

## Judgment is Coming – 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- I want to talk with you today about the judgment that's coming and why it is that we as believers should be very encouraged.
- While I realize that any sermon on the judgment of God can be seen as fire and brimstone, Christians should look forward to it.
- What follows are two reasons that we as believers should be encouraged by and look forward to the coming judgment of God.

### 1. God is just (Verses 6-7)

6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

- This is one of those places in God's Word where some have difficulty-reconciling God being both a just God and a loving God.
- At the risk of an oversimplification, this is resolved when one sees that if God did nothing concerning evil, He would not be love.
- I like how one commentator so aptly explained it, "A world in which justice was not done at last would not be God's world at all."

### 2. Heaven is forever (Verses 8-10)

8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

- I am keenly aware saying heaven is forever is a firm grasp of the obvious, however, I say it because this earth is not forever.
- In other words, all the pain and suffering in this life will come to an end when Jesus comes and is glorified in His holy people.
- This cannot happen unless, and until, the Lord judges and punishes those who are wicked with an everlasting destruction.

Psalms 73:1-3, 16-20 -- A Psalm of Asaph. 1 Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ...16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me— 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. 18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. 19 Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. 20 As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

## Bible Prophecy Update – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- For today's update, I want to talk with you about how everything we see happening in the world today is in a state of ambiguity.
- By ambiguity I mean that all that's taking place on a global scale is seemingly riddled with uncertainty as to how it will all end.
- One need look no further than to the current election year here in the U.S., and with it the third election in Israel last Monday.

- Add to this the growing fears over the spread of and even origination of the Coronavirus, which only creates more uncertainty.
- If this isn't bad enough, the world's financial markets are on a roller coaster ride, which indicates nobody knows what to expect.
- To make matters even worse, the tensions in the Middle East specifically concerning Syria are escalating seemingly by the day.

- All of this begs the question of whether or not our world is on the cusp of a change the likes of which we've never seen before.
- There are those who are suggesting that, intentional or not, the fears over this Coronavirus will collapse the global economy.
- Moreover, there are fears that handling cash spreads this virus, which leads some to believe it brings about a cashless system.

Revelation 13:16–18 - 16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

- I am personally of the belief that it's never really been a matter of if this will happen; rather, it's a matter of when and how soon.
- It could be argued that the swiftness with which we see everything happening is heading in the direction of a New World Order.
- This because, there seems to be this unstoppable momentum towards that which we're told in the Bible will happen at the end.

Consider this list of just eight prophecies in the Bible that are quickly beginning to come to pass

1. In addition to the aforementioned global economy there will also be a global government (Daniel 2:40-44)
2. Deadly diseases and viruses would increase and wipe out a large population of the earth (Revelation 6:8)
3. There will be an increase in deception, wars, uprisings, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes (Matthew 24)
4. Dividing Jerusalem will become the intoxicating obsession of all the nations of the world (Zechariah 12:1-3)
5. The antichrist will confirm (make greater) a 7-year peace agreement and rebuild the Jewish temple (Daniel 9:27)
6. Damascus Syria will become a ruinous heap of rubble and as such be uninhabitable as a city (Isaiah 17:1)
7. Russia, Iran and Turkey will lead an alliance of nations and invade Israel in order to take a spoil (Ezekiel 38)
8. Christians who believe in and watch for the Lord's return will be increasingly mocked and ridiculed (2 Peter 3:3-4)

- In closing I would submit that ever one of these and the many more like them have all passed the proverbial point of no return.
- This is why we do these weekly prophecy updates and end with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the simple ABC's of Salvation.
- The Gospel, or good news is that Jesus was crucified, buried, rose again on the third day, and is coming back for us one day.

### **The ABC's of Salvation**

- The A is for Admit you're a sinner and your need for the Savior, (Romans 3:10, 23 – 6:23).
- The B is for Believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and God raised Him from the dead, (Romans 10:9-10).
- The C is for Call upon the name of the Lord and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, (Romans 10:9-10, 13).