

All Must Come to Pass

The date is February 8, 2022 and . . . the gas at the gas station is going higher and higher. I went to the grocery store and was confronted with empty shelves. Don't laugh, but one of the biggest upsets that people were expressing - with some humor - had to do with the lack of dog food. Then someone stated something that no one laughed about . . . "I guess some people are having to eat the dog food for meat." Light-heartedness vanished and everyone cleared that section of the aisle. Sobering thought, isn't it? However, its not the first time that alternatives for eating have occurred in the history of mankind.

In September of 2019, the Lord graciously gave our congregation a word about the future. The entire message is still unfolding in four sets of series: A Storm's Comin, A Category Seven, Storm of All Storms, and The Storm to End All Storms: A New Heaven & New Earth. The whole story of how the messages came about is too long to go into here, but I only mention it here in part to explain how "All Must Come to Pass" began.

In 2019 when God began talking to us about the future, I wanted to intercede regarding the things that were going to come about that I didn't want to see happen. In other words, I wanted to find a way to pray and stop the difficulties from coming. Now, don't get me wrong, the messages that the Lord had for us as the Church were encouraging, instructive, and comforting, because the "storm coming" that He was talking about was *His* coming. Yet, it was clear that it was going to be a difficult time overall. We had no idea what was in store for us and we could not even imagine how it would begin.

As I sought the Lord about how to pray to intercede, God brought me up short with His words found in Matthew 24:6, "*see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*"¹

God would not let me go past the statement "for all must come to pass". Then He began to talk with me about the truth of His word. The future is already written. It has been declared by Almighty God Himself. God "*is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?*"² Even if I used every pattern of "effectual" prayer and attempted to operate in all faith, what has been declared will still come to pass. Why? Because God has already set it in motion with His Word! He does not lie and He does not change His mind. Remember that faith cometh by hearing and hearing cometh by the word of God.³ There is no word of God that nullifies "the Word of God." Therefore, there can be no faith against the Word of Truth. If there is no faith – there is no answered prayer.

A couple of weeks ago, I was privileged to hear another trusted minister of God state the same thing using the same scripture of Matthew 24:6. I have to admit, I appreciated God confirming His word to me regarding the truth that there are some things we just cannot alter with our prayers. Why? Because, they must come to pass for the future God has willed for His children. God wrote the beginning from the end – the end from the beginning. It is established!

¹ Matthew 24

² Numbers 23:19-23

³ Romans 10:17

Today, as I was being reminded of this declaration of the Lord, I began to have reassurance of the faithfulness of God in the midst of troublesome times. What did God remind me of that reassured me? He reminded me of the children of Israel in the land of Goshen.

I'm sure you have heard the story of the children of Israel in the land of Goshen. What you might not remember is that God had told Abram, many years before, that his offspring would end up *"in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."*⁴ Did you know this statement came in the same conversation between Abram and God when God established the "covenant" between the two? Check it out!

In Genesis 15, Abram had a conversation with God about the problem of having no heir. Yes, God had blessed him; but, he didn't have an heir of his seed. His only heir at that time would be someone born in his house – the steward of his house, Eliezer of Damascus. God told him he would have an heir *"out of thine own bowels."* Then God reminded Abram that He was the one that had brought him out of Ur to give him the land he was currently in.

Before I go any further, let's just think about this. The "land" that Abram was in was occupied by other people. It was not empty. If you follow the story, especially on into Exodus, it becomes clear that the land was being taken away from its inhabitants because of the evil they were involved in – not because the children of Israel were so holy.⁵

Remember that God knows the end from the beginning. He knew that a time would come when the "cry of them would wax great" in the land of Canaan – when *"the iniquity of the Amorites"* would be full; and, that would be the time when the land would be "transferred" over into the possession of Abraham's offspring.⁶

At this time, God also shared with Abram that the nation He would end up sending Abraham's offspring into would be judged. In fact, God would use his seed to spoil them. They would leave *"with great substance."*

Just think! God already had a plan that involved a seed of Abraham by the name of Joseph.⁷ As Joseph told his brothers many years later in the land of Egypt, *"ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."*⁸ During this "time" of salvation when judgment was being poured out on the Egyptians, God *"put a division"* between the two peoples. God "severed" the land of Goshen where the Israelites dwelt from the rest of Egypt.⁹ For instance, in Exodus 10:21-23, God allowed a darkness over the land of Egypt so dark that the Word said it could be *"felt."* However, *"all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings."*

Sometimes *"all these things must come to pass"* because there is a plan being followed that ends with "tying up all the loose ends." The children of Israel had to go through a time of slavery to end up coming out of Egypt with great substance as a judgment of Egypt and then to enter into Canaan as a means for the land of Canaan to be cleansed, or cleared of iniquity.

