

BE GOD'S REACHER — wk. 7

Pastor Hutchins COC March 24, 22 Week 7 - The Reason We Reach

I. WE ALL SEE THE PREDICAMENT:

A. More & more, our *headline news* seems to be synonymous with Bib. prophecies written more than 2,000 years ago —

B. Our Nation is collapsing —

1. Our Globe is reeling —

2. There are "*wars & rumors of war*" —

3. **Political Unrest** everywhere —

4. The **Despot** clinging to his Tyranny —

5. **Monarch's** mistreating their Subjects —

6. **Nature** convulsing with Disasters —

7. **Disease** marching Rampant —

8. Deception & Lies loved & embraced —

9. Christians canceling their faith; walking out on God & falling away —

II. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT WE LIVE WITH ONE OF MANKINDS

MOST PRESSING QUESTIONS:

WHEN?

- A. Each of us, at some time in our life, have wondered about *the future* — our futures!
- B. We stand in the **foreground** of a human history that is checkered with **Conflict**, **War**, **Genocide**, **Atomic Clouds** & **Nuclear Apocalyptic powers** —
- C. The **National Intelligence Council** published their **World of 2030 Study** named, **"Alternative Worlds"** in which they claim, **"Megatrends will shape our world. Megatrends are tectonic shifts — critical changes to key features of life on earth will affect how the world works."**
1. People sense something **"big"** is Imminent
 2. The **Pagan**, the **Athiest**, the **Agnostic**, the **Witch**, the **Muslim**, the **backslider**, the **far-from-God** — everyone (*except those who slumber*) knows that something is about to happen —

3. **Hinduism** believes *Vishnu* returns —
- a. **Mayans** believed the world will end —
 - b. **Gnostics** believed in the arrival of a *New Kingdom* —
 - c. **Jehovah's Witnesses** believe the world entered the last days in **1914**. They also believed the 6000 yrs of human history would *end* on **Sept. 5, 1975** —
 - d. **Islamic Eschatology** teaches there will be a *Great Tribulation* in the *hadîth* —
 - i. They believe that the *Mahdi* (righteous descendent of *Prophet Mohammad*) will return to earth & defeat the *Dajjal* —

D. Everyone is sensing that **The Signs of the End of Time are Everywhere** & yet, we still ask the pressing question, b/c we do not know exactly **WHEN** —

E. In His Olivet Discourse, **Jesus** said, **"But of that day & hour no man knows, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only!"**
Matt. 24:36

1. No one knows **WHEN** (what *day or hour*) the Rapture will take place —
2. But we do know that the midnight toll is soon to sound, for the long-locked mysteries of Prophecy are now open & the Signs of the Times are Everywhere —

III. WE ARE REACHERS OF MEN NOT
b/c WE KNOW THE "WHEN" BUT
b/c WE KNOW THE "WHY" —

- A. The **Great Reset** is already under way —
- B. And the NEXT EVENT for **God's People** on **God's Calendar** is the Rapture of His Church —
- C. **Paul** wrote to the Thessalonians & said:
"But I would not have you ignorant, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died & rose again, so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive & remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, & with the trumpet call of God: & the dead in Christ will rise first: Then we who are alive & remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

I Thess. 4:13-18

D. The *Rapture* — when **Jesus** comes to take **His Bride** (Church) out of earth to be with **Him** —

1. *Rapture* is taken from Vs.17 in our Text:
"Then we which are alive & remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, &

so shall we ever be with the Lord."

I Thess. 4:17

E. It has been described as the one event that will suddenly & supernaturally change everything about life on earth — ***in the twinkling of an eye!***

F. Cars will careen off Expressways —

1. **Doctors** will vanish from Surgical Suites

2. **Lawyers** will disappear before Jurors —

3. **School Teachers** will vanish before a classroom filled with students —

4. **Homes, Apartments, Workplaces** — all of them will see millions "vanish" & the world will look on baffled & confused —

G. Shout ***"Caught Up"*** -- *Rapture* --

1. **Gk:** *harpazo* - means: *"to seize, catch away, take by force."*

H. And it is the **Church**, who is to posture as the *eager Bride* ***"waiting for her groom"***

1. The final culmination of her eternal union

I. So, while we may not know **WHEN**, we do know **WHY!**

J. **Jesus** is coming for **His Bride** —

1. **John on Patmos** would write, "6 **And I heawrd as it were the Voice of a great multitude, & as the Voice of many waters, & as the Voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad & rejoice & give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, & His Wife has made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean & white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**" **Rev. 19:7-8**

K. **Paul**, when writing the Corinthians, says, "**I declare to you, brothers & sisters, that flesh & blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a**

mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed." 1 Cor. 15:50-52

L. The Bible says, *"Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come."* I Thess. 1:10b

1. Whenever we read of the horrors that will take place in the earth immediately after the **Rapture**, every believer should shout with your might for the things that **God** is protecting you from; the *evil* that **His Love** keeps away from you —

M. The **Rapture** & the **Second Coming** are **not** the same event —

At the **Rapture**, **Jesus** appears in the sky -

At the **Second Coming**, **He** comes to the earth

At the **Rapture**, only the born-again **see Him**

At the **Second Coming**, everyone will see **Him**.

