LAST DAYS' COURSE

First Love Ministries, Inc, of Perry, Georgia USA

PRAYER STUDY #555

Lesson One-INTRODUCTION

And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days."
Genesis 49:1

"Are we living in the Last Days?"
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1st Peter 4:7

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Isaiah 43:18-19

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Now 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?"

Matthew 24:3

Signs of the Times

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Lesson Five-DAYS OF NOAH AND DAYS OF LOT

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matthew 24:37

Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot. They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they build.

Luke 17:28

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Then He said to his disciples, ***"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pay the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."***

Matthew 9:37-38

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2nd Timothy 4:2

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Isaiah 1:9

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2nd Chronicles 7:14

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And he said: ***"Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.***

Luke 21:8

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He who testifies to these things says, ***"Surely I am coming quickly."*** *Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

Revelation 22:20

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If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1st John 1:9

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Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it [the Second Coming] ***is near-at the doors!***
Matthew 24:32-33

Parable of the Fig Tree

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Lesson Twenty-Conclusion

And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.
Revelation 22:12

Unfulfilled Prophecy
Conclusion

"In Revelation 2:1-7, the Lord charges the church at Ephesus with leaving their first love. It wasn't that they didn't love the Lord Jesus. It was that they didn't love Him like they used to. If there ever was a time when you loved Jesus more than you do at this moment, you're backslidden."

Jim Richey

The Last Days

Prayer Study #555

INTRODUCTION

Lesson One

First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA

The first mention of the term "last days" in the Bible is found in Genesis, the first book of the Torah. Jacob uses the term before prophesying to his 12 sons who were to make up the nation of Israel, which types the Church of the Living God:

And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days."

Genesis 49:1

I have noticed in scripture that prophetic words often have an more immediate and usually partial fulfilment, i.e. what Jacob prophesied did happen to each of the sons, but also a more distant and usually fuller fulfilment, i.e. these sons were types,

and types are anticipatory of what is to come, foreshadowing people (such as Adam foreshadowing Jesus-Romans 5:12-21) , offices (such as the Aaronic priesthood foreshadowing Christ's priesthood-Hebrews 5:1-10), institutions (such as the Mosaic tabernacle foreshadowing heaven-Hebrews 8:1-5), and events (such as Israel's wanderings in the wilderness foreshadowing the experience of the New Testament Church-1st Corinthians 10:1-11).

Two of the best examples of prophecy have a more immediate (and sometimes partial fulfillment) and a distant, complete fulfillment are found in Joel and Malachi. In Joel 2 the prophet Joel tells of a day when the Lord will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. Peter in Acts 2:14-21 says the outpouring of the Holy Spirit ten days after the Ascension of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost was a fulfilment of Joel 2, but we know that there will be a great, more complete fulfilment of Joel 2 in the future. Also, the book of Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, ends with the prophet prophesying that Elijah would come before the great and terrible day of the Lord (Malachi 4:5-6). Jesus in Matthew 11:14 says that John the Baptist is Elijah, meaning he has the spirit of Elijah. We know, however, that this is only a partial fulfillment, and there will most likely be an *Elijah company*, (not a single man), who in the future will be raised up to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers.

All of this brings us to the point that the Jacob's words were indeed a prophecy for the Last Days, not just for the life of his 12 sons.

There is always a dilemma for me when I teach on the Last Days. For one, the Bible is full of information about the Last Days from Genesis to Revelation. What do I include and what do I leave out from such an overload of information? Secondly, the Church has been debating and trying to understand different positions on the Last Days for thousands of years. Which positions are right? Thirdly, I am not an authority on any of this. Thus, in this *bird's eye view* of the Last Days, I will try to present all the positions of the topics we discuss and let you decide what you think is correct. This can be a very controversial subject, which has unfortunately sharply divided brothers and sisters in Christ, and that ought not to be.

I will say that every prophetic person I know believes these are the last days, although I think it is safe to say the time is *not yet* for the return of Jesus, because many prophetic words have not been fulfilled. We will be discussing this in a later lesson.

