

August 18, 2021

Sister Shelbia welcomed everyone to the zoom meeting. 'We come to you excited about this new process. We are unworthy Lord, but we know you have whoever is suppose to be here in the meeting. We ask that you put the blood of Jesus all over this meeting. Give me the words you want me to share. In Jesus name, Amen.

VIDEO: Early Warning Signs

Pastor Robert Jeffress

Transplants to Texas from states like California are surprised by a number of things when they come to Texas. But one of the things that surprises them most is our weather. You know when you come from a state where the weather is pretty uniform - its all the same all the time, people who come to Texas are surprised that what starts out as a clear and beautiful day can change dramatically in the afternoon. Ominous clouds appear on the horizon, warnings come about threatening tornadic activity and thunderstorms. It can change very very quickly. One of those transplants said, since I moved to Texas I've discovered there are five seasons:

Drought, flood, blizzard, hurricane, and twisters. You know what he's talking about there. It can change very, very quickly and severe weather isn't something to laugh at.

We just saw a few Sunday's ago how devastating severe weather can be as a tornado ripped thru our city and did 2 billion dollars with of damage in just a few minutes.

When we moved to Wichita Falls back in 1992, it had been 13 years since a deadly tornado just about leveled the city of Wichita Falls and 13 years later people were still talking about what they called Terrible Tuesday.

I was reading this week that of the 10 deadliest tornado's in our country, 9 occurred before there was any advanced warning technology. Severe technology that would warn people about the approaching deadly tornado storm. Today we hear those warnings all the time. But its interesting how people respond to those warnings of severe weather. If you live in Texas you know what I'm talking about. If people hear that a tornado is coming or a thunderstorm is coming, they go outside to film it on their cell phones. They post it on social media. Or hail storms coming down and people go out and collect them and put them in a freezer. Sometimes people flaunt the warnings we get. They go outside with the attitude of 'I'm not scared, I'm gonna face it headlong'. Other people have a more common response and just ignore the warnings. We get so use to people breaking into our TV and radio programs and warning us of the storm that we grow numb to them. But those who flaunt or ignore storm warnings do so at their own peril. It can be very risky.

You know the Bible tells us there is another severe storm coming to our earth one day. It's gonna be the most fierce storm the world has ever experienced. It's the storm of GODS WRATH! And although the storm hasn't come yet, there are warning signs on the horizon. Remember what Jesus said in

Matthew 24: 1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

2 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.

3 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?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 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.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14 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.

15 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:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25 Behold, I have told you before.

26 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.

27 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.

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 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:

30 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.

31 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.

32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

43 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.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 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,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

There will be signs (not the tribulation itself) but they will precede the tribulation, like birth pains and when you see those signs its time to get ready. Those who ignore the signs of Gods coming storm upon the earth risk severe and eternal consequences.

And that's what were going to see in our study today in Revelation 6. Turn to Revelation 6 as we look at the early warning signs that will precede the great tribulation.

You heard me say a few weeks ago that I believe the church of Jesus Christ is safe from the coming storm of Gods judgement. We will not experience this storm. When I talk about the church, I'm not talking about those that are the church roll of the church. You can be on a church roll and not be part of the church.

1. THE CHURCH: SAFET FROM THE COMING TRIUBLATION STORM

The church is a collection of all true believers in Jesus Christ. That transcends denominations, the church building. Everyone whose put of the true church, the ones that have put their trust and faith in Jesus Christ, are not going to experience the coming tribulation; the pouring out of Gods wrath upon the earth. Why do you say that pastor? Several weeks ago I gave you a couple of reasons, but now I want to add a third reason to this.

THE CHURCH BELIEVERS WILL NOT BE HERE DURING THAT FINAL 7 YEAR PERIOD OF TIME.

A. ABSENCE OF THE CHURCH IN REVELATION 6 - 18

It's because of the absence of any mention of the church between Rev 6 thru 18, that describes the tribulation.

The church is prevalent on the earth and in Rev 2 & 3, Jesus was inspecting the churches. In 4 & 5 we suddenly see the church in heaven worshipping God, worshipping Jesus the Son. We are in heaven before the tribulation begins.

Then beginning in chapter 6, where we are today, the scene shifts back to earth and the beginning of the great 7 year tribulation.

