

AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH – A DIVINE BLUEPRINT TO PREVAIL IN VICTORY – COREY STARK

I. THE ULTIMATE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS (ACTS 3:21)

A. The “restoration of all things” goes far beyond Adam and Eve dwelling in face-to-face communion with God, as history crescendos with the Last Adam (i.e. Jesus) and His corporate Bride, comprised of Jews and Gentiles out of every tribe, dwelling with God in the paradise-like conditions of the Garden of Eden forever!

Acts 3:20 That He [Father] may send Jesus Christ... ²¹ whom heaven must receive [i.e. retain] until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets...

B. When Jesus returns at the 7th trumpet He will take legal, comprehensive and everlasting leadership of earth to establish His Millennial Kingdom (Ps. 2:8-9; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Rev. 11:15-19; 20).

Rev. 11:15 The 7th [trumpet] angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven... “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

C. The “Millennium” (Latin ‘mille’ a thousand) is a *literal 1,000-year period* when Jesus will be crowned “King over all the Earth” (Zech. 14:9) and rule the nations, as the greater “*Son of David*” upon His Throne of Glory from the city of Jerusalem (2 Sam. 7:1-17; Ps. 132:11-18; Isa. 9:6-7; 16:5; Jer. 23:5-6; Lk. 1:31-33). He will reign over *every sphere* of society in *partnership* with His Bride (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 5:10; 20:4-6).

Dan. 7:27 Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High...

D. The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth, as Jesus establishes righteousness, peace and prosperity in *society*, while progressively restoring the *atmosphere, agriculture, animal life* and even *natural age* back to the original conditions of paradise seen in the Garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Job 5:23; Hos. 2:18; Zech. 6:12; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

Ezek. 36:35 They will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden...’ ³⁶ The nations... shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate.

E. The centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose in the “restoration of all things” is the dynamic convergence of heaven and earth, as it was in the beginning with Adam and Eve (Eph. 1:10; Col. 1:19-20).

Eph. 1:10 In the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him (Col. 1:19-20)

F. At this time, the resurrected saints will dwell in unhindered face-to-face communion with our Father in the paradise-like conditions of the Garden of Eden on the New Earth forever (Rev. 21:1-8)! *Principle: What God does in fullness then, He will do in part now if we ask (2 Chr. 7:14).*

Rev. 21:3 Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... God [the Father] will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. 5 Then He... said, “Behold, I make all things new... 6 It is done!... 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his [Father] God and he shall be My son. 22:4 They shall see His face... 5 forever!

II. CONTEXT OF RESTORATION – THE UNIQUE DYNAMICS OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

A. The Millennial Kingdom is the “baby” of Isaiah 66:8 and as any parent knows, there’s a unique season of great change and intensity, just preceding the birth that *must occur* in preparation for the baby. This is the context we find ourselves in today. This is called a *transitional generation* in which the LORD prepares His people for a dramatic relational shift, including a great increase of *revelation* and witnessing His *power*.

Isa. 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day?

B. When asked about “signs” preceding His return, Jesus likened *11 major trends* to “birth pangs” that would be universal, simultaneous and discernible (Mt. 24:4-8; Mk. 13:5-8; Lk. 21:8-11). Like natural contractions, they ebb and flow, while increasing in frequency and escalating in intensity. They are meant to awaken the Church to wholehearted devotion and faithfulness to our assignment in preparation for the Day of the LORD.

Mt. 24:4 “Take heed no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name... and deceive many 6 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. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes... 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows [lit. birth pangs]”.

1. The 11 “sign trends” are: *mass deception, propaganda wars, ethnic conflict, international warfare* (economic warfare, lawfare, weaponizing healthcare, etc.), *famines, pestilences* (i.e. COVID-19), *great earthquakes, troubles* (roiling water or mobs Mk. 13:8), *commotions* (chaotic disorder Lk. 21:9), *fearful sights* (terrorist activity Lk. 21:11), *great signs* from heaven (Lk. 21:11). See also Psalm 2:1-3.

2. Due to unfamiliarity, new mothers often experience contractions long before realizing it. In our immaturity, could we be missing the very signs Jesus gave His people to help us prepare for His return?

3. The pressure of crisis *exposes* that which hides just below the surface of our hearts in times of ease and *expedites* the outcome of our response (Ps. 107; Mal. 3:2-3; Eph. 5:27; Heb. 12:25-29). As in childbirth, these “birth pang” contractions are not designed to *hurt* the Church, but actually *help* the Church.

Mal. 3:2 He is like a refiner’s fire... 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold... that they may offer... an offering in righteousness. (Eph. 5:27)

C. Scripture describes the *unique dynamics* in the generation of the LORD’s return as *great* and *very terrible* (Joel 2:11, 31; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:20). The Church experiences the *greatest revival* in history during the *most severe crisis* on earth. Both light/darkness and wheat/tares will increase together (Isa. 60:1-2; Mt. 13:30, 39).

Joel 2:11 For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it?

D. Four “eschatological winds” or trends will converge in *fullness* to create the “perfect storm” that brings in the *great harvest* of souls, comprised of Jews and Gentiles out of every tribe and tongue (Hag. 2:7; Am. 9:12; Acts 15:17; Mt. 24:14; Rev. 14:14-16), brings forth a *glorious Church* in unprecedented unity, purity and power (Eph. 4:13; 5:27; Rev. 19:7; 22:17) and brings down everything that stands in opposition to God’s loving will, as He establishes an *unshakable kingdom* on the earth (Hag. 2:6-9; Heb. 12:25-29). These four trends are *creations groan* (Rom. 8:22), *man’s sin* (Dan. 8:23), *Satan’s rage* (Rev. 12:7-9, 17) and *God’s zeal* displayed in both glory (Acts 2:17-19) and judgment (Hag. 2:6-9; Rev. 15:1), which are really the same thing.

