**Developing a mind-set for the end times Session 5**

**Agreeing with God’s judgments**

**1) In the end times, Jesus is coming to the earth to fight against evil in a visible way**

1a) “I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.... He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron sceptre.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.” (Rev. 19, 11-15)

1b) “Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson?

Who is this, robed in splendour, striding forward in the greatness of his strength?

‘It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save.’ Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? ‘I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath;their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. It was for me the day of vengeance; the year for me to redeem had come. I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm achieved salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground.’” (Isaiah 63, 1-6)

1c) The Church has very little revelation of Jesus a warrior, wearing a robe that’s been soaked in the blood of his enemies. There’s a disconnect in our minds between Jesus the judge that we read about in our Bibles and the loving , kind Jesus that we are familiar with.

**2) We need to understand the change of season in God’s time-table**

2a) In Jesus’ first sermon (Luke 4, 18) Jesus’ read from the prophet Isaiah; “The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour”. (Isaiah 61, 1-2).

Jesus deliberately stopped right in the middle of the sentence; “to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour ***and the day of vengeance of our God****”.*  The season from that first sermon of Jesus until the end times is called “The year of the Lord’s Favour”.

2b) In the years before Jesus comes back, the season will change to “The day of vengeance of our God”. That’s the time in history in which God will judge the world for all the evil and rebellion of the people who live there and will visibly fight against all that is evil right across the earth.

1d) We will stand with Jesus in the season called “The Year of the Lord’s Favour”. Who will stand with Him in the season called “The day of vengeance of our God”?

**3) Who will stand with Jesus in “The day of vengeance of our God”?**

**3a) Those in heaven agree with God’s judgments**

As the angels and the saints in heaven watch the Lord pour out his judgments on the earth, they sing praises to him three times in the book of Revelation because of these judgments.

 ‘**Great** and **marvellous** are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. **Just** and **true** are your ways, King of the nations. (Rev. 15, 3). See also Rev. 16, 7 and Rev. 19.2.

**Great** = Powerful, Awesome, Noble,

**Marvellous** =Wonderful; Miraculous; Causing great wonder;

**Just** = Deserved, appropriate, the right thing to do

**True** = God warned of His judgments for centuries. Now He is fulfilling His word. There has been no deception. God says what He means and does what He says.

**3b) Most of the Church will not be in agreement with what God is doing**

“**I have trodden the winepress alone;** **from the nations no one was with me.** .... It was for me the day of vengeance; the year for me to redeem had come. **I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support;** so my own arm achieved salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. ” (Isaiah 63, 1-6)

See also Matt. 24, 12; 2 Thess. 2, 3

We are happy to stand with the Jesus of the gospels, to identify with Jesus on cross or the risen Lord. But in the days of the 7 trumpet judgments how many believers will stand up and say, “It is my God who is bringing these disasters down upon you; and I am on His side”?

**3c)** **Many will take offense at God and fall away from the faith.**

Most Christians are so invested in the things of the earth that they actually don’t want God to do come and shake the earth. They will be praying against God.

Others will say; “God if you’re killing my family, ruining my business and destroying children’s future, then I don’t want to worship you.

**3d) “Believers will be hated by all nations because we stand with God.**

“You will be hated by all nations because of me” (Matt. 24, 9)

Believers will know that it’s God bringing these disasters because it’s all spelled out in the Bible. When our warnings come true, the people around us will know that it’s God who is bringing this trouble upon them. They will hate Him for it, and will hate us for being on God’s side.

“They cursed the name of God who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify Him” (Rev. 16, 9, 11 & 21).

**4) How can we make sure that we don’t take offense at God and fall away?**

**How can we change our mind so that we can understand what God is doing and agree with Him?**

**5) We need to get to know the God of the whole Bible**

5a) The same God who loves us and sent His son to die for us is the God who brought the plagues on Egypt, who killed the first born son of every family in Egypt, who wiped out the whole Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

He’s also the God of the book of Revelation who will kill well over ½ the population of the planet in a few short years.

5b) How many people have gone to hell because they heard in Church that God would love them and forgive whatever they did, so they never bothered to change their life?

5c) Do you worship the “God of Disney” or the God of the Bible?

The Bible teaches about God that

* His eyes are too pure to look upon evil. He cannot tolerate wrongdoing” (Hab. 1, 12).
* He hates evil and sinful behaviour (Heb. 1, 9)
* He opposes the proud (Luke 1, 51; James 4, 6)
* God is the judge. Every person will have to stand before Him and give an account for their lives. (Gen. 18, 25; Rev. 20, 12).
* Those who haven’t turned to Jesus will be sent away from God’s presence to hell for eternity. (Rev. 20, 15; Matt. 25, 41)
* In the last days God will pour out terrible judgments on the earth, killing over half the earth and plunging the nations into warfare, famine and chaos (Rev. 6-20)

**6) We need to see Jesus as the warrior**

The Jews of Jesus’ day thought that Jesus was going to be a military leader who would deliver Israel from the Romans because there are dozens of prophecies in the Old Testament saying that God would visit the earth to judge the wicked, redeem the righteous and defeat all that is evil.

For example; “The Lord will march out like a champion, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.” (Isaiah 42, 13). Here are some similar verses (there are many more).

Isaiah 2, 6-21; Isaiah 11, 4ff; Isaiah 42, 13ff; Isaiah 63, 1-6;

Joel 2 & 3,

Zephaniah 1; Zephaniah3, 6-8 & 17;

Zechariah 9, 14; Zechariah 12, 4ff; Zechariah 14, 1-15

Ezk 38, 19-23;

Psalm 2, 9; Psalm 18, 10-15; Psalm 42, 8-12; Psalm 45, 3-7; Psalm 75; Psalm 110

**7) We need to understand God’s determination to eliminate sin**

There are dozens of Bible passages that talk about God coming down to remove sin and evil doers from the earth.

7a) Whenever we pray the Lord’s prayer, we say; “Deliver us from Evil.... Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven”. Would Jesus ask all His followers to pray a prayer that He had no intention of answering?

7b) When we see the horror of sin and the need for God to work against it, we will be able to agree with God’s judgments.

Remember how much Sin destroyed in the garden of Eden. A perfect world, with perfect people living in perfect harmony and happiness shattered by one sin.

Sin is real. Where there is sin, there is also death and destruction.

7c) Though God has allowed sin and goodness to live side by side in the world throughout the ages, a day will come, at the end of the age, when God will come and uproot everything that is sinful from the earth.(Matt. 13, 24-30).

**8) God’s judgments are His final attempt to wake people up to His way of salvation**

8a) Through all these disasters God is calling out to people to “Repent and be saved”.

The world that you are trusting in is insecure and will pass away. The Pleasures of this world are shallow and fleeting. The only safe place is to take refuge in God.

8b) God will shake the nations in such a way that people won’t be able to hide from Him in their world of pleasures. Every person on the planet will be confronted with the reality of God.