

I. THE BEGINNING OF BIRTH PANGS (MT. 24:4-8; MK. 13:5-8, LK. 21:7-18)

A. When asked about the signs characterizing the decades preceding His return, Jesus likened *18 major trends* to “birth pangs” that would be universal, simultaneous and discernible to help awaken the Church to action. Birth pangs: the rate of frequency increases, as the duration decreases, while intensifying in severity.

***Mt. 24:4 “Take heed no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many... 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes... 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows [lit. birth pangs]”.***

B. Due to unfamiliarity, new mothers often experience contractions for some time before realizing it. As in natural childbirth these eschatological contractions are not against the Church, but are heightened seasons of intensity, giving opportunity for God’s grace to be manifest as we transition to the next age (Isa. 66:8).

***Isa. 66:8 Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?***

II. AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

A. Later Jesus likened the decades preceding His return to “the days of Noah” (Mt. 24:37-39; Lk. 17:26-27). We must ask, “*In what ways will it be like the days of Noah?*” And, “*What is the LORD’s desired response?*”

***Lk. 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all... 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.***

#1 *Global Corruption* – The wickedness of man was great in his rebellion against God. All the thoughts of his heart devised evil continually, corrupting his way and the earth itself. Heightened *demonic activity, sexual immorality, and violence* (murder, theft) were rampant then and will be again (Gen. 6:5, 11-13; Rev. 9:20-21).

***Gen. 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... 12 for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.***

#2 *Divine Forewarning* – A divine forewarning of an unprecedented, future and imminent global shaking was given *to* and proclaimed *through* the forerunner ministry (Hag. 2:6-9; Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5).

***Heb. 11:7 Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of righteousness...***

#3 *Universal Disregard* – The multitudes continued business as usual until it was too late (Lk. 17:26). There will come scoffers in the last days that will be willfully ignorant of the truth (Zeph. 1:12-18; 2 Pet. 3:1-13).

#4 *Divine Blueprints* – God instructed Noah to build an *ark of safety* to deliver all those with “ears to hear” (Gen. 6:14-16). This eschatological ark will not only *endure*, but *prevail* in the coming storm (Mt. 16:18-19)!

#5 *Delayed Vindication* – The wisdom of preparation by faith is *only* apparent after the activities for which you prepared begin. They all scoffed until the rain began and suddenly Noah was the wisest man on earth!

***1 Pet. 3:20 Once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared...***

## III. DIVINE BLUEPRINTS: THE ETERNAL IDENTITY, OCCUPATION AND ORDER OF THE CHURCH

A. Prior to the return of Jesus, the Church that He is building (Mt. 16:15-19) will emerge as a *mature Bride* in identity (Rev. 19:7; 22:17), who eternally functions as a *kingdom of priests* in the House of Prayer (Isa. 56:7; Mt. 21:13; Mk. 11:17; Lk. 19:46), according to the “Davidic order” (Ps. 27:4; Am. 9:11-12; Acts 15:16-17).

B. Church – Jesus said, “*I will build My Church*” (Mt. 16:18) and described us as “living stones” built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5). The Greek word for Church, “Ekklesia” describes to who we are in our *identity* as the “called out assembly” of God’s covenant people.

***Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.***

C. Bride of Christ – Although we relate to our Father as sons and daughters forever, our most glorious and mysterious identity throughout eternity is a *bride*, comprised of both Jews and Gentiles out of every tribe and tongue, who has fully matured into God’s image and likeness, being made comparable to Him as His eternal companion (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18, 24; Eph. 5:25-27, 31-32; Rev. 19:7; 22:17). This describes our *position of privilege* in relationship to God to experience *unhindered access* to His heart and mind (1 Cor. 2:9-11).

***Eph. 5:31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.***

1. Men *and* women are both “sons”, related to accessing God’s throne – kingdom, power, glory.

***Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.***

2. Men *and* women are both the “bride”, related to accessing God’s heart – emotions, affections, delight.

***Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” (Eph. 5:31-32; Rev. 19:7)***

D. House of Prayer – Jesus said, “*My house is a house of prayer*” (Isa. 56:7; Mt. 21:13; Mk. 11:17; Lk. 19:46). This describes what we do in our *eternal occupation* as a kingdom of priests who minister to God by agreeing with *who He is* in worship and *what He does* in prayer (Rev. 5:8). The priestly ministry of agreement is the *primary way* God releases His governmental power through Jesus and His people, both now and forever (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; 22:5). This is seen in Jesus engaging in intercession *forever* (Gen. 1; Ps. 110:4; Isa. 53:12; Lk. 22:32; 23:34; Rom. 8:34; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:11, 15, 17, 21; 1 Jn. 2:1).

