

Bible Prophecy Update –March 28, 2021

Sitting on the Fence

JD Farag

All right. Good morning and welcome to our weekly Bible Prophecy Update. On Sunday mornings, we have two services, the first of which we devote to Bible prophecy, and the second is our verse-by-verse study through the Bible. We invite you to also join us at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time. We are currently in the book of Titus. Today's text will be Chapter 3:1-7 in a sermon I've titled "Much-Needed Reminders." We'd encourage you to join with us

We would really encourage you for the Prophecy Update to go directly to JDFarag.org for those watching on Facebook or YouTube. The reason for that is that the update in its uncensored entirety will only be available for viewing on the site, both the Livestream and then after the Livestream ends. For YouTube and Facebook, we just have the introduction, and then at some point, probably midpoint today, we will end the Livestream here, and it'll be on the website. So, with that, let's get started.

I want to do something just a little bit differently from what we usually do for today's update. I want to share what the Lord has been doing in my heart over this last year, specifically as it relates to the problem of not knowing who or what to believe with all the differing opinions on both sides of the issues.

To do that, I'm going to take and tackle another idiom this week, like last week. This week it is the idiom, a well-known idiom of "Sitting on the Fence." It describes this neutrality, lack of decisiveness, this wavering between differing opinions. While I realize that the differing opinions on this issue is not a salvation issue, I would argue that it is the most important issue facing each one of us today.

Now, please know that I don't pretend to know why others have taken the position that they have. Rather, I seek only to simply and humbly share with you why it is that I have not wavered on this issue over the past year. I'm hoping that what I share will be an encouragement and a help, especially for those that have witnessed much in the way of division and confusion, especially concerning this issue.

If you kindly allow me to, I'll begin by sharing with you four lessons the Lord has been teaching me. This is what I am learning in my own journey through all of this, and then after that, I want to expound on them from God's Word.

[#1] The first is that the Lord has been teaching me to have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church even if I don't want to hear it, let alone teach it. If you only knew how many times, I'm like, "Lord, no way." To which He responds, "Way." "No, Lord, this is really heavy. I don't want to hear it, let alone talk about it."

[#2] The second thing the Lord has been teaching me, and this is really important, is that "believing is seeing" and, as such, walking by faith. Whereas "seeing is believing" and, as such, walking by sight. Did you catch that? We have that saying; it is a secular saying, I am assuming, "Seeing is believing," right? Wrong.

We'll talk about this more in a moment, but it's the opposite. It's not seeing is believing; it's believing is seeing. The righteous shall live by faith.

[#3] The third thing, and this might come as a surprise, but the third thing the Lord has been teaching me is that Bible prophecy is true. Shocker, right? He has been teaching me Bible prophecy. Wait a minute, Pastor, you're teaching Bible prophecy. Yeah, but the Lord is teaching me Bible prophecy. How about that? In teaching me Bible prophecy, He's also teaching me that, according to Bible prophecy, this is how it ends. Life in this world will never ever return to normal, according to Bible prophecy.

[#4] Fourth, the Lord has been teaching me to lose my life in this world and not hold onto any hope for this world. That's been and still is a process, and I'll talk more about that as well in a moment.

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Again, let me hasten to say that I am in no way speaking of those with differing opinions. Rather I'm speaking of that which the Lord is still teaching me through all of this. Also, please know that I've got a long way to go. It's a daily fight of faith, denying myself, picking up my cross, and following Jesus as a disciple of Jesus. It's daily, daily. You know the thing about daily? I know this is deeply profound: It's every day, daily.

If you would, please let me expound on this from the Word of God. I'll start with one of the most powerful lessons God has been teaching me over the years. It's with the life of Elijah, especially during those times of profound discouragement and even despair. Wow, Pastor, you get discouraged? Really? If you only knew. But God... has used Elijah in my life during those times. Actually, that's another topic for another time. It's recorded in 1 Kings 19.

However, I would like to look at what happened prior, in 1 Kings 18. Here's a quick back-story of what goes down or, perhaps better said, what Elijah calls down. At this time, God's people were wavering back and forth between the false god of Baal and the true and living God of Israel. In order to get God's people off the fence, if you will, God has Elijah set up this contest to settle the matter.

