### Seedtime and Harvest

I have written in recent times concerning what is happening in our world today. God has shown me that by watching the world around me and particularly what is going on in our country, I will know what He is doing in the Ekklesia as well as where He is leading her. It will also demonstrate to us what it means to advance the Kingdom of God in the earth.

I have spent a lot of writing time defining the true Ekklesia and the true apostles and prophets. We must mature enough to distinguish between the counterfeit kingdom of satan and the real Kingdom of God. We must be a holy people who know how to separate the common from the holy, the unclean from the clean. First, we must be able to discern the difference and then be able to separate them. (Ezekiel 44:23)

The five gifts given to the Ekklesia by Jesus Himself are a reflection of who Jesus really is. The apostolic and prophetic gifts are in the foundation laid by Jesus in order to show God's people how to follow Jesus and to help make the path straight and visible for the Ekklesia, so the Ekklesia can hear the Lord Himself and determine no other voice will they follow.

In Matthew, chapter nine, Jesus told His disciples of the importance of the harvest and the need for laborers.

Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they fainted and were scattered, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He will send out laborers into His harvest."

Matthew 9:35-38 (MEV)

This message was so important that it was also recorded by Luke.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them two by two ahead of Him into every city and place where He Himself was about to come. He said to them, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Luke 10:1,2 (MEV)

Examining these verses we discover several truths. First, it is God's harvest, not ours. Second, it is the Lord of the harvest who sends forth the laborers, no one else. God does the sending. Third, there are not enough laborers. But who are the laborers? And why are there only a few?

The laborers are the mature saints of the Ekklesia. They are the ones who sow the seed, water and care for the seedlings and then harvest what is produced. One main reason there are few laborers ready to be sent forth by God is because the five gifts given to the Ekklesia by Jesus have not fulfilled the mission given to them by Jesus.

He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, and for the building up of the body of Christ, until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, into a complete man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so we may no longer be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the trickery of men, by craftiness with deceitful scheming. But, speaking the truth in love, we may grow up in all things into Him, who is the head, Christ Himself, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body is joined together and connected by every joint and ligament, as every part effectively does its work and grows, building itself up in love. Ephesians 4:11-16 (MEV)

We have not properly equipped the saints to be effective laborers in the harvest field. The harvest field is not just made up of lost souls in need of salvation. That is basically what we have been taught and why we have not properly fulfilled our calling as leaders to equip the laborers so they mature and know how to harvest in all areas of life.

To prove my point concerning the importance of understanding the harvest and the process that produces a harvest, let's go back to the beginning of time. I long for my readers to receive a deep, long-lasting revelation of the message of the harvest. It will change your life once your spirit catches the significance of it.

The first mention of seed, as well as harvest, is found in Genesis chapter one.

### Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seedbearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened. Genesis 1:11 (NLT)

The concept of seedtime and harvest was so important to God that He spoke it into existence in the very beginning of time. He created it in a way that it would be constantly before our faces every day of our lives. Seeds planted and cared for would eventually produce a harvest of the same, with even more ability to produce more of the same.



I ask God questions all the time. Sometimes He gives me a quick answer and sometimes He has to develop some things in me before the answer will make sense. I used to ask God why did you make man to constantly have to eat in order to

survive. Why wasn't breathing air enough? It seems such a waste of time to prepare meals and eat every day. God could have created man to live without eating.

God designed the earth to show man who He really is every day of their lives. He put seedtime and harvest in our everyday lives to show us how He designed us to live in the earth, both physically and spiritually. The concept of seedtime and harvest was so important to God that He created plants to reproduce themselves through seeds, and then provided that food for us to eat. We would then understand how we maintain a spiritual life with Him.

We would not just do this occasionally, but every day as we ate the food from the seed, we would be reminded of the truth of seedtime and harvest. In the beginning God spoke and it instantly came into being. But then God created man and everything else had been made for man. God intended that this creation would work with Him to bring things to pass in the earth. It would happen through seedtime and harvest, and everywhere man looked he would see the truth of this in front of him.

God also knew that His creation would make some wrong choices. They would disobey and some seed would then become corrupted. They would need a Savior who would be sacrificed for the sins of humans, His prized creation. So, God gave the animals to man to eat, also as a picture of the coming slaughter and shedding of blood to redeem man and bring him back to his original purpose designed by God in the beginning.

By eating the fruit of the seed, man would be faced with God's original intent for their lives every day. By eating meat, they would be reminded that they failed God, but He did not give up on them. God sent His Son to earth as a man to be the perfect sacrifice. As we eat every day we are reminded of God's original intent for us and even though we failed, He restored us through the shed blood of the Lamb of God, so we could be as though we had never sinned.

