

## THE WALK OF THE CHURCH TOWARDS ITS FULLNESS

*Jorge Himítian*

<sup>1</sup>“Come, let us return to the LORD.  
He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us;  
he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.

<sup>2</sup>After two days he will revive us;  
**on the third day he will restore us,**  
that we may live in his presence.

<sup>3</sup>Let us acknowledge the LORD;  
let us press on to acknowledge him.  
As surely as the sun rises, he will appear;  
he will come to us like the winter rains,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

(Hosea 6.1-3 NIV)

*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord  
a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*

(2 Peter 3.8 NIV)

### INTRODUCTION

*...Men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command (1 Chronicles 12.32).*

This may be one of the verses that most clearly define one of the most important characteristics of the ministry of apostles and prophets. Today, more than ever, the church needs to hear from those who *understand the times*. It seems quite probable that this Apostolic Fellowship International has been raised up by God so that there might be in this vital period of the church's history in the world *two hundred people who understand the times*, who know what the church should do in this century and this millennium.

The overall theme of this apostolic consultation is:

**“LET US LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE,  
the church of the third millennium”**

In the second millennium the worldwide church reached the lowest and darkest point in its history. In addition to the loss of its spirituality, in the year 1054, a great division occurred between the churches of the East and the West, with reciprocal excommunication between Catholics and Orthodox.\* The nominal church sank into sensualism, ambition, lust for

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\* In 1965, at the conclusion of the Vatican Council II, the mutual excommunication was lifted.

power, material riches and opulence. Holiness shined by its absence, although God has always had a faithful remnant. The intent of the reformers to renew the church gave place to the excommunication of Luther and others. This set off one division after another until the church reached the current complex scene of fragmentation in an endless number of churches, not only separated from Rome but also separated among themselves in thousands of denominations. In their search to return to the truth, the reformers —perhaps without proposing it— violated another absolute and non-negotiable truth established by the apostles in the New Testament: THE INDIVISIBLE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

We thank God for all the biblical principles and spiritual riches which the reformers recovered and left to us; without them we would not be where we are today, but at the same time we must confess that until this day it is hard to erase our Protestant DNA genes of division.

The twentieth century, the last of the second millennium, has been a tremendous time. Two world wars rapidly destroyed the illusion of an almost perfect world pre-announced in earlier centuries by modernists. During that time, three great waves of the Holy Spirit have come upon the church in the world. Each wave exceeded the earlier one while including it. (In my vision and faith, the twentieth century has been the prelude and preparation for what God will do in the third millennium.) Those three waves are:

1. The Pentecostal revival with the outpouring of the Spirit (at the beginning of the century).
2. The renewal movement which embraced almost all the Protestant and Catholic denominations throughout the world (beginning in the 1960s).
3. The emergence of the apostolic and prophetic movement so that the church might recover the revelation of the mystery of Christ and of the church, in order that she, according to God's eternal purpose, might reach her fullness in history and fulfill her integral mission in the world.

Most of us have been involved in the second and third wave, and we have indirectly experienced the first wave.

A large part of the inspiration of the first two waves has come about because of the desire to recover the spirituality of the first-century church, especially as narrated so magnificently by Luke in the early chapters of the book of Acts. How inspiring has been the reading of those glorious chapters! How many principles we have learned! How many paradigms and traditions we have been able to overcome! At all times the church has found in those pages a great source of inspiration and awakening.

With the second wave, some dared to go a little further. When the Holy Spirit visited us in the 1970s, the Bible became a new book to us. The word became light. We began to rediscover that the gospel preached by Jesus and the apostles, was *the gospel of the kingdom*. The word *kingdom* was always there, but we had never really taken notice of it. We discovered that the requisite to be saved was to *confess Jesus as Lord*, and not only as Savior. That the Great Commission was not limited to preaching the gospel to every creature, but also included *making disciples* of all nations. That *discipleship* was the proper way to build up the saints. That God's purpose was not simply to save souls but *to be the Father of a great family of many children, all like Jesus*. That the church that Christ promised to build is not the

Evangelical Church or the Catholic Church, but simply *the church*. That *apostolic and prophetic ministries are valid today* and not only evangelists, pastors and teachers...

