

Where are we in time #4

8/16/2020

Sunday Morning

1. This series of studies was born out of the survey you filled out
 - a. We wanted to see if there were unique needs, b/c of the virus had us so disconnected
2. The survey said that some of you were: depressed, worried, afraid & mad! (Obviously this doesn't apply to everyone)
3. You weren't mad at any particular entity – well, maybe certain regional government officials, but mostly mad at the circumstances occurring around the world
4. But more than mad, you revealed you were depressed! That makes a lot of sense; watching the news.
 - a. What has happened to people? They seem to have lost their minds.
5. You said you were worried not for your own safety, but for the future of your loved ones.
 - a. It does seem as if the United States is coming apart at the seams
6. I feel that God led us into this study to help all of us put things into perspective
 - a. I assumed I would take a week; be encouraged, encourage you, & that would be it
 - b. This is the 4th week & there is still another
7. So this week we will start by beginning to wrap up loose ends
8. First, I have to explain something I said last week – back to Daniel

Daniel 9:24 "*Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people* and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

1. "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people"
 - i. "Seventy weeks" = 490 years until Kingdom established

V.25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

V.26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks *the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing*, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

1. "the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing"
 - a. The crucifixion of Christ was 483 years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem
 - i. There was supposed to be only 490 years until the Kingdom
 - b. But that was 2000 years ago
 - c. Then I ask the question, "Was Gabriel wrong in his timing?" I said, "Yes"
 - i. I said, "Gabriel couldn't see the Church age b/c it was hidden from view".
 - ii. What I said was true, but I said it the wrong way.
 - d. I should have qualified that statement by saying; there were only 7 years left, "in which God deals directly w/ Israel".
 - i. Then the Kingdom is established
 - ii. Remember that the Israel is the time keeper or benchmark for time
 - iii. The Church is not a benchmark or timekeeper or connected to anything related to the world or Israel
 - e. I said last week that the Church is a very unique entity
 - i. We are not tied to the earth
 - ii. Not tied to the Israel
 - iii. Not tied to the Law
 - iv. Even a saved Jew, who is in the Church age, is not connected to Israel
 - v. The Church is not connected to time – we are eternal
 01. Even the rapture is not connected to time – it is tied to a number
 02. When the last person who belongs to the Church is saved, the Church is taken from earth
 03. It is clearly not connected to a date

2 Peter 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!
 - vi. The Church's connect is to Christ alone
 - f. God isn't dealing directly w/ Israel but He is going to again

V.27 "And *he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate*, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

1. "he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week"
 - a. The "one week" is the last 7 years that Gabriel spoke of
 - b. It is called the tribulation period
 - c. Last week we looked at the translation of the Church from earth to heaven – the "rapture"

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ *Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1. "Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"
 - a. That is the rapture!
 - b. What are the signs of the rapture of the Church?
 - c. There are no signs for the rapture!
 - d. It is called the doctrine of imminence – Christ could come at any moment
 - i. We were not told to look for signs of His coming
 - ii. We are to look for HIM!
 - e. The Church was told to live life w/ the understanding that He could come back at any moment
 - i. The symbolism in John 14 is clear

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

³ "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- ii. Later Paul explains the experience of when Christ comes for us

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

- iii. We are supposed to be looking for His return at all times
Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
James 5:8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
⁹ Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

Just b/c there are no signs for the rapture doesn't mean that we are to be ignorant of the times

1. Christ criticized the those who couldn't discern the season they lived in
Luke 12:54 And He was also saying to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it turns out.
⁵⁵ "And when *you see* a south wind blowing, you say, 'It will be a hot day,' and it turns out *that way*.
⁵⁶ "You hypocrites! You know how to analyze the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not analyze this present time?
2. There are shadows being cast – shadows from the end times
 - a. We are to be aware of this epochal period we live in
 - i. We know that from reading 2 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard *to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him*,

² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, *to the effect that the day of the Lord has come*.

1. "to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him"
 - a. Paul had taught at length concerning the end & the rapture of the Church
 - b. Here he is reminding them of their earlier talks

2. "not be shaken...or disturbed...by a letter...to the effect that the day of the Lord has come"
 - a. Apparently a letter (probably a letter) was circulating that said the day of the Lord had already started – somehow they missed the rapture & were now in the tribulation
 - i. That doesn't make sense to us – but they were being persecuted & could easily believe that letter
 - b. "the day of the Lord" starts w/ the tribulation (see earlier notes)

So, what are the shadows that we can see?

1. #1. Israel – they are back!
 - a. If we are not thoughtful, we take this too lightly – nothing like what Israel accomplished has ever happened before – they reappeared out of nowhere
 - b. Ezekiel said it would happen 600 years before Christ

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones.

V.2 He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry.

V.3 He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

V.4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'

V.5 "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.

V.6 'I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.'

V.7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

V.8 And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; *but there was no breath in them.*

1. "but there was no breath in them"
 - a. They are a nation – but w/ no breath – no life (eternal life)
 - b. They don't know their Messiah – won't have life until they know Him
 - c. In a moment of time they will be given breath

Ezekiel 37:8 And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life."'"

¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

1. "they came to life and stood on their feet"
 - a. The whole world hates Israel
 - i. In that day the armies of the world will turn against Israel
 - ii. All will appear lost

Zechariah 14:2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

- b. Christ will appear & save them

Zechariah 14:4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

V.6 In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

⁷ For it will be a unique day which is known to the

LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

c. Israel will see Christ & believe, instantly

Zechariah 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn...

d. He not only saves them but He energizes them to defend themselves

Zechariah 12:6 "In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.

⁷ "The LORD also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be magnified above Judah.

⁸ "In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD before them.

⁹ "And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

d. Jerusalem will be the capital of the world thru the kingdom age

Isaiah 2:1 The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.

³ And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us

go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

2. Second shadow – Commercial Babylon must come back & has world impact

a. We know it comes back b/c we read of its demise in Revelation 18

Revelation 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.

V.2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

1. "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great"

a. Because of its world impact, when it falls the ramifications of the fall are felt world wide

V.3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

1. "all the nations have drunk of...her immorality...kings of the earth...merchants of the world"

a. Where is the one place that the whole world has gathered?

V.4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;

1. "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins"

a. Where is it that even believers (after rapture) can participate in sin

b. The Internet!

c. I believe that the internet is modern Babylon

d. Babylon was where everyone spoke the same language

Genesis 11:1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

V.6 The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

V.9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

- i. It is not a small thing that all men can communicate again

The shadows of time are growing long

We don't know the immediate future – but we know our future

1 Thessalonians 5:21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;

²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.