



VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER XII
Faith for the End-Times VIII

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3

Hebrews 11:1-3 says, *“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.”* Faith in God's Word spoken forth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit releases the creative power of God to bring His will, purpose and plan to pass. The reason why, without faith, it is impossible to please God is because He spoke the worlds into existence. He was the Creator in the beginning, is still a Creator today and His Kingdom is to be created in the earth. This is to be done by believers who, in faith, embrace His Word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit speak that Word and believe and expect God to perform what He has laid on their hearts to speak. This is a God-operation and just like a farmer sows seed in the soil, when we memorize and plant the Word of God in our hearts, we are sowing spiritual seed that will grow and reap a harvest. And under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, that seed accomplishes God's will, purpose and plan for our life. Our futures are framed by what we have sown and what we speak, so let us sow His Word and speak it so we can see God's purpose come to pass in our lives. His purpose for the end-time church is to frame a harvest of nations and to see His will come to pass. He has given us everything we need to maintain life and Godliness. Walking with the Lord is an amazing adventure that unfolds daily. Let God arise and His enemies be scattered!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, 1 Samuel 7:7-13

Hebrews 11:32-33 says, *“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,...”* We are given a list of people in verses 32-33 who, through faith, subdued kingdoms. The word translated “subdued” means ‘overcoming, by the Spirit and the Word, the opposition to God's Will and making sure His Kingdom is established.’ All the individuals listed here did that, and they did not do it the same way. The value of looking at their assignments and encounters with opposition becomes a real and valuable source of training for us. In 1 Samuel 7:7-13, we see what Samuel initially learned about subduing Kingdoms. This is an account of the battle with the Philistines. First we need to remember that, in Samuel's lifetime, the Philistines took whatever they wanted from Israel, whenever they wanted it. The Philistines were a major enemy, all the days of Eli and his sons. But when Samuel began to take over for Eli, Samuel brought a completely different type of integrity to the nation and victory started to develop because Samuel refused the sin of Eli and his sons. Righteousness and holiness accounts for the transition between Eli and Samuel. Samuel was a man of righteousness and obedience and consequently was a man of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Samuel 7:8, Israel cried out to Samuel, *“So the children of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines.”* Verses 9-10 records Samuel making a burnt offering and crying out to God. In the middle of the offering, God thundered upon the Philistines, confused them and they were overcome before Israel. Samuel subdued Kingdoms by prayer. Samuel was a man of faith and righteous and as a result, God answered his prayers. Verse 13 says, *“So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. **And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.**”* Samuel subdued kingdoms through faith and through prayer. He prayed, God heard and God intervened based on those prayers. We need to develop the faith of Samuel and learn to use that faith on our flesh to walk in righteousness and holiness and obedience as Samuel did. James 5 says there is no difference between us and Elijah, for he was a man like us. God is calling us to start doing His Word. Will we do it?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, 1 Samuel 15

In 1 Samuel 15:1-6, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, Samuel gave Saul a simple assignment. It says, *"Samuel also said to Saul, 'The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."'"* So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. Then Saul said to the Kenites, *'Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.'* So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites." That was the assignment. Verses 7-9 says, *"And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed."* There was an obvious problem and that was obedience. Saul and the people obeyed partially but not fully. And as a result, Saul lost his kingship. Verses 10-11 state, *"Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, 'I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.'" And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night."* Has the church been trained to be more like Saul than like David? The church is paralyzed by tradition they have been taught by church leaders. We have to recover from traditions that go against the Word and begin to develop men and women full of faith who can, like Samuel, say, 'I have not taken, I have not hurt.' God is looking for those people. Rest assured, you and I are called to be among that number.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, 1 Samuel 15:12-23

