

WORLD AT WORK

VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER VII
Faith for the End-Times III

FRIDAY, JULY 1

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3

Hebrews 11 is commonly called Faith's Hall of Fame. Faith in verse 1 is translated from the Greek word **hoop-ostas-sis** and means 'substance,' or 'to face something squarely and to put it under your feet.' We are told, "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*" So faith comes from the unseen realm and we use it to create God's will, His purpose, His Promised Land and most of all we use it to please Him. So the real issue for every generation becomes how we define the faith that pleases God. Do we always have to have a victory or get what we are believing for? Do we always expect to see what we declare and decree in faith? According to Hebrews 11, how should we define the working out of faith in our lives?

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Scripture: Hebrews 11:36-38

Here is a whole chapter of people that got what they believed for when they stood in faith and yet the last few verses speak to us about a group of people that did not get what they were believing but still pleased God by their faith. Hebrews 11:36-38 says, "*Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*" The last verses of Faith's Hall of Fame help us to balance our understanding of faith. Not everyone got what they were believing for while here on earth. There were a number who walked in faith, pleased God and yet had to pass on their vision to the next generation. Some were treated brutally through mocking, scourging, chains, imprisonment, being stoned, sawn in half like Isaiah, tempted and outright killed. Yet they are mentioned in Hebrews 11. They made Faith's Hall of Fame because they used their faith on their flesh to obey God and to contribute what He was asking them to do in their generation. Is everyone who walks in faith prosperous? Absolutely not. There is a group mentioned here that was destitute and yet they are in Faith's Hall of Fame. History is full of great men and women who walked in faith and passed on a testimony of faithfulness to the next generation. Saints who sacrificed are mentioned here with honor and distinction! Let us be careful not to criticize those who do not live victoriously by our standards. May God give us His eyes to see and His prayers to pray!

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Scripture: Hebrews 11:37-39

Verse 39 says, "*And all these, having obtained a good testimony/mar-too-reh-o through faith, did not receive the promise,...*" Have we assumed that people who really walk in faith always get what God promised them here on this earth? Is that our mindset? Do we believe that if we are truly walking in faith we will see what God has promised? It

should not be – not according to Hebrews 11. We should understand the fullness of Christ and how He works. Every believer can be assigned to help fill a cup of iniquity in the last days by what they endure. Fullness of iniquity is the judicial trigger that gets us a new heavens and a new earth. But in order for the old one to be filled with iniquity, there are a certain number of those who will be martyred. And when that number is reached, fullness of iniquity is reached. So there are many believers who will be living in Hebrews 11:37-39 of whom the world is not worthy. They obtained their **mar-too-reh-o**, they obtained their testimony yet they did not receive the promise they were waiting for. There are people in every generation who walk in faith and do not receive their promises. It is because their job was to carry that promise and to impart it here on this earth to their generation until it is multiplied and reaches God's perfect timing. Our **obedience** and **submission** to God's perfect timing for what He does is what He is looking for. We are not looking for fulfillment every single time. So we cannot judge people based on whether or not they get their promise. We can only judge by the Holy Spirit, based on whether we are obedient to what God has called us to do. And when we are, we need to really be encouraging because the Bible says this group qualifies for those of whom the world was not worthy. It is time we looked at the complete sacrifice that God asks every believer to make. And many of those sacrifices are identified right here. For some it means not always being financially viable. It means being afflicted, it means being tormented, tempted, stoned, persecuted. And yet, in their persecution, they obeyed God. They stood in faithfulness. They fulfilled God's will. They gave the witness and testimony the Lord was asking of them. And they are called people of whom the world is not worthy. Are we willing to be a people of whom the world is not worthy? Some of us may be in this arena and this may be what God is calling us to do. May God give us anointed, Holy Spirit-intuition!

MONDAY, JULY 4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!

Scripture: Hebrews 11:40

And finally we see verse 40 where it says, *“God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.”* In Hebrews 11:37-40 there are a large group of people throughout the generations who walked in faith, carried the promise, did not see their promise fulfilled. And every step of the way they were paying the price for fullness. They were paying the price for their promise to be fulfilled one day in the generation of God's choosing. And if that comes in our generation then verse 40 is true of us and them. God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. We may get to fulfill what they laid down their lives to see. But in God's sovereignty, He waited for a future generation to do it. And when the future generation sees it, their promise is fulfilled and they in part contributed to its fulfillment. They rejoice because they get to see the future generation walk in what they laid their life down for. King David got to walk out the fulfillment of others' promises and many in our generation may as well. Isn't it time we understood both sides of faith? One side of faith receives the promise and the other lays their lives down for a future generation who will receive that promise. We see that the Israelites had four generations of captivity in Egypt. The second and third generation had to carry the prophetic promise and lay their lives down for it. They had to become people of whom the world was not worthy. I trust we can victoriously walk out the path God has for us!

