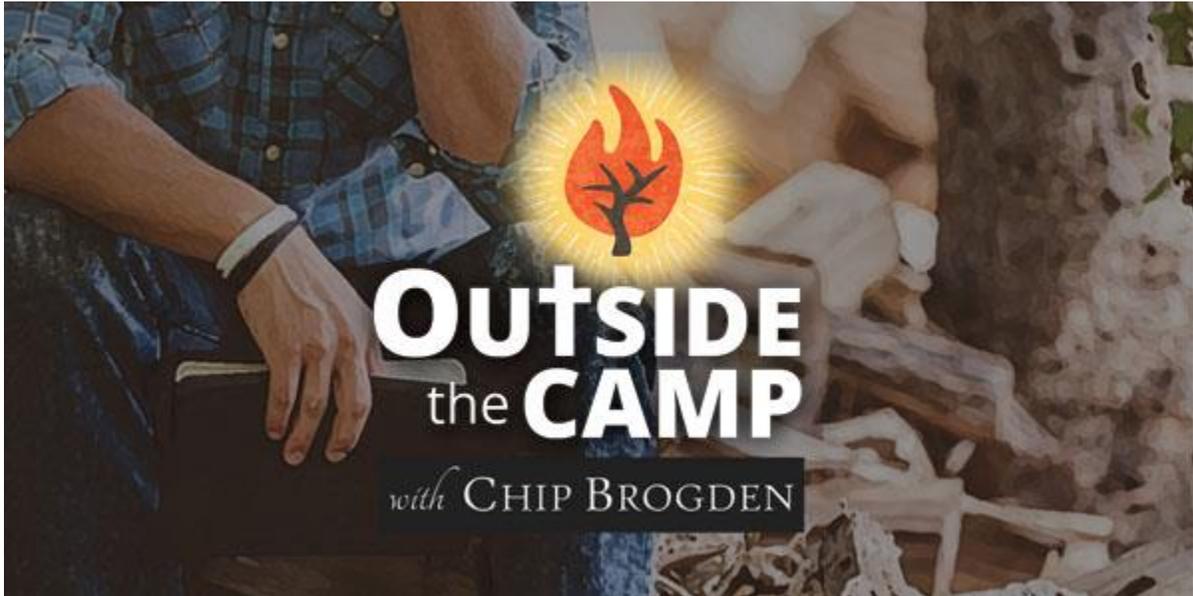


TRANSCRIPT

OUTSIDE THE CAMP WITH CHIP BROGDEN



EPISODE 12: The Wrath to Come

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ANNOUNCER: Welcome to this edition of Outside the Camp with author and teacher Chip Brogden. Helping you discover the freedom and joy of a Christ-centered faith that is based on relationship, not religion. And now, with today's message, here's Chip Brogden.

CHIP: When I used to go to church, I remember the pastor or worship leader would get up in front of the church at the beginning of the service and say, "Isn't it good to be in the house of God today!" And all the people would say, "Amen!"

Then, when I was a pastor and a worship leader, I would get up in front of the church at the beginning of the service and say the same thing: “Isn’t it good to be in the house of God today!” And all the people would say, “Amen!”

Then, God granted me a spiritual vision of Christ, a revelation of Christ seated in heavenly places. I’ve talked about that testimony elsewhere. But when God showed me His Son, He also showed me the Body of Christ: the *Ekklesia*, a House of Living Stones. And, as I say, that was the beginning of the end of my career as a preacher for Organized Religion.

Today, my friend, I would like to greet you with something different than the way I used to greet my fellow church-goers. Instead of saying, “Isn’t it good to be in the house of God today,” I want to welcome you to this program today by saying, “Isn’t it good TO BE the house of God today!”

