

Session 15

The Role and Destiny of the Victorious Church at the End of the Age

A. Introduction

1. It is important to understand the kind of people and Church that God is looking for and raising up before He returns.
2. If we understand our destiny as the victorious Church, we will understand why we will be around during the Great Tribulation.
3. While unprecedented darkness covers the earth (Isa. 60:2), the glory of God will rise over His people (Isa. 60:1–2) and empower us to triumph over darkness with His light.
4. There really is no better time to live than now.

B. The Finest Generation in the End Times

1. God is raising up a new generation of people in the Last Days in accordance to Daniel 11:32–33.
 - a. People who know their God — those who are like David;
 - b. People who are strong in their character and inner man (Lk. 1:80, 2:49; Eph. 6:10);
 - c. People who do great exploits (Jn. 14:12);
 - d. People who have understanding and who will instruct many — those who will speak as God’s voice (Isa. 40:3–5; 1 Chron. 12:32).
2. Song of Songs 6:9 gives a prophetic declaration of the End-Time Church and how this End-Time generation will be the finest on this side of eternity.
 - a. We are called the “favourite one” and “blessed” because we will be the only generation that will live out the fullness of God on this side of eternity.

- b. The fullness of maturity was not even seen in the New Testament Church in the book of Acts.
- c. All the previous generations of saints look upon the End-Time Church and praise her, and call her blessed (SoS. 6:9).

C. The Great Tribulation and the End-Time Church

1. Jesus will not return until the Church becomes blameless, spotless and without blemish (Eph. 5:27).
 - a. It is about becoming the equally-yoked for Jesus as our Bridegroom.
2. The Church will be around to partner with God during the Great Tribulation.
 - a. Ultimately, we were created for intimacy and partnership. God wants to display His glory in and through His people.
 - b. Through the intercession of His saints, we will get to partner with God in establishing His righteousness and judgments on the earth.
3. The Great Tribulation will be a time of testing and refining where the Church will become mature (2 Tim. 3:12).
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:12 tells us that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
 - b. 1 Peter 4:12–13 also exhorts us not to think it strange when we face trials for the sake of Christ. Instead, we are called to rejoice that we get to partake in His sufferings.
 - c. Gold is purified and proven when it goes through the fire. God will also bring us through the refiner's fire so that our faith will be made perfect and mature (Rom. 5:3–5).

D. The Church in Perfect Unity, Intimacy and Maturity (Eph. 4:13)

1. Ephesians 4:13 give us a picture of where God is bringing His Church towards at the End of the Age — a Church in perfect unity with one another, in perfect intimacy with God and in perfect maturity in character and in the fullness of the Spirit's power.
2. "Till we all" speaks about how we will get to live this out individually and collectively as a Church. It is meant for all God's people.

- a. This speaks of a community of God's people who has the same expression as the New Testament Church in our vision, values, lifestyle, perseverance (even in suffering), doctrine and power.
3. We will be perfectly united as the Body of Christ.
 - a. There is coming a time where the Church will come together in oneness and unity in a way that reflects the oneness and unity within the Triune God (Jn. 17:23).
 - b. This will go beyond a unity of denominations. We will be united in doctrine and especially in prayer.
 - c. Living out the Second Commandment will also be a reality (Jn. 13:34–35).
4. We will walk in unprecedented intimacy with the Bridegroom.
 - a. The End-Time Bride will live out the fullness of the First and Great commandment.
 - b. The Church will be in full understanding and agreement with the heart of Jesus (Jer. 9:23–24).
5. We will be fully mature in character.
 - a. Some of the trademarks that will characterize the End-Time Bride include:
 - i. Living out the Sermon-on-the-Mount lifestyle (Matt. 5 – 7);
 - ii. Carrying the fullness of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23);
 - iii. Being conformed to the image of Christ and possessing humility, integrity, purity and righteousness, which are necessary character traits to carry God's glory;
 - iv. Perfect understanding of the heart and plans of God (Jer. 23:20; Rev. 19:1–3).
6. We will attain to the full stature of the measure of Christ.
 - a. The End-Time Bride will operate in the fullness of God's power. We will move in great power (Jn. 14:12) and authority and be led by the prophetic Spirit (Joel 2:28–32)
 - b. What we see in Acts 2 was just a down payment of the "Joel 2 outpouring" that is coming on this generation!

7. God is raising up the Matthew 16:18 Church that will be built on the rock of who Jesus is and against whom the gates of hell will not prevail.
 - a. We will see how God will bring this to pass in His time as we position ourselves rightly and pray according to the blueprints God has for us in the End Times.

E. Five Aspects of What the End-Time Church Will Look Like (Rev. 22:17)

1. Revelation 22:17 gives us one of the clearest pictures of the Bride of Christ in the generation where Jesus is returning.
2. It is one of the most important and significant prophecies of what the End-Time Church will look like — in character, identity, what she does and how to prepare.
 - a. She will be a church that is fully engaged in partnership with the Holy Spirit (“...*the Spirit and the bride...*”)
 - i. She will be sensitive and sharp to the leadership of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16,18,25; Rom. 8:1–5, Gal. 5:18; 2 Cor. 13:14).
 - b. She will be a church that is fully established in the bridal identity (“...*and the bride...*”)
 - i. The Holy Spirit will awaken the Church to her identity as the Bride of Christ in a greater measure.
 - ii. Stepping into this identity means that we enter into an intimate relationship with Jesus.
 - c. A Church that is fully engaged in intercession (“...*say ‘Come’...*”)
 - i. This is the shortest prayer in the Bible — “Maranatha”;
 - ii. The Church will devote our energy to prayer because we will see that through prayer, God releases His purposes.
 - iii. Prayer will no longer be relegated to a prayer ministry, but all will pray, because it is the primary way we partner with God.
 - iv. There are three aspects when we pray “come”
 - Come near us: for intimacy with Jesus
 - Come to us: for revival, awakening, transformation of nations
 - Come for us: for the return of Jesus

- d. A Church that is fully effective in the great commission (“...And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’...”)
 - i. The Church will be deeply involved in bringing in the unprecedented harvest at the End of the Age (Rev. 14:14–16).
 - ii. We are called to proclaim and call people to come encounter the heart of the Bridegroom, who is the ultimate Desire of all Nations (Hag. 2:7).
 - e. A Church fully engaged in partnering with God in the unique dynamics of God’s End-Time plan.
 - i. Rev. 22:17 is in the context of the Second Coming of Jesus. We will arise in partnership with God in accordance to His specific plans for the nations in the season leading up to His return.
 - ii. As His people, we are exhorted in Rev. 22:7,12, 20 to perceive the nearness of His return and arise to partner with Him: “Behold, I am coming quickly!”
 - iii. We are called to partner with God to bring forth His prophecies written in the book of Revelation.
3. There will come a time where the Church will walk in all five dimensions in its fullness.

F. Conclusion

1. As the End-Time Church, it will be the finest hour for the Church in all of history and it is important to catch God’s vision and destiny for us.
2. In the backdrop of deepest darkness and outright opposition, God promises to raise up a Bride who will be fearless in love and unstoppable in the might of God.
3. It is a great privilege to be a part of this End-Time Church and to be able to walk in all that He has for this generation!