

Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19

NOV/DEC 2026

LAMPLIGHTER

A LAMB & LION PUBLICATION



SECOND COMING



LAMB & LION
MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

A bi-monthly publication produced
by Lamb & Lion Ministries

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OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EDITOR

Can you believe 2026 is almost over? With each passing year, time itself seems to lean forward, moving at a quicker pace.

Perhaps it is the acceleration of the signs of the times. As we get closer to the end of the age, those signs are certainly increasing in frequency and intensity, making us feel as if we are in the middle of a whirlwind.

That is why it is critical that we stay grounded in biblical truth and guard our hearts (and minds) against the deception Satan is propagating. All of us are susceptible, as Peter demonstrated just a few verses after professing Jesus as Lord (Matthew 16:16, 21-23).

It is also why we need to encourage one another. Everything we do at Lamb & Lion Ministries is in support of our mission: to proclaim the soon return of Jesus Christ. Whether through our *Lamplighter* magazine, our *Christ in Prophecy* TV and radio programs, or all our publications and evangelistic outreach, that activity aims to do two things: warn the lost to flee from the wrath to come, and offer encouragement and edification in this dark hour to those waiting for Jesus.

We continue to ramp up our outreach (and the breadth of our investments) to reflect the urgency of that task. It is my consistent prayer that whenever Jesus calls us home, He will find us faithful to the end. And if He calls me individually home before the Rapture, I pray that, with His help, I can finish well.

Scripture tells us that man does not know his time. Likewise, we do not know the day or the hour

He will come for His Bride. What I do know is this: "I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12). So, to quote the words of William Wallace in the movie *Braveheart*, we must "Hold! Hold!" until He calls us home.

In this edition, we look forward to the glorious moment when Jesus returns to Earth with us following along behind Him. The Rapture itself is not the end, but it is the beginning of the end. There is much more to come after that singular event—and much more for us to do in our glorified bodies.

Some people cannot think beyond the immediacy of the moment. Christians are called to serve in the here and now while being heavenly-minded. Perhaps a better way of putting it is that we exist in an "already, but not yet" state. We are already saved and serving the Lord, but we have not yet realized all that He has prepared for us.

We hope this magazine will whet your appetite, lift your eyes, and make you long for all that lies ahead just a bit more.



Tim Moore

Tim Moore
Executive Editor
Director | Sr. Evangelist
Lamb & Lion Ministries

The Lamplighter will utilize the NASB or LSB translations interchangeably and note when other translations are referenced.



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Indian Bible Church - Elton, LA

Speaker: Nathan Jones

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Louisville Regional Conference

Hikes Point Christian Church - Louisville, KY

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Speaking Engagement

Community Bible Church - Beaufort, SC

Speaker: Tim Moore

DEC 7-9

Pre-Trib Study Conference

DFW Sheraton Grand Hotel - Irving, TX

Speaker: Nathan Jones

***Correction:** In "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb" from our Sep/Oct edition, the second paragraph under **Other Attendants** on page 25 should have read: "The promise of the Rapture is only for Church Age followers of Jesus Christ. Those Old Testament saints who were in "paradise" (or "the bosom of Abraham") before Jesus' death at Calvary will not receive glorified bodies until after the Tribulation." (Many thanks to Prophecy Partner Joe Weaver for his eagle-eyed attention to this matter.)



- See if you can find the hidden Lion of Judah located in this edition of the *Lamplighter*.



BEHOLD, HE COMES!

Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him...

— REVELATION 1:7

Tim Moore

To this point, our review of the events of the end times as outlined in Revelation has focused on the Rapture, which will bring an end to the Church Age, and the Tribulation that quickly ensues on Earth. For every born-again believer in Jesus Christ (living and dead), the Rapture is the imminent Blessed Hope we eagerly await.

But there is still more to come after we have “shuffled off this mortal coil” and been transformed in the twinkling of an eye. As every showman would say, “You ain’t seen nothing yet!”

Perhaps that is a bit flippant and brash, for certainly Jesus’ coming for His Bride and our welcome into the

Father’s house are what *Hamlet* also described as “a consummation devoutly to be wished.” Indeed, that is the focus of Lamb & Lion Ministries: a heartfelt and urgent anticipation of our glorious homegoing. The Rapture itself represents a clear and looming delineation between those who will meet Jesus in the air and those who will be left behind to suffer as God’s wrath is poured out.

As I said, we have focused on that glorious singularity for believers and the seven-year horror that will follow for unrepentant mortals. Now, let’s turn our attention to the next great prophesied intersection of Heaven and Earth as described in Revelation 19:11–16—the Second Coming.

Heaven Opened

There are multiple instances recorded in Scripture when God sent angelic messengers to interact with people on Earth. There are also clear Christophanies recorded in the Old Testament, when there can be little doubt that the Son of God appeared in pre-incarnate form. Others would argue that the Father Himself offered glimpses of His Shekinah glory to select Old Testament saints.

In other rare instances, throngs of angelic beings were visible to mortal men and women—either in dreams like Jacob’s or as part of the heavenly choir the shepherds around Bethlehem saw and heard. But never before has Heaven thrown wide its gates for its glorified population to descend to Earth en masse. That is what John describes in Revelation 19. Yet the focal point of John’s narrative is not the saintly army; it is the King who rides forth at the head of that throng.

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; having a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself, and being clothed with a garment dipped in blood, His name is also called The Word of God (Revelation 19:11–13).

In this scene, Jesus is not depicted as a suffering Servant or a gentle Lamb. He appears as a mighty Warrior—the royal Lion of Judah. His majesty and glory are fully manifested in His appearance, and His



Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

— REVELATION 19:11

anger toward the rebellious and grace-rejecting world is evidenced by His fiery eyes and readiness to wage war.

I have recounted this scene multiple times, but I always thrill to read this passage while standing on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Eastern Gate in Jerusalem. That is because I can see all this action taking place in my mind’s eye. I can practically hear the thunder of hooves as Jesus leads His vast army back to Earth to establish His promised reign. And I am overwhelmed to realize that I will be a part of that glorious throng.

Knights in White Linen

In medieval times, knights wore elaborate suits of armor. Not only did the heavy metal garments provide a measure of protection against swords, spears, and arrows,

but they conveyed a status and stature that came with the title.

Glorified saints will have no need for such defensive attire. Instead of heavy armor, we will be clothed in “fine linen, white and clean” and riding white horses. Don Perkins likes to tell folks that he has already picked out a name for his horse—Nellie! I will readily admit that although I hail from horse country (Kentucky), my experience with horses is pitifully limited and decidedly mixed.



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I still have no doubt that the horse I will ride will be as magnificent as Black Beauty, as swift as Secretariat, and as faithful and smart as Silver. No rider will be thrown that day as we follow our Commander back to Earth. And even our own raiment will remain unsoiled.

The fine linen itself represents the righteous deeds of the saints. In other words, after all the wood, hay, and stubble in our lives are burned away, only gold and precious stones will remain. I have long said that I hope my righteous deeds will produce enough fine linen to cover me properly. Yet even those righteous deeds credited to me will be a reflection of the righteousness Christ enables me to exhibit. In other words, the credit even for those righteous acts will bring glory to Him.

Yet, not every garment in that vast array will be unbesmirched. One will be forever stained blood-red.

Christ's Everlasting Glory

Although He will purify His saints, wiping away their tears and forgetting their sins (of commission *and* omission) forever, Christ will always bear the evidence of His great love and sacrifice.

We are told that after His resurrection, Jesus invited Thomas to put his finger into His hands and his hand into His side (John 20:27). Even in His glorified body, those manifestations of the agony Jesus suffered on the Cross were still evident—not because they were marks of shame or lingering pain,

but because they continued to testify to His glory.

The same is true of the robe He will wear as He leads His army forth from Heaven. The Anointed One whom John described as the Word—who was with God and was God from the beginning—will wear a robe dipped in blood. Some have speculated that this blood represents reprobate blood spilled as judgments were poured out during the Tribulation, as described in Isaiah 63:1–3. But as Jesus returns to Earth in glory (to personally tread the winepress of God's wrath), I am convinced that this represents His own blood—shed for the forgiveness of sins as He endured the wrath of God on the Cross.

While I look forward to wearing clothes that are unblemished, the indelible stains on Jesus' own garments should remind us that in this life, even our wounds and scars can testify to His grace. Do you have a thorn like Paul's? I do, but His grace is sufficient. Do you bear evidence of bumps and bruises that He has helped you overcome? More evidence of His faithfulness as you persevere. Are the signs of age and mileage more obvious each day in your body of corruption? These too bear testimony to His steadfast provision—and the anticipated promise of your homegoing.

Just remember the testimony of Joseph: what was meant by Satan and his unwitting minions for evil against you, God has orchestrated for good (Genesis 50:20). Or, as Paul explained, "God causes *all* things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Our Warrior King

The description of Jesus, the Word of God, that John records in Revelation 19:15–16 belies the claim that the Rapture and the Second Coming occur as a single event. We know that when Christ comes *for* His Church at the Rapture, He comes as a Bridegroom for His Bride. We will meet Him in the air—with the “dead in Christ” rising first, and those who are alive following in the twinkling of an eye.

