

Escape From Babylon

The Series Part 19

THE GREAT SHAKING & PURIFICATION OF THE BRIDE #1

Malachi 3:2-3 “But who can endure the day of his coming? And who will stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire, and like launderers’ soap: (3) and he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, and refine them as gold and silver; and they shall offer to Yahweh offerings in righteousness.”

You drink water and you create urine. You eat food and you create feces. You breathe air and exhale the waste gases your body does not need. Taking good things and releasing bad things. Yet, the heart is a different thing entirely. The heart is a replicator, a duplicator- what you put into it is what you get out of it. We become what we behold and value. What we allow into our hearts and minds grows and magnifies itself. Either God will find it to be gold and silver, or gross waste products to burn out of us. Beware the refiner’s fire.

The Great Shaking Is Coming

HAGGAI 2:5-7+20-22 “This is the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, and my Spirit lived among you. ‘Don’t be afraid.’ (6) For this is what Yahweh of Armies says: ‘Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the dry land; (7) and I will shake all nations. The precious things of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory, says Yahweh of Armies... Yahweh’s word came the second time to Haggai in the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying,..... (21) “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, ‘I will shake the heavens and the earth. (22) I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations. I will overthrow the chariots, and those who ride in them. The horses and their riders will come down, everyone by the sword of his brother.”

ISAIAH 13:6-19 “Wail; for the day of Yahweh is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. (7) Therefore all hands will be feeble, and everyone’s heart will melt. (8) They will be dismayed. **Pangs and sorrows will seize them. They will be in pain like a woman in labor.** They will look in amazement one at another. Their faces will be faces of flame. (9) Behold, the day of Yahweh comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger; to make the land a desolation, and to destroy its sinners out of it. (10) **For the stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be darkened in its going out, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.** (11) I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity. I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will humble the arrogance of the terrible. (12) **I will make people more rare than fine gold,** even a person than the pure gold of Ophir. (13) **Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place** in Yahweh of Armies’ wrath, and in the day of his fierce anger. (14) It will happen that like a hunted gazelle, and like sheep that no one gathers, they will each turn to their own people, and will each flee to their own land. (15) Everyone who is found will be thrust through. Everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. (16) **Their infants also will be dashed in pieces before their eyes.** Their houses will be ransacked, and their wives raped. (17) Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them,

who will not value silver, and as for gold, they will not delight in it. (18) Their bows will dash the young men in pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb. Their eyes will not spare children. (19) **Babylon**, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be like when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah."

We know this is the end of time as Jesus also prophesied this very thing.

MATTHEW 24:3-32 "As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? What is the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" (4) Jesus answered them, "Be careful that no one leads you astray. (5) For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will lead many astray. (6) You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you aren't troubled, for all this must happen, but the end is not yet. (7) For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in various places. (8) **But all these things are the beginning of birth pains.** (9) Then they will deliver you up to oppression, and will kill you. You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake. (10) Then many will stumble, and will deliver up one another, and will hate one another. (11) Many false prophets will arise, and will lead many astray. (12) Because iniquity will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. (13) But he who endures to the end, the same will be saved. (14) This Good News of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. (15) "When, therefore, you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), (16) then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (17) Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take out the things that are in his house. (18) Let him who is in the field not return back to get his clothes. (19) **But woe to those who are with child and to nursing mothers in those days!** (20) Pray that your flight will not be in the winter, nor on a Sabbath, (21) for then there will be great oppression, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever will be. (22) **Unless those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved.** But for the sake of the chosen ones, those days will be shortened. (23) "Then if any man tells you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or, 'There,' don't believe it. (24) For there will arise false christs, and false prophets, and they will show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones. (25) "Behold, I have told you beforehand. (26) If therefore they tell you, 'Behold, he is in the wilderness,' don't go out; 'Behold, he is in the inner rooms,' don't believe it. (27) For as the lightning flashes from the east, and is seen even to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (28) For wherever the carcass is, that is where the vultures gather together. (29) But immediately after the oppression of those days, the **sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken;** (30) and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. (31) He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. (32) "Now from the fig tree learn this parable. When its branch has now become tender, and produces its leaves, you know that the summer is near."

Take Heart: We Flee To A City OF Refuge

HEBREWS 12:22-29 “But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable multitudes of angels, (23) to the festal gathering and assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, (24) To Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks of something better than Abel’s does. (25) Take care not to refuse the one who is speaking! For if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less shall we, if we reject the one who warns from heaven? (26) Then his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, **“I will once more shake not only the earth but heaven too.”** (27) **Now this phrase “once more” indicates the removal of what is shaken, that is, of created things, so that what is unshaken may remain.** (28) **So since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us give thanks, and through this let us offer worship pleasing to God in devotion and awe.** (29) For our God is indeed a devouring fire.”

1 JOHN 2:15-17 “Don’t love the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Father’s love isn’t in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, isn’t the Father’s, but is the world’s. (17) **The world is passing away with its lusts, but he who does God’s will remains forever.**”

ISAIAH 65:17 “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered, nor come into mind.”

