

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG55 - Mass Global Salvation

I have been so concerned about so much that we see going on in the world today. And I know many have. I know people are talking about it all through Christianity, what is really taking place and what we need to see happen in God. When you think about the need in the world for salvation, for deliverance, you recognize that there is a need for something to happen. It needs to happen soon, and really, it needs to happen on a mass and global level; it cannot just take place slowly. The things of the Kingdom quicken as they move forward; and therefore, as we get closer to the days of the Kingdom, we need to see things happen on a greater scale than what we have seen before. I want our hearts and our minds to open up and really grasp, not only the need for it, but the possibility of it. We are looking to see things transpire during this time, and we are looking for them to take place globally and quickly. But it makes you ask the question, is there a scriptural precedent to believe for really what we would have to call mass salvations, or mass movings of God, through the earth in our day and time? I want to dig into, dive into the Word a little bit, and let's see if we can find some illustrations that will give us direction and bolster our faith.

The first thing I want to look at is Romans the ninth chapter, verse 28. This is from the New King James Version. It says, "For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth." In talking about these things of the end, the Scripture talks about the fact that He will do a quick work and He will cut it short in righteousness. Some of the other translations translate it a little differently, they say quickly and thoroughly. We have got to get this sense about us, that as the end time draws near, sometimes it seems that things are dragging out, dragging out, and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. But the truth is that as we are in these days that we call the last days, as we are in the days of God bringing forth His Kingdom on the earth, we have to recognize that He will cut the days short in righteousness. It says, "If these days are not cut short, there will be no flesh saved alive." So we know that God is going to cut short the days, and He is going to make a quick work upon the earth of His plan to bring forth His Kingdom. That begins to give us a little bit of a clue: if things must happen quickly, then they are going to have to happen on a broad scale. We don't have time to go knock door-to-door through the globe and find out if people have salvation or if they believe in Yeshua, in Jesus, at this point. Something has to happen where there is an expansion and explosive release of God's will and God's plan, and the moving of God in the earth, that begins to minister and touch people's lives.

We see that God is going to pour out a spirit of sorrow that brings repentance in this end time. We read that out of Zechariah the twelfth chapter, starting at verses 9-11. "And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo."

Now this may not seem to make much sense, until you investigate what the Scripture is talking about. I went, for example, to Strong's Enhanced Lexicon, and it talks about the fact that this is the location in Megiddo where they called for a national mourning and lamentation over the death of King Josiah. This location he is pointing to is a place where all of Israel came out to mourn the death of the king. This was a location known to them as a place where they would weep bitterly, that they would mourn over the loss that they had, and that is why it is being used here as an illustration. So there will be, in that day, great mourning in Jerusalem.

It goes on in verse 12 to say, "The land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan...." It goes on to name different families like Levi; and when it comes down to the fourteenth verse it says, "All the families that remain, every family by itself and their wives by themselves." This is an interesting feel, because God pours out this Spirit of mourning upon Israel; and yet at the same time, it is a very personal thing. Even if God begins to move in ways that are like a mass moving of salvation, or a mass moving of miracles or signs and wonders, it doesn't mean that it is going to lose in any way that very deep, personal sense that we know goes hand-in-hand with our salvation experience. We each individually learn and receive this sense of repentance and crying out to God, asking for forgiveness. And God brings that forgiveness and brings our salvation.

I love this Scripture because it points out how these things can happen simultaneously. There can be God's pouring out of His Spirit that will bring about supplication, that will bring about a crying out to God – He calls it a Spirit of grace and of supplication, and it brings this cry of weeping bitterly before the Lord, seeking Him; yet at the same time, it does not lose that individual sense, every family by itself, the wives by themselves. This is what we see, an example in the Scriptures where God does pour out a Spirit, and that Spirit brings about a cry for grace, a cry of supplication, a cry of repentance and mourning on a national level. This is talking about all of Israel. I love the fact that we find in the Word of God great illustrations of the fact that He will pour out of His Spirit, and there will be on national levels people beginning to cry unto Him, and yet very personally seeking that repentance and that personal meeting with God that is necessary to bring about both salvation and deliverance. We remember this Scripture and I encourage you to go read, because there is much more to it. It is Zechariah 12, and I read from verse 9.

