

KINGS IN TRAINING

Right now we are entering a time of great transition. Just as there was a transition period between the dispensation of Moses and the dispensation of Christ, so there will be a transition period between the Church age and the Kingdom age. Since the Evangelical pre-tribulation rapture teaching is a lie and a delusion, we will be here to see this transition. Some of us actually pass from this age to the kingdom age (*Now, that's an exciting thought, isn't it?*).

However, there are some major differences between the transition that took place at the *beginning* of the Church age, and the transition that will take place at the *end* of the Church age. The transition that took place at the beginning of this age didn't cause any great upheavals in the natural world. Nations weren't being judged by God, political systems were not being destroyed or overthrown, etc. In the natural world, life went on just the same. The change was mostly spiritual. Before the transition, God was working with a *single nation* (Israel), to make them His priests and kings. After the transition, God began working to make people from *every nation* His priests and kings.

*John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the **prince of the kings of the earth**. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And **hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father**; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

Revelation 1:4-6

*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and **hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation**; And **hast made us unto our God kings and priests**: and we shall reign on the earth.*

Revelation 5:9-10

The thing God is after, is to have a people who have learned how to function as His “kings and priests” for all eternity. The call to be part of this very privileged group of people—which is called a *Royal Priesthood* in Scripture—was given to the biological offspring of Abraham first, under the Old Covenant. Then, under the New Covenant, that same call was released from the confines of a single biological race, and offered to people from all the nations of the world.

Once the transition from this age to the next one has been complete, everyone who has been made part of that Royal Priesthood (and this will not include all Christians) will be brought together, whether they be dead or alive physically; whether they lived in past ages or in this present one, and will begin to function as Messiah's kings and priests. But we still have to go through this transition, and it is going to bring devastating changes to the natural realm, as well as to the spirit realm.

*See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, **Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven**. And this word, *Yet once more*, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, **that those things which cannot be shaken may remain**. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: **For our God is a consuming fire**.*

Hebrews 12:25-29

The writer of Hebrews gave a warning God's people, not to refuse His word, not to refuse His dealings. He said that if those who refused to heed the voice of God when it came from Mt. Sinai (ie: the earth) did not escape the judgment of God, so much more will be true of us who refuse to heed His voice when it speaks from the spirit realm, into our own minds, conscience and heart (ie: from heaven). In the process of giving us this warning, he tell us that there is a great shaking coming at the end of this age. One last time, god is going to shake both heaven and earth with the fires of His judgement, so that everything that can be removed—that is, everything that is *not* of Christ—will be swept away and consumed *by* that fire.

I encourage everyone who hears my voice to read very carefully the passages relating to the Day of the Lord, especially the Old Testament passages. If you do, you will come away with a sober understanding of what this world is about to experience—and we will be here to witness all of it! We will be here for the bloody, earth-shaking events that will cause the bravest of people to collapse in fear.

Since the transition at the end of this age will be very different than the one that took place at the beginning of this age, the preparation God wants to work in us is different. This means the focus of the Holy Spirit will be different. At the beginning of this age, the focus of the Holy Spirit was on preparing, equipping and empowering the apostles to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, so that He could gather a people from all nations to Himself. This is why, at the beginning of this age, the emphasis was on evangelism.

But at the end of this age the focus has changed. God's focus is no longer on evangelism. At this point I need to make it very clear, I'm not saying God is no longer *interested* in evangelism; I am saying He is no longer *focused* on evangelism. God is still saving people, just as he is still filling them with His Spirit, and delivering them from demon spirits, and giving the gifts and ministries. What we are talking about here is the focus of Spirit in this hour. What is God focusing on today? I believe the focus of the Spirit right now is on bringing those He *has* gathered from every nation (through evangelism), into the *fulness* of Christ. Unfortunately, just as it was at the end of the last age, so it is at the end of this age—the majority of God's people (especially the religious leaders) cannot see or understand what He is currently doing.

*Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? **And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter***

*by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and **none of them is without signification**.*

I. Corinthians 14:6-10

This passage is talking about what is more profitable for the unbeliever who come into a fellowship. Paul says that it is more profitable for the visiting unbeliever if the congregants speak in a language he understands, rather than everyone speaking in tongues. But in the course of this teaching, Paul brings out a principle that can be applied in other areas as well.

