

Bible Prophecy Update –November 8th, 2020

What Now?

JD Farag

Good morning and welcome to our weekly Bible Prophecy Update. We're so glad that you're joining with us. We have two services on Sunday morning: The first of which we devote to Bible prophecy, and the second is our verse by verse study through God's Word. Today we are going to start in the book of 2 Timothy, and that will be live streamed at 11:15 am Hawaii time. We certainly want to encourage you to join with us for that as well.

Actually, interestingly, both the Prophecy Update today and the verse by verse teaching all have to do with what we just witnessed in this nation this last week. So, today, I'll be talking about surviving the storm that seems to be on the horizon on the heels of the presidential election declaring Joe Biden the winner.

Before we get started, I want to, just by way of a friendly reminder, let you know that we have launched Phase 1 of our new website at JDFarag.org. If you haven't checked it out, we certainly encourage you to do so. The link to that website will be in the description below the video.

So, let's get to it, a lot to get to today. For today I want to answer the question of "Now what?" in light of the ensuing chaos over the US Presidential election, now that the media has declared Joe Biden the winner. I'm going to just cut to the chase, as it were, and simply say - Get closer to Jesus ASAP! If you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior then, particularly for those of you online, I would humbly ask that you hear me out until the end.

I want to share with you what the Lord has put on my heart to talk about, and I also, at the conclusion, want to explain just how simple it is to be saved. The truth of the matter is Jesus is our only hope! He's our only hope! While I am keenly aware that we have many online members, who do not live in America, I think it's incumbent upon me to address what's happening in America and to America.

The reason is what's happening in America is an indicator of what will happen to the world as a whole. Namely that of the world today like never before, by the way, being on the cusp of what we're told in the Bible will be the last seven years of human history, aka, the 7-year tribulation.

The good news is for those who know the Lord, born again of the Spirit of God, we will not be here for the 7-year tribulation because the rapture of the Church of Jesus Christ must happen prior to the 7-year tribulation. That's the good news. But the bad news is there will be many that will be left behind, and they will enter into this last period, this 7-year period of human history, and it will be unspeakable horror, unimaginable horror.

Now, we don't know when, but we do know that according to Bible prophecy, the 7-year tribulation will bring about the end of the age and with it, the second coming of Jesus Christ. By the way, we're going to be with Him as His bride by His side, 10,000s by His side. I like how one said it: At the rapture, Jesus comes for us; At the second coming, Jesus comes with us. But the problem is we are on the cusp of that 7-year period.

One need look no further than to the ominous headlines that blanket our news feeds, all of which point to dark and dire days ahead. If you just indulge me, I just want to read some of these headlines. I think it would be germane to our understanding of what the Lord has put on my heart to share with you today. We do have the link to the website that has all of these headlines if you're interested.

Here's one. "Chaos erupts at TCF Center as Republican vote challengers cry foul in Detroit." "Violence Breaks Out Between Antifa and Trump Supporters in Washington State." My old stomping grounds. "This isn't over: Trump backers, some armed, protest 'fake news' Biden win." "Anxious..."

This is sad. "Anxious US Public turns to booze, news as fate of divided nation in balance." "Election unrest breaks out in Los Angeles, Washington, Portland, and Raleigh." "National Guard called into Portland amid 'widespread violence' after election." "Post-election clashes break out between police, protesters in New York City." And there's this one, interesting. "Israeli minister warns of war if Biden returns to Iran Deal." "Biden's victory is a big win for Iran and the Ayatollahs." "Iran's supreme leader

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ridicules Trump over election comments: 'What a spectacle!'" "Philadelphia mayor tells Trump to 'put his big boy pants on' and concede, even as key states remain uncalled." "Trump has told people he has no plans to concede even if his path to victory is blocked."

And then how about this one? These are just headlines, by the way. I'm not reading an article. I'm quoting the headlines verbatim. "Biden campaign says 'no problem escorting trespassers out of the White House.'" "Armed men arrested near Philadelphia vote-counting site, police say." "Increasingly normal: Guns seen outside vote-counting centers." And then these last two, and I have them listed last for a reason. I think you'll see why here in a moment. Again, the headline, "Grocery chains again limiting toilet paper, sanitizing wipes purchases." Really?

And then this last one, "Cuomo increasing National Guard Presence at NY airports to Stop Untested Travelers from Entry." Wait. What? Oh, yeah. Haven't heard much about COVID-19 recently. It has been eclipsed by the election. I forgot. Of course, that was short-lived. All I had to do was go to the store and see people wearing their masks. Oh, yeah, that's right.

