

Encouragement for the End Times

Matthew 24:8

North Hills Baptist Church

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Matthew 24:3-44 (KJV) -- This passage of Scripture has been on my mind a lot lately. Some time ago at our Wednesday night Bible Study, I shared some things I felt the Lord speaking and conveying to me through this passage. I have continued to study concerning these Scriptures, so this morning I want to review that study and share with you some of the thoughts I have processed over the weeks of study along with some current news events which relate to this. I hope to do this within a reasonable time so as not to keep you here too long, but I firmly believe this is information we all need to be aware of and allow our Lord to process it within our hearts and minds. Also allow me the freedom to use my notes as needed so as not to leave out any important and relevant information.

First of all I want us to be reminded of this passage of Scripture:

2 Peter 3:3-4 (KJV) -- ^{2Pe 3} Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

⁴ And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

*****Don't fall into the mindset of doubting the truth of God's promises. He is coming back again and He is going to take the church out of this sinful world before HIS promised coming.**

In [Matthew 24](#) Jesus is preparing His disciples for things to come, and He tells them that certain events are “the beginning of sorrows” ([Matthew 24:8, KJV](#)), or “the beginning of birth pains.” The narrative begins with the disciples pointing out the temple buildings and Jesus remarking that it would all be torn down ([Matthew 24:1–2](#)). The disciples asked Jesus when these things would take place and what would be the sign of [His coming](#) and of the end of the age ([Matthew 24:3](#)). Jesus explains that there would be many false messiahs who would come and who would claim to be authentic ([Matthew 24:5](#)). They would be deceptive and appealing, and many would be fooled by them. Note that these FALSE PROPHETS are not necessarily connected with a church but really is anyone who espouses anything which contradicts the Truth of God's Word. Also note there would be wars and

rumors of wars ([Matthew 24:6](#)). Nations would rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there would even be famines and earthquakes ([Matthew 24:7](#)). While all that would be alarming and even terrifying, **Jesus encouraged them that those things would not signify the end; they were only the beginning of sorrows. IMO we are in this time period now.**

Here are a few of the exciting things I have recently read have which have already occurred or will occur in the near future.

Recall: In an historic announcement on December 6, 2017, the United States recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The first country to recognize Israel after its declaration of independence in 1948 was also the first to formally recognize Jerusalem as its capital.

IMO this had to occur before the restoration of the temple could even commence and this set up the process for the rebuilding of the temple could actually begin.

Concerning the rebuilding of the temple and the resuming of the sacrificial system in Jerusalem.

Recently, the Orthodox Jews celebrated with a **Water Libation**. Definition I found: *And you shall rejoice*

before Hashem your G-d ([Leviticus 23:40](#)); And you shall rejoice in your Festival ([Deuteronomy 16:14](#)); And you shall be exceedingly joyous (ibid. :15).

Of all the joy on Sukkot, the most intense joy was reserved for the *nisuch ha-mayim* - the pouring of the water on the altar to accompany the daily morning sacrifice. These three *lugin* of the "waters of creation" - for the water had not been affected by human intervention or preparation - were the focus of the efforts of the *kohanim*, *Leviyim*, and Israelites, of the elders, the pious, and men of good deeds.

A multitude of men, women, and children took part in the celebration which lasted for fifteen and a half consecutive hours, from the time that the daily afternoon sacrifice was offered until the next morning. The celebration was held every day of the Festival, with the exception of Shabbat and the first Festival day, for then the water libation was not accompanied by music and song.

When the Temple was standing, **EVERY SACRIFICE INCLUDED WINE LIBATIONS POURED OVER THE ALTAR. During the Feast of Tabernacles, WATER was also poured over the altar in a special ceremony. THIS RITUAL ENGENDERED SUCH JOY THAT IT WAS CELEBRATED WITH MUSIC, DANCING AND SINGING ALL NIGHT LONG.** In

the case of the water libation ceremony, **the two most precious, life-containing items – water and blood – were poured out at the feet of God so to speak.** Both pointed to the very sustenance and foundation of every single member of the people of God. Water. Blood. Running together

My understanding from the articles I have read is this recent celebration was done looking forward to the restoration of the temple and temple sacrifices once again. Just keep in mind there is a growing army of Jewish people wanting the temple to be rebuilt and the sacrificial system reinstated and there are groups involved in restoration of all the implements of the temple including those relating to the sacrificial system.