God is not the author of confusion. When He focuses His attention on something, those who are in tune with what He is doing must turn their focus in the same direction. As Paul said, there are “*many voices*” in the world—and that includes the religious world. There are many voices in the Church System, and “*none of them is without signification*” (ie: significance). There are many voices of pastors and preachers and teachers who say: “*This is what God is doing; so you better get involved*”—and in many cases they are correct. God is doing many things in many different parts of the world right now. Yet, He is focused on only one thing. There are many different kinds of burdens (plural) of the Spirit, and there are many different kinds of people are carrying those burdens for God. Yet, there is also *the* burden of the Spirit for this present hour—and when we find *the* burden of the Spirit, it only causes confusion if we continue to preach all the other burdens that other people carry.

~ God still wants the gospel preached; and so He still calls people to preach that message to the unsaved. That is **A** burden of the Spirit.

~ God still wants to baptize believers in the Spirit; so He still calls people to preach that message to Christians. That is **A** burden of the Spirit.

~ God still wants to deliver His children from the bondage of demons spirits; so He still calls people to preach that message to Christians. That is **A** burden of the Spirit.

~ God still wants His people to know the true doctrines of the Scripture; so He raises people up who focus on teaching the people sound doctrine. That is **A** burden of the Spirit.

~ God still wants His people to be warned about false teachers and false prophets; so He raises up people to be watchmen, and expose the wolves in our midst. That is **A** burden of the Spirit

While all these burdens (and others I have not even mentioned) are from God, and while they are all spiritually profitable, there is also **THE** burden of the Spirit for the present hour. This main burden of the Spirit shifts as God’s plan unfolds and is being brought to pass. For instance, the burden of the Spirit in Martian Luther’s day was the revelation of salvation by grace, as opposed to works. Now I’m quite sure that God was moving in different ways and in different places at that same time; but *that* was the burden of the Spirit.

In the days of the Wesley brothers, the burden of the Spirit was the revelation of sanctification. Again, there is no doubt that God was moving in many different ways and in many different places at that time; but *that* was the burden of the Spirit.

Today, the burden of the Spirit is the revelation of going on to perfection—and part of that revelation of going on to perfection has to do with being trained by the Holy Spirit to move in the realm of “kingship”. Today, God’s focus is on training His people to function as KINGS as well as priests. And just as has always been the case, God is still moving in many different ways and in many different places; but *this* is the burden of the Spirit.

There are an endless number of books and sermons on our *priestly* role as believers. In fact, the priestly role of the believer is all the Church System has ever known. That system knows absolutely nothing about what it means to be a *king* of God. And of course, even our priestly function is almost always explained within the framework of evangelism, and it is usually focused on prayer—prayer for the sinners around us; prayer that binds the principalities and powers over cities and nations so the gospel message can go forth; prayer for revival, etc. Not much is ever written or taught on the kind of *character* a priest of God must have. But at least the priestly ministry is discussed, and this is a good thing.

But you see, God is raising up *more* than just a nation of priests; He is also raising up a nation of kings. We need to become skilled in the kingly ministry of Christ just as much as we need to become skilled in the priestly ministry of Christ. Yet there are precious little sermons and books that deal with our role as kings. This is because the role of a king is *very different* from the role of a priest.

Priests shepherd people; they care for people; they provide protection for people. Thus, priests are usually focused on the spiritual *needs* of people—and in this context, that’s a good thing. True priestly ministry has nothing to do with the seeker-friendly abomination that’s so popular today. God’s true priests provide *spiritual* support and protection for those under their care. So moving in a priestly ministry is a *positive* thing because you are constantly helping people, and the people you help are usually very grateful to you.

Kings are a different story. The kingly ministry of Christ is much more *negative* than it is positive. Kings are not focused on the needs of the people, so the happiness and the well-being of the individual does not come first. Truth, justice, and rulership, and the will of THE KING of the kingdom comes first. Kings *rule* people—and many times the people they are ruling don’t want to be ruled over. Kings exercise authority; they *sit in judgment* over people and issues.

Everyone wants to walk in the priestly ministry of Christ; but very few want anything to do with the kingly ministry of Christ. Very few want to be negative, very few want to judge the doctrines or the behavior of other Christians because these kinds of things cause division and hard feelings. Indeed, nothing will destroy the “warm fuzzies” between people quicker than a relentless pursuit of truth and the *exercising* of justice and judgment.

Kings also decree punishments; and when a punishment has been decreed on someone, that person isn’t very happy. They don’t exactly appreciate the king at that point. In fact, the old “*can’t-we-all-just-get-along*” attitude goes out the window and they may just get down right nasty with you.

