

Later than We Think!



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Time is almost up; It's later than we thought—often-used expressions, and since the Lord tarries, we have another day—it is not too late to *confess* our sins; to *repent* of our mistakes; and to *forsake* any unscriptural attitudes toward anyone or anything we may have in our heart. 2 Corinthians 6:2 “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation Isaiah 49:8.”

A voice in heaven Revelation 12:10 says: “Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down.” Our taking advantage of that divine power is *now—today*; it is still *not too late—yet!* World conditions—politically, spiritually, and morally give clear warning that Jesus is at the door and waiting for the command from the Father to return. It is *later than we think!*

Jesus watched people put money in the offering box—and He commented on those giving from their *surplus* and the one giving from her *heart*. Mark 12:43-44 “Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in of all that she had, even all her living.”

It was a financial lesson on trust—putting God *first* and placing *no limit* on His promise to provide. She was following Matthew 19:21 “If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give

to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.”

After that *financial* lesson, Jesus spoke on *world* conditions—what to *look* for and how to be *ready*. Mark 13:5 “Take heed lest any man deceive you”—because deception is everywhere and in so many different forms today. 9 “You must be on your guard,” He said, because of possible deceit!

Mark 13:23 “But take ye heed (He said): behold, I have foretold you all things”—of earthquakes, military clashes, famines, false teaching, persecution, the gospel being proclaimed globally, family members opposing each other, and hatred toward believers in general. When a tree puts forth leaves in the spring, then the time Mark 13:29 “Is nigh, even at the doors.”

Meanwhile, Jesus said John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” Jesus sent His Spirit to inspire us to have this same love for all people and to trust God every day for everything. John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

Life can seem stressful, but Jesus says *do not be troubled* because if our *trust* is in *God* and our *faith* is in *Him*, we will be ready for our new home. It can be a reality by our *believing* that His Atonement for sin paid for our mistakes of the past. We will return to Heaven *with Him* by *faith in Him*—for health and healing; for protection and peace; for food and fuel; and for any other expense.

Faith in *God* for these things that were *paid* for, is the issue—it means trusting Him for healing *without* drugs; for finances *without* Social Security; for avenging wrongs *without* legal action; for a forgiving spirit with *no* resentment; and for eternal life by a believing faith in the Blood of Christ.

Many are troubled by the increase of evil and violence in the world, but God has promised to protect us when we trust Him in faith. Psalm 91:2 “I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust”—not trusting worldly substitutes like guns, belts, or bars.

First we trust *God*—then 3-6 “He will rescue you from every trap and protect you from the fatal plague. He will shield you with his wings. He will shelter you with his feathers. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor fear the dangers of the day, nor dread the plague that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday.”

Illnesses, mysterious viruses, flus and diseases today were unheard of years ago because Satan invents *new* evils and viruses, but God promises to *protect* and *heal* those who will truly trust Him in faith. Psalm 91:9-11 “Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”

A paradise kingdom is *promised* if we will trust on the Atonement Blood of Christ—a sacrifice beyond *anything* in value. Philippians 3:20-21 “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

God cannot save us *against our will*, but if we make the choice to *trust* Him in faith—to forgive our sins; to heal our body; to supply our needs; and to save our soul, He will prepare us to meet Him by enabling us to *be in His will*. We

1 Peter 1:5 “Are kept by the power of God through

faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

A perfect sacrifice was required to atone for the many sins of the world. Hebrews 9:28 *“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”*

Signs indicate *these* are the last days—prior to the rapture. A major event was Israel becoming a nation—May 14, 1948. Jesus spoke of the end-times: Luke 21:17 *“Ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.”* Then adding: Luke 21:19 *“In your patience possess ye your souls. 20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.”*

That prophecy could not be fulfilled until the Jews—who had been scattered all over the world—returned to their promised land Israel. The Jews were actually living in Israel when Jesus *first* spoke those words, but later they were scattered around the globe. They began to return to Israel in the early 1900s.

Jerusalem would be surrounded by enemies, Jesus said—referring to the Battle of Armageddon that will take place in Israel. This involves the Antichrist with his ten confederated nations, and the kings of the East consisting of a 200-million-man army Revelation 9:16. The Valley of Megiddo in Israel is the scene of this final war before Christ returns to set up His Millennial kingdom.

Jerusalem is surrounded by enemy nations *today*, and even though the Muslims are determined to destroy Israel, God’s *promise* to Abraham will be fulfilled. Genesis 12:2-3 *“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you.”*

The Antichrist is a political leader who will *seem* to have the answers for a troubled world. Posing as a man of peace, he will have the Israelis and Palestinians sign a peace treaty and offer a solution for building a *third* Jewish Temple. Islam’s Dome of the Rock—where Mohammed supposedly ascended—now occupies the place where the 3rd Jewish Temple is to be located. Any construction even *near* there would trigger a global Jihad.

The Jews will be so glad to see their Temple rebuilt, they will think the Antichrist is the Messiah. After three-and-a half years, however, the true character of the Antichrist is revealed.

Matthew 24:15-17 *“When you have seen (to use the language of the Prophet Daniel) the ‘ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION’, standing in the Holy Place—let the reader observe those words—then let those who are in Judaea escape to the hills; let him who is on the roof not go down to fetch what is in his house.”*

The apostle Paul had the privilege of *seeing* what no one *else* ever saw. *“I was caught up into the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether my body was there or just my spirit, I don’t know; only God knows. But I do know that I was caught up into paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be told”* 2 Corinthians 12:2-4.

The apostle John had a *glimpse* of God’s throne Revelation 4:1-3 *“Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me with the sound of a mighty trumpet blast.*

The voice said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things.’ And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it! The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow.”

Jesus gave his life on the cross and rose to life by the *power of God*, to deliver us from the *power of the devil*, and to restore the blessings lost through Adam’s sin. The resurrection of Christ gives us peace, righteousness, health, protection, and victory over the devil. Most churches teach a doctrine that nullifies the Gospel of Christ, which hinders a preparation for eternal life.

Too many think that God has *changed*, which would mean that *Jesus*, the *Holy Spirit*, and the *Atonement* have changed. They believe the lie that God does *not* do things like He did in the Bible. Such teaching would not prepare *anyone* for Heaven because it is *not* the true Bible standard of faith on the power of God that is absolutely *required* John 6:29.

Righteousness is possible *only* through a trusting faith in the Blood of Christ for everything—healing *without* drugs; for protection *without* firearms; forgiving without resentment, etc. True *faith* includes real *answers* to prayer—for money to pay expenses; for training children; work issues; spiritual light; for a *forgiving* heart, and for everything else.

The lies of the *devil* are meant to hinder our blessings from God *today*, and to hinder our readiness *tomorrow*—if *that* would be when Jesus returns.

We must put our *trust* on the divine *power* of Christ to take unbelief from our heart; and to give us protection from wickedness and deceit that is *everywhere* today.

Revelation 22:14 *“Blessed are those who do His commandments [who wash their robes NIV; clean], that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city”—It’s Later than We Think—but not too late—yet!*



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