

Bible Prophecy Update – November 14, 2021

Update Links

- Isaiah 48, The Fiery Trials of Affliction video:

<https://youtu.be/jlVRKYKWG0w>

- "Divide and Conquer" Prophecy Update, February 14,2021:

<https://subsplash.com/+d6kc/lb/mi/+4m5fcm5?embed=true&recentRoute=app.web-app.library.media-series&recentRouteSlug=%2B82yxp8f>

- "The Ten Stages of Genocide" Prophecy Update, February 7m 2021:

<https://subsplash.com/+d6kc/lb/mi/+53vt4sc?embed=true&recentRoute=app.web-app.library.media-series&recentRouteSlug=%2B82yxp8f>

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Difficulty Increases Before Deliverance
JD Farag

All right, good morning and welcome to our First Service on Sunday morning. We have two services, the first of which is our weekly Bible Prophecy Update and Second Service is our sermon.

And we're currently in a verse-by-verse study through the Book of Hebrews. Lord willing, today we're going to finish Chapter 11, and in so doing we're going to look at how it is that we can hold on to our faith despite the weakness of our faith or even the increasing persecution for our faith.

And that will be livestreamed at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time. Last week, I know a lot of you online were off because in Hawaii, we do not have Daylight Savings Time, and you do. So anyway, hopefully, you're back on schedule.

And for those of you that are on YouTube or Facebook, we would encourage you to at this time go directly to the website at JDFarag.org for the uncensored, uninterrupted entirety of today's update.

All right let's get to it. I want to talk with you today about how it is and really why it is that God allows affliction and difficulty to increase in the lives of His people right before He's about to deliver His people. Throughout the pages of Holy Writ, we see this common theme as it relates to hardship, difficulties, trials, right before God is about to take out His people.

And such was the case with the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt, slavery in Egypt right before God took them out. It became unbearable, the affliction, the hardship, right before God brings the plagues and then He takes them out.

If you would join with me in Exodus, the fifth chapter. Let me give you the back story of what's going down at this point. This is where God now has called Moses to deliver His people out of Egypt.

Now this is after Moses tried to take matters into his own hands literally. Now hang onto that because that's going to be germane to our understanding here shortly. So after he tries to deliver God's people in his own strength, taking matters into his own hands, he ends up killing an Egyptian, and then what does God do?

God basically sends him to the backside of the desert university for 40 years, not four years, 40 years. It's very interesting because Moses now is realizing after all of this that God will deliver His people, but God will deliver His people in His way and in His time and for His glory.

So this is when now Moses goes to Pharaoh as God commands him to and he says to him, "Let my people go." And this is shockingly what happens, and Moses is beside himself as we will see.

Not only did Pharaoh, as we know, not let the people go, and this is the first time now he's going before Pharaoh. He makes it worse on the people.

In verse 10, Exodus 5 we're told, "And the taskmasters of the people and their officers went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh: 'I will not give you straw.'"

You know those bricks you have to slave away and make? Well, we've been making it too easy on you. It seems you got too much time on your hands if you've got time to complain

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about your slavery and you want to leave. So I'm not going to give you straw anymore. How about that? Go get it yourselves.

“Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced.” In other words, you still got to make the same number of bricks. “So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw.”

You know what's very interesting and let me just kind of parenthetically insert this here. In their archaeological digs, they found in the City of Pithom and Ramses these bricks that the Israelites made. And the first layers of the bricks were intact with straw.

And then as it got a little bit higher, less straw in the bricks, and then stubble instead of straw. And then finally, they found bricks with absolutely no straw in them. I love it when God does that, exactly as God said in His Word, it went down.

Now verse 13 we pick it up. “And the taskmasters forced them to hurry, saying, “Fulfill your work, your daily quota, as when there was straw.” Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why have you not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?”

Translated: You're not getting off of this. You're not getting out of this. Pharaoh has commanded you without us providing you the straw to continue making the same number of bricks and you're not doing it.

So what are we going to do? We're going to beat you and even kill you, the taskmasters over them.

