

Are we ready/Awake to be Raptured?

22/07/2020, JC meeting

Readings: Luke 21; Mark 13; Matthew chapters 24-25

The most popular words in "Christian Circles" in particular as well as in "Secular Circles" are the *Last days* and/or *End-times*.

The Olivet Discourse is a sermon that Jesus preached from the Mount of Olive-just east of Jerusalem, three days before He died on the cross. The Olivet discourse is found in three places in the Gospels (1) Matthew chapters 24-25, (2) Mark chapter 13 and (3) Luke chapter 21. Jesus preached this sermon to a select group of His disciples.

The Olivet discourse was Jesus' response to His disciple's question about the destruction of the Temple and the end of the age.

Mark 13:3 tells us that Jesus' audience consisted of only four men: Peter, James, John and Andrew. Imagine what it must have been like to hear the Savior outline the blueprint of the end times in such an intimate setting! This of-course add to the value, importance & gravity to what was spoken by Jesus.

Both the terms that I mentioned earlier "Last days & End-times" can interchangeably be used for the Church-Age & "Israel's tribulation", But they do not always refer to the same thing. We must distinguish between the last days of the Church Age and the last days of Israel's Tribulation. Whenever a verse references the last days, the context shows whether it is relating to Church or Israel. However, the Bible indicates what the conditions of the Church Age in general will be in the later-part of the church age. Passages like 1-Timothy 4:1-5, 2-Timothy 3:1-5, 2-Peter 3:3, 1-John 2:18 and Jude VV17-18.

As we have moved forward in time and have approached the last days of the church age, we can see the widespread collapse of Moral Values & Society Structures all over the world. The evil days are upon us. In 2-Timothy 3:1-5, Apostle Paul mention Eighteen(18) characteristics of mankind during the last days of church age(time before rapture).

Let me quickly mention these fallen characteristics of mankind:

(1) Lovers of themselves (2) Lovers of money (3) Boasters (4) Proud (5) Blasphemers (6) Disobedient to parents (7) Unthankful (8) Unholy (9) Unloving (10) Unforgiving (11) Slandorous (12) without self-control (13) Brutal (14) Despisers of good (15) Treacherous (16) Rash (17) Conceited and (18) Lovers of pleasure than lovers of God.

Outwardly, many people would seem religious, educated, decent, honest, trustworthy, respectable, upright, kind, obliging, helpful, generous, courteous and civil BUT their actions speak louder than their works. It

has become common to remain religious and to have their sins at the same time. It is a fearful portrayal of an apostate society, and culture. We cannot possibly know HOW BAD THINGS MUST BE to qualify as **prophectic signs**. Evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived, .as mentioned in 2-Timothy 3:13.

In Matthew 24:4-14, Jesus lists eight key signs that He likens(compares/equate) to birth pains that will portend (be a warning of/sign of) His coming:

False Christ's(V5); Wars(VV6-7); Famines(V7); Earthquakes(V7); Persecution (VV9-10); False Prophets(V11); Lawlessness(V12); and worldwide preaching of the gospel (V14).

Do you think that it is just a coincidence that so many of our young people are completely and utterly lawless? No!, they have been raised in a completely upside down society that says that good is evil & evil is good.. So the way they are behaving now, shouldn't surprise us. We are all aware what happened in America recently:

- At least 145 different cities including: New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Richmond, Virginia, Minneapolis, Los Angeles were mobbed & looted at free will. 40 U.S Cities had to impose curfew
- Many Police Officers & Secret Service agents were shot, kicked, punched and exposed to bodily fluids. National Guards had been called in 15 States.
- Many Memorials—representing US rich history and World War 1 & 2 were defaced and broken.
- Chaos had come to the steps of White House and there are reports that US President had been forced into an underground bunker, while nearby protesters set the capital alight.

On the international Scene, Situation is even worse.

- War is brewing in the Middle-East between Israel and the Palestinians /Arabs, if Israel Annexes part of West Bank & Jordan Valley.
- At present a major war is underway in Libya, with Russia and Turkey supporting opposites sides.
- Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini has called for a "Final Solution" by eliminating Israel. This same words were used by Hitler for his plans for a Jewish genocide.
- Situation in Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia are full of tension amidst the civil unrest, worst financial crises and declining currency values.
- A massive swarm of locusts has invaded many countries like, India, Pakistan, Iran, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea.

