

# AWAKE MOUNT ZION

A Call to the  
Remnant Bride



Mark Paul Bevan

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## A Call to the Remnant Bride

Mark Paul Bevan

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This work was written in obedience and is offered in the same spirit.

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### Disclaimer

This book is written as a theological, prophetic, and devotional work intended to encourage spiritual discernment, repentance, and obedience to Jesus Christ. It reflects the author’s personal convictions, scriptural interpretations, and testimony.

Nothing in this book should be construed as political endorsement, financial advice, medical counsel, or legal instruction. References to nations, systems, or institutions are made in a spiritual and biblical context, not as attacks on individuals or people groups.

Readers are encouraged to test all things by Scripture (Acts 17:11), prayer, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

All Scripture quotations are from the **New King James Version (NKJV)** unless otherwise noted. Song lyrics are referenced for thematic purposes; full lyrics are not reproduced.

## Author's Note

This book was not written in haste, nor in reaction to headlines, nor to promote fear. It was written over years of prayer, wrestling, repentance, and listening.

What you hold in your hands is not a manifesto, nor a timeline, nor a survival manual. It is a **call**—first to awaken, then to separate, then to prepare, and finally to enter.

Some chapters will comfort you. Others may unsettle you. That is intentional.

If at any point you feel resistance, pause—not to argue, but to ask the Lord what He may be inviting you to see. This book is not addressed to everyone. It is written to those who recognize the voice of the Bridegroom.

This book is not meant to be rushed. It is best read slowly, prayerfully, and honestly. Some chapters are foundational. Others are confrontational. A few are invitational.

You may find yourself returning to earlier chapters after reading later ones. That is not a flaw in the structure—it mirrors the journey itself.

Above all, do not read this book merely to *agree* or *disagree*.

Read it to **discern**.

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## Dedication

To the faithful—  
those who have waited in obscurity, who have chosen obedience over applause, who have mourned what breaks God's heart, and who are learning to live without Babylon.

To my wife—  
You have stood by me in everything, Your love, your support, Your faith and unwavering loyalty, mean more to me than you will ever know.

To Robert—  
You helped me build what I could not put into words.

To Luke, Pris and Nathan—  
My devoted scribes- Thank You

To my family—  
I was not always there for you as I would have liked to be, you have suffered because of my calling, But for those whom God is raising up in this day, Great shall be your reward!

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# A Note to the Reader

## ON DISCERNMENT, AUTHORITY, AND COST

This book is not written to persuade the many. It is written to recognize the few.

Some of what follows—particularly in the later chapters—will challenge assumptions that have been held quietly, confidently, and often unquestioned within modern Christianity. These ideas are not new. They are ancient, scriptural, and costly. But they have been largely buried beneath tradition, simplification, and systems built for comfort rather than transformation.

If you are looking for confirmation of what you already believe, this book may unsettle you. If you are looking for permission, this book will not give it. If you are looking for safety in numbers, this book may feel lonely.

The truths explored here—especially those concerning the Bride, the Manchild, Zion, and spiritual government—have a way of separating people from institutions before they unite them to Christ. Many who receive these things find themselves misunderstood, questioned, or quietly pushed aside. This is not because the truths are extreme, but because they are inconvenient to systems that rely on control, predictability, or partial surrender.

I say this not to alarm you, but to honor you.

You are not required to agree with everything presented here. You are required only to weigh it honestly before God.

Do not rush. Do not weaponize what you read. Do not use these words to measure others.

These chapters are meant to clarify calling, not confer rank. They are meant to steady hearts, not provoke debate. They are meant to prepare a people, not build a movement.

If at any point you feel resistance rising—not intellectual disagreement, but inward disturbance—pause. Sit with the Lord. Ask Him what He is exposing, not what He is affirming.

Truth that matters rarely announces itself gently. But truth that comes from God is always accompanied by peace, even when it costs you something.

Proceed prayerfully. Proceed humbly.

Proceed willing to lose what cannot follow you where God is leading.

# FOREWORD

## “The Cry Upon the Mountain” — Cover Image Excerpt

In this image, the Remnant Bride of Christ stands upon the threshold of the dawn... a new day. She is unveiled and luminous. Her garments radiant with Heaven's own light.

Her gaze forward, the world behind, and ahead Holy Mount Zion in the distance.

Beside and Infront of her stands the Lion of the tribe of Judah—majestic, unshakable, roaring not in threat but in proclamation.

His roar announces the hour... the time has come. It is a summons, like a trumpet-blast from the throne room of God.

His face is turned toward her, not as predator, but as Protector, Witness, and Herald of what is to come. This is not an image of fear, but of calling. Not of danger, but of divine partnership. Not of trembling, but of the awakening of Mount Zion.

The Bride is not being beckoned to flee, but to rise up in glory. To step towards the voice of the Bridegroom. To walk the path where the Spirit is leading.

This image is an invitation—

to the remnant who know Him, to those who have heard the whisper in the night seasons, to those who are waiting for the next instruction from the King...

The Lion is roaring. The Bride is listening.

Dawn is breaking... The King is coming!

# A Faithful Testimony

My name is Mark Bevan, and this book is a testimony of events God has brought forth in my life, leading to the vision He has entrusted to me.

My close walk with the Lord began in the fall of 2008, when I gave my life to Jesus amid a collapsing U.S. economy, business failures, and overwhelming debt. From the beginning, the Lord impressed upon me that He often uses people, events, and seasons as warnings to His people.

One such event occurred on September 29, 2008, when the stock market fell a record 777.7 points—a seven percent drop—on the Jewish Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, the Day of Judgment. While I did not yet understand the full significance of that moment, it marked the beginning of a growing awareness that the times themselves were speaking.

Several years later, the Lord began to reveal to me the days and seasons unfolding before us. He spoke to me of the nearness of His Son's return and of a deep need for spiritual readiness. I committed myself to study and to following the leading of the Holy Spirit. The more I obeyed in walking by faith and seeking His wisdom, the more wisdom and revelation I received.

Over time, the Lord began to speak to me about preparation—not only spiritual, but practical as well. He warned that the days ahead would bring tribulation, uncertainty, and confusion for those not anchored in trust in Him. While He was concerned for my family, He made it clear that His greater concern was for others who would be unprepared for what lay ahead.

## BACK TO OUR ROOTS

As I continued to seek Him, the vision became clearer. In 2011, the Lord began to speak to me about establishing a place of refuge in the region where we lived. This refuge was to be rooted in agrarian principles—an approach to life and provision that predates modern systems and has sustained people for thousands of years.

Traditional, diversified farming is time-tested and resilient, especially when compared to modern food systems dependent on fragile supply chains and cheap energy. Scripture itself points to this pattern, most notably in the days of Joseph, when foresight and stewardship preserved many lives during famine.

The Lord also revealed that a significant movement of people would take place, affecting various regions of the United States, including parts of Maine and New Hampshire. He showed me that many would pass through specific areas—places He identified as shelter in the midst of upheaval, reminiscent of Goshen in the days of Egypt.

In the years that followed, God began to draw together people who shared a common burden and a shared commitment to Him. What began as a small group gradually grew, and with it the vision matured and sharpened.

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the Lord has been preparing this assembly for challenges yet to come. Doors have opened, lives have been repositioned, and His Spirit has been poured out in quiet but unmistakable ways. With this, He has also granted favor—so that many might become a blessing to others in days of need.

In December 2023, the Lord spoke the following to me:

“The enemy wants total division among the people. That is the only way his plan can succeed.

Son, I have called you to bring My people together, even if only in small groups.

It is in these communities that I can bless and protect My children—communities the enemy cannot fracture because they are not bound by the Babylonish threads of the world you live in.

Show them that there is an alternative.

That they can choose love and life instead of lies and deceit.

Do not offer them a counterfeit freedom, but the freedom found in Christ—a freedom not of this world.”

— Abba Father

# INTRODUCTION

## Times and Seasons

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*“JESUS IS NOT COMING SOON... HE’S ON HIS WAY.”*

*—ANGUS BUCHAN, EVANGELIST, AUTHOR, FARMER*

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With each passing day, it becomes increasingly clear that the earth—and those who inhabit it—are entering a season of profound instability. The challenges before us are not only severe, but unpredictable. Many sense this shift intuitively, recognizing striking parallels between what is unfolding in our world and what has been written from the beginning in the Word of God.

Across denominations and cultures, a growing number of believers acknowledge that we are living in what Scripture calls the latter days. The return of our Lord Jesus Christ no longer feels theoretical or distant, but near—pressing in upon the present.

The climate is changing, and not merely in the natural sense. Famine, natural and man-made disasters, earthquakes, wars, political unrest, and economic instability are increasing just as Jesus said they would. Nations once shaped by Christian values are turning away from God, embracing what Scripture plainly calls evil. The foundations of the world system are shaking.

### WHOSE PLAN ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

In times like these, truth becomes harder to discern. Voices shout from every direction, each claiming certainty, each demanding allegiance. Many now realize that confusion itself has become a weapon. The result is a world saturated with noise but starved for wisdom.

There is only one truth that cannot be manipulated, revised, or corrupted: the truth that comes from God Himself. Yet this is often the very truth that is least heard. Instead, many are unknowingly swept into a system that leads not to life, but to deception, division, and ultimately spiritual death.

Human governments and institutions promise security and solutions, but they are unable to deliver what only God can provide. Scripture reminds us that what has been written will come to pass—not according to human plans, but according to His.

## THE GREAT EXODUS

In our day, a call is going out—quietly at first, but growing clearer within the Body of Christ, especially among those who belong to His Bride:

**“Come out from among them... Come out of Babylon.”**  
**2 Corinthians 6:16–18; Revelation 18:2–5**

This summons raises an unavoidable question: *Where do we go?*

To leave the systems of this world is to step into uncertainty. It feels like wilderness. It feels like loss.

The ultimate destination of the people of God is the New Jerusalem. Yet Scripture makes clear that only a purified Bride will dwell there with her King. The New Jerusalem is not merely a place—it is a people. A corporate body living in covenant with Christ and with one another, united not only under Him as Head, but knit together in love and obedience.

That kind of unity is not learned in comfort. It is formed in the wilderness.

Just as God led Israel out of Egypt, through a season of testing and dependence, and into the Promised Land, He is doing so again in our time.

The Holy Spirit is speaking. The call is going out:

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***“Come away with Me. Make yourself ready.  
Awake, Mount Zion.”***

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## INTO THE WILDERNESS

**“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the LORD;  
Make straight in the desert  
A highway for our God.’” Isaiah 40:3**

The Spirit is calling the Church to step into a place she has long avoided—the wilderness. Not as abandonment, but as preparation. Not as exile, but as encounter.

It is in the wilderness that believers learn to abide in Christ individually, so that they may one day abide corporately as His Body—His Bride. Many eagerly await the Lord’s return, yet

miss the fullness of His Kingdom that is meant to be known here and now. Jesus repeatedly declared that the Kingdom of God was *at hand*—within reach.

Every believer is called to ascend God’s holy mountain, Mount Zion. This ascent represents dying to the world in order to live unto Christ—turning from Babylon and its allurements to become a spotless Bride, worthy of her King.

The marriage supper of the Lamb is being prepared. A place is set for all whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Yet entrance is a choice. Each of us must decide which side of the door we will stand on when it finally closes.

The highway of God runs through the wilderness. To enter willingly is to choose the surest path toward Zion.

This book is written as a roadmap through that wilderness—a call, and an invitation. It is meant to prepare hearts for covenant, obedience, and intimacy with Christ. To lay aside the old garments once and for all, and to rise into our highest calling: *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

## THE FATHER’S PLAN

In this season God is again calling His people to discernment—not merely to see what is happening in the world, but to understand how He has always preserved and prepared His own in times of great shaking.

Throughout Scripture, when judgment and deliverance moved together, the Lord did not act randomly. He prepared environments. He made provision in advance. He established places where obedience could be learned, faith refined, and His people formed according to His purposes. Noah was given an ark before the flood. Israel was given Goshen before the plagues fell. Elijah was sent to hidden places before confronting kings. Jesus Himself withdrew to wilderness places to commune with the Father before stepping fully into His ministry.

God has not changed His ways.

In our days, God is once again building arks. Not physical boats in this case, but figuratively speaking, vessels engineered by God to carry His remnant bride through her wilderness and into the promised land. They have the purpose of providing a protective environment, while at the same time bringing about death of self and unity within the body of Christ.

Their destination... The Fields of Zion, the Lord's garden! His body: planted in the Earth, dwelling in the Heavens spiritually, fully submitted unto the Lamb, living in covenant with both the Father and each other. Trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord. Sheltered and protected in the Father's vineyard. Bringing forth the ripe fruit of the Kingdom of God in all its glory.

These arks are not escapes from obedience, nor are they shelters built on fear. They are places of preparation—environments where the people of God are shaped, refined, and made ready. They exist so that what cannot endure is stripped away, and what is truly of Christ may remain.

Entry into this journey is not automatic.

The invitation is being extended, but it requires response. The way forward has always demanded faith, surrender, and willingness to leave behind what once felt familiar. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be again—not all who hear the warning will choose to enter in.

This book is written as both warning and invitation. It is not meant to provide comfort without cost, nor fear without hope. It is a call to awaken, to discern the hour, and to prepare to walk with God through what lies ahead—together, as His people, under His covering, according to His design.

Are you ready to take a leap of faith? If so, climb aboard.

We're sailing for Mount Zion!

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## Authors Note:

**“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat...” Rev:2-17**

Jesus says that the person who overcomes will be given some of the hidden manna to eat. *Hidden Manna* refers to the “bread of life” or Jesus as the Word made flesh.

**And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. John 6:35**

God has given us His Word which we are to consume daily in order to have Christ's life in us. To those that choose to partake of this new Life in Christ, He promises to reveal the truths hidden in his word. Mysteries which are hidden from the wise and prudent. Without symbolically consuming the Word (Christ's flesh) and drinking of His blood (representing the new covenant) we will not have any of Christ in us.

Revelation 19:10 says that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Only Jesus in us, can open our eyes to God's hidden mysteries. If you want to better understand what is written in the Word, there is one simple solution... read more Word. When God led my wife and I to come out away from our first church, it was because He needed to give us greater revelation then what was being taught in that church. The denominations of man, have the effect of limiting our ability to receive the true unleavened bread of the Word. Man's doctrines, based on man's interpretation of the Word often lead to lack of truth, in part or in whole. As Jesus says, "a little leaven, leavens the whole lump." We will never receive the Truth, the pure unadulterated Word of God, from any man other than Jesus himself.

This book is not intended to be a comprehensive treatment of end-times prophecy. It is a call to awakening, obedience, and preparation. Where deeper prophetic study is desired, readers are encouraged to seek it through Scripture and above all else seek the Lord for the hidden manna.

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to  
understanding;

Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,

If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;

Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of  
God.

(Proverbs 2:1-5)

Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom.  
And in all your getting, get understanding. (*Proverbs 4:7*)

# ACT I

## The Call to Wake Up

### Identity · Clarity · Alarm

“Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion;  
Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city!” Isaiah 52:1

This opening Act is a summons, not a strategy.

It exists to **wake the conscience of the Church**, restore spiritual identity, and expose the subtle deceptions that produced sleep in the first place. Before movement is required, vision must be restored. Before urgency can be trusted, clarity must be recovered.

Act I does not call the reader to *do* anything yet. It calls the reader to **see**.

Here, Zion is named not as a place to reach, but as a people who must remember who they are. The remnant Bride is identified, not mobilized. False peace is diagnosed. Comforting doctrines are examined. Time is reintroduced biblically — without dates, without hype, without fear.

This Act presses one essential truth:

**A sleeping Church cannot interpret the storm correctly.**

#### How NOT to read this Act

- Do not read this as a political critique.
- Do not read this as a timetable of events.
- Do not read this as an accusation against “others.”

This Act is diagnostic, not punitive.

If it feels uncomfortable, it is likely doing its work.

Act I ends with **clarity**, not action — because obedience that begins without clarity becomes fear-driven religion.

## CHAPTER I

# Shout It from the Rooftops

## Three Men — Three Tales

In June of 1973, a thirty-year-old man named Blair Adams, along with his wife Regina, started a small church in an old discotheque in downtown New York City. After several years as a traveling evangelist, Blair received a call from the Lord to go to what was then known as Hell's Kitchen—the slums of lower Manhattan, home to the city's most forgotten and broken.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, another man—born February 6, 1945—was becoming known for a song titled *One Love*. His name was Robert Nesta Marley, a Jamaican reggae singer-songwriter, known to the world as Bob Marley.<sup>2</sup>

Though separated by culture and geography, Marley's early life in Kingston, Jamaica bore striking similarities to Blair's. At the time, Jamaica was facing the worst political crisis since its independence, as warring political factions took to fighting in the streets of Kingston.<sup>3</sup>

These two men—seemingly worlds apart—were separated by only a single year in age.

By December 1976, Bob Marley was forced into exile, leaving Jamaica for London after being shot just days before the *Smile Jamaica* concert.<sup>4</sup> At the same time, Blair Adams was leading a small congregation of roughly thirty people out of New York City toward a new beginning.

At the very moment Blair was preparing a people to leave the Babylonian filth of the Lower East Side, I was being born in a hospital just ten miles away.

My childhood memories of New York City are marked by a deep sense of Babylonian captivity. Addiction, drugs, racial division, fear, greed, and poverty shaped the world around me. A deep longing for escape—and for rest—was being etched into my soul.

During his exile, Bob Marley composed what would become his first international hit. *Exodus* was released in 1977 on the album of the same name. One critic later described *Exodus* as:

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*“A RIPPLING, SURGING, SEVEN-MINUTE CALL TO ARMS FOR A NATION OF  
DISPLACED SOULS ON THE MARCH TO A NEW SPIRITUAL HOMELAND.  
‘WE KNOW WHERE WE’RE GOING / WE KNOW WHERE WE’RE FROM /  
WE’RE LEAVING BABYLON.”<sup>5</sup>*

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The album also included *One Love / People Get Ready*, an interpolation of The Impressions' 1965 song *People Get Ready*.

**“Let's get together to fight this Holy Armageddon...  
There ain't no hiding place from the Father of Creation...  
Sayin', ‘One love, one heart. Let's get together and feel all right.’  
I'm pleading to mankind (One love) Oh, Lord (One heart) Whoa.”<sup>6</sup>**

Long after his death in 1981, Bob Marley's message of love and peace—*one love, one heart*—continues to resonate around the world. Yet his message cannot be fully understood without recognizing his deeper cry: that people would be freed from oppression, especially the unseen kind. What Marley named, in his own language, was Babylon.

In his final years, that cry became unmistakable:

**“Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery,  
None but ourselves can free our minds...  
How long shall they kill our prophets, While we stand aside and look?  
Some say it's just a part of it, We've got to fulfill the Book.**

**Won't you help to sing  
These songs of freedom?  
'Cause all I ever have: Redemption songs...**

You may wonder why I am bringing this up. It is because Blair, Bob, and I are bound by a shared pattern—whether we recognized it at the time or not.

Both Marley and Blair recognized early the need for separation from the Babylonian systems shaping their cultures.

**“Come out from among them and be separate...” 2 Cor 6:17–18 NKJV**

Like both of these men, I came from humble beginnings. Yet the Lord has used everything in my life, to mold and shape me into a vessel which He could use, in ways greater than I could ever imagine or hoped for. As both men discovered, it is through trial and tribulation that we learn who we are—and who God is. Please allow me to share the message God has given me for this time. The message is simple—but what you do with it will shape the rest of your life.

Before I continue, it's important to say that what follows is the result of nearly fourteen years of God's dealing in my life. I like to refer to this season in my life as my "Wilderness" time.

It has been a remarkable time of learning from and fellowshipping with my Heavenly Father, His Son Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. During this season, The Lord has kept me and my family in a state of almost continual separation from what most would consider the "normal" Christian walk, or even normal everyday life. What I mean, is that instead of keeping us in a church, He pulled us away. Living on the backside of the desert if you will, tending our Father's flock, in a way not too dissimilar to the experiences of King David, Moses, Abraham, and Joseph.

Today, many pastors in the church consider themselves shepherds of God's people. They achieved their status through seminary and education. Yet, my education in the ways of God, was quite literally found through observation, trial and listening intently to My Father's voice, while tending to a growing flock of goats, which He has made us stewards over.

Shortly after the time I gave my life to Jesus in 2008, I began to feel it very necessary to recount all that led up to that life changing event, in the hope that others would hear my testimony and believe. But, through this wilderness time, I have come to realize that it is not who I was before Jesus that counts the most... It is who I have become in Jesus that is most important. So, I have chosen to only touch on this subject briefly as it relates to the message.

What is important to know is that I was not always a goat herder. In fact, I have been poor in every area of my life, and I have been rich in every area as well. I know what it means to have it all, to lose it all, and to give it all; spiritually, financially and emotionally. Yet nothing, whether in riches or bankruptcy, could have prepared me for what Jesus wanted to do in my life... or the message I was to give. So, let's cut right to the point.

In 2010 I found myself without a job, no credit, and no real purpose or direction, except that I was in love with my heavenly Father and Jesus. I couldn't get enough of devouring everything I could get my hands on which talked about who He is. This was mostly the Bible, but also much online preaching/teaching, audio tapes and other books. I was at the time, playing stay at home dad, while my wife was working full time. This gave me much time to study, but something wasn't right and I knew it. I had been unemployed since we lost our real estate investing company in 2008, the same time I found Jesus.

One day, after several failed attempts to find work or new business opportunities, I sat down in my living room to pray.

I asked the Lord to give me direction about working again. Whether he wanted me to do this or that etc. But He wasn't answering, and I didn't hear Him clearly like I do today. All of a sudden, something I still cannot explain, I felt my entire body resonate as the single word "NO" came from somewhere. Within or without, I still do not know, except I believe every cell in my body shook. The room may have shaken too for all I know. There I am, wondering what just happened, and thinking to myself, "What does that mean?" The "NO" was so powerful it got me thinking that maybe I'm asking the wrong question. Then the Holy Spirit begins to remind me of dreams and events which could possibly be God trying to point me in a new direction, I thought to myself.

Then, it happened! "I AM" happened, as a force so powerful entered the room, I was crushed against the floor by its weight. It was not so much heavy as much as it was so overpowering. So much so that I remember vividly thinking, "if I could only claw through the carpet and floorboards with my bare hands, I could get a little more distant from this great overpowering presence." I knew it was God, despite not seeing anything but the carpet fibers in front of my face.

He began to beckon me to get up saying, "Rise up, rise up my son." Yet there was no way I could have done that simple thing of my own strength. Even arguing with Him of my undoneness like Isaiah. Then He did another "something," which again I do not know, which brought strength back into me, allowing me to rise up to a kneel.

He then sent waves of peace and refreshing into me, as I began to ask, "What is this all about?" His response...

## **“Jesus is coming back soon, Get Ready!”**

My mind was trying to digest this whole event as it was, but I realized He had been leading me in this direction of thought for weeks. The thought of it rocked me to the core. My life, my family... we've only got a short time on this earth left. It was as if I had just received a diagnosis of cancer. I was 35 years old, and here is God telling me Himself... that Judgment Day is coming, preceded by what I understood at the time as tribulation. Let's just say I didn't have many words, except to say, “What am I supposed to do with that Lord?”

### **“SHOUT IT FROM THE ROOFTOPS!”**

Well as you might imagine, that scared me more than the first statement. “You want me to tell my family, friends, church that Jesus is coming back, and they are all going to die unless they know you Lord? And even so, they still are going to die physically... soon as you say!”

Then He did it again—only something different this time. A song. The words of an old Gospel hymn filled my mind...

**It may be at morn, when the day is awaking,  
When sunlight through darkness and shadow is breaking,  
That Jesus will come in the fullness of glory  
To receive from the world “His own.”**

**Refrain:**

**O Lord Jesus, how long, how long  
Ere we shout the glad song—  
Christ returneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen. Hallelujah! Amen.**

***Christ Returneth* — H. L. Turner, 1878**

It had been one of my favorite songs to sing in church. I knew what the Lord was saying. He wanted me to shout it with joy, not sorrow—with faith, not fear. But nonetheless, I was to shout the message.

Unfortunately, I didn't really know what or how to do that at the time. In the end, the very giving of the message fell on many deaf ears. This misunderstanding eventually led us into our own form of exile—though I would later recognize it as the Spirit leading us into the wilderness for training.

A new season was about to begin in my life.

## Endnotes — Chapter 1

### 1. Blair Adams and early ministry work in New York City

Historical details regarding Blair Adams' early ministry, relocation from New York City, and formation of a small congregation are drawn from personal testimony and contemporaneous accounts shared within the community.

### 2. Bob Marley, Jamaica, and political unrest (1970s)

Jamaica experienced significant political violence during the 1970s, particularly surrounding the rivalry between the People's National Party (PNP) and the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP). Bob Marley's near-fatal shooting on December 3, 1976, occurred just days before the *Smile Jamaica* concert, an event widely documented in historical and musical sources.

### 3. Exodus (1977) — Bob Marley and the Wailers

*Exodus* was released in 1977 and is widely regarded as one of Marley's most influential albums. Descriptions of the album as a call to liberation and departure from "Babylon" reflect common critical interpretations. Quoted critical language is attributed to David Sinclair, *uDiscoverMusic*, June 3, 2023.

### 4. "One Love / People Get Ready"

"One Love / People Get Ready" appears on the *Exodus* album and incorporates elements of Curtis Mayfield's 1965 song "People Get Ready." The song's themes of unity, readiness, and spiritual longing have made it a lasting anthem across cultures and generations.

### 5. "Redemption Song" (1980)

"Redemption Song," released on *Uprising* (1980), is widely considered one of Bob Marley's most reflective works. Its themes of liberation, prophetic suffering, and fulfillment resonate strongly with biblical language and have often been interpreted as an eschatological or spiritual lament.

