

## **STATE OF THE CHURCH 2022: PART 2 – Monday, Jan. 10, 2022**

This message is primarily concerned with Promises and Warnings.

### **1) Ecclesiastes 1:9:** *'...and there is nothing new under the sun.'*

To really appreciate what this means, we must take a quick look at history and how it demonstrates the PATTERN of plagues, wars and revivals.

### **13th Century**

#### **HISTORY**

The Bubonic Plague or Black Death (pandemic) 50 million died worldwide; highly contagious, spread via the trade routes of the day called the "Silk Route" which delivered silk fabric and spices to Europe from the Far East.

#### **WHAT DID GOD DO?**

In the midst of the plague, God raised up John Wycliffe who with the help of a few assistants translated the Bible into the English language of that day. His work paved the way for translations in additional languages and ultimately led to a significant increase in the availability of Bibles to the common people.

### **14th - 16th Centuries**

#### **HISTORY**

Called the "Dark Ages", but after Columbus discovered America, Europeans began coming to the 'new world' looking for gold and seeking to conquer the newly discovered land; in the process an estimated 90 million people died from plagues and wars, including the native Indian tribes of that time, as well as the thousands who came seeking gold, silver and land.

#### **WHAT DID GOD DO?**

Yet in that time of darkness, a door of light was opened as God raised up Martin Luther, who added his part to the move that Wycliffe had begun; i.e., the goal of getting the Bible in the hands of the common people in their own language. At that time, the people could not go to God for themselves, only through a priest. Luther exposed the many evils in the established church. So again, in the midst of the darkness, Martin Luther was chosen by God to bring light into the darkness by his revelation into Romans and one of Luther's favorite verses to preach on was **Hebrews 4:16** which paved the way for a number of small, local area revivals in Germany as the people discovered they could have a personal relationship with Jesus themselves.

## **18th Century**

### **HISTORY**

Another series of plagues in which 500,000 people died and several wars that took the lives of another 1.5 million people.

### **WHAT DID GOD DO?**

Yet again, during this century, the First Great Awakening began in Europe and eventually reached America in the 1730's - 1740's as God raised up Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, as well as John and Charles Wesley.

## **20th century**

### **HISTORY**

The 1918 Spanish Flu killed more than 50 million people over a two year period, including 675,000 Americans.

World War I took the lives of 75 million people worldwide.

World War II took the lives of another 60+ million people.

### **WHAT DID GOD DO?**

Even before the Spanish Flu and the First World War, God raised up William J. Seymour who led the Azusa Street Revival from 1906-1909. Thousands were saved during those three years.

## **21st Century**

### **HISTORY**

Exactly 100 years after the Spanish Flu, the Covid-19 plague struck America and to date, there have been some 58 million cases and 830,000 deaths.

### **WHAT WILL GOD DO?**

Will it be local revivals as in Luther's time? Will there be another World War? And/or, given that we are undeniably in the last days, will it be a massive revival in response to the Rapture of the church?

Whatever comes, there is a pattern here that demonstrates **Ecclesiastes 1:9**: *'What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.'*

## 2) WARNINGS

### ***Do not be anxious about what you will see and hear...***

*We have not received a spirit of fear...*

Don't deny your fear; face it and speak the Word to it.

### **Threatening and intimidating spirits are running rampant...**

*We are more than conquerors because of Him...*

The devil is a bully but we are not ignorant of his devices.

### **Those who have exalted themselves shall be humbled...**

Do not limit this in your mind to your political leaders alone; check your own heart...how are you choosing humility in your day to day life?

### **You have entered the days of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego...**

*And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. **Rev. 12:11***

The same Spirit that empowered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego now lives in you! Persecution comes in many forms - but basically it's an attack against our Faith and Confidence in the Lord Jesus. Prepare ahead of time by prayer and the Word to be ready to withstand any persecution that comes your way whether personally or through restrictions, laws, etc. in the nation that come against the Body of Christ.

