

Sunday Sermon, Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope, Revelation 18:20-24 – March 23rd, 2025

FULFILLMENT OF JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY'S IN THE REVELATION PROPHECY'S CONCERNING BABYLON		
Gold cup, many waters intoxicating/deceiving nations	Jeremiah 51:7	Revelation 17:1-5, Revelation 18:6
Persecution and martyring of God's people	Jeremiah 51:49	Revelation 17:6, Revelation 18:24
Millstone sized boulder cast into the Euphrates	Jeremiah 51:63-64	Revelation 18:21
Sudden destruction coming upon Babylon	Jeremiah 51:8	Revelation 18:8
Destruction coming by fire upon Babylon	Jeremiah 51:30	Revelation 17:16
Final destruction making Babylon uninhabitable	Jeremiah 50:39	Revelation 18:21
The sins and abominations that brought destruction	Jeremiah 50:39	Revelation 18:6
God's people fleeing from and coming out of Babylon	Jeremiah 51:6, Jeremiah 51:45	Revelation 18:4
Heaven rejoices over the just judgment of Babylon	Jeremiah 51:8	Revelation 18:20

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

KAPONO: Would you join me as we pray? Lord, wow, that is so true, especially in these times, Lord, that You are the solid rock. As in the Bible Prophecy Update, Lord, Pastor JD talked about the two men building their house. Lord, would we continue to build our house on the solid rock foundation, Lord, of Your word. Would You guide us through Your word this morning, Lord? Would You teach us in Your word?

Clarify whatever it is, Lord. If there's anything that may be confusing or we don't understand, Lord, we know that's not from You. So Holy Spirit, would You make clear what it is that You would have us to learn this morning, Lord? And may we receive it, every last bit, Lord. So we thank You for our time in Your word.

Continue to be with Pastor JD, Lord. Give him strength again, as always, to continue serving and doing Your will. We ask these things in Your name, Jesus. We say Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. You can be seated. So glad you're here. So glad you've come. Those of you online joining us, we're so glad that you are. Guess what? Don't you hate it when someone starts off like that? What?

We're going to finish *Chapter 18*, today, of *Revelation*. That's not all. Wait for it. We're also going to be finished with Babylon forever. And you get to be here for it today. So our text, *Chapter 18*; we're going to finish the chapter. Thank you, Jesus. And our text, just four verses, *20-24*. So I'll ask you to stand if you're able. If not, no worries. Just where you're seated is fine. You can follow along as I read.

Verse 20, the Apostle John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, writing that which he is commanded to write, which he sees, witnesses, begins in *verse 20* by writing, **“Rejoice over her [Who's her? Babylon] you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you.”** Then [*Verse 21*] a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: **“With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, [And get used to this phrase] never to be found again.**

[*Verse 22*] **The music of harpists and musicians, pipers, and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No worker of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again.**

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

Your merchants *[Some refer to them as the elite, the technocrats] [Some say globalists]* **were the world's important people. By your magic spell** *[Some of your translations render it "sorceries"]* **all the nations were led astray. In her** *[Verse 24]* **was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."**

Wow, I just feel like closing in prayer right there. Let's pray.

Father, thank You so much. This is — (Sighing) it's in Your word. And it's here for us for a reason. Because all scripture is inspired and has a purpose. So Lord, You must have a reason for this to be included, to have John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to write it and preserve it and include it in the canon of Scripture, particularly in this *Book of Revelation*. So we're going to look to You, trust in You, rely upon You to show us what it is that You want us to see, speak to us what it is that You want us to hear, and Lord, lastly, but certainly not least, we want to have supple, teachable hearts to receive Your word, the seed of Your word, so that it germinates and sprouts and bears much good fruit. So Lord, will You do that for us? We're asking You in Jesus' name. Amen and amen.

And good riddance, Babylon, right? Yeah. Well, that's actually what I want to talk with you about today, particularly why it's so important to know what God has in store for us in order to give hope to us. Yeah, you've doubtless heard it said; I've said it before many times.

When you know what you have to look forward to, it makes whatever you're going through easier to get through because of what you have to look forward to. And that's the case here.

Actually, this is, I believe, one of the main reasons as to why God inspired the apostle John to write what he's shown and send it to the churches and then subsequently preserve it in the canon of Scripture for 2000 years, just for us here on the windward side of Oahu today.

Because God's word is alive and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, bone and marrow.