Okay, Pastor, what's your point? Do you have a point? Yes, I do. The point is now is the time to get one's affairs in order, concerning this world - and the things of this world. I think we would all do well to get our affairs in order. And by that, I mean getting your house in order spiritually. The clarion call for all of us today, whether you live in the US or not, is to be ready for the Lord, and steady on the solid foundation of the Lord. Please hear me out, and please stay with me.

I am personally of the belief that God is allowing everything that's now happening in the world - so we will let go of the world. But there's a problem, and the problem is this. Many dig their roots down too deep in the temporal soil of this fallen world, and as such, they keep hanging on to it and worse yet - fighting for it.

This last week I've been, in my time with the Lord, thinking about when Jesus stood before Pilate. He remained silent, defended himself not, and the frustration on Pilate's part is notable, palpable even from the text. He even says, why aren't you defending yourself? And the answer that Jesus gave is profound and prophetic. He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." And then he says this, "If it were, my disciples would be fighting right now. But my kingdom is not of this world."

It's for this reason that God, in His love, and I'll add long-suffering, deems it necessary to shake us up in order to loosen up our ever-tightening grip on our lives in this world. As I sought the Lord in this regard, I sensed that I first needed to ready and steady my own heart, allow the Lord to settle my heart.

I mean, I would be disingenuous at best, dishonest at worst, if I didn't say that I was quite unsettled by the events of this last week. As I sought the Lord, the Holy Spirit... Thank God for the Holy Spirit. He redirected my focus off of what's happening in the world, and he turned my attention and my focus and my heart to the Lord instead.

In so doing, he reminded me of one of the most calming and settling passages. I almost said one of my most favorite passages, but you know how that goes. All of them are my favorite, but this one in particular, so calming, so settling. And he settled my troubled heart. I can hear even now the Savior saying, "Let not your heart be troubled." Do you know why? Because in my Father's house are many mansions and I go to prepare a place for you, my bride, my lover.

Oh, sorry, that was a song of Solomon flashback on Thursday night. For those of you online, we started in the book of Song of Solomon. So parental discretion is advised if you want to join us on Thursday nights.

This is a bridegroom to his bride, "Let not your heart be troubled." If it were not so, I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you, a bridal chamber. so that where I am there, you may be also. "Do not let your heart be troubled."

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It's my hope and my prayer that you'll be encouraged by this Word from the Lord that's found in the Old Testament book of Isaiah, the 6th chapter. I won't read the entire chapter, but I do want to read verses 1-11. You can follow along with me.

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory!' And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of Him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So, I said, 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.' Then one of the seraphim flew to me..."

I have to say parenthetically, that would have freaked me out right there. "having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said, 'Behold this has touched your lips. Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.' Also, I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' [Plural] Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'

And He said, 'Go and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand. Keep on seeing, but do not perceive. Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes. Unless they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return and be healed.' Then I said, 'Lord, how long?' And He answered, 'Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without a man, the land is utterly desolate... '"

And that's exactly what happened. If you kindly allow me to, I would like to draw your attention to what I would argue is the answer to the aforementioned "Now what?" question. First and foremost, if we're ever to have any hope of knowing the supernatural peace of God, our eyes must be fixed upon Jesus, and when we do, like Isaiah, we will see the Lord seated on the throne - not pacing back and forth, biting his nails in front of the throne.

He is seated on the throne, high and lifted up. That settles me. That calms me. Oh, my goodness, this last week. Lord, did you see what happened? Could you imagine the Lord's response: No, what happened? Voter fraud! They're trying to steal the election. When did this happen? Tuesday. Where were you? I don't know. Gabriel! Michael! Get over here! What are we going to do? Oh, my goodness! Come on. You'll forgive me. Okay, Lord, I won't. I'm just going to leave that right there. The Holy Spirit can take it from there.

Okay, Pastor. So, let me see if I got this straight. You're comparing Isaiah's crisis to what happened this last week? Yeah. Well, that's not a very good comparison. Well, I would beg to differ. I believe they are, in fact, eerily similar, and here's why. King Uzziah, as one of only eight good kings in the history of the nation of Israel, reigned for an astonishing 52 years.

Think back to the history of this nation, the last 52 years. And here's the thing. King Uzziah's reign was marked by a time of peace, prosperity, and stability, which is why Isaiah and the whole nation were so shaken by his death. What are we going to do now? Oh, my goodness. Under King Uzziah, the stock market was at record highs, unemployment record lows. What are we going to do? But God! But God allowed something as earth-shaking as the death of King Uzziah to get Isaiah to lift up his eyes to the throne.