## 3) THE RETURN OF THE LORD

Choose to be radical for Him by "*so living in His Word that you think it, breathe it, digest it, walk in it so powerfully that you may be likened to those of whom it was said: the world was not worthy of them.*"

Stay aware of events in society that relate to the end days.

For those who wonder why I am so convinced that the Lord is coming very soon, consider the following:

We've used the word 'tribulation' to cover the 7 year period of time that the Bible calls "Jacob's Trouble". The Bible does not use the word 'tribulation' until the last 3½ years and it's referred to as the "Great Tribulation."  
(**Rev. 12:6**)

Now turn to **Luke 3:1-3 NASB:**

*Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins...*

Remember that the Hebrew Calendar is not like ours. The biblical calendar in the time of Jesus began with the "first month" - Nisan- which corresponds to our March/April.

Tiberius Caesar reigned from 14 AD - 37 AD so the 15th year of his reign would have been 29 AD from April to April of 30 AD.

John preached for six months and from historical commentary, it appears that he began preaching sometime in summer and was beheaded, some say, around Hanukkah time of the year 29, fairly early in the ministry of Jesus.

The Old Testament lasted some 4000 years. The New Testament age has already completed 2000+ years for a total of approximately 6000 years.

We know that the 7th millennium (1000 years) is the period when Jesus will be ruling and reigning in Jerusalem and we will be ruling and reigning with Him.

From Daniel we learn about the 70 weeks of years and since 69 of those weeks have already been accomplished, there is one week left - Daniel's 70th week which you've heard prophecy teachers refer to.

You also know that biblical years are in series of sevens, just as the days of the week are a series of sevens. Every seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord; every 7 years, according to the Torah, there was to be a Shemittah year; that is, a year in which there was no planting or harvesting, for the land was allowed to rest for that year. That is a commandment of the Torah.

The first year of every new cycle of seven years is a Shemittah year. On the Hebrew calendar, September 2021 - September 2022 is a Shemittah year - a year of "rest" beginning a new cycle of 7 years which takes us to 2028.

**Leviticus 25: 3-5:** Shemittah commandment.

**Leviticus 26:14-33:** Punishment for disobeying the commandment of the Shemittah. (Note: **Vs. 29**)

We read about the punishment that occurred 1000 years later in **Jeremiah 19:9:**

*I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they will eat one another's flesh in the siege and in the distress with which their enemies and those who seek their life will distress them.*

Seven years from September 2021 leads us to September 2028. 2028/2029 will bring us to exactly 2000 years from the time of Jesus.

November 29, 2021 was the 74th anniversary of the UN Declaration for the establishment of Israel given on November 29, 1947.

Is there anything we need to see about the extra four years that would make November 29, 2021 significant?

Look at **Luke 13:6-9:**

In the parable Jesus told, the fig tree (Israel) had no fruit after three years but the master of the vineyard gave it one more year to equal four years. Then it was to be "cut down" if it did not bear fruit.

Is this a prophetic parable? Is this a prophetic clue to the beginning of the time called "Jacob's Trouble"?

Could it be that the time of Jacob's Trouble began on November 29, 2021 - at the 74th anniversary of the UN Declaration?

April 2021- April 2022 is the biblical year that marks 7 years leading up to the maximum lifespan of Israel according to **Psalms 90**, which is 80 years.

The Time of Jacob's Trouble begins in the first year of a Shemittah cycle because the end of the cycle seven years later is a **Year of Jubilee** when the Millennium will begin at the second coming of Christ.

So the time of Jacob's Trouble must begin in a Shemittah year.

The first 3½ years is more difficult on Israel than on the rest of the world.

The final 3½ years is the final "captivity" that Israel will endure.

Based on what I've shared with you, I believe we could be in the last seven years of human history as we know it.

Let's talk about the 'peace' treaty which the Bible calls a "Firm Covenant." The anti-Christ will make a firm covenant with global leaders.

The Bible does not say exactly when within the 7 year period it will be signed, but the Great Tribulation is comprised of the last 3½ years of JACOB'S TROUBLE.