

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ -



This is a capsule description of where all people are right now. Believers and nonbelievers in Jesus Christ are eternally impacted by the coming events and the imminent return to earth of the Lord. Make copies of this newsletter and give it to those you know. Forward it by email to anyone you would. (This newsletter may and should be copied, printed, or forwarded by email, so long as it is copied, printed, or forwarded in its entirety with the appropriate attributions included.)

WHAT WE KNOW

- I. We know that in the book of Daniel the angel told Daniel God was giving his people – the Israelites – 70 weeks (of years) to get their relationship with God right. That’s 490 years.

And we know that after 69 weeks of those years Jesus came into Jerusalem and was crucified and rose from the dead.

And we also know that for some reason not fully understood, there has been a gap in time since. The final week of seven years has not yet begun. The most apparent explanation is that God has provided this interlude in time for humans to be led to Jesus. We have all called this period the church age.

The final seven years is quite obviously the period known as the Tribulation. It has not begun.

- II. We know from 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 that at some point Jesus comes back down from heaven. There is a loud command, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

After that, or “then,” we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. What we do not know is whether there is any time period between the dead in Christ rising and then those who are still alive being caught up in the air. Most have assumed this all happens almost instantly. But the Bible doesn’t say that. It says after the dead in Christ have risen, then we who are still alive will be caught up.

We also know that when all this happens we will be clothed with immortality – we will get the new glorious bodies (1 Corinthians 15).

- III. We know already that numerous prophecies of things to happen before Jesus’ return have happened or are happening. These are described by Jesus himself in Luke 21, Mark 13, and Matthew 24, and by other prophets such as Isaiah and Ezekiel and the apostle Paul and many more. You can read or listen to or watch a video on all this on our web site or by looking at past newsletters or getting our CDs. There are so many prophecies, but chief among these are the reestablishment of the nation of Israel, the ingathering of the Jews

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into Israel, and the taking over of Jerusalem by the Jews. After hundreds and hundreds of years of nothing happening, suddenly early in the last century and continuing up to today these prophecies began to be fulfilled. Some are patently obvious, like the one about wars and rumors of wars. Our August 2013 newsletter has a quick brief list of numerous prophecies of the return and their fulfillment. You can read that on the website.

We know also that we seem to have moved beyond the fulfillment of largely physical events to two perhaps more disturbing ones:

(1) The great level of deception in the world that Jesus warned us about (It was his first warning when the disciples asked him about the time of his return: "Watch that you not be deceived."). The world is obviously full of deception at all levels.

(2) The great falling away – Paul made this warning, noting the day of the Lord will not come until there is a falling away from God and the anti-Christ is revealed. Certainly that falling away is overwhelming in the US and Europe now, even at the same time that God is bringing thousands to Christ in other areas.

We know also that beyond all this there are other remarkable signs occurring – signs in the heavens at times and sometimes just a coming together of several amazing events, such as is upcoming in September of this year. Go to our recent April newsletter for an account of this.

- IV. We know that things are getting more and more difficult for true Christians on this earth right now. In some countries we have seen Christians killed – sometimes horribly – just for being Christians. Such as by terrorists in Iraq or in the killing of Ethiopian Christians or by evidently just regular muslims on a boat in the Mediterranean when they threw Christians overboard. And perhaps more disturbing in the US, believers see they have a government that continually and still fails to recognize the worldwide militant muslim activities for what they are. I have written of the falling away in the US and the actions of the US government, and you can read that in recent newsletters and other publications.
- V. We know that it can't be too long before the Lord will come to collect his believers. How do we know this? Because the Lord said all "these things" will happen within one generation, and "these things" had to begin at least as early as 1948 when Israel came back into existence as a country.

And we know believers are going to escape the wrath of the Tribulation. Look at these words:

- (1) We do have the promise of the Lord in Revelation 3:10 given to the church at Philadelphia that he will keep them from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. Doubtless that refers to the Tribulation period.
- (2) And we know Paul's wonderful words in Romans 5:9 that since we have been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him.
- (3) And again Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 1:10, noting that Jesus rescues from the coming wrath.
- (4) And lastly Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:9 making the wonderful point that God did not appoint us to suffer wrath.

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- (5) Jesus in a strong conclusion to his talking about his return warned us in Luke 21:36 to be always on the watch and to pray that we may be able to escape all that is about to happen and that we may be able to stand before the Son of Man.

