

GET READY TO MEET ME

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James
Version* of the Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

In 1979 I was called in a dramatic vision to prepare people for the coming of the Lord Jesus. In the 1980s I would tell people of the vision. Many times, they would be moved to tears. People asked me, “What should we do to be ready?” I really had no practical answer until now. I think that means that after 40 years it is finally time for me to put my understanding into written form. It also means the return of the King is very close; certainly closer than when we first believed. (Rom 13:11)

Chapter 1

The Most Urgent Thing

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3)

There may have been as many as 500 of them. It was the middle of the day. All were silently staring into the clouds. Amidst the original crowd, two strangers arrived dressed in unusual clothing and broke the desperate, bewildered silence. “What are you people doing?” The disciples were shocked at their sudden and distinct appearance. The angels said, “This same Jesus will return in the same way you just saw Him leave you.”. (Acts 1)

We have the promise of angels that Jesus is coming to earth again. We have the promise of the apostles. And we have the promise of Jesus Himself.

That event was about 2,000 years ago and we are living today very close to the time of His second return to the earth. In between these two

events has been what we could call The Church Age. Jesus is returning to set up a Kingdom that will never end. There will be nothing for the Christian more important than to be prepared for this great event. It is coming soon, and its meaning will have everlasting; never ending implications.

The return of Jesus Christ to the earth will be one of the most important events in human history. It is imperative that we all be ready for such an event. Of course, the most urgent thing is that we know the Lord. We will never enter the Kingdom if we do not know the King. In fact, Jesus said this **was** eternal life: To know God by experience.

Suppose I am in an airport, and I meet a foreigner, someone not from my country. He asks me, “Excuse me, do you know George Washington?”

I say, “Yes, the Father of our Country.”

“Oh good! Can you please ask him if my family and I can stay here in the United States?”

“Well, I don’t know him!”

He says, “You just said you do know him.”

I explain, “I know who he is, but I have never met him.”

I know George Washington, but I do not know him. English is a little blind here.

Another example: Suppose I am traveling, and someone asks me, “Do you know Chicago?”

I reply, “Yes.”

“Oh good. Please tell me how to drive through the downtown.”

I say, “I can’t do that. I’ve never been there.”

“What? You’ve never been there? You just said you knew Chicago!”

I must explain that I know where Chicago is on a map. I know some facts about the city, but I have never been to Chicago (in this illustration).

When I learned Spanish, I found out that there are two words that are translated into “to know”. One word means to know a fact or to have knowledge about some particular information. In English we would say “to know” something.

There is another Spanish word we must use when we are talking about familiarity or acquaintance with something or someone. It is used in talking about meeting someone. In English we would again say “to know” something or someone. In Spanish the word is **conozco** (I know). The word the New Testament uses when Jesus said we must know God is **ginosko** in Greek. (I just find it interesting that the two words in different languages are so similar.)

To know facts about God, Jesus, and the Bible is going to be of no value in obtaining eternal life. Jesus said we must **know** God. We must **conocer** Him. We must **ginosko** Him. We must meet Jesus. I am not trying to be mystical. There can be a subtle difference between knowing facts about God or meeting Him, that the English speaker will be blind to.

We must know God and Jesus Christ experientially. That does **not** mean we must have an experience. It means we actually engage the living God by knowing Jesus by faith. That means even though we may not have seen Him, we are convinced that this message about Him is for us personally. We hear the message about Who He is and what He has done, and we believe or trust that He is our only hope of escaping the

consequence of sin, which is death in the strictest sense.

The Gospel; the Good News; the entrance into eternal life is not about what you do. It is about what Jesus DID. And what did He do?

1. He died as **your** (and my) sin substitute obtaining eternal salvation, satisfying perfect, divine requirements.
2. He was buried. (Meaning He was stone cold dead.)
3. He was raised from the dead. (Meaning God is perfectly satisfied with His sacrifice.)

There are many important things, but the most URGENT thing is that you believe in Him. That means trusting Him and His work for you as your only hope of salvation from a fate that is worse than can be described or imagined. Jesus came to effect a rescue from a living nightmare that is unending in its scope. If you ignore His “so great salvation” (Heb 2:3) there is no other hope. If you do not yet know Him, sincerely ask right now for His mercy. Do business with God today. You can't start real living without Him.