He will take us to His Father’s house, where we will dwell with Him in the place He has prepared for us. And we will celebrate the Marriage Supper of the Lamb—the title given to the suffering Son of God who redeemed us by His own blood.

When He returns *to* the earth, we will follow after Him as described above. And His demeanor will not convey the eager love of a Bride-

groom, but the indignation of a King. In fact, John’s description is of a Warrior King returning to set right what has long been tolerated.

Parable of the Landowner

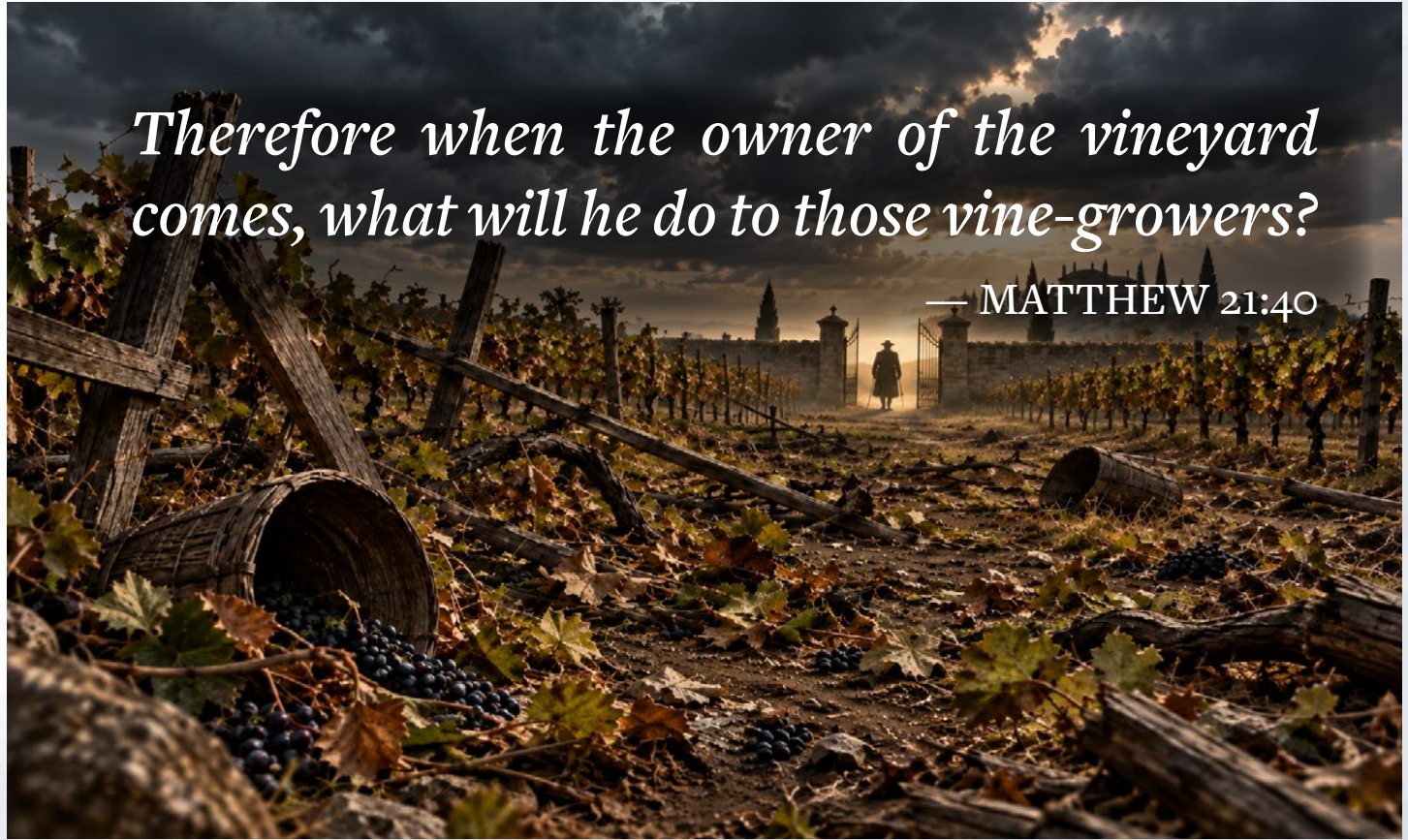
In Matthew 21, Jesus told of a landowner who planted a vineyard and rented it to tenants to tend. At harvest time, he sent servants to receive his portion. But the tenants beat and killed the servants, along with a larger group he sent to advocate his interests. Finally, he sent his own son, saying, “They will respect my son.” But the evil tenants conspired to kill the son and seize his inheritance.

This parable is a dramatic picture of God’s relationship with the unrepentant world. “The earth is the LORD’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1, KJV). He has every right to ownership of every square inch, every living creature,

every image-bearing person. And His only begotten Son has the same claim. To quote Abraham Kuyper, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”

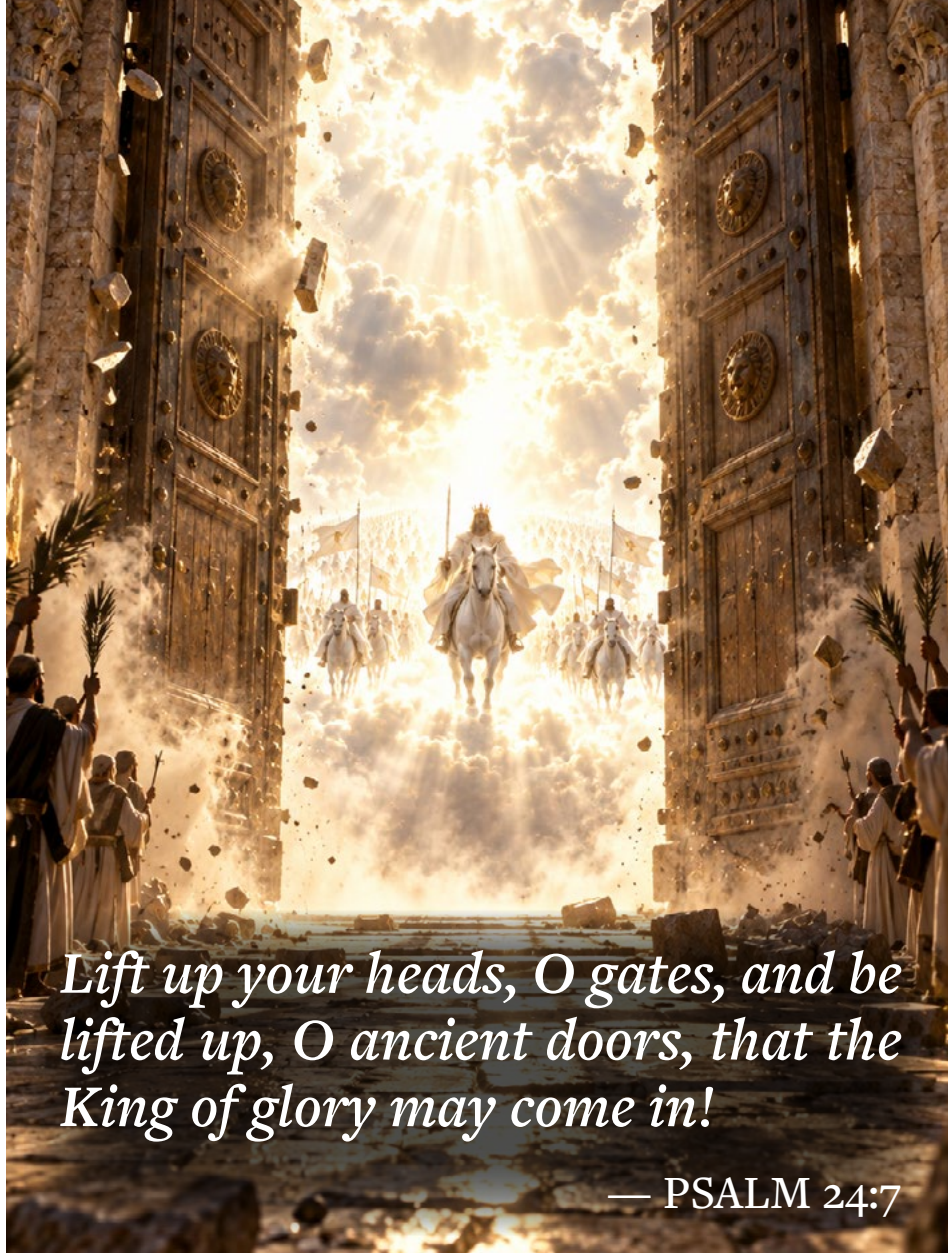
Yet evil men—representative of the entirety of the human race—conspired to kill the Son. They hung Him on a cross and buried Him in a borrowed tomb. They thought they had usurped God’s claim, tearing His fetters and casting off His cords. How wrong they were. How wrong all are who continue to flaunt their wickedness and hope that God’s indignation is never aroused.

