

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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ISRAEL, IRAN, AND THE EZEKIEL 38-39 WAR

I've written several times about the prophecy in Ezekiel 38-39 concerning a military attack on Israel from nations to its north. This is a dramatic event, and God himself stops the attacking enemy. It is an event that demonstrates God's power and his love for Israel in plain view for the people on earth.

Now, my thought on all this is that this attack occurs early in the Tribulation period. The countries involved are identified in the Bible, but primarily by names we do not use today, so much discernment is called for. One country clearly identified is Iran, called by its former name of Persia. Others we discern are Russia and Turkey and then some lesser players.

With all that as background, this recent Israel-Iran war was a bit confusing wasn't it? When the US got involved and destroyed the nuclear sites, it suddenly appeared we might see a regime change in Iran. Its truly evil and radical regime seemed to be on the way out. And if so, how in the world would there soon be an attack on Israel from the group of countries that includes Iran?

But then surprisingly there was a peace agreement. The current fighting stopped. And this extreme regime remains in power, with all its hatred of Israel and of the United States. And the Ezekiel prophecy remains on schedule.

OUR CURRENT LIFE IS A TRAINING PROGRAM

Our physical life on earth is an incredibly short period. I have mentioned that before. It seems long to us because this is the only time and place we have been alive, so it seems like everything right now. But look at our few years of human life on earth and compare it to the time humans have been alive, the time since Adam, or the age of the earth and the moon and the stars and so on. Our physical life on earth now is a trivial amount of time.

Which leads to a point I have often made. This life in a human body on earth for us is a training program, a time of development and growing close to God, learning and receiving all the revelation he has for us...if we are open to realize and receive. Quite obviously, many human beings are not open and do not receive, or receive very little. You can see that in the massive number of lost and confused people that populate our earth today.

Over the centuries, various people have come to realize the truth of our existence. Shakespeare's famous line that all the world is a stage and we but mere players on it captures some of the truth.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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But I think those who realize the truth of life are more than mere players; rather people being developed for a future in another environment.

Do you remember my writing in the past about the time I visited my old home neighborhood? All the houses were still there, and I recalled the various people who had lived in each when I had lived there, both adults and children. The same houses were still there, but the people now present were all new. The ones I had known were either deceased or moved somewhere else. These buildings and streets are a lot more permanent on earth than we people in our current human bodies. I remember once in Paris being on the Seine River, and a person mentioned that the average age of houses in Paris is 500 years. Imagine how many different generations and individuals each house has seen. Years later a similar thing happened when looking for a college for my son; he and I visited several places. One was Bowdoin in Maine. There we learned that Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had been students in the same 1825 class. Someone pointed out the room of one of these in a dorm. Imagine. They were ancient history to me. But the buildings they had lived in were still there and students still lived in them.

A stage. That is what it is. A training ground.

How many get all God wants us to receive while still here on this training ground? How many eventually wake up and receive Jesus as their Lord, grow in the truths of God, continue growing the rest of their lives on the planet? How many? God knew in the very beginning who would be the believers. The Bible calls these the elect. So the point of their time on earth is the development they receive. It's not a matter of book learning or memorization. It's a matter of revelation and deep learning right down in our hearts, like receiving the truths of divine healing in our very hearts, the truths of the gospel, the truths of God. It's realizing the truths of scripture, of Jesus' words, are real and can be relied on always.

When a person finally gets to that point, these many matters of daily life on earth really do recede into the background. (I remember reading Oswald Chambers writing about following Jesus and how everyone else just receded into the background.). Of course we have to eat and drink and sleep and work and walk and talk and study and so on. But the real focus of everything is Jesus Christ, who is after all God. He is the form of God that came to earth in a human body.

As we go on as believers, we find it almost disturbing at times that we have to pay attention to what seem to be trivial demands of the daily life. But we do have to remember they are not trivial to others, maybe others close to us. And again, we have to remember this is a training program for us as long as we are here.

When people who are obviously serious believers suddenly die, had they reached the end of their training here? We don't know the answer of course.

Similarly, what happens with basically decent people pass away who did not know the Lord and seemed to have no interest in knowing him? That is sad, isn't it, for we know there is no good future for them.

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Jesus really is the only thing that matters. It is still true. Overwhelmingly true. Very early in our ministry while walking on the beach at night, a voice came over the ocean : “Keep your eyes on me, John.” That became the sentence we have on all our stationery and CDs and newsletters and handouts and emails and more. We did modify it slightly, to “Keep your eyes on Jesus,” so it would apply to all.

The only thing that really matters is Jesus...and of course your relationship with him. When you are in that relationship, then your relationship with others and your daily activities will be governed by that relationship and the truths of the gospel. One caveat in this - you have to realize that your relations with others and in various happenings depend of course not just on you but on others and other things as well. No matter the circumstances, though, your focus will and should always be on him.

GIFTS JESUS HAS FOR HIS BELIEVERS

When we go to heaven with the Lord after he soon comes to collect us, we will receive wonderful gifts. I have written about these before but I do think many perhaps do not focus on them or remember.

Several years ago we produced a teaching CD GIFTS IN HEAVEN. If any of you can still play a CD in your car or have the ability to play that at home and would like to have a copy, let us know and we will send you a copy for free. We still have some in our inventory. Otherwise, go to our website to the video section and select the video *GIFTS IN HEAVEN*. That is a half hour television program we did on this subject, and you can watch it there or on YOUTUBE.

For example, to encourage you in this difficult time, just consider these great gifts the Lord has for us then :

21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. - Revelation 3:21

I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

— Revelation 3:11-12

To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give that one the morning star.

— Revelation 2: 26-28

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There are more but that surely makes the point. Please notice the Lord's use of the word overcomes. Obviously he values highly his believers who overcome the obstacles and challenges and hardship that come their way but still fight to overcome and persist in their faith right till the coming of the Lord.

These are tiring and depressing days, waiting for the Lord to come while watching society in general falling like a stone morally and otherwise. Well, we still have our assignment to tell others of the gospel message. Do not fail to ask the Holy Spirit to arrange divine encounters for you He would have you have. And be sure to use the gift of discernment in all occasions. It was never more valuable than it is right now in our day.

To close this short message, you should go to the very last page of the Bible and read the Lord's words in Revelation 22:12-16. There he speaks specifically of his coming soon and what will happen. Right at the beginning he notes that his reward is with him and that he will give to everyone according to what he has done. That phrase refers to of course what a believer has done since they realized the truth and were born again. People are saved by faith of course, not by works, but apparently some of the rewards themselves come based on works done while living as a believer on earth.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

To all who give to and pray for us and this ministry we thank you. And to all who are reading this, I ask, please help us continue to reach more and more people here and around the world with the truths of who Jesus is and that he is coming soon – the essential truths of eternal life for all people. That is the very overall objective the Lord gave me directly years ago. Any donation of any size is greatly appreciated. You can give by mail or by going to our website and using the donate button in the menu column which will help you to give using PAYPAL or any credit card.

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May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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