God's thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not our ways. He has a much grander plan and His purpose is much higher than ours!¹⁰ We may have to go through tough

⁴ Genesis 15:13-14 "shall afflict them for four hundred years; . . . come out with great substance."

⁵ Deuteronomy 9:4-5 "Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart . . ."

⁶ Genesis 15:16 "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full"

⁷ Genesis 45:4-8 "for God did send me before you to preserve life . . . to preserve you a posterity in the earth."

⁸ Genesis 50:20 "ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good . . ."

⁹ Exodus 8:22-23 "And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell . . . I will put a division . . ."

¹⁰ Isaiah 55:6-12 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

times; but, God will be with us and bring us through in victory. Like the children of Israel in Egypt, God can give us light when all is dark around us. It may look like the enemy is getting his way, but just remember that God always has the last word – and His word is sure and steadfast!

When things get a little “tense” for me or those close to me, I find great comfort in a scripture that God quickened to my heart many years ago during a fight of faith. It is 2 Timothy 2:19, *“The Lord knoweth them that are His.”* What a word of encouragement and a word that causes faith to arise even in the midst of tribulation! God has always had a plan that supplied protection and provision for His own. In fact, that plan was instigated before the world began through the promise of gift of Jesus our Savior. We just have to remember whose we are, whom we serve, and our standing in the household of God. We have to have faith for our position of sonship, privilege and authority. Then, have faith in God for the power to back our authority.¹¹

One of the interesting things that the Lord pointed out to me concerning the attitude of the children of Israel was that the whole episode could have been easier on them if they had just believed the word that the Lord spoke through Moses to them. If they had heard that word, believed it, and trusted that God was helping them, then they would not have “suffered” so when the Egyptians demanded they make their quota of bricks - even with the added burden of having to gather their own straw. They could have asked God for strength and ability to fulfill the demand of bricks and rejoiced with the sure knowledge that God was leading them to deliverance and victory. In other words, if they had just kept their eyes on the prize that was before them, the difficulties would have seemed like a small price to pay for the ultimate deliverance, much less for the abundant land that God had waiting for them.¹²

Now, before we judge them too harshly and be critical, let us apply this to our own situation. If we will just turn to God and believe Him for help instead of complaining and doubting, God will provide everything we need to meet the demand that the enemy puts on *our* life. The Lord has been, and always will be, willing to show Himself strong on our behalf. Just like He demonstrated that He could make the children of Israel to increase even in the midst of terrible hardships, God can cause us to triumph, increase, and prosper as well.¹³ Instead of us wondering why they couldn't just believe Him, we should look at our own life and ask ourselves that question. Why can't we just believe Him – that He will increase us, provide for us, protect us, etc.? Really now! *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”*¹⁴

When things seem to be going in the wrong direction in our nation or in our society, we often start coming against it without even checking with the Lord to find out what His will is regarding the situation. We like to quote Numbers 23:19, *“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”* when we are standing on His promises of good for His own. However, we sometimes forget that it works in other ways as well.

In verse 20 of Numbers 23, Balaam declared that he had received a commandment to bless Israel because God had blessed them and he was not able to reverse it or change it. But just think a moment. God has also already made certain judgments that cannot be reversed or changed as well. For instance, there is no need to pray for Satan to be saved. God has already judged him and pronounced sentence upon him. It is final. This is what Jesus is talking about when He stated in Matthew 24:6, *“see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but*

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 2:7-16 “the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

¹² Deuteronomy 6:10-12 “when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which He swore unto thy fathers. . . .”

¹³ Exodus 1:12 “the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew.”

¹⁴ Romans 8:31 “If God be for us, who can be against us?”

the end is not yet.” There are perilous times that are coming and they cannot be changed. (Scriptural emphasis is author’s.)

This is one of the reasons why it is so imperative for us to seek the help of the Holy Spirit to pray as we should.¹⁵ He is the one that knows the mind and the will of Almighty God. He knows if a bad situation is something that can be changed or something that we have to walk through. If it is to be walked through, He can give us the wisdom, strength, and courage to do so with our eyes on the prize. And, we can do it with joy. Oh, yes we can! If the Corinthians could respond like they are reported to have responded in 2 Corinthians 8:2, with abundance of joy, so can we. We just need to do what they did – first, give our own selves to the Lord.

