Thursology 114: Coming Soon—The Exile of the American Church*!!!*
(Lukewarm, End-Times Church-Pt 6)

(*Thursology Live!* 8/1/2024)

--The pattern of God's "Prophetic Word" to the lukewarm, Laodicean church

--Prophetic Word #9: "When My people have intermingled...the VICTORIES that *you* once had over *your enemies*…now become the VICTORIES that *they* have over *you!!!*"

--Prophetic Word #10: "When you *trust* in the powers of the *world*…your worldly ALLIANCES will always FAIL you*!!!*"

--A recurrent error among God's people when they become lukewarm: They place their hope in partnerships with _____ alliances…human _____…and worldly _____*!!!*

--The likely opinion of the biblical Prophets about our day: If Jeremiah and Ezekiel and Isaiah were here…they would likely pronounce that the _____ of the American *church* with _____ power…is nearly _____*!!!*

--What the Babylonian Exile has to say about what will soon happen to the American Church:

--A VERY reasonable assumption: *If* there are parallels between National Israel and America…then the _____…and the _____…that the Prophets spoke to Israel…are _____ relevant to *us!!!*

--**Prophetic Word #11**: "_____ the *punishment* and the *exile* of God's people that are coming…because they're *part* of _____ ultimate _____*!!!*"

--II Chron 36:5-10: Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and *he did evil* in the sight of the Lord his God. *Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon* came up against him and bound him with bronze chains *to take him to Babylon*. Nebuchadnezzar also brought some of the articles of the house of the Lord to Babylon and put them in his temple at Babylon. Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son became king in his place. Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and *he did evil* in the sight of the Lord. At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and *brought him to Babylon* with the valuable articles of the house of the Lord, and he made his kinsman Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

--Vv. 11-13: Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did evil in the sight of the Lord his God; he *did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet* who spoke for the Lord. He also *rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar* who had made him swear allegiance by God. But he stiffened his neck *and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel*.

--Vv. 17-21: Therefore *He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans* who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; *He gave them all into his hand*. All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought them all to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles. And those who had escaped from the sword he *carried away to Babylon*; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, *to fulfill the word of the Lord*…

--"…_____ brought up ***against*** them the king of the Chaldeans…"

--"…_____ gave them ***all*** into Nebuchadnezzar's hand.

--"…and they were _____ to Nebuchadnezzar…until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to _____ the word of the ***Lord***…"

--Jeremiah 21:1-2: The *word* came to Jeremiah *from the Lord* when King Zedekiah sent…Zephaniah the priest…saying, "*Please inquire of the Lord on our behalf*, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is warring against us; perhaps the Lord will deal with us according to all His wonderful acts, so that the enemy will withdraw from us."

--Jeremiah 21:3-7: Then Jeremiah said to them, "You shall say to Zedekiah, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel, "Behold, *I am about to turn back the weapons of war which are in your hands, with which you are warring against the king of Babylon* and the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the wall; and I will gather them into the center of this city. *I Myself will war against you* with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm…"Then afterwards," declares the Lord, "*I will give over Zedekiah king of Judah* and his servants and the people…*into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar* king of Babylon…"

--Jeremiah 21:8-9: "You shall also say to this people, 'Thus says the Lord, "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. He who *dwells in this city will die* by the sword and by famine and by pestilence; *but he who goes out…to the Chaldeans who are besieging you will live*..."

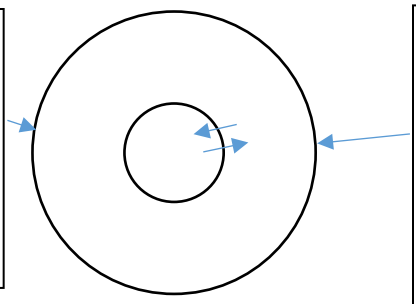
--Application: The _____ of the church in America may not just be _____ plan…it may be _____ plan as well

--A likely outcome in America: It appears that we're headed directly into "the _____ of the _____" in our society*!!!*

--A clear…but very unlikely…biblical precept: When it comes to the point where God can no longer use His _____ to save His _____…then He uses His _____ to save His _____*!!!*

How God Saves

God's people: When they're _____ …they _____ the *world* through the uncompromising _____*!!!*



The world: The way God _____ His church when they're _____ than the world…is through persecution, abuse, and hatred. Then the church is _____ through *repentance*…and _____ comes…and once again…the church becomes *righteous*, *powerful*, and _____*!!!*

--Jeremiah 24:1-8: After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had *carried away captive* Jeconiah …king of Judah, and the officials of Judah…from Jerusalem and had *brought them to Babylon*, the Lord showed me: behold, two baskets of figs set before the temple of the Lord! One basket had very good figs…and the other basket had very bad figs. Then the Lord said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" And I said, "Figs, the good figs, very good; and the bad figs, very bad, which cannot be eaten due to rottenness." Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Like these good figs, so *I will regard as good the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans*. For I will set My eyes on them *for good*, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not overthrow them…*I will give them a heart to know Me…and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart*. 'But like the bad figs which cannot be eaten due to rottenness—indeed, thus says the Lord—so I will abandon Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem *who remain in this land*…"

--Key Concept #1: When God can no longer save His people through *mercy* and *truth*…He will save them through _____ and _____*!!!*

--Key Concept #2: God didn't want His people to *fight against* being _____…because _____ was actually His _____ plan*!!!*

--A great paradox: In the *comfort* of God's *blessings*…they became _____…and in the *pain* of *exile*…they were _____*!!!*

--Key Concept #3: Those who fought _____ being *exiled* by worldly powers…even though these powers were evil…*weren't* fighting _____ God…but _____ Him*!!!*

--**Prophetic Word #12**: "Even if you're _____…do not _____… because even _____ authorities ultimately serve _____…whether they _____ to or not*!!!*"

Thursology 113: The Laodicean Exchange: Ally With the WORLD…Lose GOD'S Power (Lukewarm, End-Times Church-Pt 5)

(*Thursology Live!* 7/4/2024)

--Introduction

--Rev 3:14-16: "To the angel of the church in *Laodicea* write…'I know your deeds, that you are *neither cold nor hot*; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are *lukewarm*, and neither hot nor cold, I will *spit* you out of My mouth.

