

## Session 2

# The Dynamics of the End-time House of Prayer

### This session covers:

- God's houses of prayer throughout history
- Five purposes of a house of prayer in the end-times
- Three major activities in the house of prayer

### A Glimpse at God's House of Prayer

#### 1. Throughout Israel's history, God established a place where His people could meet with Him.

- In the wilderness, God had Moses construct a tabernacle—known also as the tent of meeting—because it was the place where God would meet with His people (Ex. 29:42).
- When David became king, he setup a tent on Mt. Zion, placed the Ark of the Covenant within it, and opened the tent flaps so that all could experience God's presence (2 Sam. 6:12-13). Even though the Tabernacle of Moses remained in use on Mt. Gibeon, worship, prophetic ministry, and prayer went on continuously at David's Tabernacle—twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
- King Solomon built the first permanent temple structure in Jerusalem. Started in the fourth year of his reign, it was completed twenty years later. When this temple was completed, the Ark of the Covenant was taken from David's Tabernacle and placed in Solomon's Temple. At its dedication, God filled this temple with His glory (1 Kings 8:1-21).
- After Babylon destroyed Solomon's Temple, Zerubbabel's Temple was built by the Jews who returned from captivity. According to the Talmud, this temple lacked five things that were in Solomon's Temple: the Ark of the

Covenant, the sacred fire, the shekinah glory, the Holy Spirit, and the Urim and Thummim. Because the Holy of Holies was empty, a stone was set on the spot where the ark should have been. Upon this stone, the high priest placed the censer on the great Day of Atonement.<sup>1</sup>

- Years later, this temple was plundered by Antiochus Epiphanes, who defiled it with idolatrous worship. Although Judas Maccabeus restored it, the temple was eventually seized by Pompey and later on by Herod the Great.<sup>2</sup>
- Before Jesus' earthly ministry, Herod restored and expanded this second temple.

## **2. In the future, another temple will be built in Israel and Jesus will fill it with His glory when He returns.**

- Ezekiel referred to this future temple when he wrote, "Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the house; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD, and I fell on my face" (Ezek. 44:4).
- Ezekiel also stated,

Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar....Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes....By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing" (Ezek. 47:1-2, 8-9, 12).

## **3. During the Church Age, believers are the living temple of God.**

- Paul wrote, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16).
- Peter stated, "And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:4-5).
- Jesus, speaking of the Holy Spirit, said, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:38).
- In the Church Age, we are the temple in which the ark of God's presence dwells. From this temple, the river of living water flows. As we join together with other believers, we connect ourselves to other spiritual stones, ultimately becoming a spiritual house where God's glory dwells and His river of

life flows. In this spiritual temple, we minister to God as a royal priesthood.

#### **4. Jesus said that His house would be a house of prayer for the nations.**

- Once again, notice what Jesus said about the house of prayer: "And He began to teach and say to them, 'Is it not written, MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS?'" (Mark 11:17).
- Whether in the ancient days of Moses, David, or Solomon, in the future period of the Millennial reign of Christ, or in the current days of the spiritual temple, *God's house is a house of prayer*.
- As we approach the return of Christ, it is critical that God's house becomes a house of prayer.

#### **5. To help us understand what a house of prayer is and how it functions, let's visualize it in our minds.**

- Think of people from every nation, tribe, tongue, and ethnic background praying on their own, with two or three others, or gathered in churches, prayer centers, or homes. These temples of the Holy Spirit are living stones that are fitted together as the worldwide house of God.
- Imagine these Spirit-filled believers functioning as kings and priests. Abandoned in worship, they wait with lovesick hearts for their Bridegroom King to come and establish His throne upon the earth. Imagine the voice of the Bride, from every corner of the earth, crying out, "Come, Lord Jesus."
- Visualize the Church around the world crying out, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
- Rejoice as God, in response to these cries, establishes His kingdom rule and authority in greater dimensions throughout the earth.
- Celebrate as the prayers of the saints release the river of God's presence to the earth, preparing the way for the end-time harvest of souls, the maturing of the sons of God, and the release of unprecedented signs, wonders, and miracles.
- Praise God as ancient strongholds crumble over cities, regions, and nations, as the earth is filled with God's glory in ever increasing ways, and as the way is prepared for the King to return to the earth.
- Marvel as all that God has promised becomes a reality—a reality based upon a solid foundation of deep worship and fervent prayer.
- This is how God's house of prayer should function—and will as we progress deeper into the end-times.
- From this visual image, we can see five purposes of how God's house of prayer will function in the end-times.