If we are concerned about the state of others without a saving knowledge of Jesus

Christ, we do well. Because their fate lasts for time without end, an end without time, and without hope of change, then we should be concerned about ourselves also. This present time in the body will have an effect that will last throughout time and beyond. We can't decide to wait a few years and then get serious about the things of God. It is this short, temporal space along the timeline that we live our natural lives in, that will determine the particulars that our eternal life will be lived in. If we see the seriousness that those without Christ will face, we should look to our own condition also and the fact that it will be for eternity without the possibility of change.

Chapter 2

The Judgment Seat

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Cor 5:10)

You and I have an appointment. We will be required to stand before Jesus Christ Himself and give an account of our time in the flesh. It is impossible to avoid or cancel this appointment.

While considering this truth it is important to remember that:

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Rom 8:1)

There is no judicial penalty for our spirit. Thank God there is no hell for the believer because that destiny was suffered for by Christ. There is no condemnation. That is not what this

judgment is all about. This is about our time “in the body.” (2 Cor 5:10) While the spirit of the believer is perfected forever, our body and soul are unregenerate in this lifetime.

I like to call this the “Evaluation”. Everyone there is saved. That is why we are there. The unbelievers will be judged at a later time. Jesus personally will review our life with its thoughts and motives. He will evaluate the nature of our service for Him or our disobedience to Him. Although our spirits are intact, perfect, sinless, and complete, the fire of His nature will come upon the record of our lives to see how much like Him we have been during our lifetime, our time in the body. The genuine Christian is not condemned because he is a son (or daughter). Rather, the servant element of who we are will be evaluated. Those things that are like Him will be refined and appear like gold, silver, precious stones. Those things unlike Him along with their motives and intentions will be consumed like wood, hay, and stubble and we will be left with what remains, if anything. Imagine sitting in a great pile of ash with nothing left that is of any real value. Many will experience this. Saved from condemnation; saved from hell; saved from eternal shame (Dan 12:2) but how awkward would that be? It will involve temporary shame (1 John 2:28). Looking forward to the return of

Christ should be a joyous thought; not one of dread. It will be exactly that if we know that we are in disobedience.

I think one of the saddest consequences of this evaluation is that the “ranking” that will be determined from the judgment seat of Christ will be forever.

This Evaluation may be public. The scriptures speak of hidden things being brought to light (I Cor 4:5).

It may be that our appearance before Jesus will be private. We may be alone when we stand before Jesus as the Judge. He will review our life and we will receive rewards for obeying Him and we will suffer loss of potential rewards for disobeying. Our “ranking” in His Kingdom will be established, forever or for at least 1,000 years. When the Millennial Kingdom turns into the Father's eternal Kingdom, the Lord will wipe away all tears from every eye (Isa 25:8). We will not remember the former things (Isa 43:8). We will enter into a blessed eternity not remembering why we were given the lowest seat at the table or a seat of great honor but knowing that this was determined at the judgment seat by a fair and all-knowing Savior. You would not dare say that it is not fair that you are lower in the Kingdom than

another person. However, it does not have to be this way.

If you are breathing, there is great hope. The Evaluation has not occurred yet. For **you** it has not occurred yet. It is still possible to face the Judgment Seat of Christ with confidence and joy.

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.
(1John 2:28)

For the believer Jesus is not a judge like in a murder case, but a judge like in an athletic event. However, this is not a game. This is for all eternity.

Christian Communism

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor 15:41-42a)

There is the unwritten idea that when we get to Heaven, we will all finally be on equal footing. The boss won't be stepping on the backs of menial persons. There won't be any financial

oppressors benefiting unjustly by abusing and mistreating others. True, the Lord will not allow injustice. Hence, there is the idea that we all must be the same.

Apparently, we will all wear the same kind of white or maybe green jumpsuit. We will all wear our hair the same way. Everybody will be named John or Jane. We will all be seated in little heavenly office cubicles shuffling papers. Imagine the sound of millions of rubber stamps all smacking the desks in perfect unison. We wonder if we will recognize one another because we will all have the same face. No one will be different from another.