Also, there is new evidence that the original temple was not located where the Dome of the Rock is located:

Some modern **research contradicts the commonly held belief that what is called "the temple mount" was the location of Solomon's (and Herod's) temples** ([The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot](#) by E. Martin). **This research shows that Jerusalem's temples were built within the original city of David near the Gihon Spring. This location is roughly 1,700 feet (1/3 of a mile or 1/2 kilometer) SOUTH of the center of the Dome of the Rock building!**

If that is the case, then the present Dome of the Rock does not prevent the rebuilding of the temple at its original location.

Building such a magnificent structure near the Gihon Spring would be ideal, as it was the city's only supply of fresh water in antiquity. It was the place where Solomon, who would build the structure, was anointed king (1Kings 1:32 - 39). The temple required running water for many of its ceremonies and its existence near the spring is alluded to in many scriptures (Ezekiel 47:1, Zechariah 14:8 - 9, Joel 3:16 - 18, Revelation 21:2, 6, 22:1, 17, etc.).

I also saw on the news Jan 4th, that the original Pool of Siloam has definitely been located and is being fully restored. The pool of Siloam was originally made by King Hezekiah, ruler of the Kingdom of Judah from 715 to 686 B.C. (2Chronicles 32:30, 2Kings 2:20). It was constructed so that the city of Jerusalem, naturally deficient in water, would be better able to survive a siege from the mighty Assyrian Empire. It was the Assyrians under King Shalmaneser V who, in 723 B.C., conquered the Northern Ten Tribes of Israel's capital at Samaria and took the people captive.

Pool location

The Biblical Siloam pool was believed to have been found in Autumn 2004 when workers, digging for a new sewer line, uncovered several stone steps.

Archaeologists were immediately notified when the steps were found. Subsequent excavations have confirmed the authenticity of the location. **Before this discovery it was believed that a Byzantine reconstruction, less than 70 yards away, was the location mentioned in the Gospel of John.**

The pool is located on the southern slope of the city of David (the original site of Jerusalem) and is just outside the walls of the Old City. It was fed by the waters of the Gihon springs, which were carried to it by two aqueducts. The related tower, mentioned only in the book of Luke (Luke 13:4), is believed to have been part of the city wall near the waters.

Special meanings

Interestingly, water from Siloam was combined with the ashes of a special sacrifice and used by temple priests to perform a unique cleansing ceremony (Numbers 19). According to Jewish tradition, the water itself was retrieved for the religious rite by children riding bulls.

Tradition also states that on the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles (known as the Last Great Day), a

golden vessel was filled with water from the pool and taken to the temple. When the water reached the altar it was poured out before God with much rejoicing. (Think: Water Libation Ceremony).

Keeping these thoughts in mind ponder the following in your heart and mind:

There is a soon coming day that the temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt and the sacrificial system will be restored. That must happen for the “Abomination of Desolation” prophecy to be fulfilled which the Scriptures speak of in: Matthew 24:15 (KJV) --

¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) **Mark 13:14 (KJV) --**¹⁴ But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

*****Just know and be aware these are events occurring which are pointing towards the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the rebuilding of the temple and restoration of the sacrificial system and they are happening in rapid succession during our time.**

(Search out recent news events of restoration of the temple instruments, etc., the Red Heifers, the Water

Libation ceremony, the definite location of the pool of Siloam. Etc.)

^{Mt 3} And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, **the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**

⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.


⁵ **For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**

⁶ **And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**

⁷ **For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.**

This morning I will start our focus on the following verse but want you to understand that these events are related to the 2nd coming of Christ. *****According to my studies the church will be removed from this world before then but these are preludes to his 2nd coming which are meant to warn us to be prepared because, IMO, the Rapture can occur at any time now:**

⁸ **All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.**

Sorrows -- Transliteration: ōdin, Phonetic Pronunciation:  o-deen', Pain, Sorrow, Sorrowful, Travail, a pang or throe, especially of childbirth

Thinking about what I have read concerning a woman giving birth, I was reminded that sometimes at various times during the pregnancy some women experience labor pains which have been called false labor pains. These are possibly a prelude of the real pains which are to eventually come and for some they tend to become more intense as the time for birth approaches. **IMO we are experiencing these labor pains now and it is building momentum as we can see from the headlines of the news.**

Keep that thought in mind as we continue in our study of this passage of Scripture.

