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Date: Friday, November 3, 2006 1:43:59 PM

*The
Beginning
Of*

*The
End*

Are We Close?



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Jesus Is Coming Soon; Very Soon!

1. In the day in which we live, the world has fallen further into sin, than at any time since the creation of mankind. People have forgotten all about God. The United States government has passed laws which forbid his Holy Word from being read in our public schools; and also forbidding anyone from praying to Him in the public schools. And it has almost become a disgrace in the eyes of God, how that the human race has attempted to almost completely erase and remove Christian principals from the earth. They are also attempting to take the name of God out of every publicly spoken decree, or anything which requires one to speak the name of God, such as the United States Pledge of Allegiance. People are filing complaints with our public courts, just because others have the Ten Commandments posted on their private property, or in publicly inhabited places. What a shameful disgrace! This is because the world is so full of atheists, or heathen who do not even believe in God Almighty. And because their lives are so controlled and empowered by the devil, they do not want anyone else who does have the faith and courage to believe in God, to be able to speak his name either. And sadly to have to say, the United States of America is becoming one of the worse nations on the face of the earth, to allow such ungodly things to take place. Another way in which the world has turned away from God, is concerning the ordination of marriage, which God began with the very first human creatures which He put upon the earth. Marriage means nothing to people anymore. They had rather just forget about marriage, and move in together, and commit fornication

every day of their life, than to go to the trouble of being married, as God intended. The truth really is, that they had rather live in sin before God every day of their life, than to be legally committed to one another for life. It has become an everyday custom all over the world for a couple to just move in together, and forget about marriage. There are probably more men and women just living together, without a thought about marriage, than there are couples who have went through God's process of marriage. What a sinful mess we have caused our society to become! And even worse, parents are leading their children to believe that it is alright to live such a lifestyle. Many parents are living such a lifestyle right before their children, and persuading them to believe that there is absolutely nothing wrong with living such a lifestyle. They are also teaching their children that there is nothing wrong with having sex as a regular everyday fun event. They just tell them, "Now you be careful. You know what might happen." We have babies being born every day, by girls who are just children themselves. We have reports on our news broadcasts every day, of newborn babies being found in dumpsters, in trash cans, and murdered by the dozens; by girls and women who give birth to them, but do not want them. They had rather murder them, than take the risks of ruining their wonderful reputation. And this is still not the end of the story. Many states of our nation are now trying to pass laws, which allow women to marry women, and men to marry men. We have gay men and lesbian women serving as pastors in churches, principals in schools, and every where else. The United States of America is supposed to be an example of a Godly nation. Something is terribly wrong somewhere! Our nation is supposed to be founded upon the Word of God, and this is the way we live our lives in America. What a disgrace to the name of God! We have the words, "In God We Trust," printed upon every piece in our monetary system.

What a lie we are telling to the rest of the world, for the most part. God destroyed the cities of Sodom and

Gomorrah, as we are told of in Gen. 19:1-21, for such sins as are of top popularity in the United States of America. God most certainly has shown mercy toward our nation! But how much longer will He continue to show mercy in the midst of such ungodliness? Let us be thankful unto Him that He has not already destroyed us. Our nation is

involved in more ungodliness today than ever before. Is God possibly attempting to get our attention? We have been attacked by terrorists like never before; bringing serious and costly damage to important parts of our nation, as well as taking the lives of hundreds of people. We have always been the most powerful military force upon the earth. But it is time for people to realize, that our real security is not in warplanes, bombs, tanks, machineguns, hand-grenades, and such. The only real guarantee we have of true security, will be obtained only by turning our faces back towards God, repenting of sin, and allowing God-Jehovah to be God of our nation once again. And this does not go for the United States of America alone, but for any nation upon the earth, who has turned to sin as the United States has done. People all over the earth are deliberately murdering one another every day, over little matters that aren't important at all. Our national governments are in an uproar with one another like never before. Peace has become a word that is almost extinct from our vocabulary anymore. This is truly a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. What does all this mean? I believe all this means that Jesus is coming soon; very soon! How often do we ever hear God's ministers of the Gospel preaching against these sinful subjects which we have mentioned? Sadly to say, very rarely. They act as though they are afraid they are going to hurt someone's feelings; or else they are afraid that they are going to make a church member mad. They always find the time to

