

Echoes Of Heaven in the Last Days

I. God Is Raising Up a Prophetic People in the Last Days

- a. Acts 2 marks the inauguration of the Church and its identity, mission, and calling and offers a prophetic glimpse of the end-time Church. It began with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:1-13**) and unfolded into the daily rhythms of life in the family of God (**Acts 2:42-47**). Between the initial outpouring and the formation of community, Peter preached a pivotal sermon that shaped the Church's identity as a prophetic people. He connected the events of Pentecost to Joel's promise, that in the last days, God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh so that sons and daughters and both men and women would prophesy. This connection affirms that from its inception to the end of the age, *God's design for His Church is to be a people shaped by His voice and marked by prophetic witness.*

(Acts 2:17-18 NASB) “And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, ‘That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, And your young men will see visions, And your old men will have dreams; 18 And even on My male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, And they will prophesy.”

- b. God's end-time promise to pour out His Spirit so that all flesh can prophesy is not random, it's profoundly strategic. In **Matthew 24**, Jesus warns of an end-time crisis marked by tribulation, deception, lawlessness, and the chilling of love in “*most people's*” hearts. Against this backdrop, Paul's words in **1 Corinthians 13** and **14** come into sharp focus. He emphasizes the value and excellence of love, urging believers to pursue it, while also calling them to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:1). Paul intentionally weaves love and prophecy together, giving us insight into God's desire for His end-time Church: *to raise up a people who face the pressure of the hour and echo His words through the lens of divine love, standing as a radiant witness in a world where love is growing cold.*

(Matthew 24:9-13 NASB) “Then they will hand you over to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. 12 And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved.”

(1 Corinthians 14:1 NASB) “Pursue love, yet earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”

- c. Since the garden, the enemy has always sought to twist and distort the words of God (**Genesis 3:1**). His strategy has remained consistent throughout history, and it will intensify as we approach the end of the age. Scripture is clear: in the last days, Satan will deceive many, gain global influence, and lead people to reject the truth of who Jesus is and what He has said (**Matthew 24:4-5; Revelation 13:3-6**). Even the final enemy, the Antichrist, will work relentlessly to lead both Israel and the nations into *denial of Christ (1 John 4:3)*. In this context, the call to walk in the prophetic takes on a weighty purpose. **Revelation 19:10** tells us, “**The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**” In other words, true prophecy flows from and reveals the person of Jesus. Therefore, the prophetic Church in the end times is called to be a people who bear witness to the truth, beauty, and supremacy of Jesus, even in the midst of widespread deception and spiritual resistance. *As the distortion of God's Word increases, so does the urgent need for prophetic voices that speak with clarity and conviction.*

(Genesis 3:1 NASB) “Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

(Matthew 24:4-5 NASB) “And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will mislead many people.”

(Revelation 13:3-6 NASB) "...and the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; 4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" 5 A mouth was given to him speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven."

(1 John 4:3 NASB) "and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now it is already in the world."

II. The Maturity of The Bride; Calling The Church Into Her Destiny

- a. At the time of Jesus' second coming, the Church will be mature and fully prepared to marry the Lamb. She will walk in righteousness, not just as a legal standing, but as a lifestyle of doing what is right in response to what He has done. God is committed to maturing His Bride, and He leads her through a process that includes pressure, persecution, and refining (**Romans 5:3–5; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Peter 1:6–7; James 1:2–4; Revelation 3:18–19**). Though the path is costly, the result is glorious: the Church will one day walk in the fullness of her identity and calling, radiant and ready for her Bridegroom.

(Revelation 19:7-8 NASB) "Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself." 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

(2 Thessalonians 1:4-12 NASB) "...we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. 5 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you indeed are suffering. 6 For after all it is only right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified among His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—because our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will consider you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

- b. Paul teaches that the goal of prophecy is to edify, exhort, and console the Church (**1 Corinthians 14:3–4**). Prophecy reveals what Jesus is like and how He feels. When we prophesy, we echo His voice in a way that washes, nourishes, and cherishes His Bride, reminding her and calling her into the fullness of her identity and destiny (**Ephesians 5:25–29**) despite any circumstances she might be face.

(1 Corinthians 14:3-4 NASB) "But the one who prophesies speaks to people for edification, exhortation, and consolation. 4 The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but the one who prophesies edifies the church."

(Ephesians 5:25-29 NASB) "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church..."

- i. **Edify** – To build up
- ii. **Exhortation** – To call to action
- iii. **Consolation** – To comfort and confirm

III. Learning to Hear and Respond to God's Voice is the Call of the Hour

- a. True spiritual maturity is rooted in intimacy with God, where we not only hear His voice, but respond rightly to it (**John 10:24–28**). It is God's desire for every believer to recognize His voice and follow Him wherever He leads. Learning to discern His voice is a process that takes time, trust, and familiarity. Thankfully, we have the gift of scripture, God's inspired word (**2 Timothy 3:16**), which reveals His heart, His ways, and His voice. Jesus Himself is the Eternal Living Word of God (**John 1:1–4, 14; Revelation 19:11–13**), and the written word is meant to lead us into conversation with The Living Word. As we engage with Scripture, it doesn't just inform us, it trains our ears to hear and recognize the voice of the One who speaks through it.

(John 10:24-28 NASB) "The Jews then surrounded Him and began saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

(John 1:1-4;14 NASB) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

(Revelation 19:11-13 NASB) "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God."

- b. The prophet Daniel foresaw a generation of end-time believers who would walk in deep understanding, those who know their God, take action, and instruct many (**Daniel 11:32–33**). This is who we're called to be: a people marked by intimacy with God, confident in His voice, and bold in obedience. We are meant to be echoes of heaven, living gateways for God's thoughts, emotions, and intentions to be released on the earth. As the end of the age draws near, we become increasingly dependent on hearing and following the voice of God.

(Daniel 11:32-33 NASB) "...but the people who know their God will be strong and take action. 33 And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many..."

(Psalm 23:1-6 NASB) "The Lord is my shepherd, I will not be in need. 2 He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of His name. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life, And my dwelling will be in the house of the Lord forever.

- c. In these last days, God is forming a people who are not merely spectators of prophecy but participants in it a prophetic Church that hears His voice, walks in His ways, and reflects His heart to a broken world. As deception increases and the pressure of the age intensifies, the call to intimacy, maturity, and obedience becomes all the more vital. The Spirit is inviting us into deeper communion with Jesus, the Living Word, so that our lives would resound with the truth of who He is despite the pressures of this age. May we be those who know our God, who live as radiant witnesses, and who echo heaven on the earth speaking with love, moving in power, calling the church into her identity, and preparing the way for the return of the King.