***Rev. 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll... the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp [worship music], and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.***

1. As we release *faith-filled words of agreement* to God, He responds by releasing His power in the earthly realm. There is no higher governmental authority in the created order than the One seated upon the throne of heaven and the priests seated at His right hand (Eph. 2:6). One intercessor and God are the majority!

***2 Chr. 7:14 If My people... will humble themselves, and pray... then I will... and heal their land.***

2. What an indescribable privilege of *partnership*! This line angels dare not cross. We have no precedent in Scripture of angels interceding, yet from the beginning God ordained that humans created in His image would advance His kingdom through the priestly ministry of agreement with His will (Mt. 6:10).
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3. The “mystery” of intercession is seen its’ *simplicity of agreement* with God’s will, as the means to release His governmental power (Mt. 6:10; 1 Jn. 5:14-15). Our volume, hype, talent, multitude of words or eloquence does not manipulate God to do more. *Agreement is the key to power*. Since God inspires all Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16), praying *biblical prayers* ensures our agreement with His perfect will every time.

***1 Jn. 5:14 If we ask anything according to His will... 15 we know we have the petitions that we asked...***

4. The “majesty” of intercession is seen in our glorious invitation to rule the nations in partnership with Jesus (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 1:6; 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4, 6; 22:5). Our reward isn’t just the answer, but our intimate partnership with Jesus in the process. He’s our exceedingly great reward (Gen. 15:1)!

***Rev. 5:9 “You... 10 have made us a kingdom of priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”***

E. *Davidic Order* – The LORD said, “I will raise up the Tabernacle of David” (Am. 9:11-12; Acts 15:16-17). This describes the order in which we function together as a house of prayer (i.e. Davidic order), which is from the place of encountering God through the veil (Heb. 6:19; 10:19) in day and night prayer with worship songs (prophetic music/singing) that are fueled by the beauty of God and the primary catalyst for world missions.

***Am. 9:11 “On that day I will raise up the Tabernacle of David... and rebuild it as in the days of old...”***

1. The Church functioning after the “Davidic order” will release such intimate revelation of Jesus’ beauty through song that the same response of Isaiah after seeing Jesus face-to-face will be seen in the nations (Isa. 6:5; 24:16). We won’t just sing “worthy”, we will sing *why he’s worthy* and the nations will respond!

***Isa. 6:3 One [Seraphim] cried to another... “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” 5 Woe is me, for I am undone! For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!***

***Isa. 24:16 From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: “Glory to the Righteous!” But I said, “I am ruined, ruined! Woe to me!”***

2. The seraphim that have incessantly worshipped God from the beginning are only holding our place until we mature into our *primary governmental role* of beholding His beauty and declaring His glory to the rest of the created order from earth (Isa. 6:1-3; Rev. 4:8; 5:8-10; 6:1)! As His eternal partner we aren’t limited to beholding His external glory, but have unhindered access to the depths of His heart (1 Cor. 2:9-11)!

3. A “key” to understanding the restoration of the “Davidic order” is that it is a *governmental movement* (Isa. 22:22; Rev. 3:7) that combines *worship music* and *intercession* as it is in heaven (Rev. 5:8), as the primary means of releasing God’s power on earth to bring in the great harvest and *possess* the remnant of Edom, speaking of the Arab Islamic villages now occupying modern-day Jordan (Am. 9:12; Acts 15:17).

***Am. 9:11 “I will... rebuild it as in the days of old; 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom [Islamic villages], and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” says the LORD who does this.***

4. Amos linked the *restoration* of the Davidic order to the *acceleration* of the great harvest (vs. 11-12) in the *generation* in which Israel was restored to her land forever (vs. 14-15). We are in this generation!

***Am. 9:14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel [1948]... 15 I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land...***