



SERMON NOTES

US N°. 160

Date: October 12th, 2014

Title: Yet once more...

1. My readings

- a. Jeremiah – prophet called to announce to an idolatrous and rebellious people that they must submit to the hand of their very enemy. Branded a traitor
- b. Ezra. Returning from the very exile Jeremiah prophesied and beginning by setting the base of the altar. The heart of the city needs to be founded on prayer and sacrifice.
 - i. Ezra 3:1-6, *"And when the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem. Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren, arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. Though fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening burnt offerings. They also kept the Feast of Tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings in the number required by ordinance for each day. Afterwards they offered the regular burnt offering, and those for New Moons and for all the appointed feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and those of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to the LORD. From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, although the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not been laid."*
- c. Luke
 - i. Luke 3:16-17, *"John answered, saying to all, 'I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.'"*
 - ii. Luke 6:1-2, *"Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands. And some of the Pharisees said to them, 'Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?'"*

2. Current events

- a. Mt. 24:3-8, *"Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the*

end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

- b. Tetrad of blood moons on four Jewish feasts, the Schmita Year, and the headlines.
- c. Be vigilant and redeem the time.
 - i. Eph. 5:14-17, "Therefore He says: 'Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.' See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."
 - ii. Rom. 13:11-13, "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy."
 - iii. Mark 13:35-37, "*Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!*"
- d. Do not be afraid.
 - i. Is. 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."
 - ii. Rom. 8:31, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"
 - iii. 2 Tim. 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

3. Yet once more...

- a. Back to Ezra. Despite laying the base of the altar and beginning well, they left off and began to build their own homes neglecting the house of God. Therefore, He sent His prophets to warn, exhort and re-direct His people.
 - i. Hag. 1:3-8, "Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 'Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?' Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Consider your ways! 'You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.' Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,' says the LORD."
 - ii. Hag. 2:6-7, "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts."
- b. The writer of Hebrews... Heb. 12:25-29, "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn

away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO HEAVEN." Now this, "YET ONCE MORE," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire."

c. Exile bad, Return good.

- i. Heb. 10:24-25, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
- ii. Jer. 23:1, "'Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!' says the LORD."
- iii. Jn. 10:12-13, "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep."
- iv. Luke 18:8b, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"
- v. Mt. 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."
- vi. Mt. 9:36-38, "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

d. Today's readings

- i. Ezra 8:21-23, "Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him." So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer."

4. Take-aways

- a. Being in the daily Word keeps an door of communication and helps us see life rightly
- b. Wheat & chaff are separated in His hands
- c. Be vigilant and purposeful but without fear
- d. Yet once more a time of shaking is coming, it's purpose is to separate what can and cannot be shaken.
- e. Commit to trusting God and engage on the journey despite the dangers along the way.

Dangers – isolation from the Body, schisms within the Body; what do you bring someone into?
Cultural arrogance