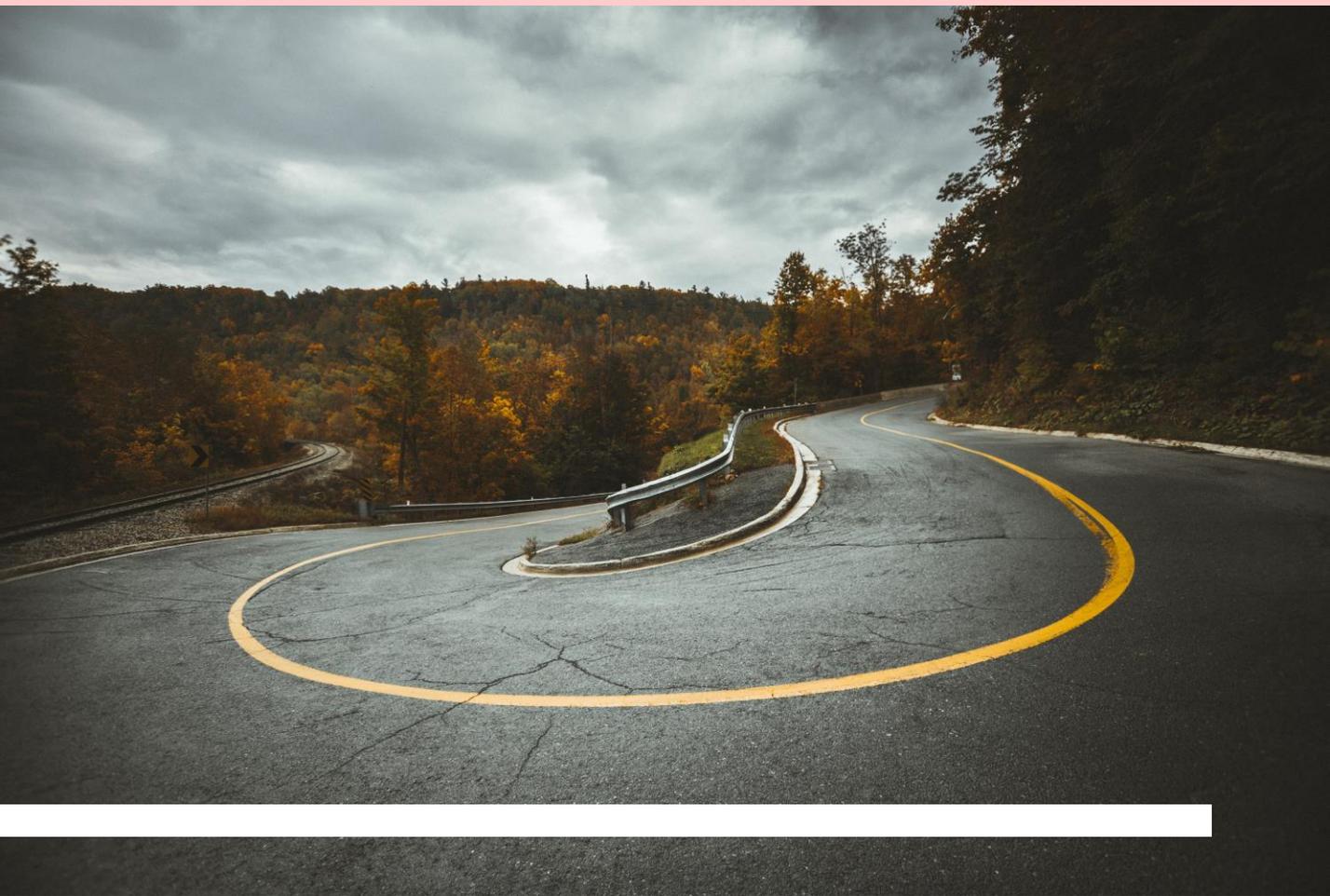




*Understanding God's
role in the coming
global crisis.*

'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Ezek. 33:11



God is righteous. In His righteousness He will come against all that is wicked and sinful. In His righteousness He cannot leave sin unpunished. He made a way for all to turn to Him and for man to obtain righteousness through the blood of His Son Jesus. Unfortunately, man comes against the righteous and holy God by choosing to walk in his own ways.

God's primary enemy is sin. God comes against Israel because they choose their own ways over God's ways - sin and wickedness over righteousness, idolatry over wholeheartedness for God. Time and time again, Israel, through her rebellion and sin, makes herself God's adversary (Isaiah 63:10).

Similarly, for the nations of the earth, if they continually live in sin, they too are rebelling against God. If they choose to persistently "camp" in the place of sin, there comes a time when God Himself will become their adversary. It is they who set themselves in an adversarial relationship against God (Jas 4:4).

