

FEBRUARY 2025

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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

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UPDATE

In the Feature Article this month, I spend quite a bit of time examining the claim some make that things we see happening today are nothing new and, therefore, are not signs of the soon return of Jesus. As examples, they point out that there have always been wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, and pestilences. This might be a valid point if not for the fact that Jesus plainly said that these things were **not to be** considered signs of His return. (Matthew 24:6-8)

If these things are not to be considered signs, then what does He say the signs of His coming will be, and are we seeing them today? These are the questions you will find answered in the Feature Article below. The answers will be clear and easy to understand. The only way you could fail to understand them is if you choose not to.

Before reading this, you should go back to the January issue and read Part 1.

MARANATHA!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES" Part 2

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!

Last month, we started this series by asking the question: Can we know when the Lord is about to return, or will his return come as a complete surprise? Our study revealed that His return will only surprise those who walk in darkness, but it will not surprise those who look for it. We will be expecting it.

1 Thessalonians 5:4 KJV

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief...

We also learned that the signs of His coming will be so obvious that they could only be missed if people were "willingly ignorant."

2 Peter 3:3-6 KJV

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, **all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.**

5 For this **they willingly are ignorant** of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished...

This month, I want to start by examining whether the scoffers' claims are valid. Are things as they have always been, or are we seeing something very different today? To do this, I want to return to Luke 21.

Luke 21:25 (KJV)

25 **And there shall be signs** in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

It should be noted that Jesus said, "**There shall be signs.**" We must never forget what He said. I do not claim to fully understand the precise significance

of phenomena like blood moons, eclipses, or planetary alignments, but in recent years, these events have often occurred on Jewish feast days, which may signal they are the heavenly signs Jesus spoke of.

However, it is the second half of this passage that resonates most with our present reality. Jesus foretells the "distress of nations, with perplexity" and "the sea and the waves roaring." This imagery feels strikingly relevant to our world today. Global confusion and anxiety are widespread, and leaders are struggling to find solutions to conflicts. Nation-states are experiencing turmoil from within like never before. Social, economic, and political unrest have become hallmarks of our time.

In biblical prophecy, the "sea" symbolizes the masses of humanity.

Revelation 17:15 (KJV)

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

And, what Jesus said about "The sea and the waves roaring" describes the unrest and anger of humanity that is present today and is a sign that His return is near. Once again, the scoffers will say we have always had this type of thing. Is this true?

If we consider the United States as an example, we can easily see that it is not. Historically, the U.S. has faced many external threats, but unlike today, those threats caused Americans to set aside their political differences and unite in a common cause. Such is not the case today. Even as we grapple with international tensions—whether they be Russia, China, or Iran—political polarization within our nation rages like a California wildfire. It is this internal conflict that makes today different than anything we have ever witnessed in the past. This fact, by itself, makes the scoffers and their willful ignorance just another sign of Christ's soon return.

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But, despite this chaos, a profound hope is embedded in this passage. In verse 27, He assures us that the turmoil we are witnessing is, in fact,

A sign of His soon return.

Luke 21:27 (KJV)

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Jesus assures us that amid all the turmoil and uncertainty, He will come back in strength and glory to put an end to Satan's reign of fear, hatred, and death. Oh, how we long for that day when all things will be made right! But, while we eagerly anticipate this future glory, we are still left with today's reality: Our world is broken, and each day brings news that can stir many unhealthy emotions. How should we, as God's people, respond? We have choices to make that will either insulate us spiritually from what is happening or open the door for anger, frustration, and fear to cohabit with us.

How can we not get incensed and angry by what we see? What can we do, and what should we do? What does God want us to do? The questions are endless. I will share my perspectives, but before I do, I want you to know I am okay if you disagree. Just be sure you are kind and that your chosen course of action is contributing to your spiritual health.

The first thing I do when faced with troubling news is ask myself:

Is there anything I can do about this?