And from the time of Rev 6:1 to 19:11, during that entire 7 years there is not one mention of the church of Jesus Christ. The reason is clear. We are not there. We are in heaven. Thank God we are absent from the earth during the great tribulation.

2. A SECOND REASON I BELIEVE WE WILL ESCAPE THE COMING STORM is because of the promise of *Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

This was Jesus message to the church of Philadelphia 2000 years ago. But its clear that he goes beyond that church; and looks down the halls of history. He tells us that he will save us from this time of testing - a testing that will come upon the whole world.

That's never happened before - testing of God upon the whole world. Church, you will be saved from it. The word 'from' means out of, nor thru. We will be out of the coming tribulation, but that doesn't mean the church isn't going to suffer persecution. Right now you look around the world and Christians are being persecuted all around the world. There is no promise that we will not escape

persecution, tribulation, hardship. That's been the testimony since the beginning of the church. **GOD IS GOING TO POUR OUT HIS WRATH UPON THE EARTH** and the Bible says in *Romans 8:1* *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

If you have trusted in Christ as your savior, God has taken out the wrath that you and I deserve and he has poured it out on his son Jesus, when he died on the cross in our place. And that is why I believe we will not go thru the great tribulation.

3. **THERE'S A THIRD REASON I BELIEVE WE ARE NOT GOING TO GO THRU THE TRIBULATION is THE CLEAR TEACHING OF 1 THESSALONIANS 4 -5**

4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.
 12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.
 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.
 15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.
 16 Rejoice evermore.
 17 Pray without ceasing.
 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
 19 Quench not the Spirit.
 20 Despise not prophesyings.
 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.
 23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
 25 Brethren, pray for us.
 26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.
 27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.
 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

And that's where I want you to turn first. When Paul wrote to these Christians at Thessalonica, he answered several questions they had. What happens to our loved ones who are Christians who die before the Lord returns? Are they going to miss out in the resurrection? You see the first century Christians believed that Jesus would come back before they died. And then they noticed something, his return kept getting delayed and delayed. Actually, he's right on time according to his time table, but they kept wondering why is he delayed. They wondered specifically, if our loved ones die, what happens to them? Do they miss out on the resurrection, so Paul is going to answer that question is verse 13. *Thessalonians 4:13*

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

What does he means who are asleep? If a Christian or our loved ones die they just go to sleep? No.

II Corinthians 5:8 says very clearly

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

If you are a believer, the moment you shut your eyes for the last time here on earth, immediately you will awaken in the presence of the Lord...there's no soul sleep. We go immediately to be with God, but you leave these old worn out bodies behind; and it is the bodies that are said to be asleep.

Always in scripture when it talks about the body, it is the body that is asleep. Paul says I don't want you to be uninformed about what happens to Christians who die before the return of Christ.

I Thessalonians 4:14

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Well how is that going to happen? Here is how its going to happen - 4:15

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

4:16 tells us how this is going to happen:

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

The cemeteries are going to be opened and the bodies of those that have fallen asleep in Christ will rise first - the bodies of those who have fallen asleep in Christ will be raised from the dead. If you are alive when the rapture happens, we will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air and thus we will always be with the Lord.

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Is this the second coming? NO - it is the rapture that happens seven years before the second coming of Christ. It could happen at any moment. We could be in the middle of this service and the trumpet could sound and the moment the trumpet sounds, summoning us home, the dead in Christ - so many of those who have died will be raised and we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. This is not the second coming. The Lord doesn't come back to earth, he comes in the air to gather all who believe him That's the midnight cry that we sing about.

And the Bible says that as we are caught up with Himm in the air - I Corinthians 15 says we shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.

1 Corinthians 15

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.
 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.
 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.
 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.
 29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?
 30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?
 31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our LORD, I die daily.
 32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.
 33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.
 34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.
 35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?
 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:
 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:
 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.
 39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.
 40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.
 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.
 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:
 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.
 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.
 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.
 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.
 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.
 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.
 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
 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.
 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?
 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

In this last week or so we lost a great deacon, Orville Rogers who was 102 this coming week.

Where is he right now? He is in heaven with the Lord, rejoicing. His body has been left behind. At 102, his body was in better shape than most of ours. The Bible says Orville needs a new body that's fit for heaven, not earth; and we need the same thing and the Bible says at the rapture we will receive that new body, and we will be forever with our raptured loved ones. Hallelujah. Amen!

