

THE ENDGAME

IN LIGHT OF THE MARANATHA CRY, WHAT ARE THE BIG PICTURE ELEMENTS THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON THE EARTH BEFORE JESUS SPLITS THE SKY? WHAT ARE THE THINGS WHICH WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE IGNORANT OF OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN? IN THIS SESSION, WE WILL TALK ABOUT THE VISION, THE MESSAGE, AND THE MANDATE OF MARANATHA.

I. THE FIRST PILLAR

- A. That every nation, tribe, and tongue would say, "Maranatha." In other words, that they would give witness that Jesus came once to bear the sin of the world, and that He's coming again to judge the living and the dead and to restore all things.
 - 1) we know from scripture like [Matthew 24](#) and [Revelation 7](#), among a host of other passages, that before the Lord returns, there will be a witness and a remnant from every tribe, tongue, and nation who love His name
 - 2) [Matthew 24:9](#) not only will the gospel triumph among unreached people groups before the return of the Lord, it will triumph to such a degree that there will be martyrs from every tribe, tongue, and nation in the generation of the Lord's return
 - 3) this is the great commission being put in its proper eschatological context
- B. I believe that restoring the eschatological kingdom reality to the missions movement is going to recalibrate it globally and put us in a place where we will actually accelerate and advance what God commanded us to do ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)). When we live connected to the eschatological hope of Jesus' return, it's like fuel in the engine.
 - 1) I believe there are many who have not gone because they have not heard the story of the coming King and His kingdom. I believe there is a generation of future laborers and pioneers who, when they touch that hope, will go. If we are begging for Jesus to come, we are wanting to eliminate the obstacles that are hindering His coming. One of the obstacles is that the earth is not prepared for His return because they have not yet heard of His first coming
 - 2) 40% of the Earth's population is in an [Ephesians 2:3](#) existence, and the maranatha message is the great remedy
 - 3) we proclaim that He has come and we proclaim that He is coming again until they proclaim that He has come and is coming again. Then they will join us in this great concert of yearning and crying out for the Lord's return

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- 4) the endgame of the Great Commission is that there would be martyrs from every tribe, tongue, and nation who are willing to give their lives to hasten the day that they get to see Jesus' face

II. THE SECOND PILLAR

- A. That the global church would be in unity and maturity saying, "Maranatha" until Jesus comes.
 - 1) right now the church is very divided globally, but there's coming a day of great unity before us called the Great Tribulation. We are living in the days of birth pains that will lead to the great tribulation
 - 2) right now, we are experiencing Braxton Hicks, which means the contractions before the actual contractions. Once this intensifies, the church is going to be pressed into a place of global unity together
- B. [Ephesians 4:11-13](#) the vision of a maranatha church is a united, mature church ready for the end of all things. It is a church that has given herself fully to the Lord for whatever the Lord is asking of her.
- C. The only kind of unity that will survive the tribulation is the kind of unity that's wrought by the Holy Spirit and rooted in the very gospel itself.
 - 1) this is one of the reasons why the maranatha message is so essential and powerful in unifying and maturing the church. It distills the essentials and brings them into focus
 - 2) right now, many of us in the west are divided from brothers and sisters over peripheral issues. Now, where you land on secondary issues matters to a degree, but not in the days leading up to the antichrist. The maranatha message says to get your priorities right and unify around the main thing
- D. Maranatha was the greeting of the early church. As this once Jewish community became more and more Gentile, they didn't greet each other by saying "shalom" anymore. They adopted "maranatha" as their greeting and fundamental identity for simple unity.
- E. There is a kind of unity that says we can be unified even if you believe all kinds of weird heresies because unity is more important than truth. Maranatha helps calibrate it to ultimate truth, saying, no, unity is not the most important thing. Unity in the Son, in maturity, and in preparation for the coming of the Lord is the most important thing.

III. THE THIRD PILLAR

- A. That national, ethnic, territorial Israel would say, "Maranatha" until Jesus comes.
- B. Scripture is very clear that this present, evil age reaches its appointed conclusion with the deliverance and salvation of Israel at the peak of their greatest suffering called the time of Jacob's Trouble ([Jeremiah 30:7](#); [Daniel 12:1](#); [Matthew 24:21](#))
 - 1) in all these passages we see the climax of the trouble is the deliverance of Israel and of the Jewish people. part of their deliverance will be them crying out, "Maranatha" ([Zechariah 14](#); [Joel 2:28](#); [Romans 10:13-15](#))

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- 2) the maranatha cry is what we say when we are saved for the first time and it will be what the Jewish people will say when they're saved in the last time

IV. THE THREE PILLARS

- A. These three streams will flow together and form one. All nations, tribes, and tongues will begin to declare maranatha together; the church will come into dynamic unity with one another over the essentials and become radiant and ready; Israel will enter into its greatest hour of her final provocation that will lead to her national deliverance. Then they will cry out, "Maranatha" as a nation until Jesus comes and brings this present evil age to a close.
- B. This vision affects the way that we see and understand everything. This is why I believe it is the word of the Lord to our generation, that we would give ourselves to every tribe, tongue, and nation until they say, "Maranatha." That we would give ourselves to the unity and the maturity of the church until we all are saying in one accord, "Maranatha." And that we would give ourselves to standing with and serving and ministering to Israel in the way that the prophets and the apostles told us to until the day when they say, "Maranatha. Come, our Messiah."