Well, as you might imagine, the Israelites are devastated and angry, and we're even told in this chapter that the elders, the officers of the Israelites bypassed Moses and Aaron and went to Pharaoh and tried to smooth things over to no avail. And so now they're mad at Moses, it's just the beginning, and so what does Moses do?

Well, we pick it up in verse 22, “So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all.”

Oh, my goodness! Moses, wait! What? You know what he's doing here, right?

Oh, my goodness, he's questioning God. First of all, why did You call me to deliver Your people out of slavery? Why did You send me to Pharaoh?

I kind of get the impression that he fully expected that Pharaoh would be a little bit more cooperative. He certainly wasn't expecting it to get worse, the burden to become heavier, the affliction to become more, the fiery furnace to become hotter on His people.

And so he's questioning God. And how about this when he says basically this, Lord, I've done what You told me to do, but You've not done what You told me You would do. What's up with that? That is a very loose translation, a paraphrase, but you get the point, right?

“Neither have You delivered Your people at all?”

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Come on Moses, God's going to deliver His people despite this evil. He's just not going to do it the way you think. And He's not going to do it when you think, and He's not going to do it how you think. He's got a plan.

And yes, it's going to get much worse before He delivers them because understand that this is pre-plagues. God will first bring on Egypt 10 plagues, the tenth of which is the death of the firstborn son.

Here's where I'm going with this and why I emphasize this. The pain and suffering intensified right before the death of the firstborn son to deliver them, and so too is this true for us.

The pain and suffering is intensifying right before God's only begotten Son delivers us. In other words, and here's the takeaway, the harder it gets, the closer we get to when Jesus comes to take us out of this Egypt of a wicked, fallen world. Acts Chapter 14, very uncomfortable passage.

I don't like to read it. I don't like to hear it and I certainly don't like to teach it. But this is the Word of God. Let me again give you the back story.

This is the early church. Multitudes are coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Gospel is being preached, people are being saved, but there is something that comes packaged with that.

And it is recorded for us here, verse 21, Acts 14. "They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith."

Wow! So far, so good right?

How did they encourage and strengthen them to remain true to the faith?

They said, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."

Wait? What? That's supposed to strengthen me and encourage me? That stresses me out. That doesn't help me out.

You mean to tell me that I'm to be encouraged and strengthened, remaining true to the faith, knowing that we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God?

Yes. I see it this way. This is the fine print of the Christian faith. This is what it means to count the cost.

I think we do err greatly in our sharing of our faith with others to paint this picture, you know, you come to Christ and ha-ha-ha! Listen, I came to Christ; I never knew what problems were until I came to Christ.

That's because I was going with the flow of the world, and when you come to Christ, you're going against now the flow of the world. And the world is against you.

James is very blunt when he talks about this. He said, Are you really friendly with the world? Well, then you're a spiritual adulterer because if your friends with the world, you're at enmity with God. You cannot be friends with the world.

When you come to Christ, you're now an enemy of the world which is an enemy of Christ. So what comes packaged with people coming to Christ, preaching the Gospel of Christ, and

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then that strengthening and encouraging to remain true in Christ, what comes packaged with that are the hardships, the afflictions, the trials, the pain, the suffering, the difficulty.

I suppose you could say that the hardships like birth pains will continue to increase in both their frequency and intensity right before Jesus comes to take us out.

And as with birth pains increasing, the closer we get, so too do the prophetic signs increase in their frequency the closer we get. You know how it is when you're traveling and the closer you get to your final destination, the more frequent the signs are? So too is this true with the signs of the times.

So now we have a question. I want to tackle this, and I've asked the Lord to help me with this. What should we do?

Question: What are we able to do in light of this, in spite of this even?

Well, I don't know if you're going to like this answer, but what's new, right?

But it's more about what we are not able to do, namely that of rising up just as Moses tried to do.

Now please stay with me and please hear me out. There seems to be this movement within the Christian church today to rise up and fight.