preach on everything else; but what has happened to the belief of preaching against sin? They talk as though the world is going to last forevermore; and I can assure you, based upon evidence found in the Word of God, that this is not going to be the case at all. This world is coming to an end, and the end is approaching fast. People had

better get back into the Word of God, and find out the real truth for themselves, while they still have the chance to do so. We are going to study about the return of the Lord. He will first return for his Bride, or the Church. Then will come the seven years of tribulation; during which the antichrist shall rise, and the false prophet also. This will be the time when the "mark of the beast" shall be forced upon people who remain upon the earth; or else they will be put to death. During this seven years is when the Jews who refused to believe that Jesus was the true Messiah, will flee to the mountains for protection; into a place called Petra. This is a small city carved out of the mountains north of Jerusalem. Petra will be off limits to the antichrist. Near the end of the seven years of tribulation, is when the "Battle of Armageddon" shall be fought. Then will come the time when the Lord Jesus will return to the earth a second time; when the antichrist and the false prophet shall be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. And at this time, the Lord Jesus will set up his kingdom upon the earth for one-thousand years. Also, at this time, the devil will be bound in the bottomless pit during the thousand years that Christ reigns upon the earth. At the end of the thousand years, the devil will be loosed for a short period of time; at which time he will put together a mighty army, which shall surround Jerusalem. But this army of Satan shall be destroyed by God from above.

And then will come the "Great White Throne Judgment,"

at which every person to ever be born will be judged according to their deeds, and the lost will be cast into the fires of Hell for eternity. And those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior will be announced to have life eternal with Jesus in Heaven. And then the earth as we know it will be destroyed, and

*Heaven will be brought down to replace it. We will be referring to scriptures from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. We will, with the help of the Holy Spirit, try to get the scriptures in proper order, as they relate to the above mentioned events of the end of time. 2. We will first be concentrating on the first return of Christ to the earth. This is an event which I personally believe could take place at any moment. Every prophesy relating to this great event has been fulfilled. So evidently, it is only because of the great mercy of God upon those people who are still living a sinful life, that has caused this great event to be delayed. The majority of the story concerning Christ's second coming, and his return to the earth following the Tribulation Period, are told identically in all three gospels; so we will not bother to refer to all three gospels, except when there is a difference in their statements. We will read first from the 24th. chapter of Matthew; which tells us: "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to Him for to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, **See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.** And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things***

must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for

my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Ju-dae'-a flee unto the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath Day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth:

behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall

not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have

watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh

shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **A.** When Jesus and the disciples first went out of the temple together, the disciples were concerned about nothing except the great and marvelous temple. They wanted Jesus to take notice of the great work which had been put into building the great temple at Jerusalem. The gospels of Mark and Luke tell us the story, in almost the same exact words. It did not take the disciples long at all to realize, that Jesus was more concerned about a matter far more important than just the temple at Jerusalem. They immediately realized that Jesus was speaking of his return to the earth, and they wanted to know as much about the matter as they could learn. **B.** Take heed. Greek-blepo (blep-o): to beware, or to take extra precautions concerning a particular matter (the attempts of others to deceive you). **C.** That no man deceive you. Greek-planao (plan-ah-o): to lead astray, seduce, or to cause one to stray from the truth. **D.** For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many. The world is filled with people who claim to be sent from God, and are leading many people astray from the true gospel of Jesus Christ, and who actually have nothing whatsoever to do with God Almighty. This statement made by Jesus, sounds

as though it could apply to the pretribulation period, which we are living in now, or the actual Tribulation Period. We read in Titus 1:10-11: "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake." We are also told back in Matt.

