

NOTES BY ALLEN HOOD MODIFIED BY ROB PARKER

I. THE FORERUNNER CALLING

- A. God is on a collision course with this planet. The Lord Jesus is returning to set up God's Kingdom and to restore God's dwelling with His most prized creation, the image bearers of God. As the Lord draws near, Hebrews 12:26-28 tells us that He will shake all things in heaven and on earth to purify the saints and destroy all wickedness. He does this by releasing the Word of the Lord, the prophetic word with biblical understanding. The Prophetic Word comes to clarify, refine, warn, judge between the holy and the unholy. It sanctifies and empowers the Church to walk in fullness and it hardens the heart of the stubborn and rebellious. The prophetic word comes and removes the ambiguity and enables the crescendo of opposing passions. It empowers the remnant and hardens the rebellious. It provokes the rage of Satan upon the remnant and releases the judgments of God against Satan and sin. It breaks in with force, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand! Repent and Believe the Gospel!" As the return of Jesus draws near and God releases His Word in the context of opposing passions, **four realities will climax.**
1. The Fullness of Grace on the Church – Gifts, Fruit, and Wisdom
 2. The Sin of Humanity
 3. The Rage of Satan
 4. The Judgments of God to check sin and to reveal the Holy nature of God
- B. Just as God released His Word through John the Baptist to prepare the earth for the first coming of Jesus, so too, God will bring forth a company of forerunners throughout the Body of Christ to prepare the way for the Lord by preparing people to **respond rightly to Jesus** in the End-Times. God raises up forerunners as a "mercy ministry" to the multitudes before the intensity of the Lord's End-Time activities begin in both positive (revival) and negative (judgment) ways.
- C. As intense events begin to happen, many tend to lose their perspective and objectivity in seeing God's love and wisdom. Those who see what God is doing as biblical and as expressing His love and wisdom are able to participate with the Lord in His purposes instead of resisting or neglecting them in fear, confusion and offense. By making known His plans, the Lord Himself is inviting this generation to partner with Him to be a voice in the hour of climax, in the hour of opposing passions.
- D. Forerunners are "messengers" who function with a specific message in different spheres of life. For example, they are preachers, evangelists, artists (singers, musicians, actors, etc.), writers (internet), media, marketplace or intercessors as well as those who disciple people one-on-one in the church, marketplace, campus, or home (moms are some of the most important forerunners).

II. PSALM 2 – THE END TIME DRAMA AND THE FORERUNNER CALLING

- A. King David in Psalm 2 sets forth the end time scenario and gives insight into the violent resistance of the human heart against God and His plans for redemption. Deep within humanity is a latent rage against God. The psalm is broken into four clear sections.
1. V. 1-3 – The Rage of Humanity
 2. V. 4-6 – God the Father’s Response
 3. V. 7-9 – God the Son’s Response
 4. V. 10-12 – The Forerunner’s Cry
- B. The Psalmist begins with a bewildering question concerning a global conspiracy. The kings of the earth have set themselves in opposition to God and His Messiah. They are plotting together to overthrow God’s plan for redemption. Mystified he asks a revealing question, “Why do the nations rage? Why do the people plot a vain thing?” What in the world would move the whole world to resist the eternal, holy God who made the heavens and the earth? David points to a core reality deep within the heart of man – rage against God’s ways and plans. “Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.” The peoples of the earth have taken their stand. They do not want God’s tender rule in the person of His Son.
1. You cannot understand the End Times without first staring at the mystery of iniquity – the stubborn refusal of humanity to submit to God’s laws and leadership and the active aggression to cast off all of God’s restraints. Even as Jesus returns in the sky, marches on land, and releases the last of the bowl judgments, men are still blaspheming God and gathering together to fight against Him. This is unthinkable to us, but it is true nonetheless. When all is visible, all is manifest, humanity will still resist. Not only will they resist, they will violently oppose Jesus’ rule.
 2. For three and a half years the earth witnesses the disastrous rule of the Antichrist, the epitome of human strength and ingenuity. The earth also witnesses the hand of God opposing the Antichrist and preserving humanity through His manifest judgments. Even as the earth is in full fledged rebellion God is working to dismantle darkness, break the delusion, and bring as many people possible to the saving knowledge of Jesus with the least severe means possible. His judgments are His mercy to oppose darkness and bring persons to salvation. Yet, at the end of the trumpet judgments and throughout the bowl judgments people still refuse to repent, blaspheming God. Instead, they will blaspheme God, and the kings of the earth will be deceived by Satan in delusion to make war against the Lamb.