TUESDAY, JULY 5

Scripture: Psalm 19:7-14

Psalm 19:7-14 says, *“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”* Verses 12,13 were a major cry of David's heart, *“Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.”* David walked in this place. God kept him from presumptuous sin, probably because he asked. How did

King David fulfill all that God called him to do? He prayed the right prayers at the right time as he was led by the Holy Spirit. You and I can do the same thing!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Scripture: Jude 3-12, 1 John 1:8

How do men turn the grace of God into licentiousness? One of the things they do is believe that with the grace of God, because of all that Jesus did on the cross, there is no more judgment. They recklessly and irresponsibly believe that repenting covers everything. If people believe this, they are saying that one sacrifice for our sins forever means that you can keep carelessly sinning. But that is not true. 1 John 1:8 says, *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”* The problem is that we sin and because we sin, we need the forgiveness and mercy of God. But believing the mercy of God is a license to sin without consequence is a dangerous trap. That belief is to turn the grace of God into licentiousness and we cannot afford to do that.

THURSDAY, JULY 7

Scripture: Hebrews 10:26-31, Romans 10:5

Hebrews 10:26-31 says, *“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* The reason why we need to contend for the faith and not allow the mercy of God to be turned into licentiousness is because when it is, it leads people into deception and destruction. This passage is very, very clear. The deceived believe judgment has been done away with. Romans says we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Many passages including Hebrews 10 make it clear that Jesus is still the Judge. Judgment continues and that is the reason grace and repentance are very important. Believing this untruth brings devastation. It is time we contended for the faith and specifically for the true grace and mercy of God.

FRIDAY, JULY 8

Scripture: Jude 3-4, Philippians 3:12-14

Jude 3-4 says, *“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”* When we read Jude, it is obvious that judgment has not been done away with. Certainly we can see that Scripture is consistently clear regarding the Judicial Hand of God. Justice and judgment do not go away. We contend for the faith in order to walk with Him victoriously throughout our whole life. Even Apostle Paul did not claim he already achieved it, but walked every day pursuing the salvation of God. I trust we are doing the same thing.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Scripture: Jude 9-13

In Jude 9-10 we see, *“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.”* In these verses we see the full measure of the warfare that goes on with man and the temptation of the enemy. It is obvious that judgment is still operational. Listen to what it says for all those who walk in the way of Cain from verses 11-13, *“Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for*

profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.” If that does not tell us that God is still a Judge, then I am not sure what will. We walk with Jesus Christ and we have to represent Him. He is both a Savior and a Judge and we cannot ignore what the Word clearly says. We must study the whole counsel of God.

SUNDAY, JULY 10

Scripture: Isaiah 33:5,6

Isaiah 33:5,6 says, *“The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, And the strength of salvation; The fear of the Lord is His treasure.”* This passage makes it clear that God is the One who gives us the wisdom and knowledge we need to walk in the season we are living in. That wisdom and knowledge becomes stability in our times and the strength of salvation. The fear of the Lord developing in our lives becomes His treasure. When we have that, we can impart it and we can walk in it all our days. But it only comes as we surrender to the Lord and allow Him to fulfill in our generation or to wait or help us to overcome victoriously to birth His purpose in a generation yet to come. We have to keep His Word and contend for the faith like Jude said. Doing this qualifies us to participate in Faith’s Hall of Fame.