Here's what I'm thinking. God in His love, grace, and mercy, wanted the church then, as He wants us as the church now, to know how this all ends. How does this all end? With our blessed, assured, hope, blessed assurance, the blessed hope of the pre-Tribulation rapture of the church. And as I've often said, it's not like: "I sure hope." (Said questioningly)

That's not our blessed hope. Our blessed hope is a blessed assurance that we put all of our hope in. Now, why? Because God is a compassionate God. God is a merciful God. God is a

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

longsuffering God. I won't look at anybody. I'll just speak for myself. Especially in my case, He has to be.

But He's slow to anger and not willing that any should perish but all should come to repentance and everlasting life. So He's going to do everything and stop at nothing so as to strengthen and encourage and renew battle-weary Christians who are giving in to hopelessness. Just like we as earthly, fallen parents, sinners, dirty, rotten — okay, I won't take it that far.

[Laughter]

Jesus even said as much. If you as earthly, fallen fathers know how to give good gifts to your children when they ask, how much more your heavenly Father? So I want us to, with this backdrop, this understanding, and it's germane to our understanding of why we even have such graphic detail, I mean, this would be probably R-rated if we went by that system this dramatic, violent fall of this great city that had deceived all the nations of the earth. Why? Because God wants us to know how it ends. Because when you know, by way of example, how the book ends — I know people who read the end of the book before they read the book. Why? Because they don't freak out in the middle of the book. Because they know how the book ends, and it ends good. And it steadies them as they're reading through the catastrophic, you know, as the plot unfolds and the mystery.

Or a film. I think about these series, you know, some of these series on demand, on these venues. You know, you scroll down, like Season 12. Twelve? Twelve seasons? And each season has 22 episodes. How much time do you spend in the Word and in prayer? That's like 22 hours for one season. I'm getting convicted. I'm not going to go any further with that. But here's my point. You're not going to freak out about Season 7 because you know that there's Season 325, and you know it ends good.

So the hero is not going to get killed. Oh, he's getting tortured. Is this too much? Should I use a different example? But you know that he emerges in the end and prevails. And so it settles you. And you don't lose heart, and you don't freak out. It doesn't look good right now, but you already know how it ends. So, eh! I know how it ends!

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

I think the same thing is true in a sanctified way concerning God's love for us. He wants us to know how it ends and that it ends very well for us, so that when we're in the midst of that trial, adversity strikes, hardship hits, we know in the end how it ends. So chill out. No worries. God's going to see you through. He has to. He's given you His word. We call this the word of God. It's the word of God from the God of the word who is the God who gave us His word, and He can never go against His word.

One has counted over 3000 promises in God's word. I have a deep admiration for people who do things like that because I would lose interest in the first ten minutes trying to count all the promises in Scripture. But they've counted over 3000 promises that God could never break, 3000 passages, or scriptures, that God has given us His word.

And I wonder; I liken it to the Israelites who were given the Promised Land but never entered into all that was promised them. In fact, it's believed by some that the most they ever occupied of — I gotta be careful with that word — the occupiers. Let me try — let me — give me a do-over.

The most — that's God's land, by the way, that He gave to His people, the Jewish people. Jerusalem: He owns it. He's put His name on it, literally. We've covered that in prior Prophecy Updates. The Shin. He's literally — you know His name of ownership is on the title deed to Jerusalem: Yeru shalom the city, the possessor of peace. Shalom. In Arabic, we say Salaam. Salaam alaikum. In Hebrew, it's shalom. I like Arabic better. Just saying. I might be a little bit biased, but...

So I think God wants us to be steady, be a steady Eddie. Anybody here named Eddie? We love you. It just rhymes with steady. I could use Freddy. Anybody here named Freddy? He wants to steady us and ready us when everything around us is in utter chaos and turmoil. Everything is falling apart. And God wants us to have this much-needed reminder. Did you? Did you already forget? Did you forget what I have in store for you?

Go back and read the ending. It has this effect, much-needed effect of settling and calming my fear, my anxiety, my heart. And that's not all. It also has the much-needed effect of bolstering with a holy boldness and sanctified strength my hope in Jesus Christ, and His soon return in the rapture of the church.

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

You know every time we partake of the Lord's Table, the communion celebration, which we do the first Thursday of each month, there's one key word that Jesus says that I think sums it up. It's the word **"remembrance."** **"Do this in remembrance of Me"** and what I did for you. Remember that I died for you, I was buried, I rose again from the dead on the third day, and I'm coming back for you soon and very soon one day. Remember? It sounds like, and it looks like, and you're acting like you forgot.

