



## ***Day One: Children of the God of Increase***

The kingdom of darkness is being displaced by the Kingdom of God and He intends for it to cover the world. We looked at this last week, and saw that the Gospel makes things better.

**The Gospel is a Gospel of Increase because God is a God of increase.**

***Isaiah 9:6 – 7 (AMP)*** *For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end...*

Did we really read that?!?! In other words, from the point in which Jesus came to the world, these scriptures declare that His government (His Kingdom rule – in other words, the Kingdom of God) shall continue to increase continually from that point on. The Kingdom of God is not losing ground – it is gaining it!

It also says that peace will continually increase without end. Peace! Not darkness and not fear. In other words, these scriptures declare a world that gets better and better! And why not?!?! Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus is a victorious King Who has conquered His enemies and given all authority to His brothers and sisters. Of the increase of His government and of peace there truly shall be no end...

God is a God of increase; Jesus paid for our increase; and we are children of increase.

***Proverbs 4:18 (AMP)*** *But the path of the [uncompromisingly] just and righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines more and more (brighter and clearer) until [it reaches its full strength and glory...*

Are we seeing a theme here? Brighter and brighter. Increase and expansion. This is what the lives of the righteous are supposed to look like! Never does God speak about us as going back and forth, up and down, or being diminished. He declares us as going *from glory to glory* (2 Cor 3:18), not from darkness to darkness!

He's always increasing; and His army is increasing.



**Joel 2:2 & 11 (NIV)** *Like dawn spreading across the mountains, a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come... the Lord thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command.*

We are not getting smaller, we are not getting weaker, we are not being squashed. We are rising up, mighty and strong in Him and growing in number every day. This large and mighty army is an army of victory, not of defeat!

**Song of Songs 6:10 (TPT)** *Look at you now – arising as the dayspring of the dawn, fair as the shining moon. Bright and brilliant as the sun in all its strength. Astonishing to behold. As a majestic army waving banners of victory!*

This is a description of the bride of Christ - You are part of that army and we're moving forward, not backwards!

## Soak Time

Re-read Isaiah 9:6 – 7. Ask Holy Spirit to show you what it looks like for you, your family, your community, your nation and your world, for this scripture to be fulfilled. *God is not a man that He should lie* (Num 23:19). If He has declared continual increase of His Kingdom and of peace, this is what we should be expecting and decreeing!

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## ***Day One: A Garden of Righteousness***

The Lord is raising up an uncrushable army, because He Himself is uncrushable!

***Isaiah 42:4 (AMP)*** *He will not fail or become weak or be crushed and discouraged till He has established justice in the earth...*

God's not giving up on His dream in this earth; He's not giving up on seeing it accomplished. He's not going to fail, He's not going to become weak. He's the same yesterday, today and forever! He's strong and He's going to stay strong and He's going to stay excited and He's not going to stop until He sees His desired justice IN THE EARTH. Justice is 'just as it was' before the fall – restoring something to its' original intent. God is walking out a relentless pursuit of justice and His kingdom is going to increase and increase and increase until every evil thing is rooted out of this world and everything shines with His glory!

***Isaiah 61:11*** *The Sovereign Lord will show his justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise him. His righteousness will be like a garden in early spring with plants springing up everywhere.*

He calls us His righteousness and we are bursting forth like beautiful plants! He will have a garden with plants that spring up here and there and everywhere – more and more, near and far, until the whole world looks like a garden bursting forth and covered with His glory and beauty!

There have always been people who believed that this was possible – that the world could and would get lighter and brighter. John Calvin fasted and prayed until most of Geneva was converted, and there was not a house without at least one praying person in it. Think of it - a city in which there was at least one praying believer in EVERY house, whom John expected would also pray and fast until their entire households came into the Kingdom of God. Would people do things like this if they believed that no matter what they do, the darkness is only going to get darker and darker? No! Yet men and women, the world over, consumed with a God-given vision of hope for light, are receiving assignments from the God of increase and believing that it is possible see the whole world transformed. And they are acting on it!



Is it possible for a whole family to be saved? Is it possible for a whole city to be saved? Is it possible for a whole nation to be saved? Is it possible for the whole world to be saved? Yes, Yes, Yes and Yes!!!! Everyone will praise Him and His garden will spring up everywhere! They aren't my words – they're His! Do we believe Him?

## Soak Time

Do you believe that it possible for your entire family to be saved? What are their names? If you do, declare that they will be saved!

