

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
PARTNERING WITH JESUS IN JUDGMENT AND MERCY
OCTOBER 8, 2017 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. The Tension of the Forerunner Ministry

Psalms 2:11-12 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

A. Psalm 2 gives us a prescription as to how we are to relate to the Lord:

1. Serve (worship) the Lord with reverence (fear)
2. Rejoice in the Lord with trembling
3. Kiss the Son (bow and pay homage)

B. In the Scripture, there are three predominant ways the Lord is depicted at the end of the age: Bridegroom (Rev 19:9), King (Rev 19:11-16), and Judge (Rev 19:2).

C. We worship the Bridegroom who is returning to marry His Bride. And we rejoice in the King who is coming to reign. And we bow low in humility before the Judge of all the nations.

D. One of the great challenges for the people of God is learning to love Jesus the judge as much as we love Jesus the Bridegroom and rejoice in Jesus the King.

II. Signs of the Times

Matthew 24:5-8 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes (Greek word: Seismos) in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

A. **Charlottesville Riot** – August 11th, 2017 – *Nation against Nation*

B. **Hurricane Harvey** – Made landfall on August 25th in Corpus Christi, Texas, then on August 26th in Houston. There was more than 50 inches of rain and extreme flooding. Total Death toll 82, Damage is between \$150 to \$180 Billion – *Seismos*

C. **Hurricane Irma** – Made landfall on September 10th in the Florida Keys. It was 300 miles wide. Total Death toll 132, Damage estimate is \$20 Billion – *Seismos*

D. **Hurricane Maria** – Made landfall on September 18 in Dominica, then on September 20th in Puerto Rico. Death toll 78, Estimates up to \$95 Billion in Damage. – *Seismos*

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E. **Mexico Earthquake** – September 19th in Mexico City, Mexico. Death toll 366, \$2 Billion in Damage. - *Seismos*

F. **Las Vega Shooting** – October 1st, 59 fatalities, 527 injured – *Kingdom against Kingdom*

III. Joel 1 & 2 as a Pattern of God's Judgment

A. In the book of Joel we find a powerful principle of how the Lord works in the midst of judgment: He releases the least severe judgment necessary in order to bring people to repentance.

Joel 1:2-5 Hear this, you elders, And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, Or even in the days of your fathers? 3 Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation. 4 What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten. 5 Awake....

B. Four successive plagues of locusts had ravaged the vegetation in Israel, yet the people had not turned to the Lord

C. The message from the Lord was, "Wake up! And return to me!" But because the people refused to turn, He continued to bring more and more severe judgment on the land until finally He raised up the Babylonian army to come and bring judgment on Israel (Joel 1:6, 2:1-11).

D. The entire time God was calling them to repentance, but they refused to hear the word of the Lord and turn and so judgment was all that was left.

E. Even after the Lord decreed that judgment was coming He tells them to call a solemn assembly and cry out in repentance, because the Lord is merciful and wants to relent from doing harm.

Joel 2:12-16 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. 14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him... 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; 16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders ...

F. With the Lord there is always mercy, if His people will turn back to Him. He loves to be merciful when people turn from sin.

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Micah 7:18 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.

Jeremiah 18:7-8 The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, 8 if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

Jeremiah 26:3 Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.'