Yes, it is! It is good to *be* the Church, to *be* a House of Living stones, to *be* the Body of Christ, to *be* the House of God. *We are* the House of God, Scripture declares – because God does not dwell in Temples made by man. Instead, He says that *we are* the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

To me, that is very freeing, and very liberating. And it is the first step, I believe, to understanding this principle of preparing a place for the Lord in the wilderness – the spiritual desert, symbolizing this place “outside the camp” where we get over our religious addiction and we learn to worship God in Spirit and Truth; where we learn that Christ is More Than Enough, that Christ is More Than Sufficient; where we learn to get *from the Lord* all the things we tried to get from other people, or even tried to get from church, or fellowship.

It is in this context that we have been considering Matthew chapter 3, both the spiritual importance and the prophetic significance of that wilderness experience. John the Baptist warned that there was wrath to come, that the axe is laid at the root of the tree. What does that mean, and what does that have to do with you and me? What is this judgment and wrath all about? Who's going to be judged, and why?

To get answers to those questions, let's go back to Matthew 3 and see what the Word of God has to say.

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CHIP: What we need to do is go outside the camp and bear the reproach of Jesus - and part of that reproach is realizing that I am the temple; I don't go to a temple. I am the church; I don't go to church. I am the New Jerusalem, and there is no temple here, except for me; because I am the temple of the Holy Spirit. And that's who you are. And that's who we are, together. We are the called- out assembly. We are the house of living stones. You have to see that. You have to get that. Once you see it, and once you get it, you can't go back! That's what he's saying in Hebrews. "You don't have a city here. Your city, your hope, your salvation, is not Jerusalem. It's not the old wine skins."

So we go outside the camp and bear His reproach, and the reason we do - John bore witness to it, Jesus bore witness to it - there is wrath to come. It's judgment on the harlot church. Revelation 18. We see that judgment at the end of the age, but we already see that judgment in history. *Our future is written in Israel's past.* Over four hundred years they constructed a system that failed to recognize Jesus and ultimately betrayed him and had Him killed. Forty years after they destroyed Him, they themselves were destroyed. In the same way, Jesus would not be recognized by most people who claim to be His followers today. Most churches would expel Him, would not allow Him in the

pulpit. They wouldn't recognize the Lord Jesus if He walked up the aisle and sat down on the altar. "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and they honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me - teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."¹

And we see that judgment in Revelation 2 and 3 on those *ekklesias* - especially the ones that are full of good works. To the Ephesians: "I know your works, all the things you're doing for Me; You've labored and you've done X, Y, and Z. But I have somewhat against you: you have lost your first love! And I don't care about all the good things that you're doing. I don't care if you're reaching out to the community. I don't care if you're healing the sick, or clothing the poor, or feeding the hungry. You're doing all these things, but if you don't love Me, I'll take your candlestick away." Zero tolerance! Zero tolerance! That's idolatry; that's putting good works above the will of God in Christ. So there's wrath to come. We see that judgment on the harlot church in Revelation 18.

Oh... in these days, listen: *Behavior is more important than beliefs*. Behavior is more important than beliefs. I'm not saying beliefs are unimportant; I'm saying your doctrinal nuance, your theological position on the Trinity or all these other things - it's really irrelevant compared to the importance of your *behavior*. That's what John is saying. I don't care if you're a Pharisee, he says; I don't care if you're a Sadducee; but you need to bear fruits worthy of repentance. Bear the fruit. Because the axe is laid to the root of the tree, and if you're not going to bear good fruit, you will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So talking about your beliefs, talking about that you've been a Christian for 28 years, or that you are a child of Abraham, or that you are a member of the First XYZ Church, really doesn't make any difference - your doctrinal position. What matters is your behavior. The fruit, the works, that tells the whole thing.

¹ Mt. 15:8,9.

“He who hears these words of mine and does them...”² Not who can teach the best. Not who can write out their doctrinal statement the best. Not who can *defend* the faith but who can *live* the faith.

So in these last days, your *behavior* is more important than your *beliefs* - because you know what? Anybody can say they believe anything - but I would rather watch how you behave and then I will *know* instantly what you believe.