In those days the word 'restoration' was a key term among us, since it helped us to see that the church needed to recover important truths that the church had lost with the passing of time. However, the concept of 'restoration' also had the effect of conditioning or limiting us, almost without realizing it. We began to talk of 'the restoration of the church'. Years later we understood that Jesus never said: "*I will restore my church*", but rather: "*I will build my church*" (Matthew 16.18).

If by 'restoration' we mean the recovery of biblical principles, which as a church we had lost or ignored in earlier years, that is correct. But if, by speaking of restoration, we mean to become again like the churches of the first century, the focus is incorrect. Stated in another way, we can speak of the restoration or recovery of biblical truths, but it is not correct to speak of "the restoration of the church." The Bible prefers to use the term *edification* [building up] *of the church*.

Let us also remember that many of the churches in the days of the New Testament were rather problematical. The Corinthians were carnal and divided. The Galatians had returned to the Law of Moses. In Ephesus there was a threat of division. Of the seven churches of Asia, few were a good example for us. Even the church in Jerusalem, in spite of its initial glory, did not want to move out of Jerusalem and, when they did leave, thanks to persecution, they only wanted to preach the gospel to the Jews.

In conclusion, our absolute reference for the edification of the church in our times and in the third millennium is not the church of the first century, but rather, first of all, the church that was and is in the mind and heart of God from before the foundation of the world. And, in addition, the church that is prophesied to be realized at the end of time before the second coming of Christ. Both of these, the church of the remote past and the church of the future coincide fully. For the realization of God's project for the endtimes will be exactly what he proposed and projected before the beginning of time.

Both God's eternal project and the promises that his project will be realized in its fullness are registered in Sacred Scripture, especially in Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.

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## **I. OUR FIRST ABSOLUTE REFERENCE FOR THE EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH IS GOD'S ETERNAL PROJECT**

Hebrews 11.10 refers to: "*the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God*".

Every architect, before initiating a building or a city, starts with a project. Before defining the project he must be very clear concerning the purpose of that building or city. Then, according to that purpose, he designs the project.

The project specifies all the aspects of the work that he will build: its foundations, the columns, the walls, the doors and windows... absolutely everything, even the smallest details. There we find all the dimensions, measurements, forms, materials, and the quality of the materials. In a great project, the reams of plans with their specifications are enormous. Much more so when we are thinking of the building of a city.

## GOD'S ETERNAL PROJECT

To describe this, I could not find better words than those which my wife wrote in the Prologue of my book entitled: *El Proyecto del Eterno* [Project of the Eternal]. The following is a transcription of several paragraphs:

*Since the beginning of time God has had a project. We have often spoken about it: **God intends to have a family of many children who are like his son Jesus Christ.** But, generally speaking, we have no real idea of its dimensions, or of its scope and implications.*

*We refer here to God's great project, the unique plan of the ages in which he brings together all his intentions, purposes and power. Within that project flows the very history of humanity, even with its multiple detours and efforts to detain it, initiated by people under the influence of the forces of evil. Nothing remains outside this project of God. And each one of us is included in his plan; each one has a place and a responsibility for the fulfillment of what God has proposed to accomplish through the ages.*

*There are not many plans. There are not many proposals. It is the great project that God determined to realize from eternity past, before anything existed. And it continues until our day.*

*We have the option to commit ourselves to his plan, understand it, embrace it, make it our own. Or we can stand on the margin, continuing with our personal projects, or working according to certain "ministerial perceptions", which, in reality, do not lead us to what God has purposed. This is the reason why there are so many Christians who are active and frustrated. They never achieve what they think they should accomplish...*

*The Lord does not have a great variety of plans and purposes for his children. He does not have an infinite number of plans for the world. He does not divide the power of his kingdom into multiple and diverse projects. God has one great project: **"to unite all things in Christ"** (Ephesians 1.10), that is to say, that all lives and persons, the particular circumstances and historical events, might converge in the fulfillment of his plan: **Christ as the head of a new people, a new family, a new eternal order.***

