

BIBLICAL PRAXIS OF MISSION

Class 7: Sustaining Prayer Through Powers Of The Age To Come

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ALL SUPPLEMENTAL DIAGRAMS BEGIN ON PAGE 9. THEY ARE REFERENCED THROUGHOUT THE TEACHING. SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES ON MESSIANIC CONCENTRIC GLORY BEGIN ON PAGE 11.

I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

- A. In context to the coming Kingdom and Resurrection, the Church is essentially a sojourning nation, called to prepare in righteousness and witness to all the other nations that Jesus is the Christ, the one appointed Judge of the living and the dead. God has given us a deposit of the Holy Spirit as a gift of grace to help us in this witness, which is accessed only by prayer.
- B. In this age the darkened human heart is disciplined, unto repentant and believing prayer, internally by a fasted lifestyle and externally by trials and tribulations. However, the sojourning heart is all the more fed and strengthened to seek God by the activity of the Holy Spirit, which will be exerted fully in the resurrection.

The pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.³² Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.³⁵ Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,³⁶ like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. (NIV Luke 12:30-37)

- C. The activity of the Holy Spirit has generally been a neglected subject in the history of the Church. However, those groups and movements that have emphasized it have generally interpreted it within a Christonaturalistic framework, which generally ends in burnout and disillusionment.

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed...³ So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders. (NIV Acts 14:1-3)

II. INTERPRETING THE ACTIVITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS AGE

- A. Concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit in this age, the relative lack of biblical commentary on its inherent meaning is due to the commonly understood cosmogenical reality. The broader context of redemptive history informs the “elementary teachings about Christ” (Heb. 6:1).

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ (by the Holy Spirit) and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.³ And God permitting, we will do so.⁴

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It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened (by the Holy Spirit), who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, ⁶ if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance... (NIV Hebrews 6:1-6)

- ***In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit (Hb. ruwach) of God was hovering over the face of the waters... ^{2:7} then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath (Hb. neshamah) of life, and the man became a living creature. (ESV Genesis 1:1-2:7)***
- ***As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul, ³ as long as I have life within me, the breath (Hb. ruwach; "spirit" KJV/ESV/NRSV) of God in my nostrils, ⁴ my lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will utter no deceit. (NIV Job 27:2-4)***
- ***The Spirit (Hb. ruwach) of God has made me; the breath (Hb. neshamah) of the Almighty gives me life. ⁵ Answer me then, if you can; prepare yourself and confront me. ⁶ I am just like you before God; I too have been taken from clay. (NIV Job 33:4-6)***
- ***Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. ²⁰ Then times of refreshment (Gk. anapsuxis, i.e. recovery of breath) will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. (NLT Acts 3:19-20)***
- ***If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you... ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him... ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God... ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. (ESV Romans 8:11-24)***

B. Since signs and wonders reinforce the reality of the coming age, they reinforce the identity of the Church as a sojourning nation waiting to inherit the resurrected body and the restored earth. Though we experience neither justice nor life in this age, He gives us signs of the age to come to strengthen us in our faith. Provision for the impossible now, strengthens our faith for the impossible eschatologically.

Now faith is being sure (Gk. hupostasis; "substance" KJV/NKJV, "assurance" (NASB/ESV/NRSV/NLT) of what we hope for and certain (Gk. elegchos; "evidence" KJV/NKJV, "conviction" NASB/ESV/NRSV) of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for... ⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose

architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Abraham, even though he was past age-- and Sarah herself was barren-- was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. ¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth... ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. (NIV Hebrews 11:1-19)

- **For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith... ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." (cf. Gen. 15:5) ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith (of a son from his own body, unto becoming the father/chief of many nations) when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. (ESV Romans 4:13-22)**

C. Activity of the Holy Spirit in this age before the resurrection is given by God as gift to strengthen our faith. God knows the workings of the human heart and the "mechanics of faith." If we never see demonstrations of the age to come, we begin to lose heart in the reality of it. Thus the Holy Spirit is given as a "Helper" to help us in our faith as we sojourn unto the Kingdom.

Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. ¹⁵ If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor (Gk. parakletos; "Helper" NASB/ESV/NKJV) to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth...²⁵ All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (NIV John 14:11-26)

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (ESV John 15:26-27)

He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God... ⁴ while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about... ⁸ you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (NIV Acts 1:3-4)

- D. Signs and wonders are given to make us believe in the messianic restoration, surrender to Jesus as Messiah, and walk wholeheartedly in obedience to him. In this way, God demonstrates the powers of the age to come to *honor and glorify* Jesus as the Messiah.

Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong... ¹² When Peter saw this (commotion over the healing), he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? ... ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus... ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you... ¹⁶ It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him (as Messiah) that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see." (NIV Acts 3:6-16)

1. This explains the ambition of the Assembly in the New Testament for God to perform signs and wonders *in the name* of Jesus Christ. In the Scriptures, one's name represents who they are (cf.), and thus the name assigned to Jesus was "Christ," i.e. Messiah. Moreover, a "name" represents a governmental position throughout the Scriptures (cf.). Thus, the glorifying of the name of Jesus simply meant that Jesus was being confirmed as the Messiah, the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." ¹² Salvation (i.e. forgiveness and resurrection) is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. (NIV Acts 4:8-12)

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ... ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (as a firstfruits), and much grace was upon them all. (NIV Acts 4:29-33)

2. When signs and wonders are anchored as a witness to the age to come, then they are protected from becoming an idolatrous end, in and of themselves. Signs and wonders need a context, a "name", to glorify. Otherwise, you just end up with shamanism in many forms.

Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. ⁶ When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷ With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city. ⁹ Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria... ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women... ¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." (NIV Acts 8:5-23)

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰ and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. ¹¹ When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!"... ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God (confirmed by signs and wonders), who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them (thus reigning sovereign over them until the restoration). ¹⁶ In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷ Yet he has not left himself without testimony (of his benevolent sovereignty): He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." ¹⁸ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. ¹⁹ Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. (NIV Acts 14:8-19)

3. However, within the right context and interpretation, signs and wonders are absolutely necessary for the turning of the rebellious human heart and the firm establishment of faith in the age to come.

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. ⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the

wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing... (NIV 1 Corinthians 2:1-6)

4. As Paul equates his sufferings as “filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ” (Col. 1:24), the activity of the Holy Spirit could be seen as “filling up what is lacking in the resurrection of Christ.” Signs and wonders do not add or take away from the resurrection, but they are an integral part of the witness of the Church.
- E. Concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit, the lack of *association* with the age to come and the lack of *attribution* to the name/role of Jesus as Messiah has caused much confusion and great damage within the body of Christ.
1. The Pentecostal revival of the 20th century has been rife with confusion, disillusionment, burnout, jealousy, malice, greed, immorality, etc. Because of this the charismatic/pentecostal movement, a.k.a. New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), has widely fallen into disrepute.
 2. Without clarity on the purpose of the Holy Spirit as a helper and witness to Jesus and the age to come, signs and wonders become an end to themselves. The “anointing” becomes idolatrous, the hope and goal of the Christian faith, and Jesus becomes the servant of the anointed ministry, directed and commanded by the prophetic declaration.
 3. Moreover, the lack of clarity on the age to come and our identity as a sojourning people has resulted in great damage to the body of Christ regarding holiness. Human beings were created to walk in holiness and righteousness; the earth will be holy and righteous in the age to come; the Day of the Lord will establish this holiness and righteousness; we are commanded to produce fruit of holiness and righteousness in keeping with repentance concerning the Day of the Lord; and the Holy Spirit is given to help us walk in holiness and righteousness as in the light of the age to come.
 - a) The Spirit is essentially a *Holy* Spirit, and likewise the “anointing” is essentially a *Holy* Anointing. The primary purpose of the Holy Spirit is thus to keep us on the narrow path of walking out our salvation with fear and trembling concerning the Day of the Lord. If the spirit in a meeting does not inherently call people to repentance and holiness, then it is probably not the Holy Spirit.
 - b) The lack of emphasis on holiness of heart and lifestyle in the charismatic/pentecostal movement reflects the lack of understanding concerning the Holy Spirit in general. This has resulted in a recent flood of moral failures and discrepancies, which seem to little concern leaders within the movement who brush it under the rug and attribute it to the “pressures of anointed ministry.”

