

*They shall see the Son of man coming in the
clouds of heaven with power and
great glory*

—Matthew 24:30

*How To Be Ready
For
Our Lord's Return*

Ray Brubaker

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FOR
OUR LORD'S RETURN**

- Ray Brubaker

Introduction

Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison has written of the joy that awaits the believer who anticipates the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, concerning the coming awful great tribulation he expresses concern for those who will be left behind to endure this awful day of intense anguish. He writes: "It grieves us to think of the suffering that is to come on the world, yet we realize that it is the wrath of the just and holy God against unrepentant rebels."

We trust this series of messages published in this booklet will not be laid aside but studied and read in the hope that it will make all of us consciously aware of the imminence of our Lord's coming, and that it will reveal how we can be ready for this all-important event.

We are soon to welcome the King of kings and Lord of lords. It would be better for us never to have been born than to be found unprepared for this awesome coronation day. For we shall be included in that entourage of saints caught up at the rapture to meet our Lord in the air, or we shall be subjects of His wrath. Which shall it be?

The Scriptures urge us - "Make your calling and election sure"! We can be certain of readiness for Christ's coming. And with that purpose in mind this series of messages from the radio broadcasts have been placed into booklet form for you to read and then share with your friends and loved ones whom you also want to see ready when our Lord returns. To that end and purpose may He bless His Word.

Radio Evangelist - Ray Brubaker

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RUSSIA'S INVASION of Israel

(# 818)



The Middle East continues to share the spotlight in the day's news with the news focused lately on Russian advances in that part of the world.

At least 150 MIG23's, capable of flying three times the speed of sound, have reportedly been shipped by Russia to Egypt. Those are planes flying faster than any we can put into the air.

In addition, it is reported the Soviets are constructing a naval base in the Mediterranean giving them greater mobility and swift access to the Middle East should trouble flare up soon again.

It's very unlikely that the summer will be interrupted by a resumption of hostilities of war-like severity. However, come September, a referendum is scheduled by Egypt, Libya and Syria which would unite these countries into a federation of some 40 million.

Perhaps prodded by Moscow, these Arab countries are trying again to unite into some sort of federal union with a president at the top.

Vice Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, Jr., commander of the U.S. 6th Fleet, now in the Mediterranean, says the Soviets are eager to get the Suez Canal open so their naval vessels can move more easily into the Indian Ocean.

So the question normally follows - What will happen? Will there come a resumption of fighting? Or, will there be peace?

Israel's future, unlike any other country, is clearly outlined in the Bible. If a person wasn't sure about the veracity and integrity of the Bible as the Word of God, all he would have to do is to read the prophecies of fulfilled events, along with the forecast of future events yet to occur.

Take, for instance, the confederacy of Arab States which we have witnessed recently, and which we have seen in past years as well. Then turn to Psalm 83:3 where we read of Israel's neighbors as follows: "They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent; they are confederate against thee."

Remarkable, isn't it?

In recent days we have seen the attempted union of Arab states. In the past this has met with failure. But Arab countries are insistent in demanding a return of lands seized by Israel during their six-day war.

David Ben Gurion, former Israeli Prime Minister, is of the opinion that some of this land should be returned. Other Israeli leaders are not so anxious to return captive lands unless there should be guarantees of peace in exchange.

Summing up the tense and frightening situation, Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel replies: "We are living through crucial hours."

What will happen? What can we expect to take place in Israel?

In the first place, upon Israel's return to her land there is the promise of prosperity and plenty. We read how men will say, "This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden." What beautiful vegetation flourishes where once there was drought and desert.

In the second place, upon Israel's return to her land there is the promise of a spiritual renewal such as no nation has ever experienced.

For example, we read in Ezekiel 36 beginning with verse 24... "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. THEN WILL I SPRINKLE CLEAN WATER UPON YOU, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you.

Verse 31... "Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations."

What a tremendous day that will be! There immediately follows the vision Ezekiel had of the field of dry bones. The Lord told Ezekiel "these bones are the whole house of Israel." (Ezek. 37:11)

Shouts Ezekiel: "Can these bones live?"

The Lord answers: "Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord." (37:4)

Then notice what happens.

First there is the 'noise' when the prophecy goes forth. How we hope this conference on prophecy will be 'noised' abroad as were other events that transpired in Jerusalem following Pentecost centuries ago.

Following the 'noise' we read: "behold a shaking". This may very well represent the moving, convicting power of the Holy Spirit. How we need this shaking today in our churches, setting men free from their sins, bringing such old-time conviction that would cause men to weep over their transgressions against the Almighty. Like the quakers of old we need to shake over our sins.

Following the shaking there is a coming together of bone to bone. In past great revivals there have been whole towns converted, causing saloons to close, and jails to be emptied.

However, though there is this 'coming together' there is still no life. So, the word of the Lord comes, saying: "Come...O breath, and breathe upon these slain that they may live."