*Seen from this perspective, all that we are and do either moves toward the growth and advance of God's project or works against it. "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters" (Matthew 12.30). Neutrality is impossible. An adjustment of our attitudes, if done in time, will help us to establish a new orientation and face life from another angle. This helps. It allows us to become effective workers...*

*God's great project is carried out through those who decide to lose their life in God. To lose their own identity within the body. To stop seeking their own way in order to find Christ's way. We cannot follow our personal choices and those of God at the same time. They are contrary to each other. When we lose ourselves within God's plan, surrendering all that we are and our deepest longings for the realization of God's project, we find life, meaning, balance, peace. For we become part of the whole, the great family of God that rejoices in being one. We do not seek something difference, but rather a common identity. We do not strain to achieve the choice place at the front, but rather the rear guard in order to offer support and strength to our brothers from that site. And if we advance to the first rank, it is to become the point of the lance and a shield of protection for those behind us. Our goal is the body, not our individuality. Our achievements are evaluated from that perspective. The best place of all is to lose ourselves for the benefit of the common good...*

*God did not propose the realization of a temporary project, with a date after which it is no longer effective, for his project is eternal, transcendent, forever. It starts from eternity past and moves through history toward eternity future, and in the fulfillment of time it unites*

*everything in Christ. Not as the end, for in God there are no final points, but rather as the realization of the ultimate fullness that, once achieved, will continue forever. And in that fullness we also have a part.*

## **GOD'S ETERNAL PROJECT CAN BE SUMMED UP WITH A SINGLE WORD: *C H U R C H***

What is the church?

- It is not a physical building, but a community formed of redeemed persons.
- It is not a human institution or a legal entity; it is God's family.
- It is not a denomination or association; it is the bride of the Lamb.
- It is not the property of a person or group of persons. The church belongs to one person alone: God. It is God's people, the body of Christ, the temple of the Spirit.
- It has no proper name; it is simply 'church', nothing added, no adjectives.
- In the Bible it is known as the church of such and such a city.
- It is not a congregation. The church comes together, and rightfully so, but it continues to be the church, all the hours of the day and all the days of the week. We don't attend church; we are the church.

The church was not born in God's mind two thousand years ago when he sent his Son to the world. The church was in God's mind and heart from eternity, since "before the foundation of the world."

The church was not God's Plan B following the fall of man. The church is God's Plan A, even before men or demons existed. Man's fall was a detour, an attack against God's eternal project. Redemption was required to bring things back to the original plan.

The church is the family that God determined to have, according to his pleasure, according to the design of his choice, according to his pure and great love, according to the abundant riches of his grace. Sin revealed the unimagined immensity of his grace.

The creation of man and woman, the institution of marriage, procreation, the incarnate Word, the redemptive sacrifice of Christ, his resurrection and exaltation, the coming of the Holy Spirit, his gifts and ministries, the Word of God; all these elements together point to the same objective: the realization of God's eternal project.

## **THIS ETERNAL PROJECT—THE CHURCH—HAS AN ETERNAL PURPOSE**

That purpose is mentioned three times in Ephesians 1.3-14, as the chorus that is repeated in this extraordinary *magnificat* of Paul.

Summarizing that passage we could express it as follows: Blessed be the Father who in Christ blessed us... chose us... predestined us... redeemed us... revealed his will to us... and sealed us with the Holy Spirit, for a unique purpose:

- ... to the praise of his glorious grace (v.6)*
- ... in order that we... might be for the praise of his glory (v.12)*
- ... to the praise of his glory (v.14)*

This is the church's reason for being through all the ages of time.

Paul concludes his prayer in chapter 3 of Ephesians in this way:

*to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,  
for ever and ever! Amen.*

## THE THREE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH ACCORDING TO GOD'S PROJECT

In order to achieve God's eternal purpose, that is, that God be glorified in the church in Christ Jesus, she must bear in the world three essential characteristics:

- a. QUALITY (HOLINESS)
- b. UNITY
- c. QUANTITY

### a. QUALITY = HOLINESS

This is the first specification that we see in God's project, and it is in Ephesians 1.4:

*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

God's purpose is not only to make us his children, but to make us holy and blameless, that is to say, like Jesus.

