

IS THIS GOD'S LAST CALL?

Ezekiel 14

May the Grace, Mercy and Peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Don't we live in interesting times? The world is sitting on edge. waiting to see what happens? It has come real close a number of times to collapsing. And thankfully Our Lord God spared us again and again. But is this the last time He does it?

As we look at the present times; we can find parallel events in the past.

There's a section in the Bible that deals with them. It is so important, that it contains 250 chapters. We're talking about the Prophets. From Isaiah to Malachi, the Lord God reached out to His people. What happened? Weren't these God's people? Why were they being afflicted?

Stephan in his defense, summarized it very well.

Acts 7: 39 - To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

What were the major causes leading to this?

Hosea 4: 12 - My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

Hosea 5: 4 - They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD.

The Lord God used Ezekiel to reveal His Plan to the people.

Ezekiel 22: 19 to 22 - Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and led, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it ; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there , and melt you. Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.

Today's world doesn't have to end the same way. The Lord God first went to those entrusted with leadership. Ezekiel 22: 23 to 28 - And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. Her

priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

So what about the general population? Ezekiel 22: 29 - The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

Was there anyone else that the Lord God could use?

Ezekiel 22: 30 - And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Jonah preached repentance to the ungodly in Nineveh. They repented, and the Lord God spared them.

Jonah 4: 2 - And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

Ezekiel preached repentance to God's people.

Ezekiel 3: 4 to 7 - And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.

So the majority of them didn't repent.

The Book of Ezekiel gives us God's perspective on the matter. First, the Lord God revealed Himself in all His Heavenly Majesty.

Then, in chapter 2: 3 to 7 - And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them. And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among

scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.

Now rebellion is not a new concept. It has been around for a long time. In fact, it is the strongman over many geo-political regions; such as the US.

Lucifer rebelled against God, and was kicked out of Heaven. Adam and Eve rebelled against God, when they ate the forbidden fruit, and were kicked out of the Garden of Eden. And now that rebellion had been firmly entrenched in humanity, we don't have to go very far to find it to-day.

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us of it a long time ago.

Luke 12: 53 - The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Now it is not my intention at this time to do an in-depth study on rebellion.

This is something that has to be dealt with on a personal basis.

To start with; take a good concordance, or Nave's Topical Bible, and prayerfully study it.

Even though rebellion is present everywhere in society to-day; there are two main areas that concern me. They are; the family, and the Church.

The family is the basic unit of society, including the Church.

Matthew 19: 5 - And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

The devil tries hard to mess up families, and unfortunately has too many successes.

Genesis 3: 6 - And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Women are a major target. It is said, "That the hand that rocks the cradle, rules the nation". So, much attention is given to them, to mess them up.

They are conditioned from youth, throughout the school system, to abandon the Godly tradition of family life. And this is being reflected in society, with the sky-rocketing of young female crime and violence. In the UK, as in many other jurisdictions; violent crime among girls 10 to 17 has doubled. Now the Lord God will have a people fully committed to Him.

As mankind tried unsuccessfully for two thousand years to get right with God, they needed something better.

Galatians 3: 24 - Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Luke 4: 16 to 21 - And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up:

and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

But exactly where is the problem?

2 Chronicles 36: 13 - And (Zedekiah) also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.

Psalms 78: 8 - And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

Jeremiah 5: 23 - But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone.

Lamentations 1: 20 - Behold, O LORD; for I am in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: abroad the sword bereaveth, at home there is as death.

Hosea 7: 14 - And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me.

How else did they rebel against the Lord God?

Ezekiel 20: 5 to 8 - And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the LORD your God; In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands: Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

So one of the ways that rebellion manifested was in idolatry. Even when the Lord God was performing mighty miracles in Egypt, there were those who

refused to give up their idols. John Gill, the great commentator wrote that during the three days of darkness, the Lord God dealt with them. In fact, all of Ezekiel 20 has the Lord God calling on His people to get rid of the idols. What is the Lord God's position? Exodus 6: 7 - And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. Joshua 24: 24 - And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

And under the New Covenant, it goes even further.

1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Exodus 12: 12 - For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Psalms 96: 5 - For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

Yes, idolatry is a major concern. At Mount Sinai, the Lord God gave them a list of commandments.

The second is in Exodus 20: 3 to 6 - Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

What happened to God's people? Their close relationship with the Lord God started to wax cold. It was comparable to the Samaritans, when they were brought into the Northern Kingdom.

2 Kings 17: 32 & 33 - So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.

They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

But you say, there are no idols here, as mentioned in 2 Kings 17: 29 to 31 - How be it every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt. And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima, And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their

children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. You would have to walk around with your eyes closed to avoid seeing all the idols out there.

Now that is the general population. But why is it in the Church?

Baal was one of the major pagan deities. He was symbolized by a bull with big horns; much like hinduism. But why is it in the Church? I've seen believers going around with bulls or baal on their clothes.

We live in a multi-cultural society. But so did the early Church. So how did they deal with idols?

Acts 15: 20 - But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

In case that is not clear enough.

1 John 5: 21 - Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

We have seen over the years; that those who will not put away their idols; are either spiritually stunted; or even turn back. Whereas the Lord God tells us to put them away; why are some church's bringing them back.

Some are allowing the Native Indian drumming circles to join their worship services. This practice summons up evil spirits. From what I've seen; most churches are full enough of religious spirits, that they don't need any more.

Paul made an interesting comment about society.