III. SIGNS AND WONDERS REINFORCE PRAYER

- A. The work of the Holy Spirit is designed to call us back to the realities of the age to come: both in kindness and severity. This then reinforces our need and dependence on the Holy Spirit and the grace of God—and thus prayer—to sustain us until we receive our inheritance. Just as a child is wholly dependent upon his Father and the grace given by him until his/her inheritance, so also is the Church dependent upon God for everything until its allotted inheritance.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved... ⁵ Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (unto the transformation of our bodies). (NASB Philippians 3:20-4:7)

- B. Prayer is thus sustained—positively and negatively—in the life of the Assembly through signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, which witness to the powers that God will exert in the age to come. Like rain drops before the coming storm, so is the Spirit before the day of the Lord.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven... ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" ... ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you..." ¹⁶ this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (NIV Acts 2:4-21)

- ***And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe (Gk. phobos, "fear" KJV/NKJV) came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (ESV Acts 2:42-43)***
- ***Immediately she (Sapphira) fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband (Ananias). ¹¹ And great fear (Gk. phobos) came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. ¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together ("used to meet together" NIV) in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. (ESV Acts 5:10-13)***

- C. Spiritual gifts are thus ultimately meant to strengthen the Church in faithful sojourning (i.e. worship, discipleship and evangelism) until the age to come is ushered in. The goal of the Spirit's ministry is the age to come, rather than glory, honor and riches in this age.

Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb (initiation of the Kingdom, cf. Mt. 8:11; 22:2ff; Lk. 14:15; Is. 25:6; etc.)!"

... ¹⁰ **At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus (as Messiah). Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus (as Messiah) is the spirit of prophecy (i.e. purpose)."** ¹¹ **I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. (NIV Revelation 19:9-11)**

- **I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus. ¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. And the one sitting on the horse was named Faithful and True. (NLT Revelation 19:10-11)**

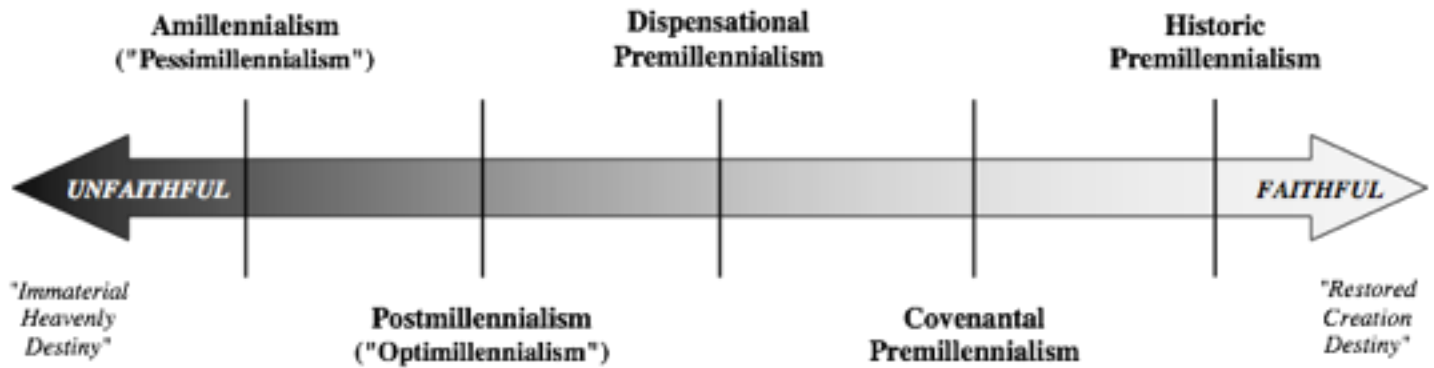
For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills... ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way... ^{13:8} Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes (in the resurrection), the partial will be done away (i.e. gifts of the Holy Spirit). ¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man (cf. the resurrection), I did away with childish things (cf. gifts of the Spirit unto the resurrection). ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known... ^{14:1} Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy... ³ But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation (in their sojourning). ⁴ One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church (unto its inheritance in the kingdom)... ¹² So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church... ²⁶ What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification... ⁴⁰ But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner. ^{15:1} Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you... (NASB 1 Corinthians 12:8-31)

- **Love will last forever, but prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will all disappear. ⁹ Now we know only a little, and even the gift of prophecy reveals little! ¹⁰ But when the end comes, these special gifts will all disappear. (NLT 1 Corinthians 13:8-10)**