MONDAY, JULY 11

Scripture: Isaiah 33:1-4

Isaiah 33:1 says, *“Woe to you who plunder, though you have not been plundered; And you who deal treacherously, though they have not dealt treacherously with you! When you cease plundering, You will be plundered; When you make an end of dealing treacherously, They will deal treacherously with you.”* The Lord declares judgment on those who plunder but have not been plundered. And He declares judgment on those who deal treacherously, yet no one has dealt treacherously with them. He goes on to declare when they are through plundering, they will be plundered. And when they are through dealing treacherously, people will deal treacherously with them. God will bring back on their own head what they are sowing. And yet for those who have obeyed God, we are told in verses 2-4, *“O Lord, be gracious to us; We have waited for You. Be their arm every morning, Our salvation also in the time of trouble. At the noise of the tumult the people shall flee; When You lift Yourself up, the nations shall be scattered; And Your plunder shall be gathered Like the gathering of the caterpillar; As the running to and fro of locusts, He shall run upon them.”* The believer who is faithful qualifies for the full measure of God’s blessing in the midst of great treachery in the last days. God’s Word will be the stability of our times. Are we putting the Word in our hearts? That is the promise. His Word will be the stability of our times. Let us do our part and make sure we sow it in our heart where it belongs.

TUESDAY, JULY 12

Scripture: Jude 12

Jude 12 says, *“These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;...”* God seems to be saying that the church has its share of ‘dead wood’ in the last days. Are we discerning it? Do we see it? Do we recognize the ‘dead wood’ that is among us? Are we influenced by ‘dead wood’ or do we discern it? Lord God, help us to discern the ‘dead wood’ that is among us and do our part to deal with it.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Scripture: Jude 13-16

Jude 13-16 says, *“...raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly*

among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’ These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.” Jude makes it obvious that in the last days, the Lord is coming to execute judgment with His angels. He executes judgment on all and He convicts all who are ungodly. That is very clear. How do the ungodly escape in the last days? They do not. There is no escape for them! The disobedient and the rebellious do not escape in the last days and judgment starts in the House of God. I trust we are ready for it.

THURSDAY, JULY 14

Scripture: Jude 17-23

Jude 17-23 says, *“But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.”* Jude draws a distinction between the ungodly who are going to face the Judge and what the godly do in gaining the harvest. He tells us that we will endure mocking, coming from people with ungodly lust and sensuous people who try to cause divisions. But our job is to build ourselves up on our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ which will usher us into eternal life. Jude is a great book that really encourages us to seek God for His very best and to pursue it in the last days. He has it for us, it is ordained and we need to be seeking His guidance continually. The Lord has entrusted a great harvest to us, but there is tremendous warfare getting it. The way we prepare is to hide the Word in our hearts and to build ourselves up through anointed prayer.

FRIDAY, JULY 15

Scripture: Hebrews 11:3,4

Hebrews 11:3,4 states, *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”* Cain and Abel chose what to sacrifice. Cain brought the fruit of the ground and Abel brought life. And because Abel brought life, God had respect and we know what that account produced. Cain killed his brother. Because Abel obeyed and brought the right sacrifice, he was given a witness that he had pleased God. We can walk in such a way to have a witness that we please God. And when we walk in such a way to continually get that witness that we pleased God, we know what the fruit of it is. The fruit of it is faith for God's purpose. He gives us a witness and the faith that comes from that witness we apply toward His purpose. That is how God intended us to walk and produce eternal fruit, especially in the last days.

SATURDAY, JULY 16

Scripture: Hebrews 11:5

Hebrews 11:5 says, *“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’ for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”* Have we taught people to pursue the witness of the Spirit? Have we taught people to obey God until they get a witness that they please Him? This is an essential foundation for the Christian life. The issue is **not** whether or not we achieve what God has asked us to do. We see that at the end of Hebrews 11. The people who did not get what they believed for are right there with the ones that did. That is not the issue. The issue is that we never quit pursuing God and obeying Him. God wants a family that never stops pursuing Him. If we get what we are believing for, then we are blessed, but if we do not and continue pursuing, we are still blessed! Both qualify for Faith's Hall of Fame. What is God after? He is after a family who desires to please Him and never stops pursuing Him. He wants a people who never stop pursuing Him. The issue is

not whether we get what is prophesied for us to complete the assignment we are given or have to pass it on to a future generation. The issue is that we never stop pursuing Him and that we also make it a priority to please Him. The truth of Hebrews 11 has a lot to say about our attitude in the end-times. I trust we are getting it and diligently walking it out!