Verses 20-21 state, *"And Saul said to Samuel, 'But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.'" Saul gave an excuse and God's answer was directed at that excuse. Verses 22-23 state, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."* Judgment begins in the House of God and sometimes judgment is necessary to clean up the mess that's been made. The rebellious cannot stand in the presence of the living God. Saul cried out in verses 25-26, *"Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.' But Samuel said to Saul, 'I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.'" The judgment Saul failed to execute ended up coming back on him. If we are going to gain a harvest of nations today, we are going to have to follow the Spirit when He leads us to execute the judgment of God in prayer. And if, like Saul, we fail to execute God's judgment, that judgment may very well come back on us. We cannot afford not to follow the Spirit when He leads us to declare God's judgment. Judgment is starting in the House of the Lord and God is going to replace disobedient leaders with those who will frame tomorrow's world by obedience and faith in His Word. Let's make sure we are part of the answer and not the problem.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:27-33

Hebrews 11 tells us that Samuel subdued kingdoms. But how did he subdue kingdoms? What Saul refused to do, Samuel did. 1 Samuel 15:27-33 says, *"And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.' Then he said, 'I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.' So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord. Then Samuel said, 'Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me.' So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, 'Surely the bitterness of death is past.' But Samuel said, 'As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.' And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal."* Because of Samuel's obedience, he was able to declare judgment on Saul's

disobedience. Samuel hacked Agag to pieces and in Hebrews 11 we are told to emulate Samuel who, through faith, subdued kingdoms. In obedience to God's direction, Samuel had to do what Saul refused to. And when he did, he was given a great victory. Let us walk in obedience so we can see kingdoms subdued and nations won in the last days.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, Jeremiah 1:9-14

The prophets are all said to have subdued kingdoms. As we look at each prophet to discover how, we begin to realize that God has a variety of applications of faith to accomplish His purpose and plan in the earth. Jeremiah 1:9-14 says, *"Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: 'Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant.' Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Jeremiah, what do you see?' And I said, 'I see a branch of an almond tree.' Then the Lord said to me, 'You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.' And the word of the Lord came to me the second time, saying, 'What do you see?' And I said, 'I see a boiling pot, and it is facing away from the north.' Then the Lord said to me: 'Out of the north calamity shall break forth On all the inhabitants of the land.'" How was the calamity to happen? It would come forth from the words Jeremiah was to speak that came from the Lord. How did David, Samuel and the prophets subdue kingdoms? Sometimes they used the sword, but often they used the Word of the Lord and prayer and waited for God to do it. Does that say something to us? Hebrews 11 gives us very clear instruction to use these men as examples. We can walk in faith the same way they did and proclaim what God gives us to proclaim, the same way they did. What a season we are in and what a harvest we are called to bring in! It is time to get ready!*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:17-19

Jeremiah 7:17-19 says, *"Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, Lest I dismay you before them. For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land— Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the people of the land. They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the Lord, 'to deliver you.'" Is God going to be just like that for us? Of course He is! He does not give us any assignment He does not anoint us to do. God is amazing and He is fully invested in His warriors and He protects them. God gave this assurance to Jeremiah and it is written in Jeremiah "...for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." We have better promises based on a better covenant! Could anyone kill Jeremiah? No! But did he have to spend some time trapped in a well? Yes! There was tremendous persecution that went with following God's assignment, but his enemies could not kill him. No one could take him out before his appointed time. And in like manner as we walk in faith and obedience, no one can take us out before our appointed time. That is Who God is to us and all He asks us to do is walk with Him in faith.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Scripture: Jeremiah 28:1-17

In Jeremiah 28, Jeremiah finds himself living in the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, in a conflict with another prophet called Hananiah. Hananiah was a false prophet and he declared within two full years the Lord would bring back the exiled king from Babylon. Jeremiah has been told by God to tell the people to submit to Nebuchadnezzar, because the alternative would have been far worse. That brought Jeremiah and Hananiah into conflict. Verses 14-17 state, *"For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him. I have given him the beasts of the field also.' Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, 'Hear now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie. Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against the Lord.'" So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month."* Jeremiah faced off with the false prophet, declared the Word of the Lord on the false prophet and God killed him. The realm of religious spirits and of the counterfeit prophetic had to be subdued by Jeremiah. And if the realm of the counterfeit prophetic had to be subdued by Jeremiah, rest assured it has to be subdued today. The real question is, who among us have the faith and righteousness necessary to walk out that calling? God is looking for those prepared to resist and subdue. Every prophetic voice that prophesies from the motive of manipulation or for personal gain is a counterfeit. Will God find any Jeremiahs today? I trust He will, in Jesus' name!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Scripture: Ezekiel 4