### 6. Biblical citation — Separation from Babylon

"Come out from among them and be separate..." is cited from **2 Corinthians 6:17-**

### 7. 18 "Christ Returneth" — H. L. Turner (1878)

"Christ Returneth," written by H. L. Turner in 1878, is a traditional gospel hymn expressing joyful anticipation of Christ's return. Its inclusion here reflects the

continuity of Christian hope across generations rather than a specific doctrinal position on timing.

**8. Personal testimony and spiritual experience**

Descriptions of personal spiritual encounters are presented as testimony, not as universal prescription. They are included to illustrate calling, preparation, and the cost of obedience, consistent with biblical patterns found in the lives of Moses, David, Elijah, and others.

## CHAPTER 2

# Awake Mount Zion

## A Call to the Remnant Bride of Christ.

A call is going forth in the earth. It is not a call to the crowds, but the call of the Bridegroom to His Bride.

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*“COME AWAY WITH ME, MY BELOVED. ENTER INTO THE MARRIAGE FEAST PREPARED FOR YOU. COME IN WITH OIL IN YOUR LAMPS. COME BEFORE THE DOORS CLOSE.”*

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This book is not merely a warning that Jesus is coming. It is a summons to *hear His voice*—to awaken from spiritual slumber and respond while the window of invitation remains open. Yet this call reaches deeper still. It is a call to Zion itself—to rise, to take its place, and to function as God intended within His Kingdom.

To understand that call, we must first understand what Mount Zion represents.

### ZION: THE FORTRESS OF THE KING

Scripture does not speak of Zion casually. It speaks of it as a place of strength, authority, and rulership.

When David came to Jerusalem, Mount Zion was occupied by the Jebusites, a people confident in their defenses. They believed the fortress was impenetrable. Yet David did not attack it as men normally would. He entered through the water shaft—ascending upward through the flow—catching the enemy unaware. In doing so, David captured the stronghold and established it as the City of David.

Zion was not the whole city. It was the **citadel**—the fortress within the city. It became the place of the king’s dwelling, the seat of authority, the last refuge in times of siege. From Zion, David ruled. From Zion, judgment and direction flowed.

This pattern matters. Zion represents government. Not politics, but authority. Not geography... rulership.

**“Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” Isaiah 2:3**

### THE KINGDOM ESTABLISHED BY CHRIST

In the days of Jesus, humanity lived under the dominion of sin and death—under a system ultimately ruled by the adversary, expressed through earthly kingdoms and spiritual powers alike. When Jesus willingly descended into death, He did not lose authority—He reclaimed it.

Rising by the power of the Word, He broke the yoke of sin and death and established a new Kingdom—*the Kingdom of Heaven on earth*. This Kingdom is not defined by borders or bloodlines, but by allegiance. All who submit to Christ as King become citizens of this Kingdom, regardless of natural heritage.

This Kingdom is often called **Spiritual Israel**.

Every nation has a capital. Every kingdom has a seat of rule. In Christ’s Kingdom, that capital is called **New Jerusalem**.

### THE BRIDE AS A CITY

Scripture reveals something startling: the Bride of Christ is described not as an individual, but as a **city**.

**“Come, I will show you the Bride, the Lamb’s wife... and he showed me the holy city, New Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.” Rev 21:9**

A city is a corporate reality. It has structure, gates, foundations, order, and purpose. The Bride is not one believer, nor even a loose collection of believers—but a *people joined together*, built upon covenant, aligned in purpose, and prepared for union with the King.

New Jerusalem represents the corporate Bride, radiant with God’s glory, built upon the foundations of the prophets and apostles, and inhabited by those who have chosen fidelity over compromise.

But within every city, there is a center of authority. That center is Zion.

## ZION WITHIN THE BRIDE

If New Jerusalem is the Bride, then Zion is her citadel. The place of governance within the city. Zion is the king's house, the court, the place where decisions are made and authority is exercised.

In earthly terms, Zion functions like the executive center of a nation. It is where leadership assembles, where judgment is rendered, where the will of the King is administered.

Scripture speaks of Zion as the place of God's dwelling, the joy of the whole earth, the refuge of His people. It is also the place of gathering during appointed times—the king's table, the place of feasting and counsel.

Zion is not separate from the Bride, but exists within her, carrying governmental responsibility.

## A PATTERN OF FIRSTFRUITS

Throughout Scripture, God has always raised up firstfruits—men and women who carry responsibility ahead of the many. Noah before the flood. Abraham before the nation. Moses before Israel. David before the kingdom. And ultimately, Christ Himself.

Christ is called the firstfruits. The first to overcome death and enter resurrection life. Scripture then speaks of others who follow in order.

This establishes a pattern:

firstfruits do not replace the Bride—they serve her, preparing the way. They carry authority for the sake of the many.

Later chapters will return to this pattern in depth, because without it, much of Revelation—particularly Mount Zion, the Manchild, and the war in heaven—cannot be rightly understood.

For now, it is enough to see this:

Zion is not an abstraction. It is a people entrusted with responsibility.

## WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

The call to “Awake, Mount Zion” is not poetic language. It is a summons to alignment.

Before Babylon can be discerned, Zion must be defined.

Before the Bride can be prepared, government must be understood.

Before judgment unfolds, authority must be clarified.

This book will explore these realities carefully—because misunderstanding Zion leads to fear, confusion, and misdirected allegiance. Understanding Zion produces rest, obedience, and clarity.

The Bridegroom is calling. The city is being prepared. And Zion must awaken. What that awakening requires, and what it will cost, is where we go next.



What has been named in this chapter is not a destination, but an identity.

Before Zion can arise, and before the Bride can be revealed, something must first be confronted: the teachings that lulled the Church into sleep while the King was drawing near.

The next chapter does not introduce new truth—it exposes why old truth was forgotten.

## CHAPTER 3:

# The Doors are Closing Fast

## Irreversibility and the Narrowing Window

There are moments in the story of God when time seems to tighten, when the window between “what is” and “what shall be” grows narrow, and when the Spirit presses upon the hearts of His people with an urgency that cannot be dismissed. Scripture calls these *kairos* moments—appointed times, critical intersections, thresholds that open only for a season. And when they close, they close with finality.

We are living in such a time now. This is not fear speaking, nor speculation, nor the breathless anxiety of an unsettled age. This is the voice of the Spirit calling the Bride to attention—calling her to rise, to trim her lamp, to prepare for the Bridegroom’s arrival.

The doors are closing fast. Not because God desires to shut out, but because He is preparing to **shut in**—to shelter, to gather, to preserve those who belong to Him in the days that are unfolding. Just as the door of Noah’s ark was sealed *by the hand of God*—not to trap the righteous in, but to seal them under the covering of His covenant—so too is the hour approaching when God will close doors in order to open destiny.

This chapter is not meant to alarm you, but to awaken you. It is the voice of the Watchman sounding a trumpet at dusk, when shadows lengthen and twilight settles over the land. It is the cry sent forth before the night fully comes, the plea issued while daylight remains.

The Bridegroom is drawing near. The hour is later than many believe, and the doors are closing fast.

In early April of 2011, the Lord gave me a brief but sobering vision.

I saw two goats standing in a wooden pen. They were frozen upright—motionless, unmoving. Icicles hung from their bodies. Then snow began to fall, and they were slowly buried where they stood.

The interpretation was given plainly: The goats represent much of what is called the Church. They are frozen in time through unbelief—unable and unwilling to drink living water that has become frozen to them. And so the storm comes, and they remain.

## THE PATTERN OF CLOSING DOORS IN SCRIPTURE

Throughout the biblical narrative, God uses closed doors not as punishments, but as acts of mercy, discernment, or divine separation.

**“Noah did all that the Lord commanded him... and the Lord shut him in.”**  
*Genesis 7:16*

When Noah's finished his work on the Ark, and after everyone was onboard, God closed the door. The closing of the ark door represented: protection for the remnant, separation from the world and the beginning of a new creation.

On the night of the first Passover, all Israel was commanded to apply blood to their doorpost, enter in, shut the door, and remain inside:

**“For the Lord will pass through... and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses.” Exodus 12:23**

The closed door became: a seal of covenant, a boundary of redemption and a refuge during judgment.

### **The Parable of the Ten Virgins — The Final Door**

**“And the door was shut.” Matthew 25:10**

In this case, the shut door marks: the separation between the ready and the unready, a dividing line of intimacy and the end of preparation time.

In every case, the closing of a door marks a transition of eras. One era ends, another begins. One season closes and another is unveiled. One group moves forward and another remains behind. We are living in such a threshold now.

### **WHY THE DOORS ARE CLOSING**

The doors are not closing because God has grown impatient. They are closing because He is faithful to His timetable. The time of warning is giving way to the time of summoning. Up to this point, there has been a long season of calling. Calling to wake up, come out, be separate, prepare, purify and return to our first love. This has been the era of invitation. But the invitation season always transitions into the gathering season.

In this season, the Earth is moving into birth pains. You feel it. The nations feel it. The Earth and all of creation itself feels it. Jesus described a time of increased upheaval, spiritual deception, the distress of nations, lawlessness and the shaking of kingdoms. The birth pains are not signs of destruction—they are signs of transition.

The doors close because the Bridegroom is near and the Bride must be made ready. The church system has long believed that “ready or not, He is coming,” but Scripture paints a different picture. He is coming for a prepared, purified, consecrated Bride.

Holiness is not optional. Separation is not extreme. Obedience is not legalism. Purity is not old-fashioned. Devotion is not fanaticism. These are the marks of the Bride. The doors are closing because the moment of separation is upon us.

### THE SPIRIT'S PRESENT CRY: “COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE”

This cry has been echoing across the prophetic horizon for years. Many of God's chosen messengers have quite literally been shouting it from the rooftops. It is the same cry heard in Revelation 18:4:

**“Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive  
of her plagues.”**

This is not a call of fear. It is a call of belonging. The Spirit is saying:

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**“YOU ARE MINE. YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE ENTANGLED IN  
BABYLON. COME OUT, FOR I AM GATHERING YOU TO MYSELF.”**

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Babylon represents worldliness, compromise, spiritual mixture, false security, and dependence on human systems. While Zion represents holiness, intimacy, identity, kingdom authority, spiritual government. The doors between these realms will not remain open forever. The time to choose is now.

### WHAT A CLOSING DOOR LOOKS LIKE IN REAL LIFE

A closing spiritual door often manifests physically as a sudden separation. Relationships, habits, environments that once seemed normal suddenly feel intolerable. The Spirit leads with a tender but firm tug, a knowing, witness or deep conviction. This is the Holy Spirit gently pulling the heart toward a quiet place of holiness, simplicity, devotion, reading of the scriptures and prayer.

What manifests from this is increasing clarity about what truly matters. The noise of the world grows faint. Truth becomes sharper and spiritual discernment increases. Next comes a rising urgency without anxiety, as you feel the “now” of God. A holy weight settles over your spirit followed by a deep longing to understand where God is leading.

These leadings build a desire to prepare — physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This includes the call to: learn, gather, simplify, build, and plant “little Goshen” sanctuaries around you. They may in some cases even lead to a repositioning geographically, financially, physically. This is not fear, but wisdom and alignment.

### THE DOOR OF ZION IS OPENING AS THE DOOR OF BABYLON CLOSES

In the same moment that one door closes, another opens. Zion’s door is the door of: identity, belonging, intimacy, glory, transformation, heavenly government and end-time assignment.

The closing of one era is the opening of another. Do not mourn the door that God is closing. Rejoice over the door He is opening.

In this season the remnant is being gathered together. From the earliest parts of my walk with the Lord, He has instilled upon me that this is the heartbeat of my entire ministry: First Light. The message permeates my journals from beginning to end, and is the basis for this book... God is gathering a remnant Bride.

His remnant hears His voice, obeys His word, and walks in holiness. They live their lives in separation from Babylon. Loving truth, cherishing His presence and longing for His appearing.

This is why the doors are closing. Not to shut out the willing, but to gather the faithful.

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### FINAL WORD: PREPARE YOUR HEART

The doors are closing fast. Not in panic, but in purpose. Not in judgment, but in mercy. Not to exclude, but to preserve. Not to limit, but to focus. Let your response be simple:

**“Lord, here I am. Make me ready. Let me not be outside when the door shuts, but hidden in You when the shaking comes.”**

The Bridegroom is near. Trim your lamp. Keep watch. The night is almost spent. And the doors are closing fast.

## CHAPTER 4

# The Beast and the Cross

## Part 1: The Beast - Allegiance Replacing Obedience

The Kingdom of God is not entered by belief alone, but by obedience to Christ—even unto suffering. (Matthew 7:21) (Philippians 2:8) (Revelation 12:11)

**“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight.” John 18:36**

There is a deception spreading quietly through the Church—not the denial of God, but the misuse of His name. It is the belief that political power can carry divine authority while contradicting the teachings of Jesus. Scripture gives this kind of power a name: **the Beast**.

### THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

In biblical language, a beast is not merely an evil ruler or a wicked nation.

It is a **system of power** that:

- demands allegiance
- claims moral authority
- justifies violence
- exalts itself
- replaces obedience to God with loyalty to the state

The Beast does not always appear hostile to faith. More often, it borrows religious language, wraps itself in sacred symbols, and claims divine sanction while rejecting divine character.

This is why the Beast is so dangerous—not because it persecutes believers first, but because it recruits them.

### WHEN RELIGION BECOMES THE BEAST: HEBREW ROOTS BONDAGE

The Beast does not always recruit through politics. Sometimes it recruits through religion.

One of the most subtle deceptions in this hour is a return to the Law as identity—an impulse

often called “Hebrew Roots”—where believers are told they must become like Jews in every way in order to be fully faithful.

This is not a call to love the Scriptures. It is a shift of allegiance—from Christ as righteousness to a system as righteousness. It takes what is holy and turns it into a yoke. It moves believers from sonship to servitude, from Spirit-led obedience to rule-kept identity, until some begin to question the New Covenant itself. Paul warned plainly that this drift does not produce maturity—it produces bondage.

**“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” Galatians 5:1**

The issue is not whether the Law is good—the issue is what you are trusting to make you righteous.

**“Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”**

**Galatians 3:3**

When a believer’s conscience is governed more by external markers than by the inward rule of the Spirit, something has shifted. The Beast has found a religious costume. If obedience becomes a substitute for union, and observance becomes a substitute for transformation, the Cross has been exchanged for a yoke.

## WHEN NATIONS CLAIM WHAT BELONGS TO CHRIST ALONE

Throughout Scripture, God uses nations—including pagan empires—as instruments of judgment or restraint. But being used by God has never meant being approved by Him.

Assyria was used. Babylon was used. Rome was used. All were judged. The danger arises when a nation, or its people, assumes that use equals righteousness, and begins to excuse actions that Christ explicitly forbids.

When a political power:

- blesses violence Jesus condemned

- sanctifies wealth He warned against
- dehumanizes enemies He commanded us to love
- demands loyalty He reserved for Himself

...it has crossed from instrument to idol. At that point, allegiance is no longer neutral. It becomes spiritual compromise.

## AMERICA AND THE COUNTERFEIT ZION

In our time, this deception has taken on a familiar form—especially in the West: the belief that a modern nation can become a substitute Zion, a “new Jerusalem,” even “the new, new Jerusalem.” It is a civil religion that borrows Scripture, crowns the state with sacred language, and then asks Christians to defend what Jesus would correct.

But Zion is not a flag. Zion is not an empire. Zion is a people in covenant, governed by the Lamb. When any nation—America included—claims a righteousness it does not practice, or demands loyalty that belongs to Christ alone, it is no longer merely a nation. It has begun to speak with the voice of a beast.

## THE ZEALOT SPIRIT: ANCIENT AND MODERN

In Jesus’s day, many in Israel believed they were defending God’s purposes through political and violent resistance. They were zealous. They were confident. They were convinced God was on their side. Jesus wept over them:

**“If you had known... the things that make for your peace!” Luke 19:42**

That same spirit is alive today—not only in Israel, not only in America, but wherever believers confuse national destiny with Kingdom obedience. The tragedy is not merely that people die. It is that many die believing God required it.

## THE KINGDOM TEST THAT CANNOT BE EVADED

The Kingdom of God advances by only one means, obedience to the way of Christ. No nation, movement, or ideology is exempt from this test:

**Ask yourself honestly:**

- **DO I EXCUSE IN MY NATION WHAT I WOULD CONFRONT IN MY OWN HEART?**
- **DO I DEFEND ACTIONS THAT CONTRADICT JESUS BECAUSE THEY FEEL NECESSARY?**
- **DOES MY LOYALTY EVER SILENCE MY CONSCIENCE?**
- **IF JESUS STOOD BEFORE THIS SYSTEM, WOULD HE RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE IN IT?**

If a disciple cannot do it in obedience to Jesus, a nation cannot sanctify it in His name.

If we excuse in a nation what Jesus forbids in a disciple, we have exchanged the Lamb for the Beast.

### **ALLEGIANCE REVEALS THE THRONE WE TRUST**

This chapter is not written to condemn nations, peoples, or cultures. It is written to expose misplaced allegiance—especially within the Church. The most dangerous deception is not overt rebellion, but comforting faith that no longer resembles Christ. When believers defend what Jesus would rebuke, or remain silent where He would speak, or celebrate power He refused—the issue is no longer politics. It is worship.

### **A FINAL WARNING SPOKEN IN LOVE**

The Beast does not demand atheism. It demands loyalty without discernment. And the Church's greatest danger is not persecution—it is partnership.

**“Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” James 4:4**

This is not a call to fear. It is a call to clarity. The Lamb still stands. The door is still open. But allegiance will be tested. And only one throne is worthy of unquestioned obedience—the One that bears the wounds of the Cross.

### **WHERE ALLEGIANCE DRIFTS, REPENTANCE RESTORES.**

The Beast rises wherever fear replaces obedience—but Zion is formed wherever hearts remain faithful under pressure. This is why awakening must precede escape, and why the Bride must learn discernment before deliverance.

But the Beast does not recruit by power alone—it also recruits by doctrine. Some teachings do not deny Christ; they delay Him. And delay is one of the Enemy's most effective anesthetics.

## Part 2: The Doctrines That Put the Church to Sleep

### FALSE PEACE, DELAYED OBEDIENCE, AND COMFORTABLE LIES

But the Beast does not recruit by power alone—it also recruits by doctrine. Some teachings do not deny Christ; they delay Him. And delay is one of the Enemy's most effective anesthetics.

For nearly two thousand years, the Church has sung, preached, and proclaimed the return of Christ. Yet, strangely, the generation most saturated with end-time teaching has become the least awakened to His imminent appearing. Prophecy conferences abound. Charts multiply. Speculation thrives. But spiritual alertness? Holiness? Urgency? Rare.

Why? Because a doctrine meant to ignite longing has instead been allowed to lull the Church into passivity.

This is not because the doctrine of Christ's return is false—far from it. It is because the way it has been taught, absorbed, and applied has too often produced sleep instead of sobriety, complacency instead of consecration, and passivity instead of preparation.

This section is not an attack on eschatology. It is a trumpet. It is a call to the remnant Bride to shake off the drowsiness of an age that has mistaken knowledge for readiness and fascination for faithfulness. The hour is late. And the King is nearer than the Church dares to believe.

### THE FOUNDATION: “MY MASTER IS DELAYING HIS COMING”

Jesus Himself identified the root issue:

**“But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards...” Matthew 24:48–49**

The evil servant is not an atheist. Not a rebel or a pagan. He is a member of the household. A servant of the Master. Someone entrusted with responsibility. His downfall does not begin with open rebellion, but with a quiet conclusion formed in the heart:

*“My master is delaying his coming.”*

Not *“He is not coming.”* Simply *“Not yet. Not now. Later.”*

Delay theology is the seedbed of apostasy.

The moment the Church internalizes delay, predictable fruit appears:

- urgency evaporates
- holiness loosens
- love cools
- watchfulness fades
- mission slows
- authority dulls
- fire dies

Delay may sound cautious. Spiritually, it is lethal.

## THE FIRE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

The first-century Church did not treat Christ’s return as an abstract doctrine. They lived as though He were near—because they believed He was.

They spoke with expectancy:

- *“The Judge is standing at the door”* (James 5:9)
- *“The end of all things is near”* (1 Peter 4:7)
- *“It is already the last hour”* (1 John 2:18)
- *“We who are alive and remain...”* (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

This was not naïveté. It was obedience. Their eschatology did not sedate them—it ignited them. They loosened their grip on possessions, while embracing suffering. They ordered their lives around eternity rather than comfort.

But over time, something shifted. Not because prophecy changed. Not because Scripture changed. The tone changed. Expectation cooled into caution. Urgency hardened into systems. Watchfulness dissolved into doctrine. And fire was replaced with familiarity.

## HOW THE CHURCH DRIFTED INTO SLEEP

The Church did not fall asleep all at once. She drifted—slowly, subtly, almost imperceptibly. Doctrinal confidence replaced devotional urgency. The more timelines were mapped, the less hearts trembled. Once believers began to think, “*We understand the sequence*,” something quietly shifted to, “***We’re still early. Certain things must happen first. There’s still time.***” But Jesus never said knowledge would replace watchfulness. He said the opposite:

**“Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour” Matthew 25:13**

Every generation that believes it has decoded the timing, eventually stops watching. The midnight cry becomes background noise. Jesus said His coming would be announced by a cry in the night:

**“At midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the Bridegroom is coming!’” Matthew 25:6**

The cry was meant to awaken sleepers. But in the modern Church, it was softened; conferences replaced the cries, charts replaced trembling. Familiar language replaced holy interruption. The midnight cry became educational, when it was meant to be existential.

## CONVENIENCE, COUNTERFEIT PEACE, AND THE LOSS OF OIL

Convenience began to replace covenant. The message of covenant was lost and forgotten. The Bridegroom is not returning for a fascinated Church. He is returning for a faithful one. Yet in an age shaped by comfort, covenant was quietly diluted. Christianity became manageable... Attend when convenient, serve when comfortable, obey when beneficial, repent when pressured, pray when desperate.

This posture feels normal, but it is incompatible with bridal faithfulness. A bride does not prepare selectively. She prepares completely.

## THE ENEMY WEAPONIZED DELAY TO CREATE COUNTERFEIT PEACE

Satan does not need the Church to deny Christ. He only needs her to believe He will not come *soon*. Delay produces distraction. Distraction produces dullness. Dullness produces sleep. A delayed Christ creates a Church at ease. An at-ease Church loses authority. And a

powerless Church cannot warn a sleeping world. Here is the danger of counterfeit peace; it feels merciful, but it numbs the soul.

### THE COUNTERFEIT AWAKENING: ZEAL WITHOUT SONSHIP

When the Church is lulled by delay, another error often rises as a counterfeit cure: a return to Law as identity. Some awaken to the shallowness of modern Christianity and reach for something ancient—but instead of returning to Christ, they return to the yoke.

The result is zeal without sonship: strong opinions, strict observance, and growing suspicion toward the New Covenant itself.

But the Bride is not prepared by reverting to shadows. She is prepared by abiding in the substance. The answer to a sleeping Church is not bondage. It is oil.

### THE OIL TEST: KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT INTIMACY

#### The Parable of the Ten Virgins: The Sleep of the Wise

Here is the most sobering truth of the parable... *even the wise virgins fell asleep.* All ten not just the foolish ones. The difference was not alertness. The difference was oil. Oil is not doctrine. Oil is not awareness. Oil is not agreement with prophecy. Oil is the inner life with God. It is love cultivated in secret and obedience forged in fire. It is devotion sustained without applause while surrender is renewed daily.

Oil is the heart that answers before it understands: “Speak, Lord — I am Yours.” When delay settled over the whole Church, only those with oil endured. This is the crisis of our generation... We have doctrinal knowledge without devotional oil.

How did delay theology mute the Remnant? Revelation of the coming of Christ was meant to produce, urgency, repentance, holiness, watchfulness, separation from the world, devotion, fear of the Lord, longing for Him, and covenant love. But delay theology produced something else entirely: A church which procrastinates and is full of compromise. Spiritually asleep, doctrinally arrogant, full of dullness, distraction, worldliness and apathy.

The Bride stopped preparing because she assumed she would have time. In many cases she was even taught not to worry, because she would be raptured out before the difficult time ever come. But the true remnant is waking now because the Spirit is whispering, “**There is no more time.**”

## THE SLEEPER'S QUESTION: "WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?"

Peter warned of the spirit that would mark the last days:

"Scoffers will come in the last days... saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'" *2 Peter 3:3-4*

This is not mockery from atheists. It is complacency from believers. It is the subtle, numbing refrain: "I've heard this all my life. Every generation thought they were the last. I'm sure we still have time." This is exactly the posture Jesus warned would characterize the final generation:

"As it was in the days of Noah..." *Matthew 24:37*

Not hostility, not rebellion. Just ordinary life lived without urgency. Eating, Drinking, Buying, Selling, Planning, Building. Until the door shut and judgment fell. And delay was exposed as delusion.

## THE DOCTRINE THAT AWAKENS THE BRIDE

The doctrine that sleeps whispers, "He will come eventually. There is no rush. There is no urgency." The doctrine that awakens declares, "The Bridegroom is upon us. Prepare immediately." The Spirit is restoring the doctrine the apostles lived by:

- **Imminence** — He is near
- **Sobriety** — be awake
- **Readiness** — be found faithful
- **Holiness** — be set apart
- **Longing** — *Come, Lord Jesus*
- **Oil** — intimacy over information
- **Witness** — shine before the night fully falls

This is not fear. This is bridal fire. This is the posture of a people who live as though the King could arrive at any moment, because He can. This is the moment the Spirit is awakening firstfruits, watchmen, and forerunners across the earth. And the message is the same in every nation:

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*“WAKE UP. TRIM YOUR LAMP. GATHER THE OIL. PREPARE YOUR HEART.  
THE BRIDEGROOM IS NEARER THAN YOU THINK.”*

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This is not alarmism, it is alignment. Not panic, but preparation. Not dread, but a desire for more of Him. Not fear... faithfulness. The Bride does not fear His coming, she longs for it. But she must wake first.

