the Philistines saw the statue of their god Dagon fall over prostrate before the Ark and finally his head break off. In addition the Philistines were inflicted with hemorrhoids, a plague of rats, and boils. After 7 months of this, they loaded the Ark on a cart drug by a team of cows and sent it back into Israelite territory. The Ark of the Covenant was a small gold covered box which contained the Tablets of Stone on which were inscribed the 10 Commandments, Aaron's rod, a jar of manna, and the first Torah(first 5 books of Bible) scroll.

Eli was the high priest and judge of Israel during this time. Eli was a good man and loved the Lord, but he failed to exercise authority of a parent over his children. His sons, Phinehas and Hophni, lacked Eli's character, and yet he put them in the priestly office anyway, where they disgraced the office. They claimed and took more than their share of the sacrifices and had sex with women in the doorway of the tent of meeting. Eli was warned twice about his sons, and he tried to reason with them and asked them why they did such things, but he never disciplined them and did not put them out of the temple, thus placing all of them under a curse. Things were so bad that the people began to hate going to the temple and offering to the Lord.

Why did the Glory Depart?

Because the Ark of the Covenant, that had been taken by the Philistines, was symbolic of God's presence. The Israelites felt that God had left them. They had lost a great battle. Their priests were dead. Their leader who, in spite of his weaknesses, was a man of God and loved the Lord, was dead. No doubt they lost this battle and the Ark of the Covenant because of their

sin, and they eventually would repent and seek the Lord and win future battles with the Philistines.

Who followed Eli?

Eli's death brings Samuel into the position of being God's spokesman. Samuel was the first prophet after Moses and the last of the Judges. You will remember that Hannah, one of two wives of Elkanah, went to the temple at Shiloh, where Eli thought she was drunk because of her intensity of prayer, and in prayer begged the Lord for a son, saying that, if He gave her a son, she would give him back to the Lord all the days of his life and consecrate her child as a Nazarite all his life. (The Lord did indeed open Hannah's womb and gave her 5 more children after Samuel.) Samuel served Israel as a prophet, intercessor, priest and judge and was much revered and loved by the nation as manifested by the universe grief at his death (1st Samuel 25:1, 28:3). He anointed both Saul and later David as the first kings of Israel. Unfortunately Samuel's sons were appointed to follow Samuel, and they proved to be wick. A Nazarite was one set apart to God. They were to abstain from alcoholic drinks, walk in self denial and separation from sensual indulgence, avoid contact with a dead body to symbolize the purity of their lives, and not cut their hair as a symbol of complete dedication of all the power of their heads to God. When Samuel was around 12, he received his first revelation from the Lod, and this revelation was a message of doom against the house of Eli (1st Samuel 3:11-14). How we need *Samuels* today in the American Church.

Has the Glory departed from the American Church as a whole: Comments on the Body of Christ in America-(By this I mean all ministries and churches regardless of denomination)

"We are so utterly ordinary, so commonplace, while we profess to know a Power the 20th century does not reckon with. But we are harmless and therefore unharmed. We are spiritual pacifists, non-militants, conscientious objectors in this battle to the death with principalities and powers in high place…We are 'sideliners' coaching and criticizing the real wrestlers while content to sit by and leave the enemies of God unchallenged. The world cannot hate us-we are too much like our own. Oh that God would make us dangerous." **Jim Elliot** in a letter written in the 1950s to his parents.

"It is widely held that the battle of the century will be between Marxism, Islam, and Third World Christianity. Western Christianity is considered too

weak and ineffective to contribute anything significant to this universal struggle." **David Watson**, Anglican priest 1982

"People shop for churches like they shop for automobiles or groceries. People want something that fills their needs. We have missed the boat because we think Christianity is about us. It is not about us. It is about God and His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. He has chosen Christians to play a significant role in showing the world what His kingdom looks like. Western Christianity has retreated from the battle for the souls of people into the pursuit of personal comfort." **James T. Draper**, Southern Baptist pastor 2003

"I look at the whole religious scene today, and all I see are inventions and ministries of man and flesh. It's mostly powerless. It has no impact on the world. And I see more of the world coming into the Church and impacting the Church rather than the Church impacting the world. I see music taking over the house of God. I see entertainment taking over the house of God, obsession with entertainment in God's house, a hatred of conviction and a hatred of reproof. Nobody wants to hear it anymore. Whatever happened to anguish in the house of God? Whatever happened to anguish in the ministry? It's a word you don't hear in this pampered age." **David Wilkerson**

<u>Why has the Glory departed from much of the American Church?</u>

1. **Pastors are preaching either no Word or a diluted Gospel with messages full of "Chicken Soup Stories" or an emphasis on entertainment and "seeker friendly" formats.** "*Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," say the Lord. "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them…"* (Jeremiah 23:1-4a).

