

In light of all that we see happening in the Middle East, with Israel, in particular, let's expand, for a moment on what we discussed last week: first, all that we expected and predicted is falling into place; Biden, Europe, the American public... everyone, everywhere is calling upon Israel to *'cease fire, allow in 'humanitarian assistance,' don't invade Gaza ... obey or else!'* It seems painfully clear that all of Israel's mistakes will once again be repeated. They will stop, they will allow Hamas to regroup, rearm and reattach. And, even worse, for our country, our terribly understaffed border agents catch only a very small percentage of all those crossing our southern border to plant themselves into every corner of the United States.

Here is a report from border patrol regarding numbers of ***military aged men form dangerous parts of the World*** who've been apprehended and remember, those caught are only a small percentage of all those getting through during the past 2 years: from Syria: 538 caught; from Yemen: 139, from Iran: 659, from Iraq: 123; between October 2021 and October 2023, the report indicates that agents encountered 6,386 nationals from Afghanistan, 3,153 nationals from Egypt, 659 nationals from Iran, and 538 nationals from Syria during that time period.

In addition, agents encountered 12,624 Uzbeks, 30,830 Turks, 1,613 Pakistanis, 164 Lebanese, 185 Jordanians, 123 Iraqis, and 15,594 Mauritians... most are Muslims, all who hate Jews and Christians.

**Thousands of 'Fighting Age Men' from Middle East Have Crossed Into US During Biden's Border Crisis.** Also, in the past five months, at least 4,300 **Chinese** undocumented migrants have been **apprehended** crossing the southern **border**... again, that number is only a small percentage of those who made it through.

All this, to simply reiterate: this country, as well as Canada, Australia, Europe... we are all in mortal danger; the only thing protecting us is God's Holy Spirit, Who is currently holding back the flood of evil which is about to be unleashed upon the World, which will then cry out for a leader, a man who will protect them from danger and that man will be none other than the Antichrist... we are very close to the Rapture. And what is our comfort, our hope, our joy and our peace? It is only the sure knowledge that our Father, Who knows us intimately, Who chose us from the foundation of the World, Who sent His Own Son to die in our place... He is in absolute, complete control of all things, in all places, at all times; He loves us with an everlasting love and He has promised to keep us safe until the moment He calls us home. Our hope and assurance is not in the things of this World, but in God!

On the other hand... what we see in and around Israel, today, could very well lead to the final positioning of all the players who will be instrumental in the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38/39! Hamas, an Iranian proxy, has attacked; hezbollah, another Iranian proxy in Lebanon, is poised to attack. Hamas and hezbollah are Iran, and Iran is hezbollah and hamas. Iran has raised their black flag over their largest mosque which is their call to jihad. On Wednesday, Oct 18, 2023, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iran met in Jeddah; Saudi Arabia has ordered all its citizens to leave Lebanon; the US has ordered all nonessential personnel to leave Lebanon as well; the dominoes may be about to fall.

... a fun fact... in Gen 6... right on the heels of fallen angels mating with human women, resulting in the Earth's being filled with evil and violence... we read: *'And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.'* Then, God ends that present World with the Flood. 'The Earth is filled with violence...' that Hebrew word for violence is... hamas! The World was full of hamas! So, God brought it to an end. Selah... pause and think about that...

We are studying the last Book of the Bible, God's last Word to Man before He returns, one day soon, to take us, His Bride, off the Earth and back to the special place He has prepared for each one of us in His Father's house, in New Jerusalem.

In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself through His Prophets but He stopped speaking and was silent for 600 years until He finally revealed Himself clearly through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, sent to Earth to be born of a virgin, to live a perfect and sinless life and then to be cruelly despised, rejected and crucified, receiving in His body, all God's wrath, being punished and sacrificed in our place so that we would never experience God's wrath or punishment in any way, so that we could become beloved children of God. *'For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.'* 2 Cor 5:21

*'The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: <sup>17</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.'* Rom 8:16

Then, after finishing His final Word in this, the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ to John, God, again, has remained silent, this time for more than 1900 years.