### THE CALL: BREAK AGREEMENT WITH DELAY

To the remnant Bride, the Spirit speaks plainly:

Break agreement with **delay**. Break partnership with **passivity**. Break covenant with **distraction**. Break the lie that whispers, *Later*. Break the slumber that has settled over the Church.

You were not born into this hour by accident. You were not awakened by coincidence. You are being summoned with intention. Awake, beloved. Awake, firstfruits. Awake, Mount Zion. For the King is coming, and His reward is with Him.

### A CLOSING TRUMPET

Beloved of God,

The Church has slept long enough. The midnight cry is sounding again. The Bridegroom is nearer than many realize. The shaking already at the door will permit no neutrality. The remnant must rise. This doctrine — His return — is not a chart. It is not a theory. It is not a hobby. It is not a debate.

It is a wedding, a reunion. It is a coronation, a judgment and a rescue. It is a separation and a homecoming. It is a kingdom and nation rising. But for that to happen the Bride must be ready. This is the doctrine that awakens. This is the cry of this hour. This is the awakening of Mount Zion.

**“Behold, the Bridegroom is coming — go out to meet Him!”**  
**Matthew 25:6**

What has been exposed here is not merely false teaching, but misplaced allegiance.

Before questions of timing can be understood, before urgency can be rightly interpreted, before preparation can be weighed, the throne must be settled.

Scripture is clear: *spiritual discernment precedes discernment of times.*

Those who confuse allegiance will misread the hour. Those who serve the wrong throne will misinterpret every sign. This is why Jesus did not begin His end-time warnings with dates or charts, but with a call to faithfulness. Only those aligned with the Lamb can recognize the nearness of the King.

If allegiance has been tested, what time is it?

The Scriptures speak clearly of *times and seasons*— not to satisfy curiosity, but to awaken readiness. Urgency is not emotional, it is prophetic. And the nearness of the King is not proven by speculation, but by alignment with His voice.

What follows is not conjecture, but witness. Not fear, but clarity. Because the hour is late—and those with eyes to see can no longer pretend otherwise.

## CHAPTER 5

# Times, Seasons, and the Nearness of the King

## Why the Urgency Is Real

**“Of the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1, NKJV**

There is a tension in the air that many cannot explain. It is not fear, though fear has followed it. It is not excitement, though excitement often masks it. It is not simply awareness of world events, though the world itself seems to groan under increasing strain. It is something deeper. A sense of *nearness*.

Many describe it as urgency, yet struggle to define what exactly feels urgent. They scan headlines, watch the skies, count years, debate timelines—yet the feeling persists even when answers fail to materialize.

Scripture tells us why. The urgency of this hour is not driven by calendars. It is driven by proximity.

### TIMES AND SEASONS ARE NOT THE SAME

The Bible draws a careful distinction between *time* and *season*—a distinction the modern Church often overlooks. Time is measured and seasons are discerned.

Time ticks forward whether we are aware of it or not.

Seasons, however, arrive with purpose.

**“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven.”**  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

A season can change suddenly, even when time has passed slowly. This is why Scripture repeatedly warns God’s people to *watch*, not to calculate.

When believers attempt to reduce God’s movements to dates and charts, they often miss the very thing He is doing in their midst. The sons of Issachar were not praised because they

knew the day and hour—but because they understood the *times* and knew what Israel ought to do. Urgency does not arise when the clock runs out. Urgency arises when the season shifts.

## NEARNESS CHANGES EVERYTHING

When a king is distant, life continues largely unchanged. When a king draws near, everything reorders itself. This is why Jesus' central proclamation was not a timeline, but a declaration:

**“The Kingdom of God is at hand.” Mark 1:15**

He did not say the Kingdom would arrive someday far off. He did not say there was plenty of time. He said it was *near*—close enough to require response. Nearness demands alignment.

When Moses encountered the presence of God, he removed his sandals. When Isaiah saw the Lord, he cried out in repentance. When John encountered the risen Christ, he fell as though dead. Nearness is not meant to comfort the flesh. It awakens the spirit.

This is why the Holy Spirit continues to emphasize watchfulness, readiness, oil, garments, and hearing ears in this hour. These are not messages of fear—they are signals of approach.

## WHY THIS IS NOT DATE-SETTING

Many recoil at discussions of urgency because of past abuses. Date-setting, sensationalism, and fear-based prophecy have done great damage to the Church. But rejecting fear does not mean rejecting discernment. Jesus rebuked those who tried to calculate the day and hour—but He rebuked just as strongly those who lived as though nothing was happening.

**“My lord delays his coming...” Matthew 24:48**

The danger is not getting the date wrong. The danger is assuming delay where God has declared nearness. Urgency in Scripture is never about predicting an event. It is about refusing complacency.

## ALARM VS. INVITATION

There is a crucial difference between alarm and invitation. Alarm says, “*Something terrible is about to happen.*” Invitation says, “*Someone is drawing near.*” The Bride does not prepare because she is terrified. She prepares because she is being summoned.

**“Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!” Matthew 25:6**

This cry is not a siren. It is a voice. And like every true invitation from God, it requires a response.

## WHY THE CHURCH FEELS UNSETTLED RIGHT NOW

Many sense that something is wrong—but cannot articulate why. Old rhythms no longer satisfy. Old assurances feel hollow. Old systems strain under pressure. Old answers repeat without resolving the ache.

This is not yet persecution. It is displacement. God often loosens attachments *before* He removes structures. He disrupts comfort *before* He exposes collapse. This is mercy. Judgment is coming, yes—but mercy always precedes judgment.

The unease many feel, is not a sign they are late. It is a sign they are being awokened.

## URGENCY WITHOUT PANIC

Urgency does not mean frantic action. It does not mean abandoning responsibility, fleeing impulsively, or making fear-driven decisions. God does not prepare His people through chaos. Urgency means focus. It means simplifying, listening, aligning. It means tending what God places in your hands. It means learning dependence before pressure intensifies.

This is why Scripture repeatedly draws God’s people into the wilderness—not to punish them, but to retrain them. Before God reveals Zion, He removes Egypt.

## THE REAL QUESTION OF THIS HOUR

The question of this moment is not, “*How much time do we have left?*”

The real question is... “***Are we responding to the nearness of the King?***”

Some will feel the stirring and delay. Some will feel the shaking and harden. Some will awaken—and stop short. But others will hear the voice beneath the noise and recognize it for what it is. Not panic. Not hype. Not doom... But invitation.

**“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’” Revelation 22:17**

This book is written for those who hear that call and know they cannot remain as they are. The times are serious. The season has shifted. And the King is near. Not to terrify His Bride, but to prepare her.

**AWAKE, MOUNT ZION.**

## CHAPTER 6

# The Valley of Decision

## Seeing Clearly Before the Storm

**“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!  
For the day of the LORD is near...” Joel 3:14, NKJV**

There comes a moment before every great turning, when the noise fades and clarity settles in. Not necessarily clarity about outcomes, timelines, but position. This is such a moment in time, a moment when we are faced with a decision.

The valley of decision is not a place of panic. It is a place of exposure. Here, the fog lifts just enough for the contours of the land to be seen. Paths that once blurred together now diverge. What once felt complex becomes unmistakably simple. The road before us forks into two distinct paths... two allegiances, two outcomes.

Scripture never presents this valley as a destination. It is a threshold. A narrowing place where neutrality dissolves and delay becomes impossible. In this valley, the illusion of a middle ground disappears.

**“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” Joshua 24:15**

The weight of this hour is not driven by catastrophe but by proximity. The day of the Lord is *near*. Nearness compresses decision. It removes excuses. It forces the heart to reckon honestly with what it serves and why.

Many sense this pressure without understanding it. Old assurances no longer satisfy. Familiar systems strain. Long-held assumptions feel thin. This is not yet judgment. It is mercy. God exposes before He shakes.

The valley reveals not only what is false, but what is trusted. Some discover they have confused belief with obedience. Some realize their hope has been anchored to systems rather than to Christ. Some see, perhaps for the first time, that postponement has become its own form of refusal. In this valley, the question is not “*What will happen?*” The question is “*Who do I belong to?*”

The Scriptures describe this moment repeatedly. Elijah stood before Israel and declared, “How long will you falter between two opinions?” John the Baptist drew a line in the sand with repentance. Jesus Himself pressed the matter: no one can serve two masters. This is not a demand for perfection. It is a demand for honesty.

The valley of decision strips away borrowed convictions and inherited positions. It does not ask what you affirm publicly, but what governs you privately. It does not measure language, but loyalty.

The storm is approaching, yes. But the storm is not the point. The point is that when the storm comes, everything hidden will be revealed by what remains standing. This chapter does not tell you where to go. It does not tell you what to do. It does not offer strategy or shelter. It offers something more necessary...

## **SIGHT.**

To see the moment for what it is. To recognize the weight of delay. To acknowledge that indecision is itself a decision. The valley is not where lives are lost. It is where paths are chosen. And once chosen, they do not remain open forever.

The valley of decision is not crossed by intention, but by obedience. Revelation does not ask for agreement—it demands response. Some will hear this call and delay, mistaking patience for permission. Others will feel the weight and turn back, unwilling to release what must be surrendered. But a remnant will recognize the voice beneath the warning and understand that the moment for choosing has already arrived. What comes next is not escape, nor explanation, nor comfort—it is formation. For those who answer the call do not move forward into ease, but into separation. And it is there—away from Egypt, beyond Babylon, and outside the noise—that God prepares a people who can endure what lies ahead.

The following is a word of the Lord I received for the body concerning these days.

(A word of the Lord Received by Mark Bevan: November 7, 2013)

My children,

The time has now come where you must choose. Will you be wise and prepare yourselves to enter in, or will you be like the foolish ones who did not bring enough oil? I have called you, to come together and be united as I and Jesus are one. So shall My Bride be one in Me, and I in them, and they with one another. Lay aside your differences, and lay hold of the vision I have given you.

A time of great trouble has come—see, it is at the doorstep. The time of Jacob's trouble is upon the earth, and only those who choose to enter in with Me—who are married to Me—shall escape what is coming. The door is soon closing. The valley of decision is before you. I have sent My prophets to warn, and their message has gone forth. Judgment is set. But for you, My children, who choose to come with Me to the marriage feast of the Lamb—blessing upon blessing awaits you. The judgments of this land shall not come near you; you will only look with your eyes and see the reward of the wicked.

Be warned: great persecution and suffering await those who choose not to enter in with Me. My refining fires will come upon them like a furnace, to burn away all that is not of Me—yet they shall be saved through it. But you I have called, for you are precious to Me. You have chosen to separate yourselves unto Me. You hear My word and do it. You fear Me and keep My commandments.

For those who have given their lives to Me, that I may live through and in them—to you shall be given a special place of honor in My Kingdom, both now on earth and in the age to come. You are My Bride—holy and acceptable, without spot or wrinkle. You are the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven. You are the body of My Son, anointed to do My will in the earth.

The door is closing. Soon the world will see My glory on earth as I rule through My sons. To those who enter in will be given the keys of the Kingdom. They shall build up and tear down. They shall bless and restrain.

Hurry, My children. Lay down your lives once and for all. Cast your cares upon Me. Come out of Babylon and be separate. Rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Walk in the light as I am in the light. Love one another. Forgive those who have harmed you. Be My people, and I shall be your God.

Pray, that you do not fail to enter My rest. Pray that I will hide you under My wing. Pray that I will make you a blessing and a light in the darkness.

For the night is coming, and great darkness with it. But the revealing of My sons is near. They shall shine as lights to the nations. Enter in, My children. Put off the chains that bind you. Put away fear, for I have redeemed you. Keep yourselves from idols. Run to Me—and you will see My glory revealed as never before. Abba

# ACT II

## The Wilderness Formation

Purification · Healing · Reorientation

“Therefore, behold, I will allure her,  
Will bring her into the wilderness,  
And speak comfort to her.” Hosea 2:14

This Act explains what God does after awakening — but before empowerment.

The wilderness is not punishment. It is mercy disguised as loss.

In Act II, false supports are removed. Internal bondages are exposed. Identities formed in Babylon are dismantled. Dependence is retrained. Healing begins — not as reward, but as preparation.

This Act is intentionally slow, inward, and disorienting.

It describes what happens when God leads His people out, not when they arrive somewhere new.

The wilderness is where survival instincts die and trust is relearned.

### How NOT to read this Act

- Do not read the wilderness as failure.
- Do not read it as exile or abandonment.
- Do not search here for destination language, refuge explanations, or permanence.

Nothing is being built yet.

Nothing is being revealed yet.

Act II ends with **dependence restored**, not vision fulfilled — because a Bride who has not learned trust cannot carry authority.

## CHAPTER 7

# The Call to the Wilderness:

## Why God Leads His People Out

Throughout Scripture, whenever God prepares to move, He first separates. In our days, another great call going out. It resonates within the body of Christ. This call is not new. It has echoed through every covenantal turning point—and now it is being sounded again—quietly for some, unmistakably for others. Those with ears to hear are beginning to recognize it not as disruption, but as mercy.

**2 Corinthians 6:16 – 18 Come out from among them... Revelations 18:2 – 5  
Come out from Babylon!**

The wilderness is not punishment. It is the place where God speaks with clarity again. It is where idols lose their shine, where false comforts unravel, and where identity is reforged in the presence of a holy God. And in our generation, the Spirit is once again whispering—and at times thundering—the same ancient call: *Come away with Me.*

To where then shall we go? To leave these worldly Babylonish systems behind, is to venture into the unknown. To run for the hills... To venture out into the wilderness like pilgrims. The ultimate destination on earth for the body of Christ is the New Jerusalem, but only a purified bride will live there with her King.

### THE WILDERNESS DEFINED

**And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from the Jordan, and was led  
by the Spirit into the wilderness... Luke 4:1**

**And He withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed. Luke 5:16**

The wilderness (or desert in some versions) is a metaphorical symbol of a place where God chooses to refine, purify and test his children. It can be physical, spiritual or both. Above all, it is a place of learning to trust in Him.

From the beginning, God has always called His people *out* before He ever sent them *in*.

He called Abram out of Ur before He formed a covenant nation. He led Israel out of Egypt before He brought them into promise. He hid David in the wilderness before seating him on the throne. He formed John in desert silence before sending him to confront a nation. He drove Jesus into solitude before unveiling Him to the world.

Every move of God begins with withdrawal. Every vessel of God is shaped in obscurity long before public usefulness.

Over the years which I spent in wilderness seasons—some quiet, some costly, some profoundly hidden—this truth became unmistakable: God does not bring His people into the wilderness to abandon them, but to prepare them. Again and again, separation preceded provision. Obedience came before clarity. Refuge was established before the storm was visible. Sometimes the wilderness was inward. Sometimes it was relational. Sometimes it was literal ground under my feet. But in every case, the purpose was the same—to strip away my false dependence, while building faith & trust in Him. It prepares people to carry responsibility without compromise.

The wilderness is God's training ground. It is where dependence replaces self-reliance, where obedience is learned without applause, and where calling is purified of ambition. Nothing of lasting authority is forged in comfort.

This is why Scripture never treats the wilderness as delay. It is preparation. The wilderness does not interrupt God's plan—it *is* the plan that makes everything else possible.

Throughout Scripture, spiritual transitions are almost always accompanied by physical ones. Israel left Egypt. Lot fled Sodom. Ruth crossed borders. Joseph was relocated by betrayal before being positioned for preservation. Even Jesus withdrew physically before advancing publicly.

## LEARNING OBEDIENCE TO THE CALL

God said to Abram, “Get out of your country, from your kindred, and from your father's house,” Abram had a decision to make. He did not yet know the land, nor was he given a map. He was not given guarantees. He was given a voice — and he moved because he trusted the voice which spoke.

This does not mean every believer is called to physically relocate. But it does mean that the coming season will test whether obedience remains theoretical. Some may be asked to move by conviction. Others will be forced to move by circumstance. Some will prepare places of

refuge. Others will seek them. In every case, the determining factor will not be urgency — but obedience.

The wilderness does not begin when the landscape changes. It begins when the voice of God is trusted enough to follow. Those who learn to listen now — while choices still exist — will not be overtaken later when choices narrow.

### THE CHOICE... BY FAITH OR BY FORCE.

Willing or unwilling, the wilderness is a fundamental way point, a necessary layover in our journey with Christ. This wilderness is not our ultimate destination, nor our starting point, but a step along the way. A place to rest, a place to learn to overcome. A place to grow. A common adage in Maine says, “You can’t get there from here!” meaning it is nearly impossible to go from point A to point B without going through point C.

It is impossible to get to our ultimate destination... The New Jerusalem... without going through the wilderness... willing or not.

God desires that we would choose to be led in and through our wilderness layovers willingly by faith. However, if through fear or ignorance we choose to not listen or follow his leading, the Lord must resort to other means to persuade his children to make the journey. Notice in the passage above about Lot, how the angels of the Lord had to quite literally lay hands on the entire family and drag them to safety. But why such extreme measures? Because God is bound by His own word to finish what He started in you. That means refinement and purification into the image of Christ.

If we won’t leave our green pasture, to venture into the unknown with Him, then the Lord must make it more inconvenient to stay. If we are not following the leading of the Lord, we are out of covenant, and by our own actions, out of His blessing and protection. Only by moving along with Him, can we stay under his wing.

A decision is being placed before us. It’s not the Lord’s desire that any should have to go into bondage now, any more than He wanted the Jews to be carried away captive to Babylon in days gone by. Yet many people today have chosen to remain in the wrong city... spiritually and even physically. A sure judgement awaits those found in spiritual Babylon, as well as those who are found in literal nations/cities which hold fast to Babylonish values. Lot, and all his family, would have surely perished in Sodom, had they not chosen to follow Abraham’s

advice. We must choose to flee these cursed cities and never look back, or we may become like Lot's wife.

When judgment came to Sodom, Lot was not escorted out like a man on a casual stroll. Heaven had to urge him, press him, and in mercy pull him forward when fear made him hesitate. The message was not complicated—only urgent:

**“Escape for your life! Do not look behind you...” Genesis 19:17**

Yet even then, Lot negotiated. He reasoned. He asked for a “little” place nearby—something close enough to feel safe, something small enough to feel familiar.

And the Lord, astonishingly patient, granted him mercy in his weakness. But the story does not hide the cost of reluctance. Lot's wife could walk out of Sodom with her feet, yet her heart still leaned backward. The wilderness looked too uncertain, and what she left behind still held weight in her soul.

**“But his wife looked back... and she became a pillar of salt.” Genesis 19:26**

It is a sobering witness that deliverance can be offered, and still refused—not with words, but with attachment.

This is why the call to “come out” must be answered as more than a concept. The Lord is not only rescuing His people from what is corrupt—He is rescuing them for what He has prepared. And when He says “go,” delay is not neutral; hesitation is a kind of agreement with fear. The way of safety is simple, but it is not soft: move with Him, and do not look back.

It often amazes me at the graciousness of our God, not to mention His patience towards us. God fully intended to destroy the small town of Zoar with all the rest. Yet, because of Lot's fear of what might happen in the wilderness, God spared the city in His mercy, simply for Lot's sake. We should all hope that The Lord would have that much mercy on us when His judgement falls. However, what we may not realize here, are the blessings Lot may have missed, because of his fear.

The only place where true safety and protection abounds, is the place where one dwells perfectly in the will of God. That means when He says “Go” you go, or “Come,” you come. It means walking so close to Him, that you know He has ordered your every step. It means if He says come into this ark, or go into that ark, you say “Yes Lord, right away.” It is in this place, when He leads and we follow, where protection lies. To be outside of His will, to not

go when called, to disobey, is to place oneself not only in a path of potential danger, but in a place where He must try to bring us back. Either way, we have lowered the hedge of protection which God promises. Had Noah's family failed to enter the ark, they would surely have perished with the rest. But, within the ark, they lacked no good thing. They were shielded from the wind and the waves. The same way Israel was saved from the famine in Egypt.

## CROSSING THE LINE

For those who choose to step onto the ark of refuge, a true adventure in faith building awaits them. Like the Pilgrim Fathers of America, when the lines were cast off and the ships set sail for their new promised land, they crossed over a spiritual line in the sand. At some point in this journey, there comes a place of reckoning, when going back is no longer a viable option. Once the ship crosses its halfway point, it becomes easier to go forward than to try and return.

As true believers in Jesus Christ, each of us has crossed one of these lines in the past. The point where our old life became something not work going back to. The point when we looked forward to what new resurrected life had to offer, despite the challenges, and made the decision to die to the old ways. Water baptism is meant to be a symbol of our commitment to seeing the journey through to the end. It represents a willingness to die to our old life and all that is not of God. That includes a death to not only self, but also to apostate religious mindsets. These are false religious doctrines including anything which does not agree with the Word of God in its entirety. If our theology contains even a little falsehood, that darkness invades every part of our doctrine and belief. Just as Jesus said, "A little leaven, leavens the whole lump!" Choosing to allow Christ to live in us, means we must by default, submit in every way to His lordship over our mind, will and emotions. He cannot truly live in us, if we have not the mind of Christ, meaning we willingly allow his mind to rule over our own.

Going back to crossing the line... Paul reminds us in that it is impossible to go back to where we were, once we have tasted of the heavenly things. Just as it is impossible to un-see truth once it is observed. A line in the sand is crossed that one can not easily turn back from. A marked point of no return. While it may be uncomfortable, to proceed ahead into the unknown, there is also the compelling vision of a brand new beginning.

Each time we choose to willingly step into God's wilderness, we have an opportunity for a new beginning. A chance to shed more of our old self, and go forward in Christ.

God desires each of our lives to be filled with joy, not compulsive service. If our walk as a Christian has become dull and missing out on that joy He promises, then maybe we need to visit one of God's wilderness playschools.

Any Christian I know will tell you that they know people who have heard God calling them to step out in faith, but are afraid to go. Many are even afraid to even listen, because they fear that God will tell them to go be a missionary in Africa, or some other remote place. That they would have to give up everything to serve God, the way he desires.

Following the Lord's leading and walking out on faith into a spiritual, or perhaps even literal wilderness can be the scariest thing in the world. It is the fear of the unknown... the great "What If?" What if this happens, or that thing comes upon us? What will we do? Perhaps we'll die out there, with no one to save us....

It is so easy for us to forget that where God leads, he also provides. The wilderness is the perfect environment for the Lord to test our faith in his provision and promises. That's because we are placed in situations where we are beyond our comfort zones spiritually, emotionally and sometimes physically. In these situations, our only option is trusting in God.

## INTO THE WILDERNESS BY FAITH

We should learn to listen, and obey God's leading, whenever he is calling us into a wilderness situation. It is always his desire for us to go through our wilderness seasons willingly. When we do, a very interesting thing happens. We enter into what I call God's wilderness playschool.

Many of us might not remember our first years of school, because we were very young. Nursery or preschool, often comes before kindergarten. Think about the name "nursery" school. The word nursery relates to a protected place for tender plants, or people, etc. to grow free from danger. Just as a baby is given a crib with walls which prevent the child from falling out of bed, so are these little children given a protected environment where they can learn while they play. These are sometimes referred to as playschools.

God's wilderness playschool is a place where his children can learn to grow up spiritually in a safe environment, while they learn to lean on him more and more. These spiritual children learn important skills like faith, love, respect and patience. It is in this place of safety, where

we are literally held in the palm of his hands, though we might not even realize it. He watches over us closely and will only allow what we are able to bear, to test and prove us.

If we choose to go willingly into these wilderness periods, we will find they are not as grievous as we expected. Instead, we will often experience great joy as our trial becomes something like a great adventure. After all we are like little children, exploring a whole new world. One that we probably never imagined could be so rewarding. We soon learn our fear is nothing but the enemy trying his best to keep us from the very best God has for us. A friend of mine named David Eells wrote a great book titled Fear Not the Wilderness. You can download it free, and it's a fantastic read, as are his other books from Unleavened Bread Ministries. The point is, that God does not intend for us to fear the wilderness, but to embrace it.

## WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

We can even think about it as a vacation from the everyday routine. It is a time to learn to rest from our own works and to simply trust God. That's not to say it won't be a challenge. Climbing a high mountain is never easy, but the view from the top makes it all worth it. In God's wilderness play-school, we are climbing up his spiritual mountain top while we play, explore, sing, dance and watch how our heavenly Father does miracle after miracle.

Notice, this doesn't sound like the person who is saying, "Oh my, I have to go to this place or do this thing because God told me to! I don't want to go, because I'm very scared." No, it might start that way for some, but anyone who has spent time at the play-school of the Kingdom, has more stories of adventure than they can count. What we get out of our schooling is 100% determined by what we put in! If we enter in with an attitude of faith, we should be ready for God to pave a highway before us. God promises that he valleys are raised up and the mountains are made low before you.

## THE WILDERNESS AS GOD'S INVITATION OF LOVE

To our human logic, the wilderness often feels like loss. Giving up what we are leaving behind. But to God, it is romance.

**"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her." Hosea 2:14**

God's desire is not to drive His Bride into the wilderness—He *allures* her. He does not coerce—He invites. He does not abandon—He draws near.

In the wilderness, the heart becomes still enough to hear again. The noise recedes. Counterfeit voices lose their authority. The soul discovers that God has been speaking all along, but the world was simply too loud to hear Him.

Many assume the wilderness is where comfort and provision end. Scripture reveals the opposite. Israel learned this when manna fell from heaven and water flowed from rock. Provision was no longer managed through systems—it came directly from God's hand. The wilderness removes the illusion of security so intimacy can be restored.

Israel left Egypt in a single night. Egypt left Israel through forty years of wilderness. And the same pattern is unfolding again. The wilderness confronts what we learned to live with:

- mixture mistaken for maturity
- comfort mistaken for blessing
- activity mistaken for anointing
- strategy mistaken for obedience

What cannot enter the days ahead is gently—but firmly—removed. God detoxes His people from Egypt not to punish them, but to free them.