### **Five Purposes of the House of Prayer in the End-times**

#### **1. Houses of prayer fill the earth with God's glory.**

- God promised that He would fill the earth with His glory (Num. 14:21) and that He would give Jesus a glorious Church that is without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:27).
- As the Day of the Lord draws near, God's glory will progressively increase

upon the Church. As a result, God's character, attributes, and miracle-working power will fill the earth in ever-increasing measures. Thus, God will fill the earth with His glory through the Church.

- Although there are many aspects to this, it all begins with deep worship and fervent prayer. In other words, one of the primary ways that God will fill the earth with His glory is through the Church in the house of prayer.
- Why? Because as continuous worship and prayer ascends to the throne of God, a spiritual river flows from God's throne into the earth. Through deep worship and kingdom prayers, God fills the earth with His glory.

## **2. Houses of prayer open the heavens over cities, regions, and nations.**

- The following Scripture clearly reveals the power of God's presence in a geographic area:

Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it to the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon. When the Ashdodites arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set him in his place again. But when they arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. And the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off on the threshold; only the trunk of Dagon was left to him (1 Sam. 5:2-4).

- Dagon was the national god of the Philistines. When the Ark of the Covenant, which had been stolen by the Philistines, was placed in the temple of Dagon, the idol fell over and was ultimately shattered. What happened to this idol in the natural is a mere shadow of what happened in the spirit realm when the ark was placed alongside this pagan god. God's presence shattered the stronghold of the enemy.
- God's presence in a geographic area will produce a similar result today. God's presence, which is released through prolonged worship and fervent prayer, creates open portals over cities, regions, and nations. Through these portals of glory, God releases great power, blessings, and breakthrough over entire areas.
- The Lord revealed this principle to King Solomon when he dedicated the first temple, saying,

If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place (2 Chron. 7:13-15).

- Summarizing this Scripture, if the heavens are closed and pestilence is devouring the land, God will release a powerful breakthrough when His people will humble themselves and pray. He will open the heavens once again, remove the pestilence, and restore what has been taken in response to our

prayers.

- Here is how this principle works in the spirit realm. If the heavens are closed in a geographic area and people pray, God will breakdown the demonic strongholds over the area, open the heavens, and bring forth His purposes for this region.
- Houses of prayer open the heavens over cities, regions, and nations.