The reason I mention this is because oftentimes, it may take the death of "our King Uzziah." I'll let you fill in the blank, to get our eyes off of man and onto Jesus. Do you know what's interesting? In the Gospel of John, the 12th chapter, Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy as the one who Isaiah saw seated on the throne.

Listen to this, John 12, beginning in verse 37, "Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah, the prophet: "Lord,

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who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For this reason, they could not believe because as Isaiah says elsewhere [chapter 6]: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn - and I would heal them." Wait. Stop. Wait.

What? That's not fair. Do you mean God blinded their eyes so they could not see? Yeah. He hardened their hearts so they could not receive? Yeah. Well, that's cruel. Actually, it's not. It's the opposite that's true. It's the grace of God, and I'll explain.

God knew that they would not receive with their hearts. Their hearts were already hardened; their mind already made up. The Lord knew that they would not hear with their ears. The Lord knew that they would not see with their eyes. He's protecting them. Because if they were to see, hear and receive, and then still reject?

Then their judgment, as Luke's Gospel records it, some will be beaten with more stripes than others in hell. He's actually, in his grace, protecting them from this judgment that would come on them because He foreknows who's going to reject him. This is why it is, by the way, that Jesus spoke in parables. They didn't get it, and He did that to protect them. That was the grace of God, the love of God.

Verse 41, Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus. He saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. Well, this got my attention. Verse 41, because Isaiah is saying that whom he saw seated on the throne was Jesus himself, and then he says that he spoke about him. Hang on to that. Seeing the glory of Jesus seated on the throne will absolutely change everything in our lives - because of the impact that it has on our lives. It's evidenced by the impact that it had on Isaiah.

First, it was that it humbled him, then it sanctified him, then it empowered him to speak about the Lord. Here's where I'm going with this. This is exactly what the Lord desires for us. He wants this to have that impact on us, on our lives, if we would but turn our eyes upon Jesus. Now, I think I would be grossly remiss was I not to apprise you of what to expect. This is the fine print if you will. If and when we turn to Jesus and look upon Jesus:

First, there will be this profound, even overwhelming revelation of our own sinfulness when we're in the presence of God's Holiness. That's what happened to Peter in Luke 5:8 when he realized it was Jesus, and he fell on his face saying, "Depart from me, Lord. I am a sinful man." The Apostle John in Revelation 1:17 on the island of Patmos where he received the revelation. He fell down, we're told, as though he were dead in the presence of the holiness of God. "Holy, holy, holy! Depart from me."

For Isaiah, in chapter 6:5, he says, "Woe is me!" It's interesting that he would say, "For I am undone," and then he says why. It's "Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." I wonder, the foul and vile posts on social media: "Out of the abundance of a man's heart, the mouth speaks." And it's unclean. That's why in verse 6, the seraphim takes a live coal from the altar and touches Isaiah's mouth. It takes away his iniquity and purges his sin.

Now here's the question: Why did Isaiah need his lips touched and sanctified? I think the answer is two-fold. First, I do believe that... Help me to say this the right way, Lord. We have big mouths, and we have foul mouths. Lord, forgive us. Take the coal, cleanse my mouth. The second reason, I believe, is found in verse 8, Isaiah, and this is interesting. Don't miss this. He looks to the Lord, and he sees the Lord seated on the throne, and when he sees the Lord, he hears the voice of the Lord.

Oh, how many voices have been clamoring for our attention? The voice of the Lord is drowned out. Sometimes the Lord will speak in that still small voice, and he won't compete with the world and the voices in the world to get our attention. The volume has to be turned down. Really turned off so that in the quietness, you can hear the voice of the Lord. You might be interested to know what He has to say to you.

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Well, what did the Lord say to Isaiah? He said, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I, send me." Then in verses 9-13, God says, okay and He sends him, but He warns him. Why? Because what he's going to speak, with his now cleansed lips, his now sanctified mouth, it's not going to be popular, neither will it lead to repentance or revival. Instead, it will be met with dull hearts, heavy ears, and shut eyes.

Then when Isaiah asked the Lord, how long? That's the question I've been asking the Lord lately, how long, Lord? The Lord answers Isaiah, and He says, "Until the cities are laid waste, and the land is utterly desolate..." Dare I say that desolation is coming, and God is looking for Isaiah's who will say, "Here am I! Send me." And when he finds an Isaiah who will say, "Lord, here am I! Send me." Then God will sanctify our lips, and He will put His words in our mouth to tell people about Jesus.

But I have to confess, again, I would be disingenuous at best, dishonest it worse, if I didn't confess that I found myself doing what I've done all of my life after the election results. I remember when Obama was elected president, I was devastated. I went into "a funk" that lasted for two plus-weeks. I was kind of like, what just happened? Well, this time, it wasn't as bad, but it was still a little bit bad. There I confessed it.

