

DECEMBER 2023

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



**Truth is like a mountain,
It cannot be moved and it never changes**

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UPDATE

Anti-Semitism is a horrible blight on all humanity that unfortunately continues despite what the world witnessed at the time of the Holocaust. The current situation in the Middle East has once again caused this monstrosity to rear its ugly head as hundreds of thousands of anti-Semites demand that Israel not defend itself even though it was attacked and hundreds of innocent Jews were slaughtered. How long will this go on? Will it ever end?

In the "Prophecy Update", I show you the answer to those questions from scripture. No one knows what the coming year holds; therefore, many are very concerned and fearful, but if you can see the big picture and know what God plans to do, you can face anything with fearless confidence.

God is still in control and nothing will ever change that.

Stay strong in the Lord!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Be Thankful!"

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness.

You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

Yes I know, November is the month when we are supposed to celebrate Thanksgiving, but perhaps December would be even better because then we could look back on the entire year and express our thanks to God for His amazing provision and faithfulness.

In 2023 our family faced several unique challenges. I mention this only because I want to point out that through all the tests, God has been faithful. I am very sure our struggles have been no greater than those others have faced. **The main thing for all of us to learn is that God is faithful in the midst of the storm.** I invite you to join me now as attempt I to do that.

It is hard to know where to start, but perhaps finances would be a good place. Gone are the days of stay-at-home moms. Today most moms also have a full-time job outside of the home and the median combined annual income in Colorado from both husband and wife is around \$90,000. This year inflation in Colorado was around 5%. That means the average family lost about \$4500 to inflation. Ouch!

But, it will do us no good to focus on the hardships inflation continues to cause. We need to be thankful because no matter how tight our budget may be, we still live better than 90% of the rest of the world. Folks in other countries who live in very small homes and ride bicycles to work each day are often happier than Americans who live in a large house with a three-car garage filled with expensive autos and toys. I think it all comes down to what we view as having the greatest value, and not being thankful exposes a great error in our value system.

Our health is another area where we must choose to focus on the positive because like it or not, sickness is a part of life that we all experience. Also, as we age, our bodies begin to change and we

see the inevitable effects of living in a temporal body that is programmed to die. As I have experienced both sickness and old age, I have purposed in my heart to always thank God for whatever health and strength I still have. If you are reading this it means you also have much to thank God for, so focus on the fact that you still have breath in your lungs and purpose that as long as you have it, you will use it to give thanks to God.

Perhaps the thing I am most thankful for is that God sent His son to pay the price for my sin and provide salvation and reconciliation to God. Where would I be if I didn't have Jesus? What hope would I have? How can it be that when I was a lost sinner God chose me to be a part of the body of Christ, called me, and brought me into the Kingdom? Why would He do this when He knew full well there would be times I would fail to be what He wanted me to be? I cannot wrap my head around it! I have so much to be thankful for, but His gift of salvation stands at the top of the list.

As we enter the season when we celebrate the birth of our Lord I want to encourage you to take some time to think about all you have to be thankful for. I have shared three things that I consider amazing gifts from God; your list may include others. Whatever you do, don't allow yourself to focus on the trials of life so much that you forget about the faithfulness of God. Yes, life can be hard, but if all you have is your salvation, then you are more blessed than the richest healthiest men on the planet who don't know Jesus.

For me that is reality!

Mark 8:36 KJV

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“Are You Proud?”

The Bible speaks of two characteristics found in humanity and even though they are opposites, both are mentioned in the same verse in Proverbs 18.

Proverbs 18:12 ERV

12 A proud person will soon be ruined, but a humble person will be honored.

Because of our fallen nature, it is not difficult for us to identify or understand pride.

C.S. Lewis wrote:

"Through pride, the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every vice, it's the complete anti-God state of mind." Is this true? Consider Isaiah 14.

Isaiah 14:13-14 Amplified Bible

13 "But you said in your heart,

'I will ascend to heaven;

I will raise my throne above the stars of God;

I will sit on the mount of assembly....