The Bible says comfort one another with those words. That's the encouragement to Christians about the rapture.

Now, there was no break in the chapters. He continues in *Revelation 5:1*

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

1 Thessalonians 5:1

Now that I've talked about you Christian's and what's going to happen, we are going to switch topics. He says that we know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. What is the day of the Lord? The rapture? NO.

1 Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.
 12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.
 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.
 15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.
 16 Rejoice evermore.
 17 Pray without ceasing.
 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
 19 Quench not the Spirit.
 20 Despise not prophesyings.
 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.
 23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
 25 Brethren, pray for us.
 26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.
 27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.
 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

The day of the Lord always means the DAY OF GODS JUDGEMENT! The day of the Lord is a time to be fearful of; it is a time of GODS vengeance. THE DAY OF THE LORD. He's talking about the tribulation.

Know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night while people on earth are saying peace and safety; then destruction will come upon them (not you) suddenly and they will not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Could that not be more clear. The day of the Lord - judgement belongs to them, but not to us. We are children of the light and we don't have to fear the coming tribulation cause God is going to rapture us to be in heaven with him. That is why I am so sure Christians will not experience the wrath of God.

What is the tribulation? A time for God to pour out his wrath on the earth, but most specifically its a time for God to complete his work with Israel.

Remember 4000 years ago, God chose Abraham and told him that he was going to make him the father of the Israel. God selected Israel to be an object lesson to the entire world of God's love and holiness and so Israel has been the recipient of Gods blessing thru the years. But God has not finished His work with Israel yet. And I want you to see how the tribulation is the completion fo Gods plan for Israel before He brings an end to the world as we know it.

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

I want to show you the single most amazing prophesy in the Bible: There are 1000's of prophesies in the Bible but this is the most fulfilled prophesy any where i the scripture. Now it is 11:41 am. For the next 10 minutes we are going to wade into some deep theological waters. Got your waders on? If you will stay with me, you're going to see things you've never seen in the scripture before. And most amazingly, you're going to be amazed...at how you can trust God word.

Daniel 9:24

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Background for Daniel - he was a young Jew taken captive by the Babylonians in 586 BC. Daniel and all the people were discouraged by this; and years turned into decades and they were in Babylon, they naturally wanted to know if this was the end of Gods people. Is God finished with Israel? The temple has been destroyed. So Daniel began to pray to God and asked for a revelation of what the future would be for him and for all of Israel was well. God sent the angel Gabriel and Daniel received a look at the future.

Daniel 9:24-27

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

70 - 7's. What does he mean by this?

What Gabriel is saying is that 490 years have been decreed for your people's land your holy city. In these 490 years, here's what's going to happen to finish the transgression - to put an end to Israel's rebellion, to put an end of Israels sin (no more sacrifices are needed), Israels sins will have been paid for sometime during this 490 year period, to bring in every lasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophesy (no more prophesy needed any more), and to anoint the most holy place - to rebuild

the temple and make it a permanent fixture on the earth. When do we count down the 490 years? Is that 490 years from today? Gabriel tells us in verse 26.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

62 + 7 will be 69 weeks or 483 years.

There will be 483 years - God has a stop watch. It's has 490 on it. God will press this whenever the decree goes out to rebuild Jerusalem.

Remember, Daniel was in Babylon, but he says in some future time, someone is going to give Jews the go signal to go back to Israel.

It was March 14, 444 BC - Xeres gave a decree for the Jews to return and to rebuild Jerusalem.

From the time of this to messiah the prince (Jesus was presented as the son of God - when he entered the city on the back of a donkey and people said hosanna, hosanna). This was the national presentation of Jesus as the Messiah. Again, we know when this happened. Great pentecostal ministers have calculated this day to be April 2, 23 AD when this happened.

The time between the day Xeres issued the decree until Jesus rode into the city on April 2, 23 AD, was exactly 483 to the very date. THIS IS AMAZING!

Daniel lived in the 6th century BC, but he was able to look into the future because Gabriel allowed him to see it. Messiah the prince will be presented in AD 32. 483 years occurred then Jesus was rejected by the Jews. The stop watch stopped. 7 years are left for God to finish everything he's going to do with Israel.