Paul expresses this clearly in Romans 8.29:

*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

God's plan is not merely to save us from hell and take us to heaven, but to make us like Christ. Obtaining forgiveness for our sins and becoming a child of God is only the first step toward the fulfillment of God's project, not the end. God's objective is to *conform us to the image of his Son*. This is **quality**.

Holiness in life is one of the main points of Paul's focus in Ephesians, especially in the second half of the book (chap. 4, 5 and 6). In 5.25-27, he declares that Christ, by his sacrifice and through the Word of God, determined to *present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless*.

### b. UNITY

*... He made known to us the mystery of his will... to bring all things... together under one head, even Christ (3:10).*

The key word that reveals the mystery of his will is the verb translated here as **bring together**. God purposed in himself to *bring together* (unite anew) all things in Christ. This verb in Greek is *anakefalaaiosastai*. It is made up of three words:

*Ana* (anew) + *kefalé* (head) + *iosastai* (unite).

It means to bring together again everything under one head.

This Greek expression was used in ancient times when an army that had been defeated, broken and scattered, was again brought together, and organized anew under the authority of a new commander in chief.

This word (*anakefalaiosastai*) presupposes at least three things:

1. That originally, in the universe everything was united and ordered harmoniously under God's authority.
2. That something happened in the world that compromised that unity.
3. That God, knowing beforehand that this would occur with humanity, through grace determined to unite everything again under Christ's authority as head.

Let's consider this more closely:

#### 1. What was God's original plan?

The unity of everything and everyone. A united world, beautiful and harmonious, in which man would live in fellowship with God, loving, worshiping and obeying him. A place in which man would experience unity with his neighbor, harmony between humans and nature (creation). Unity in marriage, in the family, and in all humanity. God's eternal project was and is a united society, with common interests, without selfishness nor rivalry; humanity that lives in peace and love; where each one, filled with God's love, would love his neighbor as himself.

#### 2. What happened?

Unfortunately, man rebelled against the Lord and, accepting the proposal of God's enemy, sinned. Thus sin entered the world and, through sin, death. Death means separation, division. The unity between God and man was broken, the unity among humans and with their neighbors. Jealousy arose, envy, conflicts, homicide, fratricide, wars, injustice, divorce, greed, the unjust distribution of riches, social conflicts, racial discrimination. Human history became a history of wars, blood, hate, violence, crime and death. Very different from the model of society projected by God! Nature itself was affected by the sin of humans, administrators of the planet Earth. Men and women became God's enemies, and enemies of their neighbors.

#### 3. What is the mystery of his will?

To bring together everything under Christ as head of a new humanity. The new humanity that has Christ as its head is the church. The church is the realization of God's dream for the earth. It is his eternal project for humanity. That dream was potentially consummated on the cross. *"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility."* (Ephesians 2.14-16).

#### The unity of the church is essential to God's eternal project

In a world that is divided, at enmity, overrun by individualism, injustice, egotism, competition and wars, the church is that part of humanity which, in Christ, has returned to God to be one with him; it is reconciled humanity. The church, in its essential nature, is forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, love, service. The church is community, family, unity. It is the holy kiss, the fraternal embrace, shared bread, shared goods, sincere affection. It is the end of loneliness, and of individualism. It is the end of all division. It is God's *Shalom* installed among men to bring peace to the earth and to illustrate to the world the greatest of all miracles: unity.

### The current division of the church

God has revealed to us the mystery of his will: To bring men together under the authority of Christ. Any division in the church is inadmissible and contrary to God's will, for it is opposed to his eternal project. The current division of the church has no biblical or theological foundation. It can only be explained as something that happened in our history.

