

It's the end of the world as we know it

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. TY to *Paul Lester* for teaching ch.18.

1. Trip highlights Sun.

B. Horatius Bonar, realized that the little things can either make or break the Christian.

He wrote, *“A holy life is made up of a multitude of small things. It is the little things of the hour and not the great things of the age that fill up a life like that of the apostles Paul or John, or David Brainard. Little words, not eloquent speeches or sermons; little deeds, not miracles or battles, or one great heroic effort or martyrdom, make up the true Christian life. It's the little constant sunbeam, not the lightning; the waters of Siloam that go softly in their meek mission of refreshment, not 'the waters of the rivers great and many' rushing down in torrent, noise, and force, that are the true symbols of a holy life.”*

1. Pray:

II. Intro:

A. Slide2 *The Doomsday Clock* is a symbol which represents the likelihood of a man-made global catastrophe. Maintained since 1947 by the members of *the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board*. The clock represents an analogy for the threat of global nuclear war. The clock represents the hypothetical global catastrophe as *midnight* and The Bulletin's opinion on how close the world is to a global catastrophe as a number of *minutes to midnight*. Its original setting in 1947 was **7 minutes to midnight**. It has been set **backward and forward 23 times** since then, the **smallest**-ever number of minutes to midnight being **2** (in 1953 and 2018) and the **largest** 17 (in 1991, from the *Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty*). As of January 2018, the clock is set at **2 minutes to midnight**, due to *the looming threats of nuclear war and climate change*. (added in 2007)

1. **But** maybe the best image is an **hourglass**. The **hourglass** is about to be flipped over (the end of this ch.) to start the next phase of life.

2. The godless system & city Babylon is judged. **God's servants vindicated**. **God is glorified**. Christ will now usher in His kingdom.

3. The Doomsday clock finally strikes midnight. The hour glass runs out of sand. **People finally admit Chicken Little was right, the sky is falling.**

4. Slide3 D.C. Talk remade the rock band R.E.M.'s song, *It's the end of the world as we know it*.

III. Slide4 A LION DEFEATED (1-6) [Heaven Scene]

- A. Babylon was represented by Daniel as *a lion* in Dan.7.
- B. This starts with a song of praise...*A Hallel* (Ps.113-118. *The great Hallel* Ps.118-136)
- C. (1) *Alleluia* (PTL) - Remember the call to rejoice was issued in 18:20?
1. **Hallelujah** is a Hebrew command meaning **Praise-Yah**.
 2. Here the great multitude in heaven gladly follow orders.
 3. *Alleluia* only occurs in the NT 4x's, *all right here*.
 4. They Praise Him for **3 things**: His Salvation (1). His Rt. Judgments (2,3). His Coming Reign (6).

IV. Slide5 A LAMB GETS MARRIED (7-10) [Heaven Scene]

- A. THE WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT (7,9)
- B. It is *the Marriage of The Lamb* (normally a wedding is announced in the name of *the Bride*...not this one)
1. **He** will be the center of attention...not her.
 - a) The processional will not be playing, *Here comes the bride*, but *Here comes the Groom*. (Ryrie)
 - b) Here He comes to consummate the marriage.
- C. Slide6 How did betrothal/marriage play out in biblical times?
1. Groom to leave Fathers House/to Brides. *Incarnation*
 2. Negotiate Price. *That would be his blood*
 3. Now Betrothed. *at salvation, now Set-Apart*
 4. Both drank from a cup/to confirm cov. *communion*
 5. Back to Fathers House. *I go to prepare a place for you*.
 6. Meanwhile bride Prepares herself. *White gown/holiness/sanctification*

7. Invitations go out but not everyone comes. When gospel invite goes out not all come
 8. Father sends Groom when house is ready. Father inspects & says when
 9. She expected him/didn't know exactly when? in the twinkling of an eye
 10. The Groom arrived w/his groomsmen. & was proceeded w/a shout.
 11. He takes Bride to Fathers House. Rapture. *I will return again & receive you to myself, that where I am there you may be also.*
 12. Enter Bridal chamber & consummate marriage for 7 days. marriage supper of the lamb (7 years)
- D. (9) A Special Blessing (*blessed*) is pronounced upon all those called to the meal.
- E. Slide7a THE BRIDES DRESS (8)
- F. Again God's beautiful balance of Man's Responsibility & God's Sovereignty.
1. Man's Responsibility: *has made herself ready.*
 2. God's Sovereignty: *to her it was granted.*
 3. Slide7b Her spots & wrinkles & blemishes are taken away. Eph.5:25,26
 - a) *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*
- G. Slide7c Her wedding gown is...her *righteous acts*.
1. We seem to get a white garment at **salvation**, which is from God. Then we *make a dress* to go on top of it. [The 1st salvation. The 2nd Sanctification]
 2. Every *good work* is another stitch in the making of our wedding dress.
 - a) Eph. 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
- H. Remember, *proper attire* was expected at weddings during NT times.
1. Mt.22:1-14 tells the story of how upset the King was when people showed up not wearing the proper attire.

a) It would be like showing up today at a wedding in sweats (or yoga pants) instead of formal clothes.

