

# Christ's Bride Made Ready – Conclusion

1. What does it look like when God comes down to save his people? Let's start with Habakkuk...

## Habakkuk 1:1-7; 12-13

[Now the Lord is going to give him a prophecy which is for the end of time, the second coming of the Messiah...]

## Habakkuk 2:1-4

**Habakkuk 3:10-13** *The mountains saw You and quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.*

<sup>11</sup> *Sun and moon stood in their places; They went away at the light of Your arrows, At the radiance of Your gleaming spear. <sup>12</sup> In indignation You marched through the earth; In anger You trampled the nations. <sup>13</sup> **YOU WENT FORTH FOR THE SALVATION OF YOUR PEOPLE, FOR THE SALVATION OF YOUR ANOINTED.** You struck the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.*

- a. So what does it look like when God comes to save his people? **It looks like disaster.**
- b. What did it look like when God came down to rescue his righteous people in **Noah's day**. It looked like a flood.
- c. Here's the point: **Crisis is the context of the finish.** The bride made ready must know this so she will not be offended at Jesus.

**Malachi 3:1-3** *"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness."*

- d. What did it look like when God came to save you and me from our sin? It looked like the crucifixion of his son, Jesus Christ
- e. **Crisis is the context for the finish!**
- f. Even Habakkuk says, "My bones were rotting" at the vision of God's coming. Listen: **Flesh has to die when God comes.**

- g. The last time God comes for the final rescue of his people and his creation—**it will look like fire!** But it is a refining fire!

**1 Corinthians 3:11-13** *For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.*

- h. Hear God's words of encouragement to the first century Christians after the ascension of Jesus and the forming of the early church. And then he gives a prophecy that the same maturity is expected for the saints at the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ. **\*\*It's the same in every generation!**

**Hebrews 10:32-39** *But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, <sup>33</sup> partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. <sup>34</sup> For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. <sup>37</sup> FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. <sup>38</sup> BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. <sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.*

- i. **Habakkuk had faith** in the crisis of his day. He did not shrink back, so he pleased God. And as we approach the end of days, and the Great Tribulation, those of faith are able to overcome in faith are pleasing to God and useful to the purposes of God.

**Conclusion:** Christ's Bride made ready is about faith for the finish!

1. **Faith** is the foundational theological virtue for the end times.

**Luke 18:8** *I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?*

2. God doesn't promise us a trouble-free life. He promises to *never fail us, never forsake us.*

**Psalms 91:14-15** *"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. 15 He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble..."*

### Even If

3. I'm going to ask you to make a trade. This trade has the power to take fear out of your heart. I want you to take your *"what if's"* and ask you to trade the single word **"what"** for the word **"even."**
4. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not guaranteed deliverance. Just before Nebuchadnezzar delivered them to the fire, they offered some of the most courageous words ever spoken. *"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it... But **even if** he does not, we want you to know that we will not serve your gods."* (Daniel 3:17-18).

**\*\* When you make that trade, you trade your \_\_\_\_\_ of an \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of an \_\_\_\_\_. God promises in **Hebrews 13:5** *I will never leave you nor will I forsake you.***

5. Habakkuk models this exchange powerfully. This is one of the most beautiful passages of faith in all the Bible. Though he had pleaded with God to save his people, they were about to be destroyed by the Chaldeans, he closes his book with this exquisite **"even if"...**

### Habakkuk 3:17-18

**Even if** the fig tree does not bloom and the vines have no grapes,  
**even if** the olive tree fails to produce  
 and the fields yield no food,  
**even if** the sheep pen is empty  
 and the stalls have no cattle—  
**Even then,**  
*I will be happy with the Lord.  
 I will truly find joy in God, who saves me.*