Here's what's interesting. The worshipers of Baal believed that this false god, Baal, was the god of storms who had power over lightning, wind, weather, and rain. This is very important because even more interesting is that at this time, they were in the midst of a severe famine, but God is going to bring rain after this contest because, apparently, their rain god can't give them rain because he's no god at all. But apparently, you don't know that, so I need to let you know that, and I'm going to do it in a very dramatic way. I tell you, I love this account. It's one of my favorites, along with all the favorites.

But in 1 Kings 18:21, "On the day of the contest when all the people are assembled, Elijah went before the people and said, 'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal is God, follow him.' But the people said nothing."

They remained silent. Game on. This is why I know God has a sense of humor. Elijah says to the prophets of Baal, you guys, go ahead, you go first. Let's get the sacrifice, let's prepare the altar, let's put some water on it. I know water is rare right now with the famine, but let's pour some water on the thing. And you call on your fire god, Baal. I am sure he said it just like that too.

So, they start praying to Baal. No answer and then Elijah... what I love about Elijah... I can't wait to meet him in heaven. He starts having some fun with it. Why not? Because he knows it is a false god and he knows the true and living God, so he says, you know he can't hear you. So why don't you yell louder so he can hear you? So that is what they do. They start yelling and screaming and shouting. Still no answer.

Elijah says, this is getting better, so he then starts telling them, well... This is in the original language, by the way. You can check me on this if you want. Maybe he's relieving himself. No, translated: He must be in the bathroom. He cannot hear you right now. He's busy. So, they start cutting themselves, as was the custom. Very interesting, still nothing.

Well, this goes on, and finally Elijah's like, you know what? Enough already. Get out of my way, and oh, by the way, pour some more water on this thing. No, that's not enough; pour some more. More? Yeah. That's not enough; pour some more. I mean, this thing is just drenched in water. He says one time. He calls upon the true and living God, and fire comes down. I love it in the original because it's not a phrase we would use much in our vernacular. But it kind of has this idea: not only did the fire consume the entire sacrifice, but it also consumed the altar and "licked up" all the water. Hmm. I mean, it consumed everything. Oh, He is an all-consuming fire.

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In verse 38, when the fire comes down and consumes the sacrifice, oh, I guess that settles it, doesn't it? In verse 39, we're told that after this, "When they saw this [the people saw this], fell prostrate crying, 'The Lord - He is God! The Lord - He is God!'" Oh, sure, you weren't saying that a few hours ago.

Now, why do I start with this account because, hear me out, please? I am personally of the belief that the god, Baal, is alive and well today. Oh, he's not necessarily known by that name. The names have been changed to protect the guilty. It is not the god of Baal like it was then. Today, it is the god of science, the false god of science. Here is the thing: We're told that we need to have ears to hear and listen to science. No, thank you. I have ears to hear and will listen to the God of science.

This actually dovetails into the second one having to do with believing is seeing. Replete throughout Scripture, we see this truth demonstrated, and to me, one of the best examples is found in the book of Exodus. You know it well. The Israelites have just been delivered out of slavery in Egypt, a type of the world, by the way. Hang onto that.

Now they find themselves at the Red Sea, but the problem is, it's the Red Sea. If that weren't bad enough, the Egyptians are hot on their tail, only being kept at bay by this pillar of fire that God has put up to keep them away. Not only do they begin complaining, they actually accuse God of bringing them there to kill them, and they say this more than once, "Were there not enough graves in Egypt? You had to bring us out here to kill us?" Oooh.

What does God do? He's a merciful God. He's a gracious God, slow to anger, long-suffering, so He parts the Red Sea, and they cross on dry ground. After they are on the other side, hallelujah, praise the Lord! Miriam leads them in worship; thank You, Lord! Thank you for drowning the Egyptians because we are told that's actually what happens because then the fire is removed, they pursue them.

We are told in Exodus 14:30-31, "The Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus, Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt, so, the people feared the Lord and believed.." Seeing is believing. Wait, so how many days was it, maybe even hours, was it after that 10th (10th!) plague that they saw? That's a miracle. 10 of them! They saw that too, and they believed.

Now they get to the Red Sea; we don't know how many hours or days it was after the Exodus when they fled in a hurry, by the way. They get to the Red Sea, and then God does another miracle. Well, it seems like the previous 10 miracles weren't enough for their "seeing is believing." It didn't last very long. Well, it's not going to last very long now, either. Like with Elijah, it's after they see that they believe, but the problem is, seeing is believing is walking by sight, and it doesn't get you very far. In fact, it's only going to get them three days.