The stop watch has been stopped for 2000 years. A number of things happen before the second 490 years began again, there would be a gap; and then after 483, messiah will be cut off (reference to the crucifixion); and the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.

This prince is the antichrist who will rule over a resurrected Roman Empire.

This originally happened in 70 AD when Titus entered the city and destroyed Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:27

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

This is when the final 7 years begins ticking off. When the antichrist makes a firm covenant for 1 week (7 years). But in the middle of the 7 years, he will break the covenant and put a stop to the grain sacrifices. There's 7 years for God to finish His plan with Israel. Right now we are living in the gap of the church age.

God has temporarily set aside Israel so he can allow the Gentiles to come to Christ.

Romans 11:25

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

When I finish my plan with the Gentiles, we are going to restart the plan with Israel. The end of this time is the rapture of the church (when all believers are gathered together) and the 7 year tribulation period begins.

How will the antichrist rise to power? As we see next week, when he does so, its without force.

People willingly follow his leadership. What is it in American that we would give up our freedoms to follow the antichrist? Our freedom of speech, commerce, religion! Why would people agree to this? This could be in part the chaos that ensues at the rapture when so many people disappear.

Just think, there are 2.6 million airline passengers in the sky. There are 46,000 flights trying to be managed every day. I was thinking, what if 1/3 of the air traffic controllers suddenly raptured away.

How about those who work the infrastructure, like those who work the electrical grids or water systems?

What if something happened catastrophically like this and people run to the banks to get their money?

Can you image what will happen socially when the chaos happens?

Thessalonians says the Holy Spirit is the restrainer in our world right now.

The Holy Spirit and Christians are holding evil in check. These are people who fear God and obey the laws.

Can you image if all the Christians are suddenly taken out of the world; and without God everything is permissible?

You can just see the chaos that will occur after the rapture.

I believe its the chaos that will result in people being so desperate for order that they will willingly follow anyone who says they can bring things out of chaos.

What is the purpose of the tribulation?

Why does God have to do this? There are 2 reasons for the tribulation?

1. **SALVATION OF THE ELECT** - you will see God's love and mercy even in the tribulation. He's giving earth one more change to repent. This is called Daniels 70th week - the time of Jacobs distress so Israel has one last chance to accept Jesus as their savior.

Jeremiah 30:7

7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

It's a time of Jacobs distress, but he will be saved.

Rev 7:9

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Many Gentiles and Jews will be saved during the tribulation time.

2. **IT'S A TIME FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF THE LOST.** A holy God cannot allow evil to go unpunished. Its is time for God to pour out his wrath on non believers.

Isaiah 26:21

21 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.

Let me just say this about an overview of THE JUDGEMENTS. They are a series of 3 different judgments:

7 seals Rev 6

7 Trumpet judgements Rev 8:2 - 11:19

7 Bowl judgements Rev 16

The first judgements happen in the first 3 1/2 years;

The trumpet and bowl judgments take place in the last 3 1/2 years.

The 7 seal judgments is like a TS3 thunderstorm - darkness with occasional lightning strikes, and pea size hail.

The 7 trumpets will be heavy rains, very dark, increased lightening, damaging winds, golf ball to baseball sized hail. Like a TS4.

The final one will be a TS5 - pitch black, on continuous lighting, tornadic activity, great sized hail, extremely damaging wind.

When we talk about the judgements, all of them are contained in the 7 seals. That picture of when God the Father hands the 7 sealed scroll to Jesus is so important for us. When Jesus takes possession of the 7 sealed scroll, he is holding in his hand all the judgments will culminate in the return of the earth belonging to Him. The 7 trumpet judgments are in the seals; and the 7 bowl judgments are in the trumpet judgments.

How do we prepare for this coming storm?

Look at me and listen to these words that come from the living translation

1 Thessalonians 5: 8-10 tells us how to prepare for these storms.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

But let us who live in the light and be clear headed. Protected by the armor of faith and love and wearing as our helmet, the hope of salvation for God chose to save us thru Jesus Christ. Christ died for us so whether we are dead or alive we can live with him forever.

Trusting in Jesus Christ as your savior today is the only way to escape the coming and certain storm of Gods judgments.

Sister Shelbia:

Aren't we thankful we are children of the light and the book of Revelation tells us how to be prepared to live in these times.

We are here for such a time as this!