SUNDAY, JULY 17

Scripture: Hebrews 11:6, 35

Hebrews 11:6 says, *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently seek Him.**”* He did not say those who get what they are believing for – He said those who, *“...**diligently seek Him.**”* The issue with God is not so much whether we get it or in faith pass it on to the next generation, but it is whether we diligently, continually seek Him. Those who continually seek are rewarded the same as those who gain what they are believing for. The ones who do not obtain what they are believing for are called people of whom the world is not worthy. It seems that not seeing the object of one’s faith when obediently pursuing can be greatly rewarded when delayed for future generations. Why else would it say in verse 35, *“Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, **that they might obtain a better resurrection.**”* How many sermons have we ever heard on a ‘better resurrection’? Have we been taught of a better resurrection by foregoing the answer to our prayers? I am not sure I have ever heard teaching on gaining a better resurrection. Is the issue that few would be likely to forego getting what they are praying for? Have we taught people the depth of walking in faith according to Hebrews? Not getting what we are praying for is a hard and painful issue to confront. But it is important to remember that it comes with a major reward.

MONDAY, JULY 18

Scripture: Hebrews 11:7

Hebrews 11:7 says, *“By faith 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 the righteousness which is according to faith.”* The Greek word translated “condemned” is **kata-kree-no** and means ‘adversely judged.’ Noah’s obedience to God became a judgment on the world that did not believe the judgment was coming. In his righteousness he was saved and everyone else was judged accordingly. Hebrews 11 has a thread of judgment running all the way through it as well as how people who walk in faith escape judgment. People who walk in faith give the witness for God and yet they are saved in the midst of a season of judgment. We can see why Hebrews 11 is especially important for faith in the end-times. It is important because the thread of the judicial is all the way through this chapter. It is all the way through the book of Jude and Hebrews 11. It is obvious these Bible passages are trying to prepare us to walk in the end-times. Are we building faith like Noah? Are we building faith like Abraham and Moses? We should, it is available and we can. We are the ones upon whom the end of the world may very well come, therefore we should grow our faith to the place to match those who have walked in similar places in Hebrews 11. God gave these passages to us for preparation for the end-times. Noah walked it out and he was mocked. But he lived to serve the Lord. Will we not also be victorious in our faith? I believe we will because faith that trusts God to get us through to our gifting and calling brings judgment on the world. The fact that we believe God is a judgment on those that do not. And setting that standard is part of what pleases the Lord.

TUESDAY, JULY 19

Scripture: 2 Peter 2:4-9

One of the things we need to ask ourselves is how many people are going to fall in judgment around us in the last days? Based on what we are told in Revelation, it could be several billion. That is an extraordinary amount of people in judgment! 2 Peter 2:4-9 says, *“...or if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for*

that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,” How many angels were thrown out of heaven? Thousands times thousands. How many people died in the flood? It is interesting that when I researched how many people were alive at the time of Noah’s flood, I found one the of the church fathers estimated the flood occurred 1656 years from the time creation began and deduced there were between 7 – 11 billion people. The population of the earth right now is slightly over 8 billion. If God did not hesitate to kill that many people then, why would He hesitate now? God did not hesitate to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, which was estimated to have a population of around 3 million. And in both of those cases God delivered the righteous. We need to develop faith to stand in the midst of great judgment in the last days. If we live to see the end-times, we will see the Judge of all the earth in action. There is no escaping it. He is already here and at work. Islam is a judgment in itself coming upon the world. In the end-times there is a tremendous amount of judgment that flows and many people die. What does God promise us? He promises He will keep a witness alive all the way through. God has great promises for the church throughout the last days in order to be His mighty witnesses!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

Scripture: Matthew 24:11-15

Matthew 24:11-15 says, *“Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand),...”* Here, Jesus is answering the question about the end of the age. We are told there would be many false prophets and lawlessness would abound, but he who endures to the end would be saved. And that will take major faith to do. Despite judgments falling around us left and right, the promise is that God will keep us alive to preach the gospel until the end of the age. These end-time saints are to witness all the way until the end of the age. Are we ready for that witness? We certainly need to prepare because the church has to survive the judgments to be God's trumpets to the world. Whether we will live to see this season or we pass it on to the next generation, the church has to be ready. Will we be?

THURSDAY, JULY 21

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-39

Matthew 24:36-39 says, *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”* The flood was the judgment and Noah was safe in the ark. But who was taken away? In this account the righteous were saved and the ungodly, disobedient and rebellious were taken into judgment. We have to develop faith for the last days. In this passage they were saved to be a witness. The people who were taken away were the ungodly. The judgment takes them away and the righteous are left. Many believe the rapture will deliver the righteous from living through the end-times because it will occur **before** the judgments. Many have assumed this particular passage is a rapture passage. Have we bought into something that perhaps we may not see? Even if we will be raptured prior to the harshest judgments, it is wise to be prepared to go through them regardless.

