

Prophecy in Motion

Lesson 5: God Will Turn the Tide

In every generation, the devil schemes, plots, deceives, and strategizes how to defeat the plan and purpose of God. Each generation is confronted with an evil from the pit of hell, that is intended for destruction and enslavement. The Bible tells us that in the last generation, all the powers of hell will be unleashed upon the earth, against the inhabitants of the planet. But the Lord our God is never passive. He never allows evil to go forward without a response from heaven. God always has a plan to defeat and to demolish the powers of hell. God simply scans the earth in search of those who will answer the call to be a weapon of power and authority against the darkness.

Isaiah 59:19 NKJV - So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

A. The Flood of Evil

The Last Days generation will be marked by an increase (flood) of wickedness, deception, and rebellion against God and His people. A moral and spiritual decline will characterize the Last Days generation.

1. Moral Decay and Lawlessness

Paul's word to Timothy was a warning of a society that would reject the authority of God and His Word. Notice the lengthy description found here:

2 Timothy 3:1-5 MSG - ¹⁻⁵ Don't be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They'll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people.

2. Unthankful and Unholy

2 Timothy 3:2 NKJV - For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.

Notice that this is a combination of two words, grouped together in this verse. To be thankful connects us to the person of God. Thankfulness is rooted in the concept of having received something that was a blessing or a favor. So if I am thankful for some benefit in my life, I am acknowledging God and connecting to His holiness. If I am unthankful, I fall into the ranks of the unholy.

Psalms 69:30 NKJV - I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 95:2 NKJV - Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

3. A Society of Entitlement

Unthankfulness in a society produces a spirit of entitlement. It produces a society of people who are takers and not givers. They will always prioritize themselves, and they will put demands on others. Think of the evil that will flourish in a society like that.

Luke 6:35 NKJV - But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Notice that Jesus connected the unthankful with the unholy when He used the word *evil*.

Evil (poneros) - a degenerate, vicious, diseased character

4. An Explosion of Demonic Activity

Isaiah 8:20 NKJV - To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Isaiah 8:22 NKJV - Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness.

These verses reveal the consequences of choosing darkness, rather than light. The imagery of darkness here, symbolizes evil, confusion, demonic bondage, and control in the lives of people. To turn away from the Lord God, Who is the Giver of life, is to turn to the power and influence of the demonic. We are seeing an explosion of demon activity in these Last Days. There are many kinds of demonic influences that are operating today. The spirit of violence, the spirit of sexual perversion, the spirit of witchcraft and divination, the spirit of murder, the spirit of suicide, the spirit of abortion, the spirit of drug addiction. People are driven to despair and anguish by this explosion of demonic activity.

But, when the enemy comes in like a flood - God will raise up a standard.

Isaiah 59:19 AMP - So [as the result of the Messiah's intervention] they shall [reverently] fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him and put him to flight [for He will come like a rushing stream which the breath of the Lord drives].

B. The Standard of God

God declares that He will raise up a standard against the enemy's flood. The Word of God tells us that God will intervene in the face of demonic activity. When the flood of evil comes in, God raises a standard to defend His people and execute His power and authority in the earth.

A very important truth stands out in this verse. “The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.” Another Old Testament prophet declared the same powerful truth:

Zechariah 4:6 NKJV - So he answered and said to me: “This is the Word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

The historical setting of this powerful verse is in the context of the rebuilding of the Jewish temple that was destroyed. The message of the prophet is that the work of God is not accomplished by political power or human strength. It is only done by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit! God raises up a standard against the enemy’s flood by empowering His people.

- God defeated Pharaoh by raising up a deliverer - Moses.
- God defeated the evil Philistines by raising up a judge - Samson.
- God defeated a wicked king and his wife by raising up a prophet - Elijah.
- God defeated a military giant by raising up a shepherd boy - David.
- God defeated a pagan empire by raising up a teenager - Daniel.
- God defeated Satan by raising up His only Son - Jesus.
- God will defeat a Last Days flood of evil by a Holy Ghost-empowered church.

Matthew 16:18-19 NKJV - ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Revelation 11:6 NKJV - These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

All of these examples demonstrate that God is not passive toward evil. He raises up a standard of holiness and righteousness to demolish the works of the devil.

C. Dark Times - Supernatural Strength

We are living in the perilous, dark times that the Bible warned us about. The world and this present society are crumbling in moral and spiritual chaos. We are witnessing the fulfillment of all that the Bible predicted.

This present world is not going to get better; it's going to get worse. But the promise of God stands sure. When the enemy comes in, Almighty God will raise up a power that is greater than all the demons of hell.

Every born-again child of God has the promise of supernatural strength to stand strong in this hour that we are living in. Notice another strong word of encouragement from the Old Testament prophet of God:

Isaiah 54:17 NKJV - "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.

Heritage (nachalah) - a legal possession that has been received; an inheritance; a legacy; an heirloom; an estate

I think Paul had this in mind when he declared:

Romans 8:37-39 AMP - ³⁷ Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.