--A summary of the American church: Despite unprecedented *access* to the Word…and repeated, sweeping, Spirit-led *awakenings*…the church has now *intermingled* with the world…and has become *lukewarm!!!*

--The pattern of God's "Prophetic Word" to the lukewarm, Laodicean church

--Prophetic Word #9: "When My people have intermingled...the VICTORIES that *you* once had over *your enemies*…now become the VICTORIES that *they* have over *you!!!*"

--Prophetic Word #10: "When you *trust* in the powers of the *world*…your worldly ALLIANCES will always FAIL you*!!!*"

--A recurrent error among God's people when they become lukewarm: They place their hope in partnerships with POLITICAL alliances…human GOVERNMENT…and worldly POWER

--Application #1: The power of the KINGDOM…looks nothing like the power of the WORLD…and…you *cannot* have BOTH*!!!*

--Power Truth #1: "*My Kingdom* is not of this world…and thus…MY servants don't FIGHT *this world's* battles*!!!*"

--Power Truth #2: The way to DEFEAT the *world*…is *not* to OVERCOME them…but to SERVE them*!!!*

--Power Truth #3: If you take up WORLDLY weapons…you will FORFEIT the power from on high.

--Application #2: When God's people PURSUE power…not only do they fail to gain WORLDLY power…they end up losing GOD'S power as well*!!!*

--Mark 10:34: "They will *mock* Him and *spit* on Him, and *scourge* Him and *kill Him*, and three days later He will rise again."

--Mark 10:35-45: James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, *we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You*." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "*Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory*." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." Hearing this, *the ten began to feel indignant* with James and John. Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. *But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all*. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to *give His life* a ransom for many."

--What the Disciples' response should have been: They should've been so **SHATTERED** by this…that ***all*** they were thinking about was **JESUS***!!!*

--Mark 3:13-15: And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and *to have authority to cast out the demons*.

> --Key Concept #1: Jesus gave His followers enough power to command **DEMONS**…and to put the forces of darkness to **FLIGHT***!!!*

--Mark 9:14-19; 25-28: When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. *I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not*." →

--Mark 9:19: "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? *How long shall I put up with you*? *Bring the boy to me*."

--Mark 9:25-27: When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, *he rebuked the impure spirit*. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "*I command you*, *come out* of him and *never enter him again*." *The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out*. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and *he stood up*.

--Mark 9:28: After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "*Why* couldn't *we* drive it out?"

> --Key Concept #2: When Jesus' followers sought power for **THEMSELVES**…they ***lost*** the only power that **REALLY** matters*!!!*

--Mark 9:33-34: They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, "*What were you discussing on the way*?" But they *kept silent*, for on the way they had discussed with one another *which of them was the greatest*.

--Mark 9:38-39: John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone *casting out demons in Your name*, and *we tried to prevent him because he was not following us*." But Jesus said, "*Do not hinder him*…"

--The end-state of God's people seeking worldly power: Rather than **REPENTING** for the tragedy of their **LUST** for power…and returning to the priorities of the Kingdom **ALONE**…they even tried to stop **GOD** from giving power to *anyone else**!!!***

--Key Question: Why didn't Jesus want His Disciples…and why doesn't He want His Church…to seek *worldly* power and *cultural* power and *political* power? Because…when His people focus on these…it's **DEVASTATING** for *both* the **KINGDOM**…*and* for the **WORLD***!!!*

--What Jesus knows…that we forget: When *we* seek power…**INEVITABLY** we lose our *focus* on bringing the **GOSPEL** to the world*!!!*

--Matt 4:1; 8-11: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil…the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all *the kingdoms of the*

world and their glory; and he said to Him, "*All these things* I will *give* You, if You fall down and *worship me*." Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" *Then* the devil left Him…

--The great contrast between King Jesus…and His people: God's people *tend* to **PURSUE** the very thing that Jesus **REJECTED** at the Great **TEMPTATION***!!!*

--Isaiah 30 1-7: "You make plans, but not mine. You make deals, but not in my Spirit…Going off to Egypt without so much as asking me, running off to Pharaoh for protection, expecting to hide out in Egypt. Well, some protection Pharaoh will be! Some hideout Egypt will be! They look big and important…but anyone stupid enough to trust them will end up looking stupid—All show, no substance, an embarrassing farce."

--The likely opinion of the biblical Prophets about our day: If Jeremiah and Ezekiel and Isaiah were here…they would likely pronounce that the **SEDUCTION** of the American church…with **WORLDLY** power…is nearly **COMPLETE***!!!*

--The summary of biblical ecclesiology: The *church* must be the **CHURCH**…and…the *Church* must be nothing **OTHER** than the *Church!!!*

--What the Babylonian Exile has to say about what will soon happen to the American Church:

--A VERY reasonable assumption: **IF** there are parallels between National Israel and America…then the **PRECEPTS**…and the **PREDICTIONS**…that the Prophets spoke to Israel…are **DIRECTLY** relevant to **US***!!!*

--**Prophetic Word #11**: "**ACCEPT** the *punishment* and the *exile* of God's people that are coming…because they're *part* of **HIS** ultimate **PLAN***!!!*"