FRIDAY, JULY 22

Scripture: Matthew 24:40

Verse 40 says, *“Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.”* This is not about the rapture. Context tells us the flood took away the sinners. The judgment took away the evil and left the righteous. So it seems the flood was the opposite of the rapture. The sinners were taken and the righteous remained. If this is true, why did God say there would be a rapture?

There will be a rapture! But the question many cannot agree on is when. So when we acknowledge there is a rapture coming, it would be wisdom to prepare for the possibility that it comes during or after the tribulations. That way we have the faith necessary to walk through. If it comes prior to the tribulations, it will be a wonderful bonus. But sowing the Word in our hearts and having the faith and relationship with Christ necessary to walk in the toughest of times is the safest and wisest choice. Developing our faith for the end-times is the most judicious course. When two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left, the one taken is taken in judgment. The one left will be left to finish their race. We are only taken as believers when we have finished our race.

SATURDAY, JULY 23

Scripture: Matthew 24:42

Verse 42 says, *“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”* When prophets come forward with words claiming to know when the rapture is coming, based on this verse it would be smarter to disregard those prophets. We are told by the Lord to watch because we do not know. Jesus Himself said He did not know the hour the Lord was coming. The Lord is coming in judgment and we need to prepare to walk with Him through it and represent Him in it. Faith for the last days means preparing to be there to execute the judgment of God when it is needed. Developing faith for the last days means developing faith to walk with the Judge of all the earth.

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Scripture: Matthew 24:43

Verse 43 says, *“But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.”* In this verse, Jesus gave us authority in our house. He gave us the authority to pray and save our children. He gave us the authority to make sure that when judgment falls, it does not fall on our kids who are not yet where they are supposed to be. This came out of His mouth. The thief came in judgment and everyone that was taken in this passage was taken in judgment. The thief here is the judgment that kills. If the master of the house had known what hour the thief was to come he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Can we trust the Holy Spirit to show us when judgment is coming and save our house from it? Of course we can! The job of the Holy Spirit in John 16:8 is to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Nobody knows when judgment is coming, but He will reveal in order to save. He will alert us when judgment is approaching so we can get our kids ready to be saved. The church is very likely walking into a season where the last great frontier of the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be in the application of judgments. Are we ready to seek God for that realm. We need to because that time is rapidly approaching. He is the Judge of all the earth. And we walk with Him and represent Him. We want to stop the thief and it is time to walk in faith in the last days.

MONDAY, JULY 25

Scripture: Acts 16:31

Acts 16:31 says, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”* Can we believe that? Of course we can! That is a great word for all of us in the end-times. We can use our faith to avoid the judgments that take the enemy away and yet at the same time leave the righteous or those yet that need to be saved. We know that our kids and grandkids, parents and loved ones are included in that. We have a direct promise from the Lord. That is a seed that every single one of us need to plant continually because that guarantees us what we are looking for – our whole house in the Kingdom!

TUESDAY, JULY 26

Scripture: Matthew 24:44

Matthew 24:44 says, *“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”* Jesus tells us to be ready, develop our faith and walk with the King because He is coming. The rapture is coming, but we do not know when. Are we going to live every day as if it could possibly happen today so that we are ready? That is the

issue – to be ready. Are we ready? Are we prepared? Are we looking forward to a day when judgments take the wicked away or God takes the righteous out? Are we ready? We are to live as if we are ready every single day.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:1-5

Ezekiel 13:1-5 says, *“And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, “Hear the word of the Lord!” Thus says the Lord God: ‘Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts. You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the Lord.’”* From this passage, the job of the prophets is very clear. But the prophets were being rebuked for not doing their job. We are told here they were like foxes in the desert and had not done what God told them to do. God told them to go up into the breaches or **peh-rats**. That is the Hebrew word translated *“gaps”* or ‘the broken down place in the wall.’ When a godly nation is formed like Israel or like America, then a wall of protection extends around that nation. That wall can be broken or breached when the people sin enough to create a breach in the wall. When they create a breach in the wall because of sin, then they have opened the door to destruction and God does not want destruction on His godly nation. He wants them to be saved. So He assigns the prophets the job of preparing the believers to stand in the season of judgment, *“...build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the Lord.”* The Day of the Lord is the Day of Judgment. Ezekiel 13 basically instructs the prophets to go teach the people to stand in faith in a season of judgment. Teaching people to develop their faith for the end-times is the preparation required to stand victoriously in a season of judgment. This Bible study, *“Faith for the End-times,”* is not just another study. This series is aimed at *doing* Ezekiel 13:1-5 during life or death in the last days. If we can hear it and if we will do it, it will be life to us. Because we may very well be entering into the toughest season the earth has ever seen. Let us prepare, let us build our faith so we can stand strong in battle in the Day of the Lord!

