

Return of Jesus

1

Introduction

The church is looking forward to the Return of Christ.

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**

2

A Waiting Church

As believers we wait for the return of Christ. This does not mean that we are doing NOTHING. We are to be busy. We are surrounded by people who do not know Jesus as their Savior. Many know about Him, but they have not surrendered their life in relationship to Him.

While waiting for Jesus' return, the church:

- ◆ Must be sharing the Gospel Message with others
- ◆ Discipling and building (edifying) one another
 - ◆ Comforting the hurting
- ◆ Living Godly and being Light in this darkening world.

3

A Waiting Bride

To put this another way, the Church is a waiting Bride. We are waiting for the Groom to appear and take us home. Jesus has chosen us and we have been "betrothed" to Him. Therefore, we are to be pure and set apart to Him.

There is a tug of war going on in this world. The world is loud and "in your face" with all sorts of temptations. God accused Israel of committing "Spiritual Adultery" when they chased after the things of this world, and put their trust in the things they could see rather than pursuing the things of God.

I wonder how God views the church today?

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A Waiting Groom

Jesus is also busy. He sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for His Bride. He is also orchestrating the events of human history. Men may think they are in control, but God is moving all things to His desired outcomes.

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A Waiting Groom

Psalm 2:1-6

Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, *saying,*

³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

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A Groom Despised

The nations (unsaved world) HATE the restrictions of God's morality.
Listen to what the Bible says about people in the Last Days.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power.

And from such people turn away!

Sound familiar?

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A Groom Despised

Unless God sends a revival, our world will continue to turn away from God and His People. We already hear the chants of hatred within our own country. Just last week, bridges were shut down while people chanted "Death to Israel, Death to Christians." The world tells us to pursue peace while they hate and want to destroy

God's people

As we looked in Psalm 2 – Why do the nation rage. They are certainly raging today.

This goes back to the Long war between God and Satan. Satan and his minions (fallen angels and unsaved people) hate and want to remove God from all aspects of Society.

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A Groom Despised

When one no longer has God as the central focus of their lives, self is quick to step in and it begins the long downward spiral. Many churches and people professing to be believers have an outward form of Godliness but deny the real power of Christianity.

We also see an avalanche of moral decay. Everything that God has declared good, the world has declared evil. Look at all the moral decline in our lifetimes – marriage, gender, kindness, honesty, maintaining good reputations, family decay where children turn on their parents. This list could go on. Paul stated it well when he wrote Timothy.

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A World in Turmoil

In the days to come, the Bible tells us that these basic trends will reach a fever pitch. Revelation 6 speaks of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. The first is a rider on a white horse with a bow. The world will be filled with religious deception. Matthew 24:5 warns, “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

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A World in Turmoil

The second is a Red horse and rider with a sword, taking peace from the earth and causing people to kill one another (Rev 7:2-3). Jesus warns in Matthew 24:6-7 that there will be wars and rumors of war. Satan is wanting to unite the world under his leader (antichrist). Not every nation will submit peaceably.

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A World in Turmoil

The Third Horse is Famine. It is a Black horse and rider with scales to weigh scarce food supplies (Matthew 24:7b). With war comes destruction, often to agricultural products. Revelation 6 tells us that the horseman will cry out “a quart of wheat (one day’s ration) for one day's wages. The gulf between the rich and poor is going to increase with the rich getting richer and the poor is despite need.

12

A World in Turmoil

The Last Horse is a pale horse and represents disease and death. Jesus also talked about this in Matthew 24:7c.

War and famine are often followed by disease. In today's world, we have moved beyond natural diseases to those that are made by man. Think about what COVID did to the world and consider what the nations have in their inventories.

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A World in Turmoil

The world will be in desperation. Rather than turning to God, the world will look to a human leader who promises to fix things. We see this in our own political elections. The man of sin, the Antichrist, will assume power and many nations will hand over their reigns of power to him. Scripture (Daniel) tells us that he will come out of the remains of the Roman empire.

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Israel

Israel is in the news. It faces terror and attack for all their neighbors. Scripture warns us that this will increase. What is needed is someone who can guarantee the peace for Israel. In the future the Antichrist will sign a treaty with Israel guaranteeing their peace, and part of that deal is that Israel will disarm. The signing of this treaty will mark the countdown to the return of Christ.

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Israel

Ezekiel 36-38 prophesies that Russia and many of the Islamic countries (Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia...) will come to destroy Israel. Israel is hopelessly out gunned and out maned. There is no way they will be able to survive. God will intervene and destroy these armies in Old Testament Fashion.

16

Israel

The antichrist will appear to be a friend of Israel for the first 3 ½ years. The temple will be rebuilt, and ALL the Jews will return to the land. Most likely it will be the only place that appears safe. Antichrist turns on Israel in the Remaining 3 ½ years and ultimately all the remaining nations of the world will bring their armies to battle her (Armageddon).

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The Stage is Set

Why does the world hate Israel so much? It is at war with God and His people. Jesus is ready to return but is waiting for the nation to recognize Him as their Messiah and King. It will take the entire world coming against them. With no hope of survival, Israel will finely turn to Jesus. Remember that there are 144,000 Jewish evangelists who have been preaching Jesus throughout the Tribulation period.

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The Return of the Rightful King

Revelation 19:11-16

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, **a white horse**. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now **out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations**. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

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The Return of the Rightful King

Notice that the sword is coming out of Jesus' mouth. Many think this is strange, but it is really quite clear.

All things have their source, support and end in Jesus. Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. The sword represent His Word.

Jesus spoke the world into existence and with that same word of power will destroy His enemies.

Jesus declared in Matthew 28:18, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." This authority was given Him by the Father, and when He returns, He will come to exercise it.

Israel is saved and like the church will enter into a perfect relationship with Him.

Jesus will set up His Kingdom and will rule for a 1000 years.

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So What ...

All Biblical Prophecies that have been fulfilled have been literal and accomplished exactly as Scripture has proclaimed. There is a growing movement in many churches to dismiss the remaining future prophecies. I take my stand that they will be fulfilled perfectly and literally just like all the rest. We do not need to attempt to explain them away!

The church is not called to bring in the Kingdom, but to evangelize and make disciples for that Kingdom. Unless God sends a Revival, the world is not going to get better and hate for God, His Word, and His people will increase.

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So What ...

The church, you and me, are not to live our lives in fear, anxiety, or desperation. Jesus maintains absolute control! We need to be proclaiming God's Truth. We must proclaim that great gulf between man's sinful state and God's righteousness, and that there is a coming Judgment. It can be scary, but we must remember that we are in the hands of God. We trust in Him as He is the only one who will be able to make this world right.

If you do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, please talk to someone Today!

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