The word used for the Holy Spirit is the Greek word PNEUMA which means 'breath' or 'spirit'. So when the Spirit of God is found breathing upon these bones, representative of the house of Israel (according to Ezekiel) something dramatic happens! We read, as breath came into them, "they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army."

This is what we are to pray for - this revival forecast for the time when Israel is found in her land, amidst prosperity and plenty but also in the midst of those who would destroy her.

Finally, the Lord foresees the threatened invasion of Israel in the Endtime. Both Joel and Ezekiel refer to armies coming from the north, and specific mention is made of Israel as the target of invasion. Furthermore, we read: "it shall be in the latter days!"

As American forces went into Vietnam to stop the invading host, so many Bible scholars believe Russia is here pictured coming down from the North into the land of Palestine.

What happens?

We read: "And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog (the leader) shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face."

Israel has succeeded in defending herself against her neighbors, but what about this invasion from the north?

Seeing new inroads being made by the Soviet Union into the Middle East, particularly since the death of Nassar, has caused great concern in Israel.

My friends, this should be a time of serious contemplation as to what is happening in the Middle East. For instance, Gen. Haim Herzog, former chief of Israeli military intelligence, accuses the West of calling for Israeli withdrawal from the Suez Canal which he notes can only "make way for the Russians!"

What a predicament we one day may find ourselves in when armies from the north begin to march, and ships begin to come, and planes begin to fly...toward this tiny state of Israel.

In view of this calamity seen coming, we read: "Blow a trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children.... This, my friends, denotes action on the part of those who realize only God can answer their prayers.

Then we read: "Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them; wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God!"

The armies of the North are godless. So this fear drives men everywhere to prayer and supplication lest atheistic forces seize control of Palestine.

As Ezekiel notes: Upon sight of this invasion, God becomes furious. He sends an overflowing rain and great hail. He pours out fire and brimstone along with the pestilence. Man in confusion does not know who is friend or foe. We read: "every man's sword shall be against his brother."

A great earthquake shakes the whole earth so that mountains are thrown down, and the steep places fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

God hears and answers prayer!

Joel reminds us where the Lord says: "I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things." Joel 2:20.

And Ezekiel describes the Lord as saying as a result of this invasion of Israel... "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord."

How tremendous! Think of this day still ahead when armies from the north will be discomfited, driven back, destroyed....It will be an event so tremendous that there will be only one explanation....GOD. As a result of this attempted invasion...Men everywhere shall know that GOD IS ALIVE, and he will be magnified in the eyes of many nations.

How fast we are approaching these Endtime events. We're living so fast we don't take time to read Biblical prophecy which reminds us our Lord's Return hastens. Many believe Christ will come before this attempted invasion of Israel, while others believe this invasion will be witnessed by the saints on earth.

I do not know, for no man knoweth the day nor the hour when Christ will appear. But this I do know...the event could occur at any time and we should be living in momentary expectancy for Christ may come today and snatch the saints quickly from off the earth before this day of devastation begins. This is a very likely explanation of what will occur. So we would urge you sincerely to live holy, in constant watchfulness lest you lose sight of this grand and glorious day of our Lord's Coming.

For remember, he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"



The President and Mrs. Nixon
 request the honor of your presence
 at the wedding of their daughter
 Patricia

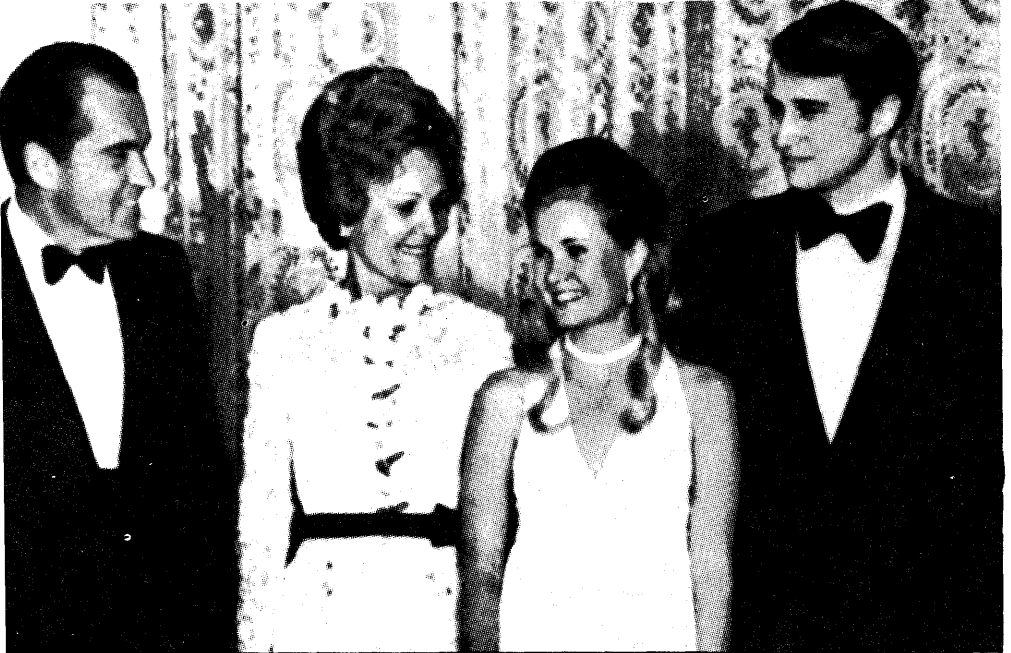
to
 Mr. Richard Frank Cox
 on Saturday, the twelfth of June
 at ten o'clock and twenty-two
 of four o'clock in the afternoon
 The White House