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III. OUR PREPARATION, AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH (LK. 17:26)

A. Jesus likened this unique timeframe just preceding His return to the “days of Noah” (Mt. 24:37-39; Lk. 17:26-27). We must ask, “*In what ways is it similar?*” And, “*What is the LORD’s desired response?*”

Lk. 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all... 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

#1 Transitional Generation: Besides the final generation, Noah’s generation was the *only one* that witnessed God’s power manifest in an unprecedented worldwide shaking, changing the way God related to His creation.

#2 Worldwide Corruption: The wickedness of man was great in his rebellion against God. All the thoughts of his heart devised evil continually, corrupting his way and the earth itself. Heightened *demonic activity*, *sexual immorality*, and *violence* (murder, theft) were rampant then and will be again (Gen. 6:5, 11-13; Rev. 9:20-21).

Gen. 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... 12 for all flesh had corrupted their way (Rev. 9:20-21).

#3 Divine Forewarning: Of an unprecedented (i.e. rain), future and imminent worldwide shaking was given to and proclaimed faithfully *through* Noah (i.e. forerunner) for decades (2 Pet. 2:5; Hag. 2:6-7; Heb. 12:25-29).

Heb. 11:7 Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of righteousness...

#4 Divine Blueprints: God instructed Noah to build an *ark of safety* to deliver all those with “ears to hear” (Gen. 6:14-16). This eschatological ark will not just *endure*, but *prevail* in the coming storm (Mt. 7:24-27)!

Mt. 16:18 On this rock [v.16] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys [i.e. authority] of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Mt. 7:24-27; Lk. 6:47-49)

#5 Delayed Vindication: Delay tests the heart, because the wisdom of *preparation by faith* is *only* apparent after the crisis begins. However, after it comes suddenly it’s too late to prepare for all those who doubted (2 Pet. 3:3-4). They all scoffed until the rain began and suddenly Noah became the wisest man on earth!

Lk. 21:34 But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares [i.e. anxiety] of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

IV. DIVINE BLUEPRINT TO PREVAIL IN VICTORY – THE FATHER’S HOUSE OF PRAYER (MT. 16:18)

A. Prior to Jesus’ return, ONE FACET of the *victorious Church* that He is building (Mt. 16:18) is that we will function as a *kingdom of priests* in the *Father’s House of Prayer* (Isa. 56:7; Mt. 21:13; Mk. 11:17; Lk. 19:46).

Isa. 56:7 For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.

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B. The House of Prayer describes what we do in our *eternal occupation* as a kingdom of priests who minister to God by agreeing with *who He is* in worship (You are holy, beautiful, etc.) and *what He does* in prayer (Your Kingdom come, etc.). “Your will be done on earth, as in Heaven,” includes the heavenly Temple order.

Rev. 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll... the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp [worship music], and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

C. The priestly ministry of agreement in worship and prayer is the *primary way* God releases His governmental power through Jesus and His people, now and forever (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; 22:5). This is seen in Jesus engaging in intercession *forever* (Gen. 1; Ps. 2:7-9; 110:4; Isa. 53:12; Lk. 22:32; 23:34; Rom. 8:34; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:11, 15, 17, 21, 25; 1 Jn. 2:1).

Heb. 7:21 The Lord [Father] has sworn and will not relent, ‘You [Jesus] are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek’... 25 He is able to save... since He always lives to make intercession for them.

1. What is the order of Melchizedek? He is the archetypal and original King-Priest! In the Old Testament, the LORD either anointed a king to *reign over people on earth* (1 Sam. 8:9) or a priest to *minister to God in Heaven* (Ex. 19:6; 28-29). He never allowed these two offices to overlap. The only exception was Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-10) and king David, who was clearly a prophetic foreshadow of Jesus, the “greater son of David” to come (Isa. 9:6-7; 16:5; Lk. 1:30-33), who would rule the heavens and the earth, as High Priest forever after the *order of Melchizedek* (Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:17, 21).

Heb. 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God... 2 being translated “king of righteousness,” and... king of Salem, meaning “king of peace”...

2. Jesus isn’t just a *King that prays*, but a Priest who rules the entire created order through intercession forever (Zech. 6:13; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34). Good news! We are of this same *royal governmental priesthood* after the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 10:19-23; 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:4, 6; 22:5).

Zech. 6:13 He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

1 Pet. 2:9 You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...

D. The mystery of intercession is seen in its’ *simplicity of agreement* with God’s will, as the means to release His governmental power (Mt. 6:10; 1 Jn. 5:14-15). Our volume, hype, talent, multitude of words or eloquence of speech does not manipulate God to do more. *One intercessor in simple agreement with God is the majority!*

1 Jn. 5:14 If we ask anything according to His will... 15 we know we have the petitions that we asked...

E. There is no higher governmental authority in the created order than the One seated upon the throne and the priests seated at His right hand (Eph. 2:6). As we release *faith-filled words of agreement* to God, He responds by releasing His power on the earth (Joel 2). *What God does in fullness then, He’ll do in part now if we ask!*

2 Chr. 7:14 If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and heal their land.