We do not know exactly when he will be coming to collect his believers, though. I have always thought it would be at the very beginning of the Tribulation, so that believers might avoid the entire horror of that period. But there is some possibility that it will be later, perhaps before the mid-point of that period, which is when the anti-christ takes up residence in the temple in Jerusalem and the greater horrors seem to happen. The last period is known as the Great Tribulation.

- VI. We do know much of what is to come during the Tribulation period. Since I expect believers to be out of here, or at least out during the Great Tribulation, I have not focused greatly on the Tribulation here.

We do know that at some point as described in Daniel 9:27 the anti-christ enters into an agreement or confirms a covenant with the Jews for seven years. I expect when this happens the Tribulation period begins, the anti-christ is revealed, and Jesus opens the first seal in heaven.

In the middle of the seven year period, as noted in the same Daniel verse, there is an ending to the sacrifice and offering in the temple in Jerusalem and an abomination that causes desolation is set up there. That abomination is also referenced by Jesus in Matthew 24:13 and Mark 13:14.

The anti-christ himself, the beast from the sea, rules for 42 months, or 3 and a half years. Nonbelievers trample on the holy city for 42 months, which would be the same period.

The two witnesses who testify for God are active for 3 and a half years. Then they are killed, come back to life in 3 and a half days, and rise up to Heaven.

It is during the 3 and a half year reign of the anti-christ that the mark of the beast is imposed on people, who need this mark to buy in his world.

The end of the anti-christ's reign comes in Revelation 19:19-21 at the battle of Armeggedon, where both he and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire and all of those in the armies opposing the Lord are killed.

There is more to say, of course. There are a couple of wars that haven't happened – one involving Israel fighting surrounding countries (the Psalm 83 war) and perhaps bringing about the destruction of Damascus as described in Isaiah 17 and the other involving the attack on Israel by a land to the north (Russia?) in which Iran is also involved. God wins that war for Israel. But this is the basic outline. This is what we know. And we know also what Jesus said to me in our kitchen one day after a horrible 2-3 month period of attacks by the enemy several years ago. I was standing there very weak and I suddenly realized he was on the other side of the counter. And he said, "John, I'm never going to lose you." He is never going to lose any of his believers.

- VII. There is going to be an end times revival. It seems possible that this is already underway in places like China, India, Brazil, and Africa, where tens of thousands are reported to be coming to Christ each week. Even in

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muslim areas there continue to be reports of Jesus appearing to individuals and of course the ensuing conversions. When and whether this end times revival includes the United States is not entirely known. I suspect it does.

- VIII. One last point to ponder. There is no obvious reference to the United States in the Bible, and especially not in these end times. There is reference to Babylon the great, the dominant economic power on earth with whom the world's merchants trade. There is much about the destruction of this Babylon the great, and we could focus on that at length. One comment and question – The Babylon that exists today, the city in Iraq, is not a powerful or dominant place so most likely it is not “Babylon the great.” When the writers of the Bible worked, they had to describe things in the distant future using words of their day. Is it possible that the United States is the “Babylon the great” in the Bible that meets such an untimely catastrophe as described in Revelation? Certainly the United States is still the dominant military and economic power on earth. And clearly, the monstrous and rapid fall from God and his truths and commands in the United States would indicate this is a possibility. Something for you to seriously ponder. More on this in coming days.

CONCLUSION

At the end of Daniel the angel noted what had been told to Daniel was being sealed up until the end of time. He also noted that many will be purified, made spotless and refined. The wicked will continue to be wicked and will not understand what is happening. But those who are wise will understand!

I say to you that we are living at the end of this age. Things are being revealed to God's prophets, to those who seek to know more, to God's people. You just need to look and to search. And to hear God. Amazing things have happened, not all of which have I included here or in any of my writings or materials. You need to be ready.

Jesus is coming soon. Be ready. He has warned you! The wicked will not understand. But the wise will. Be one of the wise. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Don't be distracted by the many meaningless activities and happenings of our day. Jesus will return at the appointed time. Nothing can delay that or will.

Again, we thank all of you who support this ministry with your prayers, your contributions, and all your efforts to get the truths of God out to a terribly fallen world. And we thank those who also have contributed in support of the ministries in Kenya and Pakistan as they operate in such difficult environments. We are so close to the return of the Lord. Help us get the message out to more and more.

And always remember to stay alert! The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

Note: There obviously is much more that could be included here, many many pages and hours of material. If you are interested in hearing more, invite us to your church or city for a seminar or course or service.

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