

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

PART FOUR

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Today we continue to focus on conditions of the world and how they point to the Second Advent or Coming of Jesus Christ. As for the commercial signs that point to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, James prophesied they would heap together riches for the last days. James 5:1-3, "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

In the closing days of the Gospel there would be a great, wonderful works of commerce, ("wonderful" from a worldly mindset) that would spread and cover the world. Today the largest corporations by market capitalization or estimated value of a business are dominated by technology firms, with Nvidia, which makes the leading semiconductor chips for use in artificial intelligence, Apple, Alphabet, which is the parent holding company of Google, and Microsoft leading the way. Microsoft has recently slipped to fourth place around \$3.6 trillion dollars. Fourteen of the largest companies have an estimated value of at least one trillion dollars. (The destruction of all this commerce (buying, selling, and distribution) takes place during the tribulation.) Rev. 6:12-17, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great

men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Rev. 11:13, "And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted and gave glory to the God of heaven."

Revelation 18:8-17, "Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought."

In addition to corporations that are worth millions and billions and trillions of dollars, we

live in a world today where there are more millionaires and billionaires than ever before, and we now have a trillionaire.

We see enormous profits and a large volume of business being done in the world of commerce today. In all the nations of the world everything is business---big business, great profits, and enormous fortunes---never more so than at the present time. Of course, these are only signs, but we can take them for what they are worth, as they are the only light we have to go on that seems really and truly sensible.

The last point is our preparation for eternity. We understand that eternity is a long time, but our minds do not seem to be made or equipped to grasp what eternity means. We can understand the beginning of it, but to grasp something that has no end is something we do not seem to be capable of doing. Everything we have been in touch with down here on earth, everything that our minds are trained to grasp, has had an end to it, but eternity has no end.

There are two places for a human being to spend that eternity; one is in a lake of fire and brimstone---a real place. Heaven is a place of wonderful happiness and glory and honor which no language can describe, and it is for you and me to know of these two places and the preparation, or conditions upon which anyone goes to them. In the world today, many professing Christians like to claim that certain issues are not "eternal life issues," but we must be very careful so as not to fall into that trap.

We have only one definite description of what it means to be in the lake of fire. A man died and went to that lake of fire in the 16th chapter of Luke, and he cried to Abraham, whom he saw. (No one knows whether it was a special vision or whether it is possible for anyone in the lake of fire to see Paradise, or whether Abraham called on him. It does not seem likely that Abraham called on him.

The man said: "Father Abraham, send Lazarus, (who was in Abraham's bosom) that he may bring a drop of water to cool my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame." That is all he asked for--one drop of water. We have lemonade, ice water, and iced tea, as well as an enormous

selection of other cooling drinks and nowadays so-called energy drinks some of which it may not be wise to drink, but to be in a place where you will be satisfied to get a drop of water for your tongue and to spend eternity there is too terrible to think about; but we must face it and understand what it means for people to go there and also what causes them to go there; likewise we should, consider the glories of Heaven and what it means to spend an eternity there.

When this man cried to Abraham to send Lazarus with one drop of water on the tip of his finger and touch his tongue, Abraham told him that it was impossible for anyone to go across the gulf that stood between them. He then said: "I have five brothers that are bound for the same place where I am. They are coming here, and they are not ready to go to Heaven. Send Lazarus back to life and let him warn them," but Abraham replied: "They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them." He said, "No, Father Abraham, if one went from the dead they would listen." Abraham answered: "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they would not be persuaded though a man went back from the dead." or a spirit went back to them. It would only frighten them---that is all. Jesus said all who died in sin, would go to that place of eternal torment. Jesus told those Scribes and Pharisees who had rejected His teaching: "Ye shall die in your sins; where I am ye cannot come."

Therefore, we find the preparation for the coming of Jesus is, to be found in union with Him and to be found on Scriptural grounds in every detail of life; and that means much. It means to be found in obedience to the Word of God in the New Testament, not in our own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans the 6th chapter, all the way through, is the real preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. He says in Romans 6:22 "You have your fruit unto holiness, and the end thereof everlasting life." We are to accept our identification with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ---that we died to sin, and we are living unto God. in union with Him, as we are told in Romans 6:11. And then we are to yield ourselves to God, to obey this Word of God in the strength of the

resurrection life of Christ “as those who are alive from the dead;” and just as we obey that Word, the Sermon on the Mount, and all other teaching of the New Testament as it applies to our daily lives---to love our enemies, bless them that curse us, pray for and forgive them from the heart all those that despitefully use us; lay aside our own efforts to right our wrongs; trust God alone for our bodies, their health and protection; get into God’s financial plan, and on Scriptural grounds in everything---all these have to do with eternal life, the coming of Jesus, and our preparation to meet Him.

Peter sums it up by saying: 2 Peter 3:11-14, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” 2 Peter 3:11-14

In 1 Thess. 5:23 Paul said, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray your whole spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

It means that we are to give our lives fully to Him to take our position as dead, indeed, unto sin and holy and acceptable unto God. If we are ready to meet Jesus, it will mean that we are to meet right and successfully the various trials we have to go through.

1 Peter 1:6-9 “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:6-9)

Anybody that gives their lives to God and takes Him for the healing of their bodies, will be tempted in their bodies. It is just as necessary for us to get victories for these bodies as it is to get any other victories. That is a preparation for the coming of the Lord. It is a temptation, and it is necessary for us to meet it right, and it stands to reason that if we are not willing to trust God for a little thing such as our body, then we are not right spiritually. It would be rebellion. Rebellion is not to meet a thing as God wants us to. If we do not meet our temptations as God wants us to, we are just as much a rebel as by anything else. It is not the thing we do, but the attitude that we take towards His will that counts. We might not rebel against the law of the land in lying and perjury, but we might steal. We may just as well rebel in all things as in one thing.

In James 1:12 it says, “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

“Blessed (perfectly happy) is the man that endureth temptation.” ---That goes through trials successfully. Meets things right.

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