

## THE FAITHFUL CHURCH IN A LAND UNDER JUDGMENT

### THE CONSEQUENCES OF GRIEVOUS SIN IN THE LAND:

Idolatry, Immorality, Rebellion, Wickedness; Ezek. 5:8-17; 14:13-21; Jer. 29:17-19 results in:

1. Invasion
2. War, Tyranny
3. Captivity, Enslavement, Exile
4. Famine, Drought
5. Disease, Pestilence, Plagues
6. Death

### DIVINE JUDGMENTS AT THE END OF THE AGE:

1. God intends that divine judgments would produce the fear of God (reverence, awe) in the people, causing them to fall to their knees in repentance; Isaiah 26:9; Hosea 5:15
2. Jesus allows His people to be “broken” so that they may release a sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him; John 12:3. To those who are perishing, we are the aroma of death; to one, we are a fragrance of life, to another, we are the smell of death; 2 Cor. 2:14-16
3. Some will turn from their sins; Jer. 6:16, from “outward ceremony” to true, inward devotion to Christ; Rom. 2:28-29; motives, speech and behavior are purified and refined; Malachi 3:3
4. Sin is “piling up”; the “measure of guilt” is being filled; Matt. 23:32; Rom. 2:5; Rev. 18:4-5
5. God is patient: judgment and wrath may be delayed, but it is certain; Lam. 3:33; Ez. 18:32
6. Persecution against the church intensifies; little “pockets” of revival occur in places, creating a hunger for prayer and God’s Word, with new light shed upon the scriptures; Isa. 42:9; 48:6
7. The faithful church will have a great longing for the Messiah and an earnest desire to prepare for His appearing; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 1:7
8. Increasing cataclysmic events, “birth pangs” release a sense of “impending doom” and the approaching “day of reckoning”; Amos 4:12; Hosea 9:7, 9; Gal. 6:7; Matt. 24:3-44
9. When grievous sin fills the land, the Lord “comes down”; Gen. 18:20-21; God ultimately controls all circumstances toward the accomplishment of His purposes; Jer. 32:27; Isaiah 50:2
10. God cares for His people and overrules all things for their good; Isaiah 49:15-16; the faithful “sigh and groan” over the abominations around them, but they are “marked” and “sealed” unto the day of their redemption; Ezek. 9:4; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13
11. God sets up kings and nations and He also brings them down; Exodus 14:4; 26-31; Psalm 75:6-7; He uses world rulers as His tools to execute His will; Isaiah 45:1; Psalm 72:11
12. “Noisome beasts”; Ezek. 14:15, are descriptive of the wicked entities and nations God uses as His weapons of judgment (predators “like a lion, like a leopard, like a bear robbed of her cubs”); they attack, plunder, ravage, devour their prey; Hosea 13:7-8; Dan. 7:4-5; Rev. 13:2
13. God intervenes in human history, when He sees “now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do”; Genesis 11:6
14. Eventually, the Restraint (Holy Spirit) will cease to “restrain”; 2 Thess. 2:7. There will be a “shattering of the power of the holy people”; Dan. 12:7. The age of grace comes to a conclusion; the Holy Spirit still dwells within individuals, but He will cease to convict the world of sin
15. The abomination of desolation will be set up; Antichrist will take his place in fulfillment of what is written; 2 Thess. 2:3, 7-8; Rev. 13:11-18
16. It will be a time of tremendous spiritual darkness, but deliverance comes for the faithful church at the midnight hour; Exodus 11:4; 12:3-31; Matthew 25:10; Luke 21:28

## DURING TIMES OF CAPTIVITY, FAMINE, PERSECUTION, MOURNING AND LOSS:

God Visits His People, Brings Them Together And Uses Them In Remarkable Ways:

1. Joseph - was sold into slavery, interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, became prime minister in Egypt, stored grain for the days of famine, revealed himself to his brethren; Gen. 37:28; 41:40-41, 54-57
2. Daniel and his friends - while in captivity, refused to bow to the image or participate in false worship; they were miraculously delivered and the Lord was glorified; Dan. 3:1-18; 4:9; 6:1-13
3. Job - endured physical pain, misunderstanding and great loss; the Lord revealed Himself to Job and restored him; Job moved from the "hearing realm" to the "seeing realm"; Job 42:5
4. Ezekiel - was among the exiles when he saw heaven opened and visions of God; Ezek. 1:1
5. Jonah - the "captive" messenger in the belly of the fish, was miraculously preserved so that he could deliver God's warning to Ninevah; Jonah 1:17; 2:1-10
6. Gideon - during a time of invasion, he was visited by the angel of the Lord, raised up an army of 300 men and successfully defeated their enemies who outnumbered them; Judg. 6:1-12; 7:7
7. Ananias - had a vision of Saul of Tarsus, laid hands on him and baptized him; Acts 9:1-18
8. Paul - while imprisoned, Paul wrote to the churches, spread the Gospel message, and caused believers to become bold in their proclamation of the Gospel; Phil. 1:12-14
9. Philip - during a season of intense persecution, he preached Christ, baptized an Ethiopian eunuch and was supernaturally transported to another city; Acts 8:26-40
10. John the apostle - was in exile on the island of Patmos, where Jesus visited him and told him to write what he saw and heard (the book of Revelation)
11. Moses and Aaron were used to deliver God's people from Egypt; Exodus 2:1-10; 4:14-16
12. Ruth and Boaz were married; Ruth 4:9-13
13. David and his mighty men did exploits; 1 Samuel 22:1-2
14. Jonathan and David formed a covenant; 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:7-13
15. Esther and Mordecai worked together to deliver the Jews; Esther 2:5-7
16. Elijah and the widow had supernatural provision; her son was raised to life; 1 Kings 17:1-24
17. Micah and the Levite met; Micah provided shelter and support for him; Judges 17:7-12
18. Paul and Silas were imprisoned, brought salvation to the jailer's household; Acts 16:25-34

## GOD DELIVERS A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND PEACE IN TRIBULATION

1. The Lord gives us the "tongue of the learned", that we would know how to speak a word in season to the one who is weary; Isaiah 50:4; Proverbs 15:23
2. Jesus tells us not to worry about what to say to our adversaries; He will give us a mouth to speak wisdom; Luke 21:12-15
3. Boaz encouraged Ruth; Ruth 2:8-12. Persecution, loss, suffering and hardship will either soften the people's hearts or cause them to become bitter toward God; Ruth 1:20; James 3:14
4. God raises up faithful messengers to give people hope for the future and to remind them of the significance of their suffering; Romans 8:18; Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter 5:10
5. The Lord opens our mouths to reveal the contents within us: the "treasure" of His Word; 2 Cor. 4:7; we are His vessels, containers of living manna and living water; John 4:6; 6:48-58; 7:38
6. In the midst of Tribulation, God delivers messages of comfort; 2 Cor. 1:4; 1 Thess. 4:18
7. The king's scribes deliver letters to the people, "sealed" with the king's signet ring; these "letters" are sent by various messengers, according to the king's decree; Esther 8:9-14
8. God's people are living decrees, "epistles" (letters) known and read by men; they are a letter from Christ, written by the Spirit of God on tablets of human hearts; 2 Cor. 3:2-3; Heb. 10:16

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