At the **Rapture**, **Jesus** comes for the saints

At the **Second Coming**, **He** comes with the saints —

The **Rapture** signals destruction on earth.

The **Second Coming** signals peace on earth.

IV. **IN ANCIENT ISRAEL, THERE WERE 12 DISTINCT PHASES TO THE JEWISH WEDDING CEREMONY** —

A. It's a Fascinating Portrait of the **Rapture**!

B. For the brevity of time, let me rehearse the correlation between the last 3 —

1. **The Bridegroom** would return with a shout: **"Behold the bridegroom comes!"** & with the sound of a trumpet —

a. Matt. 25:6 says, **"But at Midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the Bridegroom is coming! Come out to meet Him!'"**

2. The *bridegroom* would literally abduct the *bride*, often in the middle of the night, & take her back to the place he had prepared for her, where the marriage would be consummated —

a. This is why I Thess. 4:17 specifically says, **"we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air."** When we leave here, we're going to the place our Groom has prepared for us — **Heaven** —

3. The 12th thing the **Ancient Jewish Wedding Party** would do was throw a *great reception* held for the *bride & groom* at the end of this 7 day week when they left the Bridal Chamber —

a. For the **Church**, there will be a *great reception* called the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb** — it will take place after the

7 years that the **Bride** (**Church**) & the **Groom** (**Jesus**) spend together in **Heaven** — after that, it's the **Millennium** (1000 years of peace on earth).

C. You do **NOT** want to miss the **Rapture** —

D. **You & I must LIVE Rapture ready** —

E. **Jesus** is *coming soon* —

F. This World is about to **Rock & Roll** with **Hell's Horrors**, but **God** has granted you His **grace & mercy** this morning —

1. This might be the **Last Preacher** you ever hear, *we could hear the call* at any moment, **"Look, the Bridegroom is coming!"** where we'll be **caught up to meet the Lord in the air!**

G. But if you are **NOT ready** — you'll be left to experience the unrestrained judgment of **God** —

1. Mercy is reaching for you, Grace is pleading for you **to come to Jesus** —

2. If I were not ready to meet **God** today, I'd bolt out of my seat & make my way to this **altar** right now — **(music play very softly)**

Wendell F Hutchins I

When Christ Returns

Like Jesus' disciples (Matthew 24:3), we wonder what is in store for this world. What will happen? The Bible lays out an enthralling picture. At least one-fifth of His Word is prophecy. The Second Coming is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament's 260 chapters. Obviously, this is not a doctrine to ignore; God desires us to know about Christ's return.

The Rapture: To Take His Church to Be With Him

Christ's coming is imminent; all the prophecies which must be fulfilled before His return are completed. He will descend with a shouted command, the voice of an angel, and the trumpet of God. All believers, living and dead, will suddenly meet the Lord in the air.

Like an eager bride, the Church waits for the final culmination of her union with her Groom.

The Tribulation: Unrestrained Evil

The moment after the Rapture, the Spirit of God will remove any restraining influence on earth so that things will be far, far worse than even today. The seven-year Tribulation Period will see the climax of worsening conditions, the anger of God against the wicked, and the signs of Christ's coming in judgment. Believers alive at the Rapture will miss those seven horrible years.

The Second Coming: To Judge the World

The Antichrist will rule wickedly. But just when it seems there is no hope, when the bottom is finally reached and evil rules, the Second Coming will finally come about and God's Son will dethrone the Beast.

The Millennium: To Rule the World

The word "Millennium" simply means "one thousand years." During those ten centuries of righteousness, Christ will rule on earth from His capital in Jerusalem. To add to the excitement, John tells us that the followers of Christ will rule with Him.

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Although the physical properties of the new heaven and the new earth are not described in detail, what we are told is enough to fill us with hope and joy.

THE REVELATION Prophecy Chart

| The BOOK of REVELATION | | Ch. 1 | THE CHURCH AGE |
|--|--|--|--------------------|
| INTRODUCTION | | LETTERS to the SEVEN CHURCHES | Chapters 2 - 3 |
| EPHESUS <i>The Lovers Church</i> | | | |
| SMYRNA <i>The Suffering Church</i> | | | |
| PERGAMOS <i>The Church of Satan's City</i> | | | |
| THYATIRA <i>The Adulterous Church</i> | | | |
| SARDIS <i>The Dead Church</i> | | | |
| PHILADELPHIA <i>The Faithful Church</i> | | | |
| LAODICEA <i>The Dying Church</i> | | SEVEN SEALS to the | Chapters 6:1 - 8:5 |
| RAPTURE— <i>Jesus Comes for the Church</i> | | | |
| 1. White Horse <i>Conquering Power</i> | | | |
| 2. Red Horse <i>War and Bloodshed</i> | | | |
| 3. Black Horse <i>Famine</i> | | | |
| 4. Pale Horse <i>Pestilence and Death</i> | | | |
| 5. Souls Under the Altar <i>Martyrs</i> | | | |
| 6. Whole World Trembles <i>Physical Changes</i> | | | |
| Interval <i>144,000 Sealed</i> | | | |
| 7. Silence—Golden Censer | | | |