Well, you might want to ask Moses how that worked out for him. Now please know that I'm in no way saying that we don't take a stand; rather, what I am saying is we don't need to rise up and fight this because Jesus is coming to take us out of this. All we really need to be doing is getting Jesus to people and people to Jesus ASAP.

You'll forgive my repeated use of the Titanic as an illustration, but there's that idiom, that saying, you know, a rearranging of the deck furniture on the Titanic.

I think there's merit to that. I don't want to waste my time, precious little time because there's no time left to waste anyway because this baby's going down. I want to get people off of this thing into the lifeboat of salvation before it's too late. And Jesus is that salvation.

Hey, look, we talked about this last week. This world is dying, this world is passing away. Let it go already. Let it go. Why are we trying to hang on to this dying world and the things of this world? The sooner we let go, the better.

Well, let me invite you to join me now in John's Gospel, the 18th chapter. It gets worse; I just want to let you know that if you don't already.

So this is the account according to the Gospel of John where Jesus is now standing trial before Pilate; about to be crucified.

And were told, verse 33, John 18, "Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him,

[he's not going to answer the question, at least not yet anyway. This is His answer though]

"Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"

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Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"

Jesus answered, [verse 36]

[and I want you to pay particular attention to the use of the word "kingdom" three times.]

He says, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

"Pilate therefore [verse 37] said to Him

[that's not what I asked you; I asked you are you a king]

"Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth."

[And then he says this]

"Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

In other words, Pilate, I am a king. But my kingdom - how are you going to be a king if you don't have a kingdom? And I think that's what Pilate's asking as a king himself really.

And the response that Jesus gives, I think, is what the Spirit is saying to the church today. The kingdom is not here. The kingdom that we fight for is the kingdom of Heaven.

That's the good fight, and this is why I point this out. We are all prone, and I'm just like anyone else when it comes to this.

I have to confess I would be disingenuous at best and dishonest at worst if I didn't. I mean, hey sometimes I want a good fight. Let's do this, you know? Fight, fight, fight!

The problem is that it needs to be the right fight. The implication is that there's the wrong fight.

What's the wrong fight?

Well, if you're fighting for the wrong kingdom, that's the wrong fight. If you're fighting the right fight, that's for the right kingdom, the kingdom of God.

I think we do err greatly when we give ourselves over to the wrong fight for the wrong kingdom and in doing so, you know what I would liken it to?

And you'll forgive this comparison, but it's like trying to keep this dying world on life support. Why am I fighting to keep this thing alive? It's dying. This world is passing away.

Enter the aforementioned difficulty and affliction which has this much-needed effect of refining us, purifying us, readying us. On Thursday nights we are in a verse-by-verse study through this amazing Book of Isaiah.

Last week we were in Chapter 48. And what's interesting about this chapter is it's a prophecy concerning God delivering His people out of captivity in Babylon.

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But here's the thing: God tells them in this prophecy through the prophet Isaiah that He's going to refine them in the furnace of affliction.

What?

Yeah, so listen; I'm going to deliver you out of captivity in Babylon, but first you've got to go through the furnace of affliction.

And I'm going to turn up the heat really hot in that furnace. Why, God?

Because I'm about to deliver you. That's why.

Well, wait a minute. You're going to turn up the heat in the furnace of affliction before you deliver us?

Yeah. This is Psalm 34:19. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

It gets better; David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, that precious, priceless, timeless psalm, Psalm 119. He says it two times, the first time in verse 67.

Listen to this. "Before I was afflicted I went astray,

[someone's reading my mail right there]

but now I keep Your word."

And then he goes on in verse 71 and says this, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes." It's a good thing.

No, you want that furnace of affliction. You want the affliction that comes because when the affliction comes, that means your deliverance is coming.

I'm sure you heard it said, God comforts the afflicted.

Oh, I love to hear that especially when I need comfort, when I'm afflicted. God comforts the afflicted.

But have you ever heard this? He also afflicts the comfortable. I'll give you a moment.

What do you mean?

