Revelation— Trailer of Coming Events!

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Everyone wants to know the future—it is a fascinating subject to consider. We are told to Luke 12:35 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him." Jesus could return in a split-second! Only one Book reveals the future—and only God has the information we need to know.

Anyone can understand this informative Book with the Holy Spirit's enlightenment—and He enables us to apply the principle of trust on God so we will be ready and waiting when the Master returns. God says blessed are they who read the Book; hear the words of this prophecy Revelation 1:3 "And keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." The time is closer than ever!

Revelation is important because it informs about the *fate* of those who do *not repent*, and the *reward* for those who *do repent*. We must be ready and waiting for the sudden rapture of believers—and that readiness is only by real *faith* in the Atonement Blood of Christ. The Book is a revelation of the future; it *alerts* to possible deception; and it warns us of the deadly sin of pride; and *informs* of the absolute need to repent.

Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is he who reads and blessed are those who listen to the words of this prophecy and lay to heart what is written in it; for the time for its fulfillment is now close at hand." The time approaches closer than ever before. The political and spiritual condition of the world—with enemies surrounding Jerusalem—is a warning of how close the return of Christ really is.

Hearing about the future has always fascinated people, but the only One who really knows the future is the One in whom we must put our faith—a faith that does not fail even when tested through trial. Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, John, and Jesus give a glimpse of the future. Revelation 1:1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place."

In humility and obedience, Jesus went to the Cross to pay for our sins; Philippians 2:9-11 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Revelation tells of our divine *inheritance* in Christ—if *conditions* are met—which is choosing to *trust* on the Blood of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will enlighten any willing soul to the warnings; the examples; and the teaching of Revelation.

1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

God is holy and just, so sinners are accountable—we *must* repent of unbelief and rebellion. The Book tells of the *Lamb that was slain* and the *wrath of the Lamb*. It mentions a *tree of life* and a *lake of fire*. Revelation is about the final war between the *forces* of evil and the *power* of God.

Our lamps of faith *must* be kept *burning*—which is to keep *trusting* in faith on the Atonement Blood of Christ. It is our responsibility to *ask God* to reveal any hidden *resentment* in our heart. We must *examine* our attitudes—so we will not 1 Corinthians 11:32 "Be condemned with the world." Matthew 24:42 "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." We have been warned!

The spiritual condition of the world and the global unbelief in God *was* predicted. The world has been given much time to repent—which it ignores—but God is merciful and patient, and He warns—until soon He gives the command for Jesus to return.

Luke 12:35-37 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. [Blessed are] those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes."

The warning is clear—follow the teaching of Christ or no one escapes God's wrath. John 12:46 "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

There is no excuse for not knowing God's Truth, because Jesus came to shed light on the Word through the power of His Spirit. We are responsible to *read*; to *heed*; to *believe*, and to *put* our faith in the Blood of Christ—for everything. *Keeping His words* means we do *not* strike back; it means we do *not* hold resentment against anyone; and it means we do *not* horde up money on

earth, but put it in Heaven by selling, giving, and living each day by faith.

Keeping His Words means confessing our sins to God when we are oppressed—and putting our trust in Him for the forgiveness and healing we need. Keeping His words means trusting Him in faith for protection, provisions, and being at peace with everyone.

This glimpse into the future is Revelation 1:5 "From Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood." God's love is shown by His Son giving His life for ours. Now we must make the choice to put our trust on that blood sacrifice.

Revelation is an interesting book of the greatest importance, because it reveals the future. It explains about the economic collapse of the world; of global disasters that will make the Flood of Noah's day pale by comparison; and a war that will end all wars and battles. There are political intrigues that will lead to the worst dictator the world has ever known—the Antichrist.

Revelation is a trailer of coming events. Revelation 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. 8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

Many scoff 2 Peter 3:4 "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men"—Yes, the Bible warns again and again of the Master's sudden return—and catching most by surprise!

Jesus will absolutely return, and while we wait for that blessed hope, we are to correct any wrong attitude that God reveals. Anyone could be waiting and ready by asking God to search their heart and expose any rebellion or wrong attitude. We then are to be willing to repent of anything revealed that is outside the will of God. The Holy Spirit inspires us to make corrections and not to go back to wrong attitudes.

When Jesus was on earth, He was rejected, mocked, and crucified, but the story does not end there. Satan's rule is temporary John 12:31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out." Jesus is the Rightful Ruler, so He will return to reclaim His Kingdom. Romans 14:11-12 "It is written: 'As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

Revelation describes the *sentencing* of all *unbelievers* to eternal punishment; Revelation 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night." The Book also tells of the reward for all true believers. Romans 2:7 "To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life."

Only Peter, James, and John witnessed the glory of Christ, but when He returns Revelation 1:7 "Every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him." Knowing that future events will take place Revelation 22:21, and the rapture will happen suddenly as predicted, we have to be ready and waiting for the Master by continuing to trust in the Blood He shed for everyone.

Matthew 25:1-5 "Then will the Kingdom of the Heavens be found to be like ten bridesmaids who took their torches and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. For the foolish, when they took their torches, did not provide themselves with oil; but the wise, besides their torches, took oil in their flasks. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, so that meanwhile they all became drowsy and fell asleep"—not alert spiritually.

Jesus says 6-10 "At midnight there is a loud cry, "The bridegroom! Go out and meet him!" Then all those bridesmaids roused themselves and trimmed their torches. "Give us some of your oil," said the foolish ones to the wise, 'for our torches are going out."

"But perhaps,' replied the wise, 'there will not be enough for all of us. Go to the shops rather, and buy some for yourselves.' So they went to buy. But meanwhile the bridegroom came; those bridesmaids who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet; and the door was shut."

Preparation is vital, because Matthew 25:11 "Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

It is an urgent call for readiness and preparation! Our lamp of faith in Christ must *still* be burning when He returns. Revelation 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." The future has been revealed—now it is our choice: Be ready—or Be judged!

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