### **3. Houses of prayer prepare the way for God's end-time purposes.**

- As we approach the second coming of Jesus, deep darkness will cover the earth. At the same time, however, God's glory will rise upon His people (Isa. 60:1-2). This progressive increase of both darkness and glory will be empowered by certain spiritual forces. There are at least five spiritual forces—or spiritual winds—that are beginning to blow as we approach the end of the age.
- Although we will take an in-depth look at these five spiritual winds in Part II of this class, let's identify each of them briefly.
- First, as we approach the great and terrible Day of the Lord, the spirit of anti-christ is gaining greater ground throughout the earth (Rev. 12:9; 1 John 2:18-19). The Church is not to stand by idly as this spirit releases lawlessness, godlessness, false unity, secular humanism, and globalism into the earth. We are called to restrain this demonic power through fervent prayer.
- Second, the queen of heaven, which is the demonic spirit behind the great harlot of Revelation 17-18, will create a network of false religions to deceive, seduce, and terrorize believers, to prepare the earth to worship the antichrist, to blind unbelievers to the gospel, and to keep the Bride of Christ entangled in religious tradition and ritual. The good news, however, is that God is raising up Elijahs to confront and overcome this spirit so that the Bride of Christ will awake and arise to her destiny. As a result, unbelievers will have ears to hear the true gospel of the kingdom.
- Third, the Holy Spirit is building a glorious Church to present to Jesus at His coming. Jesus will not return for a weak, powerless, defeated Bride; He will wait in heaven until the restoration of all things—especially for His people to be restored and prepared as a worthy Bride (Acts 3:20-21). For this to be accomplished, God will progressively release new wineskins into the Church that can hold the new wine of His Spirit. He will lead the Church from glory to glory until she emerges without spot or wrinkle prior to the Lord's return.
- Fourth, the Holy Spirit is working to fulfill the ancient prophecies spoken over Israel, preparing her to become the praise of the entire earth. Ultimately, Jesus will return to Jerusalem, establish His throne on Mount Zion, and rule the world from Israel. However, before this takes place, God will restore Israel progressively into her ultimate prophetic destiny. Over the last century, we have already seen numerous prophecies fulfilled, such as Israel becoming a nation again, the Jews returning back to the land, and Jerusalem becoming Israel's capital city. As wonderful as this is, there are many more prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled before the Lord returns.
- Finally, God will release judgments into the earth that will prepare the way for the Lord's return. Earthquakes, famines, natural disasters, locust plagues, severe pestilence, scorching heat, and drought will affect the earth before the Lord returns. As the frequency and intensity of these judgments increase, many people will become offended at God. The Lord does not want His

Church to be offended at Him; He wants us to understand the reason for His judgments and even welcome them as a necessary part of His coming.

- The royal priesthood that ministers in the house of prayer will not just be spectators in end-time events, but will be participators. We will actively, regularly, and fervently partner with God in intercession in view of these five spiritual winds.

#### **4. Watchmen will function in the house of prayer.**

- In ancient Israel, watchmen were utilized for a number of purposes. They watched over the gates to the city to keep their enemies out and to let important people in. They watched over crops to protect them from predators and over their flocks to make sure they remained safe. They watched for protection, to discern the enemy's strategies, and for the coming of dignitaries.
- Today, God is raising up watchmen to intercede in the house of prayer. Peter wrote, "Be careful-*watch out* for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart" (1 Peter 5:8, TLB).
- Jesus also calls on us to watch and pray. He said, "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36, NKJV).
- Paul wrote, "With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, *be on the alert with all perseverance* and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:18-19).
- The New Unger's Bible Dictionary states that *watch* renders a form of the Hebrew word *shamar*, which means to protect.<sup>3</sup> The biblical concept of watching is to be on the alert in order to determine what is happening and then to pray accordingly so that God's purposes are enforced.
- As we examine the purposes of the house of prayer, we see three ways that end-time watchmen will function.
- First, watchmen will be on the alert, watching for the plans, strategies, and attacks of the enemy. As watchmen discern the tactics of the enemy, they can stand against his plans.
- Second, watchmen will be on the alert, listening for the prophetic plans and strategies of the Lord. As God advances His kingdom throughout the earth, He employs plans, strategies, times, and seasons in this work of the Holy Spirit. As God is moving, He wants His Church to listen to His voice, discern what He is doing "in season," and then pray and act accordingly.
- Third, watchmen will watch for the coming of the Bridegroom King. In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus exhorted us to be wise virgins who were ready to meet the Bridegroom. In this context, Jesus said, "Be on the *alert* then, for you do not know the day nor the hour" (Matt. 25:13). End-time watchmen will be on the alert, watching and waiting for Jesus to return for His Bride.

#### **5. The Bride of Christ will get oil for her lamp in the house of prayer.**

- Again referring to the parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13), Jesus exhorted us to have a sufficient quantity of oil that would last until the Bride-

- groom came. Those with enough oil were wise; the others were foolish.
- In this parable, the lamp represents the believer's ministry, testimony, and works—their external life in God. The lamp is the vehicle which shines light into the world. The oil represents the believer's hidden intimacy with the Holy Spirit—their internal life in God. The oil is what keeps the flame burning in the lamp.
  - The oil represents our intimate knowledge of the Lord Jesus.
  - An important way that believers get oil for their lamps is by devoting themselves to worshipping, waiting, watching, and praying in the house of prayer.

