

**Titus 2:11-13 (KJV)**

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

**“Ready or Not! Here He Comes, Part 4”  
How to Be Ready**

- Over the last three weeks ... we have identified several key components or road-signs that will take place during the last days.
- We learned that there would be a covenant that would signify the final 7 years ... the Jews will rebuild their temple ... and in the midst of that final 7 years the anti-christ will stand in that temple and cause the sacrifices to cease ...

### **Daniel 9:27 (KJV)**

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- We also learned that it will be this event ... that will trigger the Great Tribulation ...

### **Matthew 24:15-21 (KJV)**

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

- We learned that the Great tribulation is not the wrath of God ... but it is the wrath of Satan and that it occurs for the final 3 ½ years.

### **Daniel 7:25 (KJV)**

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

- The wrath of God isn't poured out until the very end ... and those are contained in the 7 vials.

### **Revelation 15:7 (KJV)**

And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

- According to the Word of God ... the rapture ... or the catching away will take place at the 7th trumpet.

### **Revelation 11:15 (KJV)**

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

- And then Paul said it like this ...

### **1 Corinthians 15:52 (KJV)**

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- Jesus tells us when the coming of the Lord will occur ...

### **Matthew 24:29-30 (KJV)**

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

- We also learned that this day should not overtake us “saved” people as a thief ...

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 (KJV)**

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

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

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch & be sober

- We learned that the judgment of the great whore ... or mystery Babylon ... is actually a city that sits on 7 hills and are over many people and tongues and nationalities that's known for gold, pearls and dressing in scarlet and purple ...
- We learned that Rome is the city of 7 hills and the Catholicism is Mystery Babylon ...
- But we also learned that God ... in an attempt of grace and mercy makes this final plea ...

### **Revelation 18:4 (KJV)**

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

- Ready or Not! Here He comes! I want to end this series tonight by simply telling you “How to Be Ready” ... because the stark reality is that more will not be ready than will be ready ...
- Jesus said it like this ...

### **Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)**

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

- But I am so thankful that I have hope ...

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12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

- We often preach from Acts 2 ... but I want to highlight a few other verses from Acts 2 that absolutely connects with endtime events.

**Acts 2:14-21 (KJV)**

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- Peter preaches that the Day of Pentecost initiated the last days ... and the plan of salvation introduced at Pentecost continues in tact until the great day of the Lord ...
- Pentecost is God's last attempt to save mankind ... Pentecost is what is needed to come out from among her and receive not her plaques ...
- So what is Pentecost? Pentecost is a Jewish festival that is held every year following Passover.
- Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Harvest, and the Day of First Fruits.
- Pentecost means 50<sup>th</sup>. It is the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Passover. But before we can understand the Pentecost we must understand Passover.
- The Children of Israel were slaves in Egypt and God had sent unto them Moses to deliver them out.

- Moses stood before Pharaoh and said, “Let my people go...” But Pharaoh would never allow this to happen and so God visited upon Egypt different plagues.
- Pharaoh’s heart became more and more hardened and so God was going to now issue a death sentence. He is going to kill the first born of all the land.
- However, God made provision for those who would listen. The command was given to kill a lamb, and then consume that lamb and then place the blood of that lamb upon the doorpost of your home.
- When the death angel visited that night and when he saw the blood then he was commanded to Passover that home and not bring death to it.
- The Passover was not the deliverance but it was the event that triggered the deliverance.
- At the time of the Passover the Children of Israel were not a country, they were simply pilgrims, wanderers in search of God’s promises.
- Until you come to Exodus 19:1-6 and this is where God began to speak to Moses and give them the law that they were to live by.
- So the deliverance was initiated by the Passover. Once they began their deliverance they came to the Red Sea. It was here that they had to go through the water.
- Consequently, it was because of this process that Pharaoh would be completely destroyed along with his army right in the midst of the Red Sea.
- It was also at this time that the Lord began to lead the Children of Israel with supernatural assistance. He was a cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night. And when it moved, they moved.
- As a matter of fact, Paul wrote to the church of Corinth and said:

**1 Corinthians 10:1-2 (KJV)**

1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

- The Passover started the process, and then there was the Red Sea and the cloud, which we learned later in the New Testament that this was a type of baptism.
- But remember the law or the command of God was not given until 50 days after the Passover.
- It just so happens that Jesus was crucified on the Passover. Which should not surprise us!
- He is the Passover Lamb. As a matter of fact, that was the whole purpose for Him coming was to fulfill the Passover.

- And just as the Passover in Exodus started the process of deliverance so the crucifixion started the process of deliverance for the Christian.
- The Lamb died in Egypt ... the Lamb died in Jerusalem on the same day thousands of years later.
- So in the OT we have the Passover ... the Red Sea ... & the cloud by day.
- In the NT we have the Crucifixion, the burial and the resurrection.
- And in the NT church we have repentance, baptism in Jesus Name and the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
- The Passover started the process. So did Calvary. You cannot only accept what was done at Calvary and be saved.
- If you stop only at the Passover all you have is a dead lamb. If you stop at Calvary—all you have is a dead person.
- Jesus was buried. And on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day He was resurrected.
- What does Pentecost mean? 50<sup>th</sup>.
- Remember, the Children of Israel received the law 50 days after the Passover.
- Jesus was crucified on the Passover which initiated the plan of salvation. However, it wasn't until 50 days later that the "law"; that the Holy Ghost; that the church became incorporated. That is when the church started.
- In the first Passover, you had the death of the Lamb, the Red Sea experience and the experience with the cloud.
- When Jesus was here, we had the death of the Lamb, the burial of the Lamb and the resurrection of the Lamb.
- In the first message preached on the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2:38. You have repentance, baptism in Jesus Name and the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
- Pentecost isn't just a cosmic accident. Just as God gave his people the law 50 days after the Passover, so God ordained to start his blood bought church 50 days after the death of Jesus Christ.
- That's why the Bible says ...