In Ezekiel 4, Ezekiel had the assignment in portraying a siege in Jerusalem. So he had to build a mound wall against the wall of Jerusalem, placing battering ramps all around. And his assignment then got very difficult – he had to lay on his left side one day for every year of the iniquity of the House of Israel, 390 days. And he had to lay on his right side one day for every year of the iniquity of the House of Judah, 40 days. Then the assignment got even more difficult. In verses 9-12, God restricted the amount of food and water Ezekiel was allotted and mandated that he cook his food using his own waste as fuel. It is hard to imagine flavoring food with human waste. Ezekiel protested that the assignment would make him defile himself. And God said he could instead use the waste of cows. And He said in verses 16-17, *“Son of man, surely I will cut off the supply of bread in Jerusalem; they shall eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and shall drink water by measure and with dread, that they may lack bread and water, and be dismayed with one another, and waste away because of their iniquity.”* Ezekiel was called to demonstrate what was coming because people refused to repent for their sin. Being a prophet has always been a difficult job, and Ezekiel’s assignment is a prime example. But God’s purpose was for Ezekiel to demonstrate Israel and Judah’s sin so that they could understand the judgment that was coming upon them. He was trying to gain a harvest of repentance out of Jerusalem. Are our prophets today showing us the judgment that is coming so that we can gain some repentance? Walking in obedience gives us the authority to move the judicial Hand of God. If we do not walk in obedience, we will not have the authority to move His Hand. This is part of the platform of subduing kingdoms. The question is, how many are willing to accept it?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

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.’”* Ezekiel was speaking to the prophets and said they had failed the nation. Suddenly the assignment of Ezekiel was to subdue the kingdom of false prophets. Whenever sin enters the land, it creates a breach or gap in the wall and breaks down the hedge of God’s protection. Are we preparing to arise and stand in the gap?

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Scripture: Job 1:8-9

The most familiar place that we find the concept of a hedge is in the beginning of Job 1:8-9 when the Lord is dealing with satan. These verses say, *“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.”* God put a hedge around Job and satan could not get to him. Satan had to ask God to give him access through the hedge. God hedges about His people and hedges about Godly nations. But according to Ezekiel, sin creates a gap or breach in that hedge. When Ezekiel was identifying the purpose for the prophets, the primary one was **not** to edify people with good words. The primary purpose was to locate breaches in the hedge of God’s protection and stand in the breach or gap. The purpose of standing in the gap is that we are helping to repair the hedge of God’s protection and safe-keeping by building a wall against evil. Only by protecting areas where there are gaps can God’s people stand in battle on the Day of the Lord, which means on the day of God’s judgment. Sin creates breaches in the hedge and it requires judgment. It is the job of the prophets to subdue the sin that is making the nation vulnerable to destruction. The job of the prophets is to teach the church that we have the assignment to subdue the kingdom of darkness. Sin opens up a nation to destruction. If we do not subdue the kingdom of darkness, when the judgment of God comes, many people in the church will fall also. We have to identify breaches in the wall of protection around our nation to call out and point to the sin for the purpose of repentance. Let’s stand in the gap like Ezekiel did!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:6-16

In verses 6-16, the Holy Spirit began to identify the reasons God was against the false prophets. They were speaking a vision of their **own heart**, essentially lying to people and calling it the word of God. Verses 15-16 state, *“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,' says the Lord God." He said they were building a boundary wall and plastering it with untempered mortar. Sin causes breaches in God's hedge of protection around His chosen people or nations. Teaching people compromised Scripture means plastering them with untempered mortar, and compromised walls eventually fall flat! War and destruction were coming and they were prophesying peace. God declared He would visit them with judgment as a result. We know that judgment begins with the House of the Lord. And if we want to see the church stand we have to identify breaches in the wall and stand in the gap and become a wall in the middle of gaps in the hedge.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:10