Exodus 15:22-26, "So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea. Then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water." Three days. "Now, when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore, the name of it was called Marah." That's what it means. "And the people complained against Moses..." 72 hours after this, and by the way, this actually happened.

Can you imagine? Here you are: you've got the Egyptians behind you and the Red Sea in front of you. Its kind of like this is how it ends. What are we going to do? Then God parts the Red Sea; the ground is dry. Oh, it's pretty clear now. I think we'll go this way. That's what I like to call "Red Sea clear." When I pray, I pray, "Lord, make it so clear, "Red Sea clear" that a fool could not err thereof. Can you imagine Israelite going? I'm not sure if this is the way we should go. Okay, that's fine, you stay behind, we go, right?

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I know that's a silly way to make the point, but you get the point, right? The clarity! I mean, it doesn't get any clearer than that. There's no wavering back and forth. Let's see: Should I go this way? Again, you'll forgive the silliness with which I illustrate that.

So, three days go by, and they come to this water, and they can't drink it. It's kind of like, what are we going to drink? Wait, are you kidding me? Three days ago, you thought you were going to die, and God parted the Red Sea, and you walked on dry ground and killed the Egyptians, and you're worried that God isn't going to give you water to drink?

This is early on... I mean, it gets very interesting later on. There's one conversation between God and Moses where they like completely disown them, the people of Israel, the children of Israel. Moses is like, what are you going to do with your people? And God's like, My people? What are you going to do with your people, Moses? They're not taking ownership of them; it gets so bad. Anyway, I didn't mean to take it that far. I love God's Word.

"So, Moses cries out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree [a picture the cross]. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet." A picture of the finished work on the cross. "There he made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them and said [listen to this], "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God..." Don't listen to those other voices. "Heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight and give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes [listen]. I will put none of the diseases on you, which I have brought, [I have brought] on the Egyptians. [The world, a type of the world.] For I am the Lord who heals you."

Here's another example in the book of Numbers, Chapter 21, beginning in verse 4. "Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way, and the people spoke out against God, and against Moses." Now you'll forgive me. It's not in the text. But I want to add the word, "again?" just for emphasis. "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

Oh, you don't like My manna? Conspicuously absent from the narrative is any prayer on the part of Moses, any dialogue, any negotiation, anything at all, which gives me the impression that this happened very suddenly. What happened very suddenly? Verse 6, " So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, and many of the people of Israel died." How about that?

"Therefore, the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people." I have to confess I probably wouldn't have. I'm just saying, which is why God probably would never put me in a position like that. You weren't saying that just about 10 minutes ago.

"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole.'" Don't think of it like this; it's the cross. "And it shall be that everyone who is bitten when he looks at it shall live. So, Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on a pole [cross] and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."

Now I want you to think through this with me. Think of the foolishness of this. You've got Israelites dying left and right after being bitten by these serpents that God sent, and all of a sudden, out of the corner of your eye, you notice Moses over here with this bronze serpent putting it on this cross. Then he says to you, "You need to look at this, and you'll be saved." What? I don't believe you.

Are you following me? The ones who did were saved and lived. The ones who didn't - didn't. Why? Because they didn't believe it. The cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. You mean to tell... come on! You expect me to believe that if I look and see, I'll be healed? You're telling me that believing is seeing? No, it's not going to happen. If they would, but believe, they would see the snake on a cross and be saved.

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You know where this is going, right? This is exactly what Jesus would say in the context of the most famous verse in all of the Bible, John 3:16. How about John 3:14, and Jesus is speaking, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Do you see the typology? Actually, it should be available online on our church website, also YouTube. When we were in the book of Numbers, this was such a fascinating study in typology. The snake, of course, is a symbol of sin. Bronze is a symbol of judgment; the pole, a symbol of the cross. We look upon Him who took upon Him the sin of mankind on that cross, and if we will but believe, "whosoever would believe will see and be saved."

Interesting side note, parenthetically: The modern-day medical symbol was derived from this snake on the pole. Did you know that? Of course, I don't know where they came up with the second snake. Just leave it to the world; they'll mess it up. I don't know where the wings come from either. But this is where it came from, the modern-day symbol for the pharmaceutical... If we lost you on YouTube, go to JDFarag.org... This is the medical symbol. This is the symbol for the pharmaceutical industry. It is a picture, a type of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Let's keep moving, fast forward, John's Gospel, Chapter 11. We have this account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. I want to draw your attention to verses 38-40. "Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 'Take away the stone,' He said. 'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.'" I think King James says it this way: "He stinketh." I kind of like that, "He stinketh."