We will go to another Scripture in Joel, the second chapter, starting at verses 28-31. "It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes."

These are interesting concepts, because they go along with what the Lord talked about in the Gospels; in Matthew 24, in Luke 21, we see some of these same events being talked about. God is saying, "These things will happen because I will pour out of My Spirit. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy." What are they going to prophesy? They will prophesy into existence this same Spirit that was being talked about above in the Book of Zechariah, where He brings a Spirit of grace and supplication that brings a mourning and a repentance to the people. All of these natural signs will take place, but it is initiated because God pours out His Spirit in those days.

Verse 32 goes on to say, "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as the Lord has said, even

among the survivors whom the Lord calls." There will be this great ability during this time that God is pouring out this spirit cry unto Him, a cry for grace, a cry of supplication, a cry of mourning, a cry of repentance unto the Lord, that whoever in that time calls on the Name of the Lord, they will be saved. There will be both salvation and deliverance for all who call upon Him. Again, who is this happening for? He says, "I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind." So now, as we were seeing in Zechariah this idea of a national outcry, in Joel we see a global event taking place, where this same cry goes out before the Lord; and these same events begin to take place, where all who call upon Him will be saved. What a beautiful, beautiful promise and prophecy.

I want to go onto a story now, again out of the Hebrew Scriptures, in Jonah. Jonah is a wonderful book. I encourage you to read it, especially if there is any reluctance or disobedience in your heart; it will deal with that too. But today we are talking about what we see through this great story about Jonah and Nineveh, again, of this massive turning to the Lord that we believe can take place. Jonah, chapter three, starting at verses 2-3, says, "'Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.'" So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk." What it is saying is not that it took him three days to walk to Nineveh; rather, it would take you three days to walk through the town of Nineveh, the city of Nineveh. It was so large that what Jonah had to do was walk for three days to cover the entire city with the message that God was giving him.

We'll go on in verses 4-8. It says, "Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, 'Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.'" Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said, 'In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.'" What a beautiful thing. Thank You, Lord, for this story.

One of the great things about this story for us to recognize is that it is in the Hebrew Scriptures, and yet Nineveh was a Gentile city; it was out by Babylon. One of the things this story is telling us is that God in His intention was to bring salvation to all of the earth through the Jewish people. We see the story begin to unfold, and it says it will take Jonah three days to walk through the entirety of the city of Nineveh with his message. Yet interestingly enough, after he walks only for one day – in other words, he only covered a third of the city – and yet what happened? The word got out. The people of Nineveh started passing on the story and telling of the decree that was happening. They began to call for a fast, and the word reached the king. I really, really appreciate this aspect of the story, because one of the things that so concerns me in this day and age is it seems like governments are going against God. Governments are going against the Word of God. It seems like even in America, we are trying to put aside the Word. We are trying to remove God from the public square, out of our national debate, out of our legal system and everything else. For sure, out of our schools, out of our healthcare, and these types of things. Yet now we have this example; because again, we are asking this question: Can we, in this day and age, believe for something to happen on a massive scale, on a global scale, that would be a salvation experience that would bring deliverance to people? That would turn nations and the globe into seeking God and His Kingdom during a time when it seems like only darkness and only negative things are taking place and going on?

What a beautiful picture here with Nineveh. The king puts out the proclamation. The government itself began to say, "We will serve God." We have believed that our government, at least in America, was a government that sought to seek God, to be one nation under God, indivisible, and to believe to do the commandments of God and to follow the laws of God within our national laws. What a delight to see that biblically, we have this mandate that says, "Yes, the Word of God can reach a city like Nineveh, which was in so much wickedness that God was ready to devastate it. He was going to destroy in forty days this entire city. It was a large city, a city of 120,000 people; and here we see the response of 120,000 people, of a government, a city government that rises up and says, "We will seek the Lord. We will repent. We will put on sackcloth and ashes. We will reach into God and believe that He might change His mind about what He has proclaimed over us as a city and as a people."

Lord loose this. I want to encourage us. We do begin to see, unfolding in the Scriptures, proof that we should have faith for things to happen on a large-scale basis in cities, in nations, in the globe itself. We can believe for God to move.

