

# **HARVEST ROCK CHURCH**

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## **GOING AFTER “A GREAT HARVEST” A YEAR OF ACTION: THE BOOK OF ACTS SERIES**

Dr. Ché Ahn

Vision Sunday, January 9, 2022

**TEXT: Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**

INTRODUCTION: Every January, either the second or third Sunday, I share the vision for Harvest Rock Church. Usually, I pick a text that is not part of the teaching series I want to give as we start out the New Year. But this year, as we are doing a study in the Book of Acts, the text that I have selected is from the Book of Acts, and I feel it is perfect for what the Lord wants me to emphasize for this 2022 Vision Sunday. Before we get into the text, let me share a little background and history of our church for those who are new to the church.

God called Sue and me to come to LA in 1982. I had a dream on September 2, the anniversary of my ordination: “Come to LA for a Great Harvest.” Then I heard the inner audible voice, “The time of revival is at hand.” By April 1984, my family, with a few other families and two singles, moved to Pasadena. We pastored a church for eight years called Abundant Life Community Church, and then I did itinerant ministry for two years. The revival that was promised in the dream did not materialize, but God used that time for me to go to Fuller Seminary, where I earned my Master of Divinity and my Doctorate in Ministry.

Finally, revival broke out in Toronto, Canada, in 1994 and dramatically impacted the world, including LA. Thus, Harvest Rock Church started on April 4, 1994.

I believe that the church’s vision must align with Scripture because Jesus is the Head of the Church. He will build His *Ekklesia*, and the gates of hell will not overcome something He builds (Matthew 16:18-19). If you are a believer and a follower of Jesus, you must align even your personal vision and destiny with God’s overall purpose for His *Ekklesia*. If not, you are going to perish. I believe when God says, “My people perish for a lack of vision,” it is not just a lack of personal vision, but the lack of understanding of your vision in the light of God’s vision and plan for His people.

You can reduce God’s mandate for the Church into two broad commandments: the Great Commandment—to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength—and the Great Commission.

All four Gospels end with the Great Commission. And the Book of Acts begins with the Great Commission. By the way, the last word of any person, especially our



Lord Jesus, is extremely important. I want to share a humorous story that illustrates this. (E.g. The last words of Mother Superior.)

We find the Great Commission in Acts 1:8, which is our text for this morning. If you want to be successful in your vocation, no matter what your job is in the marketplace, your heart must be aligned with God’s heart to advance the Kingdom through the preaching of the Gospel in your sphere of influence. If you make evangelism a priority in your life, you will be successful in this life and your reward will be great in heaven.

Acts 1:8 combines revival with the harvest. We receive power through the Holy Spirit. This includes personal power and corporate power, i.e., revival is when we, the Church, receive the power of the Holy Spirit. But in revival, it is more than receiving the Holy Spirit of the new birth. The ancient Church was already born again. In John 20:21-22, Jesus appears to the disciples in the upper room and breathes on them and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” This was not a symbolic and prophetic gesture, a foreshadow of what was to come on the Day of Pentecost. The Greek shows that the word *receive* is in the aorist tense. The event is taking place right there, and the verb is in the imperative (in other words, it is a command). I believe that the 500 that Jesus appeared to were born again after they saw the resurrected Lord. So, it is a misnomer that God birthed the Church on Pentecost. The outpouring of power took place on Pentecost. The fulfillment of Joel 2:28 and that receiving of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that we call spiritual revival. Yes, there is only one Day of Pentecost, but we see in the Book of Acts many infillings of this manifest power of God. Acts 4:24-31 is a great example. Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.”

I believe we are on the verge of the greatest revival in the world’s history, especially since COVID-19 hit the world in 2020. I believe we are seeing the fulfillment of Haggai 2:6-8. Only twice in world history have we seen a global shaking that has impacted every nation. WWII and COVID-19. But after WWII, there were 55 years of the greatest global harvest. Dave Barrett Encyclopedia. 1990: 185,000 coming to know the Lord every day. This leads to a major principle of historic revival.