⁹ Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

(An Atmosphere Of Lawlessness' exists here in the USA as well as across the world: Attacks On Churches in the USA have Nearly Tripled In 4 Years, and more so now under our present administration).

¹⁰ And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

There is a drastic increase of children rebelling against their parents, reporting them to authorities concerning their parents discipline and even many rising up and not only killing their parents but their siblings as well. Just look at the recent headlines of children committing suicide basically because they have been caught up in the lies of the enemy and the proliferation of lifestyles contrary to God's Word.

¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Are we not already beginning to see this come to pass, not only in America, but worldwide. **Just think of the present trend of transgenderism, Homosexuality, etc. taking place all across our world today---IMO these are false prophets, and they are many, as they are**

busy casting down truths of the Scriptures and leading many to doubt the TRUTH of God's Word.

Christians are despised in most countries all around the world. Just look at the laws our own nation has passed which infringe on our religious beliefs and freedoms which are supposed to be guaranteed by our Constitution. Even look around at the empty pews in our times of assembly.....the love of many is waxing cold and the things of God and the Word of God no longer have the impact on the lives of people they once had.

God gives us a clear warning concerning that in this passage of scripture.

¹³ But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Each of us need to commit this promise from our God to our memory so that as these pressing issues and trials of our faith begin to intensify, **we can trust in this promise from our Lord – REMEMBER, HE has told us HIS WORD shall stand forever.** Also remember that in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. (Deu 19:15) and there are a lot more than 3

times God says His Word shall stand forever. Here are a few:

Isaiah 55:11 (KJV)

Isa 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

Matthew 24:35

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Psalms 119:89 (KJV)

Ps 89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Isaiah 40:8 (KJV)

Isa 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

(Who or what is the abomination of desolation? --

The abomination of desolation is a prophetic event found in the book of Daniel (Daniel 12:11) and referred to by Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:15). Though it has historical fulfillment, there is also a future fulfillment when daily sacrifices will be offered in Jerusalem and then cut off and replaced by some sort of blasphemous display. **This prophecy is significant because it represents an important time marker signaling the nearness of the return of Jesus Christ).**

¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

What I get from these verses is that the coming of our Lord is going to happen in such a time as we know not; it is going to happen quickly, and no chance for trying to explain or change anything, so UNDERSTAND God has given us fair warning.

²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Another great promise from our Lord which promises, IMO, we will not be here to go through this time of tribulation the Bible is speaking of because from my studies, I fully believe the church will experience the Rapture which is foretold in several passages of Scripture but especially in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:9.

Matthew 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh:

³³ So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors.

Matthew 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

The majority of Bible Scholars all agree that the budding of the fig tree is figurative for the time the

State of Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948.

(In my study of this verse (Matthew 24:34) it says to me that there will be people who were alive when Israel became a nation in 1948 **who will be still be living when all these things begin to take place.** Just keep in mind that these events described here are concerning Christ's return to this earth.

So, let us consider this from the standpoint of Israel declaring themselves a nation May 14, 1948, in the light of other scriptures.

(Psalm 90:10 (KJV))

Ps 10 The days of our years *are* **threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years,** yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

I believe this would be a Biblical Generation then of 70 years and for some a fourscore which is 80 years. We also must consider these verses of Scripture for Scripture must be interpreted in light of other Scripture as well as current events.

Proverbs 3:2 (KJV) -- Pr 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Genesis 6:3 (KJV)

Ge 3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

(The number of people who live past the age of 100 [has been on the rise for decades](#), up to nearly half a million people worldwide. There are, however, far fewer “supercentenarians,” people who live to age 110 or even longer. The oldest living person, Jeanne Calment of France, was 122 years 164 days when she died in 1997; currently, the world’s oldest person is 118-year-old Kane Tanaka of Japan) (The oldest living person in the US just turned 115 Sat November 12, 2022).

Also, God tells us of extended life for the Godly in Psalm 91:16 (KJV) -- Ps 16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

These verses clearly reveal to us that there are some who will live longer lives than the threescore and ten promise for the number of our days.

Keeping that fact in mind, let us understand there is a time difference in the Hebrew Calendar when compared to the Gregorian or Julian Calendars:

If you convert May 14th 1948 (when Israel was declared a nation) of our calendar, to the Hebrew Calendar it shows to be **6 lyyar (e-yar) 5708**. **If you take May 14th, 1948 and add 70 years it is May 14th 2018 and if you add 80 years it is May 14th, 2028; add 120 years and it is 2068.**

If you add 70 to the Hebrew 5708 (the number of our days according to the Bible) it is lyyar (e-yar) 5778 and if you add 80 to the 5708, it is 18 lyyar (e-yar) 5788. If you add 120 to the 5708 it is 5828.

