

Session 19

The Forerunner Ministry

A. Introduction

1. In this time and season, the Lord is raising up forerunners all across the nations to proclaim His heart and make ready His people for the Second Coming of Jesus.
2. Throughout history, God has raised up forerunners to prepare the people of God to be ready for His coming move.
3. In this generation, the Bible gives clear descriptions of the Forerunner ministry that will arise at the End of the Age to prepare God's people for the return of Jesus Christ. In turn, the people of God will be the faithful witnesses of Jesus and also prepare the nations for the return of Jesus.

B. What Does the Forerunner Ministry Do?

1. Proclaim

- a. The Forerunner Ministry is a proclamation ministry. Forerunners are just one step ahead of the global body of Christ who will proclaim what God is about to do before He does it, in accordance to the Word of the Lord. Thus, forerunners are called to also proclaim His Word.
- b. This proclamation is meant to prepare the way of the Lord, and also prepare and make ready the people of God for His Second Coming. these are ones who, with the purpose of preparing and making ready the people of the Lord before His Second Coming.

2. Make Sense

- a. Forerunners proclaim God's Word and His truths to make sense of things before they happen.
- b. They will declare and announce what is unprecedented and uncommon in this generation.
- c. Forerunners will also make sense of things that are happening and proclaim His heart, especially if the Lord moves in an unprecedented and uncommon way.

3. Bring Forth New Understanding

- a. Forerunners will bring forth new understanding and provide greater revelation of God's heart and identity. In this generation, forerunners will primarily bring forth understanding of who Jesus is when He returns, what He is looking for when He does, and also Jesus' End-Time narrative and storyline that is about to unfold.
- b. Examples of new understanding include Jesus as the Bridegroom and the Romance of the Gospel.

4. Prepare God's People

- a. Through proclamation, making sense, and bringing forth new understanding, forerunners prepare the hearts and lives of God's people to align and agree with what He wants to do.
- b. In the context of the End of the Age and His Second Coming, God is raising up forerunners who will prepare His Church to become the mature Bride of Christ who will fully agree with, fully long and fully yearn for Jesus.

C. Prior Biblical Examples of Forerunners

1. Noah

- a. Before the flood, Noah warned the people of God's impending judgment due to man's wickedness.
- b. This is the first major period in redemptive history in which God raised up a forerunner ministry.
- c. Matthew 24:36–44 talks about how Noah spent 120 years building the ark before the flood. Thus, the Lord gave Noah's generation a sign for almost a century about the impending judgment that was coming.

2. Elijah

- a. Elijah was also a forerunner who proclaimed God's heart and moved in signs and wonders to turn the hearts of God's people back to Him. He carried the burden of the Lord for His people and also moved in great power against the prophets of Baal.
- b. At the End of the Age, God is once again raising up a generation who will partner with Him in the spirit and power of Elijah. This will be manifested in the greatest level where many forerunners who respond to His invitation to be His friends and His voices will move in the supernatural, turning many hearts back to Him (Mal. 4:6–7).

3. John the Baptist

- a. God raised up John the Baptist as a forerunner to prepare His people for the first coming of Jesus (Luke 1:17).
- b. Similarly, before Jesus' Second Coming, God will raise up forerunners who will also have a holy violence and zeal for His kingdom like John the Baptist (Matt. 11:11–19).

D. Who are Forerunners?

1. While some have the mindset that forerunners are a group of elite people in the church (pastors, prophets, evangelists, full-time church staff etc.), that is not what the Lord looks at.
2. In fact, He is in this hour inviting anyone who would say “yes” to His invitation to be His voice — to know Him and to make His heart known for such a time as this.
3. God is looking for people to be the friends of the Bridegroom — ones who know His heart and speak it forth to His people and to the nations. These are ones who are called forerunners, who will prepare the way for the return of Jesus.
4. He is raising up the nameless and faceless ones who will say “yes” to partner with Him from a place of deep intimacy and love, who will carry the very heart of God for His people and for nations.
5. Being a voice and forerunner is more than just what we say, but about how we live and the choices we make in life.
6. John the Baptist was a prime model of the Forerunner Ministry, where he models the ministry for the End-Time church.
 - a. His primary identity and preoccupation was firstly to be a Friend of Jesus and to know His heart, and from there, be a witness to the First Coming of Jesus through the way he lived and the message that he preached.

E. Four Things that Forerunners Will Do (Isa. 40:4)

“Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth;”

1. The four descriptions in Isaiah 40:4 focus on the emotional restoration of individuals.
2. “Every valley shall be exalted”
 - a. There will be a restoration of the confidence of God’s people in who He is and in His leadership.
 - b. This speaks of the restoration of individual hearts. In other words, areas of emotional brokenness such as fear, intimidation, insecurity, inferiority, and low self-esteem, etc. will be healed.
 - c. God will lift these valleys up and root and ground His people’s confidence in Him.
3. “Every mountain and hill shall be brought low”
 - a. Pride will be removed from the Church and God’s people will be established in humility and meekness.
 - b. The mountains refer to things that exalt themselves above God in our hearts and lives. God will humble His people that we will have the humility of Jesus.
4. “The crooked places shall be made straight”
 - a. This refers to the removal of every area of perversion in the lives of His people and the removal of every distortion of truth.
 - b. The Lord, through His forerunners, will bring the Church back to stand on the Word of God and live according to His values and precepts.
5. “The rough places are made smooth”
 - a. Every offense towards people and towards God that is in the church will be removed.
 - b. The Pharisees were a picture of religious harshness when they were offended at Jesus and what He did when He was here on earth. Jesus wants tenderness in the hearts of believers.

F. How do we Prepare Ourselves as Forerunners?

1. There are three key passages that will guide us in preparation as forerunners:
 - a. Rev. 10:8–11 — “Eat” the Scroll
This refers to taking time to study His Word in order to gain spiritual wisdom and understanding, and prophetic insight through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Isa. 40:29–31 — Wait on the Lord
This refers to spending time in the place of communion and prayer, feasting on His Word and also listening to His heart.
 - c. Jn. 3:27–30 — Bearing witness of Christ as a friend of the Bridegroom.
In order to be the burning and shining lamp like John the Baptist, there needs to be a refining work done in our hearts character, values, and lifestyle to be in alignment with God.
2. At the place of wilderness, which is our training ground where no one sees or notices, we need to wait on the Lord, meditate on His Word and let His Word go deep into our hearts, and engage our hearts with Him in the place of prayer.

G. Conclusion

1. God is raising up His End-Time forerunners who will declare His heart and what is to come at the End of the Age.
2. God is looking for men and women who are concerned about His heart and who will speak it forth as we encounter more of Him.
3. His invitation is to all to be His friends and His voice. While it is not just for an elite group of people, those who say “yes” to His invitation will need to be intentional in preparing to be His voices.
4. May we respond and lean into His all sufficient grace!