You're invited to A Wedding

White House Invitation

When a wedding takes place there are embossed invitations which are mailed out to those who are invited. To a select few there is a card enclosed which reads: "Reception following the ceremony."

THE NIXONS & COXES AT WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT



So the Scriptures refer to the day when Christ shall return, and the invitation has gone out far and wide to be ready for that day. This will be the most glorious event of all ages. And to think you and I are invited. Hear our Lord say, 'Come, for all things are now ready!'"

However, in a parable, our Lord relates how many will turn down this golden invitation. We read of those who make excuses. One says: "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it."

What a foolish excuse. You usually investigate first before buying, or perhaps you might wind up with some real estate out in a Florida swamp or under water somewhere. This, too, could represent those who are more interested in property (houses and lands) than they are in being ready for Christ's coming.

Hear me today. The Bible speaks of those who will be occupied with the ordinary cares of this life and that day will come upon them unawares. How sad for those to have been invited to a wedding where the one extending the invitation is the very God of heaven. Don't turn down this glorious event.

Another turns down the invitation in the parable Jesus told, saying: "I have bought five yoke of oxen and I go to prove them" Again, what a foolish excuse.

Five yoke of oxen speaks of mechanical power. And it represents an age of mass transportation and communication. In our day of automobiles we speak of horsepower instead of oxen power. And when we buy a car we usually want to drive it first before buying it or we might wind up buying a 'lemon.'

How foolish are the excuses of men.

It is true some are more interested in horsepower than in divine power. Where are we on prayer meeting night? If Christ were to come, where would we be? On weekends do we include God in our plans or are we at the beach or traveling on a pleasure trip when we should be worshiping the Lord?

Finally, our Lord tells us the third excuse is made by one who says, "I've married a wife and therefore I cannot come."

What an opportunity for husbands and wives to share together in the heavenly invitation.

A home built upon Christ is sure to succeed, whereas, one without the Lord is doomed to failure.

Statistics convey the alarming trend revealing marriages are falling apart. For every two marriage licenses now being issued there is the filing of one divorce.

How sad to turn down the divine invitation. Especially newly weds need the Lord as they embark on one of life's greatest decisions.

Norman Vincent Peale, who has performed hundreds of weddings, advises couples on their wedding night to begin praying together if they have never done so before. He believes the family that prays together stays together.

Particularly, in view of the coming of the Lord is there this necessity to heed the urgency of Scripture which might be interpreted to mean placing marital responsibilities secondary so that serving Christ can be first.

Did you hear it? Is Christ first in your home? Do you pray, "Lord, thy will be done, and not my will!"

It is in I COR. 7:29 that we read, "But this I say, brethren, the time is short; it remaineth that both they that have wives be as though they had none."

What does this mean?

It means in a day when sex seemingly occupies the minds of so many, and lust rather than love motivates men, that we need to put Christ first in our lives, and not yield to unholy desires.

As John Wesley once wrote: "Nor may marriage itself, holy and honourable as it is, be used as a pretense for giving a loose to our desires."

How many have lost their first love for Christ because of self-indulgence of the flesh, and are thus turning down the divine invitation to God's wedding feast.

Our Lord, in the parable of the Ten Virgins, reminds us how it will be when He returns. A wedding is about to take place and all these lovely bridesmaids are anticipating the coming of the bridegroom. But when the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. Finally, when he did come, only half of those looking for him were ready for his return.

Dr. Norman B. Jerome, writing in the Gospel Herald, says of this parable, "This is one of the most powerful messages of the New Testament to urge the readers to be ready for the return of the Bridegroom from glory for His bride, the church. The moral of the parable is the blessedness of endurance unto the end. The lights should be kept burning brightly. No matter how long the delay, we should remain faithful until He come. It is a matter of giving all diligence to make your calling and election sure," he notes.

Dr. J. Alexander Findlay relates how in the Middle East he was approaching the gates of a Galilean town. He writes, "I caught sight of ten maidens gaily clad and playing some kind of musical instruments, as they danced along the road in front of our car. When I asked what they were doing, the interpreter told me that they were going to keep the bride company until her husband arrived." He says, "I asked if there was any possibility of seeing the wedding, but he shook his head and said, 'It might be tonight, or tomorrow night, or two weeks from now -- nobody knows for certain.'"