I hate to admit it, but usually, I conclude that there is nothing I can do. This is reality, and I will be better off spiritually if I accept it. But does that mean I should sit by and do nothing?

No, I can still pray!

Prayer is a powerful weapon, and we should not underestimate it. I believe prayer played a huge part in Donald Trump's victory. However, it's important to remember that according to the Bible, the time before Christ's return will be marked by

unchecked evil, darkness, and global turmoil, and no prayer is going to change that. Then what should we pray for? We can pray for our leaders. We can pray for God to pour out His Spirit in a mighty way, sweeping millions into His Kingdom, and we can pray for our loved ones to be prepared for Christ's return and ready for the rapture. 1 Peter 3:9 reminds us that God desires all to come to repentance and be saved.

1 Peter 3:9 KJV

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Now, let me share what I have been doing to stay strong despite hearing evil reports daily. I believe the Holy Spirit inspired this, and it's producing good fruit in my life. When I listen to the news and feel anger rise, I remind myself that the turmoil and evil are actually signs that Jesus is coming soon. The very things that could cause distress are, in fact, pointing me to the return of our Savior. By doing this, I have turned the nightly news into a daily reminder of our Lord's soon return.



This works better than a reminder on my phone!



The world may be in turmoil, but this is a time of hope for believers. Every distress in the world is a sign that Christ's return is near. So, as we face the challenges of these tumultuous times, let us hold fast to our faith, pray for God's will to be done, and keep our eyes fixed on the promise of redemption. Our King is coming soon!

Luke 21:28 KJV

And when these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads for...

YOUR REDEMPTION IS NEAR !

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“The Great Mystery”

Many people love a good murder mystery. As you read, you try to figure out who did it, but rarely are you right. It isn't until the end of the book, when the author finally reveals the plot, that you are

given the answers.

Did you know the Bible contains a murder mystery that was hidden for thousands of years? The players in this story are God the Father, Jesus His Son, demonic principalities, and you and me. Yes, you and I are part of this story. The plot is about God's plan to create a new species on earth who would be given God's righteousness based solely on their faith and not their good works. For this to happen, Jesus, the sinless Son of God, would have to be murdered and thereby provide a blood sacrifice, which would then be offered for the forgiveness of the sins of the entire world.

All this would result in the establishment of what Jesus called **"my Church."** The first time the word "church" was used in the Bible was when Jesus said to Peter, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." But, after Jesus's death, it is found in 112 verses. The prophets who wrote about it could not have comprehended it, and Satan

was as clueless as a dumb animal about to step into a snare that had been carefully set.

In the church, God would unite both Jew and Gentile through the sacrifice of His Son when he was murdered on the cross. All humanity would now be able to come to God, not through their good works, but through faith in Jesus' finished work. Jesus would offer His blood as the atonement for the sins of all mankind, and all who believed would become members of His body. What an amazing plot!

But why the secrecy?

Paul gives us the answer in 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 2: 7-8 KJV

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

God chose Paul, the apostle, to unveil the mystery, and here is what Paul says about it.

Ephesians 3:9-10 NLV

9 I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.

10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

God is the best chess player in the universe!

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“The Great Mystery” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

So, what exactly is the church? Is "I am going to church this Sunday" technically correct? Maybe we need to examine what the Church is and isn't.

WHAT THE CHURCH ISN'T

1. **The church is not a denomination.**
2. **The church is not a building**
3. **The church is not a social club where friends get together each week.**

WHAT THE CHURCH IS

1. **The church is the "Ekklesia."**

This Greek word means "Chosen." The church consists of those God chose before the world was formed. We have traveled worldwide and have always been amazed that no matter where we go, we encounter people who are part of the body of Christ. They number in the hundreds of millions! When we talk to them, it doesn't take long before we realize they are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. **The church is salt and light.**

Matthew 5:13-14

13 Ye are the salt of the earth...

14 Ye are the light of the world....

3. **The Church is the bride of Christ.**

Jesus, the Bridegroom, has chosen the church to be His bride, and those who believe, eagerly anticipate the day they will be united with Him. Until then, we remain faithful to Him and say with all the redeemed of the Lord, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus!" The most exciting events that we,

