

**I. THE RAGING OF THE NATIONS IN THE END-TIMES**

A. Understanding the signs of the times and “birth pangs” at the end of the age:

*3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” 4 And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. -Matt. 24:3-8*

*Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” -Psalm 2:1-6*

B. Prior to Jesus’ return, there will be a “raging” of the nations and the leadership of the earth that is centrally directed at the identity of the Person of Jesus and His laws. As the culture of the world becomes more intoxicated with the spirit of the age this response among the nations will increase.

*6 “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” -Psalm 2:6*

C. The greatest need of this hour for the Church and the Nations of the earth is for the knowledge of God and the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. *The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us...with our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence.<sup>1</sup>*

D. In the West, we have spent more money and energy on reaching this generation than any other nation in history and yet we are still losing a generation. Despite our many methods and ideas, right now, 96% of the emerging generation in America is unchurched and the nation still is faced with many problems (economically, agriculturally, socially, etc.). What can stem the moral decline of a nation? What can restore the broken family unit? What is the spirit saying to the church in this hour?

E. The prophet Joel warns us that if you misinterpret the season that you’re in then you’ll not have the keys to properly interpret and respond to what is coming. We must “hear” and “give ear” (Joel 1:2).

F. **The crisis of relevance and understanding:**

1. Understanding that God has exalted Jesus as King who will inherit the nations (Ps. 2:8; Ps. 72:8; Ps. 89:27; Dan. 7:14) should comfort us and awaken us. Jesus will have preeminence in all things. Every high and lofty that exalts itself up against the knowledge of God will be brought low as He shakes everything as the Desire of All Nations (Is. 2; Hg. 2).

---

<sup>1</sup> Tozer, A.W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. San Francisco, CA: Harper pub. 1961, p. vii

2. However, we cannot manipulate God or His plan, it *will* come to pass. We cannot “cast out” Jesus with Jesus. The crisis of this reality being irrelevant to us will result in many being offended at the end of the age (Mt. 24).
- G. The reason why there is confusion as to the biblical response to crisis and a systemic blight of prayerlessness in the Church is because we greatly misunderstand Gods sovereignty, nature, character, and plan. There is a desperate need for bold voices who are carrying something from heaven to emerge.
- H. Instead of starting with the landscape that surrounds us and attempting to explain it away, we must lift our eyes to *God* and *heaven* as our reference point.
- I. The parameter of God’s relationship to His creation are the parameters of prayer. And defining God’s sovereignty is to define His governance of His kingdom, or His relationship to His creation. However, we conceive of God’s sovereignty will determine how we will relate to Him in prayer because it informs what He has done, what He can do and what He will do when we ask Him.
- J. God’s strategy to a nation in crisis is the biblical turning to Him in prayer and the emergence of nazirites and prophetic voices with knowledge and clarity.

***32 ...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. 33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. (Daniel 11:29)***

## **II. BEHOLD A THRONE AND ONE WHO SAT ON IT (REV. 4)**

***2 I was in the Spirit and behold, a Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the Throne. (Rev. 4:2)***

### **A. Behold, a Throne set in heaven:**

1. John sees God’s Throne which is far more powerful than the throne of the Roman empire that crushing Israel, the early Church, and imprisoned John on Patmos. John sees the Throne and the Person who has total control over Rome and Satan’s kingdom. This revelation brings great confidence to us. A key focus in the Book of Revelation is God’s Throne.
2. This Throne is “set” forever. It is not a temporary power like the Roman Empire. God’s Throne guarantees us that all of God’s plans will come to pass. God’s Throne assures us that His destiny cannot be stopped, thus we cannot fail as we relate to Him with faith and obedience.
3. The Throne guarantees the certainty of God’s plans. The Throne of God is referred to 40 times in the Book of Revelation. The Throne pictures God as the ruler over everything; the One who conquers everything. Nothing can resist it and nothing can overcome it. (Rev. 4:2-6:17; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 14: 1-5; 15: 2-8; 19:1-8; 21:1-22:9).

***34 His dominion is an everlasting dominion ...35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say..., "What have You done?" (Dan. 4:34-35)***

***27 His Kingdom is...everlasting...all dominions shall serve and obey Him. (Dan. 7:27)***

**15 Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales...17 All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless. 18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? ...23 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. 24 Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He will also blow on them, and they will wither... 25 To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?...26 Lift up your eyes on high, and see...who brings out their host (stars) by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing. (Isa. 40:15-26)**

**16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether Thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 He is the head of the body...that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven... (Col. 1:16-19)**

**20 He (Father) raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 He put all things under His (Jesus') feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church... (Eph. 1:20-22)**

- B. God's Throne is forever. All that it accomplishes is forever permanent.

