

Where are we in time? #6

8-30-2020

Sunday Morning

1. Where we are in the time
2. We are in the last days – 3 different “last days”
 - i. The “last days” pertaining to mankind

Acts 2:17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,'
 God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT
 ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR
 DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG
 MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN
 SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

- ii. “Last days” pertaining to Israel

Ezekiel 38:16 and you will come up against My
 people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall
 come about in the last days that I will bring you
 against My land, so that the nations may know Me
 when I am sanctified through you before their eyes,
 O Gog."

- iii. “Last days” pertaining to the Church

2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days
 difficult times will come.

² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money,
 boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents,
 ungrateful, unholy,

2 Peter 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last
days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following
 after their own lusts,

3. We have seen the outline of God’s plan
 - a. The world gets worse
 - b. The Church grows weaker
 - c. Christ comes for His Church (the rapture)
 - d. Chaos ensues over entire earth
 - e. Rapture is explained away w/ “the” lie
 - f. One man steps forward & becomes the savior of civilization – the
 antichrist

- i. There is the formation of the “unholy trinity” – the dragon; beast; false prophet

Revelation 13:1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns *were* ten diadems, and on his heads *were* blasphemous names.

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.13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.

¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

- ii. The second beast is also referred to as the “false prophet”

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

- g. Back to the outline; there are 7 years of God’s wrath (the tribulation)
- h. Christ returns to earth with His Church
- i. Christ puts an end to warring nations

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

V.15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

- j. All unbelievers are removed from earth
 - i. Some are taken in battle
 - ii. Others are taken while going about daily affairs

Matthew 24:37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

³⁸ "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

⁴⁰ "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

⁴¹ "Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

- k. Satan is incarcerated for 1000 yrs.
 - l. Tribulation martyrs & the O.T. saints are resurrected at that time (my opinion)

Revelation 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

V.4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

V.6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

- m. All the nations, still on earth, are judged to see who is allowed to stay

Matthew 25:31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

³² "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

³³ and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

- n. After 1000 years Satan released
- o. He causes many men to rebel against God – but he & the rebellious people are defeated for ever
- p. Then all lost people are resurrected

John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,

²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

- q. They are judged at Great White Throne Judgment
- r. Then God incinerates heaven & earth & makes a new heaven & earth
- s. The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven (probably like a planet) and gives light to the new earth & the people who dwell there thru eternity
 - i. We will make our home in New Jerusalem
 - ii. For all eternity there are 4 places of dwelling: new heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem, hell

- 4. But what about us?
 - a. What happens to us at the rapture?

- 1. First: We get a new body
 - a. This is beyond our ability to grasp – we don't even know what a human is supposed to look like
 - i. All we have seen is racked w/ sin

- b. It will be much more than what Adam & Eve had
 - i. They were just human – we are adopted children of God
 - Galatians 4:6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- c. God is keeping secret some truths about our new bodies
 - Colossians 3:3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
 - ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

- d. We know it pertains to our bodies
 - Colossians 3:3** For you have died and *your life is hidden with Christ* in God.
 - 01. "your life is hidden with Christ"
 - 1. "hidden" – (κρύπτω) to hide, to keep secret

- e. The context is clearly talking about our bodies
 - Colossians 3:3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
 - ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
 - ⁵ Therefore consider the members (μέλος) of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

 - i. He is saying, since your body will be changed into something special – keep it away from sin

- 2. After we get our new bodies – we go to bema judgment seat (in heaven)
 - a. We go there to receive rewards
 - b. We will not be judged for the things done before believing in Christ
 - c. We will be judged on how we lived as believers
 - d. We don't know the equation for judging works
 - i. I.e. how long saved; how much scripture exposed to; etc.
 - ii. "Abilities" are given by God – "Time" we have equal amounts
 - e. Every believer will be praised for believing

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

- f. Jesus told Thomas those who believe w/out seeing are blessed
John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"
²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."
- g. We are not held accountable for "confessed sin"
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- h. We're not held accountable for sins we don't know about
 i. God is responsible to reveal sin to us
- i. We know God will judge fairly & without favoritism
Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,
²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.
- j. But we also know that sins not dealt w/ here – will be dealt w/ there
 i. There will be no grace for hidden sins; using grace as a license to sin
 ii. The context is clearly written to believers in Hebrews 10 – they were thinking of going back to Judaism
Hebrews 10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no

longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

V.30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

k. Some believers will have tremendous rewards – others will not

1 Corinthians 3:13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

3. Next comes the marriage to Christ

Revelation 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

⁸ It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

a. This may not sound very exciting – but the reasons it doesn't is b/c it is so fantastic, God doesn't say much

i. The only way God communicates it was w/ the marriage act

Ephesians 5:31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

4. Marriage supper (a celebration in heaven)

a. The redeemed of Israel will be there in attendance

5. Then we comes back to earth with Christ – at His 2nd coming

Jude 1:14 *It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,*

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

V.14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.

6. Then we reign for 1000 years
7. Then God incinerates heaven & earth
8. Then the New Jerusalem comes down & lights the earth for eternity
9. There will be four places of dwelling in eternity
 - a. New heaven
 - b. New earth
 - c. New Jerusalem
 - d. Lake of fire –"Gehenna"
10. What will eternity be like for believers, who live for Christ here?
 - a. Anything we make up is just that – made up
 - b. The problem is we can't think big enough!

1 Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

- c. We can have a vague view that it is going to be great

1 Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

- d. Paul went to heaven – couldn't talk about it

2 Corinthians 12:3 And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—
⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

e. Because heaven is so fantastic – we can only contrast the negatives
Revelation 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any death*; there will no longer be *any mourning*, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

f. Paul suffered more than most can imagine

2 Corinthians 11:24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

²⁶ *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

²⁷ *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

g. Then he makes a contrasting comparison

2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

11. Part of the purpose of today is to remind us how short this life is – how busy we will be in the next life
12. Our dwelling in heaven is a gift
13. What our eternity is a gift also – for having lived for Him
14. This is our only chance to live well w/ sin all around us

Colossians 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.