Well, sometimes we get just a little bit too comfortable in this world not our home. And God wants to deliver us out of this world not our home, but we're too settled, we're too comfortable.

So God says, man, I'm going to have - I'll speak for myself if you want because I know none of you, you're more spiritual than me this doesn't happen to you, but God has to turn up the furnace in JD's life, that furnace of affliction.

So like David, I can say it's good that I was afflicted because had I'm not been afflicted, had I not been cast into that furnace of affliction, I wouldn't even be looking for deliverance.

And I really think that's the point.

To me, and we talked about this on Thursday night, I truly believe that what God is doing in the world today is He's allowing the affliction of His people prior to delivering His people so that His people want to go.

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You know it's interesting; when God delivers his people out of captivity in Babylon, there were some who didn't go. They stayed. They didn't want to go.

Why didn't they want to go?

I think they were too settled.

Yeah, but they're in slavery.

Well, ask the Israelites in Egypt. You know even after they're delivered out of Egypt, they wanted to go back.

That's my e-mails too that are being read.

And Egypt, a type of the world - in fact, there's that account, it's stunning, it's really breathtaking when they're murmuring and complaining, which was all the time by the way, and they're reminiscing about the good old days and of course mixed multitudes didn't help.

But man, back in Egypt, we had buffet, onions and leeks, and oh...

I think they have a term for that. It's called selective memory. You were a slave!

And here God has you and He's providing for you, He's delivered you, He's providing for you every single day without fail this manna and you're getting bored, and you want to go back to Egypt.

I think this is one of those times in God's Word where, again, if you're anything like me and I suspect that you are, you're right there, I mean, you're coming down hard on the Israelites. How could they do that?

Come on; we would have done the same thing. Here's the truth. We're warned and even promised that we're going to have extreme difficulty and hardship in this world.

Jesus, John 16:33, a verse I am sure familiar to most. Jesus is speaking.

He says, "I have told you these things so that in Me, you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble."

I wish He did not use the word "will." I wish He would have said something to the effect of in this world, you might, you know happen to come across some difficulty.

No, you will. I looked up in the original hoping to find a softer word than "will." And it was worse; it was like it is guaranteed or your money back. You are going to have trouble.

"But take heart!"

And here's why.

"I have overcome the world."

Now, we memorize that, we read that, we quote that, we love that, right? But can I suggest something here?

When He says I have overcome the world, do you think there might be an inference that, and maybe even a question from the Savior to the effect of do you want to overcome the world too?

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I'm going to take you out of this world. In fact, there is a connection between the trouble you're having in this world and My coming to take you out of this world.

Because the harder it gets, the more you want Him to come. Isn't that true?

Come on, let's be honest. We're in church. You have to be, right?

When things are going well it's like this. Lord, come... soon.

When adversity strikes and things are difficult, it's not oh, Lord come soon. It's Lord, come now!

Come yesterday! Come today! If not today, come tomorrow! If You don't come tomorrow, I don't know if I'm going to make it.

That's the point.

I've overcome this world, and I've told you these things so that you can have peace in the midst of the affliction, peace in the midst of the trouble, peace that is not predicated upon the circumstances of your life, peace that is not predicated on what's happening in the world. I give you a peace not as man gives you.

It's what Paul refers to as the peace that surpasses, transcends human understanding. Well, it's going to get worse, literally. This hardship, this affliction has the potential to get much worse.

And if that isn't bad enough, it really has the potential to come in ways we don't expect, and I will explain what I mean by that.

What I'm speaking of is division, division, specifically amongst God's people both in families and church families. I think you would agree with me when I say this, that the world today is divided like it's never been before and getting worse, and this on a global scale.

Would you go with me to Luke's Gospel, Chapter 12? Again, very uncomfortable. I want to begin reading in verse 51. Listen to what Jesus said.

I would venture to say that this is probably not on anyone's wall or framed or wallpaper or refrigerator.

"Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division."

[What?]