THURSDAY, JULY 28

Scripture: Job 1:8-12

Job 1:8-10 says, *“Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.’”* We see in this interaction between God and Satan that the Lord is pointing out Job, who is blameless, upright, fears God and shuns evil. In other words, Job is a man who walks in faith. Satan responds that God had built a hedge around him. The Hebrew word for *“hedge”* is **peh-rets**. It is the same word we see in Ezekiel 13:5. And because Job has a hedge around him, nobody can get to him. That is the issue that Satan is bringing up. He goes on to say in verses 11,12, *“‘But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’ And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”* God told Satan to do his worst, yet spare Job’s life. In Job, God opened the hedge to give Satan access to His servant. But it shows us that when the hedge is down, the enemy has full access to a person or a nation. America’s hedge is down and the enemy is coming in. The question is, what are we going to do about it as a church and as a nation? Warriors arise and stand in the breach!

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:6-13

God was mad at the prophets because they did not build a wall that would stand in judgment! They built a wall and plastered it with untempered mortar or whitewash. The wall could not stand. God expects us to build people into a wall that can stand in a day of judgment. A wall that stands is a wall of faith, a wall of integrity and a wall of obedience. A wall that stands is one of faith in the Word built on God for Who He really is. The real God inspires a thread of the fear of the Lord. He is the Judge of all the earth. Our breath is in His Hands and because of that, we cannot get away with

what the world does. We cannot live in sin. Tempered mortar is a mortar of righteousness and holiness. Righteousness and holiness are the only things that can build tempered mortar that will grow people to the place they can stand in the last days. We have to live according to God's Word and have to be obedient to the Spirit. We have to bow to the King and listen to the Spirit. Today's prophets have not built a wall that can withstand attack and that has to change now.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:17-19

God goes on to tell why these prophets did not get the job done. It was because they did not pass the money test. Because they did not pass the money test, they did not have the discernment and consequently they did not bring the tempered mortar. The fruit of that was that people in the church that God wanted to live died early. And people in the world that God wanted to perish in judgment, that judgment did not come. Verse 19 makes it very clear, *"And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live..."* When the prophets do not do what God calls them to do, then needed judgment does not come to take away the wicked. When prophets do not do what they should, the enemy takes the life of the righteous and leaves the wicked. When the prophets step into the fullness of what God has called them to do, the wicked die early and the righteous have their lives extended. In this passage, Ezekiel makes it clear. Are we expecting God to do what He said? It is time to stand up in the full measure of what God has called us to be.

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:14-16

Verses 14-16 says, *"So I will break down the wall you have plastered with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation will be uncovered; it will fall, and you shall be consumed in the midst of it. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. Thus will I accomplish My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar; and I will say to you, 'The wall is no more, nor those who plastered it, that is, the prophets of Israel who prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace.'" God says He is coming first to the church and He is going to deal with the untempered mortar that was on the wall and those that plastered it. Verse 15 says, *"Thus will I accomplish My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar; and I will say to you, 'The wall is no more, nor those who plastered it,..."* God is talking about the House of the Lord. He is saying that judgment begins in the House of God. Because it begins at the House of God, that is where we are going to see it first. Judgment is going to start in ministries. And then it is going through the church and then to the world. When the major judgments come, they will take away the ungodly because the Lord has already dealt with His church. We are about to see the judgment of God in the House of the Lord. The time for vigilance and preparation is now!*

ITINERARY

7/21-7/23	Brisbane, AUS	Gloryfire Ministries International Conference Email for times and locations	Jeff and Faylene Sparkes faylene@gloryfire.com.au
7/25-8/4	Perth, AUS	Living Faith Community Church 2 Grant St. Innaloo, Perth.	Dr Reg Morais Tel: 9446 1019