Christians would typically decry this kind of insanity. Historically, Christians have condemned the political evil of communism. Yet to suggest that there may be any difference between persons in the next life is nearly blasphemy today. Yes, we are all sons of God (the believers, that is) (I John 3:2). In the spirit we are all made in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24) but when the Scripture speaks of us as servants it uses language as that describes us as being very different one from another.

How can we be the same yet different? This is explained by the construction of the human

being. It is beyond the scope of this book to deal with the technical aspect of our selves. Simply put, we are Sons fully made like Jesus, yet we are also servants. There is a dual aspect to our being, in the way that God created us. In one sense, we are two persons in our inner man. This may be considered similar to the way God has revealed Himself to us. How can God be three Persons and yet one God? This is a difficulty, but it is one of the ways we have been created like God to some extent. (Gen 1:26)

If I have given the idea that Jesus is mean and grudging, let me clarify. Jesus desires to lavish upon His Sons, who have served Him, gifts and honors. He is so good. He does it all. He gives us life. He gives us strength. He gives us understanding. Then He gives us His air and His food. After that, He rewards us for happening to be standing by when He does all the work. He is so good and generous. Our part is simply to not be in disobedience.

Chapter 3

Labyrinth

Imagine a huge Labyrinth, a maze with many passages. Two men start out together entering the maze. Let's assume that each man always takes the opposite direction that his companion does. If one goes left the other goes right, for example. After a dozen turns and choices would it be unreasonable to imagine that the two men are far from each other; that they would reach very different destinations?

In St. Louis, in the state of Missouri in the United States, interstate highway 70 runs east and west. If two men are driving and one decides to go west, and the other driver chooses to go east they will soon be far from each other. Is it unreasonable to think that the two will be in very different locations? They will see geography around them that is different from their counterpart. One man will see green trees. The other will see desert. Is it God's fault that the two men are in different locations? Their choices have determined their destiny.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (John 13:34)

Jesus personally gave the above commandment. One person may realize they have not been walking in love toward their brothers and others. They determine to replace their normal, habitual attitude of selfishness with this Word from God. Another person says, "It doesn't matter." Will those two people be in the same place or condition practically speaking?

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: (De 30:19)

It makes a difference which choice we make. We are free to make any choice we wish but we are not free to choose the consequence of our choice. A woman is free to choose to abort her baby, but she is not free to choose the consequences of that choice. Sterility, guilt, nightmares, and other problems might be some of the consequences of that choice. God is Pro-Choice, in a sense. He fiercely defends the right to choose in all of life. We just have to make the right decisions.

Chapter 4

What Should I Do?

Perhaps you are wondering, what should I do? First, make enough sandwiches for all the homeless people in Central Park in New York City. Next, buy a one-way ticket to Tanzania, East Africa. Lastly, go eat grub worms with the Pygmies. OK, I'm not serious but that is what some people are expecting me to say. (Unless God has specifically spoken to you about Tanzania.) Very seriously, we should know how to prepare now for what will be our most important appointment. As we will see it is not so much a matter of doing something that we deem important, but rather, what does the Lord want from us?

There was a missionary I knew a few years ago. This man had some very unorthodox personality traits to the point of people saying, "How can God possibly use him?" Despite many character flaws. this man had one unusual characteristic. A hypothetical example: If we were on the tenth story of a building and if he thought God wanted him to jump out of a

window, he would be running toward it. Instant obedience. I think God can deal with some of our selfishness and sin, but He can't do anything with disobedience.

Another missionary I knew was always telling me that he thought his home church was never “with him”. I did not know anything of his financial condition. I don't think it was that. Somehow, he just never felt his home church was well connected to him; never joined to him enough to be of moral support.

One time, while being at his home church to generate financial and prayer support, a member of that church told him the following story: There was another couple from that same church who decided to go into missions. The husband had worked for an aerospace company for 30 years, yet he was just barely in his 50s. His time at this company had been enough to grant him a generous pension. The man and his wife were relatively young, yet they had secured a decent income for themselves. Since they still had relative youth and strength along with a good base income, they decided to invest the remaining part of their lives in serving God in missions. The church member telling the missionary about this couple said, “Why didn't you do that?” My friend replied, “What a fool I've been! I was so

ignorant. God called me and I just went!” (Long, awkward silence goes here.) What the 50-year-old couple decided to do was admirable but perhaps you can sense the frustration in my friend's reply. He was right. Instant obedience.