The interpreter explained that it was customary at a middle-class wedding in Palestine to try to catch the bridal party napping. So the bridegroom came unexpectedly, and sometimes in the middle of the night. And as he came, he shouted, "Behold the bridegroom is coming!" So the bridal party had to be ready to go out into the street at any time to meet him. And when the bridegroom arrived and the door had been shut, late-comers were not admitted.

McCrossan, the Greek Scholar, says that Christ being a Jew would no doubt follow the Jewish marriage custom when He comes for His bride. And he quotes from the commentary of Shaff-Herzog, who describes the betrothal having taken place, the bridegroom on the wedding day accompanied by his friends, and attired in his wedding dress, went to the house of the bride, and conducted the veiled one, accompanied by her companions, by the light of torches, into his father's house, where the marriage feast was kept for seven days, and where the many friends were entertained. Then on the 7th day the marriage was consummated.

Well, everyone loves a wedding...or, at least, nearly everyone. And the most wonderful wedding of all will be the marriage of Christ to His own.

At Cana of Galilee, I sometimes wonder if Mary thought this was the time for Isaiah's prophecy to be fulfilled. In Isaiah 62:5 we read: "For as a young man marryeth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee." When Mary was told she would be the virgin prophesied to give birth to Messiah, I can see her running down to the temple and checking the scroll of Isaiah. She checked all the references to the virgin to discover where she was mentioned, and possibly she came upon this reference. Let me read it again: "For as a young man marryeth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee."

Perhaps Mary thought this was the event spoken of by Isaiah. For we don't know who was to be married but we do read - "both Jesus and his disciples were called to the marriage." (John 2:2) But Jesus responded, saying, "Mine hour is not yet come!"

Could it be our Lord had in mind a day when His disciples would include you and me. And when the wedding is finally consummated we can share the eternal bliss with our Lord and Saviour.

In Revelation we read of a day still future when this marriage will take place... "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Then we read, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Rev. 19:7-9)

Ah, don't miss this wedding feast. You are invited to share in this glorious event. By trusting Christ as your Saviour, and then living for Him you can be ready!

God has ordained that the bride be a "glorious church, without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:27.

How about it? Are we saved and living a pure and holy life? As Dr. M.R.DeHaan once wrote: "The Lord Jesus will not tolerate a defiled bride...God help us to examine ourselves and make ourselves ready now."

We agree. For our Lord Himself declared: "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."

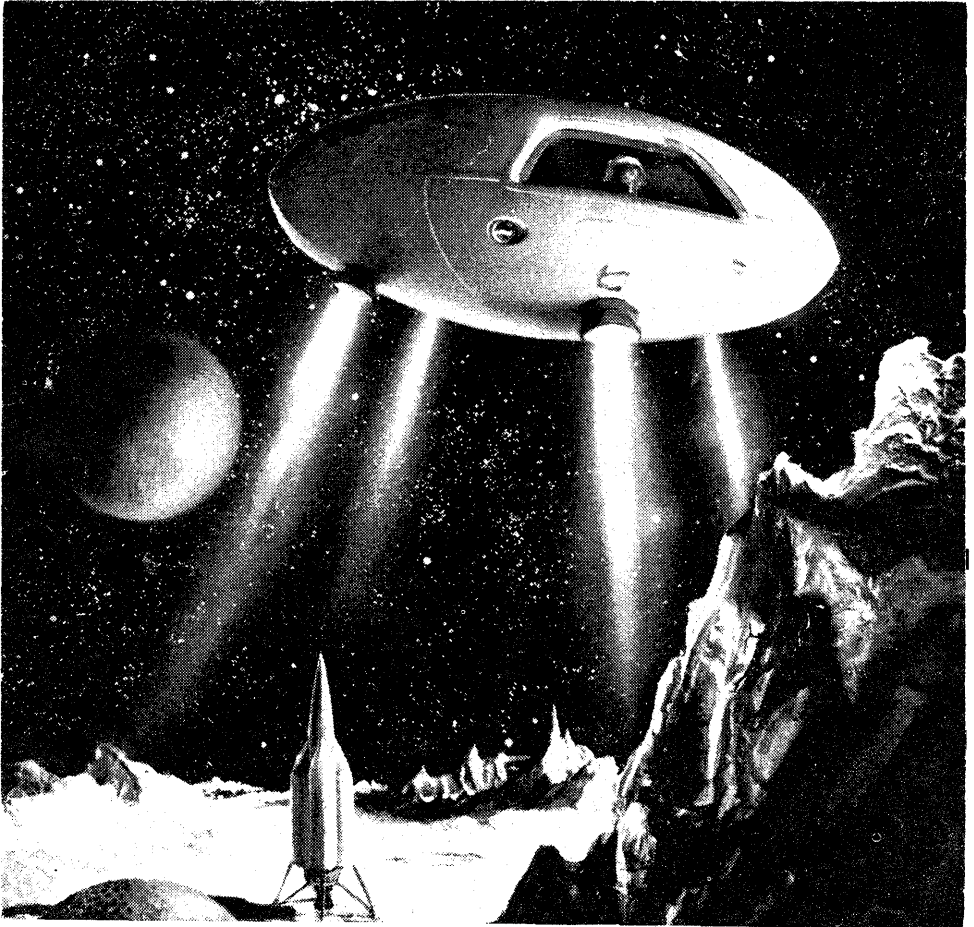
Science and the Second Coming

So much is happening in our universe that arouses the curiosity of man.