What was different this time was the Lord settled my heart and redirected the focus of my attention so that my eyes were on him. I think about what Isaiah wrote. I think it is chapter 26, "He will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee." We're going to talk a little bit more about that the second service in our study in 2 Timothy.

I sense that the Lord today would have me to very simply say that we would do well to get our eyes off of Trump, get our eyes off of this election, get our eyes off of this world, and refocus our eyes upon Jesus. Here's why. The reason is this. The eyes of the Lord are searching throughout the earth, to and fro, looking for Isaiah's whose eyes are on him, hearts fully devoted to him, so that He can sanctify them, put His words on their mouth so that they can proclaim while there's still time: Jesus!

I know you see the struggle. Maybe that's a good thing that you see the struggle as I never want to say anything that the Lord would not want me to say. And I don't want to not say what the Lord would have me to say, and I think the Lord would have me to say this.

It's the way I say it; that's the problem. I am so thankful that the media declared Joe Biden, the winner of the presidential election. Because now, maybe now, maybe, I sure hope so. I pray so. Maybe that's what it's going to take. Maybe now that's what it's going to take. What are you saying? Well, I just said it.

I'll say the same thing again in a different way. God's allowing it, so we'll look to him and not only look to him, but when we look to him, we have to tell others about him - while there's still time. I'm at a loss for words. That's a miracle right there when I don't know what to say. Lord, help me here.

Maybe now, Christians will stop what they've been doing and start doing what they need to be doing. Do you agree with this statement? We're living at a time like no other and have before us the greatest and grandest of opportunities to bring people to Jesus. This is why God's allowing everything to happen. But see, again, the problem is we're unwilling to pick up our cross and die to ourselves and follow him. The reason is because we love our lives in this world too much. We're unwilling to let go of it.

In all fairness, and I'll include myself in this when I say this, we've had it too good for too long. Again, this is something I want to talk more about when we get to our study in the second service in 2 Timothy. We've had it too good for too long, and now that 52-year reign of King Uzziah has come to an end. What has also come to an end with it is all of the peace and prosperity and stability that we've known heretofore, that I've known all my life. Could it be... One last thing, famous last words, "one last thing." Could it be? Think this through with me.

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Could it be that the Lord is saying to every single one of us, are you ready yet? Do you want to go home yet? Or, you'll forgive me, do you want: 4 more years? Oh, I'm so glad you laughed at that one. I mentioned this on Thursday night.

I'm still thinking back to last week with Elijah. One of the things that hit me was if God had come to Elijah prior and given him a choice? Okay, Elijah, here's the deal. All right. Behind door No. 1: You're going to make Israel great again. You're going to lock her up [Jezebel]! You're going to drain the swamp of Ahab. There's going to be this great revival, and you're going to make Israel great again! Door No. 1.

Or door No. 2. I have this chariot over here with all the horses and, Elijah, because I know you like fire, I got lots of fire here for you, and I want to take you up to heaven. What do you want to do? Well, where I come from, they call that a "no brainer." That's a "slam dunk." I'll take what's behind door No. 2. Good! Because that's where you're going.

Four more years, four more smears, or however you want to say it! Are you kidding me? Could it be that this is what the Lord is saying to His people today? What are you fighting for? My kingdom is not of this world. You want to keep it on life support. Pull the plug! Is that too crass? My apologies if it is. I don't mean to be rude, but I have to speak the truth, and that's the truth.

This is why we do these weekly Prophecy Updates. It's very simple, again. It is to redirect the focus of our lives onto Jesus - and Jesus only. That's the purpose. Because there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved. It's the name of Jesus Christ. It's the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Here's another simple way to say it. The world today: Bad news! Jesus: Good News! Is that too simple? What is the Good News? The Good News: The Gospel is that Jesus Christ was crucified, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day, and He's coming back again one day, soon and very soon. That's the Good News.

Hey, I'll take it! I could use some good news right about now, right? I've often said it this way, and I know it's not proper English. Please don't email me or post comments. The "badder" the bad news is, the "gooder" the good news will be.

It's bad, it's really bad, and it's going to get really, really, bad. Wow, there you go again, Pastor. Doom and gloom. Okay. Fine. Doom and gloom. Death of a nation. Fight for your country! No, my kingdom is not of this world. I love America, but I don't love America more than I love Jesus.

We've been for several months now actually, receiving testimonies from all over the world from online members, and I want to share with you two today such an encouragement.