I was in Mexico City in 1985 and met a powerful Romanian prophet. His life was full of adventures of faith and trust in God. He was speaking at a conference where, during a question-and-answer session, someone asked him a question. Since his life was so dramatic and power filled, they wanted to know what the most important thing was he had ever learned. He replied, “To obey. And to be kind.” Once again, to obey is one of the most important things.

We may have questions in our minds like: Are we obeying God in all He has told us? An issue like this could leave us with concerns. Have I honored my parents sufficiently? Did I completely comply with the Lord's instructions in some particular incident? However, we have no doubt if we are living in direct disobedience. We know if we have made the decision to ignore His ways.

Chapter 5

Preparing for your Appointment

I suppose it is better to do good than doing evil. If I have a weekend free, I could help mow the grass at a church or I could rob a bank. That is obvious. What is not always so clear is the difference between good and God. I could plan to start an orphanage. That is good. However, if God has been clearly directing me to use my life and resources to help crisis pregnancy teens, then my good can be destroying the God-thing that should be in my life. Good vs. God. Wood, hay, and stubble vs. gold, silver, and precious stones.

What if someone says, “I don't hear God's voice. I don't have any idea what the will of God is for my life. How can I be responsible for obeying when I don't know what to do?”

First of all, Jesus said:

My sheep hear my voice,.. (John 10:27)

We may not perceive it with our minds, but Jesus said we do hear Him. I would not

recommend arguing with Him. We may not understand His words, or we may not see what He said worked out as a part of our experience, but we must not contradict the words of Jesus. This is the devil's job, to refute the Word of God. Let us not be caught doing devil-work.

Secondly, if we can honestly say that we do not know the specific will that God has for us and if we have not heard any specific instructions, then standing orders are in force. What does that mean? It means that the general instructions for all believers valid for all time are speaking to you.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (I Thess 5:18)

Now you know the will of God, the will of God for you. Someone says, "But I mean the will of God for my life. You know, should I go on television or should I move to Hawaii." If the general will of God revealed in Scripture is being ignored forget about Step 2. If you have not passed first grade you cannot go onto second grade.

Where we are falling down is in the simple things. That is where most of us are missing God. We want to work on our doctoral dissertation, but

we have not successfully passed first grade. We want to have lofty discussions about how long the toenails are on Daniel's vision of the prophetic beasts. Instead, perhaps we need to revisit the elementary things.

Are you a thankful person? Are you truly grateful for the routine blessings of God? Do you stop to express thankfulness in small things or are you disgusted that better circumstances were not given to you? Forget about going on television. If we do not obey the smallest command, how are we going to be led in great things?

*For this is **the will of God**, ...*

Here it is, as plainly as God can reveal it to us.

... that ye should abstain from fornication:
(I Thess 4:3)

Do you have difficulty hearing the voice of God concerning something specific? If we ignore or disregard the written will of God, we will not hear Him. Worse yet, we may indeed hear a different influence and end up in deception.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and

another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (Rev 20:12)

At the final judgment of the condemned, God uses books or a record of the deeds of the lost to show them how they have deserved their eternal fate. We all deserve such a fate. It is not only the record of what was done during their lives that is reviewed. Another Book was opened as well. That is the Book of Life. Revelation 13:8 calls this book

...the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

It is only because one's name is in this book that he is free from all condemnation. God's plan to send Jesus was determined before the world began. Likely, this Book of Life was also planned and written before time began.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Eph 2:10)

It seems that God has written a book or books about you and me before we ever existed

on this planet. There was the Book of Life, but God also ordained or prepared a book about what good works you were supposed to walk in. Paul tells us that these works were also planned ahead of time; even before we were born.

This is what the Judgment Seat of Christ or the Great Evaluation is all about. Were you kind and patient with a neighbor or did you ignore them? Did you help an old lady with a flat tire when you could have or did you dismiss the idea? It is simple things like this that will be brought up at your Appointment. If they were written in your book, did you walk in those things or not? It is not how much good you do but did your life match God's book about you.

