

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG54-Look Up, See The Vision

It seems rather obvious that we are entering times of great difficulty in the earth today. I want to talk in this podcast about the coming Fall feasts, the Biblical feasts, and what their vision is for us during this time, to establish us and carry us into these days with our hearts set upon God and His purposes. As we get into the things transpiring around us in this world, it is easy sometimes to think, "God is not in control. Well, maybe man is in control; maybe the devil is in control. What is transpiring? Where is the victory of Christ?" Many times it feels like the victory of Christ is not evident for us, but it is, and we need to learn to shift our focus. We need to look up and see what God is doing, see what God has done. God is bringing His Kingdom into this earth and He is in charge. God has not lost control.

As we move into these days of the Biblical Fall feasts, we need to behold the vision of what each of these feasts means to us and what God is doing through them, and what He is speaking to us about, so that we can have our focus fixed upon Him, fixed upon His will and fixed upon His purposes. We need to understand that it is God who is in charge, not the devil, not man. God is in charge. And He is in the process of establishing His Kingdom and setting His King Yeshua, Jesus, on the throne of that Kingdom.

We're going to go into some Scriptures now, and I am going to begin at Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter, starting at verses 1-2. "Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.'" So the disciples come up and they see the Temple, how beautiful it is. It was known as one of the wonders of the world at that time. They focus on the Temple and say, "It's beautiful." And then He says to them, "Okay, look at the Temple. Focus at the Temple, on this building. Focus on the Temple Mount. Do you not see all these things?" He was bringing their focus onto a very natural level. It was already on a natural level, right? They were already talking about the Temple, and looking at what was surrounding them from the standpoint of a human perception. And He reemphasizes that perception to them: "Do you not see all these things?" And then He goes on to say, "Not one stone here will be left upon another." So He begins to say, "Hey, what you see here is not what is going to remain or what is going to transpire through history."

In verse 3 it says, "As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'" They asked Him three very specific questions. And when you go through Matthew 24 to begin to try to understand, you must properly put the verses and the story in perspective as to which question it is related to. Now in this podcast, I don't want to focus on trying to exegete these verses. Instead, what I want to do is I want to bring a juxtaposition between the natural level human focus of the events of the end-time and the events of His coming, versus the spiritual focus of His coming and of the events of the end-time.

In verse 6 it says, "'You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars.'" Again, remember, He is telling them on a natural level what the world will experience and what the world will see, and how the world

will perceive the events surrounding His coming and the end of the age; but the end is not yet. Verses 7-9: "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name." Verses 11-14: "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Now the Scriptures also retell this story in Luke the twenty-first chapter, and I will begin with verses 25-28: "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

So He now shifts the focus. He has been telling the story with the perception, with a focus upon the very natural world and the natural level of events surrounding man. But all of a sudden, He comes to this place and He says, "Now, when these things begin to take place, what do I want you to do? I want you to change your focus. I want you to straighten up, I want you to lift your head, I want you to look up to Me, because your redemption is drawing near. That is what is happening for you. All these other events may be happening for people who are focused on them, but you are not focused on them. You are not to be focused on them; otherwise, you will be shaken like everyone else. But I don't want you to be shaken. I want you to look up to the Father, I want you to look up to Me, and I want you to realize your redemption is drawing near, your salvation is drawing near, the Kingdom is coming for you. That is where I want your focus. That is what I want you to be able to see and understand."

Verses 29-31 go on to say, "Then He told them a parable: 'Behold the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.'" What are you supposed to recognize out of these worldly events? You are not supposed to panic over them; you are not supposed to be immersed in them, engaged in them, wallowing in them or in the tribulation of them; you are supposed to recognize the Kingdom of God is near. You are supposed to look up and behold your redemption.

A similar story is also told in Psalms the second chapter. And I want to grab something out of the Hebrew Scriptures, because these things are not just known and told from the standpoint of the New Testament. Starting at verses 1-3, Psalms 2: "Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!'" People are trying to break out of what they consider religious restraints, and out of the things of faith and of God. They are trying to tear the fetters apart and establish their own freedom.

Verses 4-12 say, "He who sits in the heavens laughs." God doesn't sound too disturbed by everything that is going on in this planet. "He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, 'But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.' 'I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me'" – now Yeshua is speaking – ""You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations

as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.” Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”

That is why we must have the vision, because when we look up and we see Him and what He is doing, then we are taking refuge in Him. We see the turmoil of these times on a natural level, but we also recognize that God is saying, “Focus on Me, focus on what I am doing.” Yeshua is saying, “Focus on Me, on what I am doing – who I am as the King who has been seated upon the throne in Zion.” This is the story that is told through these Biblical Fall feasts. They are the feasts, the Biblical feasts, which tell of these end-time events. They tell of this transition time that the world is going to go through. And therefore we are able, during these times, to set our focus on what God wants us to see and to understand; and we are to set our hearts on what is actually happening from the perspective of God's plan.

