

## New Years Eve 2017

As we conclude another year and look forward into the next, we should take some time to keep some perspective and to focus/re-orientation

Two weeks ago, in the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ, we considered Light and darkness That study segued into our Christmas message last week

Ps 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Lamp (“candle”) unto my feet:

My feet are in my current location

Right here and now living in this world, my feet are in darkness

The sighted in darkness need light, provided by a lamp

As a stranger and a pilgrim in this world, the Word of God provides the illumination for my feet so I can stay out of trouble/harm in the darkness

Light (“luminary”, light from a heavenly body) unto my path:

My path is where I am going

Where am I going?

Into the future, then eternity

What luminary/heavenly body will light my path?

Jesus Christ, the Morning Star, the Sun of Righteousness,  
the Living Word (lamp, light)

That study is in turn a segue into this New Year’s Eve message

Luke 11:35 **Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.**

Ps 119:105

Starting at the house of God (1 Peter 4:17), many in modern Christianity are in doctrinal peril because they have abandoned

- the study of the Bible, in favor of ritual, fables, and ear-tickling self-illumination
- the study of Biblical prophecy, insisting it is irrelevant
- the lamp unto our feet and the light unto our path

Rev 19:10b the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy

How can we know

1. where we are right now
2. where we are going

apart from the Word of God?

- inspired...God-breathed
- inerrant...without error
- infallible...cannot fail
- eternal...from outside of time
- ALWAYS relevant...to ALL people living in time

### **Where are we right now?**

The timepiece for God's prophetic clock is...Israel

The history of Israel is recorded and preserved for us to

- teach us, give us an example...a case study

1 Cor 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

1 Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

- unbelief
- idolatry
- fornication
- testing Christ
- murmuring

- orient us in time, where we are in God's Plan of Redemption

- Part 1: God is King  
Genesis thru 1 Sam 8 (Samuel)  
Job

- Part 2: Jewish kings  
1 Sam 9 (Saul) thru 2 Chron  
Psalms, Proverbs, Eccl, Song  
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Zephaniah, Micah  
Jonah, Nahum

- Part 3: Gentile kings
  - Babylon
  - Persia
    - Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Obadiah
    - Ezra, Neh, Esther, Habakkuk, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
  - Greece
  - Rome
    - Matthew thru Rev 18
  
- Part 4: God is King
  - Rev 19-22, Ezk 40-48, sprinkled throughout others

So where are we in time, in God's Plan of Redemption?

At the end of "Gentile kings"

aka "the times of the Gentiles"

Near the beginning of "God is King" again

aka Mil Reign of Jesus Christ

A time long-awaited and hoped for by those who trust the Lord

### **Where are we going?**

According to the Word of God, what lies ahead

- in the last days of "Gentile kings"?
- before "God is king"?

The Day of the Lord

aka Jacob's Trouble, 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel, The Tribulation

Joel

Zeph 1:14-18

Matt 24, Mark 13, Luke 21

Rev 6-18

The days leading up to the Day of the Lord are characterized by Jesus in

Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 13

Matt 24:1-3 the sign of Thy coming and end of the world's system

a. deception

In Christianity – false doctrines and false teachers (prevalent today)

In man's religions – all are counterfeit/false lights

In Governments

In Corporations

- b. Wars and rumors of wars (nothing new in the history of man so must be “different”)
  - Nation v nation...
  - USA v ISIS (jihad, the spirit of Islam)
  - USA v NK
  - Ukraine v Russia
  - Russia/Iran (Syria/Hezbollah)/Turkey v Israel (Ezk 38-39)
    - Effect of Iranian nuke deal, Hezbollah weapons/drugs scandal
  - Islam v Western Civilization
  - Race v race...racial tensions (also nothing new, all races are racist)
    - USA

c. Distress of nations with perplexity...lots of troubles, no answers

d. Fear

e. Persecution of the Bible-believing God-fearing

f. The Days of Noah (before 1<sup>st</sup> worldwide judgment)

g. The Days of Lot (in Sodom and Gomorrah, stealing God’s sign of His covenant with Noah)

h. Jerusalem trodden down of the Gentiles

i. Jerusalem a burdensome stone...1948, 1967

Zech 8:1-3 must be in Jewish hands, “city of truth” fulfilled in Mil Reign  
Zech 8:20-23 in Jerusalem

Both in direct opposition to Is 14:13 (Lucifer’s 5 “I will”s)

I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north

Zech 12:1-3

VERY interesting development: USA announce move its embassy to Jerusalem

Note: Guatemala: not moving, but returning to Jerusalem

Lots of fear and trepidation around the world

While Iran (Shia) is vowing to help Hamas in the battle for Jerusalem, fascinating response by the Arab (Sunni) world

Arab States Furious

Ramy: spirit of Islam leaving ME for West(ern Civilization)

Egyptian woman’s testimony

He and me...going in 2018

Do our times read like Jesus’ teaching of the days before He returns?

Can we understand these times apart from Jesus’ teaching?

In His Word recorded in Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, Jesus Christ is teaching His disciples of the days before His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (to earth)...responding to “the sign of Thy coming”

The Day of the Lord is NOT the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ is at the end of the Day of the Lord

And, according to the prophetic Word of God, what happens before the Day of the Lord,

- in the last days of “Gentile kings”?
- before “God is king”?
- before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ?

The Rapture of the Church – Jesus meeting His Bride...in the clouds (not on earth)

**John 14:1-3**

Is 26:20-21    Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Nahum 1:7    The LORD *is* good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him

Hab 3:16, 18-19    When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.  
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

**1 Thes 1:9-10**

waiting...no signs before the Rapture like before the Day of the Lord

Matt 24:3...of Thy coming

Mark 13:4...the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled

Luke 21:7...what sign when these things shall come to pass

**1 Thes 4:13-18**

**1 Thes 5:1-9**

Rev 4:1    Come up hither/here...after Church history as the witness of Jesus Christ on earth

In context, Matt 25:1-13 is a parable to Israel to look for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ,  
NOT a parable to the Church about the Rapture

When is the Rapture of the Church?

Imminent...could happen at any moment

- in these last days of “Gentile kings”
- before “God is king”
- before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ

If we see what is going on in the world thru the lens of God’s prophetic Word...  
seeing things that will happen before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ...  
we must be more mindful that the Rapture of the Church is...even closer!

If these be true before the Day of the Lord, how much more true are they before the Rapture?!

Luke 21:28 *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh*

Luke 21:31 *So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand*

### **What are we to be doing?**

Watch and pray...do

Mark 13:32-37

Abiding, continuing, keeping

1 Chron 12:32 *And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do*

John 15:4 *Abide in Me (True Vine) and I in you...bearing fruit vs getting burned*

John 15:9 *Continue in My love*

John 8:31 *continue in My Word*

Jude 21 *Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life*

Phil 3:13-14

Sharing/Inviting/Going...ambassadors with urgency

1 Cor 7:29 *the time is short*

1 Cor 7:31 *the fashion of this world passes away*

Phil 2:14-16a

**Conclusion: Choose you this day whom you will serve**

Serve the Lord            or    serve Self  
Wait upon the Lord      or    rebel against the Lord

Zeph 2:1-3

Zeph 3:8

Follow the True Light    or    follow a counterfeit/false light (darkness)  
If these be true before the Day of the Lord and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ,  
how much more so before the Rapture?!

1 Thes 5:1-3    a false light, a false “peace/prosperity and safety”

Ezk 37:26      Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an  
everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them,  
and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore

Luke 21:34-36

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

Set your sights on Jesus Christ for 2018...and stay focused!!!

Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!