14 **'I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds;

I will make myself like the Most High.'

Obviously, pride was a factor in Satan's fall. Sometime after creation, he made it known that he

felt he should be like the Most High and said that this was what he intended to do. Five times he said, "I will". In his mind, everything was all about him and his aspirations. This is how pride views life. When someone exhibits an extreme preoccupation with their own importance, achievements, material possessions, or position they are walking in pride. It is a sin against God because it does not give glory to God nor is it submitted to His will.

In Genesis 3, Satan used the exact words he spoke in Isaiah 14:14 when he deceived Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:5 Amplified Bible

5 For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened [that is, you will have greater awareness], **and you will be like God,**....

Yes, pride is a destroyer. Satan fell because of it and Adam and Eve followed. Likewise, we see many today who once had a great dependency on God, but when God's blessing brought them great success they became prideful and their life ended in disaster. Obviously, pride is very dangerous.

Now let's consider true humility. What is it and how does it function? This is much harder for us to understand. Many feel that to be humble means that we must view ourselves as having little or no ability. But, is this true humility? I asked my husband that question and he said, "That is not humility, that is stupidity!"

(Oh Lord, teach him to be gentle and kind.)

"Are You Proudful?"
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But, is he right? Well, I wouldn't say that they are stupid, but for sure, they are ignorant. They don't understand what true humility is or how it functions. To gain understanding we need to look at Jesus.

Philippians 2:5-8 ICB

5 In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.

6 Christ himself was like God in everything. **He was equal with God.** But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be held on to.

7 He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant.

8 And when he was living as a man, **he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God.** He obeyed even when that caused his death—death on a cross.

In your wildest dreams can you ever imagine Jesus saying, "I am nothing, I have nothing, and I can do nothing."? Read the Gospels and you will quickly see that He did not feel that way about himself. Jesus was the King of Glory, the one in whom all the fulness of the Godhead dwelt. He was the creator, and yet He did not consider his job assignment to be beneath him. He took the form of a suffering servant and became obedient even though it cost him his life. That is true humility.

Do you know who you are and what gifts God has bestowed on you? Are you willing to acknowledge everything God has given to you and then use it to bless those you meet every day? Or are there things God would ask you to do that you consider beneath your dignity or position? These are questions each of us needs to answer if we are to walk in true humility.

Would it shock you if I told you

that people who have a self-deprecating view of themselves are the ones most vulnerable to being destroyed by pride? Let me show you how this works. Consider this: When Satan said to Adam and Eve, "You will be like God.", how should have they responded? They should have acknowledged who they already were and said, "We already are. We have been created in His image with His likeness." Unfortunately, they didn't. **Remember this: Pride always starts by wanting something you don't have.** So many today strive for personal gain and a position of influence or fame. Their life goals are formed, based upon what they don't have and what they feel they deserve or want. This is not ambition, this is the same pride that destroyed Satan.

Here is the best way to live, because it is the mirror image of Jesus.

1 Peter 5:6 AMP

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God [set aside self-righteous pride], so that He may exalt you [to a place of honor in His service] ...



"What's Next?"

We have always tried to keep our newsletter current and relevant, and right now nothing fits this criteria better than what is happening in Israel. Many people are very concerned that this conflict could escalate and plunge the world into World War III. Is this a possibility? I will answer that question in this article, so continue reading.

The traditional way teachers have presented end-time events has been to list them in the chronological order they think they will occur. There is nothing wrong with this, but is there another way to look at it? I think there is. Could it be that there are several different prophecies God gave to several different prophets that all talk about the same prophetic event, but give us a different perspective and greater detail about it? A good example of this would be the four gospels, where each talks about the life of Jesus, yet each includes some unique things the others don't.