## WHY THE WILDERNESS MATTERS NOW

This generation is saturated with convenience and starving for clarity. The modern Church is informed but not transformed, active but not established, busy yet internally divided. Confidence has been placed in methods, platforms, and familiarity—but the days ahead demand something far deeper: an undivided heart.

**“Unite my heart to fear Your name.” Psalm 86:11**

## THE WILDERNESS IS GOD’S ANSWER TO DIVIDED LOYALTY.

Jesus warned that the defining danger of the end of the age would not be persecution or deception alone, but *cold love*. “Because lawlessness is increased, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12). The wilderness is where that love is preserved and kingdom culture is formed. It roots the remnant deeply enough to endure the shaking that will topple everything else.

The wilderness trains hearts to recognize the Shepherd's voice in a world filled with noise. It teaches obedience without applause, faith without guarantees, and love without condition. Those formed here will not be easily shaken later—because they have already learned to live without false supports.

This is why the wilderness call has intensified. What was once invitation has become necessity. The pressure of this hour is not accidental—it is preparatory. God is establishing a people who will stand when others falter, whose lamps remain lit when systems fail, and whose love endures when fear multiplies.

### A PEOPLE ON THE EDGE OF A DIVINE TURNING

We are living in the hinge of history. The age is shifting and the pressure is increasing. Whether the Church acknowledges it or not, the Lord is walking among the lampstands, discerning which ones burn with authentic flame.

The wilderness call has become more than invitation... it has become necessity. Those who cling to comfort will be shaken. Those who cling to Christ will be established. And the dividing line is not tomorrow... it is now.

What many do not realize is that God does not call His people into separation without also preparing a place for their arrival. The wilderness is not endless wandering—it is a passage. Those who follow the Shepherd through it do not emerge into chaos, but into order; not into loss, but into provision; not into isolation, but into a forming people. Long before the storms are visible, God establishes spaces of covering, rhythms of life, and patterns of care where His presence rests and His people are sustained. The wilderness teaches us how to hear His voice—but what comes next teaches us how to live by it together.

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## CHAPTER 8

# Into the Wilderness

## Learning to Live Without Egypt

### THE VALLEY OF REFUGE

There are moments in the wilderness when God reveals glimpses of what lies ahead—a future place of safety, a prepared refuge, a valley where His remnant will stand while the world trembles.

In the Spirit, many have sensed such a place—a bright valley beneath a shielded sky, untouched though storms rage around it; a place of rest, equipping, and supernatural protection.

But it is enough to say: the wilderness prepares you for that valley.

### THAT WHICH HAS BEEN IS WHAT SHALL BE

**That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done,  
And there is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9**

History repeats. Scripture reminds us that the experiences of Israel were recorded for our instruction, especially for those living at the end of the age.

Goshen is the biblical pattern God gives us to understand what He is doing in our day. In Prophecy, Egypt is well recognized as a type of the world system. Goshen in the natural, represents the best lands of Egypt, the Nile River delta. Spiritually speaking, Goshen represents a place of blessing and protection during the storms of life.

In scripture we find that Israel entered the land of Goshen at the beginning of the seven-year famine. A parallel can be seen in this to the seven-year tribulation period which Jesus spoke of, which is also indeed named in Jeremiah 30:7 the time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble.

We can easily read from the book of Revelation, that a time of great trouble awaits this Earth. Jesus also warns in Matthew 24, that tribulation shall come to the people of God. However, Revelation also speaks of the church, (In prophecy: The Woman, REV 12) being

carried into the wilderness to a place God had prepared for her... a time of great trouble awaits the earth—but Scripture also shows God preparing a place of protection for His people

## ANOTHER GREAT FAMINE IS COMING...

This is what I commanded them, saying, "Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you. Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers." Jeremiah 7:23-26

God has been warning His people for many years that judgment is at the doorstep. However, the majority of God's people turn a deaf ear, just as Israel did. The Lord has warned us through Prophetic events, such as 9/11, detailed by Jonathan Cahn in his series THE HARBINGER. Others like David Wilkerson, and the Congregation at Times Square Church, were warned days and months before the tragic event. The message of coming judgment has gone forth, the prophets have warned for many years, so that God's people might understand the times and seasons. God has been going to great lengths to awaken His people. Why? So that His people would be made ready and a great harvest can come into the Kingdom of God.

## THE LORD OUR PASSOVER

One other parallel exists in the type of Goshen. It was in Goshen that the Passover occurred. The Passover in scripture represents Christ's Salvation. The sacrificial lamb was slain, its blood applied to the doorposts as protection against the destroyer, and its body eaten which represents partaking of the life of Christ. If we know that God's word, the Bible is Christ, then we can see that we must be partakers of its entirety, otherwise we have no protection against Satan.

God, in our days, has called people with willing hearts, ears to hear, and eyes to see. Their task is to prepare places, just like Joseph. Places like Goshen. In fact, The Lord has been speaking to His servants all over the world for many years, warning of the days to come. Many individual Goshens are being established as this is written, all with a similar purpose. It

is in these places, which God is preparing, just like the ark of Noah, that His people will be sheltered and protected against the tribulation coming upon this earth. Just like in Goshen, the people of the world will look upon God's people and see a literal demonstration of the Kingdom of God on the Earth. Those found living in Christ, and in His perfect will, are spared the plagues, multiplied and prospered there, by the favor of the Lord.

God sent Joseph to pave the way for them to have a safe place to live, even while all Egypt was selling everything they had just for bread. Israel's family grew and prospered there for many years as they saw the Lord's blessing working for their benefit.

Today God is once again calling people to come out to a faraway places like Goshen. To enter into the wilderness and be planted there for a season. Some are being called to make preparations in the spirit, some in the natural, some both. Some are being called to make preparations for themselves, some for many others. Joseph heard the Father's call and obeyed, much like Noah.

### THE WILDERNESS HAS A VOICE.

Every true prophetic voice is born in hidden places. Moses did not become a deliverer in Pharaoh's palace—he became one in Midian. John did not become a messenger in the temple—he became one in the Judean desert. Even Jesus, the Word made flesh, was tested and strengthened in wilderness solitude. The wilderness produces voices, not echoes. Clarity, not noise. Purity, not performance. In an age addicted to platform, God is raising voices shaped by silence.

Remember the parable, Joseph was the least of all his brothers. God is using the least among His people to sound the alarm in these days, because those who through pride have elevated themselves to places of authority in the body of Christ are indeed deaf and blind to His Word. It is in the wilderness where the bride learns to discern and hear the voice of truth. The voice of truth is saying, "Listen my children, that I might prepare you now, for what is to come."

God's refuge is neither here nor there. It's not contained by geographic boundaries. Let's think a moment of Goshen not as a literal place, but is a state of mind... A state of living. God's wilderness refuge exists anywhere two or more believers agree to be in perfect unity together with Christ and with each other. Wherever they go, the blessing of the Lord is upon them and begins to establish *THE GARDEN* in all the circumstances around them. The blessing prospers, protects and guides them. Yet the extent of that blessing is limited by

their love, not just for each other, but by their love for everyone around them. When they choose to love others around them, the way God intended, community is the end result. Others see, and are moved by the love of God flowing through His witnesses, and desire to have that same love in themselves. This is how the Kingdom takes root—quietly, faithfully, together.

Goshen is not merely a place you reach—it is a life you learn. But that learning does not happen all at once. Egypt can be left in a day, yet Egypt often remains in the mind for years. And if the Lord is calling His people into refuge, it is not only to shelter them from what is coming—it is to free them from what has been holding them. Because the greatest chains are not always visible. Some are spiritual, some are emotional, some are doctrinal—and many believers have carried them so long they no longer recognize them as bondage.

Wherever the Lord gathers even two or three in covenant love, something begins to change in the atmosphere around them. Peace settles. Provision follows. The heart starts to breathe again. And that is not accidental—because once the soul is safe enough to exhale, God is finally able to show us what we could never see clearly while we were still surviving: the yokes we carried, the voices we obeyed, and the chains we learned to call normal. Before we can run well, we must recognize what has been holding us.

## CHAPTER 9

# Spiritual Bondage

## How Babylon Shapes the Inner Life

Wherever the Lord gathers even two or three in covenant love, something begins to change in the atmosphere around them. Peace settles. Provision follows. The heart starts to breathe again. And that is not accidental—because once the soul is finally safe enough to exhale, God is able to show us what we could never see clearly while we were still surviving.

Before we can run well, we must recognize what has been holding us.

For many, the greatest shock of the wilderness is not hardship—but clarity. It is the slow realization that what we once called “normal” was actually a yoke. What we assumed was maturity was often just coping. What we defended as wisdom, was sometimes fear clothed in theology.

Scripture tells us plainly that “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” (1 John 5:19, NKJV). That means captivity is not limited to obvious rebellion. It can exist quietly—beneath sincere faith, religious activity, and even good intentions. Bondage often hides best where it has gone unquestioned the longest.

This chapter is not written to accuse, but to illuminate. The Father does not expose chains to shame His bride—He reveals them because He intends to remove them.

### THE MYSTERY OF AUTHORITY

One day I heard the Lord say this:

“Let me tell you a mystery, son. Dominion was not given to physical man made of dust, but to spiritual man made of Me. When Adam sinned, it was the man of dust that eventually died. He lost authority because he gave it up by sinning. Authority in My kingdom comes with My anointing—My glory. Adam no longer possessed the authority to have dominion. Satan was not granted that authority; he stole it. And because it was not his to possess, he must use man to carry it out. That authority is counterfeit, son, and it cannot stand in the presence of the true authority I grant only to those who are Mine.”

This is the heart of spiritual bondage: counterfeit authority. Not merely sinful behavior, but a false right to rule—over minds, emotions, systems, and allegiance. The enemy does not create authority; he imitates it. He cannot govern directly, so he trains people to enforce his rule through fear, pride, seduction, and control.

Wherever authority does not flow from intimacy with God, it must be sustained by pressure.

### CAPTIVITY IN MYSTERY BABYLON

The Lord then showed me that Mystery Babylon is not merely a geographic place or a single people, but a spirit—a mindset. It rules by force rather than love, by intimidation rather than invitation. It trains people to comply outwardly while slowly hardening inwardly. This spirit creates a yoke: heavy enough to control, subtle enough to normalize.

The Jews carried away into Babylon did not go willingly. Neither has much of the spiritual Church. Many resist the evil around them, cry out to God, and yet remain bound—because they do not yet recognize what they are under. Others confuse captivity with discipline, or fear with wisdom, or endurance with obedience.

To come out of Babylon is not simply to leave a place. It is to leave a way of thinking. It is to stop being ruled by what God never authorized.

### THE FIRST SIGN OF A YOKE

One of the clearest signs of spiritual bondage is the inability to hear God clearly. Not the absence of information—but the absence of peace. Confusion becomes constant. Reaction replaces discernment. The heart feels crowded, hurried, defensive. There is “no room” for the Word to land and remain.

Jesus spoke of this when He said that some could not receive His words because there was no space for them in their hearts (John 8). The issue was not intelligence or sincerity—it was allegiance. Bondage does not always silence God’s voice; sometimes it drowns it out with noise.

Babylon thrives in distraction. Zion grows in stillness.

## HOW THE YOKE MANIFESTS

Spiritual bondage produces fruit. Not always obvious sin—but consistent patterns that reveal what is ruling beneath the surface.

Some of the most common signs include:

- Fear-driven compliance — obeying God only when outcomes feel safe or predictable.
- Misplaced allegiance — identity rooted more in tribes, systems, or causes than in Christ Himself.
- Moral inversion — calling evil good and good evil when truth becomes inconvenient.
- Gain without righteousness — valuing success, comfort, or security at the expense of justice and love.
- Cold love — where zeal remains, but compassion fades; activity continues, but intimacy dries up.

Jesus warned that one of the defining dangers of the end of the age would not simply be deception or persecution, but love growing cold (Matthew 24:12). Babylon always trains people to protect self first. The Kingdom of God trains people to love first.

## THE INVITATION TO FREEDOM

On November 7, 2013, I received the following word for the Church:

“My children, the time has now come where you must choose. Will you be wise and prepare yourselves to enter in, or will you be like the foolish ones who did not bring enough oil?

I have called you to come together and be united as I and Jesus are one. I desire that you would lay aside your differences and lay hold of this vision I have given you.

A time of great trouble is at the doorstep, but for you who choose to come with Me—there will be blessings upon blessings. The judgments of this land shall not come near you. You shall only look and see the reward of the wicked.

Come out of Babylon and be separate. Walk in the light as I am in the light. Pray that you enter My rest. For the night is coming, but soon the world will see the revealing of My sons.”

This is not a threat—it is an invitation. The door closes not because God withdraws mercy, but because delay hardens hearts.

## NOT CONDEMNATION, BUT PREPARATION

If anything in this chapter has stirred discomfort, let it do its work gently. Conviction is a gift when it leads to freedom. The wilderness does not exist to expose you—it exists to heal you.

Babylon binds through confusion and fear. The Lord frees through truth and love. We do not fixate on darkness—we learn to recognize it so we can walk away from it. And once a yoke is named, agreement with it can be broken.

In the next chapter, we will look more closely at how bondage attaches itself—how it embeds in thought patterns, emotions, language, and obedience—so that what Christ has already purchased can be fully received. Freedom does not begin with effort, it begins with sight.

Coming out of Babylon is not merely a change of direction — it is a recovery. Freedom, when it first arrives, often exposes how wounded the soul has become while surviving captivity.

Many who awaken to bondage feel relief at first, followed quickly by grief. Grief for years lost. Grief for trust misplaced. Grief for wounds normalized as “strength.”

God does not mistake this grief for weakness. He recognizes it as truth surfacing.

Israel did not leave Egypt healed — they left Egypt alive. Their healing began afterward, in the wilderness, under the daily care of a God who knew how long slavery lingers in the body and mind. Chains fall quickly. Fear takes longer.

This is why God does not rush His people from deliverance into assignment. Freedom without healing would only recreate bondage in a new form. Authority without restoration would reproduce harm.

Before the Bride is prepared for glory, she must be made whole. Before she can govern, she must be comforted. Before she can trust her calling, she must relearn how to trust God Himself.

What follows is not correction — it is care. Not urgency — but mercy. Not demand — but healing.

## CHAPTER 10

# Healing the Bride

## Purification, Restoration, and Relearning Trust

**“He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3**

Before God prepares the Bride for glory, He first tends to what has been broken by survival. Much of what the Church calls faith today is actually endurance. Much of what she calls strength is learned mistrust. Much of what she calls discernment is trauma wearing armor. The Bride is not rejected—she is wounded.

These wounds did not come only from the world. They came from false shepherds, corrupted systems, misplaced allegiance, and years of living under pressure without refuge. God does not shame her for this. He does not rebuke her fragility. He heals her.

Purification is often misunderstood precisely because it is painful. Yet Scripture is clear: God does not purify in order to destroy—He purifies to restore function. “Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit” (John 15:2). Pruning is not rejection. It is precision. In this hour, purification looks like the removal of false identities, the exposure of misplaced trust, and the collapse of systems the Bride leaned on instead of God. It feels like loss, but it is actually freedom.

### THE WOUND BENEATH THE WOUND: BROKEN TRUST

Beneath many visible wounds lies a deeper injury: broken trust. The deepest harm in the Bride is not sin—it is betrayal. Betrayal by leaders. Betrayal by institutions. Betrayal by promises that failed. Betrayal by systems that claimed God’s name but bore no resemblance to His heart. This is why God does not rush the Bride forward. He draws her aside. “I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her” (Hosea 2:14). The wilderness is not a place of abandonment; it is the place where trust is relearned.

God does not heal denial—He heals truth. This is why Scripture repeatedly links mourning to restoration.

**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4)**

Mourning is not despair; it is agreement with God about what is broken. Those who refuse to mourn cannot receive oil, cannot wear praise, cannot be marked, and cannot be healed. Indifference is the only posture God refuses to bless.

Isaiah speaks of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. The oil is poured on the head, not the hands, because God restores identity before function. He heals the mind before empowering action. He realigns authority before assignment. God does not first give the Bride new tasks—He gives her restored vision. Praise becomes a garment, not a feeling, because healing must outlast emotion. A garment is worn in every condition. So is restored trust.

The Bride must relearn what it means to depend on God—not on structures, not on leaders, not on nations, not on systems. This relearning often feels unsafe at first, because control once felt like protection. But control never healed her. Only intimacy does. Healing restores hearing.

### **“My sheep hear My voice” John 10:27**

A transition is underway. The Bride is moving from vigilance rooted in fear to vigilance anchored in peace; from reaction to rest; from survival to covenant. She is no longer defined by what she escaped. She is defined by who she belongs to.

This is why healing precedes glory. An unhealed Bride cannot govern. An unhealed Bride cannot love. An unhealed Bride cannot endure authority without reproducing harm. This is why God slows the process. This is why He removes false supports. This is why He insists on rest—not because time is short, but because the Bride must be whole.

## **THE PROMISE**

The promise still stands: “I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten” (Joel 2:25). Restoration is not nostalgia—it is redeemed capacity. The Bride will love again, trust again, build again, and govern again. But this time it will be from wholeness, not wounds.

Healing is not the pause before calling. It is the calling. And when the Bride is healed, she will rise—not frantic, not fearful, not driven—but radiant.

And it is from this place of healing—not urgency—that God continues His work of preparation.

## CHAPTER II

# The Wilderness as Mercy

## Preparation Before Revelation

The wilderness is not God's waiting room. It is His operating room.

To those standing at its threshold, the wilderness often feels like loss, delay, or even abandonment. Familiar supports begin to disappear. Certainty fades. Voices that once guided no longer speak with the same clarity. Forward movement slows, and visibility narrows until only the next step can be seen. Yet Scripture reveals a pattern the Church has long misunderstood: God does not remove His people to punish them. He removes them to protect them from revelation they are not yet prepared to survive.

The wilderness is not the absence of God. It is the place where God prepares His people to see Him clearly.

Throughout Scripture, God follows a precise and consistent order. He never unveils judgment, glory, or authority before first concealing His own. Noah enters the ark before the rain begins (Genesis 7). Lot is led out of Sodom before fire falls (Genesis 19). Israel is separated into Goshen before the plagues intensify (Exodus 8–12). Moses is hidden in Midian before confronting Pharaoh (Exodus 2–3). Elijah is fed in obscurity before Jezebel is exposed (1 Kings 17–19). Even Jesus withdrew into the wilderness before His authority was revealed publicly (Matthew 4:1). And so it is with the Bride.

**“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her” Hosea 2:14**

God does not shout revelation into chaos. He whispers it into safety. The wilderness is where the noise of Babylon fades, false supports collapse, and the heart becomes quiet enough to hear without distortion. Revelation without refuge would crush what God intends to crown.

Modern Christianity often treats revelation as a reward. Scripture treats it as a responsibility. Truth does not merely inform; it pressurizes. It demands alignment. It exposes motives. It requires surrender. When revelation arrives before formation, it produces fear instead of

faith, urgency instead of obedience, and control instead of trust. Unprepared hearts turn truth into ideology, prophecy into power-seeking, and warning into spectacle.

This is why God withholds information as an act of mercy.

Jesus Himself acknowledged this limitation when He told His disciples, “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now” (John 16:12). God measures not what we want to know, but what we are able to carry.

The wilderness does not exist to teach facts. It exists to reshape hearts. Here, God trains His people in ways no classroom ever could: trust without proof, obedience without applause, discernment without noise, rest without resolution, and faith without adrenaline. In the wilderness, performance-based spirituality is dismantled and replaced with relational obedience. Dependence is relearned—not as desperation, but as intimacy. Only those who learn to live by His voice can safely receive His vision.

**“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4**

The craving for revelation often disguises a deeper fear. People demand revelation because they want certainty, control, escape, validation, or precedence. But God seeks something far more costly: faith that waits, submission that yields, love that endures, and obedience that does not negotiate. The wilderness gently exposes motives without condemning them. It reveals whether the heart longs for God—or merely for answers.

Those who rush toward revelation often do so to avoid formation. God slows them not to deny glory, but to prevent collapse.

In seasons of shaking, delay feels unbearable. Silence feels dangerous. Stillness feels irresponsible. Yet again and again, God interrupts His servants with the same commands: *Rest. Wait. Trust Me. You are early. I did not ask you to carry this.* The wilderness is where striving is stripped away and replaced with sonship, where anxiety-powered obedience gives way to peace-rooted faith.

God is not preparing His people to outrun disaster. He is preparing them to remain steady while it passes. This is not retreat—it is refinement.

The wilderness does not last forever. Its purpose is not isolation, but readiness. God does not reveal Zion to hearts still addicted to Egypt. He does not unveil Babylon’s judgment to souls

still entangled in her systems. He does not expose counterfeit authority to those still seeking it. Preparation always precedes unveiling.

Only when the Bride has learned to trust without sight, does God entrust her with vision. Only when fear has loosened its grip, does clarity arrive without panic. This is why the wilderness comes before the public revealing of the Bride. Preparation before revelation—always.

The wilderness is mercy because it saves lives. It saves the Bride from fear, the servant from pride, the remnant from frenzy, and revelation itself from being weaponized. God hides His people not because He has less to show them, but because He has more than they are ready to carry.

Those who endure this season will discover that what felt like delay was divine protection, what felt like loss was preparation, and what felt like silence was God teaching them how to hear. The wilderness does not mean God has stepped away. It means He has drawn closer than ever.

What the wilderness prepares in secret must eventually be tested in the open. Hearts formed in safety must learn discernment under pressure. Trust rebuilt in silence must confront systems built on control. The Bride who has been healed, prepared, and protected must now learn to recognize what seeks to enslave her again. For coming out of Babylon is not a moment—it is a practice. And before freedom can be guarded, bondage must be clearly seen.

# ACT III

## The Call of the Bride

Separation · Intimacy · Readiness

“My beloved spoke, and said to me: ‘Rise up, my love, my fair one,  
And come away.’” Song of Solomon 2:10

This Act marks the turning point from survival to invitation.

Here, separation becomes voluntary.

Obedience becomes relational.

Holiness becomes chosen, not imposed.

God no longer merely leads His people out — He invites them closer.

In Act III, the Bride is prepared privately before she is ever revealed publicly. Garments are addressed. Oil is tested. Covenant is offered — not demanded. This is where the cost of saying “yes” becomes clear.

No storm has broken yet.

No beast has risen yet.

The Bride must choose before pressure arrives.

### How NOT to read this Act

- Do not read consecration as elitism.
- Do not read separation as fear.
- Do not mistake readiness for authority.

Nothing is unveiled here.

Nothing is enforced here.

Act III ends with decision sealed, not reward received — because covenant must be chosen before it is tested.

## CHAPTER 12

# Coming Out of Babylon

## Light, Darkness, and the Cost of Clarity

To understand what it means to come out of Babylon, we must first understand the difference between light and darkness. Spiritual Babylon is cloaked in every shade of grey imaginable—everything except the pure light of God.

**“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness”**

**Genesis 1:3–4**

Before we go further, it is important to understand something foundational. Scripture operates on more than one level. There is the letter, and there is the Spirit. As Paul writes, **“the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life”**. (2 Corinthians 3:6)

Paul is saying that it is the spiritual understanding of the Law where there is Life, not in the letter of the law. We must look upon all scripture, not with the eyes of man's fallen understanding (mental ascent), but instead with the eyes and mind of Christ. In the verse above from Genesis, God creates light, sees that the light is good, then makes a separation between that light and the darkness which surrounds it. We must step back from our natural understanding of light and darkness and learn to see them as God defines them.

### LIGHT VS. DARKNESS

Ultimately there are only two masters in the earth, and in the heavens. Both are spiritual forces which influence man to choose a side, be it Light or darkness. Almost every culture and religion recognize this battle that has been raging since the beginning, the battle of good versus evil.

Please read these next several verses like you never have before. I've added reference names to help.

**In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He (Jesus) was in the beginning with God. John 1:1-2**

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and TRUTH.**  
John 1:14

**In Him was LIFE, and the life was the LIGHT of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the DARKNESS did not comprehend it. John 1:3-5**

Jesus is God's very life force called zōē. In other words, the power/substance which makes God alive. This zōē power, is what God speaks (breaths) out to create everything we recognize, and all the rest as well. It is this life which has the power to expose all darkness. This is the light of Truth. Pay special attention to the fact that the Darkness cannot comprehend the light because it cannot receive truth. All creation is in fact held together by God's own Life (Jesus), which brings light to men, and when received and accepted... Truth.

**All things were made through Him (Jesus), and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:3**

**God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son (Jesus), whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom (Jesus) also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His (God's) glory and the express image of His (God's) person, and upholding all things by the word of His (God's) power... Hebrews 1:1-3**

**If Light is personal, what does it look like?**

### **CHRIST AS THE TRUE IMAGE**

Scripture reveals that Jesus Christ is not merely a messenger of God, but the very image of God made visible. He is the Logos—the living Word—through whom all things were created and by whom all things are held together. To see Christ is to see the Father; to hear Christ is to hear God speaking. In Him, God compresses His nature, authority, character, and life into a single, knowable expression. Paul calls Him “the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15), and Hebrews declares Him to be “the exact representation of His nature” (Hebrews 1:3). Christ is therefore the true icon of God—not a symbol, not a metaphor, but

God's own life, truth, and authority embodied and revealed. When Christ lives in a person, that same image begins to be restored in them. Salvation is not merely forgiveness; it is transformation into that image, until the life of God is once again visibly expressed through human vessels.

### BABYLON'S COUNTERFEIT IMAGE

Babylon offers a rival image—one that mimics identity while stripping it of truth. Rather than reflecting God's nature, Babylon manufactures images shaped by desire, fear, power, and self-rule. Its image promises autonomy instead of obedience, self-expression instead of submission, and control instead of trust. Where Christ reveals the Father, Babylon conceals Him behind endless substitutes—ideologies, identities, systems, and loyalties that demand allegiance while denying accountability. This counterfeit image does not bring life; it fragments it. It produces distortion rather than clarity, confusion rather than truth, and division rather than unity. Babylon's power rests not in light, but in imitation—an image that looks meaningful yet carries no life within it. To remain in Babylon is to slowly be conformed to that image. To come out of Babylon is to reject every false likeness and be restored to the true one: Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Jesus is the expressed image or picture of God Himself. Something we might call an icon or emoji.

