



Empowering People to Change the World

**The Mystery of Lawlessness  
& the Empowered Church  
Part 1**

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# **The Mystery of Lawlessness and the Empowered Church**

## **Part 1**

### **Night of Prayer 7-8-2020**

**We may not get through this message and I want to make time for prayer, so we will move through this, and have a part 2 next Wednesday night.**

- This is an unprecedented time...everything is accelerating at a rapid rate.
- We are living in a time that is EPIC.
- The past 30 years everything is accelerating: worship, missions, prayer movements, and the church.
- Could this be the generation of the coming of the Lord? I think it could be:
  - The soil is ready for a mighty Kingdom of God Revolution.
  - I've never seen anything like this in my lifetime.
  - Haggai 2:6-7: God is shaking the whole world! Imagine this! Shaking the earth—the heavens and the sea!
  - The nations will come to the DESIRE of the nations!
  - The Body of Christ could double over the next decade!
  - This is not going to be a peacetime like we've known. It is war! A war of compassion, love, and boldness!

### **Hebrews 12:25-29**

- Ex. Two stories I want to share: 1) three weeks ago, I felt President Trump was in trouble and called a prayer gathering at 7pm and I felt my anxiety leave... 2) Last week on Thursday, we called an

impromptu prayer gathering for 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, preparing for riots and nothing happened over the weekend! A mother of a CSPD cop told me they were totally prepared for rioting and nothing happened! They were shocked.

## **#1 Google search of the past 5 years has been “prayer.”**

- God is a consuming fire! The nature of the Lord is being revealed.
- God is consuming everything that can be shaken so that we will lean on God like never before.
- The Church must change. The very paradigm of the church is changing.

Jesus, in speaking of His Coming, gives a number of distinctives characteristics that believers would be able to use as “markers” of His Second Coming.

### **Matthew 24:7-14**

- Birth pangs will increase over one generation! Covid-19 is one of many birth pangs. It's shaking economics. It's shaking everything.
- God is the only one who will have the answers for what's going on. Escalating darkness and escalating light!
  - God's judgement is the fire of love! I'm disciplining you so that we can have a relationship of intimacy with Him. Like a father disciplining his son/daughter.
  - I have a destiny for you and I am coming after you. Don't compromise anymore.
  - Joel 2 “rend your hearts.”
  - Zechariah 1:14-17. God wants to prosper America but God needs a people who have a zeal like His!!

- Not unlike the Laodicean Church in Rev 3. The greatest promises are given to this church but He is disciplining them.

## God has an Unfolding Master Plan

- Vs. 7 “nation” not meaning geopolitical nations per se, but rather tribes, ethnic grouping, people of the same culture, language, and race, these will be cultural wars.
- “famines, pestilences, earthquakes” This is what the “shaking” of the nations will look like. (Haggai 2:6-7)
- Vs. 8-9 is just the warm-up. Tribulation will increase against the church.
- Vs. 10 Being “offended” will characterize the cultures. Being offended will be more valued than actual behavior.

## Vs 12-13

- Because “lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

**Lawlessness—*anomia*—iniquity or wickedness→ a condition of one without any law. Many reasons are given:**

- 1) Ignoring of the law within. (Romans 1)
- 2) Contempt for the law without. (Romans 1)
- Something about “lawlessness” will cause “many” hearts to grow cold.
- It is both a sign of the coming of Christ and also a discerner of those who are truly saved and those who are not.
- Lawlessness is our basic sinful nature. The deep passions of our heart to have literally no restraints, no laws, no boundaries, and to follow whatever our base desires want.
- I believe we see a description of lawlessness in Ps 2.

## **Psalm 2:1-3**

- “Nations,” which means ethos, ethnic groups. This is not geopolitical countries, but rather ethnic groupings.
- Different ethnic grouping, tribal groupings will rage, which means “a throng in tumult.” Same word used for a swarm of locusts!
  - They are raging as a group against the Lord and His people.
  - They don’t want any Law ruling over them for they are a law in themselves.
  - No one will have any rules or boundaries over them.
  - “You can’t tell me what to do! I will do as I please.” It’s the basic animal sinful nature with no restraints.