Money

Perhaps you have traveled internationally. What is one of the first things you do; even before leaving the destination airport? You exchange your money. Of course, many places are happy to receive U.S. dollar bills. But usually, to participate in the economic system of your destination you need to have something recognizable and that is of value in the local economy. When I went to Cuba in 2000, they wanted to get as many United States dollars as possible. But when traveling through Mexico, to

buy a dinner at a local *restaurante* I had to have pesos. The same thing would be similar in most countries.

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever; and cast their crowns before the throne... (Rev 4:10)

We must have something that is of value in the country to which we are going. U.S. dollars will be worthless in that Day and in that Place. However, we can use green pieces of paper with pictures of dead presidents on them **now** to effect a permanent result later. It is remarkable that we can use temporary things now to work an eternal reward in the future.

On That Day we will want, more than anything, some of the “currency” of heaven. I know it may not seem like it now, but it will be an all-consuming desire later. Amazingly, we have the opportunity to exchange, as it were, some natural money now for heavenly riches by giving to the work of God. In that way we will have something of value in heaven to say, “Thank you” to the Lord in an appropriate way. He doesn't want dollars (or any other worldly currency) in heaven. He doesn't need your money. We will desperately look around us for something of

eternal worth to express an acceptable praise to God. If we find that we have nothing because we did not “exchange” our money in this life, it will be a tough moment when many others are casting their crowns before the Lord, and we have nothing to give. You may not believe me now, but it will be of utmost importance on that day. We do not have to arrive there unprepared. We can exchange some money now even if it is a small amount.

Jesus said that our faithfulness with money is the **least** of all disciplines (Luke 16:10-11).¹ Our obedience with money is the one of the starting places to finding the specific will of God.

There are many people who say, “I don't serve God for rewards. That would be materialistic.” That sounds very mature but is very wrong. Jesus is the One Who determines real value for our service for Him. But it is also He Who has set things up this way. This system of rewards is His idea. It is the way He wants to operate things, so our hypocritical opinion is irrelevant. Besides that, it will ultimately result in permanent disaster.

Of course, giving money is not an excuse for not doing yourself what God called you to do.

¹ The other would be obeying the Lord in the matter of water baptism as a disciple of Jesus.

Up to now we have been discussing things we do that mostly benefit ourselves. Now we shall focus on how we touch the heart of God.

Chapter 6

Worship

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.
(Ps 27:4)

What is our purpose as a human being? What was the Supreme Manufacturer intending when He made man? If we let the Spirit that has been given to us have free reign, what will He lead us to do? David says there is ONE thing. Wouldn't it be great if in the midst of all the things we feel we should do there was one thing that stands out from the rest? Wouldn't it be great if all the urgent things which demand our time and attention could be set aside because of one prevailing thing making all else less important? Wouldn't it be great if we could place all lesser tasks to the side because of one important thing that just sets itself apart and makes every other concern fade? By virtue of its supremacy one special thing makes all other problems bow and take their subordinate place far into the distance.

David says there is such a “one thing”. Sure, there are lots of things that must be taken care of in this life. They can easily get to the point of suffocating our mindfulness of God. Could we let the one supreme thing, beholding the beauty of the Lord, suffocate all else, if only for a short period of time?

There are many important things but only one supreme thing: Knowing God in order to develop a passion for Him.

But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. (2 Kings 3:15)

The prophet Elisha called for an instrumentalist. As the musician played, the hand of the Lord came upon him. Music can be **very** important, but it may not be our worship.

Musicians can help bring in an atmosphere conducive to worship, but it may not be our worship. Music can move us or impel us inwardly to express worship to God. It can also help us in corporate or group worship. Songs can help us all say the same thing at the same time. All of this is supremely important, but it may still not be worship.

Worship, for the majority of the church, is something which could be carried by the vehicle of song. But it may be something separate from music.

You do not have to be a musician. Music is extremely important. Music can accompany worship. Song, in instrument or in voice, can be a vehicle for our worship to be expressed in.

Worship is something we find in a deep place, in the core of our being. It is an awe that may startle us. We may find an unbearable gratitude moving within us. It could be expressed in shouts, in music, in song, in an unintelligible language, or maybe in deep groans. It is the awareness of Infinity being trapped in our hearts that must be released. It is when the worthiness of a Greater One than us insists on being recognized, whether we feel like it or not.