We have another excellent example of this: *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”*¹⁶ Jesus showed us the way – to put our focus on the prize. Romans 8:18 declares, *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”* We will find the strength and the power to overcome with joy when we get in charge of our attitude. We really can do this with God’s help!

Listen, if God can increase a pot of oil to fill many pots and provide income for many years to come, what can He not increase?¹⁷ If He can rain manna/bread from heaven and bring quail/meat in by a strong wind, what can He not provide from heaven and by a strong wind?¹⁸ If He can have birds bring a “hamburger” to Elijah, then you tell me what could keep God from feeding us – even if it is one meal at a time.¹⁹

I have personally experienced the miraculous provision of God. At one time in my life, my employer had to close his medical practice due to health issues. I was left without a job for six months. These are a few of the awesome things the Lord did for me: one chicken breast would make five ***gourmet*** meals, my pantry never was empty, and my propane tank remained full. Another contributing factor of that time in my life was that I never failed to tithe and give offerings for the unemployment monies that I received. That was not all the awesome things that God did for me during that time, but I’ll save those stories for another time.

Just recently, God had me pick up a bag of dog food (even though I didn’t think I needed it). As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, the very next week there was no dog food on the shelves and hasn’t been even till now. It was not a coincidence that the Spirit of God impressed me to get that bag of dog food. No, it is an example of God’s provision for the future.

My last example of God’s provision during this time of challenge has to do with a car. I needed one. My old vehicle “died” on me in March of 2020 with approximately 270,000 miles on it. “Sarah” took me on many ministry trips!!! Before I could locate the car that I wanted and had prayed for, the car shortage occurred. There were no cars like what I wanted around, but I really needed transportation. God, through a dream, led me to a car. I knew that it was the one I was supposed to have even though it wasn’t what I had prayed for. I was fussy about the whole thing – until God set me straight.

¹⁵ Romans 8:26-28 “for we know not what we should pray for as we ought”

¹⁶ Hebrews 12:2-3 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith”

¹⁷ 2 Kings 4:1-7 “hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil”

¹⁸ Psalms 78:23-29 “rained down manna . . . Man did eat angels’ food . . . caused an east wind . . . rained flesh”

¹⁹ 1 Kings 17:1-6 “And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, . . . in the evening;”

God reminded me to be thankful for what He provided until the one I wanted was available. My monthly payments were much higher than I wanted them to be and I was concerned about my ability to make the payments. God reminded me that, as I had been obedient to increase my giving a couple of years earlier, I had already sowed the seed that would bring the harvest to pay that bill. God's grace and provision in action ahead of time! He had had a plan for me and everything would be okay. He also told me to keep calling in the car I wanted. It wasn't over!

The Heavenly Father wants us to know that Jesus is coming soon! The Holy Spirit wants us to know that Jesus is coming soon! The **Lord** wants us to know that He is coming soon! There is no doubt that these words are true. That perilous times are here is also true; but, as the Apostle Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:14, we are to continue in the things that we have learned and been assured of because we know of whom we have learned them.²⁰ Jesus Himself has told us to "*see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*"

So, when you see troublesome and difficult times, when pressures mount up, and when things look dark, then it is time to change what you are looking at. Look at Him! Look unto Him! Look in His Word! Take time to get in the presence of the Lord in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what you should pray. Ask Him to show you how to pray effectively and then allow Him to minister comfort and strength to you.

No – it is not easy to change your focus when the devil is pulling all kinds of shenanigans, or tricks, to get you to put your attention on all the things that are going “wrong”. But, we are able to do it with God's help.

No – it is not easy to witness the “dark” side of our glorious future. Yes – it is painful and it is a hardship to endure these “sufferings”. But have no doubt, the glory which waits before us is too wonderful to ignore.²¹ This is just part of what we have to do to put on the armor of God and stand. This is the “and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore . . .” time.²²

Let's finish, shall we? Further down, in Matthew 24:45-47, the Lord speaks of the servant that is faithful and wise who continues to fulfill the assignment that his lord gave him – even though the lord seems to have delayed his coming. I believe this speaks of all of us:

*“Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.
Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.”*

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. . .

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Amen.

Revelation 22:16, 20-21

²⁰ 2 Timothy 3 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. . . .”

²¹ Romans 8:16-21 “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory”

²² Ephesians 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”