2 PETER 3:13 “But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

REVELATION 21:1-5 “I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. (2) I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. (3) I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, **“Behold, God’s dwelling is with people, and he will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more. The first things have passed away.”** (5) He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” He said, “Write, for these words of God are faithful and true.”

Be Encouraged: The -4- “I WILLS” of Exodus 6

EXODUS 6:6-8 “Therefore tell the children of Israel, ‘I am Yahweh, and **I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians**, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and **I will redeem you with an outstretched arm**, and with great judgments: (7) and **I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God**; and you shall know that I am Yahweh your God, who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (8) **I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it to you for a heritage: I am Yahweh.**”

We are going to the spiritual land of Promise. Fleeing spiritual Egypt, being freed from the world system and the burden of sin, to become the family of God forever! Amen. Yet, before then, God will purify His church.

Get Ready: The Purifying Of The Bride

1 PETER 4:17-19 “For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who don’t obey the Good News of God? “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore let them also who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him, as to a faithful Creator.”

Woe unto you who refuse to allow the spirit of God to work- not allowing it to remove from you the sin that stains your soul. You will go through much fire, persecution, and torment to be made ready. How then must we act? Let us purify ourselves of rebellion and sin. Throw off everything that holds us bound to the flesh.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:31-32 **“If we carefully judge ourselves, we won't be punished. (32) But when the Lord judges and punishes us, he does it to keep us from being condemned with the rest of the world.”**

PROVERBS 3:11-12 “My son, don’t despise Yahweh’s discipline, neither be weary of his reproof: (12) for whom Yahweh loves, he reproves; even as a father reproves the son in whom he delights.”

PROVERBS 17:3 “The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold, but Yahweh tests the hearts.”

God Disciplines and Punishes His People and Children

EZEKIEL 22:17-22 “Yahweh’s word came to me, saying, (18) “Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me. All of them are brass, tin, iron, and lead in the middle of the furnace. They are the dross of silver. (19) Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: ‘Because you have all become dross, therefore, behold, I will gather you into the middle of Jerusalem. (20) As they gather silver, brass, iron, lead, and tin into the middle of the furnace, to blow the fire on it, to melt it; so I will gather you in my anger and in my wrath, and I will lay you there, and melt you. (21) Yes, I will gather you, and blow on you with the fire of my wrath, and you will be melted in the middle of it. (22) As silver is melted in the middle of the furnace, so you will be melted in the middle of it; and you will know that I, Yahweh, have poured out my wrath on you.’”

God Tests His Church with Burden and Affliction.

PSALMS 66:8-12 “Praise our God, you peoples! Make the sound of his praise heard, (9) who preserves our life among the living, and doesn’t allow our feet to be moved. (10) For you, God, have tested us. You have refined us, as silver is refined. (11) You brought us into prison. You laid a burden on our backs. (12) You allowed men to ride over our heads. We went through fire and through water, but you brought us to the place of abundance.”

God Will Strike And Purify His Church

ISAIAH 1:21-28 “How the faithful city has become a prostitute! She was full of justice: righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers. (22) Your silver has become dross, your wine mixed with water. (23) Your princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes, and follows after rewards. They don’t judge the fatherless, neither does the cause of the widow come to them. (24) Therefore the Lord, Yahweh of Armies, the Mighty One of Israel, says: “Ah, I will get relief from my adversaries, and avenge myself on my enemies; (25) and I will turn my hand on you, thoroughly purge away your dross, and will take away all your tin. (26) I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called ‘The city of righteousness, a faithful town.’ (27) Zion shall be redeemed with justice, and her converts with righteousness. (28) But the destruction of transgressors and sinners shall be together, and those who forsake Yahweh shall be consumed.”

ISAIAH 48:9-11 “For my name’s sake, I will defer my anger, and for my praise I hold it back for you, so that I don’t cut you off. (10) Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver. I have chosen you in the furnace of affliction. (11) For my own sake, for my own sake, I will do it; for how would my name be profaned? I will not give my glory to another.”

God Has Already Done This To Jesus— Who are you to escape?

ZECHARIAH 13:7-9 “Awake, sword, against my shepherd, and against the man who is close to me,” says Yahweh of Armies. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; and I will turn my hand against the little ones. (8) It shall happen that in all the land,” says Yahweh, “two parts in it will be cut off and die; but the third will be left in it. (9) I will bring the third part into the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will test them like gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will hear them. I will say, ‘It is my people;’ and they will say, ‘Yahweh is my God.’”

- **Prophecy Fulfilled**

MARK 14:27 “Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of me tonight, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’”

Brace Yourself and Prepare Your Hearts

JAMES 1:2-4 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations. (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (4) Let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

ROMANS 8:18 “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us.”

REVELATION 2:10 “Don’t be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

1 PETER 4:12-13 “Beloved, don’t be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you, to test you, as though a strange thing happened to you. (13) But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice; that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy.”

Just like Israel, God will not forget you. Hewill remove us all from the furnace of testing and refining.

DEUTERONOMY 4:20 “But Yahweh has taken you, and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be to him a people of inheritance, as it is today.”