Emojis are not new, despite what we may think. They are simply the latest version of a tradition that predates modern writing. They are the basis of what makes up a language comprised of pictures instead of alphabets. Why is this relevant? Because, emojis are called LOGOGRAMS taken from the Greek word for the term “word” (LOGOS), meaning that which is drawn or written! Jesus, as he was in the flesh, and as he is now, is the exact image of God, because he is in fact God's own life, wrapped up in one picture for all to see. This is why Jesus (the Logos of God) can say, “if you know me, you know the father.” Jesus, the word

Authors Note:  
Because God speaks across generations, He often reveals eternal truths through the symbols and languages people actually understand. What follows uses a modern illustration to explain an ancient, unchanging reality.

Christ is the perfect Image — the true icon — carrying God's life, light, truth, and authority without distortion.

+

+

+

+

= submission unto death

+

= Light / Truth

+

= agapē / self-giving love

made flesh, as God's expressed image, displays all of God's character, nature and authority in one picture.

**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”**

**John 14:6-7**

If someone sends us a text with an emoji which we do not recognize, we are left in the dark and confused about what the writer intended to imply. In other words we can not comprehend the message because we are in darkness, not having the truth revealed to us. Consider then what might happen if we ask someone else what it means. They might interpret it any way they choose, giving it a meaning which the original sender did not intend. They could also lie, telling you it means this or that, but knowing it means something else. Is this not how Satan deceived even in the garden? Lying and twisting what God actually spoke?

Why is this important? Because we must establish a precedent for what darkness really is and how the devil uses it to operate in the world through deception.

**Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. “Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. John 8:42-43**

Here is yet another confirmation in the Word. Jesus (the Word) proceeded out of God, sent of God... in other words spoken out by God. The Jews who Jesus was speaking to could not comprehend his words, because they were not the children of God, being filled with the Life or Light of God. Having God's light would have allowed them to see the son of man as the disciples did. Yet their pride and religion blinded them to whom it was they were truly serving, and to who's family they really belonged. Continuing on Jesus says...

**“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:42-44**

Going back to the emoji... Let's suppose we ask someone who is walking in the light of Christ what it means? They will give an answer based upon whatever amount of pure light

(Godly truth) is in them. But, to whatever extent they are not fully manifesting Christ in them, that interpretation will be tainted with darkness. In other words, impure. Leavened with some amount of their own flesh speaking, and not the pure WORD of God.

On the other hand, let's ask someone who doesn't know God at all. They could guess and perhaps get the right answer, but that guess is simply based upon their own fleshly understanding. There is no truth/light in it. In fact, their response is more likely to be one layered in darkness and confusion, because their master is not the author of truth, but instead the father of lies. That's a harsh statement, but if the Jews could be so deceived as to whom they were serving... God's own people... could it be that we may be, even a little, confused about who we are serving? A little leaven, leavens the whole lump.

### SHADES OF GREY

This is why Jesus says he is the ONLY way to the father. There is only light and darkness. One spirit representing kingdom of Light (Christ), the other representing the kingdom of darkness (anti-christ). Anyone who says they are in the middle, is simply confused under some level of darkness. There are in fact no *shades of grey* in the Kingdom of God, only in Satan's kingdom of darkness. Satan has designed it that way, having infinite layers of darkness, lies, deceit, confusion, etc.

This is a perfect picture of spiritual (Mystery) Babylon. Infinite shades of everything that is not of the Light of Christ.

In the same way that heavenly Jerusalem represents the corporate bride of Christ, Mystery Babylon is a metaphorical city representing the corporate kingdom of Satan. The seat of his power in the earth. Notice she, the great harlot, rides the beast, representing Egypt or the summation of worldly empires.

Her citizens are spiritual captives, even if they know it not. Some are walking out their life in just a tiny bit of darkness, while others are so deep in lies, that they can be used of the devil to commit any sort of evil he desires. What they fail to realize though is that Satan ultimately may only do what God allows. Satan, and all his kingdom, Spiritual Babylon, serve one purpose only... the chastisement of God's people when they go astray! This is what captivity in Babylon represented in the Old Testament, and the same applies today. Some of her captives are held in chains visible to the human eye, while the bondage of others is less apparent. But, regardless of this, they are all blinded to some level of truth, because they choose not to walk in the light.

More so, as they are already blinded to truth, they are either unaware, or refuse to recognize the danger which this great war of kingdom against kingdom poses to them individually.

## **BABYLON IS FALLING!**

The people of this earth have been given a chance to save themselves. Just as in the days of Noah, a moment of decision is upon the earth. Judgment is coming—not without warning—but with an open door of mercy. They must choose to jump aboard God's eternal Lifeboat, before the judgement on Babylon falls. They must turn from the darkness completely, by choosing to enter through the narrow door (Christ) into God's kingdom of Light. There is only one way to escape the judgements coming on the earth, and that is to turn to Jesus, and run as fast as you can from Babylon... physically, emotionally and spiritually.

**And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”**

**Revelation 18:4–5**

To be safe from these judgements, it is not simply enough to be called a child of God. As we can see from this verse, sharing in the plagues sent upon Babylon is exactly what God's people can expect if they refuse to flee. So, how then do we flee a spiritual city as spiritual people.

**“Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty. 2 Cor 6:17–18**

**“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other... Matthew 6:24**

## **WHO DO YOU SERVE?**

There are countless numbers in the church today who call themselves Christians, yet they do not believe the word of God. They say they know Jesus, but do not know the Word. You can not know the one without the other, and you can not know God if you do not know Jesus. If you do not know Jesus... the Word, Light, Life and truth of God, then you are doomed to darkness. Worse off, you are blinded by that darkness to receiving further light. This is sadly where most of the so-called church is today. So much so, that God is sending

great tribulations and persecution to wake up as many as possible before it is too late for them.

Those whom serve Satan, and his bride the harlot, choose to love what God hates, and hate what God loves. They are in fact in complete opposition to all that God is, loving the darkness more than the light. Ruled not by the spirit of Christ (Holy Spirit), but by anti-christ.

Yet there is another group of people we haven't touched on here. Throughout history, God has always reserved a remnant. Today this is his first fruits and bride. You might wonder what separates this bride and the wise virgins from the others? Sure, they had enough oil (Holy Spirit) for their lamps. But what is this Holy Spirit? Is it not God's own zoe Life, living within them? Is this not God's breath (word) living in the temple of their flesh? They know their Lord, and are ready for when he comes. They are not distracted by the lures of Babylon, with all her idolatry, lusts, greed, envy, etc. In fact, they want no part of her. They hate everything that God hates, and love everything that God loves. They don't just know God, or believe he dwells in them, their works prove God is in them.

It all comes down to whom we individually choose to serve. We either choose willingly to submit to the rulership (headship) of Christ, or we will by DEFAULT fall into the bondage of the anti-christ. See, we don't need to make the choice to follow Satan, that's the default setting when we are born with. If we do nothing, we already belong to Satan, because of Adam's sin. Only Jesus sets us free from our default eternal setting of separation from God... Hell.

The ability to follow Christ, to walk in His light, comes from the Holy Spirit writing God's laws and commandments on our hearts. It is not through religious works or following the letter of the Mosaic law. If that didn't work for the Jews, it won't work for us. Coming out of Babylon is choosing to rise up spiritually out of the bonds of darkness, allowing God to reveal his truth to us, and being willing to fully submit to all of his desires for us.

Submission means that when the Holy Spirit says put this or that out of our life, we don't question His wisdom, we obey. When He says turn away from pornography or drugs, we don't make excuses why we can't. We simply trust His ability to set us free.

Coming out of Babylon is not merely an act of separation—it is an awakening. Light does more than expose darkness; it forces a choice. Once truth is seen, it cannot be unseen. Once light is received, neutrality is no longer possible.

This is why Babylon does not fall quietly. She resists exposure. She tightens her grip. She offers substitutes for obedience and distractions for discernment. And many who begin the journey out of her gates discover that the greatest chains were never external at all.

The wilderness reveals Babylon's lies, but it also exposes something closer to home—the habits, loyalties, and internal agreements that kept us bound even while we believed we were free. Before the Bride can walk fully in light, she must confront the nature of bondage itself. Not as an accusation, but as a mercy.

Freedom begins with truth. And truth, once revealed, demands a response.

## CHAPTER 13

# Come Out and Be Ye Separate

## Voluntary Consecration

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. Ezra 1:1-3

This book is just a whisper of a corporate shout which is resonating in the Body of Christ, from the very heart of God. A proclamation is going forth in all the land once again. Return to Jerusalem, build the temple and rebuild her walls of separation. Those who call themselves the people of God have a choice. Run with the remnant from Babylon, into the place where God is leading, both spiritually and physically. Or suffer in the fate of her falling.

## LEAVING BABYLON

Let's look closer at what it means to leave Babylon and live in God's courts. To leave Babylon is to love the things that God Loves and hate the things that God hates. It begins with a healthy fear of the Lord. Fear of the Lord begins with an understanding that God loves justice and hates inequity. It means having an understanding of God's sovereignty, along with his ability and willingness to punish those who do evil as he so chooses.

A total, complete and willing submission (circumcision of the heart) to all God's plans for your life.

## WALKING IN THE LIGHT, A LIFE OF SUBMISSION

Submission is the fuel which powers our walk with Jesus. Enabling us to finish our race in victory. Our role is to allow submission, to anything God requires of us, to reign in our lives. By doing so, we convert the energy of the daily sacrifice of our flesh (our continual burnt offering) into the power necessary to achieve the desired results as God leads.

What is the desired end result God is wishing to attain in us? Why is this submission so important? God desires a continual act of sacrificing our flesh daily on the his alter. Sacrificing our flesh, metaphorically represents the laying down of ALL of our purpose, will, agenda, plans, dreams and goals. Giving all these things over to the Lordship of Jesus. This act is the equivalent of allowing God's will, nature and character, to supersede our own will in ALL things. The act of dying to our flesh a little more each day allows God room to reshape our soul and spirit, to be a little more like Christ every time we submit to do something his way and not our own. It is this continual dying process which changes our image... or who we represent... our emoji if you are following along... into the image of Christ!

Ponder this thought for a moment. The word name is defined as character, nature and authority. Our "name" represents who we are. Both how we appear on the outside, as well as how people see us on the inside... or our character, nature and authority. I, Mark Bevan, have authority to place my name on this cover of this book, as I am the one who wrote it. My name is associated with my social security number assigned to me alone by the government where I was born. Both my name and number identify me, as does my physical appearance... think facial recognition, fingerprints, even DNA. I am unique person who was born as Mark Bevan. I do have the power if I so choose, to change many aspects of this appearance, but even if I do, I am still ultimately me. I have the authority to execute contracts in the name of Mark Bevan, but if I legally change my name to John, then I can no longer legally sign my name as Mark. Yet that authority is still mine. I also have the authority (power) to submit my will to do whatever God desires of me, instead of what I will to do. In this case I have willfully submitted my authority as Mark Bevan from doing what I want, to the obedience of Christ.

By doing so, a unique change has occurred. Suddenly my nature, character has outwardly changed. I did not act as I normally would, I instead acted as Jesus would act in a given situation. This produces a change in my (known) character which is noticeable to others. Others may question their thinking saying, "Is this the person I know? They seem different?" Repeat that action over and over again, and the actions become habit. These

habits become the new definition of my character... a portion of my "name". If I exercise this new behavior enough, then it is the very act of submitting to God in everything, which begins to define me. All of a sudden, I need a new emoji, because people no longer recognize the old one. This new emoji, carries with it all the authority of Mark Bevan, but with the nature and character of Jesus Chris as well. I have in fact become Christ like, through my own action of laying down my own life, and allowing him to live in me instead. I now choose to live in God LIFE (Jesus), having God LIGHT (Jesus), and the spirit of Truth (Jesus) in me.

**"the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."**

**Collossians 1:26-27**

There is no other "WAY" to eternal LIFE, but by the Life of Christ. This is the reason Jesus has authority to say he is the WAY! There is no eternal salvation, unless Jesus lives in us. The extent he lives in us is determined by how much we submit to God's will and not our own. So, for those who think they can simply say a prayer and have eternal life, continuing in their sins and as their own dead person... death is what they will receive. They are striving in their own natural flesh, and the only thing that flesh can do is die. It can not live, because it is filled not with Christ, but serves instead the spirit of anti-christ.

The harlot, mystery Babylon, operates in the same spirit of Anti-Christ. She says...

"Do whatever YOU want. Do whatever makes YOU happy. Live YOUR life to the fullest now. Do it YOUR way. God wants YOU to be happy right? So, God must want YOU to do the things which make YOU happy. YOU know what is best for YOU. Who do YOU think you are to try and be something YOU are not? Just be YOURSELF, and never mind what people think of you. It's ok,

 (SELF) = SATAN /  
**BABYLON**

Babylon's core message is self...

"You are your own authority"

"Be true to yourself"

"Follow your heart"

"Define your own truth"

"Do whatever YOU want.

Do whatever makes YOU happy.

YOU know best."

That is **anti-Christ** identity.

*Babylon offers a counterfeit image — an icon of self — promising freedom while erasing truth.*

God will forgive YOU if you sin. That's just the way God made YOU. God understands that YOU have been hurt, cheated, lied to. He understands you can't forgive. He'll still forgive YOU even if YOU don't forgive. Never mind what the Bible says, YOU are wise... YOU know best!"

This mindset is the exact opposite of the mind of Christ. It is in fact Anti-Christ. Jesus says in John 8:29 "**And He (God) who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him (God).**" There was no room there for Jesus to question God the Father. No room to complain or argue, only to completely submit to the father's will, even onto death of his own flesh. We all must overcome our flesh one way or another... either willingly through submission to allowing the LIFE of Christ to live completely in us, or in physical death. In the days ahead, Millions of so-called Christians are about to perish needlessly out of this earthly life, because they fail to understand what it really means to live. Listen to these words from Jesus...

**"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.  
He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will  
find it."** Matthew 10:38-39

## CHAPTER 14

# The Preparation of the Bride

## Garments, Oil and Readiness

Writing this book has been one of the most difficult things I have ever done. There are many reasons for this, but perhaps the biggest reason I struggle is that many of the ideas presented here are so far outside the conventional thinking of our day. They are eccentric to the point of being rejected by most. In fact, I've spent the last fourteen years, trying to convince others of the validity of my viewpoints. Much to no avail. However, this book is not written for the many, but instead for the few. Over and over again since I first began writing this book, The Lord reminds me that his true bride needs no convincing. She already knows who she is, and she fully understands the struggles that await her. She understands these things simply because the Lord has already revealed them in her. Those holding any doubt, second guessing their place in the body, or stuck in the mindset of a pretribulation "all fly away" rapture, are soon to find out that they are not as close to the Lord as they have believed. To be the Lord's bride, we must be overcomers... but overcomers of what?

**"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Rev 12:11**

Not what, but who? Christians must overcome Satan, and all his kingdom... the world (Figuratively Egypt) as well as the religious apostacy of Babylon.

What follows is not allegory for its own sake, nor creative theology layered over Scripture. It is pattern recognition. What God reveals in the heavens through prophecy, He often reveals first on the earth through history. The book of Esther is not merely a story of courage—it is a prophetic rehearsal.

There are plenty of Christians who understand the sacrifice of Jesus. Some even testify of their redemption. But, the true bride of Christ holds not a care for any part of her own life in this world. She holds no allegiance to earthly kingdoms nor the religions of men. She is humble and meek like Esther, having an inner beauty that is radiant with the light of Christ

shinning forth. She lives a surrendered life onto her KING, Savior and betrothed husband, Jesus.

It is for these, that the marriage feast of the Lamb is being prepared, and it is to these that I write. Each of God's children is given a specific role to play in his kingdom. Many Christians recognize the offices of the evangelist, preacher and teachers. Some, but not all, believe as well in the role of Prophet and Apostle. These are well recognized roles within the body. However anyone can see by simple observation, that even our natural body is comprised of many more than five parts. God has a role for each and every one. My role is to be a guide to the Lord's bride during the very dark days ahead. A lighthouse so to speak. One sent ahead, like John the Baptist, crying out from the wilderness. Like Joseph, preparing a place for her to dine in celebration with her King. To me, it has been given to share the wisdom and understanding I have gained during my wilderness time with her. That she might be prepared and made ready. And that she would be nourished and protected for a season, until her time to reign with her husband arrives.

## GOD'S PLAN OF PROTECTION, PROVISION AND THE MATURING OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

This bride is but a tiny remnant within what we call the "church" as most know it today. Have you ever noticed that she is never mentioned in any of the parables Jesus speaks about weddings? The only people mentioned are the friends/family of the bride and groom, and their servants. The bride is not a part of the virgins in Matthew 25, and she isn't mentioned in Matthew 22 either. It could be said that Jesus was only trying to make a point, and that she wasn't necessary in the conversation. Yet it is to the "church" as a whole which we liken to the wise and foolish virgins. It is directed toward the church when we refer to the "servants of God". But there is a reason she isn't included in these discussions. Like Jesus, she has already made herself ready, by dying to her own flesh in spirit and truth. She has, and is, continually laid upon the alter of sacrifice, and needs no further correction. After all she is the one being honored along with the groom at the wedding. She is the one, from among all the beautiful virgins, whom the Lord chose to marry.

What Revelation reveals cosmically, Esther reveals incarnationally—the same conflict, the same woman, the same authority, unveiled at a different scale. The book of Ester is a beautiful prophetic glimpse at what will occur in our day. If we look at this a parable, as well

as a historical record, then we can discern many important aspects of this bride of Christ and God's plan for her.

**Then the king's servants who attended him said: "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king; "and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given them. "Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This thing pleased the king, and he did so. Esther 2:2-4**

As the story goes, the king selects Esther, a beautiful and humble young lady who just happened to be of Jewish descent. Esther is taken in to the house of the women, where she is prepared to meet her king.

**So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women.**

**Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.**

#### **Esther 2:8-9**

Esther was not brought up in the Kings palace. She lived a humble life in the country under the care of her uncle Mordecai. To be made worthy of taking the position of the king's bride, she would need a bit of preparation. Learning how to be a fit queen, or bride, without spot or wrinkle.

Since Esther was about to go from the corn field to the palace, she needed a change of perspective. She needed a time of separation from her family, and the life she had previously known. So that she might be able to receive the new life being offered to her.

Esther's removal from public life was not rejection—it was protection. Before authority is exercised, it must be concealed. Before a crown is worn, the heart must be formed. God does not prepare His Bride in the open court, but in hidden places where ambition dies and trust is learned.

Ponder this... Immediately after Jesus was baptized by John, the spirit led him into the wilderness. It is in this spiritual wilderness, as we have already discussed, that Jesus was prepared for what was to come. Notice that He chose to go to the wilderness (deserted place) often during His ministry on earth, in order to seek the Father's will and wisdom. Esther had a choice. She chose to humbly submit to the king, and all his servant's requests. Because of her willingness and cooperation, she earned great favor.

**Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women. Esther 2:12**

Oil comes before fragrance because intimacy must precede visibility; submission before adornment; identity before presentation.

### MADE SPOTLESS

During her preparation time, the Bride like Esther is getting cleaned up and made beautiful. She is putting on her spotless & blemish-less wedding attire... representing the righteous acts of the saints. Secondly, she's being taught Christ like faith, while at the same time learning how to rule as future queen. That means she needs to be familiar with all the laws of her father's kingdom and learn the discipline needed to rule justly. This all takes time and the right environment. Apparently, it takes a year at the spa to get the stink off. That should give us a clue about where the bride of Christ is really at today. She needs a lot of perfume because her current state of living is not as clean as she thinks.

One reason I love destination weddings is that the bride and groom can relax, even be pampered in paradise while all the last-minute preparations are made by someone trained for the task. It also means more quiet time to reflect and meditate on God's word and promises.

Something else not to be overlooked here is the significance of the time. Traditionally, in a Jewish wedding, there is a period of separation of one year. In the old days, the groom would go and prepare a room for himself and his soon to be wife at his father's house. That should sound familiar, as Jesus said he was going to prepare a place for us in His Father's house. Notice also that Esther's time is split equally here. Six months of oil, six months of perfume. I believe this is symbolic of the first 3.5 years and the last 3.5 years of the seven-year tribulation.

In Hebrew tradition, the year of separation between the bride and groom was meant to prepare them for the days ahead. It was a time of personal growth, where both had individual responsibilities to the other, yet they would not have intimate contact. This long period allowed for deep contemplation of the covenant relationship they had entered, as well as being a time for their affections for each other to grow. They would often write letters to each other, or send words through a messenger. We see this beautiful picture of two people deeply in love played out in the words of the Song of Solomon.

**“My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.” Song of Solomon 2:10**

## LEARNING TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY

There is yet one more very important aspect of the Bride’s training we should discuss.

**Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king’s palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women. Esther 2:9 (edited for context)**

Esther is brought into the “house of the women,” a communal living arrangement, under the observation of one of the Kings trusted servants Hegai. The bride, like Esther, needs to learn to live in community closely with others if she is going to become the corporate body of Christ. She needs to learn that her relationships with fellow members of the body are no different than her relationship with Christ. She cannot love one and hate another. Instead, she must learn true unity under the headship of Christ. This is a major part of the Christian life which the establishment church in general has missed for a very long time. Paul writes...

**“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” 1 Corinthians 1:10**

There will be no place for individualism in doctrine inside the doors of the wedding feast. The bride will have to lay aside all denominational thinking and take up the pure unleavened Word of God. This will amount in large part to laying down their own will in submission, that she might receive the mind of Christ. The same is true for nationalism, politics, pride, lust, etc.

## THE BRIDE CROWNED AS QUEEN

After this year of preparation, she finds much favor with the king, and becomes his queen.

**“The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king made a great feast, the Feast of Esther, for all his officials and servants; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces and gave gifts according to the generosity of a king.” Esther 2:17-18**

It is critical to notice the order. Esther is crowned before Haman appears. Authority is granted before accusation is raised. God never positions His Bride reactively—He establishes her before the enemy reveals himself.

A short time later tribulation erupts for all the Jews living in the kingdom, due to the jealous hearts of evil men like Haman.

**Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people’s, and they do not keep the king’s laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. “If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed... Esther 3:8-9**

But, we are about to see why God raised up both Mordacai and Esther at such a time as this. For the saving of His people. Esther, taking great courage, instructs Mordacai to;

**“Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.” Esther 4:16**

This was not bravery born of desperation—it was covenant language. The Bride does not calculate survival; she yields her life because it no longer belongs to her.

What Esther doesn’t know is that God has given her great favor in the sight of the king. In fact the king, offers her any request, up to half his kingdom! That’s a lot of favor, and the authority to go with it! She is now uniquely positioned to reign, as queen, on behalf of her

people. She soon acts alongside Mordacai, signing a declaration with the King's ring, to bring a great deliverance for the Jews, and destruction to her enemies.

Esther remains—alive, crowned, and governing—while the enemy falls by his own device. This is not incidental. It is prophetic. The Bride is not removed before the conflict; she is prepared for it. She is not saved by escape, but by authority exercised in alignment with the King.

## CHAPTER 15

# The Wedding before the Wedding

## Engagement, Covenant, and the Cost of Yes

**“He who has the bride is the bridegroom...” John 3:29**

It can be difficult to understand the kind of relationship Jesus intends to have with His people. For many, faith has been framed almost entirely in terms of forgiveness, belief, or escape. Yet Scripture consistently speaks in a different register—one far more intimate, demanding, and covenantal.

**“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church...” Ephesians 5:25**

The love described here is not sentimental. The Greek word *agapaō* carries the weight of devotion, pursuit, and costly commitment. It means to cherish, to choose, to give oneself fully for another. This is not distant affection. It is covenant love.

If Christ loves the Church this way, then it should not surprise us that He courts her.

When a man truly falls in love, his attention narrows. His priorities shift. He pursues—not to possess, but to win trust. He studies her heart, honors her boundaries, and proves himself faithful over time. This is how Jesus relates to those He loves. He does not coerce. He does not rush. He draws near, again and again, until the heart responds freely.

To the natural mind, this pursuit can seem reckless. Why leave the ninety-nine? Why chase the one? Yet love is rarely efficient. Love is intentional.

### UNDERSTANDING THE BRIDE’S ROLE

There is a reason Scripture so often uses marriage to describe our relationship with Christ. But to understand it rightly, we must be willing to see the Church in the posture God assigns her.

The Church is not portrayed as the husband in this relationship. She is portrayed as the bride.

This matters—especially in an age of confusion around identity, authority, and submission. God’s design for marriage reveals something essential about how covenant works. Masculine and feminine traits are not interchangeable; they are complementary. Protection and provision meet nurture and trust. Leadership meets response. Together, they form a household capable of bearing fruit.

To understand Christ’s love rightly, we must be able to receive it rightly.

For some, this is uncomfortable. Men may struggle with the idea of being “married” to Christ. Women may struggle with the idea of submission—especially if submission has been distorted or abused. Yet Scripture does not apologize for the metaphor. It redeems it.

To reject the image is to risk misunderstanding the covenant.

## MEETING THE KING

Our first encounter with Jesus plants a seed. Rarely does it begin with full understanding. Often it begins simply—with awareness.

For years, I knew *of* Jesus without knowing Him. He was a figure in a story. A name in history. A character in a film. I did not dispute His existence, but I did not know His voice.

Knowing about someone is not the same as knowing them.

I think of the day I first met my wife. I had no idea that she would become my bride. I wasn’t searching for a lifelong covenant—I was seventeen. Yet something shifted the moment our paths crossed. Interest turned into pursuit. Pursuit turned into sacrifice. I found myself breaking routines, stepping outside my comfort zone, rearranging priorities—all for the chance to see her again.

Love has a way of reorganizing a life.