   All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2nd Timothy 3:16-17

For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourselves approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 2nd Timothy 2:14-16

"A diluted Gospel is no Gospel at all." **David Wilkerson**

"Entertainment is a substitute for joy in the House of God." **Leonard Ravenhill**

2. **We make heroes out of men instead of realizing that there is only one hero, Jesus, and the ground at the foot of the cross is level.**
   For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called, But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty, and the base things of the world and the things which are despised, God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, THAT NO FLESH SHOULD GLORY IN HIS PRESENCE. 1st Corinthians 1:26-29

"After nearly sixty years of the countless moral failings of supposed giants of faith with midget-sized character, the Charismatic and Pentecostal church is still hungering for the next hero. This speaks volumes of our lack of discernment due to a lack of experience with the real thing-*JESUS.* At the very least, let's take hold of Paul's wisdom regarding reputation: *For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord comments* (2nd Corinthians 10:18). Let's live and breathe for the commendation that comes from God. That commendation is often far from the conference crowd." **Mark Dupont**

"Here is the next decade's challenge for the church: to make disciples IN Christ, not disciples of man's ministry." **Theresa Phillips**

3. **The Church has bought into the "politically correct" doctrine and is afraid to speak truth boldly, -such as Jesus is the *ONLY* way to heaven, homosexuality is acceptable, abortions are the mother's right-, for fear of looking foolish to the world.**
   Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers, and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2nd Timothy 4:2-5

   But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Matthew 15:9

   Woe unto them who call evil, good, and good, evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. Isaiah 5:20

   Jesus said to him, ***"I am the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*** John 14:6

   Nor is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

   …that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head-Christ….Ephesians 4:14-15

"Every great awakening that has come has cost those involved all that they had: money, reputations, friendships, and even mainstream church acceptance. A simple study of past moves of God will easily reveal to us that nearly every major shift and reformation in church history has been rejected by the mainstream church. With this, most leaders felt that what was being preached was simply fanaticism and not the Gospel. This next great awakening will be no different. The truth is that, if we are to go deeper into the realm of eternity, we can no longer fear controversy and even

complete rejection by the mainstream church. It is simply part of the package deal. We must hold eternity more precious in our sight than the approval of men, and the treasures of heaven of greater weight than a seat at the table with the who's who of the charismatic zoo." **Charlie Shamp**

4. **Most of the Church is prayerless.**
   Pray without ceasing. 1st Thessalonians 5:17

   And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Luke 18:1

   You have not because you ask not. James 4:2

   This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. Psalm 34:6

   Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3

   Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you….1st Samuel 12:23

"I believe that unless we build God's house as a house of prayer, the Church will not have the spiritual strength to overcome in the increased shakings we are about to endure. Rather, we will be like many of the disciples in Jesus' day, who *'withdrew and followed Him no more'* (John 6:66). **Stacey Campbell**

5. **Most of the Church is walking in fear.**
   And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

   Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32

   And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars, and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring, men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in

a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near. Luke 21:25-28

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment, but he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 1st John 4:18

"It is paramount that we guard our hearts against fear. *'Let not your hearts be troubled'* is a word for this time. We must also resist the temptation to run to the familiar for cover. Uncharted territory lies ahead, yet in that uncharted terrain is the invitation to enter in to the level of first century God-experience expressed in a twenty-first century context. Our participation with God will allow us to live through some of the most wonderful shifts that can be recorded in history." **Martin Scott**

"God's ways are not our ways. He is not the author of confusion (1st Corinthians 14:33). He is the one whose perfect love casts out fear-He doesn't cause it (1st John 4:18). His plan is to give us a future and a hope-no matter what happens in the earth (Proverbs 23:18 & Jeremiah 29:11). He sends His word to encourage us, to comfort us, and to prepare us for the days ahead. He doesn't send His word to judge us-for Christ came not to condemn the world but to save it (John 3:17). He sends His word to turn our hearts towards Him-not to scare the hell out of us and cause us to think He is evil in His intent towards us. Any words or thoughts in your head about anything other than the supreme goodness of God are twisted lies. True prophets and true followers of Christ know the personality and nature of Christ. They know that God does not will that any should perish but that all should be redeemed. Jesus is in the seek-and-save business, not the condemn-and-annihilate business." **Julia Loren**

