

"'Soon' Is Now" - Part 2

We are living in unprecedented times of change in America. Never before has the contrast between national weakness and national strength been so stark! Never has the difference between the contrasting ideologies within our nation, that of socialism and constitutional republicanism, been so prominent. Never has the corruption of government been so entrenched, <u>and</u> the will of the American people so fervent to overcome that corruption and restore the rule of law. And beyond our national borders, never have the stakes been so great in achieving world peace. And yet, at the same time, never has the return of our nation to the principles upon which it was founded, and the prospects of global "peace and safety" been so great!

Four years of socialism, corruption, and national weakness has created a cultural and political vacuum, now making the expected 180-degree change in the direction of our nation and the world-at-large even more conspicuous and consequential. Our next president, Donald Trump, even before his inauguration, is commanding the attention and respect of the world as no president has done before. His expressed intentions, as the leader of the free world, in national and world affairs, are causing world leaders to solicit his goodwill and his favor. And even his opponents in corrupt America are trembling at the prospect of retribution for their crimes, exposed and hidden. According to various news sources, Joe Biden and his staff are considering massive preemptive pardons, not for just the 1,500 death row inmates whose death sentences have already been commuted to life sentences, but for politicians in Washington. Any such "preemptive pardons", including that of Hunter Biden, are nothing less than an admission of guilt for crimes not yet exposed, investigated, and/or charged in a court of law!

And so, America <u>is</u> rising to prominence on the world stage, just as it must in order to fulfill its prophetic destiny. Revelation 13:11-18 indicates that our nation will ultimately call the rest of the world to "worship the beast and his image", receive its mark of allegiance, and persecute those who refuse to conform to its mandates. In order to have that kind of authority in the world, America must first rise "from the dust" of the present to a position of world dominance. And what is

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Pastor Darrell Chilson

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

Jesus said, "<u>Watch</u> and <u>be ready</u>, 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.



Our Instructor, Jessica Lindsey

John 13:1-30 NIV

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.' 19 "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. 20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me." 21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me." 22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." 25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

occurring at the moment is that necessary rise of America to world dominance. Under the administration of our new president, America will bring stability to the world, the appearance of peace and safety, and a return to law and order within its borders. We are already being told that "America's Golden Age is here"; "the Golden Age of America is upon us"; "America is back"; and so many other similar hopeful statements of America's rising greatness! And so it will be, if Donald Trump is reinstated without incident on January 20. America must become great again in order to fulfill its role in prophecy, and it appears that this status is imminent!

But there's also another important prophecy we must never forget – one which will be as surely fulfilled as all the others. Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3, "The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. When they say, 'Peace and safety', then sudden destruction comes upon them.... And they shall not escape."

"The Day of the Lord"

When we look at all the verses in the Bible that speak of "the Day of the Lord", we discover that this "day" is not a single day, but an era of time which includes the days of the judgments foretold and occurring immediately preceding the coming of Jesus, the day of His return, and the day of the ultimate destruction of evil and the wicked at the end of the millennium. In essence, the day of the Lord is a millennial "day" which begins with terrible destruction upon the earth.

"Peace and Safety"

There is no peace and safety in our world right now, and we haven't yet seen the extent to which terrorism and bloodshed, like we saw this week in New Orleans and Las Vegas, will dominate the landscape of our nation <u>before</u> the cry of "Peace and Safety" is heard in our land and around the world. The very prophecy of this declaration implies that there is yet ahead of us a terrible time of conflict and bloodshed which, when it is ultimately brought under the control of the strong nation now emerging under Donald Trump, will elicit such a cry throughout the land when peace and safety appear to be the final victory of a strong national government with a never-before-seen dominance in the world.

"Sudden Destruction"

The "sudden destruction" spoken of by Paul is not in reference to the actions of men, but instead, the actions of God in the final set of warning judgments upon the earth. I believe the events of the Trumpets of Revelation 8, which cause such destruction in the earth, are here referenced in particular.

A Possible Timeline

The Book of Revelation is a sequence of prophecies which encompass many characters and their stories in the context of the end of time. While there is a specific and well-ordered flow of each set of events which are yet ahead of us, many of the things spoken of in this prophetic masterpiece

overlap in their fulfillment, and I never want to be guilty of wrongly suggesting how each "story" will fit into the larger picture of eschatology. However, having said that, and in watching the emergence of prophecy being fulfilled even now, I'm going to provide my readers with a snapshot of how I anticipate present events and future events to proceed in the immediate future. Below is my <u>current</u> <u>view</u> of what we might expect just ahead.