"For from now on [verse 52] five in one house will be divided, three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law

[Explains everything right there]

Sorry, I will repent after

"Mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

Then [verse 54] He also said to the multitudes, "Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it is.

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And when you see the south wind blow, you say, 'There will be hot weather,' and there is. Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time?"

Did you catch that? I mean that's, whoa! Let me see if I got this straight. What Jesus is saying here is there is discernment required concerning the signs of the times, and one of the signs of the times is going to be just what He said.

You've got a family of five? I've got a family of five. By the way, did you know this? A family of five has 25 relationships. No wonder: that explains a lot too, right?

A family of five has 25 relationships in their family. You have a family of five? Three against two. Families will be divided against each other. Father against son, son against father.

How is it, Jesus would ask, how is it that you're able to discern the weather when you see over the horizon, but you can't see this? This is a sign of what's coming, better said who's coming. Jesus is coming.

If you'll kindly allow me to, I want to expound on this, particularly this prophetic sign for the remainder of our time together.

In order to do that, we're going to end the livestream on Facebook and YouTube at this time and redirect you to the website.

So let me begin by saying that what is now happening in the world today is an indication of just how late the hour is on God's prophetic clock. What we're witnessing today as it relates to jabbed or not jabbed is a textbook case of "divide and conquer."

For those who are interested, we devoted the update back on February 14th of this year to this. We've included a link and it's on the website.

But in it, we went in depth into why it is and how it is that prophetically, division and confusion would be one of the prophetic signs of the time of the end as we just read in Luke's Gospel.

Actually, this was one week prior on February 7th of this year that we looked at what's been dubbed "The Ten Stages of Genocide."

Now why do I mention this and refer to these? Because this is exactly what is happening today. And why is this important?

Because it comports with what we're told in Bible prophecy. In the interest of time, I won't go into detail, but what follows are said 10 stages, and I want to go through them, but I want to draw your attention to number 2 and number 8, and I think you will see why here in a moment.

Number 1) Classification,

Number 2) Symbolization,

Number 3) Discrimination,

Number 4) Dehumanization,

Number 5) Organization,

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Number 6) Polarization,
Number 7) Preparation,
Number 8) Persecution,
Number 9) Extermination,
and Number 10) Denial.

Now the reason I wanted to focus in on symbolization and persecution is because like with the yellow star in the Jewish Holocaust, so too is there now a symbolization for the segregation of the un-vaxxed in this global genocide and holocaust.

See this is not a Jewish Holocaust. This is a global Holocaust. It is a global genocide. What we're witnessing before our very eyes is evil, pure evil.

Here's the bottom line. The world today is now divided into two camps. You'll forgive that word, but for lack of a better one, you're either vaxxed or you're un-vaxxed.

If one is un-vaxxed, there's a classification, symbolization, discrimination, dehumanization, persecution, and ultimately, extermination.

Like in the Holocaust, one is shamed, abandoned, reported, betrayed, and eventually forced into not concentration camps, but quarantine camps.

What if I told you it's already happening?

You know, I was thinking about this on Thursday as I mentioned before we went live. I'm celebrating my 33rd wedding anniversary, my wife and I on Thursday, and we're just going to take the day and spend the day together and really looking forward to it.

But this year we couldn't make any reservations in a restaurant because we've not been jabbed.

I mean, I'm still trying to wrap my fallen mind around this, but I cannot take my wife out to dinner on our 33rd wedding anniversary and sit in a restaurant as we once did and have dinner together because we're categorized, symbolized.

I think like I will just get a yellow armband and kind of wear that around. I say that with a nervous laughter, but that's what it is.

So we're going to get in our 2008 Honda Odyssey van that has a dent on every panel on it and we're just going to go maybe drive the North Shore, and we're going to have our anniversary dinner in the van.

Hey, I am with my soul-mate, the love of my life. I don't care. 33 years of marriage, that's fine. We will tailgate it, right?

Is what I'm - just bear with me. Is what I'm saying here today, does it, does it make sense to you? I mean, am I speaking the truth here? Is this not what's happening, right?