I close this introductory section of Lesson One telling of one of the most gifted women I have ever known, Clellan Hobbs from Muskogee, Oklahoma. Sister Hobbs was an uneducated, country woman who received Jesus late in life. She believed the Bible, and the Lord remarkably gifted her. She prayed over the phone with people all over the world, including Kings and Queens and Presidents and Famous Christians and World Shakers. Because of her gift of speaking scriptures prophesying the answer to questions asked of her, she was even put on some boards of companies, desiring her wisdom in the decisions they had to make. Her habit was to get up at 3 AM each day and wait on the Lord. Sister Hobbs once told Brother Don, my spiritual father, "The Last Days are not going to be like we are being taught."

Since the well-educated religious leaders of the day missed all the Bible prophecy concerning the first coming of Jesus, it is no doubt to me that we will probably miss the Bible prophecy concerning the second coming too. After all, Paul in 1st Thessalonians and Peter in 2nd Peter 3:10 say that *"the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night,"* i.e. when no one is expecting Him.

ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS?

Every prophetic person that I know believes these are the last days, although the time is *not yet* for many prophetic words have not been fulfilled. Still, there are scriptures, which seem to describe the times we are living in *now*. These scriptures include 2nd Timothy 3, Psalm 2, Isaiah 60:1-3, Revelation 12:12, Matthew 24, to name a few, and these scriptures are about the conditions on earth during the Last Days. Therefore, although I don't think that Jesus will come back next year, I do think we are living in a time when endtime events, which will become increasingly ugly and more frequent in our lifetime, will convince those in the Body of Christ, who have ears to hear what the Spirit says, that we are in the Last Days' time period. Let's look at two books which deal with the subject of the Last Days:

The Late Great Planet Earth
by Hal Lindsey and Carole Carlson
(1970)

The Late Great Planet Earth is a literalist, pre-millennial, dispensational eschatology. In it, Lindsey used current events to broadly predict the future events leading to the rapture of

believers before the tribulation and before the Second Coming of Christ. Lindsey, as did most prophetic ministries, believed that the rebirth of Israel in 1948 marked the beginning of the Last Days and that the generation living then would be alive when Jesus returned, because Matthew 24 seemed to indicate that that Jesus would return within one generation of the rebirth of Israel. Lindsey believed that a Biblical generation was 40 years. He further cited as evidence the increased frequency of famines, wars, and earthquakes. He predicted a Soviet invasion of Israel (War of Gog and Magog); a "United States of Europe," which would become the Revived Roman Empire ruled by the Antichrist; and a lessening of America's influence in the world since there appeared to be no mention of America in Daniel or Revelation, the two Biblical books that most deal with the end times. Although Lindsey did not claim to know the year of the return of Jesus, he and many believers believed that it would be before the year 1988, i.e. 1948 plus 40. Twenty-eight million copies of Lindsey's *The Late Great Planet Earth* were sold. The problem with Lindsey's book was the authors started from the wrong beginning point, i.e. 1948, when Israel was reborn as a nation, instead of 1967, when the time of the Gentiles ended with the recapture of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War. There has to be a beginning point to a generation as well as an end point.

The False Prophet

Ellis H. Skolfield

(2004)

In his excellent book *The False Prophet* Ellis H. Skolfield convincingly argues that the recapture of Jerusalem in 1967 was

the beginning point of the last generation. Skolfield points out that we base most of our opinions about the Last Days, as Lindsey did, on teachings several decades old, and yet Daniel, the apocalyptic book of the Old Testament, says, *"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end…."* (Daniel 12:4a). Thus we have been taught things that could really not have been understood until at least 1967, the year Skolfield believes the Last Days began, with the recapture of Jerusalem. (From 688 AD to 1967 AD the Israelis did not have control of their own capitol).

In **Luke 21:24,** we read: *And they [the Jews] shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations, and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.* The time of the Gentiles began in 606 BC when the Gentiles took Jerusalem. Jerusalem was restored in 1967 during the Six-day war, when the Israelis recaptured Jerusalem. Thus 1967 begins the end of the Times of the Gentiles and the countdown of the end times. According to Skolfield, the Gentiles will never again rule Jerusalem. Thus, "If the 'Time of the End' began in 1967, and Daniel was sealed until '*The Time of the End*,' then all views theorized out of Daniel before 1967 are at best incomplete and at worst heretical," says Skolfield.