And it's a recalibrating. It's a re-centering and a reminding me that I'm saved, man.
(Gasping) That's not asthma.

[Laughter]

That's excitement. No, I mean even just now sharing this with you, teaching this to you, what it's doing for me up here. I mean, I'm looking at some of your faces. I don't know if you share in this experience, but man, I'm like, all right! It's almost like, you know what, Babylon, let's get the show on the road because do you know what's ahead?

That's why I picked this title of 'Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope.' You can flip it back around. If you find yourself in a place of hopelessness and despair, and please do not misunderstand me. There are times when the bottom falls out. I get it. I've been there. I've drunk deeply from that cup. I know that pain. I'm not talking about that. There is a time to grieve. And there is a time to weep.

But so too is there a time to rejoice. And that time is coming actually sooner than any of us might realize. So here's what I want to do. I want to draw your attention to just three — see, that gives you hope right there.

[Laughter]

What's ahead to give me hope? I only have three points today. That gives me hope, knowing that you only have three ahead. But three, actually three of many, truth be made known. Three of many reasons that what's in store for us is that which can revive and renew hope in us.

And the first one is in *verse 20*. And it's that rejoicing is soon coming. Did you notice that in one verse John writes, **"rejoice"** three times? That's pretty impressive. And notice who he's saying **"rejoice"** to. The heavens! Hang on to that. God's people, rejoice! The apostles and

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

prophets, rejoice! Why are we rejoicing now? Babylon has finally fallen forever, never to be heard from again. Rejoice!

Okay. That's then. Let's talk about now when my alarm clock goes off tomorrow morning, Monday morning. Isn't there are a song written about hating Mondays? There are no Mondays in heaven. Rejoice. Okay, well, that's then. We don't know how soon. We know it may be soon and very soon. But do you realize that when John writes, "Rejoice O heavens," he's speaking to us?

Here's how I get there. We're already there. We were caught up to heaven back in *Revelation Chapter 4:1*. And from there on out, the word "church" is not even found in the *Book of Revelation*, Ekklesia in the Greek, not one time. It's 19 times in Chapters 1, past; Chapters 2 and 3, present. That's where we're at right now.

Chapter 4:1 John hears the sound of a trumpet, God saying, "**Come up here.**" To which I say, "I'm coming. Beam me up. Catch me up. Get me out of here!" When he says, "**Rejoice O heavens,**" he's talking to us and about us rejoicing because we're already in heaven during this time for this event of the fall, finally, of Babylon forever. Here's where I'm going. For those who would say — and I get it — I'm the same way.

Yeah. That's in heaven. We're still stuck here on earth. I still have rent to pay, bills to pay. My car broke down. I got a lot of cockroaches. The termites are back. So, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Rejoice.

And I'll speak for myself. I won't look at anybody when I do this. But you know we're in these earthly tents, this flesh. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. And it shows up in sometimes our praise and worship. And again, I'm not talking about, or anyone — actually, I'm talking about other Christians in other churches, not you. That was a good save, though, wasn't it?

But I mean, it's kind of like, you know, "Rejoice O heavens." And so we're, you know, we're (Singing monotone) Praise God from whom blessings flow. (Snoring)

Yeah, that's not going to happen. It's not — it's going to be — you won't be able to hold it in or hold it back. And oh, by the way, you can start rejoicing now. "**Consider it all pure joy, my**

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

brothers and sisters, when you encounter trials of various kinds,” knowing that it's God doing a work in you.

When I first — as an early, early in my Christian life as a young believer — I — James, right? Yeah, I have — James is not a book you enjoy. James is a book you endure. And when you understand that this is the half -brother of the Savior of the world, you get it. I mean, could you imagine growing up with God incarnate as your half-brother, always keeping His room clean? And Mom and Dad going, why can't you be more like your brother? Well, He's God and He's perfect. That's why.

So it kinda comes out a little bit. You know he doesn't pull any punches. You know he calls people adulterers and adulteresses for being friends with the world. Man, if he was a pastor of a church today, nobody would go. I would. I'd be in the front row, Yell! Preach it, brother! Spit on me. Baptize me.

[Laughter]

That's my kind of preaching, man. That's some of that old time preaching, right?