As Dr. J. Allen Hynck, director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center in Evanston, Illinois observes, Astronomy has changed from a 'dead science' to one of the most exciting sciences.

Among the subjects that interests Dr. Hynck is the scientific study of UFOs. Once a doubter, he is now a firm believer in their existence. In fact, Unidentified Flying Objects have been under study by the American Academy of Science.

In an interview, Dr. Hynck emphasized the need of documenting, observing and examining all evidence related to UFOs and not "shove it under the carpet." It may be that there is 'life in the universe' and when questioned as to when we might make contact with other worlds, he replied: "it might happen tomorrow. UFOs may be probes from some cosmic NASA," he added, emphasizing he said "may be"!



We were sent information to the effect that UFOs were seen on the moon during one of the Apollo missions. Whether or not it is true, we do not know but it certainly makes interesting reading.

.....According to this report our men informed the ground that enormous space craft were lined up along one of the craters of the Moon. The Canadian transcription says....

Aldrin: Look over the ridge, what's that? Yes--now we see a brilliant light in the crater.

Houston: Can you tell what it is?

Aldrin: No, but there is some kind of activity down there....there!...those babies are huge and enormous.

Houston: No, no...that's field distortion.

Aldrin: Oh, God...you wouldn't believe!

Houston: What is the matter with you?

Aldrin: There under the surface!

Houston: What's there?

Aldrin: Roger....we are here but we have found some visitors...they've been here for quite some time judging from the installations.

Houston: Repeat...Repeat.

Aldrin: I'm telling you there are other spacecraft over there. They are lined up in ranks on the far side of the crater...let's get that orbit scanned and head home... my hands are shaking so bad...the cameras are clicking away up here, did you get any of it?

Houston: What's this uproar of UFOs?

Aldrin: They are set up there.

Houston: The mirrors...did you set them up?

Aldrin: They are in place but whatever built those craft will probably come over and pull them out tomorrow.. Well, so much is happening so fast -- Science is unable to keep up with developments.

Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology report a strange phenomena in our universe. They have reported seeing two distant objects moving 1,860,000 miles a second, or ten times the speed of light.

It has been a fundamental law of physics that nothing can move faster than the speed of light in free space. Thus, if this finding is correct, it makes entire libraries out of date, and shatters prevailing theories about space and time.

Some interesting passages in the Bible would be difficult to explain except for the fact that with God nothing is impossible. Time, distance and speed are of little consequence where God is concerned.

For instance, following our Lord's resurrection, when He said to Mary, "Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father"...he proceeded to return to heaven, for He said He must ascend to His Father. Then, later that same evening He came to His disciples who met behind closed doors, and stood in their midst. (John 20:17-19)

My friends, to ascend to heaven and return would certainly require traveling at a tremendous speed. It's like thinking you are there and there you are.

On another occasion, you'll remember, Jesus was walking on the water, coming nigh to the ship in which there were the disciples. A storm was raging, and when they saw Him they were the more afraid. But Jesus replied, "It is I; be not afraid." Then we read: "they willingly received him into the ship; and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went."

Did you hear it! As soon as Jesus got into the ship, we read "immediately" the ship was at the land where they wanted to go.

One more occasion we might mention is the time when Philip had gone down to ministe to an Ethiopian riding in his chariot, reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Ethiopian could not understand these prophecies in Isaiah which spoke of Christ as the lamb being led to the shearers, or as a sheep going to slaughter. So Philip was urged by the Spirit to go and join the Ethiopian in his chariot.

"Understandest what thou readest", he inquired, and began to explain to him how Christ was the perfect lamb that became the sacrifice for man's sins.

The Ethiopian believed this thrilling message and was converted. Then he wanted to be baptized. Upon coming to a body of water they both went down into the water and the Ethiopian was baptized.

Then the Bible tells us, when Philip came up out of the water, something very unusual happened. The Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip and he was found some miles away at Azotus.

Now, what do you think of that?

What kind of marvelous transportation was that to provide free transportation, being carried instantly from one place to another.

We can't help but wonder if this is how it will be at the time of the rapture - when the saints are caught up to meet the Lord!

The author of the negro spiritual must have had some heavenly conveyance in mind when he wrote: "Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home!"

Could UFOs be related to heavenly chariots?

In Psalm 68:17 we read: "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels; the Lord is among them..."

I don't know about you, but that thrills me...to read of God's chariots. You'll remember it was a chariot of fire that came for Elijah, and he went up into heaven by a whirlwind.