In **Matthew 24:34,** we are told about a generation that will not pass: ***"Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place."*** Matthew 24 is a chapter in which Jesus answers two questions the disciples ask: *When shall these things be* [the destruction of the Temple] *and what shall be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?*

Jesus gives the characteristics of the end times, such as wars and rumors of war, famines, pestilence, earthquakes, hatred of Christians, hate, false prophets, love that has turned cold, Gospel of the Kingdom preached in all the world, abomination of desolation, great tribulation, false christs who do signs and wonders, powers of heaven shaken, sun darkened, moon without light, etc. Then the Son of man will come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Yes, there is a generation that will not pass, for the Bible clearly teaches that, but what is a Biblical generation?

Four Viewpoints:

1. 40 years? (1948 + 40=1988, 1967 + 40 =2007)
2. 70 to 80 years? Psalm 90:10 (*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if, by reason of strength, they be fourscore years, yet in their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.)* (1948 + 80=2028, 1967 + 80=2047)
3. 100 years? (1948 + 100=2048; 1967 + 100=2067)
4. Who knows? A Biblical generation cannot be calculated because people had a different life expectancy in the Bible. For example, Adam lived 929 years but David lived only 70 years. (The average life expectancy in the United States today is 78.7 years. So a generation in our time would fall into the category of Psalm 90:10's 70 to 80 years, according to this viewpoint.

TIME IN PROPHECY

Is time only an earthly reality, or is time also kept in heaven? Some believe that we will not experience time in

heaven. They base this on Revelation 21:23: *The city* (i.e., New Jerusalem or heaven) *had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.* Revelation 22:5 seems to also validate the "no time in heaven" theory: *There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

However, other scriptures seem to say we do experience time in heaven: Revelation 8:1: *When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.* Revelation 6:9-10: *When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"* (*How long* is a time related phrase.) Revelation 22:2: *In the middle of its* [heaven's] *street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding it fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.* And finally, Genesis 1:1: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* The evidence seems to point to *time* being in heaven. However, those believing in no concept of time in heaven say that the Bible was written by men, as the Holy Spirit spoke to them, and they, especially pointing to John the Revelator, were only able to explain their visions of heaven in time-bound terms, and the words they wrote or spoke do not represent the reality of their visions. Therefore, these people stand by their position of *no time* in heaven.

At any rate as a concept on earth, time is extremely important, but also a bit confusing, especially in the prophetic, spiritual realm. Peter writes, "*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*." As we look at passages in holy scripture, we must remember this verse from 2nd Peter 3:8 and also 2nd Timothy 2:15: *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*, and rightly divide the Word.

DISCERNING THE SEASONS

Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them: ***"When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather today, for the sky is red' and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the time. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except for the sign of the prophet Jonah."*** *And He left them and departed.*

We are very reluctant to say this is the season of the Last Days because of the foolishness of the date setters, who say that Jesus will come on such and such a day and who thus far have always missed it. Yet here we see Jesus chiding the religious leaders for not being able to discern the signs of the time. Although we cannot determine the day and the hour when Jesus comes, He does indicate here that we can know or discern the season of His coming. Later in this study we will look at specific signs that exist today and foreshadow the coming of the Lord.

DEFINITION OF SOME OF THE LAST DAYS' TERMS

1. **The Day of the Lord:** *Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come* (Joel 1:15). *But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write un to you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the LORD so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, "Peace and safety," then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with a child, and they shall not escape. But ye brethren are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief* (1st Thessalonians 5:2-4). The Day of the Lord, therefore, is a period of time (not just one day) in history at the end of the age in the last days when the Lord openly intervenes in the affairs of men. It is an apocalyptic term and also a prophetic term and is thought to be the Lord's outpouring of His wrath (see Psalm 2) and will be characterized by catastrophic weather and earthly calamities such as plagues, famines, pestilence, and drought. (see Isaiah 2:12, Isaiah 13:6-9, Amos 5:18-20, Jeremiah 46:10, 1st Corinthians 5:5, 1st Thessalonians 5:2, 2nd Peter 3:8-10). According to Jay Atkinson of The Latter Rain Ministries, "It is that time between the age of evil, in which we presently live and which will be destroyed, and the golden age of peace and justice, the future Millennial Kingdom to come on the earth. It is the fall of the old order and the ushering in of the new." Joel tells us that this will