So Pastor, I kind of think I understand what you're saying about why wait till we're in heaven to rejoice. We can start now. If you're here today, or watching online, and you're going through the trial of your life, rejoice. Those who are not just cliches or empty words or things you say to pacify somebody.

No. They're based on sound doctrine and the promises, unbreakable promises in the word of God for you. James says you can rejoice, consider it pure joy. I think in the original it must say, consider it pure hell when you're going through trials, right? Consider it pure joy. That's almost cruel. Come on, be for real. No. You can.

And here's how. Knowing that God is producing, and by the way, answering your prayer that you prayed, that you forgot you prayed. Remember? God, make me a man of prayer. Oh, no, he didn't. Oh, yes, he did. Well, I'll make you a man of prayer. I'll give you two teenage boys. That'll get you on your face. Make you a man of prayer.

How about this prayer? Lord, please make me more patient. Ooh! You've heard that quip, that clever quip: God, give me patience, and give it to me now! Well, here's the thing. I will

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

answer that prayer. I promised you I would. I can't go back on My word. So I will give you patience. I will make you a man of prayer.

But here's — it's going to be on My terms, not yours. So how are you going to be more patient and more a man of prayer? By going through the trial. Oh, how I wish there were a shortcut. I wish I could fill out some forms and apply for a certificate of patience or something.

No, it's what Paul wrote to the Corinthians in *1 Corinthians 10:13*, which is so paraphrased, and it comes off like this: God won't give you more than you can handle. You know everything's going smashingly well for them. Here you are, hanging on for dear life. God won't give you more than you can handle.

And I'm like, God, give them... (Chuckling) Anyway, don't do that. Don't. God doesn't answer those prayers.

But he says that God will not try you or test you or tempt you, same word in the original, above that which you are able, but with the trial, He will provide you an escape route so that you can bear up under it. Did you catch that? In other words, you got to go through the furnace of affliction to get the patience you just prayed for, to get the endurance that you've been asking Me for, that I want to give you.

But this is how I give it to you. Because what you don't realize is like those trees, particularly this plumeria tree we have in the front yard — when we first moved here, I said to my wife, it was in December, I said, it's dead. She says, “No, you'll see,” you know, being a Kailua girl, you know, Spring will come. No, but the thing is dead and brown and brittle and ugly, quite frankly. She said, “no, no, no, no, no, no, no. You'll see flowers and all the aroma.”

But see, during the storms, the winter storms that hit in life, the root system of that tree is strengthening. How so? Because of the storm. It makes it stronger. You know what they call smooth sailing and blue sky? A desert, a barren desert. Nothing grows. We don't grow in our walk with the Lord. We don't mature in Christ. We don't grow in grace.

It's the storms of life. Hey, listen, *Ecclesiastes 7:14*; I think Solomon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says it best. **“During times of prosperity, enjoy, rejoice. [Enjoy it] But [I wish he you wouldn't have that] [You know what's coming next] when [I wish he would have said “if”]**

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

adversity strikes, stop and consider [And realize] that God allows one as well as the other.”
Some translations render it: **“He brings the prosperity alongside the adversity.”**

Why? So that we'll always look to Him, rely upon Him, and not get too comfortable. Because isn't it true that when things are going good, we kind of let our guard down? And it shows up in our prayer life. But boy, let adversity strike, let the storm hit, and that's when I start to grow. So start now if for no other reason, start practicing your rejoicing.

And by the way, there's a dynamic that takes place when you do in the midst of a trial. Because the Proverbs says, **“As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”** Paul, writing to Philippians in *Chapter 4:6-8* says that you can worry about no thing by thanking God for anything and praying about everything, and then think on these things. Don't think about that. Think about this, whatsoever things are pure, good, of a good report.

I want to speak to those who are really struggling right now and hurting, and me standing up here and doing my best to talk about rejoicing is almost insulting given the trial that you're in. Can I just offer you a word of encouragement? You can start rejoicing now. You can consider it pure joy.

Yeah, but man, all I'm doing is crying. I can't stop crying.

Psalms 30:5: You might want to write it down. **“Weeping lasts for the night, but joy returns in the morning.”** Here's another one to write down if you're taking notes. *Psalms 126:5*: **“What we sow in tears, we reap with shouts of joy.”**

In other words, God is — by the way, God has a book, a bookkeeping system that is literally out of this world in every sense of the word, keeps track of every tear shed. He counts them. He's going to wipe them from our faces. So He counts them, records them, totals them, and says to us and promises us that we will reap with shouts of joy commensurate with the sowing of tears.