We are faced with the Truth everyday and that is why we give thanks when we eat. We are recognizing God's original design for us and are thankful for what He created us to be. Everyday He prepares us for life that day and we are sustained by His presence. That is why we are told to eat of His body. Jesus was the last Adam. He restored to us the mandate given in the garden to possess the earth.



Still not sure? Let's look at the story of the flood found in Genesis chapter eight. This chapter tells the story of what happened when the rains stop. After many days the ark finally settled and the waters receded. God instructed Noah to unload the animals from the ark.

In the very first verse of this chapter, it says that God remembered Noah. What? Did God forget about Noah? No. The word translated as remembered can be translated as "to cause to be remembered". God is saying, "I am going to make this flood event

to be remembered down through history. It is going to become a memorial to my Truth and what I am doing in the earth." What was this truth God wanted to memorialize? Let's take a closer look.

When they had debarked, Noah made a sacrifice to God and God revealed some very interesting truths. We see a rainbow and we remember and think the most important truth is that God promised never to destroy the earth again with a flood. But God's promise after the flood goes much deeper than this.

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose. And the Lord was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things. As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."

### Genesis 8:20-22 (MEV)

The thought that God could smell the burning caucus of an animal and be pleased with it used to really gross me out. I grew up on a ranch and we branded our cattle. I hated the smell of the burning. It was not a pleasant smell. How could God possibly like such a smell? What about that could possibly make Him happy?

Have you ever been some place where there was a smell in the air and it brought to mind some pleasant memory of an event that in the past had brought you joy? For me, when I smell certain Asian food cooking, I am instantly in my mind back in Thailand or the Philippines and there is a longing to return to that place in my mind. Precious memories!

That is what was happening with God. When this sacrifice and all the other sacrifices made in the Old Testament were done, in God's mind, the memory of Jesus, His precious Son on the cross and the subsequent resurrection was the sweet aroma He smelled. That is why it brought Him great joy! Not His death, but the resurrection! His precious Son had become a seed through which God would receive many seeds, many sons and daughters. God rejoices when He sees the harvest. The harvest brings Him joy, just as a woman suffering the pain of childbirth, rejoices in the sight of the face of that tiny baby.



But wait. Noah and the flood happened before Jesus was born and died and rose again, right? Or did it?

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, all whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8 (MEV) God had already planted the seed from the very beginning of time. To God, it was already done because His Word spoken does not return to Him void. It accomplished what it was sent to earth to do.

When God speaks a word into the earth, He looks for men, women, and children to plant that word, water it, feed it, harvest it, so it will return to Him as a harvest and the Word does exactly what God envisioned in the first place.

Back to the story of Noah and the flood. Several things God promised because He was pleased with the result of the sacrifice Jesus came to provide for humans.

The ground would no longer be cursed.

He would not destroy all mankind even though their hearts would continue to be evil.

As long as the earth remained there would be seedtime and harvest, cold and hot, summer and winter, night and day.

We focus on the rainbow and the promise not to destroy mankind again, and ignore the truth concerning seedtime and harvest. All the other things mentioned center around seedtime and harvest.

The Truth of seedtime and harvest was so important to God that it was designed as a part of the promise of the rainbow. Chapter nine of Genesis describes in detail the covenant between God and man. It was the promise that what God had created in the beginning would still become a reality because of the sacrifice of the Son for the sins of mankind. What God had promised in the beginning would become a reality.

Therefore, seedtime and harvest would continue to happen every day as a sign of the covenant God made with humans. We would be reminded of this daily as well as every time we saw a rainbow. So, it must be important for us to understand what God means by seedtime and harvest.



From the seed of wheat, we get a wheat plant with many seeds. From many seeds we can mill them into flour. From flour we can make bread. Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life (John 6). The Bread of Life came to earth as a baby born in Bethlehem, the city whose name means House of Bread. He tells us that in order for us to live we must eat and drink of Him. Everyday we eat and drink as a reminder of the law of God concerning seedtime and harvest. It is always before us.

God, who at various times and in diverse ways spoke long ago to the fathers through the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the world. He is the brightness of His glory, the express image of Himself, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had by Himself purged our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:1-3 (MEV) Everything on earth and in heaven is held together by the POWER of God's WORD! Everything! Every single day of our lives is held together by the power of God's Word. Every word that God speaks is a seed. Jesus is the Word of God. He is the seed revealed. When you see a seed, you know what it is and what it will produce. When you see Jesus, you see the Father. When you see the saints of the Ekklesia, you see Jesus.