\_\_\_\_\_ will be saved! \_\_\_\_\_ will be saved!

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\_\_\_\_\_ will be saved! \_\_\_\_\_ will be saved!

Do you believe that it is possible for your entire town or city to be saved? If you do, declare it! \_\_\_\_\_ will be saved!

Do you believe that it is possible for your entire nation to be saved? If you do, declare it! \_\_\_\_\_ will be saved!

Do you believe it is possible for the entire world to be saved? If you do, declare it! \_\_\_\_\_ will be saved!



### ***Day Three: #3 Hang on for the Ride***

So we've been looking at ways in which we can get off track by beholding darkness. When the body declares that God is judging the world, or that things are getting darker and darker, it is beholding darkness rather than our risen King. The same King who didn't give up on the cross, who defeated satan and all of the principalities and powers that held us captive – that same King is coming back for us. But He's not coming back to rescue us – He's coming back to celebrate with us!

The concept that the rapture is our ticket out of here... that life is about 'hanging on till Jesus comes back to get us', is not from the heart of God.

Many love to preach about the 'end times' as though we're right on the precipice of Jesus' return, and that it could happen any moment or any day. What would He be coming back for if He came back now?!?! It certainly wouldn't be to celebrate or to receive as a gift back to Him, His dream fulfilled.

Don't you want to hand it to Him? To give Him the gift of His dream fulfilled! The joy of knowing that His kids loved Him enough to die for Him and let Him live His life through them – to lay down their lives to see HIS dream come to pass on the earth. To hand him the earth as a gift, wrapped in ribbon and to be able to say, *Father, it's all glorious!* That's what burns within my heart. That's what I want my life to be about. And I will spend every moment of every day from now until I find myself in heaven with Him, dreaming with Him about the reality of what is possible when His glory is released and His children say '*believe, Father*'.

He's not coming back to rescue us from a half-fulfilled mission. He's not conceding defeat and taking back the prophetic words He's uttered as though He were a liar! Let's look at this world through the lens of His glory.

The 'end times' as referred to in the Bible, is the entire period between the first and second comings of Christ. Every single generation, from the time of Paul, has expected Jesus' return. There have been many generations since, all of which have expected His coming.

I was told by the generation older than me, that I'd never be on this earth beyond 30 years of age because Jesus was coming back by then. I grew up with



a fear that I'd never get to live the dreams that were in my heart, and a wondering about whether it was worth trying to accomplish them anyway, if I could just be snapped away at any moment, before even accomplishing these things. Kris Volotton talks about the fact that he didn't even go to college because the mindset of his generation was that Jesus was coming anyway, so why make plans for the future? People sold houses, made unwise choices and did nothing with their lives – waiting for an expected arrival which didn't come.

There was a book which sold 4.5 million copies, called '*88 Reasons Why the Rapture will be in 1988*'. Of course, when the rapture didn't happen, the same author went on to release a book the following year, called '*89 Reasons Why the Rapture will be in 1989!*'

Enough! No eschatology! Do we really have to have an 'end time' theology anyway? We will limit God and put Him in a box and miss Him in the same way that the Pharisees missed Jesus, if we have it all set out about how WE think it will happen. It steals our focus and stops us from being long term thinkers and hearing from God for the solutions to the problems within our society. Why would we bother trying to solve the problems around us if we have no expectation our attempts will make any difference and in fact they could be a complete waste of time because Jesus is coming to take us any moment anyway? Can you see what an incredible strategy this has been for the kingdom of darkness – keeping God's people hopeless and passive?

## Soak Time

Have there been things in your life you haven't done, or decisions you've made because of the prevailing mindset that we're only hanging on until Jesus comes back to get us anyway? What might have happened if you'd instead done the things that were on your heart or made different decisions?

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## ***Day Four: Overcoming Evil With Good***

Is it truly reflecting our Father's heart if our strategy is to 'hang on until Jesus comes to get us'? What kind of children of God are we, if our most grand and lofty strategy as a body is looking forward to the rescue mission?!?!?! Do we know who we are and Whose we are? How are we like our Father, children of God, in that? He tells us to *imitate our Father, as dearly beloved children* (Eph 5:1).

Where is the victory in the rescue mission? We're called to be an Army and He has given us the nations as our inheritance. He's waiting for us to take them.