*But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.***
(Rev. 9:20-21)

And men were scorched with great heat, and **they blasphemed the name of God** who has power over these plagues; and **they did not repent and give Him glory.** 10 Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. 11 **They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.** (Rev. 16:9-11)

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." (Rev. 17:14)

- C. In section two the Father responds. The divine response to this challenge of authority comes in five ways.
1. He who sits in the heavens shall laugh. The psalmist first notes through contrast the insanity of the situation. God sits in the heavens! The highest heavens cannot contain Him. His throne is in heaven, and He commands the armies of heaven whom He made.

Ps. 37 is similar

For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. 12 The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. 13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming. (Ps. 37:9-13)
 2. The Lord shall hold them in derision. (this is a mocking, scornful laugh)
 3. He shall speak to them in His wrath.
 4. Distress them in His deep displeasure.
 5. Reaffirms His commitment to restore righteousness and justice to the earth through the rule of His Son. God will restore all things through His Son. He will not be moved in His plan of redemption.
- D. Section three reveals the Son's commitment to fulfill His Father's decree and bring forth God's Kingdom on the earth as it is in heaven. Jesus' intercession on the Cross has opened the way of salvation for everyone who believes and has secured His leadership over the nations. Jesus came the first time as the Lamb of God to die for the sins of the world. The second time He will come to crush all the enemies of love as He sets up God's eternal Kingdom of love and righteousness. The first time He was broken on the Cross for our sins. The second time He comes He will break the rebellious nations and dash them to pieces like pottery.

E. In section four the psalmist as the forerunner lifts up His voice to instruct the peoples, “In light of the coming scenario, rulers and kings, this is what you need to do! Serve the Lord with fear, rejoice with trembling, kiss the Son!”

1. Serve the Lord with Fear. Tremble before the awesome eternal God. His power is unending and His ways are unsearchable.

Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. 16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. 17 All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless. 18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? 22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. 23 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. 24 Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. (Is. 40:15-24)

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: 7 "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: 8 "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified? 9 Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His? 10 Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, And array yourself with glory and beauty. 11 Disperse the rage of your wrath; Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him. 12 Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low; Tread down the wicked in their place. 13 Hide them in the dust together, Bind their faces in hidden darkness. (Job 40:6-13)

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty. 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon. 6 He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. 7 The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire. 8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. 9 The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!" (Ps. 29:3-9)

2. Rejoice with Trembling – Tremble with fascination before the beautiful God. Have you ever noticed how many things shake in God’s presence? Have you ever observed the vast amount of trembling around the Almighty? We were made to tremble. We were designed to be awestruck by power and beauty in such a way that produces shaking in our bones and quivering on our lips.

- a. The influence of the Almighty produces shaking and trembling among every created thing as He draws near. Nothing escapes the trembling influence of the Lord. His Holiness, the consummation of all His perfections, is terrifying in its grandeur.
- b. All Old Testament worship, including the priestly and prophetic ministries, was birthed out of confrontation with the Holy. When God unveiled Himself to the children of Israel, He revealed Himself as Holy. He displayed the luster and beauty of all His attributes in order to fascinate the heart and produce the response of worship. It is the encounter with the beautiful, terrifying God that produces worship, ushers in faithfulness, and writes the covenant on the hearts of men and women.

"Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? (Ex. 15:11)

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. 5 I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. 6 Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. 7 They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works. 10 All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You. 11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power, 12 To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom. 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations. (Ps. 145:3-13)

They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested." (Rev. 15:3-4)

3. Kiss the Son. You were made for intimacy with this beautifully terrifying King of glory. Draw near. Join your heart to His. He is the One who fought for you unto death. Do not resist His tender love. Do not cast off His loving leadership. His nearness is our good!

F. God is raising up forerunners like the Psalmist who will:

- Declare with understanding the coming activities of God
- They will expose the mystery of iniquity latent in the human heart
- They will declare with insight the knowledge of God, the motives of His heart, the beauty of His name , and the wisdom of His ways
- They will give the proper interpretation of the moment and call persons to come into the joyous communion with the beautiful God and His beautiful Son