I would like to see our nations in victory and blessed by God's protection and by His Hand. Are we willing to pray judicially concerning those who God shows us are compromised and are plastering with untempered mortar? Are we willing to represent God if His judgment has to start in His own House? This is a tough assignment and one that is part of the end-time picture. It was the assignment of Jeremiah and Ezekiel – they were called to do things that were difficult to do. But when God comes to us, as He did to Jeremiah and says, *"See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."* How will we respond? The anointing is available and the question is, will we learn how to walk in this by the example of prophets who through faith subdued kingdoms? I trust we will, in Jesus' name!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:17-19

Ezekiel 13:17-19 tells us the primary issue that made prophets unable to subdue wickedness was that they did not pass the test of integrity. In verse 19 God said, *"And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread..."* He was addressing prophets changing their message in order to gain money enough to eat. But that had major consequences. Verse 19 continues showing us that delivering compromised Word kills people who should not die and saves people that should not live. Compromised Word kills saints that should not die and extends the life of evil-doers who should not live. The purpose of judgment is to save. Sin causes a breach in the hedge and if the perpetrators refuse to turn, judgment on them means saving both the righteous and the potential harvest. God has to have ministers who are 100% committed to speaking what He says, even if it means they starve. They have to be willing to speak even if it means they will be stoned. The prophets get rebuked in verses 32-33 for strengthening the hands of the wicked so they do not turn from their wickedness to save their life. If the prophets had brought the fear of God to the wicked, the wicked would have turned and it could have saved their life. Disobedient prophets, by their foolishness, open the door to destruction. Judgment saves – it saved both the innocent and those who turn. Are we willing to pay the price to pray when we are led?

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Scripture: Ezekiel 24:15-24

Ezekiel 24:15-24 describes one of the most painful things that can happen in the life of a prophet. Suddenly, in a sign and a wonder, God said there was great destruction coming to the nation and He was taking the desire of Ezekiel's eyes, his wife, home and he was not allowed to mourn. God said it was a picture for the church of what He was about to do to those who had defiled His altars. God said when His judgment came, they would be judged and Ezekiel was to tell them to turn. Throughout the book of Revelation we see great devastation. We know that the end-times are full of devastation and destruction. Being a prophet in the last days is likely to be an amazingly difficult assignment. If Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever we must remember that what He did to Ezekiel, He can and will do today. It takes great faith, humility and submission to walk with God. We cannot afford to be offended by what He does. We have to praise Him, walk with Him and receive the understanding of why from Him. God gave that to Ezekiel, it became a preaching moment and Ezekiel followed through. I hope that all of us who walk with God in the last days have the same kind of heart that Ezekiel had to represent God in the midst of the most trying and devastating personal circumstances that we could ever imagine. Let's prepare ourselves so we can do the same if necessary!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Scripture: Daniel 1

Daniel was taken captive in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, King of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem, besieged and conquered it. He brought articles into the treasury from the House of God. Verses 3-4 states, *“Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.”* According to Hebrews 11, how did Daniel walk in faith and subdue kingdoms? Daniel is mentioned in Hebrews 11 under the heading of prophets, *“David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire...”* The book of Daniel is a virtual testimony of what is required to walk in faith and please God. In Daniel 1, it all started for Daniel and his three friends who quenched the violence of fire over whether or not they would eat the king’s delicacies or obey God’s law. God’s law had a significant number of dietary restrictions and the very first test of faith for Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was whether they would obey God in their diet. In verse 10, the chief steward said, *“I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.”* Daniel’s reply in verses 12-13 was, *“Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king’s delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.”* The steward consented to the test, which lasted ten days. Verse 15 says, *“And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king’s delicacies.”* So the steward allowed them to obey their law. The test of faith that established the platform for them to subdue kingdoms started there. Are we going to do what the world says to do or are we going to obey what God says? The fruit of Daniel’s obeying what God said shows up in verses 19-20, *“Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.”* The lesson of Daniel is the lesson of Samuel and Moses and it is a lesson repeated over and over again in Scripture. It is the lesson of obedience.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Scripture: Daniel 3:1-12