If we have the grace to acknowledge this unworthiness yet gratitude that can seem to crush us, imagine what it would be like in a state that can actually endure this. We are weak in this present flesh. Someday we will be clothed with an incorruptible body that can never tire.

If we can experience a taste of the

adoration of Heaven now, what will the fullness be like? Oh, to be in the presence of the One Who makes all this right, because God will bring us to our real purpose. To ascribe worthiness to God and to enjoy Him forever will be our true destiny.

If this is what we are headed for someday, what should our job be in this life now? In light of our eternal, permanent task, we should be about developing our capacity to enjoy, love, and praise God. Eternity will not be long enough to thank God for His goodness, so we had better start that now.

I know that everyday life has a hundred things in it that demand our time and attention. It is not practical to praise God all day, to the exclusion of everything else. Our flesh is weak. We have so many things that we are required to do. However, if we could have more permanent things in mind, heavenly things, we would realize the importance of developing our desire for the things of God now.

It is possible that our future capacity to enjoy God in Eternity will be related to our desire for Him now. I believe we can feed our soul good things and see a change in our desires. We can worship and praise God. We can dwell upon the things of Heaven and let our minds be more and

more influenced by the Holy Spirit Who dwells in our heart.

Chapter 7

Vision of the Bride

In 1979 I felt a very intense burden to pray for the lost. I also felt compelled to seek an anointing for evangelism in my own life. During a period that lasted about eight days or so food became unimportant. I remember waking up during the night to pray for the lost. There was a travailing in prayer that I had not experienced before. This desire was from God. He was leading me toward an unexpected destination.

After about eight days God answered my request. But it was not at all what I was expecting. One Sunday afternoon my wife, our baby, and I were driving into town for a Sunday evening church service. Our small daughter had finally fallen asleep, and I began to pray. Because I had been consumed lately with the thought of those without Christ, naturally I began to turn my prayer toward this matter again.

Then, it seemed that without any conscious effort on my part, I began to pray for "The Church" - the Church Universal. This was strange

because I had no understanding of this concept, nor had it ever entered my thinking before. Suddenly, a weeping came over me that I was unable to control. A grief rose in my heart that seemed unreasonable to me. It felt as though a knife were sawing through my heart. A sensation similar - I suppose - to what I would feel if I were mourning the death of my wife and children. An uncontrollable, unbearable grief entered my heart.

I looked out the driver's side window, bewildered by what was happening to me. What I saw was stranger yet! I saw the Lord come for His people. He was a distant figure, high up in the sky. I thought to myself, *"Oh, no. I'm a good Baptist boy. We Baptists don't have hallucinations!"* Then in the field below the Lord I saw a multitude of people. I suppose there were millions. The crowd stretched out as far as I could see. I watched as they all faded and only one person was left, far away on the horizon. They all morphed into one person. In the Spirit, my vision came up close to this person in an instant. It was someone standing with their back turned toward me. It appeared that it was a woman in a long dress, like a wedding dress. But something was wrong. The dress was stained, filthy, and torn. I then came up very close behind the woman as she turned her head to look at me. When I saw her, I literally screamed in horror! My wife, sitting next

to me in the car must have thought I had been shot.

What I saw was not a woman at all but a young girl - far too young to be in a wedding dress. Yet she had some features of an old woman. The teeth were nearly all gone. The hair was present only in patches. I could tell she was not much more than a skeleton; emaciated, sickly, diseased. There was a blank, hopeless stare in her eyes that resembled photos of starving women I have seen from East Africa.

At this moment the phrase came to mind, "**the bride of Christ**".² I thought, "*Lord, You cannot marry this!*" I looked up at the Lord. He turned His back and left! I looked back at the woman, but she was gone. In her place were the millions again like I had seen at the beginning of the vision. They all were looking up toward the place where the Lord had been. They all had their hands raised but, strangely, no one said a word. It seemed peculiar to me that there was no sound from such a multitude. No one was praying. Not a voice was heard crying out. They were not asking the Lord to return or anything at all. Then I heard the Lord say to me, "**GO, GET MY PEOPLE READY TO MEET ME, FOR I AM COMING**

² The Scriptures never say the Body of Christ is the Bride of Christ however, the imagery is occasionally used.

SOON!"