"Then Jesus said..." I want you to listen very carefully to what he says to Martha and don't ever imagine that there's any disdain or disgust on the part of the Savior. It's compassion, grace, kindness, gentleness, mercy, love. "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" Jesus, seeing is believing. No, no, no! Believing is seeing.

Stay with me. Fast forward even further in John's Gospel to Chapter 20:24-29. We have this account of Thomas, who I think has a lot of bad press. We affectionately refer to him as "Doubting Thomas." I think a lot of people are going to owe Thomas an apology in heaven. I think Peter's going to be owed a few apologies too. He's been the subject of many sermons for many a Pastor.

"Now [verse 24] Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples, therefore, said to him, 'We have seen the Lord.' So, he said to them [this is Thomas], 'Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.'" Because for Thomas, seeing is believing. And I will not believe it until I see it. How many times have you heard that? How many times have you said that?

Verse 26, "And after eight days, His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, 'Peace to you!' Then he said to Thomas, 'Reach your finger here and look at My hands and reach your hand here and put it into My side.'" Again, when He says this, don't imagine there's any disdain in His voice. "He says, 'Do not be unbelieving, but believing.'" And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!'

Now listen to what Jesus says to him in verse 29. "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Do you see that? Seeing is believing, versus believing is seeing.

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This brings me to and ties in with the third lesson the Lord is teaching me, which is the belief by faith in Bible prophecy. Let me rephrase that. God's Word, of which one-third is Bible prophecy. Faith that this is how it ends according to Bible prophecy, and the belief that life in this world will never return to normal.

"Now faith [Hebrews 11:1] is the substance of things hoped for." Have you thought of it like this: What are we hoping for? Well, we're hoping for what we haven't seen yet. We believe by faith that which we have not seen. The writer of Hebrews says, "The evidence of things not seen." Who have we not seen? Jesus. It's called faith, the antithesis of sight. But we believe, but we haven't seen. See, that's belief, that's faith in the substance of things hoped for.

Let's camp on this word, "hope," for just a moment. Just last week and Titus Chapter 2... Was it last week or the week before? I don't remember; it's all a blur. We talked about the blessed hope. That's the hope. But yeah, but... no, it's by faith.

By the way, Ephesians 2:8-9 says, we are saved by grace through faith. What's faith? Right here: Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. This is: believing is seeing, by faith, through the eyes of faith.

Where do I get me some of that faith? I'm so glad you asked. Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Now, why would Paul, writing to the church in Rome, say that, that way? Here's a thought: Whatever you're hearing is where you're going to put your faith because faith comes by hearing.

That's the principle. So, if I'm hearing the science, then I put my faith in the science because that's where faith comes from, by hearing. That's why he delineates and establishes this principle that "Faith comes by hearing, but faith comes by hearing the Word of God."

Who are you hearing? Who are you listening to? I would suggest that whoever you're listening to and what you're hearing is that which you are getting your faith from and putting your faith in. This is why by the way, well, I better not say it now. I will wait just a moment. It's by way of this belief: This faith coming from hearing God's Word.

Again, I'm just speaking for myself what the Lord is teaching me. I'm losing my faith in this world. I am no longer holding onto any hope for this world. I've completely lost faith in this world. I have no hope in this world. This is John 12:25, "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." Again, let me just quickly say that this fourth one is a daily fight. The daily fight of faith where you let go of this world, the things of this world.

Well, this brings me full circle to the aforementioned idiom of "sitting on the fence," specifically as it relates to this current global crisis, and I call it that for a reason. At this time, we'll end the live stream on YouTube and Facebook, and if you're not already there, we want to redirect you to the website for the uncensored remainder.

As I was seeking the Lord this last week concerning today's update, I sensed that I was to revisit the prophecy update from one year ago to the day. It was March 29th, 2020, and here we are, March 28th, 2021. What a year! I went back to that update, and the link is there online. It's on our website, and the transcript is there as well. I actually pulled up the transcript from that update, and I want to share with you some excerpts from it.

Quote, this is March 29th, a year ago, to the day 2020. "I truly believe that this may, in fact, be that which ultimately leads to the rapture of the church, the Antichrist's revelation; and the 7-year tribulation, in that order, by the way. I have to be true to the Word of God and the God of the Word and tell you the truth, in love, concerning what the Bible says is coming next.