come as a destruction from the Almighty, a day of wrath and fierce anger, trouble and distress, a day of gloom and thick darkness for the proud, the rich, and the lofty. Joel also asked the question in Joel 2:11, "Who can endure it?" And indeed without the fullness of the Holy Spirit we will not be able to endure it and will not stand. The Day of the Lord will culminate in the final shaking and sifting of the Church, the fall of the Babylonian World System, the fullness of the Latter Rain, and the coming forth of the Bride who has made herself ready. The Bride will come out of the closet and meet the Bridegroom. The Day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. The scriptures emphasize that many in the Church will be asleep and unprepared. The Word says that they that sleep, sleep in the night. This is when the thief comes. We must wake-up from our spiritual slumber and be ready. Many think that we have already entered the beginnings of this day.

2. **Babylon:** Babylon's very name means *confusion* (by mixing) Thus Babylon symbolizes religious confusion, what Satan is doing on the earth, and the World System (Revelation 18, Genesis 11:1-9). John writes in Revelation 18:1-5: *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! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her*

fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. In the natural Babylon was a city of Iraq noted for materialism and sensual pleasure. It is located just south of modern-day Baghdad. The king of Babylon is Satan, who often comes as an angel of light (2nd Corinthians 11:14) since he is the prince of this world (Ephesians 2:2).

3. **Zion:** Zion in the natural is a mountain just outside Jerusalem. Zion symbolizes the place where the remnant company will walk spiritually. It is for those sold out ones who passionately want Jesus more than even life itself. Zion is a holy place (Psalm 2:6), the dwelling of the Lord (Psalm 9:11, 74:2, 76:2), a place of the Glory of the Lord (Psalm 102:16), the rod of His strength (Psalm 110:2), a place of His blessing (Psalm 128:5), a place of singing (Psalm 127:3), a place of joy (Psalm 149:2), a place of shouting (Isaiah 12:6), a place of quick answers from the Lord (Isaiah 30:19), a place of the fire of the Lord (Isaiah31:9), a place where sinners and hypocrites are full of fear (Isaiah 33:14), a place of salvation (Isaiah 46:13), a place of joy and goodness and comfort (Isaiah 51:3), a place from where the Redeemer shall come (Isaiah 50:20), a place where the sons of those who have afflicted you and despised you will bow down at

your feet and call you 'THE ZION OF THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL (Isaiah 60:14), a place of beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the Spirit of Heaviness (Isaiah 61:3), a place of quick birthing and bringing forth her children-as soon as Zion travails, she brought forth her children (Isaiah 66:8), a place of restoration of the backslidden (Jeremiah 3:14), a place to blow the trumpet, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly (Joel 2:1& 2:15), a place of the former and latter rain (Joel 2:23), a place where the Lord will restore what the enemy has taken (Joel 2:24), a place of deliverance (Joel 2:32, Obadiah 17), a place of hope and strength (Joel 3:16), a place of travail and birthing (Micah 4:10), and a place where the beauty of God shines (Psalm 50:2). Every one of us should be walking or at least aspire to be in spiritual Zion.

1st Corinthians 15:46 tells us *first the natural and then the spiritual.* What this tells us is that things that are in the natural often type spiritual things and/or point to what the Lord is about to do in the spiritual. Israel, Jerusalem, and Zion are natural place which type the different types in the Body of Christ. Israel types the Outer Court or 30 fold Christians or born again Christians who have not progressed that much in their Christian walk; Jerusalem types the Inner Court or 60 fold Christians or Spirit-baptized believers; Zion types the Holy of Holies or the 100 fold Christians or those baptized with fire.