Who would have ever imagined that it would come to this? Who would have ever thought that the heat would be turned up this high, the affliction, that furnace of affliction?

You know I've mentioned this before and I will mention it again. It's not in my notes, but it's in my heart. There's nothing in this world I want to stay here for.

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I mean the world is fast becoming a place that I don't want to be in anymore. Maybe that's the point. It's almost like God is saying you want to go now?

Yes! Are you kidding me?

You can eat in the restaurants in Heaven. You just can't down here anymore.

Yeah, let's go!

You'll forgive me for being silly. I got to insert the humor because if I don't, I'll just weep. I might just weep anyway.

We've long overstayed our welcome in this world. I mean, I don't want to try to keep this thing going. Let's get this show on the road, man! Let's get this show on the road! I want to go home! Turn that heat up; that's fine.

In fact, you know what? On Thursday, don't even let us tailgate. Don't even let us get takeout. That's fine. Bring it.

You know what that means? That means Jesus is coming even sooner because right before He delivers his people and takes His people out, He turns the heat up. Turn it up!

You know that's why I was thinking without the A/C with the roof repair, right?

It's totally effects. We wanted this sanctuary to be the furnace of affliction.

Because if it's too comfortable you're not going to want to leave.

(Sighing) But God.

Let me see if I can tie it together and close it up. Think this through with me, okay? Instead of the 10 plagues of death, it's the 10 stages of genocide.

But God is about to take His people out of this world. I want to go home. I want to go home, Jesus.

If it means the affliction increases, the difficulty increases, if that's what that means, I know You'll get me through it. You'll never fail me. God will never forsake His people.

The question is often asked well, what happens if it gets really bad before the rapture, what I refer to as pre-rapture persecution?

You don't think God's going to get you through that?

We're actually going to talk more about this in our study in Hebrews about holding onto faith in the face of a weakness in faith, or being tortured for one's faith, persecuted.

We're going to talk about how it is that we're going to be able to keep the faith, hold onto faith in the face of that.

Well, we always close the Prophecy Updates with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news of salvation found in the person of Jesus Christ. And also a simple explanation of salvation by way of the ABC's of Salvation.

I want to do something a little bit different with the ABCs and kind of weave the Gospel into them to kind of paint a picture on the canvas of the Gospel using the ABC's.

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The A in the ABC's is for admit or acknowledge that you sinned, and unless and until you admit or acknowledge that you've sinned, then you're not really looking for a Savior because no need.

But when you realize and acknowledge that you've sinned, then you also have to acknowledge that you need the Savior, and we have all sinned.

This is Romans 3:10. "There is no one righteous, not even one."

Romans 3:23 tells us why. It's because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

We were all born sinners which is why we must be born-again in order to enter the kingdom of Heaven. We may be good but we'll never be good enough because we have all missed the mark.

Now this is where the Gospel comes in because the word "Gospel" means good news. Now in order for it to be good news, there must be first some bad news.

You know how it is when people come to you and say, Hey, I've got good news and I've got bad news. Which one do you want to hear first?

I hate that. Get thee behind me, Satan. I don't want to hear any bad news.

No, but you need to hear this bad news. Because I know this isn't proper English; please don't e-mail me. But the badder the bad, the gooder the good news will be, and this is pretty bad news. Because there is a penalty for sin. And the bad news is that it is the death penalty.

And that's Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death." That's bad news.

Are you ready for some good news?

Yes.

The good news is, "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Wow, that is good news!

And it's a gift by the way. I didn't pay for it because if I paid for it, it would be a purchase and not a gift. No, it's a gift that He purchased. We are purchased with a price. We're not our own. He purchased us and paid for us in full on that cross, and that's the good news.

Now that is the A, and it should bring you to the B which is central, and that's just simply believe in your heart. There's nothing you need to do to come to Christ. You just believe.

I've heard it illustrated this way: It would be as absurd as taking a shower before you take a bath.

You've heard it said: Well, I better clean up my act before I come to Christ. No need.

