

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

PART THREE

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Let us continue to consider three areas or the conditions of the world in three aspects or specific conditions to help us realize how close Christ's return seems to be today. First: The spiritual condition of the world---Jesus tells us what kind of a condition the world will be in spiritually when He comes back. Second: The political condition, and third: The commercial condition: and that is all we have to go on as to when Jesus is coming back again.

Part two of our message ended with the reminder that the spiritual condition of the world in general today is exactly the same as it was in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot, and unfortunately, we would have to admit that would include most professing Christians as they have used their power of choice to choose not to depend on God alone for their needs---healing, protection, finances, and the supply of every need without letting others know about their needs.

The Apostle Paul says that in the last days perilous times shall come; people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of pleasure more than God, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness

but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5

2 Timothy 4:1-4 "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

It is so important that we remember that on that day, we will not be standing before those religious teachers who "tickled our ears" with their unsound doctrine or others who have joined us in turning away from sound doctrine---if that is what has happened. We will not be standing before any religious teacher, good or bad, and we will not be standing before our friends and family; we will be standing before the Lord Jesus Christ---and answering to Him.

The spiritual conditions that Paul described in 2 Timothy chapters 3 and 4 are being fulfilled in the Catholic Church and in the various denominations of the Christian church as well as various movements. "They will have their conscience seared as by a hot iron and lead astray by seducing spirits." That verse comes from 1 Timothy 4:2 where the Apostle Paul is warning about false teachers---not outside forces or enemies. This warning refers to those who spread false teachings, pretending to be genuine followers of Christ while leading others astray. Their motivations are often rooted in selfish desires rather than genuine spiritual commitment. These are the spiritual signs.

Concerning the political signs pertaining to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, we have often turned our attention to the political conditions in Europe. In 1 Thessalonians 5:3 the Apostle Paul reminds us, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

That sudden destruction is universal war, and perhaps later supernatural judgments. Before World War I perhaps many would not have believed that the whole world, including our country, would have been at the throats of their

fellowman to murder them in huge numbers as they did in that war and again in World War II.

World War I led to the formation of the League of Nations, which was followed by the United Nations after World War II. The goals of these organizations included preventing wars, maintaining international peace and security, and developing friendly relations among nations. It seems to be quite obvious that these outward "Christian" efforts to bring peace have not been very successful. It shows that the devil was in control from beginning to end.

Recently, there have been many peace deals brokered that have included Israel and nations in the Middle East and Africa as well as peace deals that ended conflicts, which had lasted for years, in other parts of the world. Of course, since no one knows how this is all going to play out, we must, as true believers, focus primarily on being ready for Jesus' Second Coming. While we may not know exactly how all these things are going to play out, we do know, without a doubt, that what the Bible says is going to happen, is going to happen exactly as God says.

The Scriptures predicted that there would be a league of nations, finally resulting in a ten-kingdom confederacy, and these kingdoms would probably be controlled by a new-risen king, perhaps on the order of a dictator.

Daniel 2:31-35 "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

Daniel 2:40-45 "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and

bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

Daniel 7:7-8 & 19-24, "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." 19-24 "Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it

down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”

Revelation 13:1-2 “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

Revelation 17: 3,7, &12-16 “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” (7) “And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.” (12-16) “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.”

Over the years, different people have been speculated to be the antichrist by early Christian writers and others, including Nero, the Papacy or the pope, Hitler, Mussolini, and more recently the leaders of the European Union.

However, since we know from the spiritual condition of the world and the political conditions of the world that the Rapture might happen at any moment, we should focus primarily on being ready to meet Jesus when He returns---living lives that are pleasing to God in every way.

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