Many false teachers and false prophets have claimed to have received 'words from God,' often which have even contradicted and changed the true Word of God which has given rise to many cults and 'far-off-base' church groups: Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Seventh Day Adventists, etc. One dangerous and far-reaching group, today, is the NAR, the 'New Apostolic Reformation,' claiming that there are, today, hundreds and thousands of apostles and prophets leading many, many church groups, many of whom are claiming that God has given them extra Biblical messages which their Biblically ignorant followers willingly and anxiously receive and believe.

Several Biblical authors warning of coming false prophets, teachers and apostles, of which we see so much today but here, in His final Revelation, Jesus Christ makes the point of telling us that this Word is true and that we, who study and receive it will be blessed. We saw Jesus say so, at the very beginning of this Revelation and now, here we see it said again at the end:

*'Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.'* Rev 1:3

*'And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.'* Rev 22:6

One last thing, before we continue on... as I reread chapter 1, I noticed this in verse 1: *'The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.'* What do you see that's so unusual, that we may have never before noticed... I didn't notice it when we began this great study... It reads... *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him..."* ... which God gave unto Him... God, the Father, gave this Revelation unto His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Think about that! Every Word in Scripture has a specific purpose and we are meant to study and understand... In Heaven, about 65 years after Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, something which The Lord Jesus Christ did not have was given to Him from God the Father. Remember back when Jesus was asked about the time of His return... He said, *'... But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.'* Matt 24:36 Usually, we'll hear a teacher say something like, *'... that was Jesus in His humanity... surely, now... He knows when He'll return...'* But does He? Then, after His resurrection, ascension and return, just before He then went back up into Heaven, He said, *'... It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.'* Acts 1:7 Again... there are things which only the Father has put in His Own power.

Now we see that 'The Revelation' is something which He gave to the Lord Jesus Christ which Jesus did not have before it was given to Him from the Father... just something to think about... the kinds of things I do think about and wonder and, I always ask for Divine Wisdom and revelation from God.

I am not, in any way questioning the absolute Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ... He is fully God but also, fully human! Is it possible that in His willingness to be born into a human body, to take upon Himself 'full humanness,' ... is it possible that we are still unaware of all that He sacrificed in order to become one of us and, so, effectively become our 'Kinsman Redeemer?' Will we know and look upon God, the Father, and eventually begin to realize the full extent of all that the Lord Jesus Christ willingly sacrificed to pay the full price to redeem His beloved Bride, to forever have her/us for Himself? For now, I don't believe we have even scratched the surface of understanding all that He has done, or given up, for us! Think about an Earthly groom; he gives up a certain measure of 'freedom' in order to gain the fulfillment of oneness with his bride; did Jesus do the same?

***Revelation 22:8:*** *'And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.'*

I have no doubt that if an angel of God were to suddenly stand before us, that we... at least that I would fall down with my face to the ground. I might not begin to worship that angel but, in reality, if I were to fall down with my face to the ground, hiding my eyes, before this glorious, exalted being, that it would, certainly, be, in itself, an act of worship.

But this angel responds correctly in refusing any worship or glory to Himself. Do you remember when someone else did, in fact, accept the worship which should belong to God, alone? *'And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. <sup>22</sup> And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. <sup>23</sup> And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.'* Acts 12: 21 Notice that, even worse for poor old Herod, is the fact that he began to be eaten by worms **before** he gave up the ghost! That's a serious warning about taking God's Glory to ourselves!

The angel who is showing all these things to John says that he is, simply, one of us, we who are faithful to keep the sayings in the Book of Revelation... a fellow servant of God. And, by extension, those who refuse to 'keep the sayings of the Book of Revelation... are not servants of God... how many of us have heard 'false teachers' who refuse to keep the sayings of Revelation, who treat it as nothing important, in reality, despising the truth of God's Word! Selah... pause and think about that!

**Verse 10:** *'And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.'*

700 years before John's time, God sent angel to give the Old Testament companion of Revelation to Daniel. Daniel saw many of the things which John has seen but often through different symbols and signs. When Daniel's revelations were finally complete, he, unlike John, was told to seal up the words of his prophecies because the time they represented was still far in the future... after the coming of the Messiah, to be, then, understood by those, with God's Wisdom, in the True Church, the Bride of the Messiah, that True Church which neither Daniel or any of the other Old Testament Prophets ever saw:

*'And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. <sup>4</sup> But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.'* Dan 12:1

Now, today, many are running to and fro: transportation and travel have become common and fast; now knowledge is infinitely greater than in the time of Daniel, even than in the time of John. Now, those who are wise, see and understand these things and we will, eventually shine like the stars in the heavens when God covers us with glory. Now, none of the Words of God are shut up, to us, and unrevealed except for one thing:

*'And (an angel) cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. <sup>4</sup> And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.'* Rev 10:3

One day soon, we will finally be told what it was which the seven thunders roared out.