God has not desisted from his eternal project. According to his revealed project, God will bring everything together under the unique head of the church, which is Christ. We firmly believe that the present division of the church will be overcome until we all conform here on the earth the unique body of Christ. Christ's prayer in John 17 will be fully answered by the Father: "...that all of them may be one, Father... that the world may believe that you have sent me". We will be one, and the world will believe!

## C. QUANTITY

It is vital that we now ask ourselves the following question:

### WHO DID GOD INCLUDE IN HIS ETERNAL PROJECT?

I will respond to this delicate matter with five questions:

#### 1. Who did the Lord create for himself?

- According to Colossians 1.16: All humans were created by Christ and for Christ.
- According to Romans 11.36: Everything was made from him, through him, and for him.
- According to Romans 3.23: All have sinned and fall short of God's glory, which implies that all were created for God's glory.
- According to Matthew 25.41: Hell was not created for man, but for the devil and his angels. Yet finally, all the unrepentant will be cast there.
- What was God's plan for all humanity when he created the first man and the first woman? (Genesis 1.26-28).
- According to Genesis 12.1-3: God's purpose was to bless all the families of the earth through the seed of Abraham, who is Jesus Christ.
- In Genesis 15.1-6, God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars of the heavens (QUANTITY!).

#### 2 – Who did Jesus redeem on the cross?

- According to John 1.29: Christ is the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world.
- According to 2 Corinthians 5.19: God was in Christ reconciling the world until himself.

#### 3 – To whom must we preach the gospel?

- According to Matthew 28.18-20, Jesus' command is to make disciples of all persons in all the world.
- According to Mark 16.15-16, Jesus commands us to preach the gospel to everyone in the world.

#### 4 – What is God's will for all people?

- According to 1 Timothy 2.3-4, God's will is that all men be saved and come to the full knowledge of the truth.
- According to 2 Peter 3.9, God does not want anyone to perish.

#### 5 – What is the meaning of predestination? Whom did the Father predestine for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ?

God has only one "natural" Son, his own: the Only begotten. A son has the same nature as his father. The son of a man is a man. The offspring of a horse is a horse. The offspring of a dove is a dove, and the Son of God is God. To affirm that Christ is the Son of God is to affirm that he is God (John 5.17-18).

None of us are children of God by nature, but rather creatures of God. Yet God, long before creating us, in love predestined us to be adopted as his children through his Son Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1.5); and to grant us the same relationship, the same honor as his only begotten Son. In this way the only begotten became the Firstborn among many brothers and sisters (Rom. 8.29). For that reason we declare that God's eternal project is to have a family of many children like his Son, so that he might be the Firstborn among many brothers.

We believe in *predestination* rather than in *destiny*. We are Christians and not Muslims. Muslims believe in destiny. The phrase: "No one dies in the evening" is not a phrase from the Bible, it is a Muslim phrase. They believe in a closed destiny, predetermined, fixed.

The Bible speaks of *predestination*. To predestine means *to assign a destiny beforehand*. **God's project includes all those he created.** But God does not impose his project, his plan, his will on anyone. God's plan is that all persons be his children. The gospel is a proposal, not an imposition that God places upon people.

For that reason we have good news for all people: With complete certainty and truth we can say to any person: "*God loves you. God has a wonderful plan for your life. You were born for God, to be a child of God; you were born to be holy, to be like Jesus, to be part of God's family.*"

Unfortunately, not all will respond positively to the Lord's call. However, he loves all and included all in his wonderful project.

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## II. OUR SECOND ABSOLUTE REFERENCE FOR THE EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH IS WHAT GOD DECLARED WOULD HAPPEN WITH HIS CHURCH PRIOR TO CHRIST'S RETURN.

When studying the epistles that the apostle Paul wrote in the early years of his ministry, one gets the impression that he then had the idea that in his generation the edification of the church would be completed, and that Christ would soon return. But as we study the later epistles, such as Ephesians, it is quite evident that Paul understood that in future centuries, and before Christ's return, the church would reach its fullness in the course of human history.

God revealed to Paul the wonderful heights that the church would reach here on the earth in the future, prior to Christ's return. He proclaims in the Epistle to the Ephesians that what God purposed in himself, before the foundation of the world, he would clearly achieve in the fullness of times.