SUPPLEMENTAL DIAGRAMS

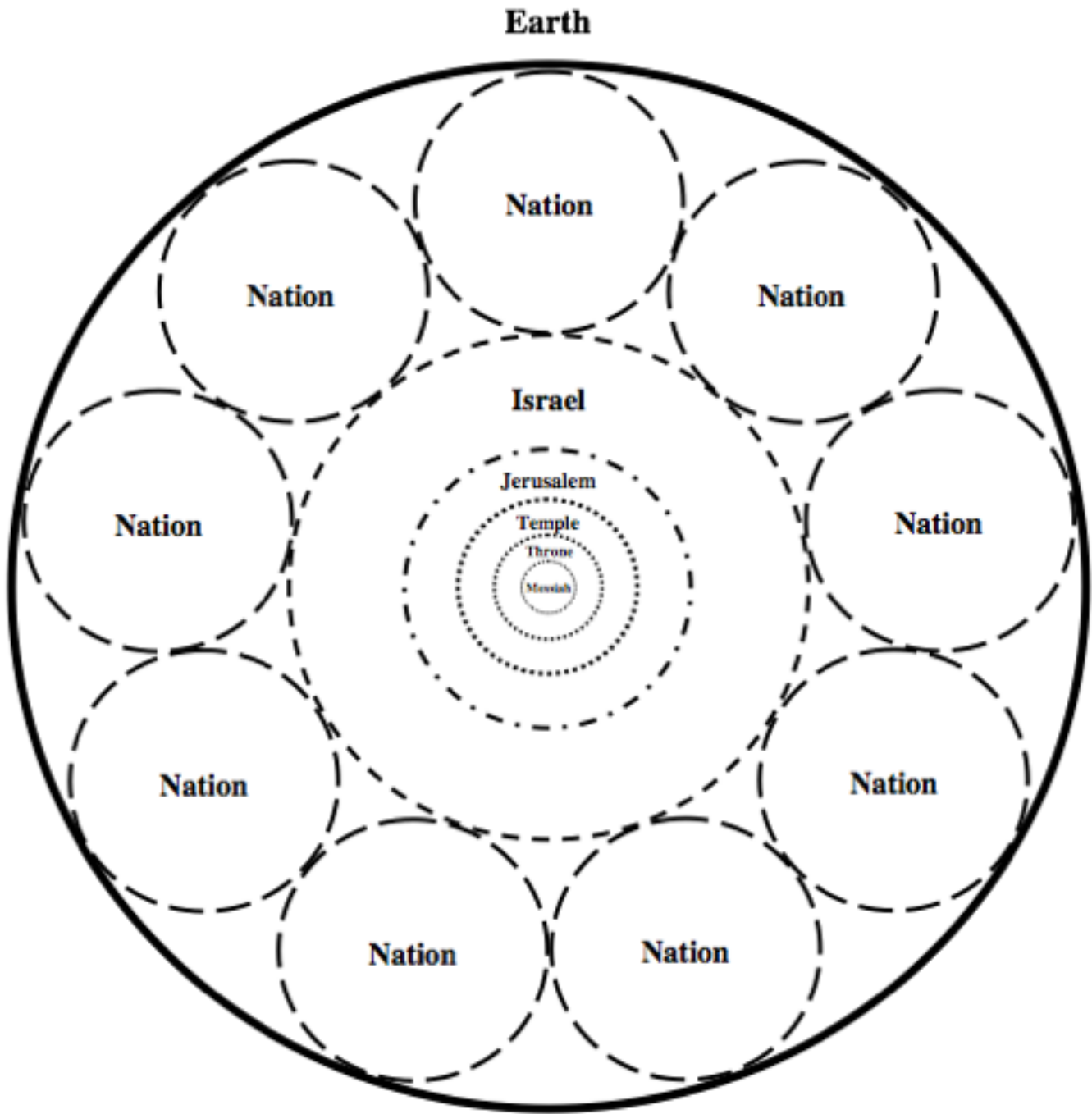
Eschatological Spectrum Diagram

Faithfulness of God to Creation



Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, ⁵ the Maker of the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them-- the LORD, who remains faithful forever. (Psalm 146:5-6)

Messianic Concentric Glory Diagram



The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory. ¹⁶ For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory... ²¹ So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem ²² when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD. (NIV Psalm 102:15-22)

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES: MESSIANIC CONCENTRIC GLORY**IV. INTRODUCTION**

- A. In the Davidic Covenant, you have the culmination of the promises to restore the earth to its original glory. The Seed (cf. Gen. 3:15) will come through the family of David and will rule over the entire earth from the Temple in Jerusalem.
- B. Since Jerusalem will be the center of the Davidic Messiah's global empire that will bless all the nations of the earth in the age to come, it is named Hb. *ziôn*, which is a wordplay on Hb. *ziûn*, meaning "signpost" (unfortunately, it is commonly thought to be a wordplay on Hb. *zaôn*, meaning "parched place"). Like the land and the dynasty and the Tabernacle/Temple, the city of Jerusalem is meant to be a *sign*, pointing us to the age to come.
- C. Thus, the Bible completes the picture of the age to come when the glory of the Lord covers the entire earth as it was in the beginning with Adam. This glory will extend from the heavenly throne of the Messiah in the inner sanctuary of the Temple in Jerusalem to the ends of the Earth. Thus, you have something of "concentric rings of glory," emanating from the throne of the Lord in Jerusalem encompassing the entire Earth.