7:15-16: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." And in 1 John 1:10-11 we read: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed: For he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds." 2 Cor 11:12-15 also tells us: "But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." Peter also tells us in 2 Peter 2:18-21: "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.” And lastly, we read in Acts 20:28-31: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the

Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

We are being told very clearly in these scriptures, to always watch and be careful; for there will be false prophets coming continuously; attempting to lead the children of God astray. And they will come in such ways, that they will be hard to discern. The only way in which we can identify them, is to go completely by the Word of God. If their fruit does not meet the standards, or the requirements of the Word of God, then we must have nothing whatsoever to do with them. We are not guilty of judging others when we carefully inspect the fruits that others bear in their life. This is why God gave us the spirit of discernment. God tells us that it is better for us, that we never know the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, than to know the way and to turn away from it. a. Unruly-Greek-anupokritos (an-oo-pot-ak-tos): unsubdued, or disobedient (unto God). b. Vain talkers. Greek-mataiologos (mat-ah-yol-og-os): senseless, mischievous, or evil. c. Subvert whole houses. Greek-anatrepo (an-at-rep-o): to overthrow, or to turn around; figuratively speaking, to cause households of people to turn from the truth, and turn to wicked living. d. For filthy lucre’s sake. Greek-kerdos (ker-dos): gain, or in order to cause one to

advance or to prosper. e. We are once again warned by Jesus, to be very aware of the spiritual fruit which we see produced in a person's life. This is the only way in which we can identify who is of God, and who is of Satan. f. Godspeed-This word means to render unto a person the blessings of God, or to wish for a person to have the hand of God upon them. g. Occasion-Greek-

aphorme (af-or-may): a starting point, or an opportunity to begin a particular thing (deception in this case). h. And no marvel. Greek-thaumazo (thou-mad-zo): to wonder, or to closely admire.i. For when they speak great swelling words. Greek-huperogkos (hoop-er-ong-kos): words which are to the extreme, or exaggerated, or filled with lies. j. They allure through the lusts of the flesh. Greek-deleazo (del-eh-ad-zo): to entrap, entice, or to deceive. k. Wantonness-Greek-aselgeia (as-elg-i-a): a desire for gain in a deceitful manner; usually for financial gain. l. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption. This scripture is telling us, that those who come as deceivers, will promise to give hope and spiritual freedom, and prosperity, but they themselves inside are the servants of the devil. m. God's Word tells us that anyone who has come to know the way of righteousness through Jesus Christ the Lord, and then turns back and follows these servants of corruption, are in pitiful shape. We are told that it would of been better for them if they had never of known the way of righteousness, than to of known it, and then turned their hearts away from it. n. Overseers-Greek-a superintendent, pastor, or a bishop. o. Grievous wolves enter in among you. Greek-barus (bar-ooce): burdensome, or those who desire to gain for themselves in a sinful manner.p. Speaking perverse things. Greek-diastrepho (dee-as-tref--o): distorted, untrue, or corrupt. E. And ye shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars. We most certainly hear of many wars being fought throughout the world today; and we hear news broadcasts everyday, which tell us of war beginning in various places all over the world.

F. See that ye be not troubled. Greek-throeo (thro-eh-o): frightened, upset, or scared. Luke tells us in Luke 21:9, to be not terrified, which has the same meaning in the Greek language as the word troubled.

G. For all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. There is no need for any Christian to be overly concerned about

these matters. For they are just a fulfillment of prophesy, which must come to pass before Jesus returns for his Church. H. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. This is taking place right before our eyes as we live today. There are more nations involved in warfare today, than probably at any time since the Lord was on the earth; including our own nation; the United States of America. We hardly get out of one war, until we find ourselves in another. I. And there shall be famines. Greek-limos (lee-mos): a scarcity of food, hunger, or starvation. J. And earthquakes. Greek-seismos (sice-mos): a commotion, gale, vibration, trembling, or shaking of the ground. K. In divers places. Greek-poikilos (poy-kee-los): various, different, or separate. L. Luke also tells us that there shall be pestilences. Greek-loimos (loy-mos): plagues, diseases, or sicknesses.