4. **The Former and Latter Rain:** Rain in the Bible represents revival, refreshing, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and

the Word. Seasonal rainfall, the former rain (rain at planting time which softens up the soil for the plowman) and the latter rain (rain at spring time, which is the time to harvest the crops), are important prophetic symbols of the Last Days. The Jews believe that rain is a source of blessing that comes from God Himself, from the heavens. The Baal worshipers associated Baal with springs, wells, and stream, but only Yahweh could give and was the rainmaker (Jeremiah 14:22). This was proven to the Jewish people by Elijah in 1st Kings 18:17-40 in his showdown with the Baal priests. Rain is the first blessing promised to Jacob's land (Genesis 27:28) and to Israel (Deuteronomy 28:12). The decent of rain is likened to the blessings of the kingdom (Psalm 72:6-7). In contrast, the presence of clouds and wind without rain is likened to a man who "boasts of a gift he does not give" (Proverbs 25:14), which is fake and phony "appearance" religion.

The former rain usually begins in mid or late October but may be delayed until January. Again these rains are the seed planting time and cause a fall in temperature and produce a brilliance in the sky. In Israel, plowing is done after the early rains have softened the earth. The plowman represents the evangelist. The farmer must wait for the rains before he can plow the ground. Job said, "They waited for me as for the rain" (Job 29:33). Jeremiah described the lack of rain: "There was no rain in the earth, the ploughmen were ashamed; they covered their heads" (Jeremiah 14:4). Once the rain has come, the industrious farmer will start his plowing. "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold'

(Proverbs 20:4). (How many refuse to evangelize because of some inconvenience, such as the cold, and because of being out of their comfort zone?) Such a man will retreat into his house and enjoy the warmth of the fire, but he will miss the harvest.

The latter or spring rain or harvest rain begins between April and early May. Latter rain showers are the last showers of the rainy season. The wheat harvest takes place in May so these rains are associated with harvest. By the middle of August the fruit is gathered, and from that time until the former rains, the weather is scorching hot and dry, much like a Georgia Indian summer. Nothing can more expressively represent spiritual blessings than copious showers after this trying time of heat and drought.

5. **Last Days:** The Last Days refers to the final end of time of the Church on earth. In some sense, the Last Days includes the entire period of time between the first and the second comings of Christ. From the very day our Lord rose from the dead, these were the last days. Certainly we are now in the Last Days, but in addition we are living at the end of the Age or the final days of the Last Days. During these days that we now live, there will be recurrent cycles of distress. We are experiencing these times right now. They are days when people long for peace but are beset with anxiety about the future. In the closing parts of chapter 3 and chapter 4 of 2nd Timothy, Paul shows Timothy the twofold way out of these snares of the enemy. We are to (1) be patient in suffering and (2) be persistent in truth. He tells Timothy to preach

the Word, be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful instruction.

6. **The End of the Age:** With everything in me, I believe we are living at the end of the age. In spite of all the chaos and calamity that is going to break out more and more in our life time, we should not walk in fear. If we truly know the Savior, we know perfect love. Perfect love casts out fear (1st John 4:18), and the antithesis of fear is faith, without which it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Faith, by the way, works or is motivated by love: *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love* (Galatians 5:6).

   Another way of looking at the End of the Age is to understand that it is the last of the Last Days. We have already seen that no one knows the day nor the hour of the Second Coming, but we can know the season, and many believe that Jesus will come in the lifetimes of many living today. The final prophetic fulfillments of unfulfilled Biblical prophecy could happen very rapidly.

   Take heed that no man decieve you. For many shall come in My name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up

to be afflicted and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake. And then shall many be offended and shall betray one another and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Matthew 244-13).

Throughout the Scriptures dealing with the end of the Church age, there were three characteristics of this time that were most often mentioned. They are apostasy, false christs, and false prophets. We have already seen many examples of these three.

7. **Eschatology:** Eschatology is the study of what the Bible says is going to happen in the end times.

TWO KINDS OF SEEKERS FROM ACTS 17:1-12

1. The Thessalonians

a. They looked to prove Paul wrong and to divide the people.

b. This focus closes one down to the Spirit's teachings.

2. The Bereans

a. They looked to reconcile what Paul was teaching with Bible to see if those things were so.

b. This focus opens one up to all the Spirit has to say.

As we go over this study, I encourage you to be a Berean and to judge everything taught by the Word of God.

THE JOCHEBED ANOINTING & THE IMPORTANCE OF DECLARATIONS

(Jane Hamon prophetically introduced the term *Jochebed Anointing* to describe a time of birthing in the Church in the Last Days.)