You know, there's been times in my life over the years where the tear ducts dried up and I couldn't even cry anymore. And it was — I was reduced to a moan and a groan. Crying, one has affectionately referred to as liquid tears. And sometimes when there's no tears, it's just the cry of the heart because God knows the heart. And I want to encourage you. You

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

rejoice. You can start now. Consider it pure joy because you know where God's going, what God's doing, and what's soon coming.

The second one is in *verses 21 and 22*, and I can't wait. Evil and sin is soon falling. Now, this is interesting because John is told to write about this mighty angel, analogously throwing a boulder the size of a large millstone, which is believed to have weighed — just one millstone — tons. We use that as a, you know, cliché. Oh, we got tons of food. Oh, I weighed tons after eating tons of food. And we say it flippantly and, you know, figuratively.

But no, this was in excess of 2000, 4000 pounds. And what ensues is the final fall — I emphasize and highlight **“final”** because **“never to be heard from again,”** final fall of Babylon with such violence.

You know God has made it very clear in no uncertain terms that everyone will be recompensed according to their deeds, their words. So this is payback, baby. It's with such violence that it and all involved with it are never found in or heard from again, ever. I can't wait. Okay, Mr. Pastor-man, what's the takeaway here? The takeaway is to take heart and have hope. Why? Because God will have the final word in the end, when this evil, sinful world falls at the end. Forever and ever and ever. You want me to keep going?

[Laughter]

I think of Asaph, the psalmist, in *Psalms 73*. This guy is having a crisis of faith. It's so bad that he won't even talk to his brethren because he doesn't want to stumble them. Because he's watching the evil prosper and the righteous suffer. And he cannot reconcile that. I've cleansed my hands in vain. I've walked uprightly for what? The more upright and righteous I am walking in Your statutes, the more suffering I have.

And here's my neighbor, Mr. Wicked, himself. Don't let — I hope nobody comes to mind when I say that. And everything he touches prospers. And he's wicked. He's unrighteous. He's as evil as evil can be. He is the dirty, rotten, stinking sinner, and yet he prospers. He was like, that ain't right. That's a very loose paraphrase. But that's basically what's going on in his heart. He's wrestling. He's struggling. He's having a crisis of faith.

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

And then at the end, he's taken, lead, better said, into the sanctuary of the Lord. That's the best place to go. And isn't it true that that's the exact opposite of what the enemy, where the enemy wants you to go?

See, he's trying to distance you from the assembling of yourselves together. He's trying to distance you from Jesus. I mean, he's pounding that stake in, going, Yeah, man, your neighbor prospers and you're suffering. And I don't know about this God, you serve. So finally, he goes where he should have gone, into the sanctuary of the Lord, goes to church.

And in that place God showed him, Asaph, the psalmist, their end, how it ends for them. He already knows how it ends for him. But apparently, he forgot how it all ends. So what snaps him back and makes him come back to his senses is when God shows them that He will have the final word in the end, and I'm going to show you their end. And here's the psalmist probably going from a crisis of faith, being envious of the wicked, to feeling sorry for the wicked. That's called a paradigm shift.

So what's your point, Pastor? I know that right now maybe your situation seems insurmountable, your circumstances impossible, your marriage, your family, your kids, your grandkids, your finances, you fill in the blank. You're looking at this thing; you're going, it can't come soon enough, like, I needed this yesterday.

Well, like the psalmist, may I encourage you to enter into the sanctuary of the Lord and approach boldly, not arrogantly, confidently, His throne of grace to find mercy and help in your time of need. He's just waiting, at the ready, for you to ask. You have not because you ask not. He's not going to force Himself into your circumstances uninvited. You need to call upon Him. You need to ask of Him. You need to cry out to Him, and He will hearken unto the voice of your cry.

And yes, we live in an evil day; would you agree? And as we talked about in the Prophecy Update and quoting Galatians, it's growing worse and worse, increasing like birth pains in intensity and frequency, exactly as we're told it would, the closer we get to the end, which should be encouraging.

I hope you can see it like that. I know it's not easy. I fail miserably, just as anyone would. I mean, it's certainly not my default. Yeah, evil and sin is soon falling, rejoice. But wait a minute. If that's how it ends for evil and sin and those who are evil, and this is how it ends

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

for me, that's quite the disparity, is it not? There's quite the gap in between the two. You might even say they're the antithesis, one of the other, polar opposites. Well, shouldn't that hope start taking effect now?

