

HOW CLOSE ARE WE?

- as we stand at the beginning of a new year, we all hope for something better
- for many of us, 2020 was a year of trial and difficulty – I am sure that each one of us have our stories
- but guess what – God brought us through! He has promised to never leave nor forsake us!
- one thing is for sure – 2021 has started out with a bang!
- who would have ever believed that we would have seen the things we have seen this past week?
- this country is more divided now than at any other time in my life time
- I heard one pastor say after the events on Wednesday – “Get your house in order. The Lord is coming soon!” – Amen. Hope he is right.
- Because of what is happening so rapidly around us, many people are beginning to ask questions
 - Much like the disciples of Jesus when He talked to them about the Temple being destroyed – [Matthew 24.1-3](#) = Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”
- with that in mind, let’s look at what the Bible has to say about the times we are living in

SETTING THE STAGE – OLD TESTAMENT

- do you know that approximately 25% of the Bible was prophetic, speaking of future events, when it was written
- from the beginning, it has been the plan of God to dwell with his people
 - Adam in the Garden
 - The tabernacle in the wilderness
 - Solomon’s Temple
 - Jesus coming in the flesh
 - Our bodies being the temple of the Holy Spirit
 - Ultimately and finally = [Revelation 21.3](#) = And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- the story of the Old Testament is the unfolding of God’s plan of redemption for a fallen humanity, and it centers around the nation of Israel
- that’s why we read about the Old Testament saints looking for a city whose builder and maker was God – [Hebrews 11.13-16](#) = These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but

having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

- the books of Daniel and Ezekiel have a lot to say about kingdoms that will come and go, especially as they affect the nation of Israel

1. Kingdoms and empires ([Daniel 2.36-45](#))
 - a. The Babylonian empire
 - b. The Medo-Persian empire
 - c. The Greek empire
 - i. These 3 are specifically name later in Daniel
 - d. The Roman empire
 - e. The last days empire in which the King will come and crush the kingdoms of this world
2. The future history of the nation of Israel in Daniel's vision of the 70 weeks ([Daniel 9.24-27](#))
 - a. If your are interested in exploring this in more detail check out [The Coming Prince](#), by Sir Robert Anderson
3. The Restoration of Israel ([Ezekiel 37.15-28](#))
4. Alignment of Nations ([Ezekiel 38.1-17](#))

SETTING THE STAGE – NEW TESTAMENT

- Jesus had much to say in what we call the Olivet Discourse in [Matthew 24.1-14](#)

- for the sake of time, let's summarize some specific events

1. Religious deception
2. Wars and rumors of wars
3. International (world-wide) unrest
4. Famines
5. Pestilences
6. Tremendous persection

THINGS COMING TOGETHER

- Unsettling and trying times

- [Luke 21.25](#) = “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

- [2 Timothy 3.1-5](#) = 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
- Deceptions and lies
- God will send a strong delusion, and the world will believe the lies and be deceived – [2 Thessalonians 2.11](#) = And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.
 - Suppression of truth
 - Just look at what is going on with Big Tech and the Media
 - It began with all mentions of Covid-19 that disagreed with what the government wanted us to hear
 - Apostasy and persecution of those who hold to biblical truth
- Globalism / One-world government
- World Economic Forum
 - The Great Reset
 - Building Back Better
 - United Nations sustainable goals
 - Nations without borders
- Middle East peace agreements
- Abraham Peace Accord
 - What has been going on with Israel and certain of the Arab nations is historic and eye-opening
 - Warning = [1 Thessalonians 5.1-3](#) = But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.
- Europe and China
- Russian and her allies
- Rapture of the Church
- WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?**
- [Matthew 24.44](#) = “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.