With this in mind, I want to look at three prophecies given to three different prophets; Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah. Usually, these have been presented as three completely different events that are not connected in any way. But, a closer study reveals they are actually talking about the same event with each giving us more detail about it. I am not giving these in the order in which I think they will occur, because I think there is a possibility they could all happen simultaneously. The first name I will draw out of the hat is Isaiah.

Isaiah 17:1;14 ICB

1 This is the message for Damascus:

"The city of Damascus will be destroyed.

Only ruins will be left there."

14 At night the people will be very frightened.

Before morning, no one will be left....

Many Bible scholars have suggested that the only way this could happen would be if Damascus

was the target of a nuclear bomb. This seems impossible, but could it happen? I want to point out that for many years Syria has been producing poison gas and has even used it against their own people. Poison gas is considered a weapon of mass destruction, (WMD) and if she should be foolish enough to use it against Israel, I can easily see Israel responding by destroying Damascus with a nuclear bomb and thus fulfilling Isaiah 17.

If this happens, I can only imagine the outcry of protest that will erupt worldwide. Believe it or not, Isaiah talks about this later in this same chapter.

Isaiah 17:12 KJV

12 Woe to the multitude of many people, **which make a noise like the noise of the seas**; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing **like the rushing of mighty waters!**

To understand what this is referring to we must do a word study of the word, "**noise**". The Hebrew word used here means: "To be in great commotion or tumult, to rage, clamor, cry aloud, be disquieted, mourn, be moved, make a noise, roar, be troubled, to be in an uproar."

Undoubtedly, this verse is talking about huge protests that would be triggered if Israel chooses to defend herself in this way. If Isaiah 17:1 is fulfilled, millions of people will take to the streets demanding Israel's complete destruction. It should also be noted Isaiah tells us that the nations will rush, "**like the rushing of mighty waters**" to accommodate their demands. It will be like a flash flood!

Now let's look at Ezekiel 38.

I am sure the discovery of huge oil and gas deposits just off the coast of Israel has not gone unnoticed by her enemies. Ezekiel tells us that at some point in the future, a multi-nation confederacy will attempt to take a great spoil from what they believe is an easy target.

"What's Next?"
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Ezekiel 38:13 KJV

13... Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? To carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

The third prophecy I want us to consider is from Zechariah 14.

Zechariah 14:2 KJV

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

This takes us back to the question I raised at the beginning of this article. Are these three prophecies talking about three separate unconnected events, or could each be giving more detail about one great event? If so, what is that great event? The answers are not hard to find, nor is it hard to uncover what that one great event is. All we need to do is fast forward to the end of each prophecy. **If each prophecy has the same ending, then in all likelihood each prophet is talking about the same major event.** So, do these prophecies share any similarities? Let's take a look. Again I will start with Isaiah.

Isaiah 17:13 KJV

13 The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: **but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off,** and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Ezekiel 38:18;20;23 KJV

18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that **my fury shall come up in my face.**

20...and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence....

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Zechariah 14:3 KJV

3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Obviously, all three prophecies have very similar endings, so it would appear all three are talking about the same event. **In the next verse, Zechariah goes one step further and tells us what that end-time event is.**

Zechariah 14:4 LEB

4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east....

These three prophecies will not be fulfilled until the days just before Jesus returns, and that is not going to happen now. I say this because Jesus' feet will not stand on the Mount of Olives until the end of the great tribulation, and therefore, the fulfillment of these three prophecies is a minimum of 7 years away. First, the antichrist must rise to power and make a 7-year treaty with Israel that finally brings her the peace and safety Ezekiel 38 says she will have at the time of the invasion. (Ezekiel 38:8) Then after 3 1/2 years he will break that treaty, and only then will you see these three prophecies fulfilled.

The rapture of the church is a different story. I do not know of any prophecy that must be fulfilled before the rapture can take place. So I must ask you, are you ready? Jesus said, "There will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth." Don't let that happen to you. There is still time. God's mercies are new every morning and He will welcome you with open arms. Today is the day of salvation, seek the Lord while He may be found!

I beg you, repent and return to your first love!