Phase I

- The fight to establish a new administration in our nation, with all its moving parts and personalities and to inaugurate our new president on January 20
- The resistance of the "Left" to allow this to happen possibly using nefarious, criminal and destructive tactics to thwart the installation of our new president and his cabinet
- Terrorist events in our nation, creating bloodshed, fear and unrest, an example of which we have seen just this week we haven't begun to realize the horrors yet to come
- International conflict bloodshed (could be any number of causes: terrorism, rioting, revolution, international conflict with terrorist nations), pestilence (possibly pandemics) and famine will plague the earth and one-fourth of the world's population will be affected and many will die

Phase II

- A period of aggressive action by all the branches of our new government to bring stability to our nation and to the world
- A working peace will be achieved among nations, and a coalition of both religious leaders and the governments of the world will bring a sense of peace and safety

Phase III

- A movement toward a unification of faiths and governments will be considered the solution to lasting peace, and compliance to the mandates of church and state will result in the loss of the autonomy and the freedoms of individuals with religious convictions and an allegiance to Jesus Christ and His cause
- Technology will make possible the tracking of dissidents to the new world order of things, and there will be increasing discrimination and persecution toward those who resist compliance to and the control of the religo-political powers that are now unified in their aspirations to achieve world control
- There will be a cry of "peace and safety" which will ring throughout the land, even as God's people experience hardship for their faith

Phase IV

"The Abomination of Desolation" will stand, as foretold by Jesus in Matthew 24:15, and will mandate the worship of "the Beast" by the people of America and the world

The voices of Christ's special messengers (represented by the 144,000 and the "two witnesses") will be heard by the world as they make their appeal to the world to enlist their allegiance to Jesus Christ

The Great Tribulation will begin – a three-and-a-half-year period leading up to the coming of Jesus

The Seven Trumpets will sound, bringing God's judgments of devastating magnitude upon the earth

The "mark of the beast" (for the wicked) and the "seal of God" (for the followers of Christ) will be placed upon the foreheads of every living person

Phase V – The final events of the Plagues, the fall of Babylon, and the coming of Jesus – Revelation 15-19

We are living in the season of Christ's return – and, as the Angel of Revelation 10 told John, the experience just ahead for the people of God will be "sweet in the mouth and bitter in the stomach" – so wonderful at the beginning, so unthinkably difficult at the end. It's so exciting to see the movement of prophecy leading us to the final end of evil and the return of Jesus. And right now, as the "sweetness" of seeing the approach of the coming of our Lord thrills my heart, I want to be a part of all that is in progress – even though I know what is coming after this!

The storm ahead is going to be difficult – don't for a second let go of your Anchor, Jesus Christ!

In Him,

PC

"REVELATION IN REVIEW" — Part 7

Revelation 11

This chapter is one of the "interlude" chapters previously identified, and it tells the story of the special messengers of God at the beginning of the last three-and-a-half-years which precede the return of Jesus. The chapter begins with an angel "measuring" the Church — determining who the genuine followers of Christ are and who will receive the seal of God in their foreheads, indicating they are secure in God's grace before they enter the time of the Great Tribulation. At the same time, the ones who will be gifted with the message, the mission, and the special power of God's Spirit to proclaim God's final message of appeal to the world will be sealed with the seal of God for their mission.

Revelation 11:1 says the Church and those who profess to be followers of Christ will be "measured". Those in the world will not be "measured", as they will still be given opportunity to choose to follow Christ or to choose to offer their allegiance to the "beast" and align themselves with the power of evil. This process will precede the final catastrophic warning judgments of God — the Trumpets, says Revelation 7:3.

During this three-and-a-half-year period of time, the saints will be persecuted (Revelation 13:5, 7) by the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet, but the special messengers of God will speak for God to a world yet undecided about their allegiance — to Christ or the Antichrist. These messengers will be absolutely unstoppable in their mission — invincible against the forces of evil — until their ministry ("testimony") is completed.

When their ministry is complete and every person alive has chosen who they will serve, Christ or Antichrist, "the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit [Satan himself] will make war against them, overcome them and kill them" (Revelation 11:7).

The remainder of the chapter can be summarized in the following points:

- 1) The messengers of God lie in the streets in public display of their "apparent" defeat
- 2) The wicked of the world rejoice at their apparent defeat
- 3) After three-and-a-half-days, the messengers come back to life they are resurrected by God in the sight of the world! And they become a part of the company of the redeemed who ascend into the heavens to "meet Christ in the air" and inherit their eternal home.
- 4) A great earthquake, the fall of Babylon (the system of the papacy) and the death of many occur as Jesus prepares to rescue His Church

This unique picture of the "one-hundred-and-forty-four-thousand" (Revelation 7:4), the "two witnesses" (Revelation 11:3), "the angel flying in the midst of heaven" (Revelation 14:6) — all descriptions of the same special messengers of God described above — can be seen, in part, in various places in the Book of Revelation. But this chapter tells the great drama of their ministry and experience. And all the while their story is in progress, Gods' judgments are falling from heaven to earth to get the attention of the world and move the undecided to respond to the appeal of the messengers, demons are present in the earth doing their work of destruction and recruiting their forces for the final Battle against Christ and His Church (Armageddon), the powers of evil are persecuting the rest of the Church, and heaven is making final preparations for the trip to earth to rescue the followers of Christ and take them to their promised home!

What an exciting yet solemn time to be living!

Next week we will study Revelation Chapter 12 — the central and foundational story of the Book. The subject of this chapter is the war which began in heaven before the creation of the world — the conflict between Christ and Satan, and between the "seed" of the "woman" and the "seed" of the "serpant" (Genesis 3:15) — the drama of the ages which will end with the eternal destruction of the devil, his angels, the wicked, and the evil they brought to our race!

Stay tuned!