Today being February 26, 2023 we are in the time range of 5 years past the 2018 time period, and 5 years before the 2028 date for the 80 year generation, so it figures that there are some living today who were born in or close to the time period when Israel was declared a nation for these things to come to pass. **I was born in October, 1940, a little less than 8 years before Israel was declared a nation and I am definitely still alive today and fully expect to be here for the Rapture of the church.**

The Scriptures are very clear that we cannot set a date/time of Christ's return because that is only known by

the Father, but they do say there will be these signs confirming preceding HIS return. Definitely today we are seeing these signs of the promise of His coming rapidly unfolding and keep in mind that is HIS actual return to the earth to set up his earthly kingdom.

Just as some extra information of interest, I received an article concerning Five red heifers arriving in Israel on Sept. 15, 2022. Rabbis from the Temple Mount Institute which is an organization working to restore a future temple by crafting the physical elements as outlined in scripture and raising up priests as well, were there to greet their arrival. The title of the article was: EXCITING: Red Heifers Arrive in Israel in Preparation for the Third Temple. The article states that according to rabbis and leaders in the Orthodox community, these heifers could be used to reinstate many of the practices of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, even before the 3rd Temple is rebuilt". It also states, "While we're moving ever closer to the time of redemption, the forces of evil are working overtime to stop God's plans and purposes. A more recent article states the Jewish sacrificial system could be up and operational within a year.

It's incredible that several red heifers have been brought to Israel, and could potentially be used in the

reinstatement of the Temple services in the near future. At the same time, as believers in the Bible and God's prophetic plan for Jerusalem, we first have to care about, and advocate for the place where God chose to place His Name, and where He said a House would one day be restored as a House of Prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7).”

Therefore, it is conceivable to me that we are very close to the time period of the 70 or 80+ year generation span (even more so with the increase in longevity of peoples lives today) and the promise from God's word for some according to the scriptures.

If that is the case, and it is, then are we living in a time such as the days of Noah when the intent and thoughts of man were only evil which the news of today is clearly showing we are?

We need to KEEP IN MIND that Noah preached and built the ARK for some time before the flood (note the Bible does not give a time of 120 years as some have said) but what is really important to see is that the people did not heed his preaching nor understand why he was building the ARK.

Jesus Christ is our ARK, so to speak, and there are many, many, many in this world today who are refusing to he ar

the message of salvation and repenting. **Think our leaders in Washington who are passing law after law trying to destroy our freedom of religion and to remove every mention of God and Christ from the public square.**

God says in his WORD, Matthew 24:37-41 -- ³⁷ **But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

³⁸ **For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,**

³⁹ **And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Just think of the large number of marriages taking place today of same sex couples and the move towards transgenderism and changes one's biological sex according to their distorted and deceptive trends.**

Remember this passage also:

³⁵ **Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**

³⁶ **But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**

⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴¹ Two *women shall be* grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Let us regress for a moment and return to Matthew 24:8.

⁸ These things are only the beginning of troubles, like the first pains of a woman giving birth.

Looking at the things that are going on in the world today, I believe we are definitely beginning to experience the pains referenced here in Matthew 24:8. **⁶ You will hear about wars that are being fought. And you will hear stories about other wars beginning. But don't be afraid. These things must happen before the end comes.**

⁷ Nations will fight against other nations. Kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms. There will be times when there is no food for people to eat. And there will be earthquakes in different places.

We are definitely in a time of Wars and Rumors or Wars, Nations and Kingdoms fighting, and the worldwide drought is causing a shortage of food and many people across the world are starving as a result. Also there has been a definitive increase in earthquakes worldwide both in frequency and intensity, as well as other disasters described in Scripture concerning events of the end times. Just think of the massive number of wildfires raging in our country and the increasing number of those every year.

As I thought on these things, the book of Revelation and the horsemen of the apocalypse came to mind.

We don't have time to go into all the information concerning the Horseman of the Apocalypse but there are four horsemen who, according to the book of [Revelation](#) (6:1–8), appear with the opening of the first four of the seven seals that bring forth the cataclysm of the [apocalypse](#).

