

May 18, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"I Can Only Imagine"

In 1999, Bart Millard, lead singer for MercyMe, composed and recorded the still popular contemporary Christian song, "I Can Only Imagine." I remember the night that a dear friend shared with excitement that song with Sammy and me for the first time, on his car stereo system. (You can watch that music video by clicking the following link):

https://youtu.be/N_lrrq_opng?si=g-m_uGpaBvuS7EL

The lyrics to that song come to mind as I contemplate the awe of those who, long ago, saw Jesus for the first time —

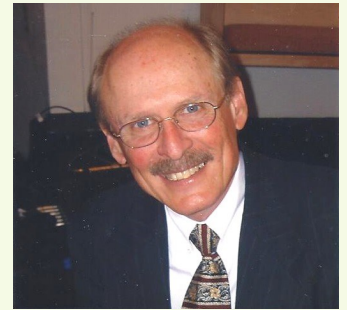
- ◆ The shepherds of Bethlehem — "Glorified and praised God..."
- ◆ The wise men of the East — "We have come to worship Him!"
- ◆ Simeon and Anna at the temple — "I have seen your salvation!"
- ◆ John the Baptist — "I have seen ... that this is the Son of God!"
- ◆ Peter — "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"
- ◆ John — "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled...[Him] we declare to you!" 1 Jn 1:1.

Can you imagine what it will be like when **we** see Jesus for the first time, coming in the clouds of heaven with the armies of heaven following — to hear His voice as He calls forth the dead from their sleep of death, to hear Him say to us, the undeserving recipients of His grace — to me, to you, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34. I can only imagine!

When we see Him then face to face, all else will pale in His presence. The disappointments and pain of this life will fade into nothingness as we stand before the eternal One, the Creator of both the infinite heavens and the invisible atom — **and Savior of sinners!**

That Day is fast approaching! The signs of Jesus' imminent return are unfolding before our very eyes. We aren't going to have to wait much longer! Until then — be sure not to let the "cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches" cause "that Day to come upon you unexpectedly" (Matthew 13:22; Luke 21:34).

In Him,
Pastor Chilson

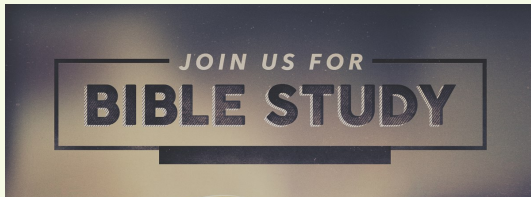


Pastor Darrell Chilson

"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.



JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES

John 1 –

35 Again, **the next day**, John stood with **two of his disciples**. **36** And **looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"** **37** The two disciples heard him speak, and **they followed Jesus**. **38** Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" **39** He said to them, "**Come and see.**" They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about **the tenth hour**). **40** One of the two who heard John [speak], and followed Him, was **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first **found his own brother Simon**, and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which is translated, the Christ). **42** And **he brought him to Jesus**. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, **A Stone**).

43 **The following day** Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found **Philip** and said to him, "**Follow Me.**" **44** Now Philip was from **Bethsaida**, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** **Philip found Nathanael** and said to him, "**We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.**" **46** And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "**Come and see.**" **47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is **no deceit!**" **48** Nathanael said to Him, "**How do You know me?**" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "**Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!**" **50** Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." **51** And he said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."



- 1) Note sequence of events in this story....
- 2) Who were the two disciples of John who followed Jesus? Try to relive their experience that day....
- 3) How many times does the phrase, "Come and see" occur in this story? Are there any tips in this story that we might gain for our witness of Christ?
- 4) What time of the day was "the tenth hour"?
- 5) Compare the "Stone" of verse 42 with the "Rock" of Matthew 16:18.
- 6) Where was Bethsaida (verse 44)?
- 7) "The Law and the prophets" (verse 45). Compare this verse with Luke 24:27 — "The Law and the prophets." What is this about?
- 8) What standard did Jesus use to indicate Nathanael was a "righteous" person?
- 9) Compare Nathanael's confession of who Jesus was with the testimonies of others who recognized who Jesus was.
- 10) Compare verse 51 with Genesis 28:12. What did Jesus mean?