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Specifically, in the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, namely, that of a New World Order out of this world chaos and disorder. I would submit that what's happening now may, in fact, be creating the perfect storm for a one-world government, a one-world economy, and a one-world religion, exactly as the Bible says will happen at the time of the end. The reason is that this coronavirus pandemic has the propensity to collapse governments, crash economies, and unite religions as it seems that it is even now doing. I am becoming increasingly convinced that this is going to end in the rapture, for us, as Christians."

Now, why do I even mention this? I do so because I truly believed one year ago to the day and here we are today, and I haven't wavered in that belief to this day. Why? Because believing is seeing by faith, which is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of that which is unseen. And that faith comes vis-a-vis having ears to hear what the Spirit of God is saying through the Word of God to the people of God. That's why.

That's why it has been so, can I say this? Red Sea clear for me from day one. This is by the way, before the World Economic Forum, Event 201 - I knew nothing of that. Forget vaccine! I had no idea what was about to come on the scene, but the scene is what is seen. I know it is a play on words, but I wasn't going by what was seen. I was going by what God's Word said would be seen.

This is what's coming, and that's where faith comes, by hearing God's Word, Bible prophecy. So, I've been hearing this, and that's where the faith comes, and so I believe it, and because I believe it, and I believe it by the way! Is there any question mark on that, by the way? I truly believe with all my heart, and that's why I see where this is going. Did you connect those dots? I sure hope you did because that's the best I got if you didn't.

Here we are, March 28th, 2021, one year to the day, and dare I say everything we're told in God's Word about Bible prophecy in the last days is now coming to pass. This is why I am convinced that it's not all going to work out in the end because this is how God's Word says it will end. Again, you'll forgive me for repeating this, but I'm only sharing with you what the Lord has been teaching me over the last year.

I can stand before you today and say, and the Lord knows my heart when I say this, that my hope is not in this world or the things of this world. "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. On Christ the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand. When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found." That's just one of many priceless, timeless hymns of old.

I was thinking of the other one: "The world behind me, the cross before me. I have decided... By the way, a very intense story about how that hymn was written. I actually went into my archive notes and revisited them. I have in my library a book about the stories behind those hymns. That "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" will put you on your face. "Though none go with me, still I will follow. The cross before me, the world behind me." You can have it.

That's another hymn, isn't it? "Just Give Me Jesus." You can have this world; just give me Jesus... Oh, by the way, you have to wait until the rapture, then you can have it. It's all yours, by the way. I won't say it. My hope is in the Lord and the Lord alone. You'll forgive me, but I have no hope for this country. My hope is not in this nation. I love this country, but my hope is not in America. My hope is in Jesus, and not only is that hope in Christ's return in the rapture, our blessed hope, but it's also our only hope. I'll boldly take it a step further and submit that the rapture of the church is sooner than we can even begin to imagine.

If you'll hang in there with me, I want to share with you just two of over 100 articles from just last week that I have that speak to just how close we are. Now, as I quote these articles, I want you to think through and even superimpose the template on this. This template of believing is seeing, faith

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comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God, and that faith, by faith, we are able to see through the eyes of faith because we are told going to happen at the time of the end.

Let's take that template now as I do this. I'll start with this Op-Ed piece by Nick Cohen of The Guardian out of the UK titled, "It is only a matter of time before we turn on the unvaccinated." Here's some of what he had to say. "It is easy to see how the pandemic could lead to class and racial strife by imagining how the UK will stand in six months. The vindictive will start to describe Covid as a sickness of choice. Its victims will be victims of their own stupidity. They might have accepted vaccination.

They might have protected themselves and others if, as seems likely, vaccines limit infections." They don't. They are not even vaccines. "Rational people will ask why they should continue to accept restrictions on their freedoms because of ignorant delusions. Employers will demand to know what possible argument there is against allowing the owners of pubs, airlines, restaurants, hotels, or holiday homes to demand proof of protection when immunity passports might save their business. To make it personal [listen to this], how would you feel come the autumn if someone you love contracted cancer and the NHS delayed treatment because it had to look after needlessly ill COVID patients?"

Did you hear what he just said? It's just a matter of time, a few months. He's already speculating by the time the fall months roll around if you're unvaccinated and my loved one died of cancer, it's your fault. Oh, you're unvaccinated? You refuse to be vaccinated? It's your fault that my business is closed.