V. GLORY OF THE MESSIAH

Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, ⁶ "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷ I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. (NIV Psalm 2:5-8)

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ² The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies... ⁵ The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. ⁶ He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. (NIV Psalm 110:1-6)

The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne..." ¹³ For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: ¹⁴ "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell (Hb. *yashab*, "sit enthroned" NIV), for I have desired it... ¹⁷ There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. ¹⁸ His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine." (ESV Psalm 132:1-18)

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (NIV Daniel 7:13)

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (NIV Matthew 19:28)

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (NIV Matthew 25:31-32)

VI. GLORY OF THE TEMPLE

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. (NIV Isaiah 2:2-4)

This is what the LORD says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. ² Blessed is the man who does this, the man who holds it fast... ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations (cf. Mt. 21:13; Mk. 11:17; Lk. 19:46)." (NIV Isaiah 56:1-7)

Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. ¹³ It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two. (NIV Zechariah 6:12-13)

- ***When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. ¹¹ And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple. ¹² Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; ¹³ I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever." (NIV 1 Kings 8:10-13)***
- ***So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ... ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. (NIV John 2:15-21)***
- ***They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles... ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts... (NIV Acts 2:42-46)***

VII. GLORY OF JERUSALEM

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. ² It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth. Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. ³ God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress. ⁴ When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together, ⁵ they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror. (NIV Psalm 48:1-5)

My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. ¹² But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. ¹³ You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come. ¹⁴ For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity. ¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory. ¹⁶ For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory... ²¹ So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem ²² when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD. (NIV Psalm 102:11-22)

In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. ²² They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days. ²³ The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously. (NIV Isaiah 24:21-23)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it... ⁹ You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. (NIV Isaiah 40:1-10)

He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. ¹⁸ According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. ¹⁹ From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along. ²⁰ The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins... ^{60:1} Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn... ¹⁴ The sons of your oppressors will come bowing before you; all who despise you will bow

down at your feet and will call you the City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. (NIV Isaiah 59:16-60:14)

Return, faithless people, declares the LORD, for I am your husband. I will choose you-- one from a town and two from a clan-- and bring you to Zion. ¹⁵ Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶ In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land, declares the LORD, men will no longer say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. ¹⁷ At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. (NIV Jeremiah 3:14-17)

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand-- ² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness... ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. ¹⁶ Gather the people, consecrate the assembly... ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls. (NIV Joel 2:1-32)

VIII. GLORY OF ISRAEL

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. (NIV Isaiah 9:6-7)

The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (NIV Jeremiah 23:5)

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." (NIV Zephaniah 3:14-17)

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (NIV John 1:49-51)

The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" (NIV John 12:12-13)

IX. GLORY OF THE NATIONS

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him-- those who cannot keep themselves alive. (NIV Psalm 22:27-29)

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. ² The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. ³ He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music... ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; ⁹ let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity. (NIV Psalm 98:1-9)

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. ² For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD. (NIV Psalm 117:1-2)

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious... ¹² He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth. (NIV Isaiah 11:9-12)

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. (NIV Isaiah 25:6-8)

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (NIV Zechariah 9:9-10)

Has not the LORD Almighty determined that the people's labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing? ¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁵ Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk, so that he can gaze on their naked bodies. ¹⁶ You will be filled with shame instead of glory. (NIV Habakkuk 2:13-16)

Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. ⁸ For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers, ⁹ and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "Therefore I will give praise to you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name." (cf. Ps. 18:49) ¹⁰ Again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." (cf. Deut. 32:43) ¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him." (cf. Ps. 117:1) ¹² Again Isaiah says, "There shall come the Root of Jesse, and he who arises to rule over the Gentiles, in Him shall the Gentiles hope." (cf. Is. 11:10) ¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NASB Romans 15:7-13)