First of all, you won't be able to. See, you come to Christ, and He cleans you from the inside out with the Holy Spirit indwelling you.

"Though your sins be as scarlet, He makes them white as snow."

He forgives you your sin, 1 John 1:9.

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It's been often referred to as the Christian bar of soap. I could use one of those and so could you, so don't look at me all spiritual. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us of our sin.

That's a good deal. That's what I call a two-for-one. All I have to do is confess and He will do two things: Forgive and no extra charge, cleanse me from all of my unrighteousness if I would but believe in Him.

Romans 10:9 says, "If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."

You know, it's really simpler than A, B, C simple. It's actually as simple as B, believe. Because see, once you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord, well, then the expression is the C.

You call upon Him, you confess with your mouth, which is what Romans 10:9-10 also 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.

In January, this upcoming January of 2022; can you believe it? Man, 40 years. I will be celebrating my 40th, I look pretty good for 40, right? My spiritual birthday, 40 years ago when I called upon the name of the Lord and was saved.

"All who call upon the name of the Lord will

[will, that's when I want to see the word "will", right?]

be saved."

For me, that was 40 years ago. All I did was call upon the name of the Lord, believing in my heart, and I was saved, and I never looked back.

I implore you today if you're here or watching online and you've never put your trust in Christ, believing in Him, calling on Him, acknowledging your sin before Him, I don't know how else to say it.

I'm pleading with you to not put off the most important decision of your life for eternal life. I'm begging you because Jesus is coming. And I want to see you the air when the dead in Christ rise first.

Oh, I'm pleading with you. Please, today is the day of salvation.

I want to share with you a testimony if you don't mind just real quick in closing. This one's kind of intense. I hope you know I pray over these, and I really seek the Lord about which ones He would have me to share.

And I even tried to get out of sharing this one and the Lord did not let me, so you'll see why here in a moment. They asked to remain anonymous.

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“I write about a very dear friend of mine who has just lost her daughter. The daughter was 28 years old but had a brain injury from birth, medical negligence.

The daughter was admitted to a hospital in New York City. She was diagnosed with Covid; however, they started her on the fatal cocktail of Remdesivir, Dexamethasone, and Vancomycin.

It's the protocol that's instigated, and, of course, doctors get bonuses for administering. The parents got a court order for the doctors and nurses to give Ivermectin, and they took four days to give it! And they only gave her two doses! I just cannot believe the evil!

They ventilated her, another bonus, and her kidneys packed in and then she went into organ failure. She died on October 6.

I am in the U.K. so I'm supporting my friend from across the pond. They are Christians. I am also a healthcare professional.

The funeral took place two weeks ago

[and here's the amazing, "but God" testimony].

11 people got saved at the funeral.

They asked what must I do to get saved?

The parents are, of course, devastated.

This is murder by these professionals. I don't say that lightly. I'd prefer you anonymized my name if you make this public, which I would like you to do. My friend will be happy to confirm the story.

Please pray for them; Rebecca and Steve are their names. Thank you for all you do and please keep on speaking the truth, thanks.”

I tell you, as only God can, the plan of man, evil. But God takes that which was meant for evil and bring 11 people at a service to Him because of it. Praise the Lord.

Why don't you go ahead and stand, and we'll have the worship team come up and we'll close, I appreciate your patience today for hanging in there with me.

Father in Heaven we're - I think when I say this and pray this, I do so on behalf of everyone that's here and watching. We're so ready for You to come. Lord, thank You for turning the heat up.

Thank You for taking the evil which is revving up as You said it would and meaning it for good for the salvation of many this day. Lord, we'll never know this side of glory how many people have come to You because of this.

And so Lord, it is good that we be afflicted because it's bringing people to You and bringing people back to You too. And Lord, we praise You for that and we thank You for that as difficult as it is and as hard as it may still become.

So be it, Lord, so be it. If You're coming soon is how this ends and this is what all of this means, then Maranatha, Lord, come quickly in Jesus' name, amen.