## **The Satanic Strategies of Lawlessness Romans 1:18-32**

**In this passage we observe the progression of judgment over a nation.**

- Wake up call. God’s not done with America. We must have a Kingdom of God revolution or we will sink down into the graveyard of nations. The doctrine of Marxism will precipitously take over.
- **Isa 26:9 when my judgment is released they will learn righteousness.**

## **Vs. 18-23**

### **Step 1—Suppress the Truth in Unrighteousness.**

- God has made Himself known through the beauty of creation and people “suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

- They don't desire righteousness. They begin to hate any form of righteousness.
- Their conscience is seared.
- **1 Timothy 4: *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,***
- There is no excuse. The signs of suppressing the truth:
  1. People don't give glory to God
  2. People become unthankful
  3. People become futile in their thinking and their hearts are darkened
  4. They become fools

#### **Vs. 24-25**

**Step 2—God gives a Nation over to Sexual Lusts.**

#### **Vs. 26-27**

**Step 3—God gives a Nation over to Unnatural Sexual Lusts.**

#### **Vs. 28**

**Step 4—God gives a Nation over to a Debased Mind.**

- Same word used for unable to handle tests. Like a coin in ancient times, being tested for purity. Unapproved.

#### **Vs. 29-32 This is the Cultural Impact**

- This is the way of lawlessness
- Paul takes us into the realm of the “mystery of lawlessness.”

- Paul provides us with a fuller explanation of the Last Days and why lawlessness will abound.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

- The main point tonight is that you would not be shaken or troubled by what you see happening around you.
- We are closer and closer to the coming of the Lord.

### **Vs. 3-5**

- Don't be deceived. Don't be misled.
- The first thing to understand is that a massive rebellion against God and His Authority will happen.
- "Man of Lawlessness" in some translations.
- This Man of Lawlessness will draw many away from their Christian faith. He will oppose and exalt himself above God, in the temple of God.
- He will claim to be god!

### **Vs. 6-8**

- The mystery of lawlessness has been "at work" since time began.
- But there has been a restraining placed upon his ability to take over and rule.
- But there will be a time when the restrainer is lifted and this Anti-christ will be revealed.

## **What are the Restrainers over a Country?**

- 1) I believe the first restrainer over a nation is the conscience or "God awareness" in each person. We already saw in Romans 1

that this is the first thing that is lost. This is why the first thing that happens in a Marxists driven movement is to ban the Bible and prayer.

2) Second, the restrainer is the Family.

3) Third, the restrainer of evil is Human Government.

4) Fourth, the restrainer is the Church.

- There will be a work of the Lord in which He will remove the restrainer and allow Satan to begin his work, preparing the way of the Lord.
- It will be a set up for the Anti-christ to have his way on the earth.

### **Vs. 9**

- False signs and wonders will abound. Even miracles through dark powers.

### **Vs. 10-12**

- Unrighteous deception will abound.
- But those who love the truth will not be deceived.

God is going to build His Church in these last days! He wants a Church that is empowered and empowering!!

- This is going to be the Church's Finest Hour!

## **The Mystery of the Empowering Church**

### **Paul's Prayer for the Church-Ephesians 1:15-20**

- Spirit of wisdom and revelation
- Eyes of your understanding would be enlightened
- Hope of your calling



- Riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
- Exceeding greatness of His power toward all of us
- Same power as the resurrection

**It's not just the knowledge but the Position of the Saints, Seated with Christ over All other Principalities Vs 21-23; 2:1-10**

**Colossians 1:15-18, 24-29**

**Characteristics of the Empowering Church  
Ephesians 4:11-16**

- 1. Empowering Leadership Equipping the Saints**
  - 2. Empowering Leadership that Builds Unity**
  - 3. Building the Body toward Perfection**
  - 4. Doctrine is Key Here!**
  - 5. Love is the Answer to Everything!**
- This is a big reason why we believe The Road must redevelop, reinstate, and reinvigorate Outlier University.
    - Bible Courses
    - Theology Courses
    - Church History Courses
    - Government and Freedom Courses
    - Marriage and Family Courses