Kings also go out to war against the enemies of the kingdom. They are *ruthless* when it comes to protecting the King and His kingdom. They will slay every enemy of the kingdom *regardless* of who they are. The whole realm of kingly ministry seems like a negative, unloving and harsh environment to move in, so most Christians want nothing to do with it. In fact, they are loath to admit that such a ministry even exists. And

even when they are confronted with it and forced to admit it is a valid work of the Lord, they look down their noses at it, assuming that such a ministry is inferior to the priestly ministry of Christ. Those who display this type of condescending attitude only reveal their blindness and disregard for the Scripture.

*Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and **princes shall rule in judgment.***

Isaiah 32:1

*And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my **Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

Luke 22:29-30

*Do ye not know that **the saints shall judge the world?** and if the world **shall be judged by you**, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that **we shall judge angels?** how much more things that pertain to this life?*

I. Corinthians 6:2-3

*And I saw **thrones**, and **they sat upon them**, and judgment was **given unto them...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.***

Revelation 20:4

~ Paul said the saints are going to judge the world.

~ Isaiah prophesied the saints (ie: princes) shall rule the world in judgment.

~ Jesus said His disciples would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

~ John saw the overcomers sitting on thrones, getting ready to rule the nations of the earth with Christ for a thousand years.

This is the function of kings. The question is: when are you going to learn to be a king? When will you acquire the skill to judge the world? When will you gain the ability to rule the nations?

This question never even enters the minds of most Christians because they assume they will be given this ability instantly, when the Lord returns. But if we put off learning how to walk in kingship until Jesus returns we are going to be disappointed. God is preparing a nation of kings *today*. The things pertaining to rulership must be learned *now*. The character of a king and the qualities of kingship cannot be imputed to us. They can't be magically transferred to us in a twinkling of an eye. Kingship is a curriculum. It's a schooling we must pass through. It takes time. If we wait till we make it to heaven, we will have already thrown away our only opportunity to acquire this skill.

Those who want to learn how to walk in the kingly ministry of Jesus today must accept two very unpleasant realities right from the start. First, we must accept the fact that God wants to make us ministers of judgment. The priestly ministry of Christ is a ministry of reconciliation; the kingly ministry of Christ is not; it's a ministry

of judgment and justice. Second, we must understand that the vast majority of believers have rejected the Spirit's call to walk in this type of a ministry because they don't have the stomach for it. It's too negative; it's too rough; it's too confrontational; it's too painful emotionally; and it's much too lonely a walk because very few of your fellow Christians will continue to walk with you once you allow the Spirit to begin training you for kingship.

If you must have lots of friends around you all the time, if your walk in Christ always has to be positive and user-friendly, if you can't stand confrontation, if you can't bear to be separated from family members and other brethren, if your greatest desire is that we all just "get along" and love each other, if you can't handle being misunderstood and misjudged by everyone around you, then don't bother signing up for kingship training! Those who allow the Spirit to train them in this area learn very quickly *why* Jesus was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief". They begin to understand why He was "despised and rejected of men".

The kingly ministry of Christ is very important in this hour because God's plan for the end of this age is not the same as it was for the rest of it. The bulk of the Church age had to do with redemption and evangelism; it is an age of *reconciliation*; but the end of the Church age is something very different. Between the end of this age and the beginning of the next age, there is a day called the "Day of Vengeance of our God". This day has nothing to do with reconciliation and evangelism. Rather, it has to do with judgment and retribution—and the sad reality is, the vast majority of God's people are completely out of step with the Lord's agenda. They are too busy trying to walk in *past truth* to be established in *present truth*. I shared this before in one of the chat sessions, but bear with me because I feel to share it again.

*And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. **And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down.** And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.*

Luke 4:16-20

Most of us are familiar with this passage. The Lord walked into His hometown synagogue and tried to tell the people that He was the Messiah by quoting the first two verses of Isaiah sixty-one. But He didn't finish reading the second verse because His *first* coming had to do with reconciliation and redemption. He came to preach the Gospel to the poor and heal the brokenhearted. He came to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. His *second* coming has to do with something altogether different, and that is what the last part of Isaiah 61:2 describes.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Isaiah 61:1-2

Before the next age can be established, there must come vast, earth-shaking judgment. There must be a subduing of both Satan's and man's rebellion. Between the "acceptable year of the Lord" (ie: the Church age) and the kingdom age, there is an appointed day, during which, both the world and the Church are going to see a Jesus they have never seen before. They will see a *warring* King whose robe is dipped in blood—their blood! They will see a Messiah who is not coming to save and redeem men, but to carry out upon them the vengeance and wrath of the Father.