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*M. All these are the beginning of sorrows. When we begin to see all these different things begin to happen upon the earth, we can rest assured, that the coming of the Lord Jesus is close at hand. We have witnessed every one of these prophesies taking place upon the earth for quite some time. Without a doubt, Jesus is coming soon; very soon! N. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted. Greek-thlipsis (thlip-sis): to be pressured with anguish, burdens, persecution, tribulations, and all sorts of troubles. The gospel of Mark tells us in Mark 13:9-10: **“But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. And the gospel must first be***

published among all nations.” And in Luke 21:12-15: “But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake.” a. But take heed to yourselves. Jesus is simply telling us here, to continue to have faith in Him; and trust fully in

Him for our full protection. Do not feel abandoned; for He will be with us through every trial and affliction which we may ever have to face.

b. For they shall deliver you up to councils. Greek-sunegeiro (soon-eg-i-ro): speaking of those who will attempt to rouse or disturb, or to bring one to a point of panic; or to cause one to feel as though they have no source of self-defense or protection, and to be speechless. c. And in the synagogues ye shall be beaten. Jesus is telling us that the time will come when many of his children will be beaten because of the stand which we take for his name’s sake; just as Paul testified of in Acts 17:37: “But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prisons; and now do they thrust us out privately? Nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.” d. But you shall be brought before rulers and kings for my name’s sake, for a testimony against them. Mark is telling us that the time will come when we will be brought up before the rulers and kings of the earth, because of our testimony for Jesus Christ; which condemns their wicked lifestyles. e. And the gospel must be published among all nations. We are told in several scriptures, that the gospel of Jesus Christ will be published throughout the entire earth, and then the end will come. It is believed today, that the gospel has been preached to every nation upon the earth. So let us look for the coming of Jesus Christ at any moment. f. Luke is telling us that before all the main events come to pass before the coming of the Lord, the leaders of the world will take hold on Christians, and put them through severe persecution, and deliver them up to the synagogues and the

prisons, and bring them up before kings and rulers for his name's sake.

O. Mark tells us in Mark 13:11: "But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not

ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost." And Luke tells us in Luke 21:14-15: "Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." Jesus is telling us, to not be overly concerned about what we shall speak, when these adverse times come upon us. For He through the Holy Ghost will give us the words to speak, when the time comes that we must give a testimony before the high officials of the earth. *P.* And shall kill you. Many are being martyred all over the world today, for the cause of Christ. It began not long after Jesus ascended back into Heaven; when Stephen was stoned to death, for his testimony for Christ; as we are told of in Acts 6:8-Acts 7. *Q.* And ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. It has come to the time, when being a Christian is a disgrace to the world. The world is so full of wickedness and ungodliness, that they hate anyone who attempts to live in opposition to their wicked lifestyle. But it is a thing which a Christian must get used to. If you are going to truly live the life that Christ would have you to live, then you had better expect to face hatred and rejection from the people of the world. And it is not going to get any better, but worse. For the devil is at work constantly, to bring trouble to the people of God. *R.* And then shall many be offended. Greek-skandalizo (skan-dal-id-zo): to become a stumblingblock, one who brings displeasure (to those who hate God), to be entrapped, enticed, or to be tripped up. The people of the world loves to trick and bring hardship to the people of God, in every way that they possibly can. It is when these things happen, that the children of God must remember

what God's Word tells us in Eph. 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We must realize, that it is the powers of Satan who influences these people to act in such a way as they act. And we must not attempt to fight against the people

themselves, but realize that it is a spiritual battle which we are in; not a physical battle.

S. *And shall betray one another. Greek-paradidomi (par-ad-id-oo-mee): to surrender one or to deliver one unto those who bring about unjust treatment upon a person, or who treat them violently. Mark tells us in Mark 13:12: "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death." Luke also tells us in Luke 21:16: "And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death." T. And shall hate one another. As was mentioned before, we are living in a world where people actually hate one another. They had just as soon kill one another, as to do anything else; and especially Christians, whom they consider to be their enemies.*

Mark tells us in Mark 13:13: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake; but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." And Luke tells us in Luke 21:17-19: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls." U. And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many. There are many false prophets all over the earth; and they are spreading everything except the true gospel of Jesus Christ. One must be especially careful in the day in which we live, in order to make sure that the doctrines which they are listening to, are true Bible doctrines.

