

Preparing Our Hearts for the Return of Jesus

2-The Bible Warns Us About the Timing of Jesus' Return (2Pet: 3)

I. Review

We saw and explored in one of our points of Jesus' rebuke to the Pharisees for not know the season of His first coming, and Luke was inspired to write about the blessing it is to know the season by Simeons story.

So is it possible to know the season, the time period of Jesus' second coming?

And we do not want to be those people that say if it happens it will happen because we discussed that last week. So let's Review last weeks message:

Peter writes to us using the words "*most importantly*" of things he wants us to understand.

Those things were:

1- IT'S A FOUNDATIONAL OR ELEMENTARY TRUTH

⁶ Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation ofthe resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (Heb 6:1-2)

2- THERE IS A SPECIAL BLESSING

³ *God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near. (Rev 1:3)*

3- WE ARE PURIFIED AND EMPOWERED

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him AS HE IS. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1Jn 3:13)

4- WISDOM, CONSEQUENCES OF NOT KNOWING

³ *For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Lk 19:43-44)*

5- PROPERLY PREPARED

2400 scriptures vs. 300 scriptures about the 2nd coming over the 1st.

In today's church we talk more about Jesus' first coming than we do His second. Probably 8 times more??

So we cannot whisper what the bible is screaming and we cannot scream what the bible whispers.

2400 vs 300...the Bible screams to us about Jesus' 2nd coming. I do not think 300 verses is a whisper, but compared to 2400. Do you understand the picture the bible paints here?

II. A TOUCHY SUBJECT

In Mt 24, Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple. ***"not one stone shall be left here upon another"***

Then the disciples ask Him 3 questions:

- When will these things happen?
- What will be the sign of your coming?
- What will be the signs of the end of the age?

We know that the first question was answered in History when Emperor Titus sacked Jerusalem and fulfilled Jesus' prophecy.

But we have to look at Jesus' very first words in verse 4. ***"Take heed that no one deceives you."***(Mt 24:4)

The Greek work for deceive is *planao* which means to cause someone to wander off the path, to lead astray

When you look at the heart of the Father expressed in the bible, society has wandered off the path. But it's not just society, its in the church too. (Aaron Rodgers Egnima example)

- ***¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (Mt 24:10)***

The offense, the betrayal and the hatred are breeding grounds for deception.

¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (Mt 24:13) There is an endurance Jesus says we will need.

5-6 "So, Jeremiah, if you're worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses? And if you can't keep your wits during times of calm, what's going to happen when troubles break loose like the Jordan in flood? (Jer 12:5-6 MSG)

God is talking to Jeremiah about the persecution he is going through, Babylon was about to invade. The words the Lord spoke to Jeremiah applies to our hearts concerning the day of the Lord.

***Look I am ecstatic about Trump being President, and I am excited about his first week in office and what's to come. But Trump is not Jesus, and I am more focused on Jesus' plan than Trumps, so while I see all these amazing things, in my heart I am like..."the bible says this, and the bible says that"...I cannot allow myself to become so enamored in a hope that is not from the Father's heart.

My hope is in the Blessed Hope, in the reappearing of the Jesus, not Trump making my life rich. And those two scenerios if they collide in real time at the same time, will make many people who put their absolute

trust in Trump/man stumble. Because the events surrounding the Blessed Hope are a drask difference in what we hope Trump does. ****

- ¹² ***And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (Mt 24:12)***

There are different kinds of Love:

Phileo- which is brotherly love

Storgy- love felt for family

Eros- sexual love

Agape- the selfless love of the Father, a Heavenly Love

the word love in v.12 is ***agape***, love. So Jesus is talking about the church here. Jesus is tying mass deception leading to lawless thinking and living which will cause the love of God in Christian hearts to grow cold.

Hearts grow cold when we wander off the path.

Jesus is not talking about people who never knew God, He is talking about people who profess to know Him, who have known Him, but wander off.

John has harsh words for those of us that wander off

¹⁹They left us, but they were never really with us. If they had been, they would have stuck it out with us, loyal to the end. In leaving, they showed their true colors, showed they never did belong. (1 Jn 2:19)

There are estimates that in America in the last 25 years 30 million people have left the church. This is what Jesus is talking about and what He warns us, that in the season of His coming there will be a mass falling away.

*****But ...¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (Mt 24:13)***

We have to have an endurance mentality

What gives us the ability to endure?

By developing the character of Christ Peter talks about in 2Peter 1: 5-8 by cultivating qualities like virtue, faith, knowledge, self-control, and love

So I want to show you that He is talking about our day!!

III. IS IT OUR DAY

²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Mt 24:24)

All four times Jesus uses the word deceive, it's the Greek word *planeo*, to wander off the path. You have to be on the path to wander off it, this is why I think Jesus ends it with here with ***if possible, even the elect.***

So we have to ask the question, what is causing so many people to be deceived?

What is causing so many to leave the faith, and those that are still in it, the majority are hanging onto their faith by a string, it seems.

¹⁰He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. (2Thel 2:10)

We have to dissect this, it does not say they were not saved because they didn't know the truth, its because they did not LOVE THE TRUTH.

¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2Thel 2:11-12)

I struggle with this; it is a burden on my heart. I see so many people in church that take pleasure in unrighteousness. You know that 47% on men in church watch pornography. Are having sex outside of marriage, have evil thoughts toward a brother, use curse words, treat people bad, etc. etc. etc.

I struggle with this both for people and myself. It's hard not being in my Christian bubble, before I started working again. I love the guys I work with, but listening to their reason, their coarse joking, it wears on me, to the point I find myself laughing at something they said and I immediately get convicted.