I want to go on in this story, because after the king makes his proclamation about everyone fasting and praying, removing the wickedness that they had from themselves, putting on sackcloth. In verses 9-10, he goes on to say, "'Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.' When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it."

In this day and age again, it looks like we are set for judgment. It looks like the wickedness is so entrenched, not only in the nation of America, but throughout the world, in people's hearts. It is hard sometimes to have a positive attitude. But I want to break us out of any discouragement, and I want to loose and impart to us faith today in this podcast, and with this podcast, that we have seen the scriptural example and illustration that God can, is able, and wants to relent from the calamity. Are we on a motion towards judgment now in this age and in this world? I believe the answer to that is yes. But can God relent? Can He see the hearts? Can He remove and change His mind about the calamity which He has thought to bring and very possibly is in the process of bringing even right now? I believe for it, Lord. Put faith in the hearts of Your believers, that we can cry out to You and initiate this type of response. What Jonah did by speaking that word triggered in the hearts of this whole city a repentance and a turning to God. God grant us that type of faith and those words to accomplish the same.

I want to move now to the New Testament Scriptures. We are going to start in Acts, the second chapter, at verse 38. This is Peter speaking on the Day of Pentecost. Again, we are looking to see, do we find examples and backing in the Scriptures for our faith that says things can happen massively in our time, in our generation? Verses 38-44, "Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off,' – that's us – "as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.' And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation!' So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common." We are looking at the beginning, the nexus of the Ekklesia, the family of God, the Church. And what we see is that by a Word from God, there weren't just a few, there were thousands that came to the Lord.

This obviously disagrees with the concept that the Jews rejected Jesus and did not believe. No, they believed by the thousands, and they became the Church. They formed that Church borne out of their cry of repentance that came through the words that Peter was speaking. He was standing there with the eleven surrounding him and proclaiming the Word of God, proclaiming the Gospel message, and people's hearts were touched. They were baptized in water. They were baptized in the Holy Spirit. They began to go from house to house; they gathered together with the breaking of bread, the taking of Communion together; they believed the Lord, and they walked with Him with all of their hearts. They took something that was transpiring in that city of the rage that had existed there that crucified Christ, and turned it around into an event of salvation for thousands. What a beautiful picture.

In Acts the fourth chapter, we see another story of Peter and John preaching. I'll start with verses 1-4. It says, "As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand." So many times we see in the Scriptures, they would count by the number of men. In the first example here, in Acts two it says "the number of souls"; so we will take that number at face value, that there were 3,000 that believed that message of Peter. But when it is talking about Peter and John speaking, it says the number of the men that were saved was 5,000. What we have to recognize there is that there were probably twice that many when you count the women and the children who were also there hearing the message, and who also believed.

Here we have in this very short time, after the resurrection and ascension of Christ, the speaking of a word on a level where thousands of people are being saved all at once here in Jerusalem. If we take these say 10,000 from Peter and John speaking, and the 3,000 from Peter on the Day of Pentecost, already we have about 13,000 people. So we see the first mega church that is brought into existence by the apostles speaking this word that they had received under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. What a beautiful picture. It was thousands who believed, and these were the Jewish believers that came in who were the foundation of the Church and were the Church. For probably the first thirteen years it was only a Jewish church. They were believing and being baptized and moving by the thousands, and all the things that we read about in their moving through the book of Acts is such a beautiful picture.

I want to conclude this podcast by saying, I think we have seen in the Word of God that there is absolute precedent for us to believe that things in the end time can and will take place on a massive scale, both salvation and miracles, and other experiences. I want to end with a few points of emphasis. If we believe we have biblical precedent, then as believers, we should contend in prayer to see such events take place in our time that we are reading about in the Scriptures. In Acts the fourth chapter, I encourage you to read it, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness. As a result, thousands believed and were saved, and signs and wonders confirmed the Word that they were speaking.

The last point is, this is what today's world needs. It needs believers who know how to trigger mass meetings with God, mass outpourings of the Spirit, mass salvation experiences from God, just like Jonah and the disciples were able to do.

Father, we ask You for this to take place in our generation, in the name of Yeshua, Jesus. Amen.