If we do not understand the nature and heart of God, even the Church will find His role in judgment offensive. The truth is that God desires a people who can draw near to Him, those who choose His ways and live in purity (2 Cor. 6:17-7:1). He desires a people who live wholeheartedly for Him and who are mature in their walk with Him, so that they can partner Him in His kingdom.

God takes no pleasure in judgment (Ezek. 33:11). His purpose in judgment is to remove everything that hinders love.

The principle of God's judgment is that He will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love. This will be done without violating anyone's free will or His justice.

Four contributing factors to the coming global crisis

There are four key factors in the global crisis that is coming to the earth. All four work together under God's sovereignty and wisdom. These four factors are:

1. God's zeal to release judgment that removes what hinders love

God's zeal and passion is to remove all that hinders love and to bring forth a Bride who is pure and ready. Through judgment, God is purifying and refining His Bride. Sometimes God causes the crisis in a direct way. At other times, God works indirectly, allowing other forces to work at the forefront. God is not fully responsible for every crisis. But He has influence over all. He is actively involved in the crises that will affect the nations.

At the end of the day, we must know that God, in His wisdom and sovereignty, causes all things to work for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). He is a good God, and we can trust in Him fully.

2. Satan's rage

Satan knows that his time on earth is coming to an end. Out of desperation and rage, he seeks to destroy the Jewish people and persecute the Church. God allows Satan's rage to be expressed but within the boundaries that God has set. These boundaries will expand when the events of the End Times culminate towards the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 12:12).

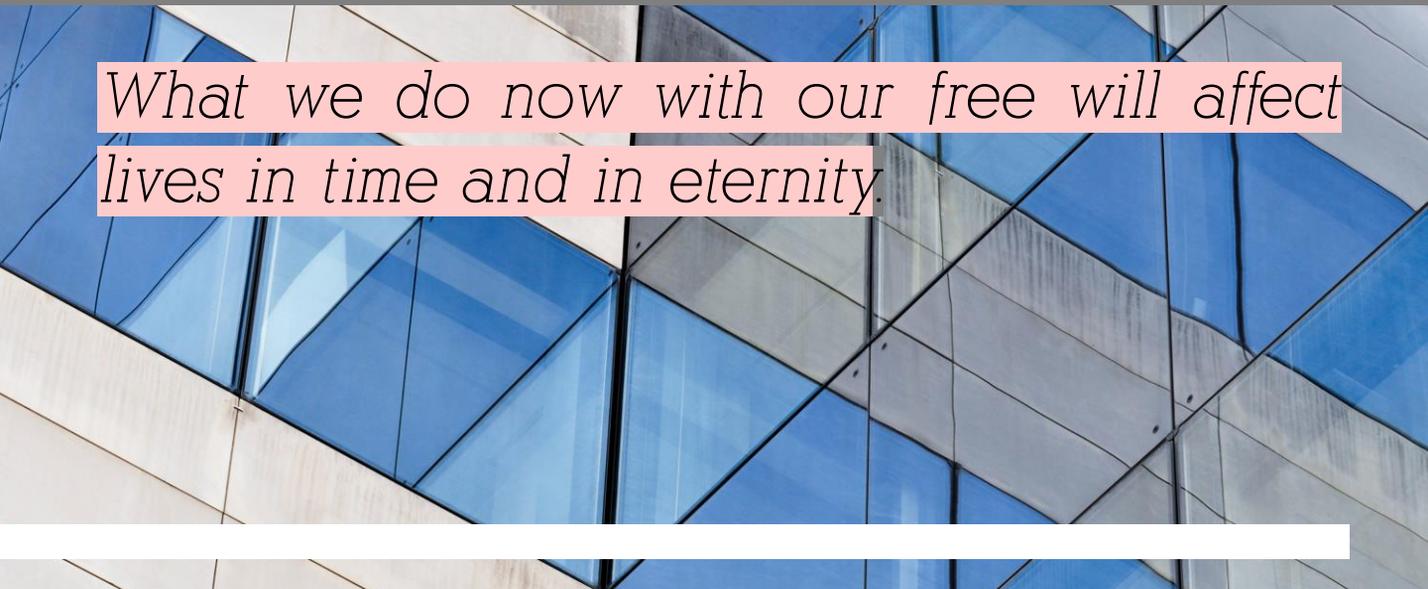
3. Man's sin

Man's sin can bring death and destruction to himself and others. Our free will gives us the ability to make choices that affect lives.

If we choose evil, we have the power to express evil towards others.

Man's decisions and choices also provide the legal entry point for both angels and demons to be much more active in the natural realm. When people live in rebellion, they open up legal entry points for demonic activity to be heightened in the earthly realm.

What we do now with our free will affect lives in time and in eternity.