This comes from Lisa Gonzales on YouTube, where she posted this. "Hi Brother JD, I've been listening to you for almost 4 years now. I love your channel, your updates, and how you keep it real according to the Word of God. Over the years, I've laughed with you. I've cried with you. I want to thank you for all your hard work. I recently used the ABCs of Salvation at my job. I work in a grocery store. This same man applauded my patience in troublesome times. I replied, "It's all the Lord." Since then, we've talked about the Lord. He always asks me a lot of questions. I thank the Lord I've had the answers for him. I challenged him to accept Jesus, and I used the ABCs.

Recently, he and his wife were saved. He is excited and on fire for the Lord! Every time he comes into the store, he has to share something new and exciting with me. I can't tell you how amazing this truly feels. I love you, brother. God bless you and your family. I trust the Lord. Also, I'm praying for a billboard to come to my city." Guess where her city is? Philadelphia - sure could use the ABCs of Salvation."

This is from an online member in Ohio. "Pastor JD, I want to thank you for closing every service with the ABCs of Salvation. My husband and I watch every week. Thanks to the ABCs, God really put it

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heavily on our heart to somehow reach our community. I own two Juice Bars. I had some custom-made bookmarks with the ABCs of Salvation put on them.

I had an 82-year-old woman frequenting our shop the past three weeks who said she had been battling cancer. This is her fifth round. I knew she wasn't saved. When I told her to keep praying, I knew this because she just brushed it off. Last week I noticed that she wandered over to our shelf that we have full of prayer cards and the bookmarks that I had made up, and she took a few. Well, two days ago, she came into my shop, and as I was making her a juice, she said, "guess what?" I said, "what?" And she said, "I got saved." I love this part. She said, "I had to ask her twice just to make sure what I was hearing.

Please listen to this. "She said that she never knew that you could be forgiven of your sins, and asked Jesus to come into her heart. I asked her if she followed the ABC Card, and she said yes. I was so excited that I could barely get her order complete. I rejoiced with her as she said, "Now, I know when I die, that I will go to heaven." How awesome is that? ... You are never too old to hear the truth and get saved. We may not have enough money to buy billboards, but a \$45 investment brought another soul into the kingdom. Thank you for your boldness. It has made us bold for God too. I lay bookmarks around town when I go out."

We're going to close with the ABCs of Salvation. Let me preface the ABCs of Salvation this way. This is just a simple child-like way to share your faith. That's not the only way. This is really a tool that you can be equipped with to share with someone the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The A is for: Admit or acknowledge that you've sinned. That you're a sinner; that you need the Savior. Romans 3:10 says, "There is no one righteous, not even one." Romans 3:23 tells us why. It's because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We've all sinned. We were all born sinners, which is why we must be born again to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Romans 6:23 is interesting because it sort of packages the aforementioned "badder" news first and then the good news.

What's the bad news or the badder news? Oh! The bad news is that the wages of sin is death. We've all been sentenced to death because all have sinned. That's the bad news. Now, here's the good news. The good news is: That the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord. It's a gift that is given and only needs to be received. It's a gift that He paid for, by the way, in full. He purchased it. We didn't purchase it. If we purchased it, it's no longer a gift. It's a purchase. But He purchased this gift for us and offers this gift to us that He paid for.

That's the A. Here's the B. It's for: Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."

The C is for: Call upon the name of the Lord. Or as Romans 10:9-10 also says, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Lastly, Romans 10:13 seals the deal, "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

It's that simple. It's that child-like simple. Jesus said if you want to enter the kingdom of Heaven you must become like a child, with that child-like trust. You know how children are so trusting, which is why we have to warn them about what we refer to as "stranger danger." They're just so trusting. That's what Jesus is saying, that child-like trust, put your trust in me. Call upon me, believe on me, and acknowledge your sin before me.

Why don't you stand, and we'll pray? Thank you, Lord. Lord, I thank you. As one cleverly quipped: We don't know what the future holds, but we know that you hold the future. And not only do you hold the future, but you've also told us what will happen in the future. Lord, we thank you that in your Word, well-nigh one-third of your Word is prophecy and that you, Jesus, are the Spirit of Prophecy and that all prophecy points to you - Jesus.

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Lord, I pray for everyone that's here in this church service and watching online. If they don't know you, I pray that today, they would surrender to you, call upon you, and be saved. I pray that today would be the day of their salvation.

But, Lord, moreover, for those of us who do know you, walk with you, live for you, Lord, I pray that we would heed the clarion call and hear what the Spirit would say to us, your church. Let go. Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

Even so, Lord, so be it. In Jesus' name. Amen.