I suppose all of us have ideas how it will be when the Lord comes for His own. The idea of being transported by some means of conveyance may be foreign to our way of thinking. But if he does come in a chariot as when He came for Elijah, we should be prepared. At least, we should give the idea some consideration that perhaps UFOs seen appearing in our atmosphere may be hovering overhead awaiting the signal from their commander in chief. So, if one day they should land outside your home, don't be terrified. Go out and get in.

We had correspondence from a family that described hearing the most beautiful music one night about midnight. Looking out their window, they saw in the field a circular object twice the size of any airplane they had ever seen. They drew a picture of it - saucer shaped with a dome in the center, lined with portholes out around it.

What interested me most in their report was the fact that when they witnessed this object they were immediately impressed with the idea that this was the coming of the Lord. And suddenly, realizing they were only nominal Christians (Christians in name only) they felt they were not ready.

Another reason these friends thought this was related to our Lord's coming was the music they heard. They heard the word 'hallelujah'. This was heavenly music such as was uttered by the angels at Christ's birth.

Their lives were changed as from that moment. As they wrote, they related how the friendly bottle of beer disappeared from their table, habits like smoking were dropped, for these are traits and characteristics in the lives of those living carelessly. They enrolled in a Bible School to study God's Word to find out more about Christ's Coming.

Hear me, my friend. Being ready for Christ's Coming is more than making a profession of faith. It also involves a radical change in our conduct and behavior.

As much as we value the importance of our decision for Christ, and truly believe the gift of God is eternal life to all who turn from sin to trust the Saviour, yet we see where we are to live pure and holy lives in view of the unexpected return of our Lord.

If we are to use the illustration of the Ten Virgins... all of these bridesmaids were looking for the bridegroom even as Christians await the day when they will be united with their Saviour. But the Scriptures make it clear that when the bridegroom finally came only half of those who had waited for him were actually ready.

Did you hear it?

So we are admonished to make such adequate preparation so as to be ready for Christ's Coming. We are to press on for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. This 'high' calling is the UPWARD calling which we believe refers to being caught up at Christ's appearing. This is the 'blessed hope' of the believer. And we're reminded that all who have this hope will purify themselves even as he is pure.

Today we urge you -- Turn to Christ, and then live for Him daily. "Be ye ready also for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

How To Be Ready for CHRIST'S RETURN



Bible students watch with keen interest attempts at forming a United States of Europe, believing this may be in fulfilment of Bible prophecy as it is forecast for the Endtime. It is the union of these nations that will bring on the political kingdom of one we refer to as the Antichrist.

Our Lord's Return is much closer than we realize. And we should do all we can to warn the world of what lies ahead and to urge readiness for that all-glorious event of His Second Coming.

In view of Christ's Return there are at least ten admonitions we'd like to leave with you today. Listen carefully.

1. WATCHFULNESS (Matt 24:40-41)

Matthew reminds us - "Two shall be in the field; the one taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. WATCH therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." The word 'watch' means to be alert, be on your guard, and be found ready for Christ's coming.

2. PRAYERFULNESS (Luke 21:36)

Luke tells us: "Watch ye, therefore, and PRAY always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Do you pray that you will be ready when Christ appears?

3. FAITHFULNESS (Matthew 25:14-23)

It is in view of our Lord's coming that He relates the story of a man going into a far country and giving various talents to his servants. Talents, in this case, means money. So, depending on the wise use of these talents, whether invested and producing more talents, or whether neglected, these servants are rewarded. For instance, we read of the servant who 'hid his lord's money' instead of investing it who is severely punished. To him our Lord says: "Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."

Indeed, how sad for many to have money hoarded away when it could be used to send the glorious gospel around the world.

Those servants who were faithful in the use of their talents were rewarded with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

4. WARNING AGAINST CARELESS LIVING (Lu.21:34-35)

we read, "Take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and CARES OF THIS LIFE, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell upon the face of the whole earth."

Did you hear it?

As the flood in Noah's day affected the entire earth, so we read Christ's Coming will be as a snare or trap that will affect the whole world. When our Lord appears the saints will be caught away, and those living carelessly will be left behind to go through the awful great tribulation. Like a trap springing shut, there will be no exit from this earth. That's why it pays to be ready, living lives of purity and service, witnessing, and winning the lost.

5. WARNING AGAINST BEING LEFT BEHIND WITH UNBELIEVERS. (Luke 12:45-46)

We read: "But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming: and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; the Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and WILL APPOINT HIM HIS PORTION WITH THE UNBELIEVERS."

Did you hear it? I know some doubt there is such a scripture in the Bible. For they don't believe it is possible for a person who is a professing believer to be left behind with unbelievers at the rapture. But this seems to be what this verse is saying. For here pictured is one who is a servant looking for his lord's coming. But he is living carelessly, eating and drinking as in Noah's day, enjoying the pleasures of life without regard to the soon-approaching rapture. He is also found mistreating his fellowman. What happens?

The Bible says of this servant that he is cut in sunder, or cut off. This man does not lose his salvation for that is a gift to all who truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but he loses his reward. For this Scripture would indicate again that Rapture is the reward of readiness.