God will purify the wicked also, and will not find Gold or Silver to be retained as a Possession. Therefore, they are carried away in the smoke of torment.

JEREMIAH 6:26-30 “Daughter of my people, clothe yourself with sackcloth, and wallow in ashes! Mourn, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation, for the destroyer will suddenly come on us. (27) “I have made you a tester of metals and a fortress among my people, that you may know and try their way. (28) They are all grievous rebels, going around to slander. They are brass and iron. All of them deal corruptly. (29) The bellows blow fiercely. The lead is consumed in the fire. In vain they go on refining, for the wicked are not plucked away. (30) Men will call them rejected silver, because Yahweh has rejected them.”

Endure & Receive The Reward of Your Endurance

HEBREWS 12:5-13 “and you have forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with children, **“My son, don’t take lightly the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprovved by him; (6) For whom the Lord loves, he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives.”** (7) It is for discipline that you endure. God deals with you as with children, for what son is there whom his father doesn’t discipline? (8) But if you are without discipline, of which all have been made partakers, then are you illegitimate, and not children. (9) Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to chasten us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they indeed, for a few days, punished us as seemed good to them; but he for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness. (11) All chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been exercised thereby. (12) Therefore lift up the hands that hang down and the feeble knees, (13) and make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.”

1 PETER 1:3-9 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that doesn’t fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, (5) who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (6) **Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been put to grief in various trials, (7) that the proof of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ—** (8) whom not having known you love; in whom, though now you don’t see him, yet believing, you rejoice greatly with joy unspeakable and full of glory— (9) receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

Receive The Latter Rain & Harvest Of Souls

JOEL 2:23 “Be glad then, sons of Zion, and rejoice in Jehovah your God. For He has given you the former rain according to righteousness, and He will cause the rain to come down for you, the former rain and the latter rain in the first month.”

How do we know that this isn't just literal rain, but a spiritual rain of the Holy Spirit?

JOEL 2:28-32 “And it shall be afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall dream dreams; your young men shall see visions. (29) And also I will pour out My Spirit on the slaves and on the slave women in those days. (30) **And I will show wonders in the heavens, and in the earth, blood and fire and pillars of smoke. (31) The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood**, before the coming of the great and awesome day of Jehovah. (32) And it shall be, whoever shall call on the name of Jehovah shall be saved; for salvation shall be in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, as Jehovah has said, and in the remnant whom Jehovah shall call.”

As we learned above about the end of time and the great shaking, we see here the pouring out of God's Spirit upon all flesh at the end of time.

Again, we see the spiritual connection of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the giving of the Holy Spirit.

HOSEA 6:1-3 “Come and let us return to Jehovah. For He has torn, and He will heal us; He has stricken, and He will bind us up. (2) After two days He will bring us to life; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. (3) Then we shall know, if we follow on to know Jehovah. His going out is prepared as the morning; and He shall come to us as the rain, as the latter and former rain to the earth.”

We can also see James make the Spiritual connection.

JAMES 5:7-8 “Be patient therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. (8) You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

Obviously the early rain that was poured out was the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, to empower His church to bring in the first harvest of souls.

With this understanding, we can clearly see the Spiritual connection in this passage.

DEUTERONOMY 11:13-15 “It shall happen, if you shall listen diligently to my commandments which I command you today, to love Yahweh your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, (14) that I will give the rain of your land in its season, the former rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. (15) I will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full.”

With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit being connected to the early and latter rain, we can drive it home connecting the above passage even further to the truth.

ACTS 5:32 “And we are His witnesses of these things. And so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

The Shaking and Refining Will Be Tough, But Joy Will Come

PSALMS 126:1-6 “When Yahweh brought back those who returned to Zion, we were like those who dream. (2) Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “Yahweh has done great things for them.” (3) Yahweh has done great things for us, and we are glad. (4) Restore our fortunes again, Yahweh, like the streams in the Negev. (5) Those who sow in tears will reap in joy. (6) He who goes out weeping, carrying seed for sowing, will certainly come again with joy, carrying his sheaves.”

GALATIANS 6:7-9 “Don’t be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (8) For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption. But he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (9) Let’s not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season, if we don’t give up.”

Again, spiritually speaking, the wicked will not enjoy the latter rain.

JEREMIAH 5:22-25 “Don’t you fear me?’ says Yahweh ‘Won’t you tremble at my presence, who have placed the sand for the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it can’t pass it? Though its waves toss themselves, yet they can’t prevail. Though they roar, they still can’t pass over it.’ (23) “But this people has a revolting and a rebellious heart. They have revolted and gone. (24) They don’t say in their heart, ‘Let’s now fear Yahweh our God, who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season; who preserves to us the appointed weeks of the harvest.’ (25) **“Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withheld good from you.”**

Conclusion

1 THESSALONIANS 3:11-13 “Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you; (12) and the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we also do toward you, (13) to the end he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”

1 PETER 5:8-11 “Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (9) Withstand him steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brothers who are in the world are undergoing the same sufferings. (10) But may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. (11) To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”