

December 28, 2024

## West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

### "The Gospel In A Nutshell for End Time Christians"

There is so much going on in our world today that foretells the imminent return of Jesus! Some of those things have been itemized in our previous newsletters, and there are more to be identified and elaborated upon in coming issues. But as I have been busy comparing Bible prophecy with the events of today, I suddenly realized that this editorial piece needs more than ever to be written for my readers, and for any others who are realizing the urgency of preparing for what is breaking. **We are entering a time when our safety with Christ is going to be our greatest possession!** Nothing else, no matter how shocking or trying, will matter if our hearts are not assured of our eternal safety with God.

And for those of you who may think you're okay with God today, I can tell you that the circumstances we are about to face will test our faith to the limit, and there will be great doubt in our hearts if our hope of salvation is based on **anything** other than, or in addition to, the **FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF!** It is because of the intensity of the crisis ahead and the need during that time to know NOTHING stands between ourselves and our Savior, that the following is so important to understand and embrace in faith! **WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND DURING THAT TIME, UNLESS WE ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF OUR STANDING WITH GOD,** and if there is **anything** of us or our spiritual virtues upon which our safety with God is based, it will fail us, and we may give up on ever being a part of that group that welcomes the return of Jesus.

THUS — THIS "GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL FOR END TIME CHRISTIANS," and I'm going to write this in the first person.

Once I was lost and without hope. Not only did my sins and failures of the past condemn me, but my very sin nature, for which I had no responsibility, condemned me. And asking God for forgiveness seemed fruitless, for the very sins for which I kept asking forgiveness continued to plague my life. As much as I "hoped" to be ready for Jesus to come one day, I knew inside I would always fall short of being ready to see Him come in peace.

Then I learned what I'm about to tell you....

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He literally became a part of our human family — my family — literally "flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone." He became one with me, just as I had been one with Adam, reaping the consequences of his (Adam's) sin in which I had no part. Jesus' incarnation be-

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Pastor Darrell Chilson

***"We are living in the season of Christ's return."***

***Jesus said, "Watch and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."***

***The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ's followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.***



**John 12:37-50 NIV**

**Belief and Unbelief Among the Jews**

**37** Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. **38** This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

**39** For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

**40** “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.”

**41** Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him. **42** Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; **43** for they loved human praise more than praise from God. **44** Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. **45** The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. **46** I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

**47** “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. **48** There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. **49** For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. **50** I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

**Questions:**

1. Cross referenced prophecies in this passage
  - a. John 12:38-39 (Isaiah 53:01)
  - b. John 12:40 (Isaiah 6:10)
2. Let's look at the argument Jesus makes in v47-50
  - a. What is Jesus’s goal?
  - b. Did Jesus come to judge?
  - c. Isaiah 29
3. Let’s talk about fear - V42 mentions that some leaders believed but did not openly acknowledge their faith..
  - a. Why did they not openly acknowledge their faith? b. Can you think of any disciples who acted in fear and did not claim Jesus? (Mat 26:69–75; Mar 14:66–72; John 18:13–18, 25–27 )
  - c. Who else that we know believed in the Lord but acted out of fear in one way or another?
  - d. What do you think it was like to believe but value the opinion of humans over God? I feel like that would rip me apart- to try to play multiple parts
  - e. What are synonyms of fear based on these examples?- Regret, panic, anxiety, angst, alarm, dread
  - f. We don’t know what happened to every leader mentioned but being afraid isn’t how it ends folks stepped up in solidarity...even if it was quiet-John 19:42
  - g. 1 Peter 3:13-16 - maybe Peter learned from his experience denying Christ?
4. (Open question) What does it mean to accept God's word?

came the basis upon which His life, death, and resurrection would become my very own. Jesus became for us all the “second Adam” — offering to us the credit for who He was and did!