### **NINE CHARACTERISTICS PROMISED BY GOD FOR THE CHURCH, in the Epistle to the Ephesians**

1. The church will manifest before the world God's greatness and goodness through the church's good deeds...  
*"...in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus..." (Eph 2.7).  
"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph 2.10).*
2. The church will make known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms the manifold wisdom of God, according to his eternal purpose in Christ Jesus.  
*"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord (Eph 3.10-11).*
3. The church, in fellowship and unity with all the saints, will experience the four dimensions of God's love, and will be filled with all God's fullness.  
*"...may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Eph 3.18-19).*
4. Christ will provide the church with apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, that will train the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edification of the unique body of Christ.  
*"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Eph 4.11-12).*
5. The church will achieve unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God.  
*"until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature" (Eph 4.13).*
6. The church will reach the measure of the fullness of Christ.  
*"...until we all reach unity... and become mature... Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ (Eph 4.13-15).*

7. The church will reach complete unity as a single body joined and held together by the ligaments of the body. All divisions will disappear.  
*... From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work". (Eph 4.16).*
8. The church will be united, glorious and holy.  
*... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Eph 5.25-27).*
9. Paul concludes his prayer for the church with this glorious proclamation:  
*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amén" (Eph 3.20-21).*

## **NINE PROPHECIES FOR THE FINAL CENTURIES OF HISTORY**

1. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all people. Joel 2.28-32:  
*And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.  
<sup>29</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.  
<sup>30</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. <sup>32</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved...*
2. World evangelization, as prophesied by Jesus. Matthew 24.14:  
*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*
3. All nations will know the glory of God. Habakkuk 2.14:  
*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*
4. Troubles among the nations and greater glory in the church. Haggai 2.6-9:  
*This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty...*
5. Generational reconciliation between parents and children. Malachi 4.5-6:  
*See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.*
6. The nations will come to the church to ask her to teach them the ways of the Lord.

Isaiah 2.2-4:

*In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.*

7. The conversion of Israel and worldwide revival! Romans 11.12, 15, 25-26:

*But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring! ... For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ... Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved...*

8. Jesus' prayer will be perfectly fulfilled. John 17.21-23

*... that all of them may be one, Father; just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me...*

WE WILL BE UNITED AND THE WORLD WILL BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE LORD!

9. Jesus will completely fulfill what he promised: he will complete the edification of his church and the gates of Hades will not be able to resist the glorious advance of the church. Matthew 16.18:

*... I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

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## CONCLUSION: THE GENERATION THAT BELIEVES GOD

The Lord gave to Abraham "*the promise that he would be heir of the world*" (Rom 4.13). And Abraham believed God.

In the same chapter 4 of Romans, verses 17 to 21 tell us:

*As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.*

*Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.*

Will we be the generation that believes God? Can we believe that God has the power to do what he promised?

A generation that did not believe died in the desert without reaching the promised land, except for Joshua and Caleb who led a new generation.

God asked Ezekiel: Son of man, *Can these bones live?*

--*O Sovereign Lord, you alone know.*

--You are right, I know.

*Then... prophesy to these bones and say to them: "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life..."*

Prophesy means to say what God tells us to say. *So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I was prophesying, there was a noise... and the bones came together, bone to bone... (Ezekiel 37.1-10).*

Faced with the present scene of a divided church, with many stains and wrinkles, with carnal leadership and competition to have the largest church, the greatest fame, the most power...

Faced with the scene of a worldly and materialistic church... the Lord asks us today:

Son of man, Will the church achieve unity in the faith? Will it become again a united body in each city, in each nation and in the world? Will it become glorious and holy, without stain or wrinkle? Will it be the salt of the earth and the light of the world? Will it become again a factor for social transformation among the nations?

Do you believe that I have the power to do what is prophesied and written in my word?

If you believe, prophesy and proclaim with your mouth what I say in my Word...  
If you believe in your heart, declare that it will come to pass, and what you believe and say, I will do.