Jesus’ question at the end of this parable offers a segue to the scene in Revelation 19: “Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?” (Matthew 21:40). Even the



Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?

— MATTHEW 21:40



Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

— PSALM 24:7

chief priests and elders answered rightly: “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end...”

Thus, in righteousness He will judge and wage war. Jesus will return as a Warrior King. John says, “From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the winepress of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty” (Revelation 19:15).

Who Is the King of Glory?

No longer meek and mild, no longer silent as He is led to slaughter like

a lamb, no longer willingly absorbing the scorn and abuse of wicked men, Jesus will return to pour out vengeance. No man or woman can exhibit truly righteous indignation, but our righteous Lord will.

In short order, He will destroy the armies arrayed on the Plain of Jezreel (the Valley of Armageddon), merely speaking a word that will cause those wicked warriors to rot where they stand. He will set foot on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem from the east. As He begins walking toward the Eastern Gate, the valley containing Jewish and Muslim graves will split in two—with half moving toward the north and half moving toward

the south. As He approaches the gate sealed by Suleiman to keep the Jewish Messiah out, the ancient gate will fly open so that the King of Glory might come in.

Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in! Who is this King of glory? Yahweh strong and mighty, Yahweh mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates, and lift yourselves up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in! Who is He, this King of glory? Yahweh of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah (Psalm 24:7–10).

Then Jesus will ascend to the Temple Mount to fulfill the promise prophesied of Him: to reign from the throne of His father, David.

Our God Reigns

Ezekiel offered a prophetic perspective on the departure of God’s Spirit from the Temple. His Shekinah glory went up from the mercy seat over the Ark in the Holy of Holies to the threshold of the Temple, then to the courtyard outside, and then to the eastern gate of the Temple complex (Ezekiel 9:3; 10:4, 18–19). He then testified that the glory of God moved to the mountain east of the city (the Mount of Olives) before it ascended into Heaven (Ezekiel 11:22–24).

But Ezekiel also prophesied of the glorious day when the glory of God would once again fill the Temple. Coming from the east, the glory will return through the Eastern Gate to take up residence in the Temple once again (Ezekiel 43:1–7). That anticipated scene offers a preview of what is described in Revelation 19.

Soon after His return, Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats and initiate His Millennial Reign. Eventually, “every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10–11). Those who have rejected Him will forever regret hardening their heart against the love and mercy of God.

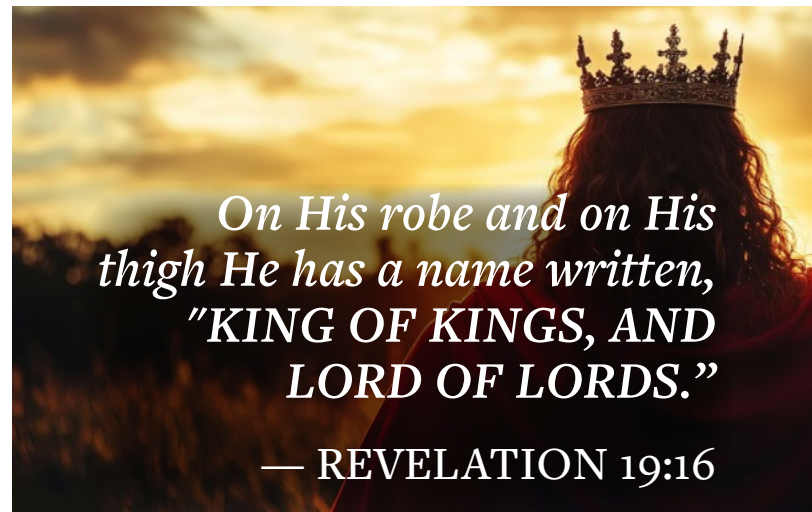
John records a telling detail in his description of the Second Coming. He tells us, “On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS’” (Revelation 19:16). That title expresses the totality of His omnipotence. There is simply no created being who approaches His power, might, and authority.

There is no better response to Jesus’ impending reign than to worship our soon-coming King. The psalmists put it this way:

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty;
the LORD has clothed and girded Himself with
strength (Psalm 93:1).

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice...
(Psalm 97:1).

Even *before* John described the Second Coming, he recorded the praise that resounded in Heaven. Responding to a voice from the throne of God that said,



“Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great,” the great multitude preparing to mount their war chargers cried out with the voice of many waters and many peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns” (Revelation 19:5–6).

Brothers and sisters in Christ, saints of the living God, we too can resonate with praise right now as we anticipate His soon return and His glorious Second Coming. Far from discouraged or distracted by the trials of this life, we can cry out:

“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.” †

CHRIST *in* PROPHECY

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We are pleased to announce that Harbinger's Daily News Media is now a Sister Ministry of Lamb & Lion Ministries. *Christ in Prophecy*, along with Tim Moore and Nathan Jones, is a “Trusted Ministry” of Harbinger's Daily.

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Days of Elijah

by Robin Mark

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days of your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword;
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Chorus

Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of your servant David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
And these are the days of the harvest,
Oh, the fields are as white in Your world;
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the Word of the Lord.



FIVE FEATS

JESUS WILL ACCOMPLISH

DURING THE 75-DAY INTERLUDE



Nathan Jones

The seven-year Tribulation ends with the glorious return of the King of kings, who fulfills His mission to destroy the Gentile kingdoms and establish His Millennial reign. But first, the King has a few housekeeping duties to perform. Daniel 12:11–12 prophesied that the Lord reserved 75 days after His Second Coming to accomplish the following five feats:

And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

— Daniel 12:11–12 (* NKJV throughout article)

01

The Binding of Satan

Christ's first post-Tribulation feat will be to bind Satan. He will order one of His mighty angels to accomplish this Herculean task (Revelation 20:1–3). The angel will unlock the bottomless pit, overpower the Devil, bind him in chains, and seal his prison for a thousand years. While the Devil and his demons remain confined, the world will be gloriously free of his incessant temptations and hateful persecutions.



02

The Judging of the Sheep and the Goats

The second feat Jesus will perform during the 75-day interlude is to judge those who, against all odds, survived the perils of the Tribulation. It is time to separate the sheep from the goats.

While the Antichrist may have assembled the largest army ever, not everyone marched to their deaths at Armageddon. Those Jews protected in the wilderness, the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, and those Christ rescued from the Antichrist's attack on Jerusalem would have been absent from the battle. Other Tribulation survivors—from persecuted Gentile believers hiding amid the ruins to the unredeemed marked by the Antichrist but sidelined in the fight—remain scattered worldwide.

From those pitiable remains of humanity, Christ will command His

mighty angels to “gather together His elect from the four winds” (Mark 13:27). Not only will the faithful survivors in Christ be gathered, but also all survivors bearing the mark of the Beast. As Christ stated in His parable of the tares, “The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness” (Matthew 13:41). The angels will snatch up every remaining person on the planet and deposit them in the Valley of Jehoshaphat—“the

