

I. Introduction

- a) Let's quickly review what we have talked about over the last several weeks.
 1. *Our mission:* We looked at our mandate to make the bride ready and what it looks like when the bride is made ready. Specifically, we looked at 12 characteristics of the bride made ready.
 2. *The movement:* We looked at the present-day movement of the Holy Spirit to make the bride ready in the nations. The Lord has prepared and is preparing a corporate vessel of forerunners in the spirit and the power of Elijah to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Restoration Life Church has been preparing for this for 30 years and now is the time for our complete commission into this mandate. We are called to trigger the bride being made ready in this community, nation, and nations. We are called to hasten the Lord's return.
 3. *The commission:* We looked at our responsibility to take what the Lord has taught us and to teach others in the nations. Our role in the Great Commission is to make the bride ready in the nations, especially in Eastern and Southern Africa, through Lifeschool and the Forerunner School.
- b) In this week's and next week's messages, I will explain what it means to trigger the second coming of Jesus Christ by the bride making herself ready. As you will see, there are three phases of the bride being made ready and each phase will trigger the next phase, ultimately leading to the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- c) Proverbs 4:7 states, "In all your getting, get understanding" (NKJV). Understanding end-time events is so underrated in the church today. Yet it is vital to the preparation of the bride. Understanding the prophetic Scriptures does an internal work in you, where God's future plans are formed in your heart and soul today.
- d) There will be a remnant within the church who will fully overcome and trigger the events recorded in the prophetic Scriptures.
- e) As forerunners in the spirit and the power of Elijah, this is an important part of our calling at Restoration Life. We are called to trigger the bride being made ready in our community, nation, and the nations and thus trigger the events leading to the second coming of Christ. This is part of what it means to prepare the way of the Lord.
- f) If we will respond to this invitation with wholehearted obedience and fervent prayer, we can be part of a generation who triggers the Lord's return (2 Cor. 10:5-6; Rom. 16:20).

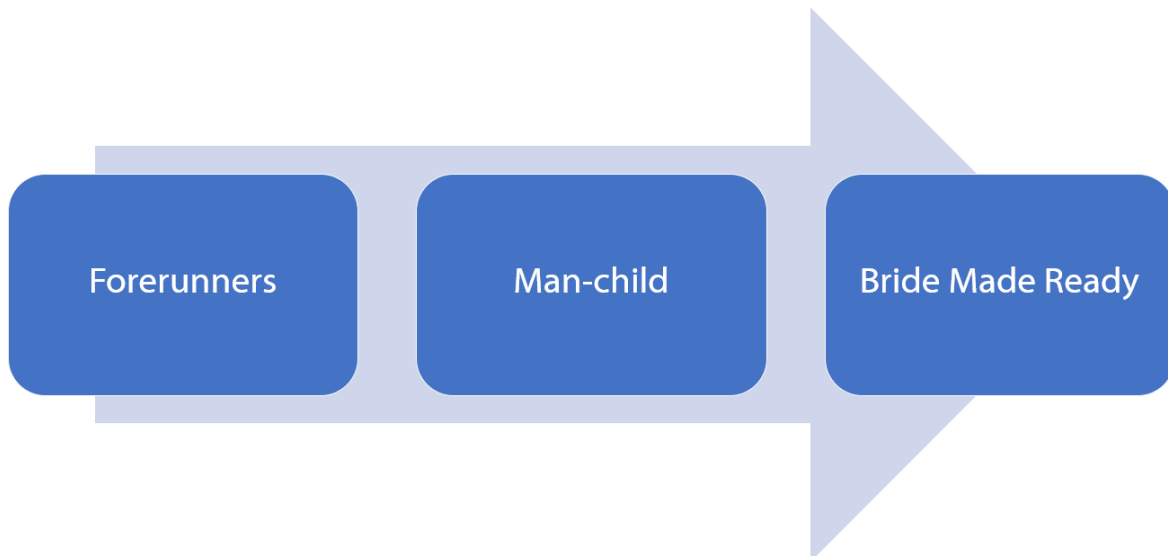
II. Triggering the Lord's Return

- a) Before discussing the three phases of how the bride will be made ready, let me define the word *trigger*.
- b) Most know a trigger is a lever pressed by the finger to discharge a firearm. But a trigger can also be a similar device used to release or activate any type of mechanism.
- c) A trigger is also something that acts like a mechanical trigger to initiate a process, action, reaction, or chain of events, setting it in motion.
- d) Many, if not most, believe the Lord will fulfill end-time prophecy by His sovereignty alone, without any participation, involvement, input, or partnership from the church. But as I discussed in my recent message *Come Lord Jesus*, nothing is further from the truth. We are called to hasten and accelerate the Lord's return by making ourselves ready (2 Pet. 3:12; Rev. 19:7).

- e) The overcomers in the church, through prayer, preaching, and obedience, will trigger certain events and set in motion the Lord's return.

III. The Bride Made Ready in Three Phases

- a) These three phases are:
 1. *Forerunners*: These individual and corporate vessels make themselves ready before the majority and are used to make others ready.
 2. *The Birth of the Man-Child*: Revelation 12:5, which we will look at in detail in this message and the next, depicts a remnant of overcomers within the church who will make themselves ready before the majority. When this happens, the first-fruits harvest, which has been underway since Genesis, will be completed (Rev. 14:1-5).
 3. *The Rest of the Bride Made Ready*: The birth of the man-child will trigger the Great Tribulation (the last 3.5 years of the age) and the final ingathering of the end-time harvest (Matt. 13:39). During the last 3.5 years before Jesus returns, the greatest number of believers in history will be made ready as the bride through the fires of tribulation, persecution, and suffering (Dan. 12:10).
- b) In summary, the Lord is presently releasing forerunner messengers, anointed with the spirit and the power of Elijah, to make the bride ready. These end-time messengers will trigger a remnant within the church to make themselves ready (the man-child) and that will trigger the rest of the church to make themselves ready during the Great Tribulation.
- c) The diagram below illustrates these 3 phases.