**44 The God of heaven will set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the Kingdom shall...break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Dan. 2:44)  
3 His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation...34 His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. (Dan. 4:3, 34)**

**14 His (Jesus') dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:14)**

**8 To the Son He says: "Your Throne, O God, is forever and ever...10 And: "You, LORD...laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." (Heb. 1:2-12)**

### **III. ONE SAT ON THE THRONE (REV. 4:2)**

- A. John sees One called, "Him who sits upon the Throne." This is a mysterious title for One so eloquent. The great communicator of all the ages hides Himself in obscurity. John sees the Father sitting in total confidence and security. None can challenge Him. This Throne has all power and cannot be conquered. He has dominion over all.
- B. In the revelation of Scripture God Himself is the ultimate center of all things. He dwells in the self-existence and compared to His absolute necessity all things and frail and feeble.
- C. Right now the LORD is on His Throne and His Kingdom rules over all. God reigns over all thing, He upholds all things, He sustains all things, and He possesses all things.

D. The LORD Gives Life to All Things

*“Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah, said, “Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever! O may Your glorious name be blessed And exalted above all blessing and praise! “You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You. ” (Nehemiah 9:5–6, NASB95)*

*The young lions roar after their prey and seek their food from God. (Psalm 104:21, NASB95)*

*They all wait for You to give them their food in due season. You give to them, they gather it up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good. You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the ground. (Psalm 104:27–30, )*

*You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:16)*

*“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? “And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? “And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. “But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! ” (Matthew 6:26–30)*

*“Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ” (Matthew 10:29)*

E. The LORD Actively Presides Over His Creation

*<sup>3</sup> ‘If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, <sup>4</sup> then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Leviticus 26:3-4*

*<sup>10</sup> He gives rain on the earth, and sends waters on the fields. Job 5:10*

*<sup>6</sup> For He says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth’; Likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength... <sup>9</sup> From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds of the north. <sup>10</sup> By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen. <sup>11</sup> Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds. <sup>12</sup> And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, that they may do whatever He commands them on the face of the whole earth.<sup>13</sup> He causes it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy. Job 37:6, 9-13*

*<sup>7</sup> You who still the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples. <sup>8</sup> They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs; You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice. <sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it. <sup>10</sup> You water its ridges abundantly; You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth. <sup>11</sup> You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance. Psalm 65:7-11*

*You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. <sup>7</sup> At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. <sup>8</sup> They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them. <sup>9</sup> You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth. <sup>10</sup> He sends the springs into the valleys; they flow among the hills. <sup>11</sup> They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. <sup>12</sup> By them the birds of the heavens have their home; they sing among the branches. <sup>13</sup> He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. Psalm 104:7-13*

*Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who provides rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains. ” (Psalm 147:8, NASB95)*

*He sends out His command to the earth; <sup>16</sup> His word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; <sup>17</sup> He casts out His hail like morsels; Who can stand before His cold? <sup>18</sup> He sends out His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow. Psalm 147:15-18*

*<sup>8</sup> Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word. Psalm 148:8*

*“Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this [the story of his father Nebuchadnezzar], <sup>23</sup> And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. (Daniel 5:23)*

*“In whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind? ” (Job 12:10)*

*<sup>14</sup> If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, <sup>15</sup> all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust. Job 34:14-15*

*Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it...”(Isaiah 42:5)*

*“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; ” (Acts 17:24–25)*

*“The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life. ” (Job 33:4)*

*“The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. ” (1 Samuel 2:6)*

F. God Presides Over the Lives of Men

*The LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ” (Exodus 4:11)*

*But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips. ” (Job 2:10)*

***“Does He not see my ways And number all my steps? ” (Job 31:4)***

***“You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. ” (Psalm 139:2–6)***

***The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these. (Isaiah 45:7)***

***If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it? (Amos 3:6)***

#### **IV. APPLICATION TO PRAYER**

***“And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.” And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” ” (Revelation 4:8–11, NASB95)***

##### **A. Intercession & the Throne**

1. Prayer, like worship, is personally oriented. Because we are praying to *Someone*, our intercession is oriented around *somewhere*, because Jesus has an authentic human body and He is in an actual place in the heavens.
2. In intercession we are approaching the supreme Governor in the governmental center of the universe. That is why through faith we ‘come before’ *the throne of God* (cf. Eph 3, Heb 4). All intercession, therefore, is oriented around a *real throne* and occurs in an overtly governmental context.
3. Prayer is not hurling phrases into the air and hoping they are heard in some abstract way. We are making requests that are being considered in a real place by a real Person – the sovereign King of all things.