## Three Major Activities in the House of Prayer

### 1. The first major activity in the house of prayer is communion with God.

- Speaking of the Tabernacle of Moses—God's first house of prayer—the Scriptures state, "It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the LORD, *where I will meet with you, to speak to you there*" (Ex 29:42).
- In David's Tabernacle—another example of a house of prayer—worship was the predominant activity. David placed singers and musicians around the Ark of the Covenant twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The people who gathered at David's Tabernacle drew near to God's presence in worship. As they worshiped, God revealed to them prophetic strategies that helped enlarge Israel's borders.
- The first and foremost activity in the house of prayer is to meet with God, to fellowship with Him, to express our desire for an intimate relationship with Him, and to cry out for more of Jesus.

### 2. The second major activity in the house of prayer is to wait on God.

- In the previously quoted verse, God said that He would speak to His people at the Tent of Meeting.
- As mentioned earlier, those who minister in the house of prayer are to watch in at least three ways. They are to watch for the plans and the strategies of the enemy. They are to watch for the prophetic plans and strategies of the Lord in order to advance His Kingdom. And they are to watch for the coming of the Bridegroom King. Revelation 22:17 is one of the most important prayers for the end-times: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.'"
- To wait and watch, we must be alert and listen as we worship and pray. We must be ready to hear His prophetic plans and strategies. We must be sensitive to His voice so that we can discern the plans of the enemy. And we must be alert to the nearness of the Lord's return so that we can cry out with passionate desire for His presence.

### 3. The third major activity in the house of prayer is to partner with God for the fulfillment of His end-time purposes.

- Out of our relationship with God—out of our time of communing with Him and hearing His strategies and plans—our task is then to partner with Him

through prayer to see His purposes accomplished in the earth.

- Jesus told us to pray this way: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). In the Greek, the first word that appears in this verse is the word translated “come.” This word is in the imperative mood, and as such, could read, “Come, kingdom of God.” The Greek word translated “done” is also in the imperative mood and could read, “Be done, will of God.”
- Substituting this translation back into this verse, it would read, “Come, kingdom of God. Be done, will of God, on earth as it is in heaven.” In this translation, there is a suggestion of authority, intensity, and fervency. Just as Jesus taught us to pray, we must fervently pray for God’s kingdom to come and for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- We pray, intercede, and make supplication for God to move. Paul writes to Timothy, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Tim. 2:1-2).
- Let’s examine the word *intercede* a little more closely. The primary Hebrew word translated intercession is *paga*. It means to meet, to entreat, to strike, to make attack.<sup>4</sup> It carries the meaning of impinging of one’s will upon another even with the use of violence.<sup>5</sup> Dutch Sheets, in his excellent book, *Intercessory Prayer*, writes about the word *paga*. He says that it often has a violent connotation. In fact, it is frequently a battlefield term (Judges 8:21, 15:12; 1 Sam. 22:17, 18:2; 2 Sam. 1:15; 1 Kings 2:25-46).<sup>6</sup> The English dictionary defines intercession as to plead with somebody in authority on behalf of somebody else, to speak for somebody or to mediate in a dispute.<sup>7</sup>
- Now let’s look at the word *supplication*. Paul writes in Philippians 4:6-7, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” The word translated *supplication* in this verse is the Greek word *deesis*. *It is a cry for mercy that asks for the favor of God in some special necessity*. Supplication is also defined as earnest prayer. Supplication presents our desires and wishes to God. The English dictionary defines supplication as an appeal made to somebody in authority who has the power to grant a request.<sup>8</sup>
- God is raising up prayer-warriors who will devote themselves to earnest prayer and focused intercession so that God’s kingdom will advance and expand in the earth. In the house of prayer, these intercessors will destroy the strongholds of the enemy, level mountains of opposition, and call on God to move mightily so that the kingdom of heaven comes to earth.