It seemed that another infinite burden was laid on me now. The commission seemed ridiculously impossible. I said, "*How, Lord?*" I really did not expect a reply, but He answered instantly, three words in English, "**This is how.**"

I do not mean to be mystical or aloof, but words fail at this point. I am not trying to appear super spiritual toward my readers, but I truly do not understand what He meant or did. I truly would try to put it into words, but I do not have any vocabulary or understanding to describe what He did next.

Then He somehow touched me in my heart with a love that removed all the pain I had felt during the vision. I actually begged God to stop it lest I die from pure joy.³ He did so instantly. The intensity left me so completely that I immediately doubted that I had even seen the vision at all.

We went on to the evening meeting at church. I was relieved that this strange experience was over. Things were fine until the people began to gather and the service started. When I looked at the crowd gathered there, an uncontrollable weeping and grieving came over me again as

³ I **strongly** do not recommend that.

during the vision.

This happened at every meeting we attended until I had to simply stay home, the pain was too great to bear. I began to watch preachers on TV on Sunday mornings instead. But when the camera would pan across the audience I would weep for God's people. I wept for two years, from 1979 to 1981 until there were no more tears to cry.

What does the vision mean? Is this the way God looks at us? No, God the Father does not see us this way. He sees us through the blood of His Son, Jesus. So, what then? I believe the vision represents the practical state of the Church. This is a picture of our preparedness and our love for the Lord. We are not ready to enter into the great things of God. We, as a whole, have not cleansed ourselves and prepared ourselves to meet the Lord and to enter into a deep relationship with Him. His heart is grieved for His bride who gives herself to everything except faithful devotion to her Lord.

There is no voice of condemnation from this vessel. Just an exhortation to "*prepare the way of the Lord*". Jesus is coming soon. He is coming for a people that are pure and ready to meet Him. Let us be that people and so we will

meet Him as a confident servant and as a workman that does not need to be ashamed.

Chapter 8

The Days of Noah

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.
(Matt 24:6)

The Church is looking for the **Apprearing** of the Lord. Ethnic Israel is looking for the **Coming** of the King. Since these things are in or near a period called the Latter Times, I offer some thoughts about this period that we are near.

We often hear that wars and rumors of wars are an indication that the return of the Lord must be at the door. However, Jesus says that war is a sign that the end is **not** yet. This is something that must happen in order to prepare the course of world events for the end times.

*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.*(1 Thess 5:3)

A sign of the time of the return of the Lord is peace and safety, not wars.

26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. (Luke 17:26-30)

This is not to say that there will be no conflict. But the remarkable sign of the End is: returning to “normal”. The days of Noah and Lot were characterized by the routine; normal everyday events: daily tasks and long-range planning. Why would the Lord make such a big deal about normal natural events? Could it be that this will be in sharp contrast to the preceding state of the world?

If we look at the record in Genesis, we see that Noah's and Lot's days were also filled with

wickedness and violence.

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Gen 6:5)

...and the earth was filled with violence. (Gen 6:11)

And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; (Gen 18:20)

All these things are certainly not the will of God for mankind. All of these things deserve a just and severe consequence, but I believe there was something else that crossed the line and insisted on an immediate reply from God.

The days of Noah and of Lot are both a picture for us of the suddenness and surprise of the Day of the Lord. But Noah's day (and not Lot's day) tells us very briefly of the real reason for the divine destruction.

*And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was **corrupt**; for **all flesh** had corrupted his way upon the earth. (Gen 6:12)*

That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. (Gen 6:2)

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. (Gen 6:4)

It seems that a class of spiritual beings called the sons of God existed before the creation of man. (Angels, if you like.) They were the original creation of God-like beings that rebelled against the Lord.

*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her **seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Gen 3:)*

They devised and carried out a plan to prevent God from sending the one Seed of the woman that would eventually destroy the devil. They probably were not driven by lust for beautiful women as much as by fear and hatred of God and His new creation, the human race. They hate us, in case you have not noticed yet.

Genesis tells us that all flesh was corrupted;

that is, perverted from its original intention, ruined so as to be utterly worthless for its intended use. What was its intended use?