For two-thousand years we have viewed vengeance and wrath as evil because the Scripture says that *man's* vengeance and wrath are wicked. While it's true, our vengeance and wrath are wicked, the Scripture never says that God's vengeance and wrath are wicked. Indeed, God's vengeance and wrath are just as are His love and mercy. Yet we still view all vengeance and wrath as evil. This is not God. Those who would be kings of God must learn to rejoice in God's vengeance, just as they rejoice in His mercy, for it is part of His nature.

Jesus is described in the book of Revelation as *both* a Lamb and a Lion. He revealed two different facets of His nature to John. One facet was the harmless, suffering Lamb who was slain and was worthy to redeem men from all nations. But that Lamb turned around and opened the Seven Seals of God's scroll of judgments. After that, what you see is the Lion. What you see is Jesus the Warrior King, coming to make war against *all* the Father's enemies—including His "Christian" enemies! What you see is a fearless King, who comes to take dominion and exercise the absolute authority that He has always had, but which He has never enforced.

We must all have the gentle, forgiving, loving nature of the Lamb worked in our lives if we want to be a true priest of God. As a matter of fact, we must this Lamb nature worked in us *first*, before God can begin to work the Lion nature in us. For if we have not allowed God to work that Lamb nature in us first, when we try to move in a ministry of judgment, it will destroy us in the end. Nevertheless, if you want to be one of Messiah's kings, you will have to let God work that Lion nature in you. Those who have the Lamb nature worked in them, but who refused to let God work the Lion nature in them too, will never be fit to rule with Jesus when He returns.

Isaiah said that the Day of Vengeance would be a "comfort" for those who "mourn" yet we never make the connection. We don't see that it will be a comfort to those who have suffered injustices to see the unjust punished. We don't see that it will be a comfort to those who have been sighing and crying because of the abominations in the land to see the perpetrators of those abominations punished. The reason we can't imagine being *comforted* in the Day of Vengeance is because we are not being established in kingship. We don't care about justice; we only care about people.

*And they [the merchants of the earth] cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city [Babylon], wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. **Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her....And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true***

and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

Revelation 18:19-20; 19:1-3

In his visions, when John saw God pour out His wrath on Babylon, he saw the people of the world casting dust on their heads—which in his day was a sign of extreme mourning and emotional pain. He saw them weeping and wailing. Then he heard a voice say: “...rejoice over her...ye holy apostles and prophets”. Soon after that, he heard all heaven rejoicing because God had avenged the blood of His servants. The Day of Vengeance" is a day for *kings*. It's a day for those who's first concern is justice. When we enter that day, God is going to tell us to rejoice!

Will *you* be able to rejoice in that hour? Will you bless His name when you see destruction around you, or will you go to pieces? How about when you see God's wrath being poured out on family, friends or acquaintances who have spurned Him? Will your heart go out to *them*? Will you take their side in that hour? Will you begin to pray *against* the will of God, pleading and demanding that He stop all the destruction? Will you rejoice in God's holy retribution or will you despise it?

Unfortunately, most of us are unprepared for the Day of Vengeance. Some of us are not prepared because we are still filled with carnal emotionalism, humanism, and sentimentality. Some of us are not prepared because we want to have a bigger ministry, and you don't expand your ministry by preaching the destruction of everything people hold dear. Some of us are not ready because we still love all the good things of our natural, Adamic life. Some of us are not ready because we still love this world and the things of the world.

Others are not ready because of the false doctrines they have been taught. They are still under the illusion that a great revival is just around the corner; or they are convinced the Great Commission has to be fulfilled *before* the Lord returns. They are so focused on trying to reach every tribe and tongue in the world with the gospel they are totally incapable of understanding that God is coming to kill many of the very people they are so desperately trying to save!

Do you know what the result of all this will be? When God destroys Babylon, when He destroys entire nations and cultures, many of *His* people will be weeping and wailing right along with the world. Too many of us love people more than we love God. Some of us even love unsaved people more than we love God. If this is our condition, it will be revealed on the day of Vengeance.

Again, I am not encouraging God's people to walk in *fleshly* callousness and hardness. I am not endorsing the kind of thing the guy Steve mentioned a few weeks ago is doing, running around with his staff, calling down destruction on America. God is not leading him to do that. What I am doing is encouraging people to let God do a holy and righteous work of in their lives so He can bring them forth in kingship—once they're hearts have been fully established in the love and mercy of Christ.