Jesus does something similar, though with infinitely more patience and care. He never violates our will. He never forces affection. He draws, invites, waits—and waits some more.

**“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—  
For your love is better than wine.” Song of Solomon 1:2**

From our very first breath, Christ has been turning our affections away from lesser loves. Not by condemnation, but by invitation. His aim has always been covenant.

## BETROTHAL, NOT ESCAPE

Scripture reveals that marriage, in God's economy, begins long before consummation. In Hebrew tradition, engagement—*kiddushin*—was binding. A bride was set apart. A covenant was signed. A price was paid. Yet there remained a season of preparation before the wedding feast itself.

This season was not punishment. It was not delay. It was intentional separation for the sake of readiness. The groom went to prepare a place. The bride learned how to live in covenant. This is the context in which Jesus says, "I go to prepare a place for you."

Betrothal is not escape. It is commitment without immediacy. Promise without possession. And it costs something.

## THE WEDDING BEFORE THE WEDDING

In recent years, the Lord placed something unusual on my heart: the image of a wedding before the wedding. A season of preparation, celebration, and intimacy that precedes the final unveiling. I believe this is what many mistake when they expect instant rescue instead of sustained formation.

Jesus' ministry followed this same pattern. For three and a half years, He invited people into His Father's Kingdom. Many followed casually. But a few were called by name. Those who responded left homes, livelihoods, and familiar structures—not because they were forced, but because they were drawn. They were being courted by the King.

This did not end at the cross. Their preparation allowed them to receive the Spirit when the time came. They were ready—not because they knew everything, but because they trusted the One who called them.

## A DESTINATION PREPARED BY THE FATHER

I've always loved weddings—especially the moments away from the noise. My wife and I were young when we married, with little money and few resources. We skipped the spectacle, but we did not skip the honeymoon. Those early days of rest, bonding, and intimacy shaped our marriage in ways we did not understand at the time.

Years later, I see the wisdom in it. God prepares His covenants with the same care. Scripture shows us places of refuge—Goshen, the ark, the wilderness—not as permanent destinations, but as vessels through transition. Places where God shelters, nourishes, and multiplies His people while something greater is being prepared. These are not escapes from responsibility. They are environments of formation. The Father knows what His Bride will need before she steps into glory.

## COUNTING THE COST

To say yes to betrothal is to say no to something else. Familiar systems may fall away. Old identities may loosen their grip. Institutional comfort may be replaced by relational dependence. This is not because God is cruel—but because intimacy cannot grow where allegiance is divided.

Some will wait. Some will delay. Some will assume there will be time later. Scripture is clear that many are invited—but few respond early. This is not condemnation. It is consequence. Those who accept the invitation are not promised ease. They are promised presence.

## CLOSING INVITATION

This chapter is not written to persuade everyone. It is written to recognize those who already feel the stirring. The invitation is real. The cost is real. The preparation is intentional. This is not the wedding yet. It is the wedding before the wedding.

For those who hear the voice of the Bridegroom and respond, the season ahead—however unfamiliar—will not be wasted. “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

## FROM INVITATION TO REVELATION

The language of courtship is beautiful—but it is not the whole story.

Every covenant in Scripture is followed by conflict, not because the covenant is weak, but because it is real. Engagement does not remove opposition; it provokes it. The moment a bride says yes, unseen forces begin to react. Preparation gives way to pressure. Love attracts resistance.

What follows is not a change of subject, but a change of altitude.

Revelation 12 pulls back the veil and shows what the invitation has always been preparing for: a war that did not begin on earth, a conflict that does not wait for consensus, and a role the Bride does not choose—but must understand if she is to survive what comes next.

The wedding has an enemy. And heaven has already ruled.

# ACT IV

## The Storm & the Shaking

“Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken... that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.”

Hebrews 12:27

### Judgment · Separation · Refining Fire

This Act reveals what covenant produces under pressure.

The storm does not create the remnant — it exposes her.

Everything named earlier is now tested: doctrine, allegiance, obedience, intimacy, and identity. What was chosen quietly is revealed publicly. What was counterfeit collapses under weight.

Judgment in this Act is not theatrical wrath. It is exposure. False authority is unmasked. Counterfeit brides are revealed. Systems that demanded allegiance are stripped of their power.

#### How NOT to read this Act

- Do not read the storm as God losing control.
- Do not look for triumphalism here.
- Do not search for refuge mechanics yet.

Nothing is being established yet.

Nothing is being explained yet.

Act IV ends with distinction made plain, not safety secured — because clarity under pressure must precede inheritance.

## CHAPTER 16

# The Manchil and the Bride

## Firstfruits, Authority, and the War in Heaven

### Reader's Note

The chapter that follows addresses realities rarely taught openly and often misunderstood when encountered prematurely. What is presented here is not intended to divide believers, but it may divide *paths*.

Read slowly. Test everything. Hold fast to Christ above systems, traditions, or the approval of others. These truths are not dangerous—but mishandling them can be.

Let the Spirit, not fear or ambition, be your guide.

**“And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun...”**  
Revelation 12:1

Revelation 12 is not a mystery chapter meant to confuse the Church.  
It is a summary chapter meant to orient her.

John is not introducing new ideas here. He is compressing the entire redemptive conflict—stretching from Eden to the end—into a single sign, shown from heaven’s point of view. This chapter explains why the pressure increases, why the Bride is preserved, why the enemy’s time is short, and why the earth itself begins to respond differently.

When Revelation 12 is misunderstood, the Church misidentifies the enemy, the Bride misreads her role, and fear replaces discernment. But when it is understood rightly, panic gives way to rest, and obedience replaces speculation.

This chapter does not tell us *what* to do. It tells us *why* what is happening is happening.

## A SIGN — NOT A TIMELINE

**“Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.” Rev 12:1**

John begins with words that should slow us down, *“A great sign appeared in heaven...”* Not a headline. Not a prediction chart. Not a linear sequence of future events, but a sign.

A sign reveals meaning. It shows relationships. It declares authority. Revelation 12 is not written from earth’s confusion but from heaven’s clarity. It spans Eden, Christ, the Church, and the final conflict—not sequentially, but theologically. This chapter reveals the war behind the wars.

## THE WOMAN: ONE IDENTITY, MANY EXPRESSIONS

The woman of Revelation 12 cannot be flattened into a single category. She is not *only* Mary. She is not *only* Israel. She is not *only* the Church. She is **Zion embodied**—God’s covenant people seen as one continuous woman because covenant does not restart. It unfolds.

She appears:

- clothed with the sun — bearing divine life and glory
- standing on the moon — authority over reflected light and seasons
- crowned with twelve stars — governmental fullness rooted in apostolic and tribal foundations

This woman is Eve promised deliverance (Genesis 3:15). She is Israel carrying Messiah. She is Mary giving birth to Christ. She is Zion birthing sons. **She is the Bride being prepared.** Not either/or... All.

## THE MANCHILD: FIRSTFRUITS BEFORE THE BRIDE

*“She bore a male child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.”* (Revelation 12:5)

This language is deliberate. It comes directly from Psalm 2—language of kingship and authority. But what matters here is not speculation. It is pattern. The Manchild is not the Bride, and the Manchild is not Jesus alone.

Jesus is the source. The Manchild is Christ manifested corporately—a firstfruits company brought into mature authority through obedience, surrender, and death to self.

Scripture is consistent:

Jesus is the firstfruits of the Father (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Believers are called firstfruits of His creation (James 1:18).

A company is identified as firstfruits to God and the Lamb (Revelation 14:4).

Firstfruits are not elite. They are not self-appointed. They are not louder or more gifted.

They are simply **prepared earlier**. Authority in God's kingdom does not come from position. It comes from death, and these first fruits are the first to die to themselves fully.

## ZION GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED HERE

This is where Zion must be understood correctly. Zion is not an emotional experience.

Zion is not a worship high. Zion is government under God's authority. Zion represents the place where God governs through vessels who no longer govern themselves. It is not institutional. It is not denominational. It is not political. It is spiritual authority exercised through those who have fully yielded to Christ's headship.

The Manchild represents the initial establishment of Zion government—quietly, legally, and without spectacle. Authority is seated in heaven before it is ever recognized on earth. This is why the Bride is not revealed yet. Government precedes glory.

## WAR IN HEAVEN: THE ACCUSER REMOVED

**“war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.”**

**Revelation 12:7-8**

This moment is decisive. Satan is not defeated for the first time here. He is removed from legal standing. The courtroom closes. The accuser loses access. This fulfills what we see in Job, Zechariah, and Daniel. From this point forward, Satan is no longer arguing legality. He is enforcing rage.

**“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Rev 12:9**

That is why Scripture immediately declares:

**“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth... for the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” (Revelation 12:12)**

Wrath increases not because Satan is winning, but because he is losing.

**“Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child.*” Rev 12:13**

### **WHY THE BRIDE IS HIDDEN AFTER VICTORY**

This is where many stumble. The woman flees **after** the Manchild is enthroned. After authority is secured. After heaven rejoices. Why? Because victory in heaven produces backlash on earth. The wilderness is not rejection. It is mercy. Israel was preserved in Goshen. Elijah was hidden. Mary fled with the child. God does not expose what He has not yet fully prepared.

**“Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” Rev 12:6**

**...the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. Rev 12:14**

Satan is mad, being filled with great wrath. He has been cast down to Earth and takes out his frustration on the one to whom his prior authority has been now given. Back to the woman where it always belonged. It will take some wilderness preparation time for her to learn to wield that authority, just like Esther needed to be prepared in the kings house. In the meantime, Satan realizes his plan is failing and will stop at nothing to get revenge.

**So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.**

## THE EARTH HELPS THE WOMAN

**But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.**

**Rev 12:15-16**

This verse is quietly revolutionary. Creation itself responds because jurisdiction has shifted. Heaven has ruled. Authority has been seated. And the earth, long subjected to futility, begins to cooperate. This fulfills Romans 8. This signals Genesis 3 is beginning to reverse. This echoes Psalm 2. This is not merely protection. This is Eden reasserting itself under righteous government. The earth here is literally helping to protect the Bride, from the dragon and the beast.

**And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Rev 12:17**

A very important note: The Bride here is not removed from the Earth. Her first born (first fruits) are “caught up” for training and kingdom revelation just like John and Paul. They are not removed either, for both have a job to do. They are preparing the way for the Kingdom of God to manifest on the Earth. Yet, here is where a distinction is made between the Bride and the virgins. The Bride enters into the marriage feast first, because she is ready. But the virgins are left waiting, because they have not prepared themselves spiritually as the Bride has. These are the “rest of her offspring” mentioned above. Satan can not reach the Bride where the Lord has hidden her, but he can reach the rest of the church, those left waiting outside the doors. For these awaits a season of tribulation. This is the reason we all want to be found on the inside, and the time to make that decision is now.

## MEASURED TIME, NOT CHAOS

The repeated references to 1,260 days and 42 months are not for prediction. They are for assurance. Evil is permitted—but limited. Testing is allowed—but measured. Witness is preserved. God does not merely warn His people. He sets the boundaries of the trial.

Revelation 12 does not invite repentance. It explains reaction. It answers the Bride’s unspoken question: **“Why did things intensify after we said yes?”** Because heaven ruled. Authority has transferred. The time of accusation has ended. Resistance has increased.

Revelation 12 is not about terror. It is about transfer. Authority transfers. Government transfers. Support transfers. The woman is not abandoned, but instead positioned. The wilderness is not exile. It is preservation. And the dragon is not winning. He is out of time.

### A PASTORAL WORD

This chapter may cost the reader comfort. It may cost familiarity. It may cost acceptance. But it will give clarity. And clarity, in this hour, is not optional. It is survival.

## CHAPTER 17

# Mystery Babylon the Great

## The Counterfeit Bride Exposed

In the last chapter, we examined the Bride of Christ—her preparation, her authority, and her place in God’s unfolding plan. Scripture revealed her as a city, the New Jerusalem, crowned by Zion, carrying corporately the life and Spirit of Christ in the earth. Now we must look at her opposite. Just as God has a Bride, so does Satan.

John writes:

“So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast... And on her forehead a name was written: **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**  
...And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.” **Revelation 17:3–6, 18**

Babylon carries layered meaning in Scripture—historical, spiritual, and metaphorical. While it refers to real empires and cities, prophetically it represents a governing system opposed to God. And at its head stands a woman.

*Babylon defined as a noun is a city devoted to materialism and sensual pleasure.*

Recall back in chapter one, that we made a distinction between the empire of Babylonia and her capitol city, Babylon. This is important because metaphorically a capitol city represents the leadership of a nation/state. As an example, the term “Washington” is often used to describe the general leadership of the United States of America, where as the “White House” is used to describe the presidential role specifically.

### BABYLON AS A CITY OF AUTHORITY

Throughout Scripture, Babylon carries layered meaning—physical, spiritual, and metaphorical. Historically, it was an empire. Prophetically, it is a system. Spiritually, it is a counterfeit kingdom.

A city in Scripture often represents authority and governance. In the same way that “Washington” refers not merely to buildings but to leadership, Babylon represents the seat of power within Satan’s kingdom.

Just as The Lord likens His bride to a city, so does Satan his bride. This mystery Babylon, we see in Revelation is the capital city of a nation. Satan does not invent—he counterfeits. As

Spiritual Israel is ruled by New Jerusalem, so is the kingdom of Babylon ruled by the city of Babylon. It is not the city of Washington D.C. that is important, except the seat of power it represents, it's capitol, or head of state. This corporate harlot represents the bride, and first fruits of Satan. By "first fruits," we mean those who most fully embody his nature and rule under his authority—not a redeemed category, but a mature expression of rebellion. These are his ruling government system of spiritual Babylon. She is a corporate body in the earth, who receives power from Satan's demonic forces, just as the church receives help from Jesus and the angel armies. She rides the beast—meaning she uses worldly power, empire, and authority to enforce spiritual deception. Religion harnesses government to do its work. In essence, she uses the beasts to do her dirty work.

A nation having a queen, also has need of a king. Her King, or husband is Satan.

**It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, The golden city ceased! The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, The scepter of the rulers. He who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, He who ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted *and* no one hinders.** Isaiah 14:3-14:6

This verse is foretelling the future destruction of Babylon, however watch what happens in vs 12.

**"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'** Isaiah 14:12-14

The scripture was discussing the king of Babylon, then we see Lucifer mentioned. This is because they are one in the same. Not in the sense that Nebuchadnezzar was Satan, but that he was operating in the spirit of Satan/Lucifer or Antichrist. This is a clear example of prophetic dual fulfillment—historical and future, natural and spiritual. Here we are talking about the natural fulfillment of the destruction of the Babylonian empire by Cyrus, and at the same time it speaks of a future destruction of a future metaphorical Babylon. To conquer the kingdom, the capital (it's spiritual head) must fall.

## MOTHER OF HARLOTS

Let's go back to the harlot. She is the head of all apostate false religion, the counterfeit Christ. She can only rule as dominion is given to her by the willingness of men. She is the corporate Jezebel, both the wife and daughter of Satan. She represents a corporate body of people in the earth who all have the spirit of antichrist as their head. But she also symbolizes the leadership of that body. Just as Jesus extends authority to His bride to lead his Church, so Satan gives authority in his kingdom to the Harlot to lead. These are completely given over to worship the dragon. These are the ones whom rule Satan's kingdom on earth. They are not powers and principalities, but draw power and authority from the demon spirits to carry out Satan's plan. They do their work under the cloak of darkness, seducing people, so that they may rule over them. They themselves are deceived in layers of darkness. Most actually believe with all their heart they are doing good, because they simply do not understand who they truly serve.

Corporately she is the mother of all harlots, or metaphorically speaking, the ones who sell themselves over to the worship and works of spiritual idolatry for personal gain.

Remember there are only two true kingdoms in this earth, one of light and one of darkness. But, only one kingdom which shall last eternally, because Satan was not given the authority to have ultimate dominion. Satan's bride rides the counterfeit world kingdom (beast), meaning she uses its strength to carry out her will in the earth. It is in these worldly governmental authorities, where Satan gains the most power over man, to carry out his plans in the earth.

## JUDGEMENT ON BABYLON

It is important to note that in the Bible, there has always and always will be both a spiritual and physical nature to Babylon. There are indeed earthly nations and cities which today, may appear to some as having similar spiritual or physical traits as Biblical Babylon. Judgement on a physicality, nation, or government is more appropriately labeled a judgement on a "beast" empire. What we are dealing with here in this discussion, is spiritual Mystery Babylon.

**"And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"** Revelation 18:2

This judgment is not primarily against nations, but against spiritual Mystery Babylon—the system of deception, false worship, and counterfeit authority.

**This is what the LORD says: ‘I will stir up a destroyer against Babylon and the people of Babylonia.’** Jer 51:1 (New Living Translation)

**‘Come out, my people, flee from Babylon. Save yourselves! Run from the LORD’s fierce anger.** Jer 51:45

This is not a warning for the end alone. It is a present command for discernment.

## A WITNESS, NOT A DOCTRINE

What follows are personal prophetic words received in prayer—shared here not as doctrine, but as witness to the same pattern Scripture reveals:

### Why This Chapter Matters

Babylon is not destroyed first by fire. She is exposed first by truth. The Bride cannot prepare herself unless she recognizes the counterfeit. And separation does not begin with geography—it begins with allegiance.

A word of the Lord concerning these things spoken here...

2/21/23 ‘I am healing and restoring what was taken away. The restoration of all things is at hand, but first must come the complete destruction of all things not of Me.

I am bringing my people right now out of their bondage to the spirit of Egypt and Babylon. I am leading them out into the wilderness. There I will prove myself to them once and for all. There I will lead them as a fire by night and a cloud by day. Lead them to Mt. Zion, My holy mountain. To the city set upon that hill. There they shall dwell with me, a people, a nation (holy and) wholly unto Me. Jerusalem shall be built son. In your days it shall be accomplished, on Mt. Zion.

Have no fear of the beast, for he can not harm you. For in him is only power over the flesh of man, to destroy it with fire on the altar of sacrifice. The beast is coming that My people will come out of Egypt and run from Babylon. Be not dismayed at what you see happening around you. Only know that My grace and mercy are being poured out in this hour liberally on all flesh, that man might turn to Me.

10/19/22 My heart grieves for what is coming upon my children. What must be done is indeed like the days of Noah. A great many people will suffer son, and my heart deeply weeps.

You see how I led my people out of Egypt in their day. You are about to see how I lead them out in your day. It will be with an even greater move of My spirit son. My hand and arm have been made strong and ready to fight. There will be no mistaking by anyone that these things are My doing. My people, my Zion, is rising up right now with sword in hand. Abba

## CHAPTER 18

# The Beasts Rising

## False Authority and Global Control

### BEAST NATIONS AND COVENANT BLINDNESS - WHEN ALLEGIANCE REPLACES OBEDIENCE

In Scripture, a beast is not defined by cruelty alone. A beast is defined by authority divorced from submission to God.

Daniel does not see beasts rise because nations exist—nations have existed since Babel. He sees beasts rise because power begins to function like an animal: driven by appetite, fueled by fear, and restrained by nothing higher than itself (Daniel 7). A beast system is therefore not a race, a tribe, a culture, or a skin color. It is a political-spiritual mechanism that demands what belongs to God alone: trust, fear, loyalty, and ultimate hope.

That is why Scripture is never “anti-nation” in a simplistic sense. It is anti-idolatry. It confronts how power is used, what is worshiped, and where the people of God place their confidence.

And in the days ahead, that question will no longer be theoretical.

### THE NATURE OF A BEAST NATION

A beast nation is power that forgets it is accountable. It does not necessarily announce itself as evil. In fact, the most dangerous beasts often speak with moral certainty. They use justice language while practicing injustice. They quote Scripture while breaking covenant. They offer safety while demanding surrender.

Beast authority always has a signature:

- it centralizes control
- it penalizes conscience
- it rewards conformity
- it punishes dissent

- it trains the heart to call allegiance “wisdom”

This is why the end-time conflict is not merely about a leader, a policy, or a party. It is about **worship expressed through allegiance**. The beast does not need you to deny Jesus with your mouth. It needs you to transfer your trust.

## THE MOST DANGEROUS DECEPTION: RIGHTEOUSNESS BY ASSOCIATION

The greatest danger to God’s people has never been paganism out in the open.

It has always been holy language used to justify unholy power.

John the Baptist confronted it: “Do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’...” (Matthew 3:9). Jesus confronted it when the crowd declared, “We have no king but Caesar!” (John 19:15). Put those two statements together and you can see the beast pattern clearly:

- covenant identity claimed
- political allegiance chosen

This is the snare: to believe that because you stand near something “sacred,” you must therefore be on God’s side. But righteousness is never inherited by proximity. It is proven by obedience. And obedience is measured most sharply when it costs you something.

## WHY SOME NATIONS CONFUSE BELIEVERS MORE THAN OTHERS

Certain modern nations confuse believers not because they are uniquely wicked, but because they claim moral legitimacy while operating through worldly power. They present themselves as a “cause,” and causes can become idols very quickly.

When believers fuse national identity, military strength, political dominance, and prophetic destiny they often repeat the error of first-century Israel: confusing covenant with control. The issue is not which nation is “the most important.” The issue is what the Church blesses without discernment. Beast power does not only rise in “dark places.” It rises anywhere the people of God stop asking, *“Is this pleasing to the Lord?”* and begin asking, *“Is this good for our side?”*

## THE BEAST IS EXPOSED BY THE SEALS

The seals of Revelation do not create beast systems. They remove restraint and allow what has already been operating underneath to show its true face. When peace is removed, when economies shake, when authority collapses, the question becomes unavoidable:

**Where was your trust placed?**

This is why God marks before He judges. This is why Ezekiel 9 matters in the same breath as Revelation 7. The Lord is not merely tracking behavior—He is exposing allegiance. And that exposure begins, strangely, with grief.

## THE MARK: MOURNING VS. ALLEGIANCE

God does not mark those who “picked the right side.”

He marks those whose hearts remain aligned with Him.

**“Mark those who sigh and cry over all the abominations...” Ezekiel 9:4**

In other words: God marks the mourners. Those who defend injustice because it was committed by “their nation,” “their leaders,” or “their cause” place themselves outside that mark—even while quoting Scripture. This is the most dangerous spiritual posture in the last days:

## INDIFFERENCE WRAPPED IN JUSTIFICATION.

**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4**

Not because mourning earns mercy—but because mourning proves the heart is still alive to Heaven.

## WHY BEAST NATIONS TARGET THE FAITHFUL

Beast systems cannot tolerate mourners. Why? Because mourning refuses propaganda. Mourners do not chant slogans. They do not excuse bloodshed. They do not trade truth for belonging. They stand quietly, and that quiet becomes an indictment.

This is why Revelation consistently shows the beast warring with the saints—not with atheists. Darkness does not rage most violently at those who deny God. It rages at those who obey Him.

**“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities...  
against the rulers of the darkness of this age...” Ephesians 6:12**

The war is not merely over land. It is over worship. And worship is revealed by obedience under pressure.

## A COVENANT WARNING THE CHURCH CANNOT AVOID

The end-times deception is not solved by picking the “right nation.” It is solved by belonging to the right King. Scripture is uncompromising: no one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ (John 14:6), and “nor is there salvation in any other” (Acts 4:12). That standard does not change because a flag is waved, a promise is claimed, or a prophecy is quoted.

God has never granted innocence by association. This is why the Church must be careful with modern geopolitics. The issue is not whether a nation has a dramatic history or a religious identity. The issue is whether the people of God are being disciplined into allegiance—trained to excuse what Heaven calls evil because it was done by “our side.” That posture is how beast systems recruit believers without ever asking them to deny Jesus. They only ask them to deny His heart.

The test is simple and terrifying: Will you mourn what God mourns, even when it costs you socially? (Ezekiel 9:4). Because when believers can justify oppression, corruption, or bloodshed with holy language, they are no longer walking in discernment—they are drinking from a cup. And the cup always belongs to Babylon.

## THE CHURCH’S CHOICE IN THE CRUCIBLE

This chapter is not written to condemn. It is written to interrupt deception.

Because the seals do not ask: “*Were you patriotic?*” They ask: “*Were you faithful?*”

**“Come out of her, My people...” Revelation 18:4**

This is not a geography command first. It is an allegiance transfer.

When believers excuse violence “for a cause”, sanctify power “for security,” or ignore injustice “for stability”... they unknowingly side with the beast—not by malice, but by misplaced faith. The Church is not judged for existing in nations. She is judged for where she places her hope.

### THE HIDDEN LAYER: SPIRITUAL PRINCES OVER EARTHLY THRONES

Daniel is shown something most believers forget: earthly kingdoms often have spiritual “princes” behind them. An angel speaks of conflict with “the prince of the kingdom of Persia,” and then names “the prince of Greece” as the next (Daniel 10:12–13, 20). In other words, what men experience as political shifts are often the surface ripples of unseen governance.

This is not meant to produce paranoia. It is meant to produce sobriety. If there are rulers behind rulers, then our discernment cannot be built on headlines. It must be built on the fear of the Lord, the witness of the Spirit, and the fruit of obedience.

### CLOSING ANCHOR

**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4**

Not because mourning is weakness—but because mourning is proof that the soul has not been purchased.

The world understands power. Only the people of God are tempted to confuse it with righteousness. And that is why this chapter matters: because in the days ahead, beast systems will not only rise. They will demand agreement. They will demand silence. They will demand allegiance. But Heaven is marking a people—quietly, clearly—by grief, by truth, and by obedience. That is the dividing line.

## CHAPTER 19

# Tribulation: The Beginning of Sorrows

### Judgment as Exposure

“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:6–8

Scripture consistently identifies a “time, times, and half a time” as a measured season of intense pressure. While the precise mechanics of its duration are debated, its purpose is not. This is a period of tribulation—upon the world, and even more so upon the people of God.

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24:21

For many believers, the word *tribulation* evokes fear, confusion, and speculation. Images of chaos, suffering, and divine anger dominate the imagination. Entire theological systems have been built around escaping it, surviving it, or decoding its timeline.