We will know them by their fruits, Jesus says.³ Now the other thing you can expect - talking about the practical application, what we observe here in Matthew 3 - you can expect the religious spirit, the religious leadership, to *hijack* any movement, create an organization around it, and try to control it. We see it happening every day.

That's why I truly and honestly believe that what God is doing, He's doing in the wilderness, He's doing behind the scenes, He's doing under the radar. There's no television cameras following it around. It's not something that you schedule once a week and say, “Well, let's all get together and let's do this!” It is a sovereign move of God. And guess what? It's not happening up on the platform. It's not happening in the four walls of a religious institution. But it's happening out there in the world – yes, in the “fields that are white unto harvest” that Jesus sends us into.⁴ That's where the big movement is -the big movement of the Holy Spirit to increase Christ in these last days.

Whenever you try to create a meeting, and create an organization around it, and try to give it a name, give it an identity, you are opening yourself up to being hijacked by that religious spirit. Happens every time.

² Mt. 7:24.

³ Mt. 7:16.

⁴ Jn. 4:35.

How many times have meetings in my home... I joke that I'm going to write a book about our life and our experiences; and in that book, in one of the chapters, I'm going to make a point: that when someone wants to bring a guitar to your house meeting, you should always say no! [Laughs]

Now, I'm trying to be humorous with that! But what I'm saying is: when you have people in your home it starts out nice and simple. And then the guy who used to be the worship leader at the First Yakety Yak Church wants to know, can he bring his guitar? Or worse, he just shows up with it the next time you meet. Wants to lead us in a few choruses with his guitar. Before you know it, someone wants to bring the little transparencies and the sheets with the words and the music on it. And you know, before you know it, it starts getting so big that we start thinking about, "Hmm! We need a bigger place to meet!"

Before you know it, someone knows about a building down the road that's empty, that they could probably get for free, or for a little bit of cost per month. Not too bad. Of course we'll have to start taking up offerings. Of course we've got to have somebody to kind of be in charge. Which means of course we've got to have a Board, elders, some kind of organization - if people are going to give they expect to have a tax deductible receipt, so we've got to get organized...

And I'm saying, before you know it, you have slipped right over the slippery slope and your simple little gathering around the preeminence of Christ has turned into just another run-of-the-mill meeting of religious people who have yet to get over their church addiction, have yet to get over their religious hangover. And now they're just gathering together, doing the *same thing* that they always did before, but they're just doing it on their rules on their terms now. And that's not Spirit and Truth.

I'm saying, what God is doing is completely different. It doesn't even look like that. The kind of “fellowship” that He has us in now has nothing to do with that. Can't be controlled. Can't be scheduled. Can't be hijacked by the spirit of religion, or even by the honest, good-hearted brother who shows up with his guitar, and he's trying to recreate the glory days of his music ministry – can't even be hijacked by that! It's just so... it's so incredible, the way God is opening doors and giving us opportunity and putting people in our life - without us having to create an organization around it. It's just... it's amazing. It's wonderful. It's real life. That's where we live. That's where you live. That's *being* the temple. That's *being* the church.

Well here's the last point I would make about the practical application, as we get ready to close: *the spirit and power of Elijah preceded the second coming of Christ*. We saw it fulfilled there in John the Baptist. But I believe that the Day of the Lord has not fully been realized yet. In a sense, yes, the Day of the Lord was realized when Christ came the first time, when Christ was revealed. But in the Book of Acts it says, “You men of Galilee, why are you looking up into the heavens? This same Jesus, Whom you have seen go up into heaven, will in the same manner return again from heaven.”⁵

And so I believe that this prophecy in Malachi that says that, “I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord.”⁶ Well, that was certainly fulfilled with John the Baptist. But if Jesus is coming again, isn't it possible the prophecy could have a double meaning, and in the same spirit and power of Elijah in a prophetic ministry, a prophetic voice? And it's not just one voice, but many voices. As we draw near to the second coming of Christ there is a prophetic urgency that brings both the same promise and the same meaning that John the Baptist did when he says that the axe is laid to the root of the tree. He is coming to thoroughly purge His threshing floor.