4. Creation's groan

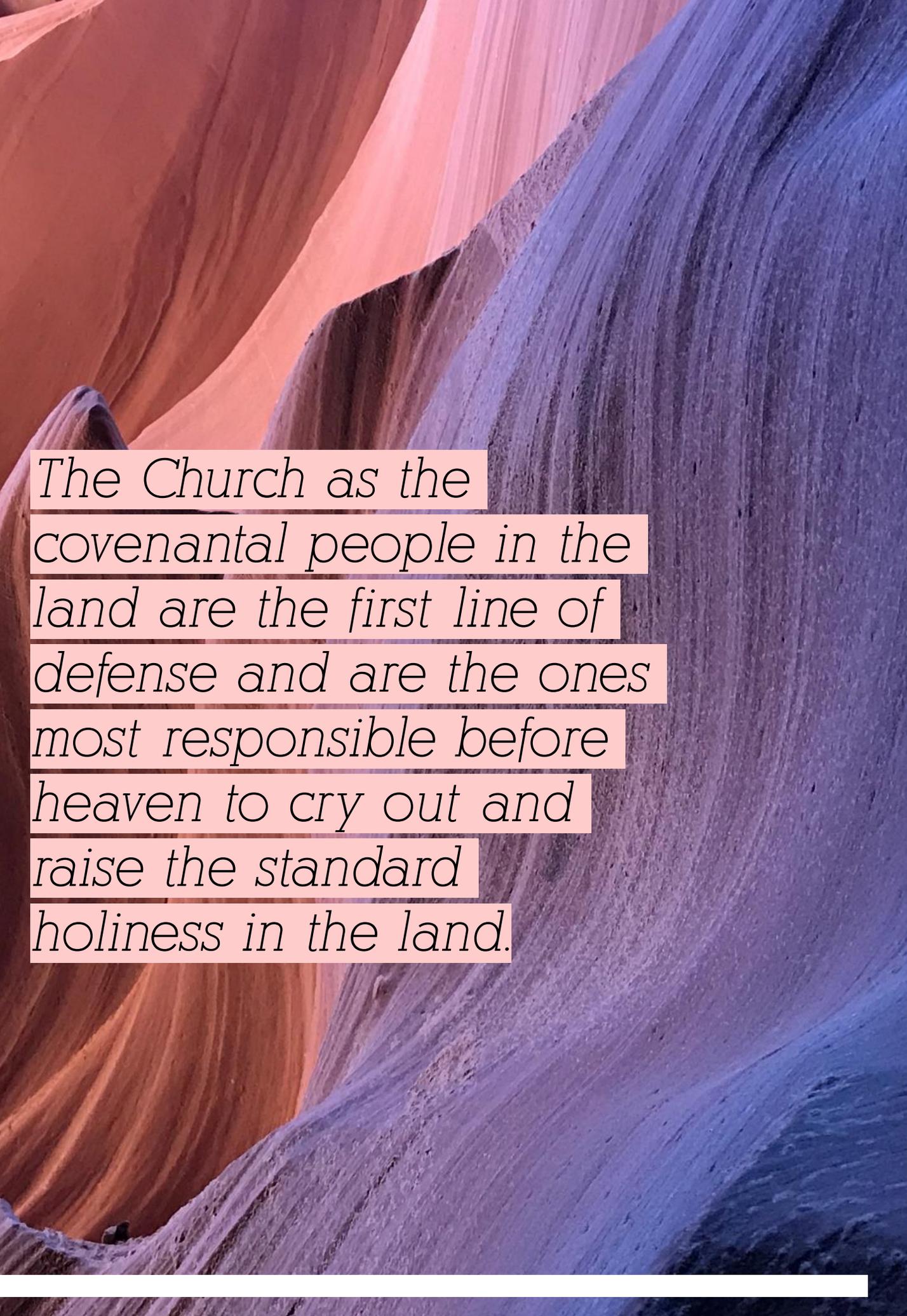
We can witness creation's groaning and travailing in earthquakes, violent weather patterns, etc. There is a mysterious yet glorious connection between the action of the human race and the condition of natural creation (land, vegetation, weather patterns, etc.) (Rom. 8:22).

When Adam sinned in Genesis 3, a curse came upon the land. That curse has been escalating as man's sin escalates. The earth's convulsions will increase as sin reaches its fullness in the earth (Isa. 24:5 – 6, 20; Rom. 8:22).