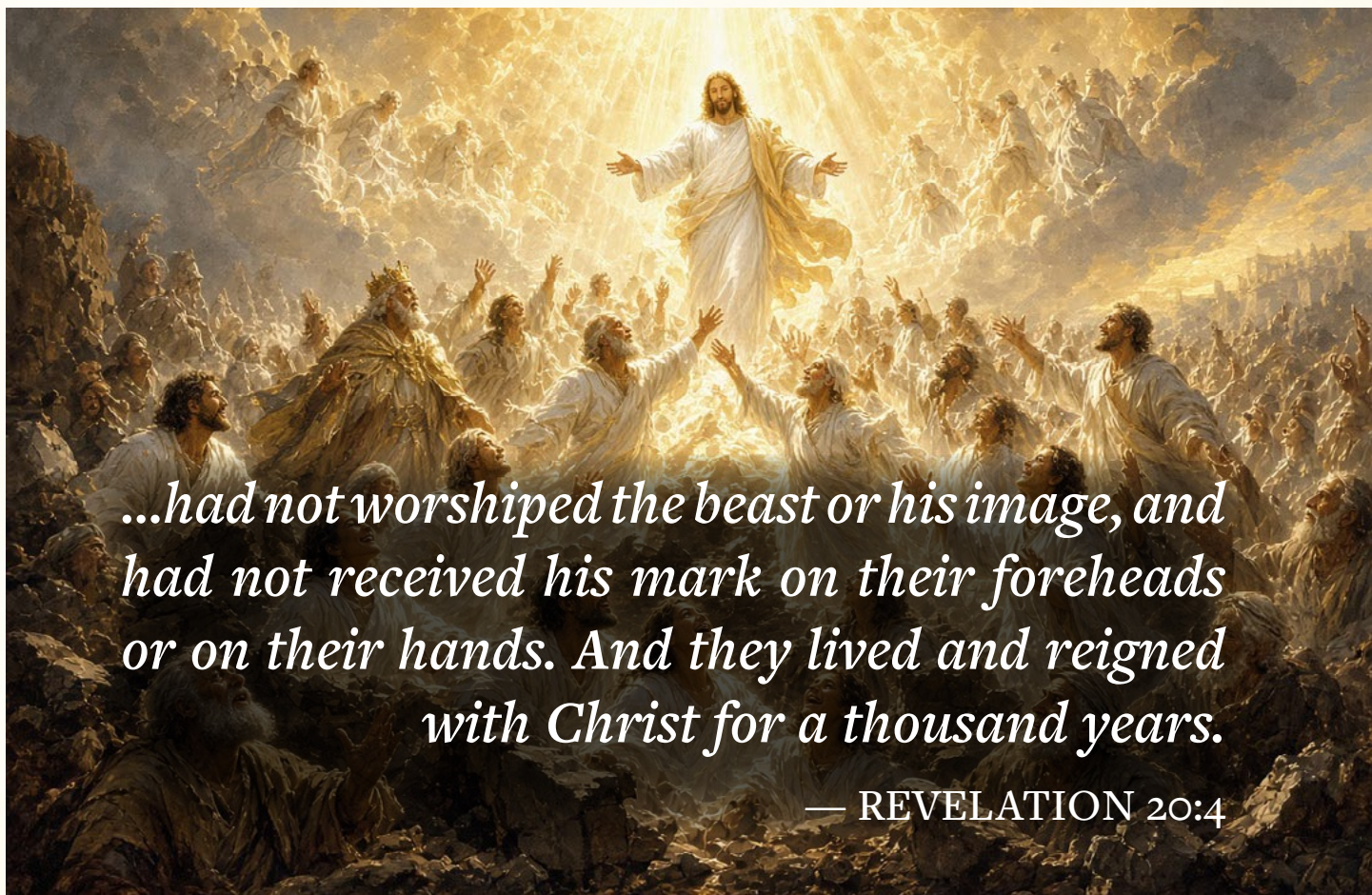
place where the LORD judges”—just outside Jerusalem (Joel 3:2, 12).

Once the angels complete their gathering, Jesus will fulfill His prophecy of the Sheep and Goat Judgment (Matthew 25:31–46). Once the throne of David is reestablished in Jerusalem, the victorious King will sit upon it. All the nations will be brought before Him, and He will separate the Tribulation survivors as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

To those the King deems sheep—those saved out of the Tribulation—Christ will gather them to His right hand. Then the King will say, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34). These faithful survivors will live on in their earthly bodies as inheritors of Christ’s kingdom.

To those the King deems goats—those who swore loyalty to the Antichrist and took his mark—Christ will set them on His left. Then the King will say, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels!” (Matthew 25:41). They will go away





...had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

— REVELATION 20:4

into everlasting punishment, while the righteous enter eternal life (Matthew 25:46). The unredeemed await final sentencing at the Great White Throne after the thousand years.

03

The Resurrecting of the Redeemed

Christ's third feat during the post-Tribulation interlude will involve a great resurrection of the remaining righteous dead. "Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their

hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4). The Tribulation martyrs will live again—no longer in their intermediate state in heaven, but with glorified, eternal bodies.

The Bible outlines three stages of the first resurrection. Christ's resurrection served as the "first fruits." In the second stage, the Church-age saints were raised at the Rapture before the Tribulation. In the third stage, at the end of the Tribulation, the martyred Tribulation saints and the Old Testament saints are raised (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; Daniel 12:1–2). John rejoiced in this: "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6).

The unredeemed—those who died throughout history in unbelief—do not share in the first resurrection. They remain in torment, awaiting the Great White Throne Judgment after the Millennial Kingdom, "until the thousand years were completed" (Revelation 20:5).

04

The Restoring of the Earth

Christ's fourth feat during the 75-day interlude will be to restore the earth. The wrath of God, coupled with mankind's destructive nature, will have left the planet a desolate, nearly uninhabitable wasteland. If Jesus had not returned when He did, no flesh would have been saved

(Matthew 24:22). It will be time for the Lord to transform that broken world.

The God who built a universe in six days can restore a single world in almost no time. By His word the planet will teem with life again, with conditions nearly as perfect as Eden because of the partial lifting of the curse.

Tremendous agricultural bounty will follow: “Behold, the days are coming... when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed” (Amos 9:13). The animals will be abundant and peaceable: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb... and

a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6). Even the Dead Sea will spring to life, its waters teeming with fish (Ezekiel 47:8–9).

The Lord will also restore long life to those still in earthly bodies. “For as the days of a tree, *so shall be* the days of My people” (Isaiah 65:22). The curse will not be entirely lifted—those born to the surviving Tribulation saints will still be able to choose rebellion—but at a fearful price: “the sinner *being* one hundred years old shall be accursed” (Isaiah 65:20).

During this interlude Jesus will also establish true peace. “They will hammer their swords into plow-

shares... nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war” (Isaiah 2:4). The utopian setting mankind has never been able to create, He will accomplish—and all within 75 days.

05

The Establishing of the Kingdom

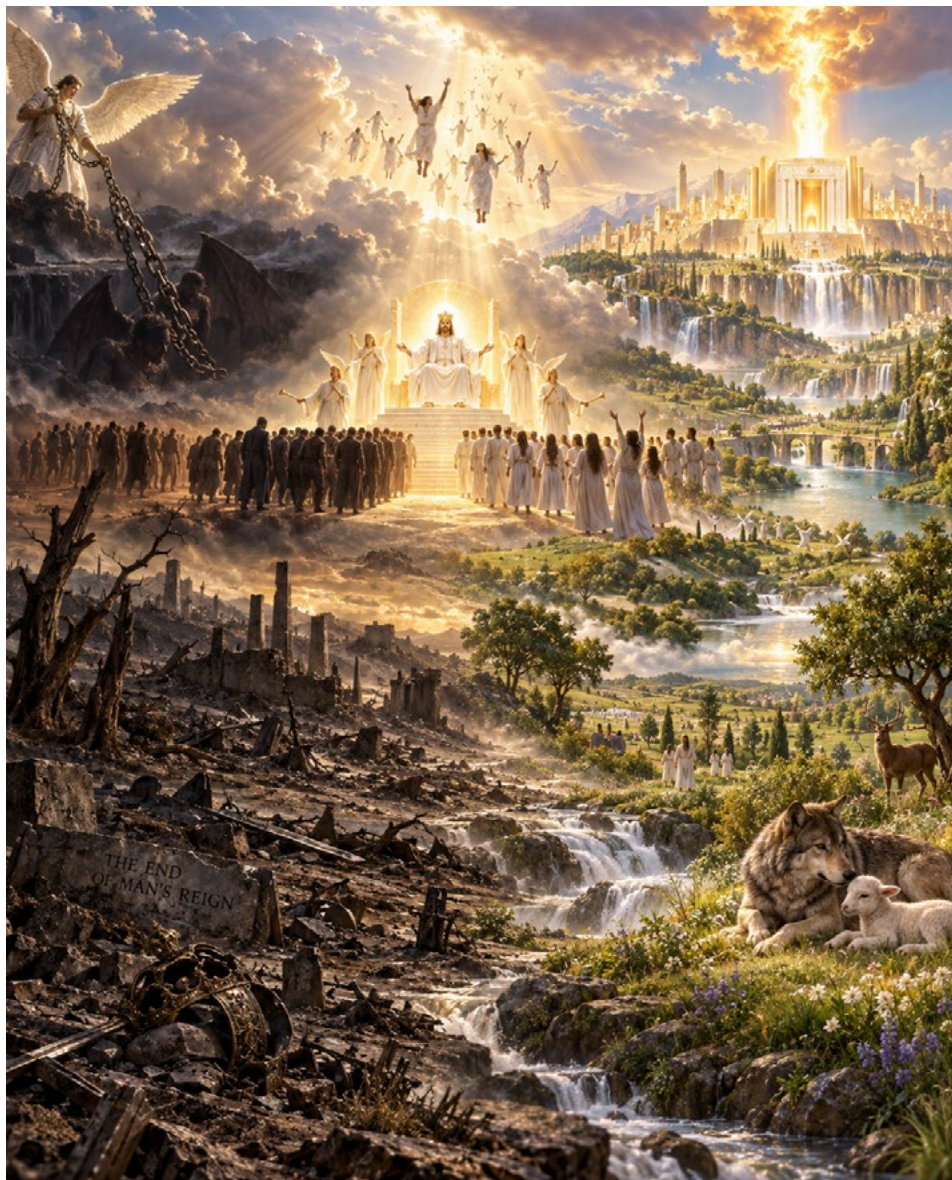
With Satan’s rule through human government ended, Christ’s fifth feat will be to establish His kingdom, for “the LORD will be king over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:9).

