

Time Moves On & Days Pass

(It's Later than We Think!)

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

A 'voice in heaven' (Rev.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 should be now, today; it is still not too late—yet! 'World conditions' (politically, spiritually, and morally) give us 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 donations 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 all that she had, even all her living."

That was a 'financial lesson on trust', putting God first and placing no limit on His promise to provide. She was following the teaching given us (Matt.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 about 'world conditions' 'man's plans to trust on', also '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. (vs.9) "You must be on your guard," He said, (because of possible deceit!) Deceived to misplace our trust on the 'plans and policies of men' for our provisions, 'club-purchasing plans', or 'credit loans' to 'buy now and pay later', instead of trusting on God to provide for us now.

[Jesus said that He has told us of 'things to come'.] (Mark 13:23) "But take ye heed (He said): behold, I have foretold you all things", (told you) 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, you know that summer is near.' (Then the time "Is nigh, even at the doors." (Mark 13:29) "So also do you, when you see these things happening, be sure that He is near, at your very door."

Meanwhile, Jesus said (John 13:34-35) "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 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 encourages and 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 become 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 our health and healing; for our protection and peace; for our food and fuel; (and for any other need or expense we come to face).

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 (or other laid-up sources of money); trusting on God for the avenging of wrongs (without legal action); for a forgiving spirit within, with no resentment in our heart and mind; and, our hope

for Eternal Life by a believing faith in the 'Blood of Christ'.

Many people are troubled by the increase of evil and violence in the world all around us, 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 on worldly substitutes like guns, belts, or other weapons or means.*

First, we are to trust on God (then vs.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 faith-ful 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."*

Many types of illness, mysterious viruses, so-called 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). (Phil.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; supply our needs; and save our soul, He will prepare us to meet Him by enabling us to be in His will. We *"Are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."* (1 Peter 1:5).

A perfect sacrifice was required to atone for the many 'sins of the world'. (Hebr.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 1948. Jesus, spoke of the end-times: (Luke 21:17) *"Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake."* But He added (Luke 21:19-20) *"In your patience possess ye your souls. 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 they were later scattered around the globe. They began to return to Israel in the early 1900s.

Jesus said Jerusalem would be surrounded by enemies, referring to the 'Battle of Armageddon' as prophesied to take place in Israel. And to involve the Antichrist with his ten confederated nations, also the 'kings of the East' consisting of a 200-million-man army (Reve.9:16). The Valley of Megiddo in Israel is the scene of that 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. (Gene.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 (a 'political leader' who will seem to have the answers for a troubled world'), and posing as a 'man of peace', who 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' (that is, a vicious struggle or fight against enemies of Islam).

The Jews, however, will be so glad to see their Temple rebuilt, they will seem to think that the Antichrist is the Messiah. After three-and-a-half years, however, the true character of the Antichrist will be revealed. (Matt.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. (He said 2 Cor.2:2-4) *"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."*

The apostle John (in a vision) had glimpse of God's throne (Reve.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 people 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) *"This," replied Jesus, "is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent."*

Righteousness is possible, but only through a trusting faith in the Blood of Christ for everything, for '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; for work issues; for 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 were to return).

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' which is everywhere today.

[It is because of possible 'hidden deceit' to lead us astray), that "the subject of 'idolatry' could never be over-emphasized in these days, -- with so many things that can distract and divert a Christian from the right path of God's Word.

There are a multitude of issues, (and some most harmless-looking 'social media platforms' that look harmless on the surface, but sometimes have the deceitful 'cloven foot of Satan' embedded in them).

We are warned to be careful about diverting out attention; misplacing our affection; or putting dependence on people, plans, and policies of the world; (instead of letting our needs be known to God alone!, and 'attending to the Word'; loving God with all our heart; and placing our trust on God's 'plan of faith'. Some platforms can surely be used correctly and safely, but only by carefully considering God's Scriptural Guidelines!!]

(Reve.22:14) *"Blessed are those who do His commandments [who wash their robes 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! (Matt.5:6) *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be completely satisfied."*

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