

Are We Asleep in the Light?

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INTRODUCTION:

I want to begin today by simply and honestly asking: **Are we, who are the church in America, asleep in the light?**

KEY INDICATORS in scripture to keep an eye on:

POINT #1—Jesus and Paul gave specific _____ regarding the time before His _____.

KEEP in mind, Jesus said we will not know the day or the hour--Matt 24:36...but he gave us info to know the season! And I am going to assert that I believe the SEASON is upon us!

Matt 24—The groundwork for the events leading up to and through the great tribulation and Jesus' return is being laid right now:

Excerpts from V3-14:

As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

“You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

“But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

“Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

“Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.

“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Excerpts from V33-44:

...when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

“Therefore, be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

“For this reason, you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

These signs have been cited for centuries, but in the end time, just as with birth pains, the frequency and intensity increase dramatically. Science, statistics and headlines support all this overwhelmingly.

Luke 21—Jesus’ return and a warning to LOOK UP and be alert

V25-28, 36:

“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves,

men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory.

“But when these things BEGIN to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

“But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

2 Tim 3—Characteristics of the last days

V1-5:

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

**POINT #2—The _____ for the time of _____
in regard to the nation ISRAEL is being laid right now.**

Ezek 38—the nations prepare to invade Israel in the end times.

Zech 12—This chapter also reinforces God’s deliverance of Israel in this time, turning their hearts toward God.

**POINT #3—Jesus, the _____ is coming for his
bride, the _____.**

Much prophecy has yet to be fulfilled in scripture, BUT NO other prophecy remains in order for Jesus to come for his bride.

1 Thess 4—Be encouraged and comforted--The bridegroom is coming for his bride, the church.

V15-18:

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

CONCLUSION:

As we close, quietly consider these questions:

Are you ready for our Lord's imminent return? By this I mean.....:

- Do you have authentic salvation by faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross? Have you accepted his free gift of forgiveness of your sin and eternal life? Without this, you will be left behind!
- Where is your focus—this world or your eternal home? Read 1 John 2:15-17.
- Lastly, what is God asking you to do for His kingdom in the time we have left?