⁵ Acts 1:11.

⁶ Mal. 4:5.

He's going to separate wheat from chaff. Also, in Malachi it talks about how, "He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them as gold and silver are refined."⁷ He's going to separate the dross from the pure. Separate sheep from goats, foolish from wise.

Well, it happened once; and I believe it's going to happen again, and it is happening, as God raises up the same spirit and power of Elijah here in these last days: to warn God's people to come out of her so that they don't suffer the same judgment.

So we talked about "four hundred silent years." Now I want to talk about "seventeen hundred silent years" - and it's the seventeen hundred silent years from the close of the New Testament to the time that you and I are living in today. Might this be a parallel? In the New Testament, John the Baptist's appears. He's preaching. He's saying, "Repent, because the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." And he is the voice crying, saying, "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord." And then, not long after that, Jesus Himself appears there in the wilderness. And we see His glory.

Seventeen hundred years since the canon of the New Testament is closed, and here we are today. Isn't it possible? Isn't it likely? That the spirit and power of Elijah in the prophetic ministry (or anyone who is in tune with the Holy Spirit), this should bear witness with you: that we are living in the same period of time? In the middle of a religious system, a hypocritical harlot church system that would not recognize, and does not recognize, Jesus? Fights against the prophetic ministry? Isn't it reasonable to think that God would once again raise up John the Baptist - raise up prophetic voices to sound the alarm, to sound warning, to prepare God's people, and to warn them that the axe is laid to the root at the tree, *before* Jesus appears in that great Day of the Lord?

⁷ Mal. 3:3.

I'm saying our future is written in Israel's past. If you want to see where we are heading, all you have to do is look back and see what happened to *them*, because those things happen to *them* as an example for *us*. And during the last seventeen hundred silent years, Christians have created their own harlot religious system that has already rejected and betrayed Christ. The glory has departed. God's calling us, calling His people, in the Book of Revelation, to come out of it.⁸ And that system is destroyed in Revelation 18.

So that's why I say *our future is written in Israel's past*.

“Four Christian Sects of the 21st Century.” We have the same ones...

1. The **Pharisees**: the Conservatives; the Protestants; the Fundamentalists; even the Charismatics.
2. We have the **Sadducees**, which represent the Liberals in the church; the Catholics; Orthodox; they are the priests and the politicians.
3. We have the **Essenes**, and who are they? Well, maybe they're the house church people. The hippie Christians. I'm not saying *all* house church folks are hippie Christians! But there's this idea that the way to get back to the New Testament power and reality, and life of the New Testament, is we have to *imitate* them, and we have to *meet* the way they meet, and we have to be more *communal*, and God is love - and it's all about body life, and community life, and fellowship – and they kind of represent a modern day Essene sect.
4. Then you even have the **Nazarenes** today! These are the Messianic Jews. These are the Gentiles caught up in Hebrew Roots, and they just think that they have to put

⁸ Rev. 18:4.

themselves back under the Law of Moses in order to truly follow and please God. It's just another religious deception. Not all Messianic Jews believe that they have to submit to the Laws of Moses. But many of them do, and then they lift themselves up and pretend that they have to teach Gentile Christians like me, because we don't *truly* understand the Hebrew culture, or the Torah, or anything. And so they get us to say "Yeshua" instead of "Jesus" and "Yahweh" instead of "God" - and everything we do is *wrong* and everything they do is *right*, and is pure. And before you know it, you've just got another religious sect on your hands.