For 33 years, Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to all that God requires of humanity. He not only lived a perfect life, He was perfectly righteous in being, without sin. Then, at the end of His life on earth as my Savior, Jesus endured Gethsemane and Calvary for MY sin/sins. Jesus’ solidarity with me enabled Him to bear my sin/sins, in which He had no part, on the cross AS ME, dying my eternal death, a death He didn’t deserve. He became me at Calvary, bearing my sin, dying my death.

And what follows is what is so amazing! My solidarity with Jesus, through faith alone, now enables me to claim AS MY OWN a righteousness that is not mine, and a perfect life AS MINE that is not mine but which meets every demand of the just Law of God — bringing for me a right standing with God, quite apart from my own efforts, that will withstand the scrutiny of the final judgment! When I, by faith alone, claimed all that Jesus was and did for me, I “passed from death to life”! Nothing can change that for me — not my fallen nature, not my faltering ways, not anything in me can ever separate me from the love and redemption that is in Christ Jesus alone!

All of this is yours too for simply reaching out in faith to claim that which Jesus did for you, as you! He lived your life AS YOU, died your death AS YOU, and came forth from the grave in victory AS YOU. When you claim it all in faith, it becomes yours as certainly as if you had done it! That is what will give you the anchor of safety with God, never to be questioned, at a time when nothing else is sure — even life itself! That time is just ahead!

That’s the Gospel in a nutshell for end time Christians!

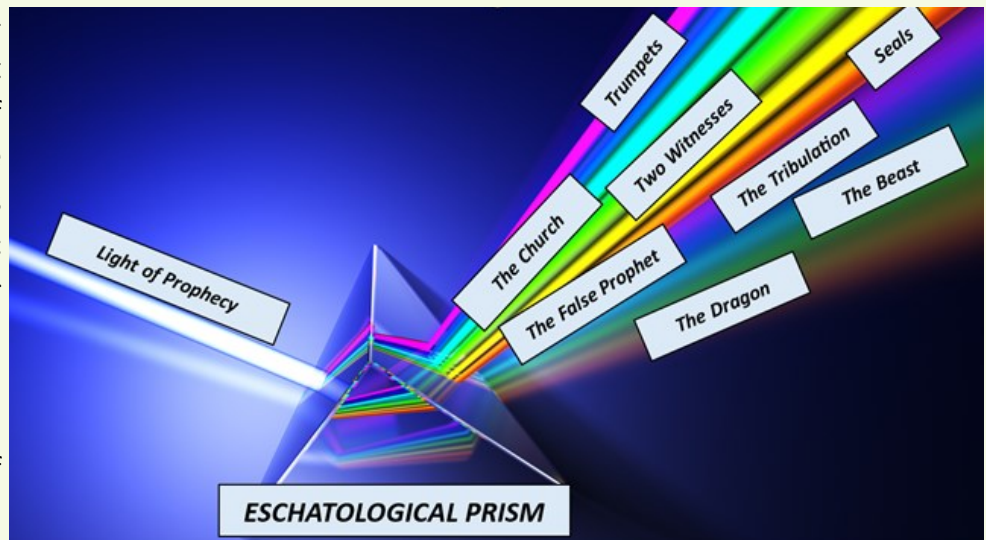
In Him,

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### SOMETHING EXTRA FOR YOU:

Just a graphic that illustrates the way in which the various pieces of Bible prophecy are separated into congruent yet individual parts to create just one picture, one story, of the last days in which we now live. Other pieces not shown in the graphic include: Demons in our skies and in contact with human beings in high places; the Trump effect; “the Golden Age of America”, and more!





## “REVELATION IN REVIEW” — Part 6


### Revelation 10

**“Another Mighty Angel” (verse 1):** This chapter begins with the description of “another mighty angel.” The description of the Angel is almost identical to the description of the Divine seen in Ezekiel 1 and 8, and Revelation 1 and 4. This is also one more occasion of several where the Bible describes Jesus as an “Angel”, and it’s important that we don’t miss the significance of this moment for the people of God, living at the end of time. For 2,000 years, the Church has been looking for the return of Christ. Even the Church of the First Century expected that Jesus would come in its day, not knowing all that must transpire before He did return. The hope of the followers of Christ has always been that Jesus would come in their day. Yet Paul tells us in Hebrews that the people of faith “all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth” Hebrews 11:13. The significance of the prophecy of this chapter is that what the Church has looked forward to for centuries is now about to come to pass. The promise Jesus made to His disciples, “I will come again” is finally to be fulfilled! “Soon” is “now” in this tenth chapter of Revelation!