Let me say the same thing in a different way. If that's my blessed hope, my blessed assurance, and I have a life, eternal life assurance policy, and the insurance company won't go out of business — no, for real. That's happened, by the way. I messed some of you up by saying that, I realize. I've already been given this. Why can't I start now with this? I can still have hope. I can still have joy.

This sort of dovetails into the third and last one, which is in *verses 23 and 24*. And it's that of deception is soon ending. Now, at first read, you would maybe not pay much attention to this were it not for *verse 23*, which is a verse we've covered in our Prophecy Updates over the years specific to a pharmaceutical deception and magic spell that is so powerful, so deceitful that all the nations on earth are deceived.

You understand that magic spell, or sorceries in the original language of the Greek New Testament is pharmakeia, again, from where we get our English word pharmaceutical. Can you say 2020? All nations on earth in lockstep. Don't you find that interesting? That this deception is going to come that way?

Actually, this is one of the main reasons for Babylon's fall. They had been under the spell of Babylon's cup of intoxication and sorceries and potions and pharmaceuticals, that they were completely seduced and deceived by the harlot, the whore. And is not seduction part and parcel to deception? That's what's seduction is. You're seduced. And if you get seduced, you're deceived.

We talked about this in the Prophecy Update. I won't take any more time on it. But the key word here is deception. What if I told you that deception is the number one sign of the time of the end? That's according to Jesus and Paul, all who would echo the same thing. Again, we talked about it in the Prophecy Update.

But when the disciples asked Jesus a three-fold question about — after He gets — they're pointing out the temple there on the Mount of Olives. I would imagine the sun was just glistening off the gold in the temple, on the temple, of the temple. Here they are on the

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

Mount of Olives, and the disciples were like, Hey, Jesus, what do You think about the temple, man?

And Jesus did not answer them as they thought He would. He — first of all, the temple was a shadow of the heavenly scene. But He prophesies; He says to them, and this is a prophecy that would be fulfilled with 100% accuracy in the year 70 A.D., when the Romans sacked Jerusalem. And Jesus said, not one of those huge stones that you're so marveling over will stand upon another.

And you know why? Because there was gold in between them. So the Roman soldiers made sure that every stone was thrown down. You can see the ruins of them today, for those of you that go to Israel with us. And they — every — exactly as Jesus said. Now they are totally freaked out.

So they asked Jesus when's this gonna — three-fold question. When is this gonna happen? What will be the signs of Your return? And what will be the sign of the end of the age? Three questions — well, three-fold questions, or three questions in one. Jesus answered, *Matthew 24:4*. First thing: **“Let no one deceive you.”** Key word, **“let.”** And then He goes on. And people just read past that. Nation will rise against nation. Kingdom will rise against kingdom. Ethnic group against ethnic group [*Racial*]. There will be famines and pestilences and wars and threats of wars, better understood. And there will be earthquakes in places that there's not earthquakes usually.

And then He likens them to birth pains, which come in greater frequency and intensity, likening His return to the birth of a baby. And these signs that I've given you are going to grow in intensity and frequency until the world is dilated at a ten. I know way too much about the female reproductive anatomy. When it hits ten and crowns, just like the baby comes, I'm coming.

And what's the number one sign that it's time, the time of the end? Deception. Now let's take that and kind of mesh it into our text today. They deceived all the nations on earth, Babylon did, with a pharmaceutical deception. I mean, I thought in 2020, I was going crazy. I know that could be debated, but just I thought, is it just me, or is this this? Well, I have my answer now. I have my answer now.

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

I'll share this just real quick. Why do you think it is that states are trying to get ahead of a vaccine mandate by introducing House bills in the state legislatures that deny only religious exemptions, which, by the way, I shared this a couple three weeks ago that our attorney, Sean Louise, amazing guy, brother in the Lord, just — he's part of this legal team, brilliant legal mind. They fought this thing, and it died. I was going to have a memorial service for HB 1118 or whatever it was.

[Laughter]

I didn't think that would be appropriate. So this last week, I get an email from an online member from my old stomping grounds in Washington State. He said, "Please pray for us. They're introducing a similar House bill in Washington like they did in Hawaii. Would you pray for us in Washington that God does for us what He did for you in Hawaii?"

