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## **THE FORERUNNER & THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

### *Session 1: The Forerunner*

#### **I. Basic Premise of the Forerunner Ministry:**

##### A. Defining a Forerunner:

By definition a forerunner is “a person or thing that precedes the coming or development of someone or something else.” That someone is Christ and the something is Christ’s coming and the events that surround it. Examples include: John the Baptist, Anna the prophetess, Simeon, Daniel’s Wise Ones (Da. 11-12), Jeremiah’s One’s With Understanding (Je. 23 & 30), Revelation’s One’s Who Overcome (Re. 3, 12-14).

*And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him.*

Lk. 1:16-17

##### B. To Begin Preparing the Church:

The forerunner’s first mandate is to prepare the Earth for the unique and unprecedented activity that accompanies the coming of the Lord in the last generation. The Lord will demand renewed Biblical standards of righteousness in order to participate in His power. The forerunners are sent ahead of time to equip the Church for the harvest that will come at the end of this age.

##### C. To Begin a Preemptive Strike Against Darkness:

The ministry of the forerunner is a preemptive strike from Heaven against the rising darkness. These messengers will proclaim what the coming darkness will look like and how it’s already infiltrating our culture. The purpose is to clearly identify the Enemy’s plans before he gets his clutches around the generation that is meant to proclaim Christ and serve Him at His coming.

#### **II. Why the Earth Needs Forerunners:**

The timeframe just before the Lord’s return will look very different from every other time in human history; this time will require those with clarity about the hour.

##### A. It is the Lord’s Promised Day and It is Difficult:

The Lord has never had His day. It’s a future onetime deal, and it is a very big deal. It’s not something that our culture gives much time thinking about or preparing for, yet we are only ignoring inevitable things and our dismissal doesn’t in any way keep them from

coming.

*See, the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants...The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The Lord has spoken this word. The earth dries up and withers...The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant.*

Is. 24:1-13

*For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive.*

Mt. 24:21-22

B. It is a Time Many will Not Survive:

1. A very difficult question:

The Prophet Joel describes the Day of the Lord with great detail and in the midst of analyzing it's extreme difficulty he asks a very telling question that we need to be confronted with. He assesses the overall situation and asks what manner of person can survive what's coming?

*The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?*

Jo. 2:11

2. The prescription for survival and thriving:

The prophet then goes on to describe the corporate call to fasting and prayer as the means to survive the coming storm. Jesus, doubtlessly thinking of the Joel 2 passage, describes how to thrive in the evil day. It is virtually the same prescription

*Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate...Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing...Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together (everyone)...Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations?"*

Jo. 2:12-17

*Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.*

### III. The Forerunner Message:

This section serves as a simplified explanation of the main elements of the forerunner message. While brief I believe that it paints the picture of urgency that the Lord wants for this generation to carry, and especially His end time messengers.

#### A. Christ is Coming Back:

For some time the day of Christ's coming has been relegated as far off and therefore unimportant. But there is coming a time coming, and I believe it is within the generation of people alive today, when Jesus will be here as a present reality.

*They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.*

Ac. 1:10-11

*Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.*

Re. 1:7

#### B. He is Bringing Judgment:

While much of the church currently views the passages about judgment as inconsequential; the Bible is very clear and quite unapologetic that Christ is returning and will bring judgment to this planet when He does.

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.*

Re. 19:11

#### C. His Judgments are Right:

These judgments are horrific; they are painful and end with eternal consequences that will condemn people to hell forever. While all that is true they are called good, and someone (forerunners) will have to bear the burden of declaring that specific aspect of the storyline.

*After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.*

Re. 19:1-2

D. Deception is Coming:

Deception of a sort that is far stronger than mankind has ever seen is coming to the globe. It will be mingled with miracles and signs and evil, its power will deceive many people.

*The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.*

2Th. 2:9-11

**IV. Calling Us to the Mandate:**

The Lord is calling a generation of forerunners to rise. He desires to train messengers to understand the hour that we are living in and then be able to clearly communicate the difficult truths that pertain to the last days to our culture and to the Church around us.

A. Focused Living:

This sort of refining will never occur accidentally; to become a messenger it takes serious dedication, a long-term commitment and lots of hours studying the Word of God and praying. In order to be prepared to speak such a message in such a crucial hour Forerunners need decades to prepare themselves to embody the message. The mere details alone will take years to digest enough to understand them, let alone proclaim them with any sort of authority. As it was God's plan for John to be in the womb of preparation for decades ahead of his ministry so it is with the Forerunners of the Last Days. God is raising up His John the Baptists now through His prophetic leadings and the calling of the House of Prayer Movement.

B. Gaining Understanding:

This process will look different for each person but the common thread is that there be a significant amount of time dedicated to study the end time scriptures (150+ chapters). It takes some time to press through the fog so to speak and to gain understanding of these glorious subjects; but the path is very doable for those who are committed to gaining clarity.

C. The Lord is Calling Forth Messengers:

The Lord is marking individuals in this generation to live according to a different set of standards and to give themselves to His purposes in a focused way. God is raising up communities all over the Earth that are committed to these principles and to promoting the type of lifestyle that produces such messengers. He is using teachings like this one to set the DNA into our generation and to call forth an army of those who will commit to becoming a voice on His behalf.