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (KJV)**

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

- Paul is saying that the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- And then Peter issues a very strong statement in:

### **1 Peter 4:17 (KJV)**

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

- You can't just accept the Gospel as some mental observance. You have to obey.
- The word obey literally means, "to comply with."
- How can I obey the gospel? How can I comply with the gospel?
- Turn to Acts 2:38 and see what Peter preached for the first message on the day of Pentecost ...

### **Acts 2:38 (KJV)**

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- This is how you obey the Gospel.
- Calvary is repentance. This is where we die.
- Burial is baptism. This is how we are buried.
- Resurrection is the Gift of the Holy Ghost.
- Everything from Genesis to Acts chapter 1 and verse 26 is pointed to the Day of Pentecost.
- And everything that happens from Acts chapter 3 to Revelation 22 is pointing back to Pentecost.
- THE PURPOSE OF PENTECOST IS TO produce salvation to a lost and dying world.
- PENTECOST IS GOD'S LAST CHANCE TO REACH MANKIND.
- Let me share with you some other scriptures ...

### **Ezekiel 36:26-27 (KJV)**

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

- That's the Holy Ghost!

**Joel 2:28-29 (KJV)**

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

- That's the Holy Ghost!

**Isaiah 28:11 (KJV)**

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

- That's the Holy Ghost!

**Matthew 3:11 (KJV)**

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

- That's the Holy Ghost!

**John 14:19-21 (KJV)**

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

- That's the Holy Ghost!

**John 3:3-5 (KJV)**

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

- That's the Holy Ghost!

**John 7:37-39 (KJV)**

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.



39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

- That's the Holy Ghost!

#### **Mark 16:16-17 (KJV)**

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.  
17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

- That's the Holy Ghost!

#### **Luke 24:47-49 (KJV)**

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.  
48 And ye are witnesses of these things.  
49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

- That's the Holy Ghost!

#### **Acts 1:4-5 (KJV)**

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.  
5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

- That's the Holy Ghost!
- All of these prophecies were fulfilled in Acts 2 when the church began ...

#### **Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)**

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.  
2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.  
3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.  
4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Acts chapter 2 fulfills all the prophecies concerning the Spirit and baptism.
- That's why when those men said, what must we do. Peter stood and said, Repent, be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins & ye shall receive the Gift of the HG
- You can't compare the thief on the cross with salvation today because we are living Post Pentecost and the thief was living Pre Pentecost.

- They Children of Israel did not have to live according to the law if there was no law. But once there became a law—they became responsible to the law.
- Their law came 50 days after the Passover. The “law of the Spirit” also came 50 days after the Passover. If you lived and died before Pentecost, God will judge you accordingly but if you have lived and died after Pentecost God will judge you according to that.
- This is how you are ready for the rapture ...
- And it doesn't matter if you are Pentecost, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Evangelical, Church of God in Christ, Episcopalians, Methodist ... WE HAVE TO LOOK AT THE STANDARD THAT GOD SET FOR THE FIRST CHURCH AND MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE LIVING ACCORDINGLY.
- We have to obey the Gospel. And what is so beautiful is that in the Old Testament God laid out his ultimate plan so beautiful in so many types and shadows.
- The Passover, the Red Sea, the Cloud.
- In the Tabernacle, you had the altar, the laver, and the Holy Place.
- Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected.
- The first church preached repentance, baptism in Jesus Name and the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
- Why? Because repentance is Passover, it is the altar, it is Calvary.
- Baptism in Jesus Name is the Red Sea experience, it is the laver and it is the burial.
- And the Holy Ghost is the cloud, it is the Holy Place and it is the resurrection.

### **1 John 5:7-8 (KJV)**

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

- I like the way John wrote this. He started from end to beginning and Peter in Acts 2:38 went from beginning to end.
- Again, Acts 2:38 says—repent, get baptized, and receive the Holy Ghost.
- I John 5:8 says, you have the Spirit, the water and the blood.
- Blood is repentance (altar)
- Water is baptism
- Spirit is the Holy Ghost

- Jesus told Nicodemus that in order to be born again he would have to be born again of the water—baptism in Jesus Name and of the Spirit—which is the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
- It is not good just to have repented. You must be baptized in Jesus Name. It is not just good to have been baptized you must be filled with the Holy Ghost.
- And it is not just good to be filled with the Holy Ghost and not to be baptized in Jesus Name. These 3, repentance, baptism and the Holy Ghost agree in one or in other words they are one. It is not designed to have one without the other.
- THIS IS HOW YOU GET READY FOR THE RAPTURE ...

#### **Acts 10:1-2 (KJV)**

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

- According to the standard of Christianity today not only would this guy be completely 100% saved ... but look at verses 5 & 6 ...

#### **Acts 10:5-6 (KJV)**

5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

- There was more to Cornelius's experience than just being a good person and doing good things. Cornelius would have been just fine if he was still Pre Pentecost.
- But now that he is living in Post Pentecost society he has to change his standard to meet the standard of the church.

#### **Acts 10:44-48 (KJV)**

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

- Jesus name baptism is as much part of the plan of salvation as receiving the Holy Ghost.
- The blood, the water and the Spirit.

#### **Acts 19:1-6 (KJV)**

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

- You must be baptized with the Holy Ghost.
- Pentecost is God's last chance to reach man.
- In order to be spared the wrath of God and in order to be ready to rule and reign with Him at the Second Coming ... you must be born again of water and Spirit.
- THIS IS HOW WE MAKE SURE WE ARE READY ...