What nation has ever endured the test of time? Yet when Jesus’ earthly kingdom is established, it shall endure: “the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44).

“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:2). Governmental corruption will give way to perfect justice.

Upon His Second Coming, Jesus will enter Jerusalem in victory and establish His seat of authority there, declaring the city the world’s capital. The mountain of the Lord’s house will be raised, and the nations will stream to it to hear His word (Micah 4:1–3). “For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9; cf. Habakkuk 2:14).

The Third Temple, desecrated by the Antichrist, will be no more. A



far greater millennial Temple will stand (Ezekiel 40–48). From there Jesus will rule as King and Priest. The Shekinah glory will rest over the site “as a cloud by day and a flaming fire by night” (Isaiah 4:5).

At His Temple the King will fulfill His promises to the Jewish people. God will heal the Jewish remnant of their backsliding and bless them. In turn they will become a blessing to the Gentile world: “In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you’” (Zechariah 8:23). As the Lord declared, He will make them “a praise among all the peoples of the earth” (Zephaniah 3:20).

Christ’s promises to the resurrected saints will also be fulfilled. “The saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come” (Daniel 7:18). The Church—glorified believers who returned with Jesus at the Second Coming—



will receive their assignments and serve as regents, administrators, teachers, and guides. Together with the Old Testament and Tribulation saints, they will rule over the “sheep,” who in earthly bodies will

replenish humanity and form new nations.

Let us pray that the kingdom of Christ commences soon. †



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GOD

IN THE

GAP

*What Happens After
the Second Coming?*

Tim Moore

Most Christians who eagerly anticipate the Rapture and the Second Coming are quite satisfied with the broad strokes of the end times. In short form: Jesus comes for us, we go to the Father's house, then we return with Him, and He reigns for a thousand years. Pretty straightforward—with beaucoup blessings for those who are born again in Christ.

Beaucoup – “a lot” or “very much”
(to a Cajun American or Frenchman)

God's prophetic Word—from Daniel to Revelation—offers far more detail than most believers realize. We are told what will happen on the earth following the Rapture. We are shown what will occur in Heaven during the

Tribulation. And we are given a clear picture of the nature and impact of Jesus' Millennial Reign.

Still, some mysteries remain. There appears to be a gap between the Second Coming and the beginning of Christ's Millennial Reign. Without losing sight of the *big picture*, let's explore that gap a bit further.

Discrepancy or Mystery?

Daniel records certain end-time lengths with great specificity. Citing the man dressed in linen whom Daniel first saw in chapter 10, we are told, “From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days” (Daniel 12:11).



** There is some debate regarding the identity of the man dressed in linen. It could be a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ, as the description of Daniel 10:5-6 has elements that could apply to the Lord. Others believe this is an unnamed angelic messenger. The dialogue in chapter 12 does not resolve this question, but the NASB editors have rendered the word “lord” as uncapitalized, suggesting that the messenger was not Jesus Christ.*

The point is moot in the sense that we accept that the prophecy shared is from God and valid.

We know from Daniel 9 that 483 years (69 “weeks”) were ordained from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah came. Using the 30-day prophetic month, scholars have carefully confirmed that Jesus’ First Advent tracked with that prophecy. In the same passage Gabriel revealed that after Messiah is “cut off,” the prince who is to come (the Antichrist) will “make a firm

covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering.” The middle of that week is the midpoint of the Tribulation—three and a half years, or 42 months, before the Second Coming.

Through the blessing of hindsight we recognize a long gap between Messiah’s death and the covenant the Antichrist will sign. Like a man gazing over a series of mountain

ranges, Daniel would have had no idea that valleys separated the peaks. Even now, living in that valley, we do not know how long it will last.

What we do know is that 42 months equals 1,260 days (30×42), leaving an unexplained 30-day span to reach 1,290. To add complexity, the same messenger tells Daniel, “How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to 1,335 days!” (Daniel 12:12). That is another 45 mysterious days.

So why the discrepancy—and what will happen in that interval?

A Little Holy Speculation

Let’s acknowledge up front that without clear specificity, everything we anticipate during that 30-to 75-day gap is speculative.

We know the Tribulation will last seven years—from the Antichrist’s covenant to the Second Coming of Christ. A person living through that period could mark a calendar. That expectation would be affirmed when, halfway through the Tribulation, the two witnesses are killed in Jerusalem after prophesying 1,260





days (Revelation 11:3). A Tribulation saint who trusts in Christ would have a target for how long he or she must endure.

When Christ returns, He will obliterate the armies gathered in the Jezreel Valley. With the breath of His mouth He will destroy those ungodly forces (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:15, 19–21).

Revelation 20 tells us that an angel will then seize Satan and bind him for a thousand years, sealed in the abyss so that he cannot deceive the nations throughout the Millennium. Jesus Himself tells us what follows.

In Matthew 25 He said,

...when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and

He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left (Matthew 25:31–33).

This Sheep and Goat Judgment gives us renewed appreciation for the rod and staff of our Good Shepherd (Psalm 23:4). The staff, with its distinctive crook, prods sheep in the right direction or lifts them from a ditch. The rod is both a defensive weapon and a tool for counting and separating the flock. Anyone who has been to a livestock auction knows auctioneers still use a similar stick today.

That authority is underscored in Revelation 2:27; 12:5; and 19:15. Fulfilling Psalm 2:9, Jesus will strike the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. A key part of that rule will be separating the sheep from the goats.

Depart from Me

Sheep have their faults—oblivious to danger, prone to wander, stubbornly single-minded. In the biblical picture, goats are worse. Given

the parables and the promises, all of us want to be “the sheep of His pasture” (Psalm 100:3). None of us wants to be a goat—which, biblically, does *not* mean “Greatest Of All Time.”

In accordance with the Father’s will, Jesus will send those designated as goats to His left, to “the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).

Solomon offers wisdom that still applies: “A wise man’s heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man’s heart directs him toward the left” (Ecclesiastes 10:2).

Some of these accursed ones will protest, calling Him Lord and claiming great works (Matthew 25:44; 7:21–23). His final words will ring through eternity: “Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”

How long will such a judgment take? Jesus could finish it in a moment—just as He defeats the Antichrist with a word. But it may well continue for a period of days as each Tribulation survivor stands before Him—some to enter His Millennial Reign, some to eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46).

One More Possibility

Some prophecy teachers suggest that immediately after the Second Coming, given the devastation on earth and around Jerusalem, Jesus will direct His glorified servants to clean up and rebuild the holy city.

We know He could do it with a word. In six days He spoke the cosmos into being. I am convinced He will instead task the bondservants who return with Him to use their gifts as they co-labor with Him.



Right now Christ could fulfill the Great Commission without a single mortal helper. He has ordained that we share the joy of being conduits of His blessing. How much more will we serve Him in glorified bodies, with glorified hearts and minds? If you sing or sew, work with wood or watercolors, cook or carve, tend or teach, there will be gainful work when we return with Jesus.

Perhaps we will spend 30 days restoring what the Tribulation ruined while stunned survivors watch. Then, for 45 days, surviving mortals may be called one by one before the Lord. After that righteous separation, the Millennial Reign will commence.

So what does this have to do with us now?

A Word to the Wise

Obviously, we want to be counted as sheep long before the Tribulation abruptly ends at the Second Coming. All of us who have trusted in Jesus are awaiting the Rapture—

our rescue from the wrath to come. It is a fool's gamble to “wait and see,” hoping that a new day will offer yet another opportunity to believe in Jesus unto salvation.

But there is an implicit warning contained within Jesus' prophecy of the Sheep-Goat Judgment. He will laud the sheep for giving Him something to eat when He was hungry, something to drink when He

was thirsty, lodging when He was a stranger, clothing when He was naked, and comfort when He was wrongly imprisoned. Conversely, the goats will be condemned for doing none of those things.

Describing the future scene, Jesus said that both groups of people will ask incredulously, “When did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, or in prison?” His answer





should both haunt and motivate us: “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me” (Matthew 25:40 and 45).

Some pastors will quickly universalize the admonition to show the love of God to “the least of these” in every society. That is a valid application and has led to Christian benevolence impacting millions of lives. But the context of Jesus’ words applies (as is so often the case) to “the Jew first and then to the Gentile” (Romans 1:16). Jesus was adamant during His ministry on Earth that He had come first to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:5–6 and 15:24).

There can be no doubt that part of Jesus’ expectation of sheep is that they reflect the Good Shepherd’s love for those lost sheep as well. In other words, when we see a Jewish “brother of Jesus” hungry,

thirsty, treated as a stranger, naked, and wrongly persecuted and pros-ecuted, we offer genuine comfort.

To do otherwise would risk calling Jesus “Lord, Lord” and hearing Him say, “I do not know you.”