As we enter this time of the Fall feasts, I want our hearts to be given. I want us to look up and I want us to look carefully at what God is saying is the purpose of these feasts and what they are pointing us to, and what they are trying to show us is really taking place from a heavenly perspective. So I am going to go very quickly through each one and just give us an idea of what we are going to see and behold, as we look up.

First, we begin with Shofar, the Day of Trumpets. I want to read from Exodus 19, starting verses 16-17: “So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.” Exodus 19:20, “The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.” What happened at the sounding of the shofar? God came down. What are we expecting as we go into the Fall feasts and we come to the Day of Trumpets? Our expectation is that once again, God is coming down. He is bringing His Kingdom into this earth. That becomes our focus.

Do you see the difference? We don't focus on the natural things. The people in the camp were fearful. Moses himself said that he was fearful at the sound of the trumpets. When he looked on a natural level at what was taking place on Mount Sinai, he was fearful; but what God was doing became his focus. God came down on the mountain and called Moses up. And so at this time of Shofar, God is calling us up into His Presence to focus upon Him, and to receive Him as He comes to Earth to bring His Kingdom.

1 Thessalonians 4, starting at verse 16, says, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” Mark 13:34-37: “It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert— for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all, “Be on the alert!”” This great day of trumpets calls us to be on the alert. It calls us to focus on His return. He is coming. We may not know the moment, but we know because we hear the sound of the shofar, the sound of the trumpet blast, that He is coming. Therefore, we look up, for our redemption draws nigh.

We go from the Day of Trumpets into the Days of Awe. These are ten days, also called the Ten Days of Repentance. These Ten Days of Repentance give us the opportunity, at our initiative, to change our fate. We can aggressively enter into a time of repentance. As we are looking up, beholding Him, we can cry out to Him; we can repent for our failures, for our disobedience, whatever we need to make right with Him. We use these Days of Awe, these days following the sounding of the trumpet which gets our attention, it calls us to the alert; and we look now at these moments to change the potential fate of our lives and our future. What a beautiful opportunity that we have during these Days of Awe.

We move from the Days of Awe into Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This is the day of sanctification and transformation. That is what we experience in the Day of Atonement. It is not talking about just the forgiveness of our sin; it is talking about our sanctification, and our complete transformation, the removal of the Adamic nature from our being. I Corinthians 15:51-53 says, "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality." We must, at some point, experience the fullness of salvation, which is the removal of the Adamic human nature from us until we accept and receive a transformation into His likeness.

Hebrews 9:28 says, "So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him" – to those who are looking up to see the vision, waiting eagerly for His coming, waiting eagerly for that salvation, that redemption that is drawing nigh. That redemption in this time is not to deal with our sins. No, we can repent during the Ten Days of Repentance, during the Days of Awe. When we come to this time of the Day of Atonement, we see that something else is our expectation. As we are looking up, we behold this amazing opportunity that sees the removal of the nature of sin, and the release of us into the nature of Christ. II Corinthians 3:18 says, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." As we look up during the Day of Atonement, we are beholding Him who has been changed, who lives in His resurrection life. And we likewise find ourselves being changed from glory to glory into that same image. Lord help us focus on the Day of Atonement, of sanctification and transformation.

Next comes Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles. The Kingdom of God and of the Messiah dwelling among men – that is what this time period talks about. I want to read out of Revelation 21, starting at verses 3-4: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men.'" That is what this is, the Feast of Tabernacles. "'The tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.'" All these natural level things have passed away. Now, we are in the time of His tabernacling among us.

Verses 5-7 go on to say, "And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' And He said, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true.' Then He said to me, 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.'" O Lord, let us focus on this great day of Tabernacles, when You come to be with us. That is what is happening, not all the tribulation and the passing away of an old age.

I want to read also Revelation 22, starting at verses 1-4, just because these are such great promises. "Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads." We are not going to get the of the beast on our forehead. We are going to get His Name on our forehead.

Verses 5-6, "And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever. And he said to me, 'These words are faithful and true'; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place." John looked up – remember the beginning of the book of Revelation, he looks up and he sees this vision. God wants us, likewise, to look up and see the vision of His coming, see the vision of this great day of tabernacling with us. At the very end of verse 10, he says, "And he said to me, 'Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.'" We are very near, and into these days.

I want to end this podcast with an emphasis on a few points that you can take before the Lord in prayer, and you can look and begin to see and focus upon. First of all, Yeshua, Jesus, was asked by His disciples to detail coming events; and He described those events through the eyes of a natural man. When you read Matthew 24 and Luke 21, you are seeing the natural events. But then we have to realize, when we are confronted with only the natural level events which precede the Kingdom of God, many Christians are experiencing fear and unbelief. That should not be; because Yeshua also gave His disciples and us the solution when He said, "Look up, and focus on the vision of God's Kingdom manifesting upon the earth, not upon the old age that is passing away."

Lastly, I would say the Biblical Fall feasts provide for us the perfect focal points so that we can clearly see what God and Messiah are doing in these days. I want to end with a simple prayer: Father, deliver us from the fear and unbelief that comes from a focus on what is happening around us on the natural level, and grant us eyes to see and hearts to understand what You are doing day after day to establish Your Kingdom on this earth.