Back on February 25th, Reuters published an interesting article bearing the title of, "Left out? Israeli vaccine refuseniks fear exclusion as economy re-opens." Let me, before I quote from this article, explain what "refuseniks" are. The term originated in the former Soviet Union for someone who was refused permission to emigrate, in particular a Jew forbidden to emigrate to Israel. Also, a "refusenik" is a person who refuses to follow orders or obey the law.

Now, here are a couple of quotes. Now, keep in mind this is last month. Things have changed rapidly. "Half of Israelis have received their first shot, and the country began re-opening its economy this week after a year of lockdowns and remote working. But several activities have been deemed off-limits to the unvaccinated, angering those who cannot get the jab for health reasons or refuse it as a matter of principle. Some employers already plan to ban unvaccinated workers from the office, which rights groups fear could cost them their jobs." They won't be able to buy or sell. Hmm. I heard that somewhere.

Get this, quoting, "Whoever does not get vaccinated will be left behind." Interesting choice of words. That's a quote from Health Minister Yuli Edelstein, who warned in recent weeks. He made it clear that newly introduced perks for the vaccinated - including access to theaters, gyms, and resort areas along the Dead Sea – are incentives to get inoculated." Wow, you don't say!

I share these two specific articles because, again, I truly believe, and as such, see that this is exactly where it's headed. This is exactly what we are told in God's Word in the book of Revelation that in the 7-year tribulation, there will be those "left behind" who refuse the mark of the beast. I suppose you can say that they will be the "refuseniks" as it were, such that they will refuse the Antichrist and worship Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20:4... This is not the church! This is not the bride. We'll see them in heaven, but they're not the bride. They're saved in the tribulation; They'll be in heaven. They'll be in the millennium, but they're not the bride.

Revelation 20:4, "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the Word of

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God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years." We affectionately refer to them as the tribulation saints.

Here's the bottom line: I have good news, and I've good news for everyone, whether you're here or watching online or listening to this on the radio. The first good news is that those who are born-again believers in Jesus Christ will be raptured prior to the start of the 7-year tribulation.

The second is that if you haven't believed in Jesus Christ, today you can make the most important decision of your life for eternal life. It's not too late, but please listen: There is coming a time when it will be too late, and you will be left behind.

Now I am keenly aware that there are those who say, well, I still have a chance during the 7-year tribulation. Okay, I have a question for you: What makes you think that you're willing to die for Jesus Christ in the tribulation if you were unwilling to live for Jesus Christ prior to the tribulation?

This is why we do these weekly Prophecy Updates, and it's why we end with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the simple ABCs of Salvation, which is just a childlike explanation of salvation. What is the Gospel? The Gospel is recorded in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. It's also in 1 Thessalonians. It is the good news that Jesus Christ came, He was crucified, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day, and He's coming back again one day. Good news, that's the good news. That's the Gospel; that's what the word Gospel means.

What are the ABCs? Well, again, a very simple, childlike, simple explanation of salvation.

The A is for admit that you sinned. You are a sinner. Can you just indulge me? You're a dirty, rotten, stinking, sinner. Anyway, I am the chief of sinners, right? What does a sinner need? A Savior. Romans 3:10 says, "There is no one righteous, not even one." And Romans 3:23 tells us why "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

In fact, that is what the word sinned means: missing the mark. It's actually an archery term. Get this: If you, as an archer, shot the arrow into the target and missed the bull's-eye, do you know what they would say to you? You've sinned. Are you calling me a sinner? Yeah, you missed the mark. You fell short; you sinned. We have all fallen short of the perfect bull's-eye standard of God's righteousness.

Romans 6:23, now I'd like to liken this to a courtroom setting. Picture the setting here. You've got the Judge of the universe in the courtroom of eternity. Now you have been charged, and now you need to enter your plea. What's your plea? Guilty. Okay, now we are going to go to the sentencing phase, and the Judge of the universe in this courtroom of eternity sentences you to death. That's kind of bad news; would you agree? It kind of ruins your day actually ruins your life because you've been sentenced to death. The reason is that "the wages of sin is death." That's the bad news.

But are you ready for the good news? "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." You're not your own. You have been purchased with a price, and He paid it in full. He paid the price for the gift. If you paid the price for the gift, it's not a gift. It's a purchase. Are you with me? He purchased the gift, and He offers it to every single one of us - the gift of eternal life that He paid for in full: with His life, in His blood, on that cross.