Many people around the world are being deceived by words which are called gospel, but have nothing whatsoever to do with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have more denominations of churches today, than ever before. One would have to read constantly day and night, in order to ever be able to know the doctrines of them all. V. And because iniquity shall abound. Greek-anomia (an-om-ee-ah): transgressions, sin, unrighteousness, wickedness, or the breaking of God's laws in any way. W. The love of many shall wax cold. Greek-psucho (psoo-kho): referring to a lightening of the effects of (love), or to become weak in one area or another (love in this case). X. But he that shall endure until the end, the same shall be saved. In the day in which we live, it is very tempting sometimes to want to give up and quit the Christian walk; due to pressures from other people, the devil, and because of circumstances which sometimes seem to be too hard to overcome, or to be victorious in. But we must never quit! We have come too far to turn back now! If we will just continue to trust in Jesus, and live one day at a time, God will help us to overcome any obstacle which we may ever have to face. Always remember the promise that God gave us in 1 Cor. 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Let us never think of giving up; for if God be for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31) Y. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. There is hardly a single nation on the earth today, if any at all, in which the gospel of Jesus Christ has not been preached. We have missionaries and evangelists at work throughout the earth, preaching the gospel every single day. I do not believe that there is a person alive today, who can honestly say that they have not had the chance to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. I believe that we are right at the point in time, when Jesus Christ could

appear at any moment. Truly, He is coming soon; very soon!**Z.** These next few verses seem to be speaking of the time during the seven years of tribulation which shall come upon the earth, just after Jesus Christ returns the first time, to rapture his Church, and take them back to Heaven with Him. **AA.** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth let him

understand:) This is speaking of a prophesy which was spoken by the prophet Daniel. He was speaking of the destruction of the holy temple in Jerusalem, by the antichrist, at the middle of the seven years of the Tribulation Period. Luke tells us in Luke 21:20-24: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."**BB.** Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. This is speaking of when the Jewish people shall have to flee for their lives, in order to not be destroyed by the antichrist, during the Tribulation Period. When it speaks of fleeing to the mountains, it is speaking of fleeing to a city called Petra; which is about fifty miles south of the Dead Sea. Petra is a city which has its buildings and its tombs, and all of its magnificent attractions, including an amphitheater, carved out of the cliffs of the mountains. The

entrance to Petra is through a narrow high-walled gorge, known as the SIQ; which is over a mile in length. This gorge provides Petra with excellent defense from all its enemies. The city is situated in a basin that is about nine-hundred meters (3,000 Feet) wide, and about sixteen-hundred meters (one mile) long. The city is surrounded by massive sandstone cliffs of a dark red color. It is also said and believed that Petra will be off limits to the antichrist.

CC. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. This is still referring to the horrible Tribulation Period. As we are told here, it will be worse tribulation than has ever been witnessed by anyone since the beginning of the world. It is simply telling us, that it will be extremely hard on women who are bearing children in these days, and upon those women who have small children, who are still feeding from their mother's breasts during this time. And that they should pray that it not be in the wintertime, or on the Sabbath day, when they shall have to flee to the mountains for their life. For it will be extremely hard to make this trip during the cold months of the wintertime. And on the Sabbath day, many times there is great feasts and celebrations going on. The time will come suddenly, when the antichrist attempt to take their lives. DD. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. God will see to it that these days of persecution be shortened, for the sake of his chosen people. He will see to it that his people are protected. This is why the city of Petra will be off limits to the antichrist. EE. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you,

Behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. Jesus is just giving us an example of the kinds of lies that will be told, and how false Christs and prophets will arise in the last days, and do miraculous things, with the desire to turn faithful Christians away from the true Word of God. The only way in which Christians are going to be able to identify these false teachers and leaders, is to continuously read and meditate upon the Word of God, and

know it in their hearts; while at the same time, continuously praying for the ability to discern these false leaders. FF. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. I truly believe that the main impression which the Lord Jesus is attempting to make here in this verse, is that his return to the earth will be suddenly; at an unexpected time; both for the rapture of the Church, and also at the end of the seven years of tribulation. The example given of the eagles, is a representation of the children of God, as they run to God for acceptance and protection at his sudden coming; just as the mother eagle always rushes to the rescue of her young ones, in time of danger. This is just how Jesus Christ will do for every one who belongs to Him. GG. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. This is speaking of the time immediately following the seven years of tribulation. Some believe this verse to be a representation of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation; the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars, being the weakening of the strong state of that land in those days. Some believe it to represent the weakening of all the nations upon the earth at that time. And many believe that this refers to the end of all the tribulation which the Church must go through on the earth; the end of all spiritual warfare of all time. But we must remember, that the Church will reign upon the earth for one-thousand years

after the Tribulation Period; after Christ returns the second time, and throws Satan into the bottomless pit. And then at the end of the thousand year reign of Christ upon the earth, Satan will be loosed for a short period of time; at which time he will form his huge army, and try to overtake God's people once again. But he and his mighty army will be destroyed by God Himself. So the end of the Tribulation Period will not be the total end of all spiritual

warfare. **HH.** And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. When Christ returns the second time, every tribe of people upon the earth shall witness his great appearing in the clouds of the heavens, with much power and great glory. And there shall be great mourning among the people who are unprepared for his reappearance; such mourning as was never known before.

Yet at the same time, those of his children who have been able to survive the Tribulation Period, will shout with great joy; for they will see their redeemer coming with power and great glory. We are told in Rev. 19:11-16: "And I saw Heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in Heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." We also

read back in Rev. 14:1-5: "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from Heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before

the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. (They have followed and obeyed the Word of the Lamb, or the Word of God, continuously, as they went through the Tribulation Period.) These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." This is also prophesied of in Zech. 14:1-4: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south." a. Rifled-Hebrew-shacac (shaw-sas): plundered, or robbed. b. Ravished-Hebrew-shagal (shaw-gal):

raped, or forced to have sexual intercourse with another person.
c. Residue of the people. Hebrew-yether (yeh-ther): remainder, or those which are left; those who have abounded, or survived.

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II. And He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet,
and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Jesus is telling us, that his angels shall gather together his children, from the four quarters of the earth; from one end of the heavens to the other. **JJ. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.** Luke 21:29-31: “And He spoke to them a parable, **Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is at nigh at hand.**” We always can tell when summer is about to come upon us, by looking at the trees, and we begin to see the leaves begin to come back and fill the trees. Likewise, we can be certain that the coming of Christ is upon us, when we begin to see all the fulfillments of his Holy Word come to pass, which Christ tells us about in these scriptures. Without a doubt, the coming of Christ is at hand. The children who have been faithful in serving Him since his going away, know in their hearts that his coming is soon; very soon! And also those who are strong enough to survive the Tribulation Period, will most certainly know when He is about to return the second time, if they only believe his Holy Word, and watch for the signs to come to pass. **KK. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.** The word “generation” in this statement, means age, kindred, or offspring of Christ; or all those who have become “sons of God”

*through the blood of Jesus Christ. LL. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. The Word of God is more reliable to depend upon, than the pillars of Heaven, or the foundations of the earth. Luke 16:17 tells us: “**And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.**” We must always let our faith be in the Word of God, and absolutely nothing else. For God’s Word shall never fail us. **MM.***

*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only. The day that the Lord Jesus shall return to the earth, to rapture his children, and take them home to Heaven, is known by nobody except the Heavenly Father. Not even the Son of God knows when He shall be coming back, according to the Word of God. Mark 13:32 tells us: “**But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.**” **NN.** But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of man be. Before the flood came, Noah done his best to warn the people to repent of their sins; or else they would be destroyed. As a matter of fact, God gave them one-hundred and twenty years to repent of their sins. But they would not listen.*