So, concerning this servant - the privilege that is rightfully his is denied him. For we read his portion is with the unbelievers. Instead of escaping the tribulation the indication is that he must go through it and prove his loyalty to Christ amidst the purifying and chastening fires of judgment.

6. WARNING CONCERNING INIQUITY. (Matt 7:22-23)

We read, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Notice, there were those representing our Lord, performing mighty works, doing miracles. Yet, our Lord at His coming says to them - "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

I think we're going to be in for some surprises when Christ comes. People we expected to see in the front row, or on the platform won't even be there.

If this Scripture tells us anything it is this - we must repent of sin if we would be ready for rapture, not persist in it, not excuse it, but forsake it!

7. GUARDING AGAINST LUKEWARMNESS (Rev. 3:16)

Concerning the Laodicean Church, which constitutes the professing body of believers in the last Church Age of which we are a part, we read: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

Did you hear it?

If we're going to call ourselves Christians, then let's be real, genuine followers of Christ. Let's stop playing church and begin serving God with purity of heart, Let's be on fire for God!

8. BE LOVING--NOT GRUDGING (James 5:8-9)

James writes: "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. GRUDGE NOT one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned; behold the judge standeth before the door."

Has someone spoken ill of you, lied about you, mistreated you? Don't worry about it, and most of all don't hate that person but pray for that one instead. The Lord, the righteous judge, will solve all problems when He comes. Just be ready, yourself, by having a right heart attitude toward your brother and your neighbor.

9. BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING (Phil. 4:5-6)

Don't WORRY but rather commit yourself wholly to God believing He will keep you ready for our Lord's Coming.

Paul writes: "Let your moderation be known unto all men, the Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing..."

Again we read: "But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; and they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not." 1 Cor. 7:29-30.

How I wish I had the time to comment on that passage. But the message is simply this - live for Christ and not this world. Look for Christ and concentrate on the next world.

And we have the assurance that we can be ready. In 1 Thess. 5:23 we read: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless UNTO THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

That's quite an assignment, isn't it? Can you be kept blameless until the coming of Jesus? The next verse says: "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it!" Hallelujah.

10. BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT (Matt. 25:1-13)

In Matthew 25 our Lord gave a parable of ten virgins. All were looking forward to a wedding, and made the necessary preparation for the marriage. But when the bridegroom came only five were ready.

If our Lord were to come today and only half of those who were looking for Him were ready to go back with Him, HOW SAD! And yet, this seems to be the indication of Holy Scripture.

What was the secret of those who were ready? It was simply this. We read concerning the 'wise virgins' that they had oil in their vessels, with their lamps. That is they had the Holy Spirit filling their lives, as well as bearing testimony to being Christians.

On the other hand, the foolish virgins had a testimony at one time. They once were active in witnessing and serving, and attending church. But they gradually lost interest because they never sought the infilling of the Holy Spirit who comes to give power and victory over sin.

Be filled with the Spirit is a command of God. And, in particular, in view of Christ's Coming, we need to allow Him to take over completely in our lives in order to be ready for His return.

This is the message we would leave with you today right from the Word of God showing us the necessity of living for Christ if we are going to be ready for the Rapture.

Indeed be ye therefore ready for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.

The promise of His Coming

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Carl F. Henry



John Walvoord

A recent issue of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN magazine carried an editorial which asked the question, Is history coming to a catastrophic end?

Comments Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, professor of theology at Eastern Baptist Seminary, "We could also ask whether pollution is overtaking the environment, and will our expanding population crowd us so much that human beings will crawl over each other like ants to avoid starvation?" Notes Dr. Henry: "I don't think there has ever been a time since the apostolic age when we have been crowded by questions about ultimate destiny as much as now."

Dr. John Walvoord, president of Dallas Theological Seminary observes: "Today there are many evidences that the world is moving swiftly to some conclusion, and many of us believe that this conclusion is the coming of the Lord for His church." Dr. Walvoord points out: "...for this reason a restudy of prophecy, particularly as it relates to the return of the Lord and the end of the age, becomes more appropriate and significant to those who trust in Christ."

When will Christ return to this earth? What conditions will precede this historic event?

The editor of CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine notes: "In every realm of life...there has been a steady decline, a "falling away" from former, God-given, or nature-inspired standards."

He notes: "In MUSIC we witness the drop from the grandeur and inspiration of the classic symphonies of the Masters to the degrading jazz, bebop, "blues", and other forms of debasing syncopation. The suggestive rumble of the jungle has been introduced to pervert the desires of many, and teenagers by the hour listen to such junk from the ubiquitous juke boxes. The plague of American jazz is spreading all over the world.

"In ART, the treasures of the past are now finding real competition from such extravagant and unnatural perversions as "abstract" art, surrealism, cubism, and other forms of post impressionism. Nowadays one cannot be sure, by looking at it, if the "famous" painting by the "noted" artist is a sloppy fried egg, or a lop-sided sunset!