But Scripture does not present tribulation primarily as destruction. It presents it as revelation. Jesus did not describe this season as the end of all things. He called it “*the beginning of sorrows*.” Birth pains. A process. A measured season with purpose.

What we are approaching — and in many ways already experiencing — is not random catastrophe. It is the unveiling of what has long been hidden, tolerated, or falsely secured. Tribulation is not God losing control. It is God removing illusions.

### JUDGMENT BEGINS WITH THE HOUSE OF GOD

Scripture is unambiguous on this point:

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God.”  
1 Peter 4:17

Before the nations are judged, the people who claim God’s name are examined. Before Babylon falls publicly, her influence is exposed within the hearts of believers. Before the world trembles, the Church is weighed. This is why tribulation feels personal.

It confronts false peace while at the same time exposing misplaced trust. It tests allegiance—to whom do you belong. Tribulation shakes everything that can be shaken, including any theology not firmly established on the rock of Christ. Many will say, “*I did not expect this.*” But the signs were always present, and the word was established from the beginning.

Comfort was mistaken for blessing. Stability was confused with favor. Political power was substituted for obedience. Tribulation strips these substitutions away.

## THE NATURE OF THE FIRST SHAKING

The early phase of tribulation is not marked by immediate annihilation, but by **pressure**. Pressure reveals what was already there. Jesus warned that deception would increase, not decrease. Fear would rise. Love would grow cold. Lawlessness would multiply. These are not merely societal trends — they are spiritual diagnostics.

What collapses first is not infrastructure, but confidence. Confidence in systems, leaders & institutions once assumed to be righteous simply because they were familiar. The question being asked is not: “*Do you know what is happening?*” It is: “What are you anchored to?”

## THE SEALS: JUDGMENT AS UNVEILING

The Book of Revelation describes seals being opened — not unleashed. This distinction matters. A seal conceals something already written. When it is broken, the contents are revealed. The judgments of this season do not create evil; they expose it. They do not invent rebellion; they reveal it. They do not force allegiance; they clarify it.

The seals reveal the inner workings of Babylon; false peace, scarcity rooted in injustice, fear-driven authority, death systems long tolerated, and ultimately, the cost of compromise. This is why the early judgments are uneven, unsettling, and confusing. They do not fall equally because allegiance has never been equal.

## A MEASURED TIME, NOT ENDLESS WRATH

Scripture repeatedly emphasizes that this season is bounded. Forty-two months -A time, times, and half a time. A defined window.

This is not chaos without restraint. This is limited jurisdiction. God places boundaries on darkness — not because it deserves mercy, but because His purposes require clarity.

This window exists so that the Bride may awaken from her slumber. God desires the remnant may be distinguished and the faithful may be sealed. The undecided may still choose Christ and the door is still open. Judgment is not the removal of choice, but the narrowing of it.

## WHY FEAR IS THE WRONG RESPONSE

Fear assumes abandonment. But Scripture tells us something different:

**“When these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” Luke 21:28**

If you are frightened, it is not because you lack information — it is because God is inviting you to deeper trust. Fear signals attachment to what is being shaken. Peace signals alignment with what cannot be moved.

This is why God repeatedly calls His people to *rest* in the midst of rising tension. Not because danger is imaginary — but because panic-driven obedience cannot build what comes next.

Refugees run on adrenaline. Builders move in peace.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE STORM

The storm does not create the remnant. It reveals her. Those who mourn will mourn deeply. Those who cling to Babylon will cling harder. Those who love truth will become unmistakable.

Tribulation clarifies identity. This is why mourning becomes sacred, indifference becomes dangerous, and false confidence becomes lethal. God does not mark the indifferent — because indifference refuses to choose.

Those who sigh and cry over the state of Zion are sealed.  
Those who laugh, mock, or explain away corruption are not.

## The First Half: Birth Pains, Seals, and the Separation of Allegiance

**“All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:8**

Jesus never described the coming trouble as sudden annihilation. He described it as *birth pains*.

Birth pains are not the end — they are irreversible indicators that something is about to be born. They increase in intensity, frequency, and clarity. They cannot be stopped once they begin, but they are also measured.

This is how Scripture consistently frames the first phase of tribulation: not as final wrath, but as the opening of God’s judgment case against a world — and a church — that has confused peace with obedience.

### JESUS’ TIMELINE: THE WEATHER REPORT OF THE FIRST HALF

In Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, Jesus gives a macro-level description of this season — not to satisfy curiosity, but to steady His people.

He lists:

- deception and false authority,
- wars and rumors of wars,
- famine and economic distress,
- earthquakes and natural upheaval,
- persecution and betrayal,
- and the global spread of testimony under pressure.

He then gives the interpretive key:

**“See that you are not troubled... for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” Matthew 24:6**

The purpose of this phase is not panic, but discernment. Jesus makes clear: this is not the final collapse — it is the beginning of labor.

### DANIEL’S CLOCK: A MEASURED TIME, NOT CHAOS

Daniel shows that this season is not random or uncontrolled. The seventieth week is not a mystery interval; it is a permitted window. Daniel 7 reveals beast authority rising *temporarily* and warring against the saints. Daniel 9 establishes a final “week” tied to covenant consequences. Daniel 12 shows distress — but also sealing, understanding, and preservation.

Again and again, the language is the same:

- *a time, times, and half a time*
- *1,260 days*
- *42 months*

These phrases are not meant to fuel speculation — they are meant to communicate bounded jurisdiction. Evil is allowed to speak. Evil is allowed to rule. But only for a measured time.

### THE SEALS: JUDGMENT AS EXPOSURE, NOT LOSS OF CONTROL

When the Lamb opens the seals in Revelation 6, He is not unleashing chaos. He is unsealing what has already been written. Each seal removes a layer of illusion.

#### Seal One — Conquest Without True Kingship

A crowned rider goes forth — but not the King. This is persuasion before persecution. Ideology before enforcement. A false authority that promises solutions without repentance. Jesus warned of this first:

**“Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.” Matthew 24:5**

#### Seal Two — Peace Removed

Peace collapses — not because God hates peace, but because it was false.

Jesus said:

**“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars... nation will rise against nation.”**  
**Matthew 24:6–7**

The illusion of stability breaks.

### **Seal Three — Scarcity and Economic Pressure**

Food becomes measured. Anxiety becomes normalized. Provision becomes a test of trust. This mirrors covenant consequences described long before Revelation, where economic strain reveals misplaced dependence.

### **Seal Four — Death Through Systems**

Death multiplies — not only through violence, but through breakdown. War, scarcity, disease, and fear combine into systemic loss. Luke describes this as “*distress of nations, with perplexity.*” (Luke 21:25)

### **Seal Five — Persecution Clarifies Allegiance**

**“Judgment begins at the house of God.” 1 Peter 4:17**

This is the death of neutral faith. Those who testify pay a price. Those who complied discover safety was temporary. Peter warned:

### **Seal Six — Public Terror and Narrative Collapse**

This is the “*oh no*” moment. The powerful realize something greater is at work. The story they trusted no longer holds.

**“The great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”**  
**Revelation 6:17**

## **THE INTERLUDE: WHY GOD MARKS THE MOURNERS**

Before anything escalates further, God pauses the narrative.

Revelation 7 shows the sealing of His servants. This echoes Ezekiel 9, where those who *sigh and cry* over the abominations are marked — not those who argued, mocked, or explained them away. This is critical.

God does not mark the informed. He does not mark the loud. He does not mark the indifferent. He marks those who mourn. Those who feel the weight of corruption without becoming hardened by it.

## THE 42 MONTHS: WHY GOD SETS THE LENGTH OF THE TEST

Across Scripture, this period functions the same way: Satan's authority is limited. There is an active witness and refining pressures help force decision. God does not warn endlessly. His mercy sets a window. It means the trial has an end. It means darkness does not write the last chapter. It means obedience — not speed — is what carries people through.

## WHAT THIS SEASON LOOKS LIKE FOR THE BRIDE

For those with eyes to see, the first half brings five pressures:

1. **Truth pressure** — deception grows sophisticated.
2. **Provision pressure** — fear replaces trust.
3. **Unity pressure** — relationships fracture.
4. **Conscience pressure** — compromise is framed as wisdom.
5. **Witness pressure** — testimony becomes costly.

But simultaneously, God is doing something else:

- sealing identity,
- purifying love,
- forming endurance,
- calling His people out of Babylon,
- and preparing a people who can live without false systems.

## NOT NEW DOCTRINE — ANCIENT ORDER

Faithful believers differ on sequencing and labels. But Scripture agrees that deception increases, pressure rises, allegiance is tested, God preserves His own, and judgment exposes what was already there. This chapter is not about predicting dates. It is about recognizing the season. This chapter is not about the end of the world, it is about the end of illusion. What follows tribulation is not annihilation — but exodus. Not escape — but formation. Not chaos — but the slow emergence of a people who know how to live apart from Egypt & Babylon.

The shaking prepares the ground. The wilderness forms the people. Zion is built by those who endure without compromise. Tribulation is not God abandoning the earth. It is God reclaiming it.

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### A Word to the Reader

If you feel unsettled reading this, do not rush past it.

Do not ask, *“How long?”* Ask, **“What is God asking me to release?”** The first half of tribulation is not the end of hope. It is the end of illusion. And for those willing to mourn, repent, and obey —  
it is the beginning of clarity.

Ask not *“How bad will it get?”* Ask **“What is God preparing me to become?”**

The beginning of sorrows is not a threat to the faithful — it is a summons.

The storm is not your enemy. The storm is your teacher. And what comes after it will belong only to those who learned how to stand.

# ACT V

## Zion Arises

Government · Culture · Inheritance

“Arise, shine; For your light has come!  
And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.”

**Isaiah 60:1**

This final Act is not escape. It is establishment.

What was awakened, purified, chosen, and tested is now inhabited.

Here, Zion is no longer only named — it is lived.

Community emerges. Culture forms. Rest is entered, not as recovery, but as possession. God dwells with His people, and they with Him.

This Act does not rush. It does not sensationalize, nor does it resolve everything.

It shows what life looks like after obedience has been proven.

### **How NOT to read this Act**

- Do not read this as a blueprint manual.
- Do not reduce it to an organization or project.
- Do not treat Zion as a destination rather than a people.

This Act does not conclude the story, it **seals** it.

Zion is not awaited.

Zion is established.

## CHAPTER 20

# The Great Exodus / Pilgrams

### A People on the Move

Since the beginning of time, God has moved on the hearts of men to forsake the comforts of their homeland and journey toward a promised land. Abram did not know where he was going, but he did know who was leading.

Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.” “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 12:1-4

**pilgrim:** 1) one who journeys in foreign lands: WAYFARER 2) one who travels to a shrine or holy place as a devotee 3) capitalized: one of the English colonists settling at Plymouth in 1620

A pilgrim is not defined by destination, but by obedience to the call. When God called on Abraham to make a pilgrimage to a land he was unfamiliar with, he understood that God was leading his steps. He was walking by faith! For some, this leap of faith is easier than others. Could it be that faithful Abraham was desiring to have a closer walk with God all along? Perhaps his journey was as much an answer to prayer as it was a test of his faith.

Sometimes the calling for a pilgrimage takes different twists. Long before Abraham, God led Noah to build a boat to protect his family during the great flood. The ark was built not only as shelter during the storm, but as a vessel carrying them to the place God chose to plant their family.

In more modern days, another group of pilgrims emerged which almost everyone in America is familiar with.



*The Embarkation of the Pilgrims (1857)* by [Robert Walter Weir](#)

These pilgrims were led by God to escape persecution, forsaking familiarity for faith. Their obedience shaped a nation that, for generations, became known as a refuge for conscience and worship.

These pilgrims, were led by God to escape the persecution of their day, forsaking almost every known comfort and taking an incredible leap of faith, which led to the establishment of what has been regarded for almost 250 years as the freest country in the world. A place that is known to be a land where anyone can worship freely as they choose.

But just as in Abraham's day, even in a land of perceived freedom, there is still oppression and persecution, leading to a desire for living a life separated unto God. Abraham was led from the land of Ur, known for the idolatry of its people, to a quiet place in the deserted wilderness. Countless stories exist today of various people who journeyed into the unknown in search of their promised land. God has never stopped calling a people to come out of the nations of this world and be separated into Him. A people who sojourn in this earth, but are not restrained by its geographic, national or political boundaries. These individuals share the common bond of a citizenship derived from their Heavenly Kingdom. Desiring most to bring that heavenly kingdom down to earth, wherever their road leads.

An excellent modern example of this can be seen through the eyes of Blair Adams, the founder of Homestead Heritage, whom we mentioned back in chapter 1.

### ***“An Exodus”*** A JOURNEY TOWARD A CULTURE OF LIFE 1973-2013

Exodus Video | Homestead Heritage –

<https://www.homesteadheritage.com/videos/an-exodus/>

This documentary tells the tale of one group of pilgrims, who coming out of what was then called “Hells Kitchen”, left the slums of New York City in search of a promised land. Their journey is amazing to hear, as a people came together from all walks of life, none knowing anything about how to survive off the land. Yet they chose to sell most of what they had and caravan across country, in search of a better life. Their trip took several stops along the way, before finally ending in Texas in the late 1970’s.

None of them knew how to survive off the land. What they had was conviction—and each other. Scan the QR code above with your smart phone to take watch this video. Note: This is not meant to be an endorsement of Homestead Heritage, but merely an example of how God moves through his people, even in recent times.



## A COMMON PURPOSE

This road trip, probably seemed like a modern-day wagon train to those who may have seen it. Along the way they learned many valuable lessons including the importance of relationships as a key to the long-term success.

The common similarity between all these examples and countless others, is a people who, despite the odds being greatly against them, displayed great faith, courage and commitment to see it through to the end. They all hold the qualities needed to be overcomers. They each found the place God wanted to plant them in the Kingdom and allowed Him to water and nurture their faith while bringing forth the fruit of the kingdom daily.

These are the types of people God is looking for today... Separatists if you will. Those who desire to come out from the establishment of man’s Babylonish kingdoms, and be separated to live unto God in His community.

Christians today have a choice to make, especially those who know and understand the times we are living in. The pilgrim fathers who sailed halfway around the world in search of religious freedom made a choice. Recently during prayer time, the Lord said to me,

“My people must make the choice to come out of Babylon son. They must see for themselves. If they don’t want to go, I can’t force them.”

The choice is ours to make—but a choice must be made. Babylon does not remain neutral.

## THE END TIMES ARK OF REFUGE

A great Exodus requires a vehicle of suitable size to carry people from one place to another. Remember Noah... building an ark? How about the Ark of the Covenant? As we enter into this time the Bible describes as the tribulation and also Jacob’s troubles, God is once again building an ark. What is it? A different season, with different storms requires a different type of vessel.

**Ark:** A vessel or sanctuary that serves as protection against extinction. Something that affords protection and safety.

**The Ark of the Covenant:** The vessel which carried and protected the physical symbols and contracts of the old covenant through the wilderness. The ark was kept within the tabernacle (tent of meeting) until the temple was established by King Solomon. Through Jesus’s death, burial and resurrection, we as individual members of the body of Christ have become the tabernacles of God, carrying His Spirit, the symbol of our covenant, with us wherever we go.

God does not move His people aimlessly. Every exodus has a destination—even if it is not yet revealed.

## CHAPTER 21

# *Refuge, Community, and Formation*

## Mercy Before Manifestation

The wilderness has never been a detour. It has always been God's chosen classroom.

From Eden's exile to Sinai's smoke, from Elijah's cave to Jesus' fast, Scripture reveals a pattern so consistent it cannot be ignored: before God entrusts authority, He withdraws His people from visibility. Not because they have failed—but because what is coming requires a different kind of strength.

The wilderness is not where God abandons His people. It is where He removes competing voices. This is the place where comfort loosens its grip, identity clarifies, and obedience becomes instinct rather than effort. Here, faith is no longer sustained by structure, affirmation, or momentum. It must breathe on its own.

### WHY GOD ALWAYS LEADS HIS PEOPLE INTO WILDERNESS

Every major redemptive transition is preceded by separation. Israel could not inherit promise while still thinking like slaves. The disciples could not steward the Kingdom while relying on proximity to Jesus' body rather than submission to His Spirit. And the Bride cannot govern while still tethered to Babylon's rhythms, values, and reflexes.

The wilderness accomplishes what sermons cannot. It silences performance. It exposes dependency. It reveals what remains when familiar supports disappear. Here, God does not primarily teach new information. He removes false confidence. What survives this place is not what is impressive—but what is true.

### GOSHEN: SEPARATION WITHOUT ESCAPE

Goshen is often misunderstood. It is not immunity from hardship. It is not escape from pressure. It is not a geographic hiding place. Goshen is distinction within judgment.

While Egypt groaned under plagues, Goshen remained preserved—not because Israel was strong, but because God established jurisdictional boundaries. Same sky. Same season. Two realities operating at once. Goshen was not chosen by Israel. It was assigned by God. That distinction matters now.

God's people are not promised removal from global shaking—but they are promised differentiation. Not through superiority, but through alignment. Not by dominance, but by obedience.

### THE WILDERNESS IS MERCY, NOT DELAY

Many resist the wilderness because it feels like postponement. But God does not delay what He is preparing to sustain. Release without formation does not produce freedom—it reproduces bondage in a new form. Authority without restraint always collapses into imitation of the systems it replaces. The Israelites making a golden calf in the wilderness is a perfect example.

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Exodus 32:1

The wilderness strips away urgency rooted in fear. Ambition disguised as Kingdom calling. Dependence based upon what can be seen, tasted, touched for validation. Here, striving is replaced with listening. Speed is replaced with discernment. Identity is no longer negotiated. What remains after this stripping is what can be trusted.

### WHAT FORMATION ACTUALLY PRODUCES

The wilderness does not produce gifted people. It produces governed people. Here, God trains His people to hear before acting, to obey without explanation, to trust provision without control, and to walk together without hierarchy-driven dominance.

This is where individualism quietly dies. No one survives the wilderness alone. Community is not optional here—it is essential. The Bride is not formed through isolated excellence, but through corporate submission—learning how to move, wait, listen, and respond together under one Head.

## WHY BABYLON CANNOT FOLLOW YOU HERE

Babylon thrives on excess, distraction, speed, and noise. The wilderness offers none of these. Here, there is no applause economy. No platform to curate. No reputation to manage. No audience to impress. And that is precisely why Babylon loses its grip.

What once felt necessary becomes heavy. What once felt impressive becomes hollow. What once felt safe becomes restrictive. This is not loss. It is liberation through subtraction.

In the wilderness, God provides daily, not weekly. Provision in the wilderness comes with rest and trust. It cannot be stored or secured. Daily is the rhythm of wilderness life. This is not inefficiency—it is intimacy. Daily provision trains trust. Stored excess trains fear.

God teaches His people to live by His voice rather than their reserves. Dependence is no longer desperation—it becomes relationship. Let me illustrate.

*The lambs will provide your clothing, And the goats the price of a field; You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.* Proverbs 27: 26-27

There is an old pun that asks “What is the best way to store milk?” Yet the answer is not freeze drying or even cheese making. The answer to our question is, “In the cow or goat.” The best way to store up what we need is actually to not store it at all, but instead trust in God’s daily provision. Like manna in the desert, a living goat or cow supplies a daily portion. When we do, we won’t have to ever worry for having enough for ourselves.. in fact the Lord is saying here in this verse, that the provision is so overflowing in abundance that it will provide not only for our family but for the people around us. In fact, we will be so blessed that we will need servants to help manage our household.

## FORMATION BEFORE GOVERNMENT

Zion cannot be built by unformed people. Before God establishes a governing people, He establishes governed hearts. The wilderness teaches submission—not to leaders, systems, or ideologies—but to God Himself.

Only those who learn restraint here will carry authority later without corruption. Only those who learn silence here will speak later with weight. Only those who learn obedience here will govern later without coercion. This is why God hides what He is forming.

Many feel overlooked in the wilderness. That is intentional. God conceals what He is preparing so it cannot be claimed prematurely, exploited politically, or corrupted by attention. Hiddenness is not neglect—it is mercy.

When God is finished forming a people, nothing will be able to stop what He releases. Until then, concealment preserves what publicity would destroy.

### A QUIET BETROTHAL

There is a reason Scripture so often places betrothal before unveiling. In the wilderness, the Bride is not being displayed—she is being spoken to. This is where affection deepens, trust matures, and covenant is internalized rather than announced. This is not the wedding. This is the quiet knowing that comes before it.

The Bride learns the voice of her Beloved here—not in crowds, not in spectacle, but in stillness. When the day comes for public joy, it will not surprise her. She will recognize Him instantly.

### THE THRESHOLD AHEAD

The wilderness is not the destination. But it is the doorway no one bypasses. Those who rush ahead fracture. Those who linger complain. Those who submit are changed.

Goshen prepares the Bride not merely to survive what is coming—but to stand steady while others collapse. Formation is happening now, but it is happening quietly, faithfully and irreversibly. What emerges from this place will not resemble Babylon—even if it speaks the same language. What God is forming here will be able to carry what comes next.

## CHAPTER 22

# Kingdom Culture

## Learning to Live as Trees of Righteousness

### BUILDING A KINGDOM SPHERE BY FAITH

You've heard of agriculture. You may even be familiar with aquaculture. But what does *Kingdom culture* mean?

A biosphere is defined as the portion of the world in which life can exist—living organisms together with their environment. Agriculture is the intentional cultivation of that environment so that life may grow, multiply, and flourish. Aquaculture applies the same principle within water: creating controlled conditions where delicate ecosystems can thrive.

In every case, success depends on one thing:

**understanding the needs of life, and then building an environment that sustains them.**

A farmer does not command plants to grow. He creates the conditions in which growth becomes inevitable. A Careful and intentional balance of proper temperature, the right nutrients, adequate water, fresh air, earth, and light. Each variable must be honored, or the system collapses. This is the lens through which Kingdom culture must be understood.

### DEFINING KINGDOM CULTURE

Kingdom culture is the intentional cultivation of an environment where the fruits of the Kingdom of God are able to flourish. It is not ideology. It is not religious programming, coercion or control. It is *environmental obedience*. It is creating space where life can grow the way God designed it to.

Years ago, building a tropical reef aquarium fulfilled a lifelong dream of mine. What I thought would be a hobby became a teacher. A living system with thousands of organisms—each dependent on the other—forced me to learn patience, restraint, attentiveness, and humility.

Nothing could be rushed. Nothing could be forced. Every change had consequences. To sustain life, I had to submit myself to the rules life itself obeys.

And as I stood back one day, watching an ecosystem not only survive but *create life*, it struck me. If this much care is required to steward a small glass tank, what wisdom must be required to steward a people?

God did not create a simple fish tank. He created a world.

## INSPIRATION AND DIRECTION

During prayer, while asking the Lord for direction for our farm, He said to me plainly:

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“BUILD THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE MY KINGDOM CAN FLOURISH.”

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I asked Him, “Father, what influence can I actually have on the environment?”

“You can affect everything, son. Your faith is the great building block. You have the power to bring rain or to cause drought, to move the earth, to bring sun or create shade. My people need all these things—but above all, they need to see faith. Show them how to build. Let them see your faith in action.”

Then He said something that has never left me... Faith is not passive belief. Faith is *architectural*.

“You must envision what you desire to see, then speak it out. Faith is the design. It is seeing what is not, and arranging what is, until it becomes what should be. Prophesy to the trees and the mountains. Beauty for ashes.”

## CULTIVATING A KINGDOM SPHERE

Our aquarium produced beauty, peace, and even provision. It became a place where life was free to flourish. The organisms were not restrained—they were supported. Now imagine a community of God's people living under those same principles.

From the inside looking out, Kingdom culture would feel like freedom, safety, provision, shelter, fellowship, learning, and shared purpose. There would be order, but not oppression. Structure, but not rigidity. Authority, but not domination.

From the outside looking in, it would be unmistakable. Not because of slogans or signs—but because **life would be visible**.

A contrast would exist between the world's systems and God's Kingdom—not by argument, but by atmosphere. Those looking on would recognize its beauty and quietly desire to enter its gates.

## THE FRUIT OF KINGDOM CULTURE

A garden produces fruit by default when its environment is right. So what does Kingdom culture produce? It produces a people saturated with God. Leadership formed by faith rather than ambition. Humility without weakness. Strength without violence. And ultimately—a Bride made ready. This is not theoretical.

Jesus declared, “*The Kingdom of God is at hand.*” Not someday. Not elsewhere. Here.

When my Father said, “Son, go build it,” I understood something important: This would not be perfect. Mistakes would be made. Lessons would be learned along the way. But obedience was the assignment—not success as the world defines it.

## TENDING THE FIELDS OF ZION

Kingdom culture is built the same way God built the world. By faith.

“**Then God said, ‘Let the waters be gathered together... and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so.**” Genesis 1:9

He spoke order into chaos. He prepared the environment before He introduced life. And now, He asks His people to do the same.

The Fields of Zion are not built by force. They are cultivated by faith, patience, obedience, and trust. To build a community requires many hands. Perhaps if you are reading this, you are one of them.

The invitation is not to join an organization. It is to help cultivate an environment.

A Kingdom sphere. A garden of the Lord's planting. And in that garden—life will flourish.

## CHAPTER 23:

# Fields of Zion

# The Garden, the City, and the People

## FARM & COMMUNITY CENTER

You may be wondering what building an ark has to do with living on a farm. I imagine Noah wondered the same thing.

When God spoke to Noah, He did not give him a sermon, a timeline, or a theory. He gave him an assignment that would reshape his entire life.

---

*BUILD AN ARK.*

---

That single instruction did something profound: it gave Noah purpose.

## PURPOSE: FROM WANDERING TO CALLING

How many of us wake up each morning wondering what our purpose is? Wondering if, when all is said and done, there will be a story worth telling?

Like Noah before the call, many wander through life with their small flock, struggling simply to get through another day—trying to keep pace in a world that constantly whispers, *you are not enough*.