The first horseman, a conqueror with a bow and crown, rides a white horse, which most scholars interpret to symbolize the [Antichrist](#);

I read a recent article supposedly written by a Catholic Priest (who is involved in study of the Book of Revelation) who has taken liberty to claim that the

Corona Virus pandemic we have experienced is the first Horseman of the four because of the crown on the virus itself and because of the number of people who have died as a result (bow and arrow as weapons of death/destruction), He has also stated as a fact that it is not mentioned in the verse that anything was given to this horseman as it is in the narrative of the 2nd Horseman. His take on this is that it is showing that the virus was man made and not something directly from God. All of the major scientists in the world have agreed that the Corona Virus 19 is a direct result of man's manipulation of the original virus to make it transmissible to humans. **I am not saying that this is true information but it does give rise for us to contemplate on the happenings in this world today.**

The second horseman is given a great sword and rides a red horse, symbolizing war and bloodshed;

In the article I read, it claims that the war in Ukraine with Russia is the second horseman of the apocalypse and is what brings on the third horseman due to the shortage of wheat and fertilizers from the Ukraine war and the 4th Horseman is revealing to us the number of people who will die of starvation, etc. due to these things.

I have seen figures, that worldwide, crops are running at nearly 50% below the past harvests because of the

shortage of fertilizer and the world wide drought, so there is definitely going to be a lot of people starving to death and an increase of diseases because of lack of nutrition.

The second horseman is given a great sword and rides a red horse, symbolizing [war](#) and bloodshed;

If you believe that we are not headed into a period of world wide warfare, just take time to look at the REAL news and see what is going on in our world, in reality, and not from a political ideology.

ARE YOU READY for what is coming according to the Bible or are you among those the Bible refers to in: **2**

Peter 3:3 (KJV)

^{2Pe 3} Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, as well as **Jude 1:18 (KJV)**

^{Jude 18} How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

Also remember: **Acts 13:41 (KJV) -- ^{Ac 41} Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.**

The third Horseman carries a balance scale, rides a black horse, and symbolizes famine; and

IMO, we are beginning to experience the prelude (think birth pains) of the first 4 Horseman of the apocolypse as we see rising costs of food and other essential needs as well as EMPTY store shelves. Sadly though, many in the Christian community are not seeing these things as warnings from GOD to be ready for we know not what time or hour he is returning for HIS Church, so we had better not doze or be complacent. **WE CAN BE CERTAIN HE IS GOING TO FULFILL HIS WORD.**

The fourth horseman rides a pale horse and is identified as Death. **I fully believe this is referring to a time of death like we have never seen before.** We have seen millions die from the Corona Virus (only those that have been accounted for and I fully believe there are even more in remote areas that we have no knowledge of as well as many who are dying from the results of the vaccine.) **but that is going to be an insignificant figure compared to what is being revealed here in this scripture.**

In my opinion, we are not in the period of Tribulation described in Revelation 6:1-8 as the Catholic priest has written, **but we are definitely in the prelude**

building up to that.

My thought is, could the things we are seeing happen on the world stage today be compared to the labor pains of Matthew 24:8?

Is what we are seeing and experiencing today the build up leading to the events described in the Book of Revelation.

I firmly believe they are.

IF SO, then what are we to do? First we need to believe the promises of:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:9 (KJV)

^{1Th 13} But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ **For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**

¹⁶ **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise**

first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

¹ But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

² For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**

³ 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.**

⁴ But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; **but let us watch and be sober.**

⁷ **For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.**

⁸ **But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**

⁹ **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

I will close our study today with these scriptures to the 7 churches of Revelation and make note they are seven in number. Seven in Scripture signifies spiritual perfection, so it is of utmost importance that we hear the message.

Revelation 2:7 (KJV)

⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:11 (KJV)

¹¹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

Revelation 2:29 (KJV)

²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:6 (KJV)

⁶ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:13 (KJV)

¹³ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:22 (KJV)

²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Finally, prediction of the end time scenario presents to us a mountain which is too huge to pass over or have complete understanding of, however, we are given this promise in Zechariah 4:7 (KJV)

Zec 7 Who *art* thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel *thou shalt become* a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone *thereof with* shoutings, *crying*, **Grace, grace** unto it.

This is God's promise to us to show us when we are facing a mountain of obstacles or things we just can't seem to comprehend, we can shout **Grace, Grace unto them** and they will become a plain.

Remember, 2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) -- ^{2Ti 16} All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

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