**“A little book” (verse 2):** In verse 2, the Angel is said to hold a “little book” in His hand — a book that is open, signifying that what is described in the book is now to transpire. (If you will recall in Revelation 5, the “scroll” was sealed with seven seals. The events which were to transpire in the next chapter of Revelation were written on the scroll, but they were sealed until the Lamb opened them, one by one in Chapter Seven — the Seven Seals).

**“Sweet in the mouth, bitter in the stomach” (verses 8-10):** In verses 8-10, the contents of the book John is given to reveal the experience of the Church during its final days on earth. John’s experience in vision is what the Church will experience in reality just before the return of Christ. John is told to go to the Angel and take the book out of the Angel’s hand, and as he does, he is told to eat the book. Further, he is told by the Angel that when he eats the book, it will be sweet in his mouth but it will become bitter in his stomach. And that is exactly what happens to John as he experiences in type what the Church will experience in reality just before Jesus returns. (As is very often the case in interpreting prophecy, we find a parallel to John’s experience in Ezekiel 1-3 where Ezekiel also is given a book to eat. And what becomes Ezekiel’s experience in the Old Testament becomes John’s experience in this passage. Seeing this same story told in the Old Testament gives us insight into how we can understand the scenes of this New Testament prophecy).

So how is it that the experience of the Church during the last days will be both “sweet” and “bitter”? Note that the “sweet” is the **first part** of the experience at the **beginning** of the time period spoken of in this prophecy. It is at the beginning of this last brief trek to the coming of Christ that our experience is certainly “sweet.” As the Church sees that the coming of Christ is “at hand”, it cannot but be ecstatic! Even now, seeing the scenes predicted in Revelation materializing before my very eyes is so exciting that I cannot be silent! And as the voices of the special messengers of God begin their ministry, proclaiming with unspeakable power the “everlasting gospel” in the



setting of judgment, the Church will become alive with a renewed hope, a oneness and a spiritual fervor that “sweet” will hardly do justice to the elation that fills the hearts of God’s people.

But the prophecy tells us that what begins as “sweet” turns “bitter.” And so it will be. As the Church experiences the power of God’s Spirit, responding with a devotion and commitment to Christ and His cause that defies the opposition of the enemy and his agents, we will experience the full assault of “the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet” and all the wrath of those aligned with evil. The result will be persecution like we’ve never known, human rejection and the hatred of those around us, and ultimately for some imprisonment and death. The experience of the Church at the end of time will be that of the experience of Christ in the First Century. We will share in His sufferings. And there will be a “time of trouble, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24:21. What began as more than “sweet” will become more than “bitter”! Such is the prophecy relayed to us by John in Revelation 10.

**“There will be no more delay” (verses 5-7):** There can be nothing more wonderful to the Christian than the dramatic announcement of Jesus Christ described in this chapter that there will be “no more delay” — that His return is finally upon us — that evil is about to be confronted by our Warrior Savior — that we are about to see again in the resurrection those we have lost — that our heavenly inheritance is about to become a reality! John says, **“The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore...that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished.”** Revelation 10:5-7.

Daniel’s parallel prophecy declares, **“At that time Michael [another name for Jesus] shall stand up, the great prince,...and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake...”** Daniel 12:1, 2.

Paul describes the coming of Jesus, **“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”** 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

Jesus said, **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days,...the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,...and [we] will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory....And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from...one end of heaven to the other.”** Matthew 24:29-31.

Next week we will study Revelation Chapter 11 — the conclusion of the first half of Revelation which carries us to the moment when Jesus leaves heaven to come rescue His Church!

Stay tuned!