Acts 17: 22 - Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

But it's not the same to-day, is it? How many people will not start their day until they consult their horoscope. And how many carry a good luck charm? Some years ago, there was a news clip on an Indian earthquake. In the midst of complete destruction; a man in shock clutches his family god. The idol's name was good luck. I hope that it came with a money back guarantee. One day, a while ago, when I arrived at the Mic Console on Parliament Hill, the House was in an uproar. The previous operator wished me good luck in dealing with the situation. I told him that I didn't need good luck; I only needed the Lord. So I bound the manifesting demons, in Jesus' Name; and commanded them to be quiet, and in a few seconds, the place went still. The MPs stood around in amazement at what had happened. So if we don't wish them good luck; what do we say? How about, may the Lord Jesus bless you.

Can worshiping idols have any detrimental results? There was a news story on August 22, 2008; from the AFP; "Crocodile eats Bangladesh man who sought its blessing".

Are there any modern connections to the idols of old?

"Since the beginning of civilization, man has made images of himself from objects from his environment, either as drawing on cave walls or as

figurines made of wood or clay. These dolls or idols were used as a religious or magical status. Today, dolls are defined as a three dimension figure representing a human being. Added to this definition, is that a doll is a play toy for children.

Dolls have been found throughout the world from the sarcophagi of Ancient Egypt, to the Catacombs in Rome to Native American graves of North America. Dolls tell a story about their past. That is why "the world of doll collecting" provides a treasure of information and holds such interest and joy to all peoples.

In Africa, from Ashanti to Zulu, image sculptures called "ancestor figures" are traditional and religious. These wood carved images represent deceased loved ones. The dolls are used to thank the gods for good health, wealth and a rich harvest. Ancestor's images permeate an African's day-to-day existence because of strong powers. There is a doll for each cycle of life-birth, initiation, marriage, and death." from the web-site of the Philadelphia Doll Museum.

Are these appropriate for believers to-day? Parents need to pray about their suitability for their daughters and sons. 2 Corinthians 6: 16 - And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them ; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1 Thessalonians 1: 9 & 10 - For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Are there any other compromises in society?

There is a major branch of "Christianity", Roman Catholicism, that uses lots of idols. What should be done? 2 Corinthians 6: 15 to 18 - And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them ; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing ; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Revelation 18: 4 & 5 - And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

1 Timothy 2: 5 & 6 - For there is one God, and one mediator between God

and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Or there's the Church of England which recently issued an apology to Charles Darwin, for opposing his theory of evolution. They still haven't found all the missing links, and never will.

Are there any other compromises in the Church?

There is an ex-hindu, Dr. Suresh Chander Verma, who got saved. He sees so much infiltration by hindu/new age doctrine, that he says many believers are "Christianized hindus".

Now when idolatry is this visible, it is present much deeper. And even if all the idols are destroyed, which the Lord God will do some day, they will still reside within people.

The Lord God revealed to Ezekiel in chapter 8 just how bad it was; when He took him by vision into the temple to see all the idolatrous practices.

Ezekiel 14: 3 to 11 - Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh unto him ; That the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord GOD.

Now that crowd had not died out. They tangled with the Lord Jesus on many occasions. The Lord Jesus even used them in His parables. No-one is completely useless; at least they can be a good example of a bad example.

One parable stands out in describing them. Luke 18: 10 to 14 - Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are , extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

They may not have had statutes of idols, but in their hearts, they had self-righteousness; which is self-idolatry. It is worse than the other, because it is hidden, and appears to be godly.

2 Timothy 3: 1 to 9 - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men , as theirs also was.

Mark 12: 38 to 44 - And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation. And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

The publican and the widow were not spectacular people. The humble and repentant publican; the devout, poor widow; worshiped the Lord God from their hearts, and it was accepted.

The false worship offered in pride, was not.

Matthew 6: 2 - Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 5 - And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are : for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 16 - Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Now the Lord Jesus called many people. How did they respond? They came from all walks of life. There were many women who realized that Jesus was the Messiah. Even though they were not as prominent as some of the men, they were not forgotten.

Luke 10: 38 to 42 - Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Some of the men were fishermen; some were tax collectors. But they came to the Lord Jesus. There were others, who when were called by the Lord Jesus, refused to come.

Luke 14: 16 to 24 - Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Did you hear that? They were too busy. They were occupied with the

mundane things of the world. It reminds me of Luke 8, and the seed that was sown among the thorns. The cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches.

How many people tell the Lord God that they don't have time for Him? It seems that to-day, everything is more important than Him. And so the people refuse to spend time with the Lord. Make no mistake about it; the Lord God will not be mocked by His shallow believers. If the Lord Jesus had to take time with His Heavenly Father, shouldn't we?

Matthew 14: 23 - And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Well what exactly does the Lord God want from us?

Mark 10:17 to 31 - And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is , God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

Where does that leave us? Do we have to give our all to the Lord Jesus?

Luke 14: 25 to 27 - And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father,

and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Bearing our cross is not easy, and does not come naturally to us. Under the Old Covenant, they tried repeatedly; but rebellion and idolatry proved too much for them. However the Lord God's prophets continually exhorted them; making them aware of the consequences of failure.

Numbers 33: 55 & 56 - But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them.

What about those who know what to do, but refuse to do it?

Judges 5: 23 - Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.

Now the Lord promised Pastor Win that there would be a restoration of those who had been in true deliverance. We are praying that that will happen as soon as possible, because we need all the mighty men and women of deliverance in the upcoming conflict.

Thankfully, under the New Covenant, we have the Holy Spirit, living within us to help. Isaiah 59: 19 - So shall they 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 shall lift up a standard against him.

Romans 6 is an excellent discourse on the task ahead. Verse 6 sums it up: - Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

As born-again believers, we have the Lord Jesus' promise. Luke 9: 1 - Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

So whether this is the last call for national salvation; this is definitely a call for believers to take up our crosses daily and follow the Lord Jesus. And a large part of that will be our willingness to deal with rebellion and idolatry. And when the going gets rough, remember Hebrews 13: 5 - Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

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