The B is for Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. Romans 10:9 says, "If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."

Lastly, the C is for call upon the name of the Lord, or as Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." And here's why: "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." And lastly, Romans 10:13 seals the deal, "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

Bible Prophecy Update –March 28, 2021

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I would implore you; I make no assumptions. I know we have a lot of visitors, new people in this, God's church, and for that, we are so blessed, and we welcome you. We love you; we're so glad that you're here. I have not even met many of you yet or gotten an opportunity to get to know you, so I make no assumptions.

If you have never called upon the name of the Lord, today is the day. You do not put this off any longer. It is the most important decision of your life for eternal life. And if you're watching online, you're watching online because the Lord has you watching online or listening by some other means, and you've never called upon the name of the Lord? I implore you today, "Choose you this day whom you're going to serve." How long will you falter and waver between two different gods? If it is the Lord God, then follow Him. If it's Baal, then follow him." I wouldn't recommend it, by the way just so you know.

Can I share two testimonies really quick? This first one writes, "Dear J.D., greetings from Germany. As I watched the past 9 months of your Bible Prophecy Updates and got more and more inspired by the ideas the Holy Spirit gives people to spread the Gospel through the ABCs of Salvation, I wanted to write you what the Lord put on my heart.

I am housebound since winter 2020 with a chronic illness. Except for doctor visits and therapy, I hardly leave the house. So, I started to paint after learning that painting helped my soul relax and also produced some pictures for my friends. I discovered an online store where you can easily design your own flyers. As it's almost impossible to bring tracts to the mailboxes. The government's restrictions are complicated, and a booth in front of stores is forbidden because of COVID restrictions. We do have the legal option to hire a "Postal Service," which brings through the DHL "postman flyer" to households.

Here is the "Resurrection Flyer" my husband and I did to reach 5,000 households throughout Bavaria, the state we live in. We put your web address on it but created a German email account if people have further questions about the ABCs of Salvation. The Lord is faithful and gave me this idea. I would not have the strength on my own to develop that idea. All glory to Him, our Lord and Savior. I pray that through these flyers that lost people will get saved in these last seconds. Maranatha, Marie-Luise."

This second one comes from the brother that started the whole billboard thing. He writes, "Just an update from my neck of the woods. I have had a local sign shop produce these banners and signs that I have displayed on the side of a 40-foot container at my business property.

I get a lot of traffic that passes by every day. Please pray that some souls get convicted and saved!" I hope you do that, by the way, when the Lord puts that on your heart. Isn't that really what it's all about at the end of the day? It's getting Jesus to people and people to Jesus as quickly as possible.

He goes on, "I hope to finish enlarging a mobile sign trailer I also bought in order to fly these same banners out by the Highway (I love this brother) at certain intersections where they can be seen by more people. I don't share or say this for any other reason other than to, hopefully, encourage and spur others to do so. Or do even more if they have already done so! Keep on keeping on! Get the word out! Get it out any way you can! Time is short, and that's a grave understatement! The fields are ripe (I love that), but the laborers are few!

So few are even looking for our blessed hope, let alone believing in it at all. It's clearly in the Scriptures." I did not send him my notes for the Prophecy Update prior. Believing is seeing clearly. "It's clearly in the Scriptures, and if they are blind to that, how deep does their spiritual blindness go? I mean, really? To what end is that blindness where their supposed sight DOTH BEGIN?! God bless you, Pastor JD, my brother from another mother, but Father, the same!"

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Why don't you stand, and we'll have the worship team come up? We'll close in prayer. I did not say one last thing yet, did I? I still get a last thing. Don't worry; I'll figure one last thing up here really quick. Well, would you agree with me that it's just a matter of time and that there really is no more time? The time is at hand, and our redemption draws nigh, even at the door.

Jesus, in Luke 21:28, said, when you see these... watch this, I just thought of this. This is good. Thank you, Lord. I love it when You help me because I need all the help I can get. But when you see... Now we know believing is seeing, so you are not going to see unless you believe it. "When you see these things begin [those things that you believed in begin to come to pass] look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draws nigh." Lord, come quickly. Maranatha.

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Lord, if there's anybody that has heard this, Your word, today, and has been sitting on the fence, I pray that today, they will make the most important decision of their lives for eternal life.

Lord, thank You for the gift of eternal life. Thank you for purchasing that gift in full with Your blood on that cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.