ISRAEL AT WAR

October 7, 2023, a date only seven months past, was a day of terror for the people of Israel — unlike anything the Jews have experienced since the holocaust. And for weeks after the Hamas terrorist attack, the news was dominated by what was going on in the Middle East in the aftermath of that attack. Words like, “Gaza”, “Hamas”, “Hezbollah”, “Houthis”, “Iran”, and “IDF” became familiar vocabulary to everyone watching the news.

The ads put out on TV by the International Fellowship of Jews and Christians, soliciting aid for the people of Israel, became more compelling. Israel, a nation of Bible prophecy, was on the lips of most every evangelical speaker. And more recently, anti-Semitic/pro-Palestinian protestors have taken the national stage at the major universities in our nation.

What is it about Israel that is fomenting such heated opinion and discussion, such division on campuses and in the halls of government? Why is the war in Israel receiving even more publicity and reaction than the Russia-Ukrainian conflict?


The war in Israel is a political war, rooted in the soil of religion. It is a war similar in nature to the great conflict just ahead that will play out on the world stage. The final battle between good and evil, “the Battle of Armageddon,” will also appear on the surface to be political in nature, but it too will be a religious war — literally a battle for the allegiance of the world to Jesus Christ vs Antichrist — the last battle to take place on this earth before Jesus returns to end evil and rescue His Church. The Bible speaks of two groups in this conflict:


THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

“Then I saw another angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach ***to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation tribe, tongue and people*** — saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and ***worship Him*** who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’”
Revelation 14:6, 7.

THE FOLLOWERS OF ANTICHRIST

“...***All the world*** marveled and followed the beast (Antichrist). They ***worshipped*** the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they ***worshipped*** the beast, saying “Who is like the beast: Who is able to make war with him?”” Revelation 13:3, 4.





The present war in Israel is between the Jewish nation (political), once the favored people of God (religious), and a terrorist *religio-political* power seeking to annihilate Israel. On the exterior, it's a *political* war, but beneath the surface, it's a *religious* war — just like that which is ahead for the followers of Christ — *religio-political* powers at war with the Church of Jesus Christ! (Revelation 13 & 14).

SOME OBSERVATIONS:

- 1) Israel is a nation surrounded by terrorist states that threaten its existence.
- 2) America is an ally of Israel and is feared by many to also be the target of the same “religious” terrorist groups that threaten Israel. The cries of terrorist sympathizers, “From the River to the Sea” are accompanied by the cries, “Death to America.”
- 3) Israel was once God’s chosen people.
- 4) America was once a Christian “nation under God,” — a blessed and favored nation. In fact, just two days ago (May 16, 2024) a special ceremony at our nation’s Capitol, led by Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House, unveiled and installed a statue of Billy Graham — a Christian evangelist who was honored by those present as an icon of the Christian fabric of our nation.
- 5) Many Christians believe that Israel will play an important part in end-time prophecy.
- 6) The Bible indicates that America will be a very important player in end-time events.

FINAL THOUGHT:

Every day there is something new occurring in our nation (particularly) and in our world (generally) that reminds us that the end of all things is near. Political corruption, moral decay, lawlessness without consequences, Marxist policies in government and injustice in the “halls of justice,” spiritual compromise among Christians and the silence of too many religious leaders against the murder of the unborn. Our Republic is dead and the Church is dying for lack of conviction and the courage to stand against the tide of evil.

“Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed.” Romans 13:11.

Join us each week (2 p.m. Pacific and Arizona Time; 5 p.m. Eastern Time; 4 p.m. Central Time; 3 p.m. Mountain Time) for our class discussions. Click: <https://westvalleyend-timeministries-511.my.webex.com/meet/pastor> to join. To receive our weekly newsletter, please send an email with “Subscribe to Newsletter” in the subject line to: Pastor@wvetm.com. **HELP US BUILD OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY OF FAITH!**