##### **B. The Need for Clarity Concerning His Sovereign Power in Prayer**

1. By turning our eyes to heaven and acquiring a revelation of the throne, we will begin to offer our prayers within the context of the active and absolute sovereignty of God.
2. We have so much unbelief concerning His sovereignty that we have to embrace a radical focus on the throne until it moves from being a fairy-tale to a reality that engenders faith in our soul. His throne has been reduced to a metaphor and the prayer life of the church has suffered as a result.
3. In our hearts (regardless of what adhered to in our minds) we often translate God’s patient, merciful, longsuffering as impotence and approval. A vision of His throne, and faith in His total, absolute sovereignty is the remedy for this deep-seated unbelief.

## V. GOD'S DESIRE FOR A PRIESTHOOD

A. God desires a priesthood made up of *living* stones.

*4 Coming to Him (Jesus) as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. -1 Peter 2:4*

*To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. -Rev. 1:5-6*

B. God is a loving Father who desires partnership with the imagebearers. But He won't do our part and we cannot do His part.

C. Jesus' entire earthly ministry was to reveal the Father. Even now He reveals the Father's heart as the Eternal Intercessor and our Great High Priest.

*3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high... -Hebrews 1:3*

D. God reveals God to our spirit to exhilarate and draw us nearer to Himself forever.

*6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.*

E. **The LORD** -- "Yahweh" -- God is the sovereign King. He is ruler of the kings of the earth. He is omniscient and omnipotent.

1. **Merciful** - The Lord delights in mercy. He stoops to care for the weak and undeserving. Jesus gave up His rights and his equality with the Father to express mercy to his enemies and save whoever will come to Him.
2. **Gracious** - The Father gives good gifts. He is extravagant beyond our wildest imaginations. He is kind in all His deeds (Ps. 145:17)
3. Longsuffering - **God is slow to anger. He even gives Jezebel time to repent (Rev. 2:21).**
4. **Abounding in goodness** - Goodness is God's very nature. He overflows with all that is good and pleasing. All that we receive is from an overflowing One that is all-powerful and totally kind and good.
5. **Keeping mercy for thousands** - God has stored up mercy for the nations, for all that will call upon Him. He waits to show mercy. He literally dreams up ways to show mercy -- the cross being the highest and most extravagant act of mercy that could possibly be conceived.

6. **Forgiving iniquity** - Jesus' blood has removed our guilt before the Father and has given us a new righteous nature.
7. **By no means clearing the guilty** - He will punish openly all that will not repent. In his zeal for love and truth, he must destroy everything that hinders love.
8. **Visiting iniquity of fathers on children** - He is a righteous Judge that will even punish children for sins of parents in order to keep the sin from perpetuating and destroying more lives. This is actually God's mercy in preserving righteousness.

F. **Nazirites and prophetic voices emerge from the priestly place of the standing in counsel of the LORD and beholding the character of God.**

G. The Lord carefully takes notice of His friends as well as His enemies. This aspect of His Personhood is hated by the ungodly, but is pleasing to those who love Him. He is always watching us. We are always on His mind.

*13 There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Heb. 4:13)*

*3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on...evil and the good. (Prov. 15:3)*

H. He has total clarity and fullness of insight into every dark secret. God's all-seeing eyes discern our negative and positive qualities. His eyes see the yes in our spirit when we fail, more clearly than we do. He sees the cry in our heart to obey Him. Our decisions, victories, failures and struggles heart affects His heart. We may feel alone in this age, however, we really are not.

*21 The ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD...He ponders all his paths. (Prov. 5:21) 23 All shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts... (Rev. 2:23).*

I. God interprets all knowledge through the cleanness of His heart. A judge may know all the facts about a case. But if he has an unclean heart, he will misinterpret the information. God sees all without any distortion. His vision is clean. There is no exaggeration in what He perceives.

J. This One desires to be known intimately and enjoyed, not only obeyed and honored.

K. We have access to God's Throne of grace right now by prayer. This is the place that our prayers are received. The greatest expression of our destiny in this age and the age-to-come is manifest as we relate to God's Throne on the sea of glass by worship and intercession.

*6 He...made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Eph. 2:6)*

*16 Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*