6. **We are not seeking first the Kingdom of God.**
   No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:24

   But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33

"Christians who are now living, working, or even going to church in the wrong places are there because they made major decisions based on what they wanted or what others wanted them to do, rather than seeking first what

the Lord wanted them to do for the sake of His kingdom. To seek His kingdom first means more than firing up a prayer here and there for Him to guide us, and then go and immediately do what we want to do. It requires seeking Him until we find Him. When it takes longer than we think it should take to find Him, it could be because we have drifted so far from Him. Now is the time to do whatever it takes to get in the will of the Lord. There will be an increasingly high price to pay for those who are not. There will be increasing peace and joy for those who are." **Rick Joyner**

7. **Many of the mainline denominations are not open to the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit.**
   Bu you shall receive power [dunamis] *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

   Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power [dunamis] *that works in us.* Ephesians 3:20

"As I shut the door of the office after me, it seemed as if I met the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. It seemed to me that I saw Him as I would see any other man. He said nothing, but looked at me in such a manner as to break me right down at His feet. I fell down at His feet, wept aloud like a child, and made such confessions as I could with my choked utterance. It seemed to me that I bathed His feet in tears. I must have continued in this state for a good while. I returned to the front office, but as I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any recollection that I had ever heard the subject mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to come in waves of liquid love. It seemed like the very breath of God. I wept aloud with joy and love." **Charles Finney**

SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE LACK OF THE LORD'S GLORY IN THE LORD'S CHURCH IN AMERICA?

1. **Wake up:** *Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men. Let all the men of war draw near; Let them come up.* Joel 3:9 AND *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.* Romans 13:11
2. **Repent:** ***…unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*** Luke 13:3

3. **Pray**: *If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* 2nd Chronicles 7:14

These three steps are so simple and yet so real. When they are done in sincerity, they transform lives, and as lives are transformed, the whole Church can be transformed. I would like to add one more thing that I think is important, and that is receiving a **baptism of fire.** This is such an important step that I want to take time here to review the doctrine of baptisms (*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of* ***baptisms***, *of the laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment* (Hebrews 6:1-2).

1. John's Baptism: This was a pre-Cross and Resurrection baptism which was available to those who wished to be baptized for repentance. This is not the same as water baptism, although water was used. John was the baptizer, although Dwight A. Pryor, an international Bible teacher and founder of Judaic-Christian studies, tells us that this baptism was not at all like we see it portrayed in film and video. He says that no righteous Jew, such as John, would touch a person coming for baptism because that person was unclean and coming for purification. Thus, the people receiving baptism would go into the water and immerse themselves. Pryor writes, "Traditional Jewish immersion or baptism was done for ritual purity, not for moral regeneration. John's prophetic call was for a baptism unto repentance and spiritual commitment, in anticipation of the Jubilee deliverance of the Messiah and the forgiveness of sin. John baptized in a remote place, in the wilderness, in the Jordan River, which was running or "living water." He did not physically immerse or "dunk" people; rather he called for people to immerse themselves as a sign of repentance and anticipated newness of life in Messiah. Yeshua, the Messiah, arrives in the wilderness, as Isaiah prophesied, and is baptized or immersed in the Jordan River. Jesus did not need to repent, since he was without sin. Rather he was baptized for "righteousness' sake" (Matthew 3:15), where the Hebrew term "righteousness" (*tzedakah)* is parallel to the broad concept of salvation. Yeshua's baptism in the Jordan put God's stamp of approval on John's redemptive work of calling for repentance and preparing the way for Messiah." John's baptism is no longer needed

since the Messiah has come the first time. Acts 19:2-5-*He* (Paul) *said to them* (the disciples in Ephesus), "*Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed*?" *So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

2. The Baptism into the Body of Christ: You could not be a Christian without this baptism. The Holy Spirit is the baptizer. This is a spiritual baptism that takes place when a person receives Christ as personal Savior. 1st Corinthians 12:13 tell us, "*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*
3. Water Baptism: Every saved person should follow the Lord's example in water baptism. This is not a requirement for salvation. Obviously the thief on the cross, for example, was not taken down and water baptized, and yet Jesus said, "**Today you [the thief] will be with Me in Paradise."** But water baptism was very important to Jesus and to the early Church. In the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19, He said, ***'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*** Any believer can baptize another believer in water.
4. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit: Only Jesus can baptize someone in the Holy Spirit. I believe this baptism is essential for what lies ahead of us. It will give us the power to stand when others are throwing in the towel and quitting. Acts 1:5: ***"For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."***
5. The Baptism into His sufferings: Mark 10:38-40-*But Jesus said to them,* ***"You do not know what you ask. Are you able to be drink the cup that I drink and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"*** *They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them,* ***"You will indeed drink the cup that I drink and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized."*** I am not sure who the baptizer into Jesus' sufferings is. I suspect it is the Holy Spirit.
6. The Baptism of Fire: Some believe, incorrectly I believe, that this baptism is hell for nonbelievers. The problem with this opinion is no where in the Word is the lake of fire referred to as a baptism of fire.