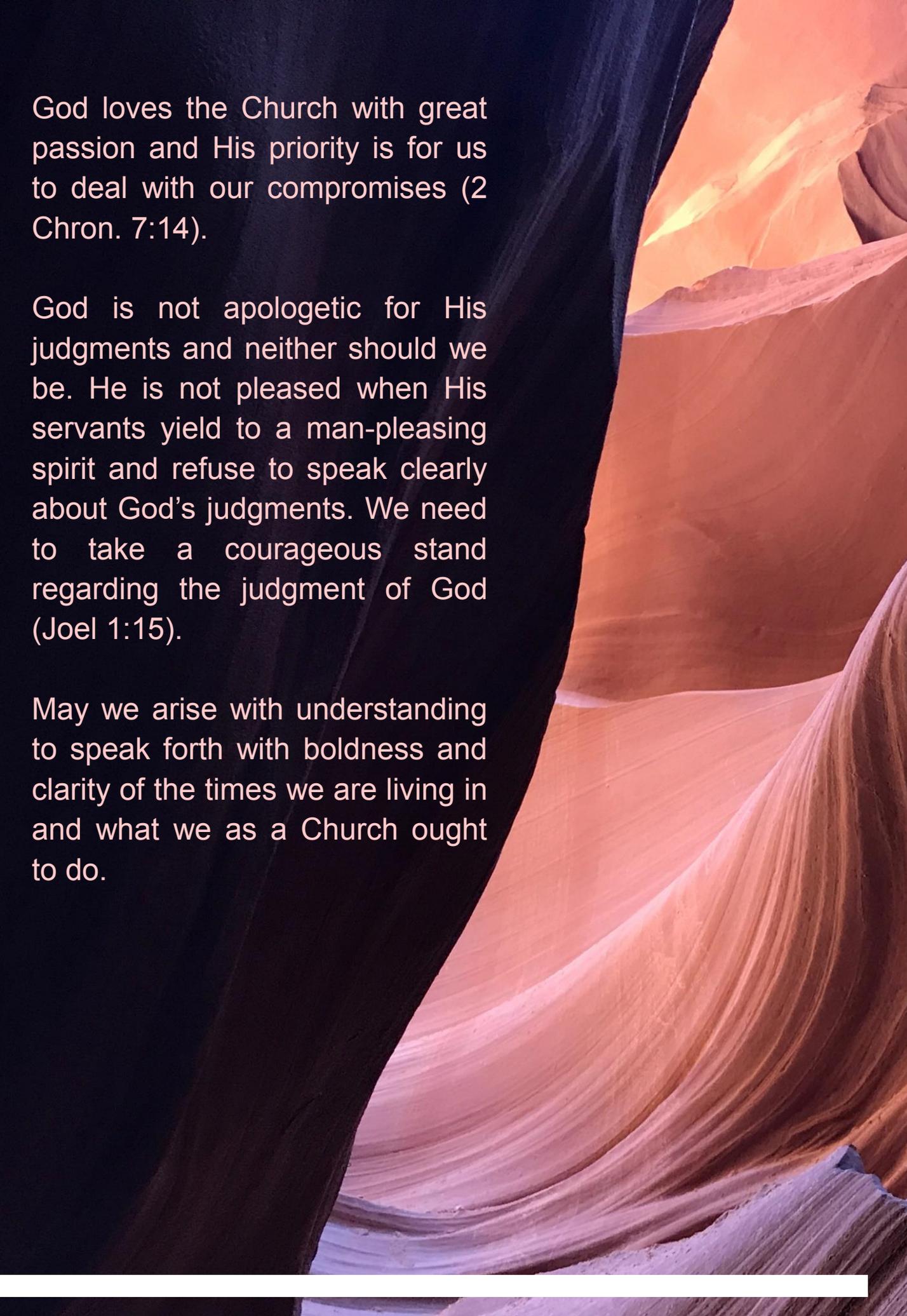
At the end of the day, what is the primary issue or factor?

The biggest problem for a nation in sin is not Satan, the violent acts of sinful men, nor "natural disasters," but God's zeal for that nation to live in purity so she can walk in her destiny.

We cannot use the name of Jesus to rebuke and dismiss God's zeal for us. The great need in a crisis is for God's favour. The reason solemn assemblies are so important is that this is what God requires and God's favour is on them. Money cannot buy God's favour and nothing can substitute it.



*The Church as the
covenantal people in the
land are the first line of
defense and are the ones
most responsible before
heaven to cry out and
raise the standard
holiness in the land.*



God loves the Church with great passion and His priority is for us to deal with our compromises (2 Chron. 7:14).

God is not apologetic for His judgments and neither should we be. He is not pleased when His servants yield to a man-pleasing spirit and refuse to speak clearly about God's judgments. We need to take a courageous stand regarding the judgment of God (Joel 1:15).

May we arise with understanding to speak forth with boldness and clarity of the times we are living in and what we as a Church ought to do.



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 34

Take some time to ask the Holy Spirit to show you God's heart as you read Ezek. 33:11. Read the book of Jonah. What does this tell you about God and His heart of mercy even to the sinful and wicked? What does God want? What is God looking for?

Prayers for Week 34

Pray 2 Peter 1:2-4 for the Church to live a life of godliness and for grace to be partakers of His divine nature, both now and in the coming times of darkness.