And I will put enmity between thee [the serpent] and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Gen 3:15)

It was God's intention all along to send a Redeemer to the world that would destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8). It was the plan of the devil to introduce a “seed” into the human race that would make it impossible for God to send a God-Man. This was a Savior who could reconcile God to man, being both Himself. (God and man.) Jesus could never have come to earth if the population of humans was actually hybrids. Partly human but not really. Part human and part non-human. God could not use the seed of non-humans to produce the Savior of mankind. It appeared the devil had won. However, there was an unusual man.

*These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and **perfect in his generations**, and Noah walked with God. (Gen 6:9)*

Noah was entire in his genealogy back to Adam. He was not a hybrid. Noah was a man; a

sinful man like all of us, yet a pure human. Apparently, he was the only real human alive or at least one of very few because

... all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. (Gen 6:12)

God found Noah, a man who would believe God AND obey God and thus saved or temporarily preserved the world and what was left of the human race until the real Savior of the world would come.

Now, Jesus tells us something tremendously important:

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. (Luke 17:26)

People have always been evil. People have always been selfish. People have always been violent. People have always been wicked. But there has not always been widespread hybridization. There have been times throughout history when “aliens” or something not of the human race has interbred with women but not on a huge scale. Jesus said you will see it again.

Already we see a great push for

transhumanism. This is generally an effort to integrate technology and mechanical features with the human body to produce greater strength, longer lifespans, and superior mental abilities.

Dr. Thomas Horn, in *The Hybrid Age* said, “The term “transhumanism” has been given to explain how HER [Human Enhancement Revolution] emerging fields of science, including genetics, robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and synthetic biology, will radically redesign our minds, our memories, our physiology, our offspring, our physical appearance, and even perhaps—as Joel Garreau in his best-selling book, *Radical Evolution*, claims—our very souls.”

There are claims that scientists have produced animal-human hybrids, at least in the embryonic stages. Claims abound that laboratories have had some success in making mouse-humans, monkey-humans, and such. Whether or not these claims are true, scientists are at least trying to produce these types of hybrids and at the very least they are aware of the possibility. Does a pig with a human brain have a soul? Is a mouse with some human DNA redeemable? These types of issues spell the nearness of the end of the human race as we know it.

Could spirit beings using such willing scientists find a way to merge spirit with the material? Someone has said that the brain is a machine that a ghost can play. In our own brain, through electrical and chemical reactions, the soul of man finds its interface with the tangible world. The intangible inner person contacts the physical world.

Do you think it is possible that malevolent, evil beings who have a personal grudge with God and His newest creation, the family of Adam, can find a way to once again force themselves into our world and corrupt humanity for the final time? Jesus said you will see it, just like the days of Noah.

Many say it is not possible to know the time of the Lord's return. I can tell you with precision the exact time of the Day of the Lord.

*Therefore be ye also ready: for in **such an hour as ye think not** the Son of man cometh.*
(Matt 24:44)

When you think not. When everybody is looking at the news headlines, when teachers are pointing to the prophecy charts, when everyone is expecting something else, when we are in the

“midnight” of our corporate readiness, the great cry accompanied by the deafening trumpet blast will be heard.

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 Thess 4:17,18)

Chapter 9 Summary

The Lord is looking for a company of people who are expecting His soon appearing. He desires a company of prepared people who love Him with a holy passion. Since we cannot know the exact time of His return, we need to be alert. We cannot get ready, so we have to live ready. That is easy to say; not so easy to do.

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. (2 John 1:8)

John, the Apostle wanted his readers to receive all that was potentially theirs. He did not want anyone to fail to walk in their full inheritance.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. (Rev 3:11)

Jesus also, as He speaks to the assembly at Philadelphia, wants none of us to allow people or

circumstances to distract us from the goal of pleasing Him.⁴

I would like to speak a word to the elderly and the disabled. Do you feel that your productive years are behind you? Perhaps the opportunity to travel around the world and do exploits is over for you or you think it is. In a sense, many distractions are now out of the way. You have the opportunity to worship the Lord and to develop a heart that yearns for Him. This is what He is looking for: a heart that longs to see His appearing.

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (2 Tim 4:8)

If we are among those still living when the Lord returns, we will hear the voice of the Son of God.

Jesus is coming soon. May that Day be a day of confidence for you.

Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!

⁴ The Church would also do well to embrace these admonitions.

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