## **I. REVIVAL AND HARVEST WILL FOLLOW DARKNESS AND GLOBAL SHAKING**

**A. Isaiah 60:1 “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. 3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”**



**B. Haggai 2:7** “I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,” says the LORD of hosts.”

C. But the only times there has been a global shaking and global darkness has been WWII and during this pandemic.

**D. WWII AND THE REVIVAL THAT FOLLOWED**

1. **1948: The Hebrides Revival, Billy Graham, Bill Bright, The Voice of Healing**

2. **1967: The Jesus People movement.** 20 million young people got saved globally. My prophetic journey begins with my conversion in 1973. Dream to come to LA in 1982.

3. 1994: The Toronto Blessing, Harvest Rock Church starts, two years later HIM, two years later WLI, one year later TheCall. Tremendous Kingdom activity but no harvest.

4. Ed Silvoso’s word in 2017: “Turn your heart to CA.” Cindy Jacobs’ word in August 2018.

**E. THE SECOND GLOBAL SHAKING: GLOBAL PANDEMIC**

1. If WWII gave us 55 years of wave after wave of revival and God’s revival principle is that we go from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18) and the glory of the latter house will be more glorious than the former, what will it look like after the shaking of Covid goes deep into the hearts of men and women?

2. That is why I say that we are on the verge of the greatest revival in world history that could last until Jesus comes back.

3. One caution: We don’t know how long this shaking is going to last. WWII began on September 1, 1939 and ended on September 2, 1945. It lasted 6 years and 1 day.

**II. THE BIG PICTURE: REVIVAL AND REFORMATION OF SOCIETY**

**A. REVIVAL: Acts 3:19** “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing [revival] may come from the presence of the Lord.”

**B. REFORMATION: Acts 3:20** “and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”

**C. WHAT IS REVIVAL?**

1. Lou Engle’s definition: “God’s arrival.”

2. Revival is the manifest presence and power of the Holy Spirit that causes the church to repent and return to her first love, plus the conviction of sin coming to unbelievers, resulting in a harvest of souls that brings about the transformation of society.

**D. WHAT IS REFORMATION? - Transformation of society with the specific increase of *righteousness* and *justice* on the earth.**

- 1. Isaiah 9:7** There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.
- 2. Genesis 18:19** "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."
- 3. David** (1 Kings 10:9) and **Solomon** (2 Chronicles 9:8).
- 4. Psalm 89:14** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You.
- 5.** We are going after the justice issue of our time: overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Every life is sacred. A baby in the womb is a person and should have all the rights of everyone in the USA.
- 6.** This year, with the midterm elections in November, we must mobilize Evangelical Christians to vote and to vote for pro-life candidates on a local level and national level.

**III. THREE CONDITIONS FOR REVIVAL**

**A. UNITY**

- 1. Acts 1:13** When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. **14** These all with one mind [*homothumadon*] were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- 2.** The context of *homothumadon* is apostolic alignment or aligning with leadership.
- 3. Acts 2:46** Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.
- 4. Acts 5:12** At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. See also Romans 12:4-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10, 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:3-4, 13; Philippians 1:27, 2:1-5; Colossians 3:14.

**B. PRAYER**

- 1. Acts 1:14** These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer...

2. God is calling us to pray and fast for revival, and a great harvest, and the ending of abortion.

### **C. OBEDIENCE TO THE GREAT COMMISSION**

1. The first act of obedience is staying in Jerusalem. **Acts 1:4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."**
2. Question: Jesus appeared to 500 of His disciples, but only 120 were in the upper room. What happened to the other 380? Not everyone obeyed to wait in Jerusalem.
3. The second is to receive the power and go after the harvest. **Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."**
4. The power is for a purpose. To reach the harvest in your Jerusalem. Among your family, friends, and relatives.
5. **Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."**
6. Isaiah 60:3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
7. God wants us to reach the harvest in 2022.

### **D. FIVE PRACTICAL STEPS**

1. **HAVE A PRAYER LIST OF UNBELIEVING FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS THAT LIVE NEAR YOU**
2. **REACH OUT TO THEM IN LOVE AND GOOD WORKS. CLOTHE YOURSELF IN CHRIST.** E.g. Dressing like an adult when you were a kid. Choosing to let your light shine whenever you encounter an unbeliever.
3. **INVITE THEM TO HRC IN 2022 OR TO AN OUTREACH EVENT**
4. **FOLLOW UP AND GET THEM INTO A LIFE GROUP**
5. **CONTINUE TO DISCIPLE AND MENTOR THEM**

**Acts 5:32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him!"**

**CONCLUSION:** December 29, my Uncle Mark's funeral.