Jochebed was a midwife. Her husband was Amram, and both of them were from the tribe of Levi. She also was the mother who birthed Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Her name means *The Glory of God.* Jochebed birthed the following, all for the glory of God:

Moses-The Deliverer
Aaron-The High Priest
Miriam-The Anointed Prophetess and gifted musician

The time of the Jochebed anointing or birthing anointing is near at First Love. What I am saying may not come forth for some months, but the Lord is going to birth something here, something that I have been waiting for, for many years, and something that is going to change those who press in to this anointing. It will change this whole ministry forever. When it comes, our complacency, our divisions, our negative talk, our lukewarmness, and our lack of prayer will be gone. With a Jochebed Anointing, we will see a tremendous revival of the deliverance ministry, a more powerful intercessory ministry (since the High Priest office is a type of Christ the intercessor), and a fresh anointing in the prophet ministry, especially as relates to music. The ultimate purpose of this birthing here and elsewhere is to bring glory to the Lord. Dr. Bill Hamon writes of the scripture *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of*

the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14), "The New Testament reveals that Jesus is the glory (expression) of God the Father and the Church is the glory (expression) of Christ Jesus. His Church will be the glory that fills the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord."

For some time the Lord has spoken to me that we are called to birth something. I don't know when or exactly what, but it is going to be *awesome*. Unfortunately, our stinking attitudes and ungodly divisions and prayerlessness have caused more abortions than birthings, but this particular birthing *will come* and will define this ministry for many years to come.

Before a woman gives birth, there are labor pains and her water breaks. We must be willing to lay down our pride, our offenses and unforgiveness, our desire to be recognized and praised (which is an iniquity drive), as painful as these actions will be, and we must push into the things of God. We must allow the Holy Spirit, the water, to break open within us as we prepare to give birth in the Spirit realm.

For many years we have spoken of the importance of the scripture in Proverbs 18:21, *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.* Many have spoken words of death over this ministry. We have rarely spoken of Proverbs 6:2 and 12:13: *You are snared by the words of your mouth; you are taken by the words of your mouth*, even though this is another way of saying Proverbs 18:21. The wonderful news is that we can speak life in the power of the

tongue and that we can be blessed and send blessings with the words of our mouth.

To bring us to the time of birthing, therefore, we need to begin to declare the Word of the Lord and positive confessions. A spiritual declaration is coming in to agreement with the Kingdom of Heaven and speaking out faith words that will transform the world. Tom Crandall, youth pastor at Bethel Church, says, "I believe declarations…will be like a battering ram to the walls in your mind and dynamite to your faith!"

Steve Backlund gives us scriptural reasons for speaking declarations in his book, *Declarations: Unlocking Your Future.* Some of the reasons include the following:

1. **Life is in the power of the tongue**. *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit* (Proverbs 18:21).
2. **Words propel us to experience all that Jesus won for us.** *For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned* (Matthew 12:37).
3. **Grace is imparted when we hear life-giving declarations.** *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers* (Ephesians 4:29).
4. **Declarations are a way to overcome anxiety and become glad.** *Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad* (Proverbs 12:25).
5. **Faith comes by hearing truth, and declarations cause us to grow in our faith by regularly hearing truth.** *So then faith*

comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

6. **Declarations direct our lives toward what we speak.** *Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue* (James 3:4-5).
7. **Declarations unlock destinies.** *And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor"*(Judges 6:12).
8. **The weak are to declare they are strong.** *Let the weak say, "I am strong"* (Joel 3:10).
9. **The Spirit's anointing causes us to make declarations that set people free.** *The Spirit of the Lord God us upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound* (Isaiah 6:1).
10. **Making Declarations or Declaring truth to others causes a chain reaction of breakthrough.** *Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert* (Isaiah 35:4-6).

