

Where are we in time #5

8/23/2020

Sunday Morning

1. Last week we started looking for signs of return of Christ for His Church (the rapture)
 - a. There are no signs for the "rapture" – it could occur at any moment
2. But there are signs for the "Day of the Lord" – tribulation period
3. Since the rapture takes place before the tribulation we can look at those signs & have an idea of where we are in time
4. Should we even concern ourselves w/ where we are in time?
 - a. We saw last week that Christ criticized those who didn't see the time they lived in
5. We labeled them shadows of coming tribulation
 - a. #1. Israel is here – you can't have the return of Christ w/out Israel
 - b. #2. Babylon is here – you can't have the return of Christ w/out a physical Babylon
 - i. Spiritual Babylon has always been here
 - ii. But now the physical Babylon, the center of world trade, is here
 - iii. And Babylon will be destroyed in a moment of time (after rapture)

Revelation 18:9 "And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of* immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

¹⁰ standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

¹¹ "And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more—

¹² cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every *kind of* citron wood and every article of ivory and every article *made* from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,

¹³ and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargoes of* horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.

¹⁴ "The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.

¹⁵ "The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

¹⁶ saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;

¹⁷ for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,

¹⁸ and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What *city* is like the great city?'

¹⁹ "And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'

- c. #3. The nations prophesied to play a role in end times are all present
- d. 2600 years ago God said that a coalition of nations would unite to destroy Israel

Ezekiel 38:1 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

V.2 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him

V.3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

V.4 "I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords;

V.5 Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet;

V.6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you.

1. "many peoples with you"

- a. We don't know every modern nation mentioned but we know some

Ezekiel 38:1 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

V.2 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him

1. "set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh"
 - a. "Gog" means prince or ruler
 - i. He is the prince of Magog
 - b. Magog is modern Russia
 - c. Some believe that Meshech & Tubal are part of Russia also
 - d. We know for sure that Magog is Russia
 - i. They part of a group of people who were called Scythians
 - e. Their genealogy is found in Genesis 10
 - i. Japheth's offspring

Genesis 10:2 The sons of Japheth *were* Gomer and Magog and Madai and Javan and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras.

³ The sons of Gomer *were* Ashkenaz and Riphath and Togarmah.

- f. We also have geographical proof that Magog is Russia

Ezekiel 39:1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal;

² and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

V.3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

V.4 "I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords;

V.5 Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet;

1. "Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them"
 - a. Persia is modern Iran
 - i. Even today if you talk to an native Iranian – they will tell you that they are Persian
 - ii. They only became Muslims in 1930's b/c the Muslims took over

01. The Ayatollahs ordered the execution of anyone not converting from the Persian religion (Zoroastrianism) to Islam
- b. "Ethiopia" – literally "Cush"
 - i. Probably Sudan – just south of Egypt
- c. "Put" – probably Libya

V.6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you.

1. "Gomer with...troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops"
 - a. Gomer & Beth-togarmah are modern Turkey
 - i. History says they settled around the Caspian & Black Sea
 - b. Turkey is becoming more militantly Islamic & turning away from the West in recent years
 - i. The three nations that there is no dispute over are: Russia, Iran & Turkey – the others can be debated

V.7 "Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them.

V.8 "After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.

1. "they are living securely"
 - a. It has been questioned whether this happens before or after the tribulation
 - b. It could be either b/c this isn't Armageddon
 - c. But I believe that it happens after the rapture b/c of this phrase – "they are living securely"
 - d. The antichrist brings a sense of peace to the world & I believe they will feel safe
 - i. This could actually happen right after the rapture

V.9 "You will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you."

1. "you will come like a storm"
 - a. Russia will align w/ the Muslim nations to come against Israel

V.10 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan,

V.11 and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates,

V.12 to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world.'

V.13 "Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its villages will say to you, 'Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?'"

1. "Sheba & Dedan &...merchants of Tarshish with all its villages will say...have you come to spoil"
 - a. A few nations complain but do nothing
 - b. Who are those nations?
 - c. That brings us to sign number four
 - d. #4. Where is the United States?
 - e. The U.S. will lose its influence in the world
 - i. God has used the U.S. as a stabilizing force over the world
 - f. God used U.S. to help Israel survive
 - i. We apparently lose the desire or ability to help Israel
 - ii. We are so transfixed on being politically correct that we losing perspective of world issues
 - iii. We will be out of the picture by this time
 - iv. It can happen one of 2 ways
 - v. #1. If our nation turns to socialism – we will become a 3rd world country
 - vi. #2. The rapture will weaken the nation to make it a third world country
 - g. Who are Sheba & Dedan & merchants of Tarshish?
 - i. Sheba is an ancient name for modern Saudi Arabia
 - ii. Dedan is an ancient name for what is now United Arab Emirates
 - iii. It is interesting that UAE is signing a peace agreement w/ Israel
 - h. Just so that you know – Russia & Islamic countries don't win!

Ezekiel 39:1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,

"Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal;

² and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

³ "I will strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand.

⁴ "You will fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field.

⁵ "You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken," declares the Lord GOD.

⁶ "And I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the LORD.

Sign #5 Globalism

Our president is not liked at all by world leaders

1. His personality leaves a lot to be desired!!
2. But the real reason is b/c he is not a globalist
3. Right now, all the leaders of the world think globalism is a good idea – except our president
 - a. Our country has been heading that direction for a long time
4. Globalism is a satanic conspiracy
 - a. It must take place for that antichrist to take over the world

Revelation 13:3 *I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast;*

⁴ they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

V.8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

V.11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.

V.16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

¹⁷ and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name.

- i. US must become minor player in scheme of world events
- 5. Globalism will become a reality

Sign #6 UFO's

1. This may seem strange – but it is important (in my opinion)
2. How do you explain the disappearance of millions of people, around the world, after the rapture?
3. Pentagon spokesperson Susan Gough and a press release from the Department of Defense, on 08/04/2020, the military approved the establishment of an Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force (UAPTF).
 - a. Someday all believers will disappear & the world will need an explanation

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.

³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

V.8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

⁹ *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because

they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

1. "God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false"
 - a. Literally – they will believe "the" lie
 - i. Definite article describing lie
 - ii. It is a particular lie that everyone believes
 - b. Notice that God gives the lie to them
 - i. God sees to it that UFO's are "real" – to the world
 - ii. He tells why in V.12

¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

4. I know you don't want to see our country go down
 - i. I don't either – but remember – The government is not our Savior
 - ii. Politics is only valuable to a point & then becomes a distraction
 01. God controls the politics of this world

Daniel 2:20 Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

²¹ "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding.
 - iii. We look for our Savior – the King of all Kings

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Savior – turn to Him now!