What’s in Your Future

To summarize, we know:

- Jesus’ coming for His Bride is an imminent prophetic event
- The ensuing Tribulation on the Earth will begin when the Antichrist signs a covenant and will last exactly 7 years
- At His Second Coming, Jesus will defeat the armies of the Earth and order Satan bound
- There will be a “gap period” after the Second Coming before the Millennial Reign begins

There are many more details associated with those prophesied

events—and others that will follow. We have been told about some of those details with great specificity in Scripture. Others remain cloaked in mystery.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and our sons forever...” (Deuteronomy 29:29).

If you belong to Jesus Christ, you have been written into the Lamb’s Book of Life. You will hear the Shepherd’s voice (John 10:27–28) when He calls. Soon and very soon, He will come for His Bride. He may call you or me home even sooner—and that is OK.

Regarding all the details of what awaits us after our homegoing, I enjoy speculating and imagining. But I trust that my eyes and ears and mind cannot comprehend that much glory anyway (1 Corinthians 2:9). Instead, I will trust in the Lord and lean not on my own understanding.

I love Him and long for the Blessed Hope of His appearing, so I know that all He has prepared for me will be good and bring Him glory. But that realization also applies and is true in this life right now.

I do not know all that lies ahead—in this life or beyond. But my Good Shepherd does, and He is leading me to green pastures and quiet waters. In the words of David, “Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (Psalm 23:6).

There are NO gaps in that promise.
†

WHEN *Gratitude* BECOMES HOW WE LIVE

Brandon Maya

In anticipation of Thanksgiving, be blessed by this testimony of the impact of God on a grateful heart.

About Brandon

Before Election Day 2008, Brandon Maya was a vibrant high school senior—deeply involved in theater and a worship leader for his church youth group at Ridgeview Church in Rockwall, Texas. Brandon wrote song lyrics, played guitar, and joined his church on mission trips.



But on that day, at just sixteen years old, he collapsed at school and was life-flighted to Baylor Hospital in Dallas. At first, doctors believed he had been injured from the fall itself. They later discovered that a catastrophic brain aneurysm had caused the collapse.

Today, Brandon cannot walk or talk and has limited movement in his right arm. Yet he remains full of life. With a bedside computer, he uses programmed responses—one favorite being, “You bet your sweet bippy.” Using a handheld clicker, he meticulously types personalized comments and entire sermons that can be delivered through his computer.

Brandon recently visited our ministry headquarters and shared the following encouraging message to challenge and inspire our staff. His impact today continues to bless countless lives, as the Lord uses him mightily through his circumstances.

Because Brandon cannot speak, the message of gratitude below—perfectly timed for Thanksgiving—was prepared by him (with great effort and much prayer) and shared through his computer technology. Consider how much Brandon is anticipating his glorified body, and then reflect that, like Joni Eareckson Tada, we should all long for glorified hearts and minds even more.

I want to begin by offering a simple encouragement about learning to be thankful in every circumstance—about worship that moves through our daily lives and gratitude that shapes the words we speak. I love that—until I actually think about what that means. Because some circumstances make gratitude easy, and others make it feel impossible.

Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” In everything. In the middle of it. In the thick of it. In the confusion of it—give thanks to God.

And if you are a student of the Word, you might be thinking, Doesn’t Ephesians 5:20 say to give thanks for everything? You would be right.

Let me ask you a few questions right from the start.

When pressure hits, what comes out of you first—praise or complaining?

When plans fall apart, do you run to prayer, or do you run to control?

If someone listened to your words for one week, would they say you are marked by gratitude?

What would your closest friends say? Are you known for peace, or known for frustration?

Three Core Truths About God

The way Paul lived reminds us of three core truths about God found throughout the Psalms:

- 1 **God is good.**
- 2 **God is able.**
- 3 **God is faithful.**

Since He is good, what He allows is never cruel. Since He is able, what we face is not outside His power. Since He is faithful, what He promises He will surely keep. That is how we can begin to thank Him in everything... and even for everything.

A Peace That Guards

Colossians 3:15–17 says, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell richly in you... Whatever you do, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Colossians 2:6–7 adds, “As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him... overflowing with gratitude.”

Gratitude is not meant to be rare. It is meant to be the normal Christian atmosphere—not because life is always easy, but because Christ is always worthy.

Questions To Consider

- ? What part of me argues with God when I hear “in everything give thanks”?
- ? Do I believe God’s will is good even when I do not understand it?
- ? Do I treat gratitude like a mood, or like obedience?
- ? Do I thank God only when I see the reason, or because I trust His character?

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful.

— COLOSSIANS 3:15

Where Are Your Roots?

If my roots are in comfort, I will only be thankful when I am comfortable. If my roots are in control, I will only be thankful when I feel in control. If my roots are in Christ, I can be steady even when life is unsteady. Here is another layer to consider. Ask yourself:

- What are my roots in right now—comfort, control, approval, money, health, people?
- Where do I run first for peace—to Jesus, or somewhere else?
- What has been dwelling richly in me lately—the Word, or worry, or distraction?
- When people are around me, do they see the peace of Christ, or my anxious heart?

The peace of Christ ruling in your heart does not mean nothing hurts. It means your heart has a Ruler even when life feels chaotic.

Philippians 4:4–9 is wonderfully practical: “Rejoice in the Lord always... Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Notice the pattern: prayer is not just requests. Prayer is requests with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving keeps prayer from turning into panic. Thanksgiving keeps requests from becoming spiritual venting. Thanksgiving says, “Lord, I am asking You for help, but I am also remembering who You are.”

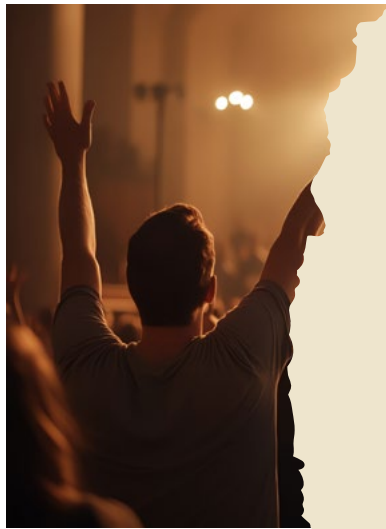


*Brandon with his parents,
Chris and Tina Maya*

More Than a Song

Paul then tells us to set our minds on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and commendable. But gratitude was never meant to stay in our heads. Thankfulness is meant to move our feet. Romans 12:1 says, “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice... which is your spiritual worship.”

Worship is not merely something we sing. Worship is something we live. Worship is what we do with our minds, our mouths, our attitudes, our schedules, our money, our relationships, and our obedience.



Questions To Consider

- ❓ Is my worship something I attend, or something I live?
- ❓ Does my gratitude affect only my words, or does it shape my actions?
- ❓ If someone watched my life this week, would they see evidence that Christ is worthy?
- ❓ Have I offered God only my songs, or have I offered Him myself?

A Real-Life Example

Now, let me add something personal. I am deeply grateful for my former youth pastor, Brian Rushing, who helped me understand Philippians 4:6–7. He told me, “Stop treating yourself like the main character.” He gave an example: “Imagine you are an extra in a movie and you gather all your friends to watch your two-second appearance. But you would never claim the movie was about you.”

I am not sure how he pulled that from the text, but I know the Holy Spirit used it. I have practiced that attitude recently, and it has helped me tremendously.



Brandon Maya and Brian Rushing

As Voddie Baucham would say, “If you can’t say ‘Amen,’ you’d better say ‘Ouch.’” So let’s ask:

- ❓ When I am anxious, is it because I am carrying something God never told me to carry?
- ❓ Am I treating myself like the main character, and God like a supporting actor who exists to keep my plot comfortable?
- ❓ When I pray, do I approach God like a child trusting a Father, or like a manager trying to control outcomes?
- ❓ Am I devoted to prayer, or devoted to my phone?
- ❓ What am I calling “unfair” that God might be using to refine me?
- ❓ What is coming out of me lately—faith or frustration?
- ❓ If my life is supposed to display Christ, what has it been displaying?

Let’s choose to live with steady gratitude, clear worship, and a right view of our place in God’s story. Because in every moment and every circumstance, King Jesus remains the center. †

At the appointed time I will return to you...

— GENESIS 18:14

FORESHADOWINGS *of the* SECOND COMING

SECOND COMING CLUES FOUND IN THE FIRST ADVENT

Tim Moore & Mottel Baleston

As we await the Rapture of the Church and the subsequent Second Coming of Jesus Christ, there are certain clues or foreshadowings woven into the narrative of His First Advent that offer reassurance to the faithful.

Then, as today, there had been a long period of relative silence from Heaven. Amos' prophecy about a "famine for the word of God" seemed to play out after the Old Testament canon was closed. For hundreds of years, the promise of consolation for Israel seemed to many a distant or fading hope.

The same is true in our own day and age. Echoing the sad prophecy of Peter, some professing Christians openly scoff at the idea that Jesus is returning or deny outright

that His coming is imminent or soon (2 Peter 3:3-4). Just like the House of Israel, the Church has seen far too many false shepherds arise and lead God's people astray. And governments throughout the world (and even in the formerly Christian West) have become hostile to the Truth of the Gospel—and the prophesied arrival of the King.