BEGINNING OF THE
CHURCH AGE

- Death of Christ
- Burial of Christ
- Resurrection of Christ
- Descent of the Holy Spirit

Judgment
Seat of
Christ

continued on next page ...

| THE TRIBULATION PERIOD | |
|---|----------------|
| SEVEN TRUMPETS <i>181</i> | Chapters 8-11 |
| 1. Hail and Fire Mixed With Blood | |
| 2. A Mountain Thrown Into the Sea | |
| 3. The Star Wormwood | |
| 4. A Third of the Sun, Moon, and Stars Struck | |
| 5. The Plague of Locusts | |
| 6. Release of the Four Angels The Angel and the Little Book | |
| The Two Witnesses | |
| 7. War on Earth, Worship in Heaven | |
| WAR IN HEAVEN | Chapters 12-14 |
| SATAN'S FALL FROM HEAVEN | |
| THE BEAST FROM THE SEA | |
| THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH | |
| THE LAMB AND THE 144,000 | |
| 200 MILES OF BLOODSHED | |
| SEVEN BOWLS <i>182</i> | Chapters 15-16 |
| 1. Ugly and Painful Sores | |
| 2. Sea Turns to Blood | |
| 3. Rivers and Streams of Water Become Blood | |
| 4. Sun Scorches People With Fire | |
| 5. Darkness | |
| 6. Euphrates River Dries Up | |
| 7. Tremendous Earthquake—Armageddon | |
| END OF FALSE RELIGION | Chap. 17 - 19 |
| COLLAPSE OF THE WORLD MARKET | |
| SECOND COMING—<i>Jesus Comes With the Church</i> <i>Marriage Supper of the Lamb</i> | |

Half on Earth

THE COUNTEREARTH TRINITY
 • The Dragon (Anti-God)
 • The Beast (Anti-Christ)
 • The False Prophet (Anti-Spirit)

The Earth's Worst Days

continued on next page ...

| MILLENNIUM | | |
|--|--|---|
| Chapter 20:1 - 6 | Chapter 20:7 - 14 | Chapter 21 - 22 |
| THE 1,000-YEAR REIGN of JESUS CHRIST and All the Saints | THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT | THE NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH |
| A period of peace and righteousness will last for a millennium. | THE LAKE OF FIRE <i>Satan, demons, fallen angels, and unrepentant sinners are eternally separated from God</i> | |

The BOOK of REVELATION

This chart was created to be a guide to the book of Revelation. It is not meant to include every minute detail mentioned in the book of Revelation or taught by Dr. David Jeremiah. For further detail consult the study guides: Escape the Coming Night, Volumes 1-4. Turning Point for God, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. May not be copied without permission. Turning Point for God, Inc., P.O. Box 3838, San Diego, CA 92169. 1-800-947-1993

What Do We Do Until Then?

Walk Submissively

John takes great pains to emphasize that we are responsible to keep the sayings of the book of Revelation. In Revelation 22:18-19, he pronounces God's blessing on all who will read the book and His curse on all those who would try to tamper with it.

One of the most important themes in this book is obedience. It is because of the disobedience of mankind that God will judge the world, and His holy saints are charged repeatedly to distance themselves from the world's rebellion by "keeping the words" of the book. We are to walk submissively according to God's Word.

Worship Triumphantly

What does it mean to "worship triumphantly"? It means that we grab hold of the truth of God's Word and give it back in worship to God. We praise His name triumphantly, with exuberance and conviction. Revelation makes it clear that praise and worship are the vital vehicles of our response to all that God is and does.

Witness Urgently

Evangelism will one day cease—but not yet. One major purpose of Revelation is to remind sinners that eternal judgment is coming and

to stimulate believers to share the Good News of redemption in Jesus' name. It is our duty to preach the Gospel, so people may hear and believe the Good News about Jesus, and receive a new nature and a new character.

Work Fervently

We have only a little time to work for the advancement of the Gospel, and we must use the time well. We must work, and work hard. The time goes by so quickly!

We should remind ourselves that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Watch Expectantly

We do not know when the Lord is coming back to this earth. But we do know His arrival is closer today than it was yesterday! He could come at any time to take His Church to His Father's house. There will be no time to prepare. That is why we must always be ready.

The requirement for salvation is that we take freely what God offers us. He offers us life. He offers us joy. He offers us abundance. He offers us His only Son.

He could come today! Are you ready?