
SACRED ASSEMBLY S01 RESPONDING RIGHTLY TO GOD IN THE HOUR OF VISITATION

I. THE GREATER RESPONSIBILITY & CONSEQUENCE OF A TRANSITIONAL GENERATION

A. There have been many *historic moments* that have changed the world forever (e.g. Martin Luther's 95 thesis, the fall of the Berlin Wall, 9/11 World Trade Center attack, etc.). There have been fewer *transitional generations* in which there is a greater manifestation of God's *involvement*, including a great increase of *revelation* and witnessing His *power* (e.g. Noah, Moses, Jesus' first coming). We are currently experiencing both – a *historic moment* that is forever changing the world as we know it and I believe that we are also in the *transitional generation* that will witness the return of the LORD.

B. In the transitional generation of Jesus' first coming, Israel came under judgment. They weren't judged for not *knowing* the signs of His coming (although they should have); they were judged for not *respond rightly* to Him at His first coming. Their unresponsiveness was directly related to their lack of discerning the "hour of their visitation" (Lk. 19:41-44). God help us to know ours (Lk. 12:48)!

Lk. 19:41 He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known... your day, the things that make for your peace!... 43 For the days will come when your enemies will... 44 level you, and your children within you, to the ground... because you did not know the time of your visitation."

C. Peter warns us to guard ourselves from acquiescing to a scoffing spirit from within the Church.

2 Pet. 3:3 Knowing this first: scoffers will come in the last days... 4 saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? Since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning"

D. The point of Joel's message to God's people is to *consider* the "signs of the times," which means we need to *know them* and in light of the unprecedented hour, we need an unprecedented *response*.

Joel 1:2 Hear this, you elders, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?

Joel 2:12 "Therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning..." 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; 16 gather the people... the congregation... the elders, gather the children and nursing babes... 28 And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...

E. In the Book of Esther there was a conspiracy to "annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day" (Esth. 3:13), yet in God's foreknowledge He determined that a young woman named Hadassah (i.e. Esther) would be positioned to partner with God in delivering the nation of Israel from certain death. *What if she missed the "time of her visitation" and did nothing?*

Esth. 4:14 "If you remain completely silent at this time... you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther [said] 16 "Fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days... My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law [penalty is death]; and if I perish, I perish!"

F. May God open our eyes to see and awaken our hearts to respond rightly in this hour of history.

SACRED ASSEMBLY S01 RESPONDING RIGHTLY TO GOD IN THE HOUR OF VISITATION

II. OUR CALLING TO PARTNER WITH GOD THROUGH THE SIMPLICITY OF AGREEMENT

A. Scripture describes the unique dynamics in the transitional generation of the LORD's return as *great* and *terrible* (Joel 2:11, 31; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:20). Both light and darkness, righteousness and wickedness will increase together unto fullness (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?

B. While the *victorious Church* that Jesus is building emerges in unprecedented unity, purity and power, as a glorious Bride (Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7; 22:17) unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ (Eph. 4:13) doing greater works (Jn. 14:12), there will be a *great falling away* of believers (Mt. 24:5; Lk. 8:11-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; Heb. 3:12; 6:4-6; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 2:20-22) and unprecedented *rise of evil* in the earth (Isa. 60:2; Dan. 8:23; Mt. 24:9-11, 21-22; Rev. 9:20-21; 17-18).

Isa. 60:2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

C. The key factor, determining the measure of God's glory or ever-encroaching darkness on the earth is one thing – the agreement of God's covenant people in each geographic region (Hab. 2:14).

Hab. 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. (Ps. 72:19; Isa. 6:3; 11:9)

1. We *cannot* do His part and He *will not* do our part. If we do not agree with Him in prayer, the fullness of God's purpose *for us* and *our region* is unattainable (Isa. 30:18-19; Rom. 12:2; Jas. 4:2).

Jas. 4:2 Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

2. It's not enough to agree in our minds, complain to our friends or argue on Facebook. The response God is looking for from His people is faith-filled words of agreement with His will.

1 Jn. 5:14 This is the confidence we have... if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if... He hears us... we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

3. Our volume, hype, talent, eloquent speech or multitude of words does not manipulate God to do more. *Agreement is the key to authority*. Agreement with God is the key to *having* His authority. Agreement with our words is the key to *releasing* His authority. As we release faith-filled words of agreement to God, He responds by releasing His governmental power on earth (Joel 2:28-32).

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

4. In Gen. 1 we don't know how long the Spirit was waiting, but we know nothing happened until Jesus spoke the Word (Gen. 1:2-3; Ps. 2:7-9). What if Moses remained silent in Exodus?