John is told to not seal up the words of this Prophecy for the time is at hand! We are living in the last days of the End Times; nothing remains to be fulfilled before the Lord Jesus Christ comes down into the clouds and calls us up to Himself to take us back to that place which He has prepared for us, in His Father's house, New Jerusalem!

No one has any excuse, whatsoever, for shying away from the study and comprehension of this, the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, given to Him by God the Father, to be revealed to John, His disciple, and then given to all of us, His Bride, who are anxiously awaiting His call to 'Come up here!' He has promised to give us His Wisdom, more and more, as we are faithful to ask it of Him: *'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'* James 1:56

**Verse 11:** *'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.'*

Those who have settled in their hearts, to reject God, to hate His Son, to despise His free gift of Salvation unto Eternal Life, who have chosen to be filthy, of whom we see all around us, today, filling TV, movies and the nightly news from all around the World, those who've chosen to be unjust, of whom we see filling courtrooms, parliaments, congresses, police departments and law firms... the time is at hand and for many, it's past time; it's too late! They have hardened their hearts to the point of no longer any chance of change beyond God's miraculous intervention in their lives... and those who are, by God's grace and mercy, righteous and holy... continue on... day by day, step by step, the time is short and God will strengthen and enable each and every one who are His... even to the point of standing strong unto the death for their faith and for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Verse 12:** *'... behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.'* He will come quickly; in other words, with no warning or chance to change one's mind. At that moment, there'll be no chance to decide to be unfilthy or to be just, holy or righteous. Then, the Holy Spirit will remove His restraint of evil, which will rush in like a flood with evil and deception reigning over all the Earth.

For us, we will be removed in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye and He will bring some of our rewards with Him at that moment. Our first and foremost reward: the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself; we will have Him to love, hold and honor forever. Our next reward which He will bring with Himself will be our glorified, eternal bodies, like His Own: *'... when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.'* 1 John 3:2

He may or may not bring with Him, our various crowns which we will have earned as rewards for our faithful service now, in this infinitely short portion of our Eternal Lives. However, I think that most of our eternal rewards will be given when we stand before Him as all our works will pass through His refining fire to come out to be revealed: some will be burned up as wood, hay and stubble while others will pass through, resulting in gold, jewels and unimaginable eternal rewards.

**Verse 13:** *'I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.'*

He is the beginning of Creation in that all Creation had its beginning in Him: *'Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: <sup>16</sup> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. <sup>19</sup> For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;'* Col 1:15

**Verse 14:** *'Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.'*

The first principle in good Biblical understanding is in determining to whom a given passage is written; Revelation, as a whole, is not written to us; it is 'for us,' but not 'to us,' the True Church which will have been removed before any of the events of the Revelation take place. We remember, from Daniel chapter 9, the 70 Weeks of Daniel, that the final 7 years are the continuation, and completion, of God's work with Israel, which was interrupted when they rejected and crucified their Messiah. Israel was put on the back burner while God focused His work on creating the True Church, the Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Revelation describes that final 7 years of God's work with Israel as well as His wrath being poured out on the World. This verse is no different. It is Earthly Israel and the Gentile nations who must 'keep His commandments' and who will need the 'right to the Tree of Life' and allowed entry into New Jerusalem. We, the True Church, have no need of commandments; they are all, even now, written upon our hearts and we will have no need of the Tree of Life; we, even now, possess Eternal Life and we will have no need of 'allowance' into New Jerusalem, it is our Eternal Home which we, the Bride of Jesus Christ, will forever share with our 'Groom,' the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those who will continue to need to 'do His commandments,' will be those who fill up His ever-increasing government which will grow and expand outward... forever!

*'... Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...'* Isaiah 9:74