All these groups are following a church-centered faith. Meaning, their whole existence revolves around where to meet, how to meet, what to do when they meet. And as a sister I talked with this week... she described it very well, so well that I wanted to use it. Describing all of these different groups of Christians focused on church, or focused on house church, or focused on the meeting - where to meet, how to meet, what to do when meeting - she said: "*It is constantly regrouping under a different set of rules.*"

That's really all it is, and she's exactly right. Regrouping people under a different set of rules. And it's always: someone has to come up with those rules; make sure everyone is submitted to those rules. So it doesn't matter what the group is. If it's following a church-centered faith it's revolving mostly around where to meet.

That's why I don't care about meetings, I don't care where you meet, I don't care how you meet, I don't care what you do when you meet. My life is not based on a church-centered existence. My life is not based on meetings - going from one meeting to the next. My life is not based on finding fellowship and like-minded people. I don't care if I find any like-minded people - so long as I have the mind of Christ, there's plenty of like-minded people out there! It's just completely different out here in the wilderness!

See, all these groups gathering together [are] just recreating history. “Nothing is new under the sun,” it says in Ecclesiastes. So while these are constantly focused on where to meet, how to meet, what to do when you meet, who are you meeting with, where do you go to church, I don't go to church, I go here, I go there, who do you sit under, who do you follow...

Instead of regrouping under a different set of rules, God says, “Repent! The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand! Repent! Come out of Babylon! And in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord! Get out of Jerusalem! Get out of your meeting mentality.”

We have a case of Chronic Meetingitis - as if God's whole purpose in sending Jesus to die on the cross was so that we would have something to talk about when we get together in a meeting! That meeting mentality is a hangover from a religious system that God has called us out of.

It's about life. It's about living. It's about real relationships. It's not about the meeting. The meetings are fake. Meetings are...are... are... Ugh. How can I say it? Maybe I've said enough. Meetings are artificial, for the most part. They're just artificial. They're not real. Real life is a lot different from the meeting. In the meeting we have this “Fellowship Fantasy” of how things should be. We regroup people under different sets of rules on how to meet, where to meet, what to do when you meet, who should speak, who shouldn't speak, who's here, who's not here. It's not real. God says, “You've got to repent of all that. You've got to come out of Babylon. Meet Me in the wilderness. Prepare the way of the Lord there in the desert. And the desert will teach you and show you discernment.”

Well, I see it. I know many of you see it, and I pray that all of you can see it and experience the freedom and the joy of a Christ-centered faith that is based on

relationship, not based on religion. Not based on grouping people together according to belief or doctrine or how they meet or where they meet or what they do when they meet, but based on relationship.

So that is the essence of a Christ-centered faith. A *Christ*-centered faith, as opposed to a *church*-centered faith, is based on *Christ*. And I believe we achieve that when we allow God to bring us into the desert, into the wilderness, to be *reduced to Christ*.

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CHIP: Powerful lessons to prayerfully consider. You've been listening to a live teaching that is part of series of teachings titled "[Into the Wilderness](#)." In this four-part series of messages (over seven hours of teaching) we explore what God's Word has to say about the coming judgment on the harlot church system, and why so many are leaving Organized Religion to follow Jesus "outside the camp." To find out how to get that series, just go to [ChipBrogden.com/teachings](#) and look for the audio title, "Into the Wilderness." We actually have several dozen audio teachings on a variety of subjects, so if you like what you've been hearing and you want to explore what else we have to offer, go to [ChipBrogden.com/teachings](#).

Well, that will do it for this episode of Outside the Camp. Until next time, this is Chip Brogden, reminding you that this is the day that the Lord has made, so make it a good day; and remember that greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world!

ANNOUNCER: You've been listening to Outside the Camp with author and teacher Chip Brogden. We hope you enjoyed today's broadcast and found it helpful and encouraging. If you'd like to get additional teachings, audio recordings, books and

other Christ-centered resources to help you grow spiritually, visit us online at ChipBrogden.com. Outside the Camp is made possible by the prayers and financial support of listeners like you. Until next time, on behalf of Chip Brogden, I'm Kathy Smith, reminding you that you can do all things through Christ Who strengthens you!