And we will. And we're trusting that God will. You know, I attribute it to the Restrainer, the Holy Spirit, the Restrainer who's restraining, holding back the evil, the deception. But it doesn't take someone who has a high intelligence quotient, IQ, to figure out that if they're introducing this kind of legislation now, they got something up their sleeves. And it's that they want us to roll up our sleeves. Am I right?

Last week's Update: Programmable vis-à-vis an injection. And that's how they're going to get it into your body and break the blood-brain barrier. We've talked about it again over the years. I won't hash it out, but I point it out because come on, man, we're already witnessing this. It's already beginning to come to pass.

And if we see these things beginning to come to pass now, man, look up. Lift up your heads. Your redemption draws near. You have no idea. It could be — you have no idea. Jesus said, **"Behold, I come at an hour that you expect not."** So here's what I do. I just don't expect it.

[Laughter]

And He'll come.

I'm going to close. See? There's hope. I want to just — I don't know how many of you were with us in our verse-by-verse study through *Jeremiah*, but you probably picked up a lot of parallels. And if you did, you did good because these are prophetic parallels between *Jeremiah's* prophecies and the *Revelation* prophecies. I mean, they're so accurate

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

concerning Babylon, yet future. A lot of *Isaiah*, *Jeremiah*, some of the minor prophets, they had what we call “dual prophecies” that had a near fulfillment and a yet future far fulfillment. And *Jeremiah* was one. And the specificity of his prophecies were such that it was unmistakable. And they comport perfectly, of course, with *Revelation*.

So I happened upon someone else's chart. I think they call that plagiarism. Except here's how I'm getting out of that. I revised it. Does that qualify? I redid it, and I made it my own. Okay, well, anyway, that's my story, and I'm sticking with it.

I'm going to just give you what the parallels are, and I'm going to leave it to you. The scripture references are there. Gold Cup. Many waters. Intoxicating, deceiving nations. Persecution and martyring of God's people. Millstone-sized boulder cast into the Euphrates. Sudden destruction coming upon Babylon. Destruction coming by fire upon Babylon. Final destruction making Babylon uninhabitable, never to be heard from again, ever. The sins and abominations that brought destruction, i.e. deception. God's people called to flee from and come out of her. And last, but definitely not least, you see it in *Jeremiah 51:8*. And we just saw in *Revelation 18:20*.

And if you take nothing home with you today from this sermon, take this. Heaven rejoicing over the just and final judgment of Babylon. Judgment is coming upon them, and they will not escape, *1 Thessalonians 5:3*. And I'm done.

The Apostle Paul: you know this verse well. **“While they are saying [Two specific words] peace and security, sudden destruction will come upon them as a woman in labor, [There's your labor pains] and they will not escape.”**

What? Wait. Why the emphasis of “them” and “they”? Because Paul goes on to say, **“But we who are still alive and remain will escape.” “The dead in Christ will rise first, and then we who are alive and remain will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air..”** and all of our loved ones.

So be a “we.” Be a “we.” Make a T-shirt. That's fine. Send it to me. Be a “we.” I got a bunch. I got quite the collection; you know. Don't be a “they.” Don't be a “they.”

One last thing. Sudden destruction. You know the thing about sudden destruction? Okay, I'm done. It's sudden. Sudden destruction. I think when sudden destruction comes down,

Revelation 18:20-24
Why Knowing What's Ahead Gives Me Hope
Pastor JD Farag

we go up. Look up. The outlook doesn't look good? Try the up look. Look up. And Kaponu, come up. How's that?

[Laughter]

And stand up, and we'll close. See? That wasn't too bad, was it? That wasn't very convincing. Let's pray.

Father, thank You so much. Oh, God, Your word, Your word, oh, is eternal. And it's for us in the temporal as we await the blessed assurance of the eternal. Lord, would You please, as only You can, just — especially for those who are really downcast and discouraged, the discouragement is fast giving way to despair — would You lift them up? Strengthen and encourage their hearts. Remind them of what You have in store for them, for us. And all of us need the reminder of how You're going to have the final word.

Right now, it seems like the world is just getting away with bloody murder, with all the evil. But You're going to bring that to an abrupt end, and it will fall, never to be heard from again. And Lord, we can't wait. Just like You said at the Last Supper, celebrating the Passover with the disciples before going to the cross, that You eagerly await and fervently desire when we will do this again at the time that it finds its fulfillment in My kingdom. Oh, Lord, we can't wait. Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus, we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.