



June 21, 2020

## This Is The Beginning And Not The End

### Be Comforted

Do not fear failure, but be terrified of **regret** – rise up Church

About **30%** of the Bible is prophecy and most of it relates to the times we are living in.

In the next two weeks, I want to make three statements to comfort you.

Regarding what is happening in our world:

A. This is not **the end** – be comforted.

Church family – many of you have asked are we in tribulational times?

Answer: **Absolutely not**

**Revelation 6:7-8** – speaks of one of the horsemen

- That would be **two billion** people who died.

Question then is: what in the world is going on?

Let me answer that question in two ways.

First: Let's look at Bible prophecy

**Matthew 24:3-6**

**Matthew 24:7-8**

1. We are in the beginning of sorrows and I believe it started in **1948** when Israel became a **nation**.

Turn to Luke 17, and Jesus is addressing the signs of the end and Jesus is extremely specific:

### **Luke 17:20-24**

Verse 24 speaks of the second coming – it will be like lightning – a **flash** to receive His Church.

### **Luke 17:25**

### **Luke 17:28-30**

- There was a historical day in the day of **Noah**
- There was a historical day in the day of **Lot**.

Verse 30 again:

### **Luke 17:30**

### **Luke 17:31-37**

The second coming of Jesus is a very **physical** event at the Mount of Olives.

- At the second coming or Advent – Jesus comes to the earth **publicly**.
- 2. The Rapture is a **private** event that happens in the air and Jesus receives His Church.

Jesus compares His coming to the historical day or the event of **Noah** and **Lot**.

Question: What are the similarities?

- **Violence** and **immorality** covered the earth in those societies as of today.
- Business as usual with **economic** and **social** normalcy.

This too will pass.

3. Jesus was being specific with the desire to comfort us saying these things take place in **seasons** – don't fear. There will be life and an economy when Jesus finally returns.

- Third similarity is a righteous remnant living in a corrupt and unrepentant world – that's **us**.
- Fourth is the sudden rescue of the righteous before the **wrath** of God falls.

Let me put another layer of truth to comfort you today.

- The day Noah got on the boat – people were given in **marriage**, **buying** and **selling**.

The Rapture is before all this.

Noah and his family got on the Ark not one **rain drop** hit their heads – then destruction came.

- Rapture of the Church is like **Lot**.

Jesus said on the day of Lot – He **walked out** of Sodom and then destruction came to Sodom and Gomorrah

Rapture of the Church – then **the Tribulation** (we won't be here)

Before this happens, there will be business, marriage, family.

Rise up Church

- Set the atmosphere of **victory** in your homes, fathers and mothers – Jesus is **risen**

Question: Why did Jesus say in that day – some will sleep and some will be working the field?

Half of the world right now, it's **night** as we are in our daylight.

The point is, **be ready**.

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

- The Rapture – your great grandma's spirit is with Jesus and she will come with Jesus in a new, **glorified** body.

This glorified body comes out of the **ground** and we who are alive will be caught up and meet in the clouds in the **air**.

People say: rapture is not in the Bible - **Yes it is**

Caught up – Greek word: harpadzo

Harpadzo – means to **seize hastily**

Our end is Jesus comes and gets us!

## **1 Thessalonians 5:2-3** – unbelievers

## **1 Thessalonians 5:4-8** – believer

4. When the Bible says Jesus comes as a **thief** in the night, that's to the **unbeliever** who don't believe in Bible prophecy.
5. Jesus said to us the believer, be **aware** of the signs of the times, walk in great confidence and faith God's plans will **manifest**.

The next words I will read are very critical for you to see.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

- \* God has not appointed you and me to wrath.

## Revelation 6:14-17

- \* The wrath of the Tribulation is the wrath of Jesus called the Lamb.

## 1 Thessalonians 1:10

The Tribulation is not judgment, but wrath – you and I will not experience His wrath.

Reimagine who you are and what we do – walk in His grace, receiving His blessing – do not fear, God's plans will manifest in those who seek Him.

Let me close with this...

## Luke 21:34-36

## Acts 2:17

Let's position ourselves in the beginning of sorrows – to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and walk in victory.