A Sample Declaration
(mostly taken from *Declarations* by Steve Backlund)

*I am walking in outrageously joyful.
*My joy is a powerful weapon of spiritual warfare and helps create breakthrough in the lives of others.
*God's Kingdom will advance everywhere I go.
*I have an anointing that causes others to walk in abundant favor.
*I am a magnet of God's favor.
*I am known in heaven and on earth as one who loves people.
*My life is overflowing with God's love, making it impossible for me not to love others.
*I have a gift of seeing through the dirt and finding the gold in others.
*I speak to any worry, stress, or anxiety and say, "You cannot stay. Peace reigns in this temple."
*I live with an expectation for the goodness of God to manifest, even in the most difficult times.
*I not only start well in what I do, but I also finish well.
*I am constantly hearing God's voice through scripture, thoughts, other people and nature.
*The decisions I am making today are producing blessings for future generations.
*My reputation for leading people to Jesus is so widely known in my area that when people want to get saved, they find me.
*Just as Peter's shadow caused healing in Acts 5, my very presence releases miraculous transformation to those around me.

*Just as Obed Edom was blessed by the Ark of the Covenant dwelling in his house, this area of Georgia is blessed by me being in it.
*I encounter God's love and power every time I am in His Word.
*I am not who my past experience says I am. I am who God says I am.
*I am healed from every root that would cause me to walk in addictive behaviors.
*I am so baptized in the Holy Spirit that I naturally spill over to those around me.
*When I speak to non-believers, they are overcome with a sudden urge to get saved.

*I think and speak prophetically.
*My touch releases the healing grace of Jesus.
*I am a God-pleaser, not a people-pleaser.
*I love truth and integrity more than money, fame, comfort, or success.
*My children feel safe, free, and loved in our home.
*My offspring are known for strong families, wisdom, integrity, favor, miracles, health, courage, abundance, evangelism, honor, inventions, passion for the Bible, generosity, and love.
*Future generations will be blessed and highly favored because of the way I am parenting my children today. I joyfully embrace opportunities to resolve conflict with others.
*I walk in ever-increasing good health.
*My healthiest days are ahead of me.
*I think clearly, quickly, and with God's heart in every matter.

*Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He still likes to heal.
*There are no walls between the healing grace of Jesus and me.
*I am a magnet for healing, and people around me constantly get healed.
*My family and I are free from generational illnesses through a divine swap of our inheritance for Jesus' inheritance.
*My family connections are going deeper and becoming more significant every day.
*It is easy for me to have significant conversations and to share my heart with every person in my family.
*When I declare life or lay hands on people, they are launched into higher dimensions of life and ministry.
*As I honor the gifts of others, I am able to receive the same gifts and build on them.
*I have more than enough to sow into the Kingdom of God.
*My life causes a dramatic, positive change in my family tree and in the ministries, cities, and nations that I am a part of.
*My descendants adore Jesus and release His love and salvation throughout the earth.

DECLARATION FOR FIRST LOVE

First Love is an end time, forerunner ministry raised up by the Holy Spirit to bring great destruction to the kingdom of darkness. This ministry operates in all the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit with balance and wisdom. Many souls are being brought into relationship with Jesus through this ministry. First Love is a prophetic house and words prophesied by people here are very accurate and impactful. People from all over Middle Georgia are

drawn to First Love because of the love and peace and joy of God that they feel here. People who walk in the door are filled with the Holy Spirit just by being in the Presence of the Lord. First Love ministers walk in great end time revelation and remarkable teachings from the Word of God come forth. Addictions are broken. Spirit, soul and body are healed by the presence of the Holy Spirit here, and there is a great anointing for healing here. This is holy ground. Demons flee from this place. Deliverance takes place at every meeting. This ministry is largely responsible for wresting to the ground the principality over this area. Every meeting results in someone being genuinely born again. Missionaries are sent from this ministry to every part of the world. The greatest characteristic of the ministry is love. All the regular participants here walk in unity and love. Powerful prayers are spoken here. The presence of the Lord abides here. The Spirit of Life (Romans 8:2), the Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8:15), the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17), the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation (Ephesians 1:17), the Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4), the Spirit of Power and Love and a Sound Mind (2nd Timothy 1:7), the Spirit of Faith (2nd Corinthians 4:13), the Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29), and the Spirit of Glory (1st Peter 4:14) abide here. This is a place of impartation and birth of ministries that have worldwide impact. Those in leadership here walk in humility, integrity, peace, joy, and love. The Body of Believers here walk in outrageous joy in the Lord. The Lord is pleased with all that takes place here and blessed by what we do here.