What does every harvest need? It needs seed. It needs sowers to sow the seed. It needs laborers to water the seed, to feed the seed, and to harvest the seed. It needs someone (Holy Spirit) to watch over the seed to make sure it does what it was designed to do, someone to hold it all together.

Charismatics cut their teeth on the parable of the sower. Yet there was so much in that teaching that was not totally understood at the time. It is time to review this parable. It is found in Mark chapter four and in Luke chapter eight. In both recordings of this parable, Jesus indicates we must understand the parable in order to understanding the Kingdom of God. The parable is a significant key to open the door to the Kingdom. We are to advance the Kingdom of God in the earth but we have not understood that happens through the Truth of seedtime and harvest.

What is the seed? In these chapters, we find that the seed is the Word of God. Every word that God speaks to us is a seed meant for us to plant, water, feed and harvest. God plants a seed in the hearts of His apostles and prophets to help establish what He wants to build in the earth. Apostles and prophets raise up saints with apostolic and prophetic anointing to understand the seed, water it and care for it until it can produce a harvest.

God speaks every day to give us direction and purpose for advancing His Kingdom in the earth. Contrary to popular opinion, He is not speaking to entertain us or just to make us aware of what He is doing. Are the words, spoken by your favorite prophet, seeds that can be planted and harvested? Do they reveal God's solution to bring justice to the unrighteousness we see? Something to think about.

I have taught often we need to constantly review our dreams and words God has spoken to us. We must keep them in our hearts, water them and nourish them until it is time for the harvest. God wants us to participate with Him in bringing the harvest. He created the seed (something we cannot do). We take that seed, that word He speaks, and we plant it in the fertile soil of our heart and we speak it until we own it. We are His and He is ours.

We, and others around us, can speak words that become seeds. The enemy can speak words that become seeds. If these words are watered and cared for and out of our flesh, not God's heart, they will eventually produce a harvest of tares and weeds that will have to be torn up in order to get the harvest God desires. We often speak words of our own will rather than what the Lord Himself has spoken to us. We must learn to discern between the common and the holy, the pure and the defiled.

We want to plant His seeds. We want to harvest His harvest. We will not take the time to go into the parable any further, although it would be a good time to refresh our memories to the importance of the lesson Jesus was teaching His disciples. This

was a key part in the message of the Kingdom that Jesus went to the cities and villages to teach. It was a secret of the Kingdom that few truly understood. It was the secret of seedtime and harvest as designed by God from the very beginning of time.



The foundational gifts of the prophet and the apostle are to prepare God's people to understand the times and seasons of God and to understand the principle of seedtime and harvest. The Ekklesia marches forth with an apostolic and prophetic anointing because Jesus lives in them and they live in Him and have tapped into the anointing of Jesus. The Ekklesia knows how to use a two-edged sword.

# For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the godly ones be joyful in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouths, and two-edged swords in their hands, Psalm 149:4-6 (MEV)

We hear His word spoken to our hearts and we rejoice (know righteousness) and then we do what the Lord tells us to do (obey, bring justice). We take the Word of God and we plant it, nourish it, and then harvest it. It will not return to God void. If we do not treat the seed as precious and cooperate with Him to bring it to pass, He will find another.

Tares will grow up with the wheat until the time they are revealed. When they are revealed, the apostolic and prophetic anointing of the Ekklesia recognizes the difference between the tares and the wheat, the defiled from the holy and knows they must be separated before the harvest can be gathered.

God puts this truth in front of us every day so we will learn to operate in it every day. Every day of our lives we plant the seeds of His word to us and we water them and care for them, even if it takes twenty years for a harvest from those seeds, those words. We listen and we obey. We see situations where things are not right in God's sight. We ask God what He wants to do about it.

If He wants us to do something to bring justice in order to make the situation right, we obey and do what He says to do. If He wants others to bring the justice to the situation, He instructs us to pray for laborers to enter the field of that situation to bring justice (a harvest of righteousness) to that situation. God knows exactly what and who can bring about the justice that is needed to make that situation right. That is called advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

I lived in a community for many years. There was a group of us who met at my house for Bible study and prayer. We would often pray for situations around us, in our families and in our communities. There was bar, established outside the city limits that began to have topless waitresses. We began to pray about this situation and felt God wanted to go to this place and pray for it to shut down. We did as we felt God was directing. In a very short time, a fire erupted in the kitchen area of the bar and it was closed. However, they restored the place and opened again after a few weeks. Once again, we prayed and felt the Lord leading us to do again what we had done before.

We met for the second time at the place and declared for it to close. We did not tell God how to close it, but we prayed according to the Word He had given us to declare. We did not understand the truth of righteousness and justice at the time. We were merely getting God's understanding of the situation and what He wanted us to do as the Ekklesia. Then we obeyed. This is righteousness and justice.

In a few more weeks the bar burned to the ground and they decided not to rebuild. It was not our choice to have the place burn to the ground. We did not even think about that as a solution. We were only doing what we were instructed by God to do. This is the life of the Ekklesia.

There was another bar uptown that was known by the community as a drug buying place. They had a back room that was set up with pool tables and games. They would allow teenagers back there to play the games, but did not allow them in the bar area. Teens were being sold drugs. We knew it.

Once again we prayed and God told us we should declare it to be shut down. So, we did as we were instructed. I do not remember how long it was before it shut down, but shut down it did. It was sold and later became a Bible book store. Again, we did what the Lord instructed us to do, and He did the rest.

Another time, one of my daughters had developed a wart on one of her fingers. The wart became infected. The group of believers was meeting and we began to pray in the Spirit. Suddenly, I stopped and told the group, I felt like God was telling me we should lay hands on her and command that wart to dry up and fall off. This was a Friday night. We again, did what we were told by God to do. We obeyed His directive. He gave us the seed. We planted it, watered it, nurtured it.

Two days later during the Sunday "church" worship service, the skin from the wart fell off in my daughter's lap. It was like baby skin where the wart had been. We had our harvest from the seed God gave us. We were laborers in God's field. We were the Ekklesia.

These are only a few examples of seedtime and harvest and how God sends His word. If we are faithful to take that seed of His word and do what He says to do, we can and will see a harvest if we do not give up. We will reap a harvest if we do not give up and allow tares to grow and choke the word in our lives.



The laborers are few. There are few equipped to recognize the tares from the wheat, few who can distinguish between the defiled and the holy. God's leaders must take seriously their responsibility to equip the saints for service. The Ekklesia must know the difference between the defiled and the holy. They must be equipped to be the laborers God desires to send forth into the world to reap the harvest, to advance the Kingdom so the kingdoms of the world can become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

The tares are many. They have been hiding in plain sight. We have not seen them, but today they are being revealed. Some of our most revered organizations where we have given our money and our time to support, are saturated with evil, like human trafficking and greed. We don't know who to trust anymore. We need the true Ekklesia now more than ever. We need those who can recognize evil and confront it even when it looks much bigger than us. Our God is bigger than anything!

People are bringing things out into the open as the light is being shined on the evil and some are losing their lives for it. These are martyrs even if they are not known as "full-time ministers" of the gospel. We must understand when we are saved, we are ministers of the gospel full-time where ever we go. Minister means "to serve". It is not some person with a license to preach. It is God's people living out their purpose on earth. It is God's people concerned about the impact of businesses in their communities, schools in their neighborhoods, the government of their cities, counties and states and asking God for solutions. It is obeying God when He tells us what we should do.

We learn how to recognize the tares in our own lives before we can deal with tares in our communities, our states, our country. We are in a season of tares being revealed on a global scale. It is a tremendous day in which we live. It seems overwhelming at times. We learn to recognize the strategies of the enemy in order to deal with the tares.

The tares are being revealed. And the tares are in every area of our society, which is represented by the seven mountains of culture that is defined in the seven-mountain teaching. Yes, there are tares even in the religious mountain, and in the "church". It is important to recognize the different areas of society. As I have said before, there are things in this teaching that I do not agree with, but I do agree there are these seven areas and the Ekklesia must recognize what God wants to do to affect these areas.

One tactic of the enemy is to allow us to see some of the tares, so we will focus on them instead of the root. Focus over here, but not over there. Focus on the incident and not how it is being funded. If we stop this incident of crime in this place, we have accomplished something, but we have not rooted out the problem. We now have a leaders who are starting to take seriously the thought of "follow the money".

As I write this, there is a "church" in Dallas, Texas that had a drag show for its congregation on Sunday. We see that unholiness and we want to do something that will stop drag shows, but in doing so we cut off the head of the tare, but we do not pull it up by the roots and destroy it, so its seeds can not grow again.

We see the obvious and we tend to deal with the obvious, but God sees the roots. Those who leave the one true God to follow money, corruption and fleshly desires, are following false gods. In Deuteronomy chapter 29, God calls them "*a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit*". They lead the people away from following God with their words and their sermons and they gather a people who will follow them instead. They do not teach the people to distinguish between the defiled and the holy.

The media is used to deceive us. Look here, not there. If a branch gets cut off that is life, but don't you dare expose the root so the evil is destroyed. Another branch can be grown, but another root cannot. You would need another seed.

We are deceived in looking at those who have drag shows, but not looking at those full of greed who hold us in slavery to their ministry. Do not look at those who call you to give to their ministry with promises of God's blessings like never before in your life. Evil is evil and tares are tares. We must get to the root.

There is a lack of the seed of the Word of God being preached across the land. Another seed is being preached, but not the seed from His mouth. It often does not manifest in the gross sins we see in other places, but defiled and unholy, egotistical, self-serving acts are still recognizable to those who are close to the heart of God.

Isaiah chapter five is very applicable today. The prophet declared that God planted a vineyard. Oh, sweet wine that could touch our lips, the harvest from the seed of the vine! Pure and holy and undefiled. He wants that for us, so He planted a vineyard for us. But we planted wild grapes in the vineyard.

God walked through His vineyard expecting to find righteousness and justice (verse seven), but he did not find it. There are many places we call "churches", implied "houses of God", that are definitely not houses of God. They are not the Ekklesia Jesus is building. Jesus is establishing a people who can distinguish between the defiled and the holy, who understand righteousness and justice. They do not accept wild grapes. They do not accept the counterfeit for the real.



God is a jealous God. These counterfeit places are going to become desolate. We are seeing that happen today and it is going to increase. The people have been held captive, in bondage, in these places and God is calling them out of Babylon into freedom. Today we see many who call evil, good, and good, evil (verse 20). This is not just on the religious mountain, but every mountain. Every mountain that rises against God is going to be brought low.

We are seeing evil revealed in all aspects of society. The tares are being revealed. CEOs of companies are resigning in mass. Corporations are falling. Hollywood is a mess and a mere shadow of what it used to be. Education has become a cesspool mountain and is being struck a severe blow. We need laborers now more than ever. Everywhere we go tares are being revealed and we need an army of God's people (the Ekklesia) who understand righteousness and justice, who know what is holy and what is not to take their place on the only true mountain, the Mountain of God. We need the laborers of the field to take their place, those who understand seedtime and harvest. We need those who understand the mandate given mankind in the garden to possess the earth. We need those who understand the value of the blood shed by our Lord to restore us.

Pray for laborers to be raised up, to mature, to hear the voice of God and obey to go wherever He sends them. It matters not which mountain of culture God calls us to, harvest awaits where ever He sends us. We are laborers in His vineyard. He is all that matters. He so loved the world that He gave Himself. We so love the world because He loved us and He lives in us. The mountains of our earthly culture will one day bow before the Lord of lords and King of kings and His mountain, Mount Zion.

Mount Zion is not the religious mountain of the seven-mountain teaching. The mountain of religion will also bow its knee to the real King who lives in the real Mount Zion.

## The eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy itfrom off the face of the earthAmos 9:8 (MEV)

Babylon, the counterfeit kingdom will fall. God issues the call to come out of her before she is destroyed. When the Ekklesia understands the truth of seedtime and harvest to the extent God desires, we are going to see a change. Amos saw it and prophesied about it. Could we be living in such a day? I believe we are.

### Indeed, the days are coming, says the Lord, when the plowman will overtake the one who is reaping, and the treader of grapes the one who is sowing the seed; the mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will flow with it.

### Amos 9:13 (MEV)

We have been taught or assumed this meant that there was a time coming when the seasons would be shortened, and the seeds wouldn't take as long to grow. This may be true, but there is another aspect to this as well. The Contemporary English Version says it this way:

## You will have such a harvest that you won't be able to bring in all of your wheat before plowing time. You will have grapes left over from season to season; your fruitful vineyards will cover the mountains. Amos 9:13 (CEV)



The harvest will be so great that it lasts right up until time to plant seed again. The wine prepared for the people by their God will be so great that it covers all the

mountains that have been brought low, who have bowed their knee to the King of kings. There will be no end to the wine that flows, no end to the seed, the Living Word of God and His effect on the earth because His laborers hear His voice and obey! They plant the word of God as a seed. They water it and tend to it, seeing it as already producing a great harvest of everything He has spoken into the earth because their God has said His Word will not return to Him in heaven until it has accomplished what He sent it to do in the earth. To the Ekklesia, it is a done deal.

The Ekklesia will finally understand the Truth of seedtime and harvest! And the earth will rejoice!