The issue here is not sinning, we all sin. And when I sin, I hate it. I get convicted and it destroys my like for that second. And I hate the sin that always tries to make me stumble.

This becomes an issue when we have gotten so used to our sin, we see no issue with it. The 47% of men in church that use porn in this recent survey I heard about has a caveat. Those 47% of men have no problem with watching porn.

That is deception, they are believing a lie. Why, because they got away from **loving the Truth.**

- At the beginning of the sermon, I asked if we can know the timing of His 2nd coming?

Because the 1st century church thought it was coming in their lifetime. They thought that way in the 12th century church. And in the 17th century church.

***** So why would now be the time to think about it and be sure that it is us?***

That very question is what causes people to start mocking. "*they have been saying this for centuries*"

So I want to ask the question:

Can we be sure we are in the season of the 2nd coming?

Boldly and with Proof, YES WE ARE!! We are in the generation that will see the Return of Jesus!!

Ok lets go on this journey slowly and we will start with what we talked about last week.

- ⁴³*For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Lk 19:43-44)*

Time is *Kairos* which means season or generation

-They had 300 scriptures, we today have over 2,400. Let's discuss why He rebuked the people and leaders for not know the season of His 1st coming then we can look at why we will not be excused for His 2nd coming.

*****We have to start in Daniel, he was fasting for 21 days

²⁰*Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, ²¹yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. (Dan 9:20,21)*

²²*And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:*

²⁴*"A period of seventy sets of seven (490 years) has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. ²⁵Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven (49 years) plus sixty-two sets of seven (434 years = 483 years) will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.*

²⁶*"After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler (Titus) will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple.*

So in History, we know that Israel was under Babylonian rule, but then comes Persia and overcomes Babylon and by default now have a bunch of Jews to deal with. "Esther"

Persia had a King that was favorable to the Jews. His name was Artaxerxes.

In Nehemiah Ch 2, it describes Artaxerxes gave the decree in the month of March (Jewish month of Nisan) in the 20th year of his reign.

Artaxerxes took the throne in 465 BC, so the decree would have been given in 445 BC.

Let's fast forward a little.

In the 3rd Century church, we have this early church father named **Julius Africanus** who wrote a book on Daniel 9. His book was found in the dead sea scrolls (1948).

Only fragments were found and in fragment 16 he tells us how to calculate the exact day of converting these dates to the exact day. This is how the wise men were able to find Jesus.

Because the ancient Jewish calendar is different than the current Jewish calendar.
The Essenes were the ones who had the "Dead Sea Scrolls" and hid them in the caves at Qumran.

These calendars have been jacked up for thousands of years. The original new year was in Nisan or our March, and the book of Exodus speaks to that being the New year. The Gregorian calendar that we follow actually speaks to this. A Roman empire emperor changed the calendar to have January as the new year. Want proof? September means 7, October means 8. November means 9, December mean 10. Go back 7 months from September you have March.

So in the 1800s this guy named Robert Anderson who was the chief of Scotland Yards who was an English lawyer and a serious student of Daniel's book. This guy recreated this calendar as well and his work and Julius' work some 1500 years later perfectly match.

What's amazing about that Robert didn't have Julius' book because it hadn't been discovered yet.

So if we take the date of March 444 BC and you add 483 ancient Jewish years you arrive at Passover 32AD. This is using this conversion. Specifically you come up with April 6th 32AD which scholars have figured that it would have been the exact day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a Donkey. Now we can understand why there were people waiting for Him at the entrance of the gate with palm branches, because some knew the season.

These people knew what Zechariah prophesied

'Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt. (Zech 9:9)

These people that showed up, they knew. They were influenced by the Essenes'. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees but you never see Him rebuking the Essenes because they were accurate, they had it right.

This prophecy predicts not only the birth of Jesus but also the death of Jesus. I am not to carried away with the exact year, because I have heard anywhere from 30 AD to 32 AD as being the year Jesus was crucified.

So the next question we have to ask, does God give the timeline for the final 7 years the 70th week?

Yes He does.

Let's go back to scriptures from last Week:

³Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. ⁴They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created." ⁵They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. ⁶Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. ⁷And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed. ⁸But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. (2Pet 3:3-8)

Peter is running through the most important highlights of humanity's history and in v.8 a curveball.....a day is as a thousand years.....

So does God give the timing of that 70th week? He does!!

¹⁴For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, And like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear them and go away; I will take them away, and no one shall rescue. ¹⁵I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction (Is that Daniel calls Jacob's trouble) they will earnestly seek Me." (Hosea 5:14,15)

¹Come, and let us (Israel) return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. ²After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.

So after two days Israel has returned to their land (1948) but they have not returned to the Lord. In **Isaiah 11** God promises to gather them from all the nation in the world.

The Third day we will live in His sight, that's the Millennial Reign of Jesus

³Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.

.....
I want to be like the Wise Men who knew of Jesus birth, I want to be like Simeon who was waiting for baby Jesus at the synagogue. I want to be like those who were waiting with palm branches as He entered Jerusalem. I want to be a Virgin with Oil waiting for the Lord so when He opens the doors I can walk in.

For too long the enemy has distorted this subject with infighting, hurt feelings, fear and so on. Christians will tune you out at the mention of Jesus return, and so much more at the mention of knowing the time.

The last two sermons we have established the upmost importance to your salvation it is to keep Jesus' 2nd coming as a guiding light in your heart, and we have established the deception behind not knowing what the Spirit is doing in the season you are in.

It is a matter of life and death.