I. Brides come to the church on their wedding day 1 of 3 ways:

1. [1] fully dressed/ready to go [2] partially dressed in wedding gown, partially in her street clothes [3] not ready at all. [ladies, which ever way you arrived at your wedding venue, the key was that you were **ready** at game time] *Be ready.*

J. Adorn yourself with Good Works:

1. 1 Pet.2:12 *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your **good works** which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

2. 1 Pet.5:5 *...be **clothed w/humility.***

K. (10) Look at the **response** of the 1 human (John) who got a glimpse of this wedding feast. With that **reaction** (*falling on his face*) **is this going to be an incredible wedding or what?** *Face plant #2....oops wrong feet.*

1. **You can't worship non-diet.** (angles, man, etc.)

a) *Hey we're both servants.* (fellow servants)

2. Another proof **Jesus is God.** (He received Worship)

a) **From the Magi, a leper, a ruler, the disciples in the boat, a Syrophenician, from the women at His resurrection, from the disciples at His res, & from a blind man.**

L. **The Testimony of Jesus** - The study of prophecy should *point to Jesus.*

1. Some people think prophecy is to open a window on the future. **No, the spirit & essence of prophecy** is *to bear witness to Jesus.*

2. Don't focus on the future events **but** upon **the One** whom will bring them to pass.

V. **Slide8 A HORSE GETS RIDDEN (11-16)** [Earth Scene]

A. (11) Jesus said, *My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, & to finish His work.* Jn.4:34

B. Look, up in the sky, it's a bird, it's plane, no it's...**a horse?**

C. Heaven opens...and it's **a Lamb** on a horse? (marriage of the Lamb. Supper of the Lamb, **now** *return of the Lamb*)

1. Contrast this with His ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
 2. 1st time He slipped into the world as *a baby*. This time as *a Mighty Warrior*.
- D. Not coming *in the air but to the earth*. [ie. diff of rapture & 2nd Coming]
- E. Julius Caesar in 47bc said, *Veni, Vidi, Vici*, when his Roman army defeated king Pharnaces for Pontus, in Asia Minor...*I came, I saw, I conquered*.
1. 1700 years later *King John III Sobieski* drove the Ottoman invaders out of central Europe, saving the German Emperor Leopold I & the city of Vienna. He said to Pope Innocent XI, *I came, I saw, God conquered*.
 2. When Jesus returns, *The Lord will come, the world will see, & God will conquer*.
- F. (12) *Eyes* - The penetrating quality of His judgment.
- G. *Many Crowns* - When *Ptolemy Philometer* entered Antioch as a conqueror, he wore a triple crown, two for Egypt, and a third for Asia.
- H. (13) *Robe dipped in blood* – Dipped βαπτο
1. *Whose?* Is.63:1-4 *Not His own blood, but the blood of His enemy*.
- I. (14) *Armies in Heaven* - Saints, because of the same clothing (8).
1. Saddle up partner, you & I will be ridin white horses also.
- J. (15,16) This is 2 Thes.1:7-10.

VI. Slide9 **BIRDS EAT SUPPER (17-21)** [Earth Scene]

- A. **THE END, ARMAGEDDON**
- B. Slide10a (17) *Calling all birds* – like when Tarzan would call the jungle animals as he needed them.
1. Big difference between *the marriage supper of the Lamb* & *the supper of the Great God*.
- C. Slide10b (19) *They resist God till the bitter end*.
- D. (20) *Caught & cast alive into the pit*.
1. *Some believe/hope death is final*. *But* these 2 are still there 1000 yrs later (they didn't *cease to exist*). Later are *still being tormented* (see 20:10)
- E. (21) What a great slaughter that *all the birds of the earth* are needed for clean up.

F. *A holy life is made up of a multitude of small things. It is the little things of the hour and not the great things of the age.* Horatius Bonar