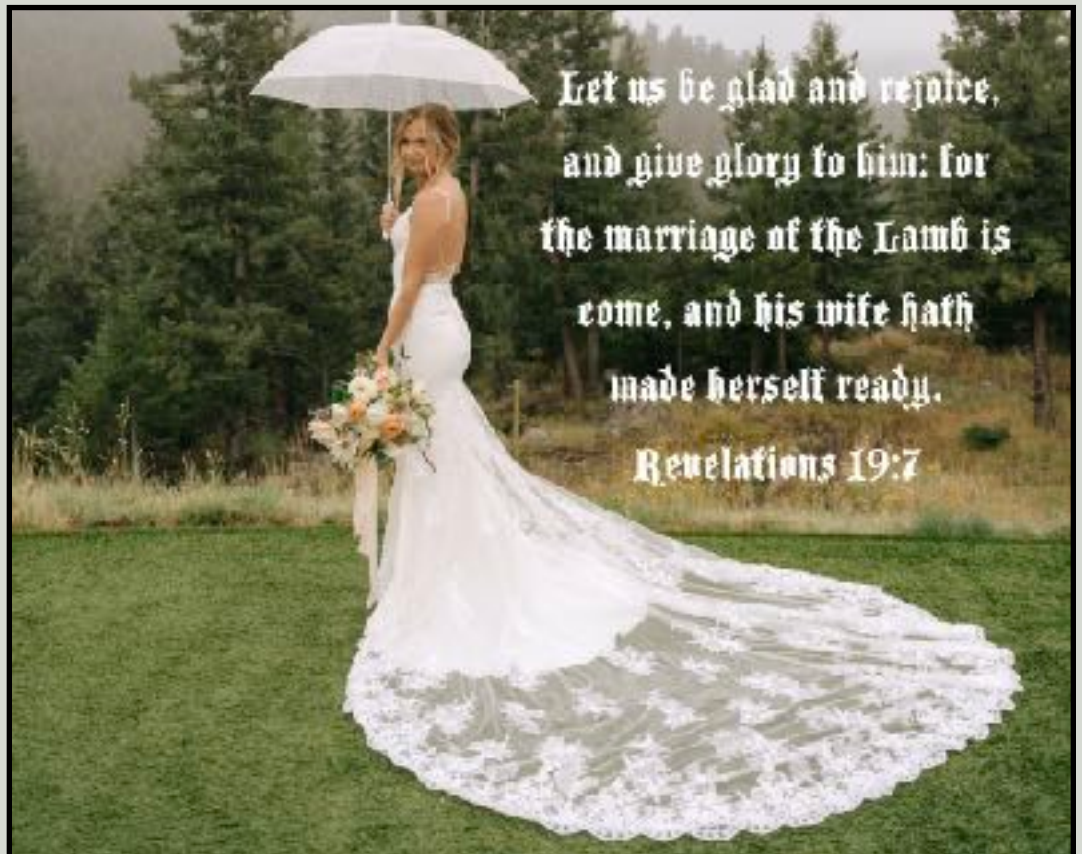
the church, have to look forward to are the rapture, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and the day we return to Earth with Him.

Indeed, the future is bright for the church!

The mystery of the church should not just be an abstract theological concept but a living reality for every believer. It is a divine calling to be part of something far greater than ourselves—a community that transcends buildings, denominations, or social circles.

So, let us live with a sense of purpose, knowing that we have been chosen to be a part of the body of Christ, and allow that identity to shape our actions and relationships. Embrace the mystery of the church, and always remember that you are part of a living, breathing body that reflects Christ in the world. And the next time you say, "I'm going to church," remind yourself that you are the church, chosen, beloved, and called to be His witness until He returns.

OH, THE WISDOM OF OUR GOD!



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH