



1. Before we get going, in light of what is going on in the world today and everything we've covered since the beginning of 2021, what has the Lord been teaching you so far on how important it is for His Church to stay ONE and to love each other?

Hey everyone, welcome to WEEK 1 of our new original series, ONE NEW WORLD. As you know, since New Year 2021 our theme for the year has been simply summarized as "ONE." We've been talking about being ONE with the Father and Son through the Spirit, making us ONE Church, ONE Family, in love with ONE another. And we just learned in our last series that while God wants to UNITE us, the Devil wants to DIVIDE us. Why this obsession with ONE-NESS? Why the strong opposition against Christians to be one? Why is it so important that Christians live in love and harmony with each other? Well aside from the obvious reason that it beats being at each other's throats, angry, offended, and divided, when we live as ONE we actually reflect who God truly is. God is three persons, one God. When a family of people live as one, we reveal the true nature of God. And we create a Spiritual atmosphere at home and in our Church where God shows up. And that is core value #1 of our Church: "When God Shows Up." So when we are one we live in such a way that welcomes and embraces the Presence of God.

2. Where do you think the world is headed? Are you a "glass-half-full" kind of person so you see brighter days ahead? Or do you have a less optimistic outlook?

God has an even BIGGER plan that goes way beyond just our Church and your family. And of course He does! It comes with Your job description when Your title happens to be "King of the Universe" or "Alpha and Omega." I know many of us are looking at the world today and it looks bleak. The pandemic just won't go away and America is looking less and less like the United States. Now we are dealing with Afghanistan and a completely open southern border for terrorists to walk through. Could we be witnessing the decline of the greatest country on God's green Earth? I don't know about that, but there's a few of us who are not going down without a fight. But here's something rock solid you can count on with 100% certainty: The destiny of mankind is no mystery to God. He knows exactly how our story will end. He knows because, well, He wrote it! So what is God's MASTERPLAN? (Everybody say MASTERPLAN.)

3. What is God's MASTERPLAN for the world?

Let's read it together, ready go:

"God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth" (Ephesians 1:9-10 NLT).



So let me be straight-up clear from the get-go: The world is going to undergo a very dramatic change from what we see today. There won't be nations competing for global supremacy, no political parties vying for control, no more presidential elections, no United Nations, no tech giants controlling our social media. You could call it Judgment Day, but there's so much more to it than that. When the Bible says the "end of the world" is coming, it's not like the planet Krypton. It's more like the end of the world AS YOU KNOW IT. J-Day is not just about judgment. At a time of God's choosing, He will bring everything--the whole world, both heaven and earth--together under the authority of Jesus. Everything will become ONE under Jesus. We will see a NEW WORLD ruled by Jesus. ONE NEW WORLD. I know there's a lot of uncertainty out there, but by the authority of God's word I can tell you with absolute certainty, we are headed for ONE NEW WORLD. So J-Day is not just judgment day. It's Jesus Day. The Bible calls it the Day of the Lord. You can take that to the bank. J-Day is coming. Tell the person next to you, "J-Day is coming!"

4. Since we know J-Day is coming, how should we live our lives?

So did you hear the one about the guy who tried to bring his gold into heaven? When he got there, an angel asked St. Peter what the man had in his bag. St. Peter turned to the angel and whispered, "Pavement". Get it? The streets in heaven are paved with gold. Ok, never mind. Oftentimes, the things we value in this life hold little to no value in the next. Even our best attempt to understand the life to come may prove feeble. St. Augustine once said:

"I have seen the Lord...everything I have written is straw." - St. Augustine

That from one of the most brilliant minds in church history! So we can give our lives to all sorts of dreams and plans, store up bags of gold, as it were, only to find out that none of it mattered in the end. OR, we can dedicate our lives RIGHT NOW to what will TRULY matter for all eternity. J-Day is coming, people!

**"The choice is ours: a futile life or a fruitful life.
A life that anticipates God's inescapable masterplan
or a life without an escape plan."**

Mona and I celebrated our 38th anniversary this past July. We went to see Beyond Van Gogh. Did you know Van Gogh was 37 years old when he died? He wrote something I spent time reflecting on:

"To succeed, to have lasting prosperity, one must have a temperament different from mine. I'll never do what I could have and ought to have wanted and pursued...While I clearly sense the value of originality and superiority of Delacroix, of Millet, for example, then I make a point of telling myself, yes, I am something, I can do something." - Vincent van Gogh



As an up and coming artist he drew inspiration from other artists like Delacroix and Millet, maybe compared himself to them. But what's interesting, and I'm not a big art fan, I have no idea who Delacroix or Millet are. But everyone knows Van Gogh. His work has stood the test of time. It made me think:

**"Do I want to achieve something that's only good for my time
or do I want to leave a legacy that's good for all time?"**

This world will eventually pass away, but the Bible is the historical record of God things that will never pass away. You've got one life. What will you spend it on? The pursuit of worldly, material pleasure good only for a time? Or a legacy that will last for all time?

In this new original series we're calling ONE NEW WORLD, we will think and pray together about how to get ready for J-Day. With the world as we know it coming to a dramatic end, what should we do to prepare for what's coming next? We will look for clues in God's Word and discern carefully in the Spirit. And by the end of our series we will be ready for J-Day.

5. Is this the first time the people of God were told to prepare for "the end of the world as we know it?" What were some other moments in Biblical history?

So is this the first time the people of God were told to get ready for "the end of the world as we know it?" To get us going, I have a KAHOOT question for you! Ready? Here it is:

The ancient word for the Hebrew people is IVRI, so named because they were famous for making impossible what? Is it (red) weapons, (blue) stories, (yellow) buildings, or (green) crossings?

If you picked GREEN, Crossings, you're right! Announcer, what we get for prize? Eggbeater! Eggbeater? You heard it folks, pick up your eggbeater on the way out. The people of God became famous for their ability to achieve impossible crossings by the power of God. Today we're talking about CROSSINGS. Everybody say, "crossings." Crossing from this broken, dying world into ONE NEW WORLD. It's happened before in the Bible. In fact, it's a major theme in the Bible! And we need to get ready because it's about to happen again! And this one will be the greatest crossing history has ever seen. To understand this properly we need to go back in Biblical history to look for a fact pattern. Throughout the Bible we can see this pattern emerge. Mark Twain once said:

"History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme." - Mark Twain

God doesn't necessarily do the exact same thing over and over, but as we watch closely, we can see a pattern emerge. And in the Bible we can clearly see this theme of God empowering His people to achieve impossible crossings.



Exhibit A: Moses and the Red Sea

Let's go way back thousands of years in Exodus when, after 400 years of slavery, God sent Moses to save His people from bondage in Egypt. Remember when the Hebrews had their backs against the Red Sea? And Pharaoh was like, "Wipe them out. All of them." But instead of a bloody massacre, God supernaturally opened up the Red Sea, the people crossed over, and Pharaoh's chariots were wiped out. An impossible escape! A supernatural crossing accomplished by the power of God. Well, this is what characterized the people of God from then on. We get ourselves in a pickle with apparently no way out, and God supernaturally makes a way where there is no way.

Exhibit B: Joshua & the Promised Land

Fast forward one generation now to Joshua. The people have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. Moses has gone to be with the Lord. And God has led Joshua and the people to the banks of the Jordan River opposite Jericho. They are about to enter the long-awaited Promised Land of Israel! But the rushing Jordan River stands in their way. Let's read together what happens next. Ready go:

"It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho" (Joshua 3:15-16 NLT).

It happens again! This time the Jordan River dries up allowing the people of God to supernaturally cross over into the Promised Land. Their reputation spreads far and wide. So when the Canaanites heard that people were massing along their border, at first they were like, "No worries. The Jordan will protect us. No army can cross the Jordan River at the height of the harvest season." But then their scouts said, "NO! You don't understand. These are the IVRI, the Hebrews!" And fear overtook them. "You mean the people whose God split the Red Sea?" "Yup, and He just now split the Jordan River before them. They're here." The people of Jericho freaked out and went into full panic mode. And the leaders said, "Don't worry. We have the strongest wall in the land!" Next scene, the walls are crumbling down. For the people of God you see had developed this reputation for being unstoppable, for achieving impossible crossings by the supernatural power of God. When God is leading our way, we cannot be stopped. We will overcome any barrier, surpass any obstacle, conquer any enemy, because nothing stops the will of God.

Exhibit C: Israel's Return from Exile

So if we fast forward again in the Bible, we see that the people conquer MOST of the Promised Land. They establish the nation of Israel. They reach their glory years under the reigns of Kings David and Solomon, but they compromise here and there, and end up backsliding into their sinful ways again. God warned them over and over to stay faithful, but they wouldn't



listen. So they were finally conquered by the Babylonians and sent into exile. Now you need to know what this means. This isn't like you're put in prison for a few years until they let you out. In the ancient world, if your people are sent into exile, this means the end of your civilization. Your cities are laid waste. Jerusalem is dismantled. The Temple is demolished and everything in the Temple is pillaged and ransacked. Your army is scattered and completely defeated, and what's left of your people are shipped out to Babylon to live in slavery for the rest of their lives. You can imagine what happens to women and children. It's Judgment Day, and the world as you knew it has ended. In all of human history there has never been a people who have suffered this level of annihilation and come back. We're talking about an extinction event. But God promised that after 70 years of exile, the people would return to their land. Sure enough that is exactly what happens. Against all odds, Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, lead the people back to Israel. God brought His people back from extinction and returned them to the Promised Land. Impossible you say? Nothing is impossible with God. And nothing can stop the will of God.

Exhibit D: The Modern-Day Nation of Israel

Well, centuries later the people rebel against God again. And in the year 70 AD the Romans conquer Jerusalem and destroy the Temple AGAIN. But God will just never give up on His people. This is how you know He will never give up on you. So He promises that at the end of time, He will raise up the nation of Israel yet again. There are several prophecies where God says this, but the most famous one is when Ezekiel saw the skeletons come to life in Ezekiel 37. But for centuries Bible scholars questioned the interpretation of these passages because they were like, "There's just no way there's going to be another nation of Israel." Century after century go by. No Israel. Hebrew becomes a dead language. So many nations since the Romans have conquered Palestine over and over again. And to add insult to injury, the Nazis during World War 2 carried out a secret genocidal campaign to kill every last Jew they could find. Six million Jews were exterminated before the world found out about the Holocaust. Looks like the Bible was wrong this time. There's barely any Jews left, much less a Jewish nation. There's just no way in H-E double hockey sticks that Israel is coming back from this one. It's been way too long--nearly 2,000 years--and the Jewish people are on the endangered species list.

But here we go again! By the supernatural power of God, America and her allies defeat the Nazis and the Axis powers. And beyond anyone's imagination, Israel became a nation yet again in 1948. Their national language? Hebrew. Just when we thought there was no way God could pull this off again, He does. This is total insanity. The odds against this are astronomical. Not even Vegas would take those odds! The Bible is 100% accurate. At the end of the age, Israel is here again. What's crazy is, this time you and I are alive to see it. Our Church has been to Israel several times. We've walked on impossible streets. Eaten meals in restaurants that should not exist. We were tourists in a modern-day mystery, eyewitnesses to a country that is the miracle of the ages. This is the greatest comeback since the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The God of the impossible is still carrying out His masterplan. It doesn't matter what the odds are or how many impossible crossings have to be made, God's masterplan will come to pass.



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6. Why is it that no matter how far we walk away from God, He never leaves us or forsakes us?

So with our biblical fact pattern established, we see this major theme come to light. God is the God who empowers His people to make impossible crossings. But as we close today, we need to ask why. Why is it that no matter how far we walk away from Him, He still comes for us? This is the greatest revelation of all, and you don't want to miss this: God's love for us is so deep and unending, He will always come for us. He wants to be with us so badly, He will move Heaven and Earth to come to us. He's the God who says, "Get out of my way, Red Sea, I'm coming for My children. And Jordan River, get out of My way. My kids need a Promised Land to live in." We just needed to go on a supernatural journey with God to learn that He will never abandon us no matter how deep a hole we've dug ourselves into. He will show us a way out--no matter how impossible the situation looks. You see, these are the stories that helped the people of God form their theology on who God is. This is how they developed their relationship with God. They weren't just rescued from a bad situation, they were learning that their God is a good, good God; that His goodness is coming after them, and they can always depend on Him. Whether it's something going on in your marriage or a huge, multi-million dollar building project, God is taking us on a journey to show us that He is good and faithful, that He will never forsake us. In fact, He's right there in the thick of it with us. His masterplan is to create ONE NEW WORLD, and like Job says, "I know You can do anything and nothing can stop You" (Job 42:2). And it's going to be great! You will have a new body that will never age, never get sick. No viruses can harm you. And we will live with Jesus and all His followers for all eternity.

7. How will you intentionally organize your life around J-Day and God's masterplan?

So if you're smart, you're probably asking, "How do I intentionally (everybody say "intentionally") ORGANIZE my life around God's masterplan? You're saying to yourself, "I don't want to be left out. I don't want my family to miss out." This is a good time to have FOMO! In fact, you better have FOMO right now! Well, remember this is not the first time mankind has had to face a global extinction event.

Next Week: Exhibit E: Noah

God told Noah a worldwide flood was coming. So Noah had to face J-Day! What was His Spiritual journey like? What did he do to prepare? Are there clues in Noah's story that will help us get ready? Don't miss Pastor Mark's message next week as he will take you step by step on what to do to "get on board" (get it? "Get on board") with God's Masterplan. Next week may be the most important message you and your family will ever hear. So don't miss it.

ONE NEW WORLD



Today we learned that our God's love for us is so overwhelming, He will not allow anything to keep us from Him. It doesn't matter how deep a hole we've dug ourselves into, God can get us out. Not even death itself can separate us from God. Of all the crossings we will face in life, nothing is more insurmountable than death. But Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, even if He dies, yet shall He live" (John 11:25). Now you can imagine the skepticism when Jesus said that to Mary and Martha as their brother, Lazarus, laid in his tomb for 4 days. So Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. And to make sure no one could say this was a one-off, Jesus Himself rose from the dead. Impossible you say? Nothing is impossible with God. He will never fail us or abandon us. And He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8). J-Day is coming, people! And it will usher us into a NEW WORLD where everyone who has put their faith in Christ will be ONE. ONE NEW WORLD.