- d) To describe these three phases in more detail, I will be speaking from the book of Revelation. Specifically, from Revelation 12-14. However, before expounding these three chapters, let me quickly give a brief overview of the book of Revelation.

IV. A Quick Overview of the Book of Revelation

- a) Revelation 1:3 states, "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy [the book of Revelation], and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near" (emphasis mine).
- b) At first glance, the book of Revelation seems scary, complicated, confusing, depressing, irrelevant, unnecessary, and impractical. But nothing is further from the truth. Personally, this book has

imparted tremendous spiritual blessings to me because I have read, heard, and obeyed the words in this prophecy.

- c) Much more than the negative narrative of a coming one-world government, religion, and economy, the devil and antichrist reigning over nations for 42 months, and God's dreadful wrath poured out upon the unbelieving world during the Day of the Lord, the book of Revelation reveals God's beautiful plan for how His ultimate intention will be accomplished at the end of the age.
- d) There are several reasons why the book of Revelation was written. But at the top of the list, this prophecy was given to help make the bride ready.

V. Rethinking the Book of Revelation

- a) What would have happened, if the generation alive when the book of Revelation was written in 95 A.D., had fully heeded the Lord's words in this prophecy? Only the Lord knows for sure. But we know that didn't happen. The first-century church, for the most part, did not fully heed Jesus' words in this prophecy and overcome as the Lord intended.
- b) Now the challenge has come to our generation. Will we, as a generation scattered throughout the nations, obey the words of this prophecy and thus hasten the Lord's return?
- c) Let's rethink the book of Revelation for a minute. Let's imagine we are the first-century church and the book of Revelation was not viewed as it is today, with suspicion, fear, irrelevance, and confusion. Let's suppose there were not a multitude of various views and interpretations of this book, which have caused a tremendous amount of confusion, deception, and fear.
- d) What would happen if our generation viewed the book of Revelation as it was intended to be—a prophecy given directly from the Father to the church of Jesus Christ? A prophecy we were not meant to debate for endless hours but rather to read, hear, and obey.

VI. A New Paradigm of the Prophetic Scriptures

- a) When a generation recovers God's intended meaning of the book of Revelation and reads, hears, and heeds the words written in this prophecy, then Jesus will return. But until this happens, Jesus will not return.
- b) This means end-time prophecy is not fulfilled by God's sovereignty alone. There will be a remnant in the church—a catalyst of fully committed men and women—who will activate end-time prophecy and hasten His return.
- c) We are not waiting on Jesus to return. He is waiting on us to wake up and to obey His words in this prophecy so He can return.
- d) We need a paradigm shift when it comes to the fulfillment of end-time prophecy and the Lord's return. God will not do this by His sovereignty alone. Instead, He will raise up and release messengers around the world. These end-time messengers will trigger a remnant to make themselves made ready. This, in turn, will trigger the rest of the church being made ready.
- e) A generation's obedience to the words of Jesus in Revelation 2-3 and their prayers for the bride to be made ready will trigger key end-time events, and ultimately, the second coming of Christ.
- f) We must see ourselves as the catalysts who will hasten and activate many of the end-time prophecies contained in Scripture.

VII. Forerunners Who Make a Remnant Ready

- a) Seven times in Revelation 2-3, this phrase or one similar, is used: "To the angel of the church in . . . ". If you look at the Greek, the word *angel* actually means *messenger*. This means these seven statements could read like this: "To the messenger of the church in . . .".
- b) In fact, many scholars believe the correct interpretation should be *messenger* rather than *angel*, for this is the Greek word used to describe the Malachi 3 messenger, John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Lord's first coming (Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2).
- c) Applied to us, here's what I believe the Holy Spirit is saying to the church. When the end-time messengers, those called as forerunners in the spirit and the power of Elijah to make the bride ready, recover the intended meaning of the book of Revelation and call the church to obey Jesus' words in this prophecy, then a remnant within the church will be made ready and the events of the second coming will be triggered.
- d) When the messengers to the church recover Jesus' message to the church, they will trigger a remnant to make themselves ready and this will trigger the end-time events leading to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

VIII. Forerunners Call the Church to Overcome

- a) Forerunners call the church to overcome:
 1. Losing our first love;
 2. The fear of death and persecution;
 3. Compromising the truth of God's revealed Word;
 4. Jezebel's influence in every area of our lives and spheres of authority;
 5. Spiritual apathy and slumber;
 6. Spiritual regression;
 7. Lukewarmness and self-satisfaction;
 8. Living by our self-life in our souls;
 9. Pride, independence, rebellion, lawlessness, and selfishness—the nature of Satan imparted to us through the tree of the knowledge of good and evil;
 10. Impurity, defilement, and every spot, stain, or wrinkle;
 11. Independent living from our souls—making decisions by our own mind, will, and emotions—rather than by the Spirit;
 12. Lips of gossip, slander, accusation, and lies.
- b) When forerunners call the church to overcome these 12 areas and a remnant in the church responds, repents, and obeys, then we will see the birth of the man-child in Revelation 12:5.
- c) When the forerunner messengers know, own, live, proclaim, and multiply the message of Revelation, especially Jesus' call to overcome in Revelation 2-3, they will trigger a remnant in the church to make themselves ready. When this happens, the man-child will be born from the womb of the church and the remaining events of the end-times will be triggered.