**So what is a house of prayer? It is a single believer or a group of believers who accept their call as kings and priests to minister in the house of God—first to meet with God in intimacy and then to partner with Him so that His end-time purposes will be accomplished in the earth.**

## Notes

1. *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1988).
2. Ibid.
3. *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1988), s.v. "shamar".
4. *The Online Bible Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Brown Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* (Ontario, Canada: Woodside Bible Fellowship and the Institute for Creation Research, 1993), s.v. "paga," referenced from PC Study Bible v3.2 (Seattle, WA: Biblesoft 2001).
5. *Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary* (Seattle, WA: Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc., 1994), s.v. "paga," referenced from PC Study Bible v3.2 (Seattle, WA: Biblesoft, 2001).
6. Dutch Sheets, *Intercessory Prayer* (Ventura, CA: Regal Publishing, 1996), p. 55.
7. <http://encarta.msn.com>, s.v. "intercession," referenced on January 17, 2008.
8. <http://encarta.msn.com>, s.v. "supplication," referenced on January 17, 2008.



## Review Questions

### True or False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Since the time of Moses, God has always had a tabernacle or temple where His people prayed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Even in the Millennial Kingdom, God will have a temple from which Jesus will rule and where prayers will be offered to God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Even though Solomon's Temple was called to be a house of prayer, there is little mention of this in the Scriptures since this facility was used primarily for animal sacrifices and the priestly ministry of offering incense.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Moses' Tabernacle was also known as the tent of gathering.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. During the reign of King David, there were two tabernacles in use on a daily basis by the Hebrew people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. During the Church Age, believers are the living temple of God.

### Fill in the Blank

7. Whether in the ancient days of Moses, David, or Solomon, in the future period of the Millennial reign of Christ, or in the current days of the spiritual temple, God's house is a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. As we approach the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, it is absolutely crucial that God's house become a house of prayer.
9. Think of people from every nation, tribe, tongue, and ethnic background \_\_\_\_\_ on their own, with two or three others, or gathered in \_\_\_\_\_, prayer centers, or homes. These \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit are living stones that are fitted together as the worldwide house of God.
10. Imagine Spirit-filled believers functioning as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Abandoned in worship, they wait with lovesick hearts for their Bridegroom King to come and establish His throne upon the earth. Imagine the voice of the Bride, from every corner of the earth, crying out, "\_\_\_\_\_, Lord Jesus."
11. Celebrate as the prayers of the saints release the river of God's presence to the earth, preparing the way for the end-time \_\_\_\_\_ of souls, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the

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sons of God, and the release of unprecedented signs, wonders, and miracles. Praise God as ancient \_\_\_\_\_ crumble over cities, regions, and nations, as the earth is filled with God's glory in ever-increasing ways, and as the way is \_\_\_\_\_ for the King to return to the earth.

12. Houses of prayer open the \_\_\_\_\_ over cities, regions, and nations.
13. God's end-time intercessors will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in His end-time house of prayer.
14. The Bride of Christ will get \_\_\_\_\_ for her lamp in the house of prayer.
15. A major activity in the house of prayer is to \_\_\_\_\_ with God for the fulfillment of His end-time purposes.

Matching (Place the letter of the correct answer in the blank space.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. One of five purposes of the end-time house of prayer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. One of the three activities of the end-time house of prayer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. The Scripture verse that describes the believer as a temple of the Holy Spirit
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Another one of the five purposes of the end-time house of prayer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Another one of the three activities of the end-time house of prayer

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Ezekiel 47:1-2
- b. Pray for the needs of the Body of Christ
- c. Watchmen function in the house of prayer
- d. Sing praise songs with fervency
- e. 1 Cor. 3:16
- f. Eph. 5:27
- g. Fill the earth with God's glory
- h. Communion with God
- i. Wait upon God
- j. Harp and bowl prayer