For most Christians, Christmas is a time of deep reverence and warmth. It rivals Resurrection Sunday as the singular moment when extended commemorations and family traditions combine in a holiday even the secular world celebrates. But what can Jesus' First Coming tell us about His second? Let's find out.

Timing

“When the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son...” (Galatians 4:4)

If the forlorn people of Israel could have voted on the timing of the Messiah’s arrival, they certainly would have exercised that option long before He actually came. Whether during various famines or calamities, the horrific siege and destruction of Jerusalem, the painful exile in Babylon, or the galling subjection to Roman rule, there were multiple time periods when the House of Israel longed to be delivered.

But God the Father did not send forth His Son during any of those moments. He waited until about 400 years after the Old Testament canon was complete. He allowed Israel to endure a famine for His Word—a spiritual wilderness of sorts. And He allowed Rome to sweep into the Promised Land to impose its own pagan control.

Likewise, we are approaching 2,000 years since Jesus walked on earth. The Gospel has gone out to the four corners of the world, but faith is beginning to wane as heresy and apostasy spread even in former Christian strongholds. Given the opportunity, most followers of Christ would have Him come now. And yet we wait.

God’s timing is not our own—and is not subservient to our wishes. Instead, His ways are above our ways. And His reason for waiting is a function of His love and mercy: “He does not wish for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).



When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son...

— GALATIANS 4:4

As eager as we are (and I am!), perhaps our urgency to see the perishing saved while there is still time should reflect more of God’s own heart.

Location

There is a great deception being perpetrated in the world today. Anti-Israeli propaganda has convinced many people that the Jews have no claim on the Promised Land the Romans renamed Palestine.

Ostensibly, the instigator of this big lie is the Palestinian Arabs. They are so determined not to let a Jewish state coexist alongside them that they are willing to deny history itself. Their current president, Mahmud Abbas (who is in the 22nd year of his four-year term), earned a degree at a Soviet university. His

dissertation was a long diatribe denying the Holocaust and claiming a direct link between Nazism and Zionism.

Many professing Palestinian Christians reject any use of the word “Israel,” insisting that the Promised Land is in fact Palestine and that there is no historic Jewish connection. Such misguided nationalism flies in the face of Scripture, yet college professors throughout the West have bought into this foolishness and are peddling it to radicalized students.

In spite of modern denials, God’s Word is clear. As documented in the four Gospels, Jesus was born in Bethlehem—an undeniably Jewish village within Judah. At that time, the Land of Israel was divided into several provinces, including Judea,



Samaria, and the Galilee. And, although Jews had already been scattered throughout the empires of Babylon and Rome, the House of Israel recognized Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel) as its ancient home.

Jesus was born in a Jewish town to a young Jewish girl who was betrothed to a Jewish man. He grew up following Jewish traditions—from the offering of doves when He was first presented at the Temple to His observance of Jewish feasts to His bar mitzvah. And, when He comes back, He will not appear in New York City, or Washington, or Paris, or London. He will return to Jerusalem in the Land of Israel.

Witnesses

Prophecy scholars like to debate one aspect of the Rapture. We know that all Church Age believers (both living and dead) will rise to meet Him in the air. The dead will

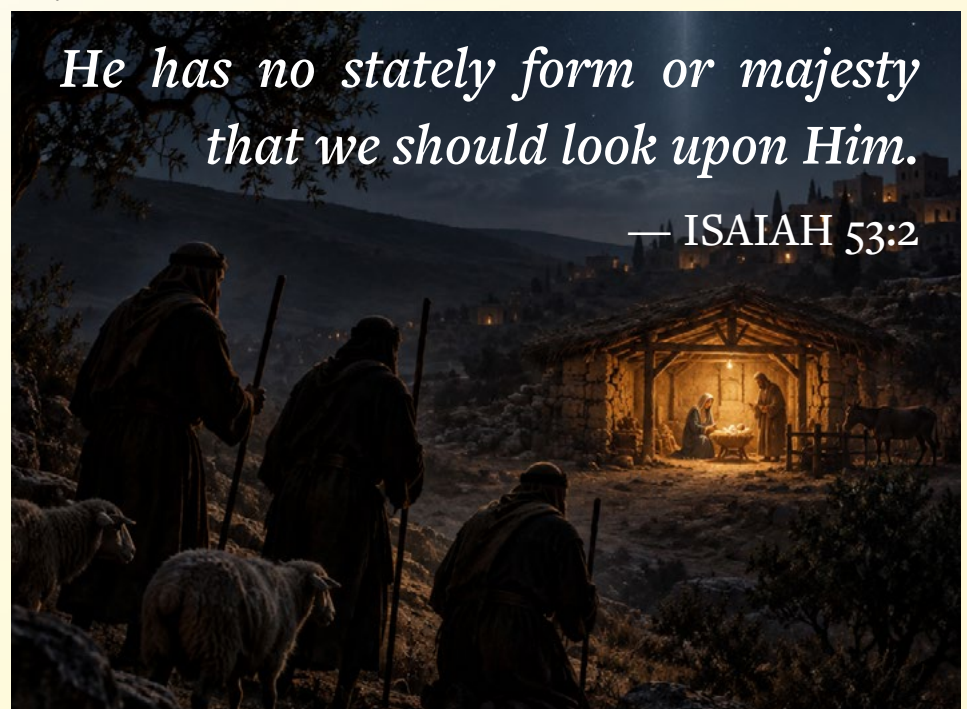
rise first, but we will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye. The question some pose is whether the world at large will see Him at that moment.

I am strongly inclined to think they will not.

When Jesus came the first time, He did not appear to Caesar or Herod. He was not born in a palace or announced by a Judean town crier. The only witnesses to His birth were Mary and Joseph. Shortly thereafter, humble shepherds from the surrounding hills wandered in to see what an angel had announced.

Within a few days, Simeon and Anna beheld Him at the Temple. And at some point in the next several months (likely before He was two years old), Magi arrived from the East seeking to meet and worship Him. Their arrival upset Herod mightily—and all Jerusalem with him—but the masses did not see Jesus or recognize His anointing until He began His ministry almost 30 years later!

Why did God choose to send His Son into the world incognito? Why did He ordain that the news of Jesus' birth would not rock the world immediately, but only later? We may never have answers to those why questions, but the dearth of witnesses suggests that the world



*He has no stately form or majesty
that we should look upon Him.*

— ISAIAH 53:2

will not see Him come for His own at the Rapture.

The repercussions of His arrival in the air (and the departure of the Church) will be earthshaking, but it may take days, weeks, or months for the average person to realize that the Rapture changed everything.

Prophetic Fulfillment

The prophecies fulfilled at Jesus' First Advent have been categorized many times over. From His birth in Bethlehem Ephrathah (Micah 5:2), to His sojourn with His parents in Egypt, to the slaughter of male children around Bethlehem, to the humble nature of His birth. And those are just a few of the prophecies dealing with His birth and early life.

Dr. David Reagan has categorized 107 distinct prophecies fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ following His first coming. Some of them are mentioned twice in the Old Testament, but every one was fulfilled. Peter drove that point home in his first sermon following Pentecost. Standing before a crowd of Jews gathered from all the nations where they had been scattered, Peter cited Joel, David (in Psalm 16 and 89), and Samuel. Confronted with the undeniable evidence of fulfilled prophecy, many in the crowd were pierced to the heart. Luke records that 3,000 were added to the Church that day (Acts 2:41).

Isaiah 9 reads like a punch list of prophetic details:

- The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be glorious once again (these tribal regions surrounded the Galilee where Jesus began His ministry and



performed most of His miraculous works).

- People who walked in darkness in a dark land will see a great Light.
- A Child will be born.
- A Son will be given.
- The government will rest on His shoulders (all authority given to Him).
- He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

But not all of the prophecies Isaiah recorded have been fulfilled yet. In the fullness of time, the Messiah will:

- See an unstoppable expansion of His reign and of peace on Earth.

- Rule from the throne of His father David.
- Establish justice and righteousness throughout the world.

Because of varying descriptions of Messiah and His mission in the Old Testament prophecies (a “suffering Servant” rather than a “conquering King”), Jewish Rabbis eventually concluded that there would have to be two different Messiahs, each one taking up one of those roles. The suffering servant was named Messiah ben Joseph (Moshiach ben Yoseph), in reference to the fact that Joseph (the 11th son of Jacob’s 12 sons) suffered at the hands of his brethren. The conquering King Messiah was expected to be Messiah ben David (Moshiach ben David), because King David was a military conqueror. While the



rabbis correctly understood the two very different roles of Messiah, what they missed was the fact that both roles would be taken up by the same Messiah—initially at His First Advent as Lamb and then following His Second Coming as King (or Lion).

Gabriel's Prophetic Message

Similarly, when Gabriel appeared to Mary, his announcement of the Messiah contained startling detail. Some of those prophesied promises have already been fulfilled:

- Mary did conceive, even though she was a virgin.