*"We were not commissioned to look into the clouds for His coming (Acts 1:11). We were commanded to "occupy" until He comes (Luke 19:13 KJV)." Bill Johnson*

The word 'occupy' is a military term, and it's used for the purpose of advancement. God doesn't want us sitting down here, wringing our hands and wondering how on earth we're going to make it until He decides to come back and relieve us from the evil surrounding us.

He tells us our strategy clearly:

***Romans 12:21 (NIV)*** *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

DO NOT be overcome by evil! DO NOT be overcome by evil! Don't look at the world around you and think that you have no power to stop the darkness! Don't see yourself as helpless and insignificant to the affairs of this world, but connect with the identity of Christ within you. Believe who you are and Whose you are and ROAR!!!!!! You cannot be overcome by evil! You have the spirit of the Living God within you! You cannot be overcome by evil, but the Lord commands you to overcome evil with good. And He never tells us to do something that He hasn't already equipped us to do.

We can no longer look at the evil around us and ignore it, hoping for a quick return from our Saviour. This is a command from our Father... our loving and gracious Father Who has empowered us all with His life. The very life that raised Jesus from the dead dwells within us NOW, so how can we possibly sit there and say we can't see how it's possible for the world to become brighter





and brighter instead of darker and darker?!?! Let it not be said of us! Let it not be said of us!

**Let us not be the ones waiting to be rescued, but be the ones who surge forward in His power to rescue the world!**



Are you waiting for the rescue mission, or are you taking on the mission to rescue the world, through the life of Christ within you?

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What does it look like for you to overcome evil with good in your life, family, community, nation and world?

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When the Lord says in His Word to '*not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good*', do you take this as a suggestion or as a command? What does this mean to your life?

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## ***Day Five: The Restoration of All Things***

So no more looking for the rescue mission!

*“We must rid ourselves of the idea that Jesus is coming to rescue His church. That lie has dislocated many generations of revolutionaries from their purpose in the same way a joint is pulled out of place. It has put the Church into a defensive posture of occupation to protect what we have, instead of positioning ourselves for the purpose of increase...” Bill Johnson*

There are only one of two ways we can approach this life:

### **Hang on till Jesus comes OR Hang on for the ride!**

You will have to hang on – if you choose to accept this mission, there will be a ride like you have never known, expected or imagined. There will be adventures coming your way that you could not have conceived of in your biggest dreams! There will be challenges, there will be celebrations, but it will be a glorious ride and it will be wild!

Hang on for the ride, because there will be no rapture until restoration: Jesus is not coming back until...

***Acts 3:21 (NKJV)*** *Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

Heaven is retaining Jesus UNTIL! UNTIL!!!! Until the times of restoration of all ALL things! What do you think that restoration looks like? We haven't seen it fulfilled – YET! But this scripture is clear... we won't see Him again, until the times of restoration of all things – not in the times of darkness and destruction when we can't take it any more and He comes to get us out here! God's dream WILL come true!

And just in case we're unsure whether the previous scripture actually refers to us now, or if it only refers to the spiritual reality of what Jesus purchased for us on the cross (and not necessarily the physical manifestation), here's another:



***Ephesians 4:9 – 10 (TPT)*** *Having first descended into hell, he has ascended triumphantly into the heights of heaven to begin the restoration and fulfilment of all things.*

The Bible tells us that Jesus descended into hell for us when He died on the cross – He took back the keys to sin and the grave and set the captives free. He then ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding towards this assignment:

**The restoration and fulfilment of all things.**

What Jesus accomplished on the cross, was finished! He purchased everything for us, and spiritually speaking it was done – completed – in that very moment! What He BEGAN was the manifestation of that purchase – the restoration and fulfilment of all things, so that what He'd won for us in the spiritual would now be seen in the natural.

He began this assignment and He's going to finish it, just like He completed His assignment on this earth. Jesus has never quit anything that He started. He's the author AND the finisher of our faith (Heb 12:2). And His eyes are set and focused on the restoration and fulfilment of all things. We don't know how much will be completely fulfilled before He returns again, and in reality that's not important because all that will do is bring us into an end time eschatology which will distract us. But we know which direction He's headed in. We also know that He's no quitter and He's not taking His eyes off this assignment until it's complete, just as He was able to say to the Father when He was on the earth, 'I have completed down to the last detail, all that you asked me to do.' That's all we need to know. Let's partner with Him in this assignment towards the fulfilment and restoration of ALL things.



Do you feel excited? If you've chosen to 'hang on for the ride', ask Holy Spirit to show you a glimpse of what you've signed up for! 😊

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