Brethren, we must let God prepare us now, for the Day of Vengeance. If we are not already prepared when that Day begins, we will find ourselves turning against God. We will find ourselves on the wrong side

of the battle. We need to understand that the slain of the Lord will not only include the unsaved on that Day. It will also include *Christians* who have refused to let the Spirit prepare them to receive King Jesus, who has not come to finish evangelize the nations, but to tread the winepress of the wrath of God.

*Clouds and thick darkness surround him; **righteousness and justice are the foundation** of his throne.*

Psalms 97:2 NIV

One of the things we need to get free of so desperately, is our false view of God. His attributes of justice, judgment and retribution have been divorced from His character by our modern Scribes and Pharisees. The concept of love that is held by the majority of believers today has nothing to do with reality. They have rejected the *true* image of God and have created a fictitious deity in their own image. King David said that righteousness and justice—not love and mercy—are the *foundation* of God’s throne. This is because love and mercy are not possible, except they be founded on righteousness and retribution for sin. Love without judgment against sin only produces iniquity. Even in the natural, we know this to be true, for we see children who are never judged or punished by their parents and they become self-consumed monsters.

God’s throne is *not* founded on love, much less human love. It is founded on divine righteousness and justice. Adamic love is weak. It’s self-centered and self-motivated. The Adamic man loves because he wants to be loved back. It is because he wants to be loved back so bad that he is willing to do anything to avoid offending those he wants to love him. This is why parents spoil their children—they are afraid that if they punish them the children will stop loving them.

God’s love has nothing to do with human sentimentality. It is not weak. The same God that sent His Son to die on the Cross for us, will turn around and cast us into eternal torment if we reject Him. His love does not put our temporal happiness above our eternal good. It will put us in a sick-bed for 30 years if that’s what it takes to bring us forth in His image. It will make our lives miserable if that’s what it takes to break our stubbornness. If we reject Him, He will not compromise to keep us loving Him. He will let us go our own way and turn us over to our own destruction.

*I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and **I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.***

Psalms 2:7-9

In Psalms, the Father tells the Son to ask of Him and He will give Him the nations for an inheritance. Then the Father tells the Son what He will have to do to that inheritance. He will have to “break them” with a rod of iron and “dash them in pieces” like a potter's vessel. This is not the kind of picture we usually have of the Millennium. We like to think about how wonderful it will be when the glory of the Lord covers the earth, when the lion shall lie down with the lamb, when peace will reign supreme. But none of this is *possible* until the King has broken the pride and rebellion of the nations. Messiah’s inheritance is like a wild horse. No good can come out of the inheritance until it has been tamed and broken.

People have the idea that when Jesus breaks through the clouds, all the nations will just hand the keys of *their* kingdoms over to Him. This is religious fantasy and delusion. The nations will never *voluntarily* stop resisting the Lord's authority. Something drastic will have to take place to bring them into a state of submission to King Messiah. They will have to be dashed to pieces with a rod of iron.

*And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And **he shall rule them with a rod of iron**; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

Revelation 2:26-27

Jesus is not going to do all this alone. The Father is preparing a body for the Son—a body that will have learned how to function as *kings* because it will not be the Lamb (priest) in us that rises up to slay God's enemies in the day of battle; it will be the Lion (king) in us that does these things. This is why God is spending so much time training us to be conquerors, warriors and overcomers. This is why he is teaching us to be ruthless when it comes to God's enemies in our own lives today, so we will be equipped to be ruthless when it comes to His enemies throughout the entire creation, tomorrow.

King Messiah is going to rule this planet *through* His people. They will not move according to religious principles or doctrines or structures of the Church System. Neither will they be an undisciplined company of leaders and followers (ie: clergy and a laity). They will be under no *external* rules and regulations. Rather, they will live by the power of an endless life, and they will move in perfect harmony as a mighty army because they will possess the mind, will and character of God. They will be led totally by His Spirit *alone*. Each member of the body will stand in his appointed rank or place of authority and together, a kings of God, they will rule the nations with a rod of iron.

The term “rod of iron” suggests an unyielding system of justice. The government of the Kingdom will be good for all the nations, but no one will be able to get around it. No one will ever out-manuever that justice or overthrow it. The King is not going to ask the nations to submit to His authority and to the authority of His body; He is going to *force* them to submit. Jesus has been pleading with man to submit to His government for 2000 years. The time of asking and pleading is almost over.