"In LITERATURE an avalanche of smut has transformed the once noble realm of wholesome fiction (love, romance and adventure) into the modern sex-and-unabashed-lust-reading that corrupts morals and fills the mind with filth.

"From the puritanical morals of the Victorian age the world has plummeted to barnyard promiscuity of raw heathenism and the revolting homo-sexuality of Sodom and Gomorrah. Venereal disease, once thought conquered by modern medicine and prophylactic measures has bounced back with a vengeance, and today multiplied thousands of our young people are figuratively and literally rotten, and they are rotting away with loathesome, shameful diseases."

The Apostasy is also reflected in our ever-growing CRIMEWAVE. Juvenile delinquency, engendered by adult delinquency, is the problem and concern of every community in America today. No man, much less a woman, is safe alone on our big city streets after dark; and a plague of crime, including muggings, rape, robbery, assault, purse-snatching, and crimes against the person, is making life hazardous in our American cities.

Drinking and gambling and organized crime-rackets are getting out of hand. Our liquor bill is almost as big as our crime bill.

Drinking in the home often leads to emotionally-disturbed and frustrated children. Homes are broken by divorce, creating massive, insoluble problems for parents teachers, social workers, psychiatrists, the police, judges and society as a whole.

Wholesome home-life is almost a thing of the past, broken down by the time-consuming, lust-generating eye of the TV, which some have come to call the idiot box, and bringing into the home burlesque shows and lewd acts that were shunned by decent, respectable folk before the days of television.

Sunday, day of rest and worship has been changed from a holy day into a holiday.

Honesty and integrity are largely forgotten. Stealing in stores, cheating in school, are fast becoming the norm.

Las Vegas and Hollywood are running neck and neck, dispensing filth and a bad example, not only to our nation but to the world.

Purity has been blasted into oblivion with pre-marital experience often encouraged by leaders of religion, yet in total contradiction to the Word of God which warns - fornicators and adulterers will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Scantily-clad attire has given rise to crimes of passion with few voices concerned enough to cry out in the words of Scripture that the sins of immorality - "going after strange flesh" have always brought God's judgment and divine wrath. As Jude declares - Sodom and Gomorrha are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Kindly understand this is not our personal analysis, but the evaluation of a religious journal whose editor surely senses the pulsebeat of our time and knows we are fast heading toward judgment. With his evaluations we must concur while wondering how long before the flood of Noah's day that destroyed the Antedeluvian generation terminates into the fiery holocaust seen forecast to explode at the return of Christ for His own!

The Apostle Peter comments concerning those in the last days, scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming?

Notice, it is not necessarily a verbal assertion but rather by our attitudes we say, Where is the promise of His coming?

Do you think if I believed Christ's Return was near I would be concentrating on efforts to build a better world, constructing high-rise apartments and tall buildings that will crumble in the day when the earth is on fire and the elements melt with fervent heat, and the globe on which we are living shakes violently like a drunkard.

And yet, this is exactly what the Bible says is going to take place. Peter, reminding us that the world once overflowed with water perished, writes: "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." II Pet. 3:7

Did you hear it?

The earthquake that recently shook Los Angeles is only a foretaste of what this whole world is going to go through. Some scoff at our Lord's assertion that EARTHQUAKES would be one of the signs of his coming saying there have always been earthquakes. But, my friends, not with the rapidity and sequence of tremblers and shakes which we are seeing today indicating our earth itself is groaning and waiting for its deliverance.

Christians should not worry about pollution or the population explosion as though there was no Lord above, no God to guide! Almighty God who keeps the earth spinning on its axis has a firm control upon the world.

However, common sense should guide us as to where we live and what we do, particularly in view of devastating earthquakes still to come, and in view of the coming of our Lord when the world will face destruction by fire.

Notice what Peter says: "The earth...is reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

The earth is going to be the scene of future judgment, and those who will face this judgment are the ungodly!

What a message is ours to proclaim - that Christ died for the ungodly; that we need not face judgment if we will turn from sin to trust the Saviour.

As Peter goes on to explain - the Lord is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance!

God takes no delight in the death of the wicked. If only men would realize that God delights only in our good - that we bring on much of our suffering because of our sins.

Visiting a man who was dying of lung cancer, we heard him cry out in anguish of soul - Why does God make me suffer so? Here was a man who claimed to be a Christian but who smoked all his life, wondering why God allowed him to suffer, as he was dying with this disease.

My friends, in view of judgment seen coming to this earth, followed by a day of judgment when all must stand before God and receive divine sentence concerning their eternal destiny - wouldn't you think everyone of us would determine to flee this wrath to come!

By repenting of sin to receive forgiveness through the blood shed by Christ on the cross, we can choose life, instead of death, salvation instead of perdition, heaven instead of hell.

May God grant us the wisdom and the grace to make the right choice. And having made that choice...live for Christ each day, looking for His coming, and hastening that event by praying, "Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!