- She bore a son as her first-born.
- She and Joseph named Him Jesus.
- He was recognized as great and called Son of the Most High—by people and demons alike.

But, like the prophecies in Isaiah, some of what Gabriel foretold has yet to come to pass:

- Jesus has not yet been installed on the throne of His father David.
- He is not yet exercising His reign over the House of Jacob forever.

- His kingdom exists as an “already, but not yet” reality; His will is done in Heaven, but is not yet imposed on Earth.**

*** We know that He works all things together for good, but at present Satan clearly still has authority on Earth (Ephesians 2:2).*

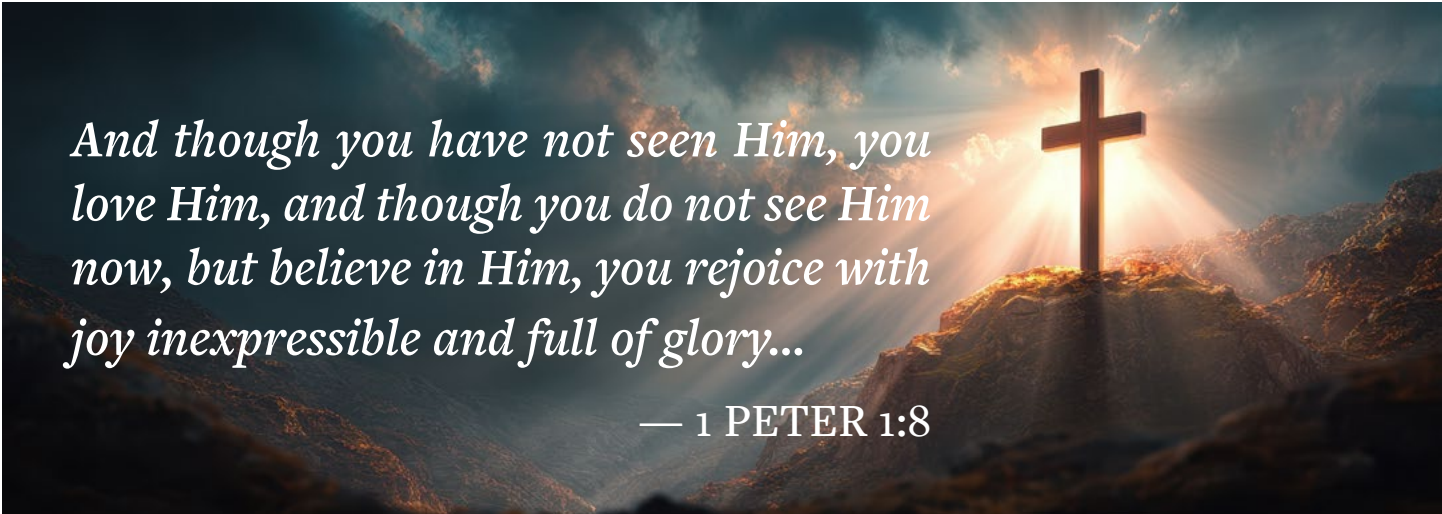
With the advantage of hindsight, Gabriel's message was obviously sweeping in its scope. It addressed both the immediate arrival of the Messiah in the First Advent and His glorious Second Coming. We see those events as separated by over 2,000 years, but from a heavenly perspective they are intrinsically linked.

Because Christ came as a Babe, lived as a Man, and died as a Savior, the promise of Immanuel (God with us) is sealed. The ultimate fulfillment of that prophecy will occur at the Second Coming, when Jesus returns to live among His people and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Light Pierces the Shadow Years

C. S. Lewis referred to our existence on Earth as “Shadowlands.” By that, he meant that reality as we know it is just a pale, temporary reflection or “shadow” of what God has in store for those who are His. Even our sufferings and joys should be measured against the greater glory that awaits us.

For over two millennia, the world has endured shadow years. We live in the shadow of the Cross—and the shadow of what lies ahead. From the moment we place our trust in Jesus Christ, we lay claim to a promise of “joy inexpressible



And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory...

— 1 PETER 1:8

and full of glory” far beyond what our minds can even comprehend (1 Peter 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:9).

Christmas offers us a brief foretaste of what is coming. For one night, “all is calm, all is bright.” Peace on Earth becomes a living hope as well as a prayer, and even hardened hearts tend to thaw just a bit.

This year, take time to ponder as Mary did over God’s unfathomable gift to mankind. Consider the love that motivated Him to send His only begotten Son into a dark and desperate world, knowing that most of the

people He came to save would reject and vilify and crucify Him.

Take a lesson from the shepherds. If you have found the Messiah as He was foretold, make known what has been revealed to you about Him. Demonstrate the wisdom of the Wise Men and worship Him with great joy. Lift up your eyes and raise your voice like Simeon to bless God because you too have encountered His Salvation—“A light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of [His] people Israel” (Luke 2:28–32). †

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NOV/DEC 2026

NATURE

In a pronounced renunciation of Creation Order, more and more couples (traditional and homosexual) are contracting with surrogate mothers to carry babies to term. The unspoken tragedy is that many of the “unused” embryos created through in vitro fertilization are forever frozen or discarded.



After dodging the usual onslaught of Atlantic hurricanes in 2026, the US was hit by a major Nor'easter striking New England and a near Category 6 hurricane from the southwest. Meanwhile, Nepal suffered another series of tragic mudslides following fall monsoon rains.



SOCIETY

Francesca Hong, the Democratic Socialist candidate for Governor in Wisconsin, expressed her desire to cancel Thanksgiving during her energetic—but unsuccessful—campaign. To atheistic secularists, the thought of expressing thanks to Someone (or something) they do not believe in is galling.



The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) cannot define what a “woman” is or who qualifies to play. Highlighting the issue, at least two former NBA players have declared themselves transgender solely to pursue playing in the WNBA.



SPIRITUAL

A host of anti-religion organizations are suing the state of Texas to keep it from posting the Ten Commandments in school classrooms. They are being joined by a slew of liberal (read “apostate”) denominations who are aghast that God's laws would be imposed on our secular society.



Christians know the Truth, yet watchdog groups like Ministry Watch have documented a troubling rise in unbiblical behavior among respected Christian organizations and prominent leaders, including malicious gossip, slander, and irreconcilability—all before a watching world.



Scripture says that among other maladies, people in the last days will be ungrateful, unholy, unloving, and irreconcilable—the very opposite of the characteristics Christians are called to exemplify. In this season when Americans traditionally express Thanksgiving and commemorate the First Advent of our Lord, there are growing signs of the “difficult days,” and dysfunction Paul prophesied in 2 Timothy 3:1–4. So too is his warning that some would be “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” We will highlight some of those signs this month.

WORLD POLITICS

As the wars in Iran and Ukraine drag on, some troublesome alliances are solidifying. Russia is already cozying up to China, North Korea, and Iran. And now Turkey, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia are forming a coalition that should be recognized as problematic to Israel and the West.



While the conflict with Iran continues, other hotspots are brewing. China is rattling its saber in the Pacific, North Korea is thumbing its nose at President Trump’s public strokes, and Cuba is offering conflicting signs of belligerence and acquiescence. All this just 35 years after the Cold War ended.



TECHNOLOGY

Taking advantage of the Wild West of reproductive technology in the US, Chinese billionaire Xu Bo has fathered 100-300 children (carefully selected male embryos) through American surrogate mothers—ensuring their US citizenship and his dynastic legacy.



Communities are grappling with “Flock” cameras—automated license plate readers that track vehicles on public roads. Beyond concerns over surveillance and data storage, the technology highlights the growing capacity to monitor entire populations.



ISRAEL

Rising antisemitism is alarming Jews living comfortably in the Diaspora. Once-safe places like New York City and Denver have elected (or are poised to elect) outspoken anti-Zionists who barely mask their hatred for Jews. They may soon reach a tipping point and decide to make Aliyah to Israel.



Demonstrating yet another vector of homicidal hatred, an Omani pilot flying for an Emirati airline attempted to commandeer a 737 filled with Israeli passengers flying from Dubai to Tel Aviv. From the air or in the air, radicalized Jew-haters continue to sow death—or at least attempt to...



ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE

HOLY LAND TOUR

Walk where Jesus walked! Lamb & Lion's Pilgrimage tour has been carefully designed to maximize your exposure to God's providence as manifest in the land and people of Israel. Over the years, we've diligently sought out unusual, out-of-the-way places for our groups to visit. We see a lot of the standard places, but we go to many that are off the beaten track.

Many group trips to Israel turn out to be just tours, and nothing more. Our trips are spiritual pilgrimages. We go there for spiritual purposes: to draw nearer to the Lord and to develop a better understanding of His Word. We focus on the visitation of sites that relate either to the life of Jesus or to end-time Bible prophecy. We conduct devotionals or short but in-depth Bible studies at each of these spots.

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