- Over 104,000 acres of cotton, summer pulses and vegetable crops have been affected by locusts across six states of India alone.
- It is estimated that nearly half of the world's working population have lost jobs or will be losing jobs due to corona virus pandemic. That will devastate lives and economies. The International labor Organization (ILO) said some 1.6 Billion people are in danger of having their livelihood destroyed by the economic impact of the virus out-break.
- Millions of Pigs, chickens and Cattle are being slaughtered. Millions of gallons of milk is being dumped and millions of pounds of fresh vegetables are being disposed off as they cannot be sold due to the closure of processing plants because of Corona Virus. The media is warning that food shortages are coming.
- United States deficit is expected to reach \$4 Trillion (4x10 raised to 12), as a result of Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Pope Francis is leading his ONE WORLD RELIGION OF CHRISLAM.
- May 14th, 2020 was nominated to be **Chrislam Day** of Prayer. It combines Roman Catholicism with Islam and apostate Judaism. No reports are available as to how the "Chrislam day" worked out

Signs of the Scheduled Tribulation are increasing. The Global Economic Collapse is on the horizon. A Prophecy concerning the last days of this present generation is about to come to pass. **James 5:1-6 talks about it.** The **first part** of this Prophecy (VV1-4), refers to the **global economic collapse**. The next part is for **believers**. It implies that believers will see the **beginning** of the economic collapse **before** the Rapture, and they are to remain waiting expectantly for the great deliverance. To the believers James says:

"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain"(James 5:7).

The Savior is waiting for the **final ingathering** of the New Testament believers. We must wait patiently, expecting the call "Come up my people" any day now.

Ten Qualifications for the Rapture

1. To be in Christ ([1Th. 4:14,16](#); [2Cor. 5:17-18](#)).
2. To be Christ's ([1Cor. 15:23](#); [Gal. 5:24](#)).
3. To be blessed and holy ([Rev. 20:4-6](#); [Heb. 12:14](#)).
4. To be good ([Jn. 5:28-29](#)).
5. To be worthy ([Lk. 21:36](#)).

6. To be in the Church ([1Cor. 12:13](#); [Eph. 1:20-23](#); [4:4-6](#); [5:27](#); [Col. 1:18,24](#)).
7. To be pure ([1Jn. 3:2-3](#)).
8. To be without spot or wrinkle ([Eph. 5:27](#))
9. To live and walk in the Spirit ([Gal. 5:19-21](#)).
10. To walk in the light ([1Jn. 1:7](#); [Col. 2:6](#)).

Ten Purposes of the Rapture

1. To receive saints to Himself as promised ([1Th. 4:17](#); [Jn. 14:1-3](#); [Eph. 5:27](#))
2. To resurrect the dead in Christ from among the wicked dead ([1Th. 4:14,16-17](#); note, [Php. 3:11](#); [Rev. 20:4-6](#))
3. To take saints to heaven to live in the New Jerusalem and receive rewards ([1Th. 4:17](#); [3:13](#); [Jn. 14:1-3](#); [2Cor. 5:10](#); [Heb 12:22-23](#); [Rev. 19:1-10](#); [21:9-10](#))
4. To change bodies of saints to immortality ([1Th. 4:16-17](#); [1Cor 15:35-58](#); [Php. 3:21](#))
5. To present saints before God ([1Th. 4:17](#); [3:13](#); [Jn. 14:1-3](#); [Jude 1:24](#); [Rev. 19:1-10](#))
6. To make saints whole in body, soul, and spirit ([1Th. 4:16-17](#); [5:23](#); [Php. 3:21](#))
7. To receive the fruit of the early and latter rain ([Jas. 5:7](#); [Jn.14:1-3](#))
8. To cause the saints to escape the tribulation of [Rev. 6:1](#) [Rev.19:21](#) ([1Th. 4:16-17](#); [5:9](#); [Lk. 21:36](#); [Rev. 4:1](#))
9. To remove the hinderer of lawlessness ([2Th. 2:7](#), note; [Rev. 4:1](#))
10. To permit the revelation of the Antichrist ([2Th. 2:7](#), [Rev. 4:1](#))

Saints will be with Christ in heaven during the tribulation ([2Th. 2:7](#), [Rev. 4:1](#)); will accompany Christ to earth at Armageddon ([Zech. 14:1-5](#); [Mt. 24:29-31](#); [25:31-46](#); [Jude 1:14](#); [Rev. 19:11-21](#)); will live in the new Jerusalem in heaven but reign on earth with Christ during the Millennium ([Rev. 20:4-10](#); [21:9-10](#); [Heb. 12:22-23](#)); will move with their residence, the New Jerusalem, to the earth to live on the New Earth forever ([Rev. 21](#) and [Rev. 22](#)).