The body of Christ will have both the Lamb and the Lion nature of God worked in them. They will move in the nature of the Lamb towards those who will submit to Messiah, and those who submit will be blessed. They will learn of God and feel His Presence. But the same people who are moving as a Lamb will be capable of moving in the nature of a Lion towards those who rise up in disobedience. Moreover, those who do rebel will be judged and punished instantly. There will be no lawyers to get the guilty off scot-free; no commuted sentences; no bail; no parole; no way to bribe or intimidate the judge or the jury. There will be no Supreme Court to appeal to when people don't like the judgments and the decrees that are handed down through the princes who are ruling. The nations will obey or they will feel Messiah's rod of iron—and that rod of iron will be in the hands of His kings.

*The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. **The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.** The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries. He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.*

Psalms 110

Psalm 110 is universally recognized as a prophesy concerning Messiah and the establishment of His kingdom. Here the Father speaks to Him by the Spirit through King David and says, “Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool”. We need to realize that Jesus *is* seated at the right hand of the Father. His enemies *were* defeated when He rose from the dead. He does not have to wait to make them His footstool; they are already under His feet. He has won His own victory. He now waits for a people who will love Him enough to let Him work in them that life that will bring them their own victory. He waits for a people who can put every enemy under *their* feet.

Next, the Spirit says, “The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies”. When the Father has fully prepared Messiah’s body, when they have come to full stature, then Messiah will be able to rule *through them* in the midst of His enemies. The body of Christ is Zion.

Then the Spirit says, “thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power; in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth”. What does this mean? Another way to put it is like this: “...your people will freely offer themselves in the day of battle. They will be willing to slay your enemies or do whatever part they are given as your ministers of judgment. In the splendor of holiness, out of the womb of the dawn, out of the early morning hours of the next age, before the actual light has broken, you will be given the dew of thy youth”.

The Hebrew term “youth” means young men. Figuratively, it means young *warriors*. The Father is preparing an army of warrior/kings for the Day of Messiah’s battle. At the appointed time, they will spring forth in the splendors of holiness from the *secret places* where the Spirit has been hiding them and preparing them. The holiness and the glory that they will manifest will be awesome. Messiah and his young warriors will strike through kings, judge among the heathen, and fill the places with dead bodies and wound the heads over many countries.

I wonder how many “Christians” will offer themselves in the Day of Vengeance? I wonder how many will be walking in the splendors of holiness? I wonder how many will be ready to spring forth to slay the enemies of God?

How about you? Where will *you* be on that day?

Most of us are not ready for that hour because we don’t love justice. We love people and we love ourselves. We don’t have any fire in our bones because we have been convinced that such fire is ungodly.

We have no “rod of iron” in our personalities because we are afraid of the faces of clay. We would like it if Jesus came and did all the dirty work of judging and smashing the nations without our having to see it or participate in it. We would like it if all we had to do is heal and bless the nations.

Sorry! If you want to bless the nations you will first have to be willing (and trained) to smash their rebellion. If you want to be used to establish God’s Kingdom (after Messiah’s return), you will first have to be willing to tear down every last vestige of Satan’s kingdom, first in your own life, and then throughout all creation. If you want to restore peace and love to mankind you will first have to learn how to swing the fiery sword of judgment so you can destroy all that *causes* war and hate. If we cannot offer ourselves in the day of battle, we will never be kings of righteousness; we will never rule with Jesus.

In closing, I would like to say one more thing about this training, and this touches on the video Steve talked about today. I saw the video, and the contrast between their Christianity and the Christianity of the West very stark. Their lives put most of the lives of today’s Western Christians to shame. However, I want to say this—and I have to be careful here, so I am not viewed as speaking negatively of these precious souls in any way—but you do not have to go through that particular kind of physical persecution in order to come forth in the fulness of Christ, if we are deadly serious about laying down our lives. Any person who is truly willing to let God take them through the fire, so they can come forth as gold, can come forth in that gold right here in this *decadent* Western culture.

*And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. **Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;** and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: **if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.***

Revelation 3:14-21

Please notice that the greatest prize—sitting in the very Throne of God—is offered to believers who were living in a *similar* situation as us. These people were “rich, and increased with goods, and in need of nothing”. They were not poor. They were not under persecution. In other words, the *greatest* reward is offered to those who can overcome in *this kind* of a situation. God is no respecter of persons. He is not going to deny us the prize just because we were born in a *free* society. There are a people right now, in this land, who are not put to shame when they see those kinds of videos because they *are* laying down their lives totally, even in this kind of an atmosphere, for Christ—and you can be one of them!