They continued with their “merry” ways of living; their everyday social eating and sinful drinking; everybody getting married for the thrill of it; not at all out of true love. This sinful lifestyle continued until Noah and his family entered into the ark. Nobody took seriously what Noah had been trying to tell them for the past one-hundred and twenty years, until they saw the rain continue night and day, and the flood waters beginning to rise upon the earth. And then they began to get concerned. They started to think about what Noah had been trying to

get into their hard heads. They knew that they were going to be destroyed by the flood waters. All the yelling and screaming that they could do, was not going to save them now. Noah could not let them into the ark, even if he had desired to do so. For Gen. 7:16 tells us, that after Noah and all his family were in the ark, that God shut them in. This will also be the case after the Lord returns for his

people, the Church. Then and only then will people get serious about his Holy Word; when they begin to realize what has happened, and they begin to have to be under the control of the antichrist. As we are previously told, it will be terror and persecution like the world has never known before. OO. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken and the other left. It has been my attempt from the beginning of this lesson, to try and help everyone to realize, that the second coming of Christ could be at any moment. We have heard stories throughout the years, and seen movies and such, concerning the second coming of Christ. We have seen pictures of vehicles being wrecked on the highways, and things of this sort, because of the drivers being taken up into Heaven. It appeared as though the rapture took place, and the people who were unprepared to meet the Lord Jesus, were blinded to the situation. The ones who were taken up to be with Jesus Christ, just seemed to disappear, and were gone. We are told in 1 Cor. 15:52: "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." We do not know exactly how long a period of time will take place, when the Church is taken up to be with Jesus. But it sounds as though it is going to be a very fast situation. And if it is true, that the people who remain upon the earth do not know immediately what has taken place, it makes us wonder how they will not be able to hear the sounding of the trumpet. This I suppose is just

one of the mysteries of the Bible, that we are not meant to understand; at least not at this time. **PP. Watch** therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Greek-gonupeteo (gon-oo-pet-eh-o): to fall on the knee, bow to the knees, or to kneel down. The idea which the Lord Jesus is trying to impress upon us, is that we should always have a humble heart, and continue daily to be in a spirit of prayer before Him; looking for his coming, and

be prepared to face Him continuously. Mark tells us in Mark 13:33-37: "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto you all, Watch."

And Luke tells us in Luke 21:34-36: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

a. Overcharged-Greek-baruno (bar-oo-no): burdened, worried, or heavy.

b. Surfeiting-Greek-kraipale (krahee-pal-ay): headaches, seizures, or pains. God is telling us to not be burdened or worried about the day when the Lord shall come again; and not to allow ourselves to be overcome with sickness of any kind, because of being overly-burdened about the matter; or being overly-burdened about those we love, whom we know are not prepared to meet Him. But we must leave them in the hands of the Lord. For

He most certainly knows what to do to get their attention; and to bring them to the realization of the need to call upon Him for salvation of their souls. We must always live our lives in such a way as to be a Christian example unto them; and be prepared to face Him when He returns to the earth. This rule most certainly applies to those of us who live in our time today; and who are awaiting for the Lord Jesus to come and take us back to Heaven.

And it will also have to be the rule for those who fail to be prepared to meet Him when He returns for his Church, and who have to remain upon the earth, and go through the horrible Tribulation Period. But without a doubt, it would be very wise for them who are lost, to turn to Jesus now, and repent of their sins, than to put it off, and have to go through the horrible Tribulation Period. QQ. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. No thief ever comes when he is expected, but usually when there is nobody at home; when he knows that there will be nobody looking for their house to be broken into. He usually comes when there is no neighbors close by, who would be watching after the house. He always wants to come, when he knows that he will be the least expected. This will also be the situation when the Lord returns for his Church. He will return at an hour when nobody is looking for Him. This is why I encourage you, if you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, to turn to Him and repent of your sins today; for without a doubt, He is coming soon; very soon!RR. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. As I previously stated, I highly encourage you, if you have not done so already, to turn to Jesus at this moment, and repent of your sins, and invite Him to come into your heart, and be your personal Savior. And if you have any doubt whatsoever about the matter, I plead with you because I love you and care about you, do not take the chance of just thinking that you are in right relationship with Him; but know for

certain. Do not depend upon a time in your childhood, when you just think that you asked Him to come into your heart. Know for certain! Even if you think that you did so, do not take the chance on making a mistake which could cause you to have to spend eternity in Hell!