That is not the abundant life God promises.

Yet we are taught—often even from pulpits—that abundance is measured by wealth, status, influence, and image. We parade success in polished platforms and outward shine, while ignoring the quiet suffering all around us. We are told this is faith.

Scripture tells a different story.

When God spoke to Noah, wandering ended. Noah now had a calling:

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*BUILD A BOAT SO YOUR FAMILY CAN LIVE.*

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Suddenly, life was no longer about accumulation or approval. It was about obedience, faithfulness, and care for those entrusted to him. What if our purpose were that simple? To tend our flock. To provide what is needed. To care well for what God has placed in our hands.

### A WAKE-UP CALL

The day God stepped into my living room and said, “*Jesus is coming back soon,*” my first response was not joy—it was fear. I was thirty-three years old. Five minutes earlier, I believed I had a lifetime to wander. To explore. To live as I pleased. Then suddenly, everything changed. The call was not abstract. It was personal.

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*PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. A FLOOD IS COMING.*

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That kind of revelation forces a reckoning. It compels you to reconsider what matters, what lasts, and what is worth building.

**“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household...”**  
*Hebrews 11:7*

Notice something remarkable: Noah did not condemn the world with words. **His obedience did that.** The ark itself was the testimony.

### LIVING TESTIMONY, NOT LOUD ACCUSATION

Many Christians feel compelled to condemn sin loudly. Scripture shows us a different witness. Noah never preached judgment. He built refuge. By choosing obedience over Babylon’s comforts, Noah’s life became a silent indictment of the world around him. So it is with us.

A life oriented toward faithfulness, service, and provision speaks louder than accusation. When we choose to serve others—placing their needs above our own—we demonstrate that Christ truly dwells within us.

## GROWING FOOD IS HARD WORK

Building the ark was not easy. Neither is farming. Both demand sacrifice, endurance, and a willingness to be misunderstood. Farmers—like Noah—often face ridicule for choosing a life that resists convenience and instant reward.

There are no sick days in farming. No guaranteed returns. No applause. Yet there are rewards the world cannot price. Through the daily work of tending land and animals, families learn commitment, responsibility, patience, and trust. They learn what it means to labor together, to depend on one another, and to honor the rhythms God has woven into creation.

## THE VALUE OF LIFE

Those who raise animals and grow food develop a reverence for life that cannot be taught in classrooms. They understand the weight of responsibility. They know that provision comes at a cost, and that taking life—even for sustenance—is never trivial. This cultivates gratitude, humility, and a deep awareness that all life flows from God. Such people do not waste easily. They do not take provision lightly. They understand blessing because they have labored for it.

## BEING PLANTED

Farmers do not wander. They are planted. They put down roots—deep ones. Their lives are shaped by seasons, by patience, and by long obedience in the same direction. Like Adam in Eden, they are entrusted with stewardship. And in that rootedness, they become something more than producers. They become refuge... “He shall be like a tree planted by the waters...”

Planted people bend in storms without breaking. They provide shade for the weary. They become stable in a shaking world.

## FAITH AS DAILY DEPENDENCE

The farmer’s life is a life of faith. Faith that seeds will sprout. Faith that rains will come. Faith that harvest will follow obedience. It takes little faith to buy food with money.

It takes far more faith to plant a seed and wait. This kind of faith draws the heart closer to God—not as theory, but as daily dependence.

## RELATIONSHIPS AND ORDER

Farm life teaches cooperation, honor, and mutual reliance. Families learn to work as one body, respecting roles and responsibilities. Children learn to trust their parents. Parents learn to model sacrifice. Authority is not imposed—it is earned through love and care. This is Kingdom order, lived rather than preached.

## TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

“...That they may be called trees of righteousness,  
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” Isaiah 61:3

A man or woman rooted in Christ—unafraid of sacrifice, grounded in faith—becomes like a strong tree: steadfast, fruitful, and generous. They do not chase applause. They bear fruit in season. They provide refuge without fanfare. And they teach their children by example, not instruction alone.

Now imagine not one tree—but many. A community of planted people. Families living in covenant. Each contributing what they are gifted to do. Each relying on God—and on one another. Some farm others build. Some teach others heal. All serve.

This is not isolation. This is not escape. This is **Zion**. Not a city of stone alone—but a people planted together.

## THE GARDEN, THE CITY, AND THE PEOPLE

Fields of Zion is not an idea. It is a pattern. It is the garden restored. The city ordered. The people rooted. It is the very ark that carried my family through our season of storm & flood, becoming the soil in which we now grow. Not just survival—but fruitfulness. Not just refuge—but inheritance.

This is God’s garden. An orchard of righteousness. A people prepared—not only to endure the storm—but to remain when it passes.



God does not merely rescue His people from the earth—He plants them within it.

The question is no longer whether the storm is coming—but whether we are willing to be planted when it passes.

## CHAPTER 24:

# Stepping Out and Entering In

## Rest, Trust, and the Ark of Refuge

The time has come to gather into the Lord's proverbial ark of refuge. His ship is ready to set sail, and we don't want to miss this boat. The time to accept the Lord's offer of engagement is now.

To accept it means being willing to go wherever He leads, and do what He says do. That may sound harder than it actually is—until you realize the ark He is building for this hour is not made of wood, and it is not powered by fear.

His end-time ark—the one that carries His remnant through the wilderness, across the stormy seas of tribulation, into the place prepared by God—has a name:

### REST & TRUST

And if that sounds too simple, it's because we've been trained by Babylon to believe that what is powerful must be complicated. But the Lord does not rescue His people through complexity. He rescues them through obedience, and He sustains them through communion. This is not a call to panic. It is a call to *enter in*.

#### REST

Coming out of spiritual Babylon and walking in the Light begins with rest. Not the kind of rest that is laziness—but the kind of rest that is **submission**. The conscious decision to stop striving, stop rehearsing fear, stop gripping outcomes... and to trust the Lord's promises as though they are actually true.

Rest is not the absence of trouble. Rest is the presence of God in the middle of trouble.

Many believers try to “do end-times” with adrenaline. They live on headlines and emotions and reaction. But the Bride cannot be formed by panic. The Bride is formed by presence.

And presence is cultivated through prayer. Not senseless repetition. Not religious performance. But effectual prayer—constant communion with the Father. Sometimes that communion speaks. Sometimes it says nothing at all. Sometimes it is simply listening until the Spirit quiets the inner noise and you can hear what the Lord is actually saying. Communion is not merely sharing bread. Communion is sharing life. Thoughts. Burdens. Direction. Agreement.

To have the mind of Christ, we must be in agreement with the Father. And agreement begins where striving ends. That kind of relationship—deep, steady, intimate—begins with rest and trust. And the only way into it is the way Jesus has always led His people: into the quiet place.

Get alone with Him. Listen. Learn His voice. Learn His heart. Learn how He sees the world around you. The only way to know what He would have you do—and where He would have you go—is to be able to hear Him clearly.

And to hear Him clearly, you must trust His leading. Those skills are learned in the stillness of God's wilderness. So yes... we must practice the art of camping out with Jesus.

## TABERNACLES

The wilderness is not merely a place we pass through. It is a place where we learn to tabernacle with God—where the relationship becomes personal, not theoretical.

**“You shall eat no leavened bread with it... that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.”**  
*Deuteronomy 16:3*

## The Feast of Tabernacles — A Pattern of Ingathering

The Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Feast of Ingathering, carries prophetic meaning far beyond an ancient celebration. In Scripture, it represents a final season of preparation and transition for the people of God before departure from one order of life into another (Leviticus 23).

This feast begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month and lasts seven days. On the first day, the people are commanded to hold a holy convocation—a sacred assembly—and to cease from servile labor. This is not merely a day off from work; it is a declaration that God's people are no longer functioning as slaves. Just as Israel was no longer enslaved to Egypt, so

the people of God in this final season are being released from bondage to the old fleshly nature.

Throughout the seven days, offerings are presented before the Lord. Prophetically, this reflects a people learning again how to offer themselves—body, soul, and spirit—as living sacrifices. This is not symbolic religion, but embodied obedience. It is worship lived out in daily life.

On the eighth day, another holy assembly is held. Scripture treats this day with special gravity—a solemn gathering that follows the seven-day cycle. Prophetically, this points beyond the season of testing to what comes after it, much like the moment Noah and his family experienced when the ark finally lifted from the earth. After the days of confinement and preparation, there is a transition into rest, preservation, and new beginning.

What is especially striking about this feast is how it was to be observed. God instructed His people to dwell in booths—temporary shelters—for the entire seven days. These tabernacles were not permanent homes, but reminders. They were meant to teach each generation that God Himself sustained Israel when He brought them out of Egypt.

Prophetically, this points to God's people dwelling in temporary vessels—mortal bodies that are not yet fully glorified—while passing through a wilderness season. Just as Israel lived in booths during their exodus, and again when they returned from Babylonian captivity, so the people of God will once more learn to live lightly attached to the world.

In Nehemiah's day, the returning exiles rebuilt these temporary dwellings using branches—both cultivated and wild olive branches. This detail matters. It reflects the joining together of natural Israel and Gentile believers into one redeemed people, grafted into the same living tree, sharing the same covenant life.

Scripture tells us that when the people finally kept this feast again after long neglect, there was great joy. For generations, captivity had dulled their understanding of intimacy with God. Religion had replaced relationship. But living in a small, fragile shelter—one large enough only for oneself and God—restored something essential: dependence.

This is not a picture of faith mediated solely through institutions, buildings, or systems. It is a picture of personal communion. The early disciples understood this. Their faith was marked by holiness, power, and obedience, not by comfort or convenience.

In the coming season of tribulation, as many are forced to release their dependence on Babylonian systems—religious, political, and economic—the people of God will rediscover

this kind of relationship. In trouble, they will seek the Lord. In chastening, prayer will return. And in simplicity, intimacy will be restored.

This is the heart of Tabernacles... God dwelling with His people, and His people learning again how to dwell with Him. Emmanuel – God with us.

What does living in a tiny tabernacle—only big enough for you and God—bring to mind? A personal relationship with God. Not relationship-by-proxy. Not relationship-through-systems. Not relationship through a weekly building. A relationship where you can't hide.

And here's the part the modern Church does not like... Tabernacling with Jesus requires agreement. Not just with Him—but with His Body.

The Body cannot be in agreement with Christ while remaining in disagreement with one another. Disagreement in the body is sickness. Left unchecked, it becomes cancer.

That is why the wilderness is so necessary. It purifies motives. It exposes mixtures. It removes Babylon's incentives. It teaches a people how to love as family—because family is how the Kingdom functions.

## ONE LOVE, ONE HEART

Remember Bob Marley? I told you we'd get back to him. One of his most beloved songs appears on the *Exodus* album: ONE LOVE / PEOPLE GET READY

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“ONE LOVE, ONE HEART  
LET'S GET TOGETHER AND FEEL ALRIGHT..”

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Now, hear me. I'm not making Marley into a prophet. I'm saying this: The cry in that song mirrors the cry of creation. The longing for unity. For peace that is real. For a world not ruled by corruption and death... One love... One heart.

Paul tells us:

“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.” Romans 8:19

Creation is groaning because the sons have not yet been revealed in fullness. The Lord's children all around the world are crying out for the end of corruption, the end of oppression, the end of death and the curse.

**Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.** 1 Cor. 1:10

And that day will come when the remnant finally comes into unity as the Body of Christ—loving as He loves, because she shares His heart. Not unity as organization, but unity as life.

Until then, it is up to us to get onboard His vessel—Rest & Trust—come under His command, and allow Him to steer, wherever He chooses to lead. Because the wilderness isn't punishment. It's preparation. It's engagement training. It is the Bride learning how to live with the Groom.

## INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

In closing, I would be a fool not to return once again to the witness of Brother Blair Adams and Homestead Heritage.

Over the years I've had the privilege of developing relationships with members of that community in Waco, Texas. Countless people have tried to start Christian communities, and most have failed. But what caught my attention about Homestead is that it has lasted over fifty years and is now moving into third and fourth generations. Seed communities have come out of it—reaching the far corners of the world.

I once asked a dear friend from Homestead what he believed made the community successful. He told me something simple:

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### RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE CORE!

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When the original members left the streets of New York City, they carried only what could fit in their vehicles. They had no permanent home. The Lord opened a temporary place in

Colorado, and when they arrived they immediately began building—planting gardens, constructing a fellowship hall, learning skills by trial and error.

That fellowship hall became the center of daily life. Meals. Work. Worship. Conversation. Correction. Joy. Suffering. Family.

And that is where many modern believers struggle, because covenant has been gutted from our understanding. Today husbands and wives can't figure out how to live together because they don't understand covenant. And if our families are falling apart, how can we expect the Church to function as the Body?

The family unit is the core building block of the Lord's government in the earth. Without godly values in the home, they will never become prevalent in the Church.

Homestead understood something Babylon-trained Christians often miss: if you want to survive outside of Babylon, the first work is not the land—it's the relationships.

Because living as the Body of Christ requires a commitment to be covenanted—married—to Christ. And if we are married to Christ, then we are also committing to His Body. No separation. No division. No strife. Only agreement.

**“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20**

The Greek word *synagō* means to gather together as one. And in order for the Church to become one, she must lay aside Babylon's ways and step into Kingdom life.

This is not Sunday living. It is 24/7 covenant. This is not merely “going to church.” It is becoming His *ekklēsia*—the called out ones.

The Church as a whole will never go to her cross willingly. But a remnant will. And those are the ones the Lord is calling in our day.

## KINGDOM CULTURE

The other thing I observed in Homestead Heritage was something I did not expect at all. When we strip away all the noise of Babylon, we are left with something very unexpected... TIME! Time in the sense that everything in our lives slows way down. All of a sudden there is time to do the simple things which are so important to living in kingdom abundance. Abundance which is not measured in wealth of assets but in overflowing joy. The result of which is the development of a culture separate and distinct from Babylon.

Let me explain the things I saw. First Kingdom morals and values return to the community, followed by a sincere desire to give back in service to others. The needs of others become greater than your own. Service to others produces kingdom abundance which wipes away need first household by household. Abundance produces more time. Time to do the things you enjoy. The deeper things... spending time with family, but also quiet times alone with God. Reflection and understanding God's heart produces identity and purpose. Purpose leads way to worship. Worship leads to expression. Expression leads to music, art and craft. All of a sudden, your work becomes not only an act of service to others, but a form to worship... Doing all thing as onto the Lord. Music leads to harmony, and harmony leads to community. Community leads to Goshen and the garden of the Lord. The body of Christ in its fullness, each part supplying according to its God given identity.

That is true Kingdom Culture, and it is the reason Heaven is preparing to celebrate the wedding of weddings! Because the time has come and the bride has made herself ready.

## CHAPTER 25

# A Wedding of Weddings

## Grace, Rest, and the Joy Set Before Us

This book is entitled *Awake Mount Zion: A Call to the Remnant Bride*. It is a summons for God's true remnant Church to rise from her slumber. The Groom is coming. An invitation has been issued—to the greatest marriage feast there ever will be. A wedding of weddings.

Truthfully, this chapter is not written to those left outside the doors. It is a hand-signed note addressed to *you*—on behalf of the Father of the Bride... and the Groom, as it turns out. That alone makes this story remarkable.

Tradition tells us it is the father of the bride who pays for the wedding. And of course, no loving father would spare expense when giving his daughter away. But in this case, the Father of the Bride and the Father of the Groom are one and the same. Yes, that may stretch our categories—but we are speaking about the Kingdom of Heaven, where earthly analogies only take us so far. If that troubles you, you'll have to take it up with God.

What matters is this: the Father delights in His children, and He has planned something extravagant, unified, and full of joy. In this wedding, there is no disagreement, no negotiation, no lack. Heaven is in full agreement.

All the ages.

All the prophets.

Every word written and preserved.

Everything has been moving toward this moment—the day when Jesus takes His Bride forever. The day when they rule together as King and Queen.

But like Esther, the Bride must be prepared. No father gives his daughter away without preparation—especially when she is being prepared to reign alongside his Son. And reign over what? Not merely heaven.

**“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth... I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.”**  
*Isaiah 65:17-19*

Now you see it. A new heaven and A new earth. And a people capable of dwelling in both.

This, to me, is one of the most breathtaking truths in all of Scripture. There will be people living, planting, building, and raising families on the earth long after the Lord comes for His Bride. Isaiah 65 goes on to describe this reality in detail. But what follows—the honeymoon, so to speak—is not the subject of this chapter. So let us return to the celebration at hand.

## A DESTINATION WEDDING

I love weddings. Always have. I’m a bit of a hopeless romantic at heart.

My wife and I married young—twenty and nineteen. I like to say I married up. Neither of our families had money for a wedding, and at the time we already had a beautiful little daughter just over a year old. In many ways, she became the glue that held us together. I had grown up watching the pain of divorce and wanted no part of that story repeating itself.

So sacrifice and submission to covenant became the standard of my life long before I understood covenant theologically. God was teaching us—quietly, faithfully—before I knew what lesson I was in.

Marriage, after all, is an outward sign of an inward commitment. *To have and to hold... till death do us part.* We recently celebrated our 31st anniversary, and watching others step into that same journey still fills me with joy. I also understand the cost. Commitment only lasts where devotion is practiced.

One thing my wife and I learned early was the importance of rest. Time away. Space to be together. Honeymoons matter.

We skipped the big wedding—we couldn’t afford it—but we did not skip the honeymoon. And time has proven that decision wise again and again. It gave us space to bond, to dream, and to begin life as one. Interestingly enough, our wedding gifts paid for it.

Looking back, God was arranging the entire thing. The marriage. The timing. Even the honeymoon. Jamaica was not just a vacation—it was where God planted the first seeds of our ministry, though we didn’t know it then.

What we didn't know at the time was that there's actually a thing called a "destination wedding."

A destination wedding combines the ceremony and the honeymoon in one place. It's usually somewhere beautiful, meaningful, and peaceful. The guest list is small. The details are handled. The stress is minimal. The focus is the union. I love that picture.

## GOSHEN: THE FATHER'S CHOSEN PLACE

Which brings us back to the Bride and the Groom.

Our heavenly Father has already chosen a destination—one that both His Son and His Bride will love. He has kept much of it quiet, including the timing. But the invitations are going out now. And I believe the locations—plural—will soon be revealed.

This is not about one nation or one land. The Bride is global. And a global Bride requires a global plan.

In recent years, many within the body of Christ have begun speaking about Goshens—places of refuge, provision, and preparation. That catches my attention, because the Lord has been speaking to me about Goshen since 2010.

Goshen was a place of protection during famine. It was where Israel was multiplied before the Exodus. It functioned like an ark—not moving through space, but through time. A vessel God used to carry His people through a season they could not survive otherwise.

Israel entered Egypt, settled in Goshen, multiplied, and emerged with great substance. I believe we are approaching a parallel moment. The Bride is leaving Egypt's systems and Babylon's corruption, passing through a wilderness season, and being carried by arks of refuge—modern Goshens—prepared by God Himself.

Just as an airplane carried my wife and me to our honeymoon destination, God has chosen the appropriate vessels for this hour. Our responsibility is not to engineer the journey, but to listen and board when He says it is time.

I don't know about you, but I hate travel delays. Missed connections. Broken-down vehicles. Forty years of wandering because of unbelief.

Let's not repeat that story.

## THE FINAL DESTINATION

For many, the journey will end through physical death. For others—the few who remain—a new earth awaits. A restored garden. The Lord’s planting.

“That they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.” *Isaiah 61:3*

This is the destination. Not escape, not disappearance, but union.

The Lord’s Bride—fully formed, fully surrendered—dwelling in the heavens spiritually while living faithfully on the earth. Heaven and earth joined through a people who know covenant.

This is the planting of the Lord. The Fields of Zion. Mature sons and daughters, Trees of righteousness.

**Now *that* is a destination wedding.**



This chapter is not a command. It is not a warning. It is an invitation.

You were not called to survive the end. You were called to **celebrate the fulfillment**.

Grace is not an afterthought. Grace is the atmosphere of the wedding.

And the Father has spared no expense.

## AWAKE MOUNT ZION

Rise up to the calling and purpose the Lord has revealed to you. If you are reading this and you understand what has been written here, then I am preaching to the choir. You already know who you are.

If you are called to be a David, a Moses, a Joseph—then it’s time to rise up and be who the Lord has said you are. This is your call to **Awake**.

And if you are the one searching everywhere for the voice of her King, ready to enter in at a moment’s notice—then follow His voice. It is calling out in all the earth right now. It is time to go into the wilderness place prepared for you.

Don't dilly-dally. Don't look back, lest you become like Lot's wife. Or worse—left outside, knocking at the door. The ark is leaving. The engagement is real. The wedding is near.

Step out... and enter in.

**Awake Mount Zion** is not a warning shouted at the world. It is a summons whispered to the Bride.

## Continue the Journey

A free digital edition of this book, along with related teachings and resources, is available online. Scan the QR code below, or visit: [firstlight.fieldsofzion.org](http://firstlight.fieldsofzion.org)



# Appendix:

## Where the Path Continues

### FIRST LIGHT MINISTRIES & THE FIELDS OF ZION INTERNATIONAL

If you are holding this book, it is not by accident. *Awake Mount Zion* was written as a **call**, not a conclusion. It was never meant to stand alone — but to awaken, clarify, and prepare the reader for what comes next.

For some, this book will be a warning. For others, it will be confirmation. For a few, it will be a doorway. This appendix exists for those who feel the stirring to **step forward**, not merely agree.



**First Light Ministries** exists to awaken, prepare, and equip the remnant Bride for the Kingdom to come.

Its focus is not church growth, platforms, or performance — but **formation**.

First Light is centered on:

- Hearing and discerning the voice of the Bridegroom
- Understanding times and seasons without fear
- Preparing for wilderness formation and Kingdom culture
- Recovering covenant identity and obedience
- Learning to live from Eden forward, not Babylon backward

First Light serves as the **teaching and preparation arm** of the journey — helping believers move from awakening into clarity, and from clarity into obedience.

It is a place for those who already sense that:

*“Something is happening — and I need to be ready.”*

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The **Fields of Zion** are not a doctrine, a denomination, or a destination map. They are a **vision of life**.

Fields of Zion International (FOZI) represents the **fruit of awakening** — where faith becomes lived culture.

The Fields of Zion speak of:

- God's people planted as *trees of righteousness* (Isaiah 61:3)
- Communities formed around covenant, not convenience
- Gardens, farms, and places of refuge during shaking
- Training grounds for Kingdom culture and stewardship
- Families learning to live, work, and worship together
- Preparation for life in the New Earth

FOZI is about **becoming**, not escaping. Not everyone is called to the same expression — but all are called to the same foundation:  
**obedience, humility, covenant, and trust.**

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### HOW THESE FIT TOGETHER

- **Awake Mount Zion** awakens the heart
- **First Light** prepares the mind and spirit
- **Fields of Zion** give form to what obedience looks like on the ground

This is not a program. It is a **process**.

Not everyone who reads this book will walk further — and that is okay.  
But for those who feel the pull, the door is open.

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### A GENTLE WORD OF DISCERNMENT

These paths are **not for spectators**.

They require:

- willingness to unlearn
- patience with formation
- surrender of control
- commitment to walk with others
- trust in God's timing

There is no pressure to respond quickly — but there *is* an invitation to respond honestly.

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## HOW TO CONNECT

If you feel led to learn more, explore further, or simply stay connected:

### First Light Ministries

[www.FirstLight.FieldsofZion.org](http://www.FirstLight.FieldsofZion.org)

### Fields of Zion



[www.FieldsofZion.org](http://www.FieldsofZion.org)

[connect@FieldsofZion.org](mailto:connect@FieldsofZion.org)

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## Final Note

If this book stirred something in you, do not rush to define it.

Sit with the Lord. Listen carefully.

Let Him confirm what is His.

Zion is not built by urgency —  
it is built by obedience.

**“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”**

**Luke 11:28**

# AWAKE MOUNT ZION

Across Scripture, there are moments when Heaven calls a people to rise, to separate, and to prepare. This book contends that we are living in one of those moments now.

Drawing from biblical patterns, prophetic insight, and lived obedience, Mark Bevan traces the unfolding call to the remnant Bride of Christ—from awakening and separation, through tribulation and wilderness formation, into covenant, government, and glory.

This is not a book about escape.

It is a book about preparation.

Not about fear.

But about readiness.

Not about speculation.

But about hearing the voice of the Bridegroom and responding while the door is still open.

This book is not written for the crowds.

It is written for those who know the call is for them.

**The ark is leaving.**

**The engagement is real.**

**The wedding is near.**

# Awake Mount Zion!

*A prophetic call for a sleeping Church in an approaching storm...*

A storm is gathering on the horizon—spiritual, cultural, and global. Many sense it. Few understand it. Fewer still are prepared.

*Awake Mount Zion* is a prophetic summons to the remnant Bride in the last days: to rise, to return, and to rebuild the spiritual walls of Zion before the great shaking unfolds. Drawing from Scripture (NKJV), prophetic dreams, historical parallels, and a clear-eyed view of the Church's present condition, this book reveals:

- The Valley of Decision where the Church now stands
- The coming separation between the remnant and the apostate
- The rebuilding of the spiritual Jerusalem within God's people
- How the Lord prepares His servants in hidden places
- The role of the remnant in the approaching global crisis
- The return to covenant faithfulness, holiness, and the fear of the Lord
- Why God is calling His people *out* before He calls them *up*

This is both warning and invitation—judgment and mercy intertwined. Like a lighthouse in a darkening storm, *Awake Mount Zion* guides the reader toward refuge, clarity, and courage in a world collapsing under its own darkness.

## About the Author

Mark Bevan writes from a life shaped by encounters with God, vivid prophetic dreams, and a passion for Scripture. A farmer, builder, and teacher at heart, Mark carries a calling to prepare the Bride for the return of the King. With a voice both pastoral and prophetic, he writes for those who feel the shaking of the times and long to understand their place in God's unfolding plan.