Nebuchadnezzar built an image of gold that was 60 cubits high and six cubits wide. He set it up in the province of Babylon and commanded all the officials to bow down and worship whenever they started to hear the music. And whoever did not fall down and worship would be thrown in the midst of a fiery furnace. Once again, the faith of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was being tested. The Jews were accused because they chose to obey God rather than man and King Nebuchadnezzar was told in verse 12, *“They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”* So the test was on for whether or not they were going to live according to God’s Word or the world’s dictates. They had just been promoted and the test came immediately after their promotion. Isn’t it amazing that often when we are promoted, tests come and the promotion hangs in the balance? We have to face whether we are willing to sacrifice everything we have gained in order to serve God? In many ways it is a mammon/integrity test because often our livelihoods are on the line. The stakes double and the enemy is right there because he wants to stop us at every juncture. What are we going to do as the tests unfold? We have to make a choice. We have to choose to live in God’s Word or compromise that Word to save our position. For these men, it wasn’t only their promotion on the line – it was their lives. Sometimes God comes through and we live and sometimes He says no and we get promoted to glory. Thousands in the Middle East have been slaughtered by Isis because they refused to deny Christ. The book of Revelation tells us it is going to happen in the end-times and it is amazing that we are seeing it in the here and now. This is a real test and one that believers are going to face more and more in the days ahead. Will we be faithful unto death? That is the call. Settle it now!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Scripture: Daniel 3:19-25

Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury. The expression on his face changed and he had the furnace heated seven times hotter. Verse 22 says, *“Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the*

fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.” But once they were bound and thrown in they said in verses 16-18, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Verse 24-25 says, “Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, ‘Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?’ They answered and said to the king, ‘True, O king.’ ‘Look!’ he answered, ‘I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.’” They put their life on the line and God entered the fire with them and brought them safely through. By faith they walked in the midst of the fire and were not hurt. They quenched the violence of fire by faith.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Scripture: Daniel 3:26-30

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were willing to stand up for righteousness. Because they were thrown into the fire and by faith quenched the fire, they subdued the kingdom of Babylon. And Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, did the preaching, *“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.”* Verse 30 continues, *“Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.”* Their faith was tested in the extreme and they were promoted. They walked in the face of death and quenched the violence of fire. The second promotion was hard won but they got it because they refused to compromise. They walked in righteousness, they walked in holiness and chose the Word of God over everything else and the Lord preserved them.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Scripture: Daniel 4

Daniel 4 finds Nebuchadnezzar preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. And the reason is because Daniel the prophet was willing to interpret the dream. For seven years Nebuchadnezzar ate grass because of his arrogance and because of his pride. His own words declare in Daniel 4:34-37, *“And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. **No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’** At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.”* Isn't it interesting to hear a heathen king, who has been subdued by faith, extol the God of the Hebrews? The fruit of Daniel's life is seen in a king who is preaching the same God that Daniel served. Might we see our senators and lawmakers preach the same God we serve? Are we subduing kingdoms by faith or are the kingdoms subduing us? The church in the last days is supposed to be subduing kingdoms. But it comes with a price. We cannot compromise God's Word. We have to walk it out.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Scripture: Daniel 5:1-9, 18-30

Daniel 5 is about Nebuchadnezzar’s son Belshazzar. Belshazzar made a great feast and had the utensils from the temple in Jerusalem brought so his friends could party. So they ate, drank and praised the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone. All of a sudden a hand appeared and it wrote on the wall, *“Mene mene tekle upharsin.”* No one could interpret the words and someone remembered there was a prophet who interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. They got Daniel and in verses 26-29 he interpreted the tongue of judgment that was written on the wall and immediately it happened. That night, Belshazzar was killed, the king of the Chaldeans was slain and Darius the Mede received the kingdom. Once again, Daniel subdued another king. First Nebuchadnezzar then his son, and then the kingdom was transferred. Will we see this kind of authority again? The whole reason it was written is for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world have come. We

have to harvest nations. Tongues and interpretations are New Testament gifts that we can all walk in. Here it is being used in Daniel's life to bring the judgment of God and to subdue a kingdom. All nine gifts of the Spirit have judicial manifestations just like they have priestly manifestations. And we have to walk in the Spirit and follow His lead in how each gift manifests.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Scripture: Daniel 9:1-23, 1:21, Jeremiah 1:10