It would be much better to ask Him again, and be certain, than to take the chance on spending eternity in Hell. It

only takes a second to ask Him to forgive you, and to come into your heart. He promised that He would do so, if you will only ask. Rev. 3:20 tells us: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Greek-deipneo (dipe-neh-o): to share a evening or chief meal; representing to fellowship with one; but referring to a permanent situation; one without end. When one accepts Jesus Christ into their heart, it becomes a permanent relationship. Jesus will never leave you. He tells us in Matt. 28:20, that He will be with us always; even to the end of the world. And He also told us in Heb. 13:5, that He would never leave us nor forsake us. SS. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season. a. Faithful- Greek-pistos (pis-tos): trustworthy, sure or true (to one's word or to the duties placed upon one), or reliable. b. Wise- Greek-phronimos (free-en-mos): thoughtful, discreet, cautious, or skillful. c. Meat- Greek-trophe (trof-ay): rations, or wages. TT. Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. For a household to be ruled or managed in a Godly fashion, one must use faith and wisdom. The only way in which a man can have this faith and wisdom, is to look unto the Lord Jesus daily; and to daily rely upon the Word of God as their guidebook for the knowledge and courage which they need, to accomplish this goal. A household which is operated in a Godly fashion, will have family

members who continuously look unto God for direction and strength; and who love to serve and worship Him, and read his Holy Word. The greatest thing which a man can do for his family, is to guide and direct them in accordance with the rules of the Word of God. If he has family members who are lost or not in right relationship with God, then he must pray for them daily, and trust God to bring them to the point of realizing the need to call upon

his name. When a man is attempting to do such, then whenever God shall return for that servant, he shall be highly rewarded. UU. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. I am sorry to have to say such, but it appears as though the majority of the world falls under this category which Jesus tells us of right here in this verse. There are very few people on the earth today, who ever have even a thought of the return of the Lord to the earth. There are many who deny the truth that it will ever even happen at all.

The world is so full of corruption and sin of every kind; and people have forgotten all about worshipping God, or ever giving praise unto Him. The world is truly headed down the wrong road; and if they continue in this direction, they are truly going to find themselves at a dead-end, with no where to turn. People are not at all concerned today, about what tomorrow may bring to them. All that is thought about today, is just gaining as much as you can; any way that you can; even to the point of killing someone else if you have to; making sure that you look more prosperous than your neighbor, and just having a merry time as you go down the road of life. How often do we think about being a help to someone else? Or

how often do we ever think about trying to help someone who is struggling to live from day to day? It is surely time for us to get our eyes off of all that the world has to offer to us, and look up and see what Jesus is trying to give unto us. He is trying to give us eternal life, in a place which this world is uncomparable to. He is trying to give us peace and joy which this world will never be able to

give unto us. He gave his own life on the cross of Calvary, over two-thousand years ago, so that every one of us could have this kind of a life. But it is up to us, whether we want to receive it or not. And if we refuse to receive it, then these last verses of scripture gives us only a glimpse of the torture that we are headed for. We read in Rev. 21:6-8: "And He said unto me, It is done, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."a. Abominable-Greek-bdelusso (bdel-oos-so): to stink, disgusting (to God), or to be one who is totally rejected by God, because of sin and wickedness which one chooses to live in. b. Whoremongers-Greek-pornos (por-nos): a male prostitute. c. Brimstone-Greek-theion (thi-on): speaking of a substance which has a flashing effect; also represented by sulfur, which burns with a blue flame, and puts out a suffocating odor. The main point in using this word, is to represent the intense heat which we feel when we come near a flame which is burning blue. Hell will be the home of the greatest and most intense blue flames, ever know to mankind.

Conclusion:

Truly, Jesus is coming soon; very soon! And as we read

in Rev. 22:6-7: “And He said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophesy of this book.”

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And we also read in Rev. 22:12-13: “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” And our last scripture shall be from Rev.22:20, which tells us: “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

Calvin Smith



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