RED SEA RULES, review

#1 – Realize that God means for you to be where you are.

#2 – Be more concerned for God's glory than for your relief.

#3 – Acknowledge your enemy, but keep your eyes on the Lord.

#4 - Pray!

#5 – Stay calm and confident; and give God time to work.

#6 – When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.

#7 – Envision God's enveloping presence.

#8 – Trust God to deliver in His own unique way.

#9 – View your current crisis as a faith builder for the future.

#10 – Don't forget to praise Him.

What we are seeing happening in our world today is not like anything we've seen before.

CONTINUE IN JESUS! 1 John 2:28 And now little children, abide in Him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming.

Be awake! We have to be aware of what the enemy is trying to do to us. Don't be asleep at the wheel! Notice how many times the bible says to be awake. **BE DILIGENT AND PRAY!!!**

UNDER THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS! We must abide there. How many times do we come across this as well in the Bible?

People think we are in the tribulation. **THIS IS NOT THE TRIBULATION!**

THE MARK OF THE BEAST – when you have to have satans mark to buy or sell. That will come at the middle point of the tribulation. **Revelation 13:16-17 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man night buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

Psalms 37:1-2 1 Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Remember this whatever we do we have to keep focused on God – through every wind of distraction and every news story we hear. **KEEP FOCUSED ON GOD!** *Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Psalm 86:

- 1 Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I am poor and needy.*
- 2 Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.*
- 3 Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.*
- 4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.*
- 5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.*
- 6 Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications.*
- 7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.*
- 8 Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.*
- 9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.*
- 10 For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.*
- 11 Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*
- 12 I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.*
- 13 For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.*
- 14 O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them.*
- 15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*
- 16 O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.*
- 17 Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.*

Shelbia hears people say we are all Children of God but the Bible is clear that all are not. Only those who are BORN AGAIN are Children of God!

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

1 John 3:1-10

- 1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*
- 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*
- 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

4 *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*
 5 *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*
 6 *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*
 7 *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*
 8 *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*
 9 *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*
 10 *In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*

Sister Shelbia is saddened when people say everyone is a child of God and they are in a better place.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-10

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thing heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Now is the time to accept Jesus as your Savior! Things are happening quickly so spread the word now.

Christians are distracted by many things; Aliens – I personally think this will be the excuse used for the absence of Christians when the rapture occurs.

DON'T BE DISTRACTED BY FALSE DOCTRINE! HANG ON TO THE BIBLE, GODS WORD, HANG ON TO GODS TRUTH!

Who am I? We have to be grounded in who we are in Christ!

IN CHRIST, I AM THE SALT OF THE EARTH AND THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Matthew 5:13-14 13
Ye are the SALT OF THE EARTH: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

I AM A CHILD OF GOD! John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

I AM CHRIST'S FRIEND! John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made know unto you.

I AM A SLAVE OR RIGHTEOUSNESS! *Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

I AM A JOINT HEIR WITH CHRIST! Sharing his inheritance with him. *Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Pastor Jack Hibbs has asked us to please pray for the 229 missionaries who have been sentenced to death by the Islamic soldiers. There are hundreds of children and adults who are being beheaded in Afghanistan right now. PLEASE PRAY FOR THEM!!!

PRAYER LIST – Sister Sharon reviewed the prayer list:

Remember the people in Afghanistan.

Pray for our leaders.

Those in Haiti - 2,000 dead from the earthquake; children who live in the country have crushed bones. We pray for this adventure we are having today – that God will help us succeed.

Dillion – 3 months old, needs God's healing

Steve – Getting ready for surgery next week

Carolyn – Surround her with love and your support

Amanda – hernia surgery coming up

Jara Beuford - covid

American's in Afghanistan

The persecution of Christians around the world

Kenny and Sheri's grandson Graeme, who left for college – God's protection and Jesus blood all over him

Father God in Heaven,

We praise you this day. How thankful we are that we have technology. We are hearing your word, and what Shelbia has to share. What a wonderful blessing.

For each person on our list, we know that you are the only one that can take care of these situations.

Please God, be with the people in Afghanistan! For the children in Haiti, be with them; for Jara, bring her through; keep Steve and Carolyn strong; surround Graeme with your protection and Jesus's blood; be with our children who are starting back to school. Be with all on our prayer list in a mighty way.

We love you! In Jesus name, Amen.