In Daniel 9, the Lord reveals to him the seventy years that Jeremiah prophesied about the destruction of Jerusalem. Daniel lived his whole life in the dispersion because of that destruction. Israel rebelled against God and the judgment was they lost their nation and they were dispersed to Babylon. Daniel spent his whole life there. He subdued kingdoms, subdued Babylon and in Daniel 1, we are told exactly how long he ministered. Daniel 1:21 says, *"Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus."* Just before King Cyrus was going to take over in the last part of Daniel's reign, he began to pray for the restoration of Jerusalem. That is the assignment of the king who was going to take over next. So Daniel began to pray it into existence. At the very end of Daniel's life as he was closing out his days, he got to see the king that was going to restore Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Not only did Daniel subdue kingdoms, but he got to restore kingdoms. He got to pray that restoration into existence in the Spirit. He laid the spiritual foundation for it to happen even though it did not happen until after he was gone. One of the things we need to learn from the book of Hebrews is that faith to walk in the end-times is realizing that what we pray about may not come until we are gone. It did not for Daniel, who prayed for restoration, but he only lived through the first year of Cyrus. Cyrus completed what Daniel prayed for. We may not get to see what we pray come to pass – somebody else may see it after we are gone. But rest assured, our prayers mean that it will in part be attributed to us. Are we willing to walk knowing that we may never see our dreams and prayers be fulfilled in this life? Our destiny may be handing off the answers to the next generation. The next generation cannot be made complete without us. They are standing on our shoulders and it is our job to pray it and call it into existence. If we never see the fruition of our prayers, we will get to watch from the balcony of heaven as God brings it to pass!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-7, Luke 19:28-31

In Matthew 21, we see the picture of the triumphal entry in which Jesus is sitting on the donkey and the colt. We also notice here that the colt has never been broken. It is obvious that it is the attitude of the colt that allows God to accept the brokenness of the parent as payment for the participation of the colt. Because the colt was willing to walk with the donkey and do as the donkey did, they both got to carry Jesus into Jerusalem. It was the attitude of the colt that allows him to participate. The attitude of the younger generation makes it possible to either gain or forfeit what the previous generation bought and paid for but have not yet seen. This is a picture of how the younger generation can gain what the older generation paid for. They have to listen, hear and accept what the previous generation spent their lives believing for but did not see in fullness. Then and only then will God give them that fullness. Otherwise they will forfeit what the previous generation paid for.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Scripture: Daniel 6, Hebrews 11:32-33

The last lesson that comes out of Daniel in subduing kingdoms deals with the transition between Belshazzar and Darius the Mede taking over as the steward of Babylon. With a brand new king that did not know Daniel's history, all of his enemies had an opportunity. They understood that the only way to get Daniel was to capture him in a trap of serving his God in rebellion against the command of the king. Daniel 6:7 says, *"All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions."* When the king signed it, they knew they had Daniel. They accused him because he refused to stop praying. In the meantime, Darius the Mede had learned about Daniel. In verse 16 he said, *"So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.'" Verse 18-24 says, "Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?' Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and*

also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.’ Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God. And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.” Hebrews 11 is full of men who walked in faith and God honored their faith. They subdued kingdoms but they also restored kingdoms. Shall we not finish what they started!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-35

Verse 35 says, *“Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.”* Is it possible that the more adversity we have, the better our resurrection is going to be? Not accepting deliverance is a concept that is very difficult to grasp. We are trained to accept everything God does and it’s almost impossible to imagine not accepting deliverance to gain a better resurrection. There is something about suffering that most in our present day generations do not know. It is often pointed out that there is a vast difference between the generations that went through the Great Depression and World War II and the ones that later generations did not. There is a place in faith where God dramatically rewards those who do not see what they spent a lifetime believing for. Their reward is a better resurrection. I suspect there are many believers right now who that applies to – people who have not seen but have believed for a promise God gave them. There is such an emphasis on fulfillment that discouragement outweighs the promise of better resurrection. According to Hebrews 11, the reward is greater for those who choose not to receive fulfillment. Yet, it feels like church leaders have not trained the Body of Christ in this dimension and rarely even pointed it out. Is it possible there are gifts in the Bible that we have never understood and brought to the people of God? There is a gift revealed here and if we don’t see it, the enemy can use discouragement to thwart us and slow us down in the Kingdom. Discouragement is a battle that can be won with biblical gifts. Let’s pray the church into the place we can hear and receive!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Scripture: Hosea 1:2-9