I also disagree with others who believe this baptism in simultaneous with the baptism in the Holy Spirit, citing cloven tongues of *fire* at Pentecost. The problem with this opinion is that there is never any mention of fire when other people receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

I believe that the baptism of fire is a unique baptism by the Lord. This baptism comes after both salvation and the Holy Spirit Baptism. In fact, I doubt that anyone can truly have a baptism of fire unless they are baptized in the Spirit. Clearly, Jesus is the baptizer, for John the Baptist in Matthew 3:11 says, *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.* The purpose of this baptism is two fold. First, this baptism sets the believer on fire to do the work of the ministry. Psalm 104: *Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.* Secondly, this baptism refines the believer so that he can shine for the Lord. Isaiah 1:25 and 1:26b: "*I will turn My hand against you, and thoroughly purge away your dross….Afterwards you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city."* So when we are baptized with fire we have the greatest anointing that we can have, but we also walk through trials and tribulations so the Lord can refine us.

Tonight are you willing to humble yourselves, pray, seek the Lord's face (instead of His giving hand), and turn from your sin and repent. Are you willing to recommit your life to Christ?

If you really would do these things in sincerity and truth, He would hear from heaven and forgive you and heal your land. We, as a corporate body, need to do this for our individual churches and ministries. The Lord loves the Church, the Body of Christ on this earth, and gave Himself for it. He is coming back for *a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish* (Ephesians 5:27). Will you be part of that glorious Church?

QUOTE OF THE WEEK TO PONDER

…The First and Second Great Awakenings didn't ultimately spare the American people from the Revolutionary War of the eighteenth century or the Civil War of the nineteenth century. Devastating, life-altering conflicts were coming. But God knew they were coming and wanted Americans to be spiritually and morally ready for great pain, hardship, and sacrifice. Would a Third Great Awakening spare us from wars and traumas, whether from Middle Eastern Radicals, Asian tyrants, terrorist forces, or other forces, natural or supernatural? No, I don't believe it would. But we need such an awakening and sweeping government reforms anyway. For only then will was as the American people be prepared for anything and everything that lies ahead. Now is the time for brave hearts and bold actions. Now is the time to be "joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12 NIV). **John Torell**

THE BLOOD BOUGHT CHURCH
Nancy Harmon

THEY SHALL LIFT UP THEIR VOICE
THEY SHALL SING FOR JOY
THEY SHALL CRY ALOUD AND BE FREE
THEY SHALL GLORIFY THE NAME OF THE LORD
IT'S THE BLOOD BOUGHT THE CHURCH THE REDEEMED
O PICK UP YOUR HEART O LION OF THE LORD
LET THE EARTH RING FORTH WITH HIS PRAISE
ALL HIS CHILDREN REJOICE FROM THE ISLAND OF THE SEA
IT'S THE BLOOD BOUGHT THE CHURCH THE REDEEMED

CHORUS
AND WE ARE IN THAT ARMY OF THE LORD
WE'VE BEEN WASHED IN THE BLOOD
AND WE ARE GOING FORTH
THERE IS NOTHING THAT COULD STOP
THIS MIGHTY MOVING FORCE
WITH A SHOUT OF PRAISE A TWO EDGED SWORD
EVERY STRONG HOLD OF BONDAGE
MUST FALL BENEATH OUR FEET
EVERY PRISONER HELD CAPTIVE MUST BE FREED
FOR OUR DELIVERANCE HAS COME THRU THE POWER OF THE SON
IT'S THE BLOOD BOUGHT THE CHURCH THE REDEEMED.

LET THE EARTH BE SILENT ALL WINDS CEASE TO BLOW
EVERY CREATED BEING HOLD YOU WING
FOR THERE'S A NEW SONG BEING SUNG
WITH A NEW MELODY
IT'S THE BLOOD BOUGHT THE CHURCH THE REDEEMED.