Hosea 1:2-9 says, *“When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: ‘Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the Lord.’ So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. Then the Lord said to him: ‘Call his name Jezreel, For in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.’ And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: ‘Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away. Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the Lord their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen.’ Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. Then God said: ‘Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.’”* When Hosea was called to be a prophet, the Lord said to take a wife and children of harlotry from a land that had committed harlotry. All of a sudden, Hosea had to get a wife he would have never chosen and her name was Gomer. All his children were all named after the major sins of the land. The last one’s name meant *“For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.”* That is an incredible assignment and one that it’s hard to imagine having to walk out.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Scripture: Joel 2:1-11

The prophet Joel saw the great army of God coming forward and began to identify how they flowed together and saw that because of their unity, nobody could cut them down. Nobody could endure the army of God. Verse 8 says, *“They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down.”* Be encouraged that in the day of the army of the Lord we will see it. Joel outlines what the end-time church will look like. We know it has an initial and a secondary long-term fulfillment because verse 2 says, *“A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.”* The army of the Lord in Joel is an army that executes judgment on the disobedience of covenant people. The army of God will execute judgment and gain a harvest in the last days. Will we grow to the place where we can move God's Hand for justice and sow it into the next generation? I trust we will, in Jesus’ name!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Scripture: Joel 2:15-19

Joel says there is a season where a trumpet is blown and the people come together and begin to weep between the porch and the altar. Their intercession will bring about a change, answers, deliverance and restoration. God will begin to pour out salvation, deliverance, freedom and blessing. We expect to see that and live in it for a long time as we gain a harvest of nations. Joel prophesied it and I expect a generation will see it in the days ahead!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Scripture: Joel 2:23-25

In Joel 2:23-25, we see the promise of the double anointing for the end-times but we also see the preparation that it takes for the end-times and why our faith has to carry us through that preparation period. There are four layers of locusts that God sends. The locusts represent adversity that has to eat away all 'flesh' so people can wholly give themselves to God for His purposes. We begin to understand that in the preparation of people for ministry, God chooses their adversity. It sometimes comes in four different layers. Some of the adversity is devastating, but one thing is sure – all four layers of locusts chew away everything of the flesh until there is absolutely nothing left. Only then can we, by faith, respond to the Lord and participate in the fullness He has for us because He has gotten 'us' out of the way. We have to use our faith on our flesh to obey God and eventually what we do will contribute to the great end-time harvest, even if we do not get to see it in our lifetime.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Scripture: Joel 2:26

Joel 2:26 says, *"You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame."* The Hebrew word translated "wondrously" is **paw-law** which means, 'to go beyond the bounds of human role or agency.' When the locusts finish their work, the **paw-law** of God begins to happen. A **paw-law** or 'wonder' is something that you and I are incapable of performing. God promised Abraham and Sarah a son even though they were well passed age. They were in a position where it was impossible to perform it. Only God could resurrect Sarah's womb and He did. Genesis 18:12-14 states, Sarah laughed within herself saying, *"Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, "Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?" Is anything too hard/paw-law for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."* **Paw-law** is the fulfillment of a promise that is beyond our ability to do. And God says it is a part of overcoming the locusts. So if God does not bring to pass His promises to us during our lifetime, we get to participate in paying the price of the **paw-law** for some generation to follow! May we all get to see it!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

HAPPY NEW YEARS EVE!

Scripture: Joel 2:27

Joel 2:27 says, *"Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame."* The word translated "know" is the Hebrew word **yaw-dah** and means, 'the ultimate in intimacy.' The fulfillment of the promise brings the ultimate of intimacy. In Jesus' name God is fulfilling His covenant promises in these days. We are going to see it and we are going to have the ultimate intimacy with God. The victory and the harvest belong to the church and we can participate.