

Armageddon and Israel

A Call to Watchfulness, Separation, and Spiritual Readiness in the Last Days

Israel was called to be a separate people. We can look at numerous examples in the Scriptures on this. Even beginning with Adam and Eve, God wanted them to be separate, and He created them separately from the other races. He called Abraham, and He wanted Abraham to be separate. Remember the story of Abraham and what God Almighty told him? He wanted Abraham to be separate. He wanted Israel to be separate. He told them not even to go into the other nations and have any part with them.

But Israel continued to look to those other nations and to lust after the things of Egypt and the things of the nations around Israel. They said, 'We want to be like them. We want to have a king like them. We want to have a system like them.' What did they have their minds on? They had their minds on the things of this world. What did Jesus tell us? The theme has not changed. He said that we are to be in the world, but we are not to be of this world - this worldly order, this cosmos of man.

Israel went into Egyptian captivity. That was part of God's will. But why did He allow them to go into that Egyptian captivity? Was it to bless Israel? Was it to set an example and send a message to the world that we can all be together and be one big happy family? No. He put them in captivity so they would learn that we have to be a separate people unto Him. We cannot mix our faith, we cannot mix our seed, and we cannot mix ourselves with these other nations and kingdoms. The same thing happened with Babylon. Why did God Almighty allow them to go into Babylon? Was it to bless them? Was it to set an example that we should all be one? No. Again, He put them in Babylon so they would learn a lesson.

Today, I do not know about you, but I am learning a lesson. The more I see what is happening in our nation, the more I see that God called us to be separate. He did not want us to be of this world. He did not want us bringing other nations, other philosophies, and other religions into our nation. We are learning something today. I hope we are learning something, and this information, knowledge, and understanding will be put to use. It is not for nothing.

Let us go to Revelation 16:15. Jesus is speaking here: 'Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.'

We compare this verse with what took place in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve violated God's law, and they saw themselves as naked. There was shame. Why? Because they did not keep their garments. They were not being proper watchmen, and they were not taking the proper dominion that God Almighty had commanded them to take upon this earth.

It is often the simple things that get us in trouble time and time again. God said, 'Just obey Me and keep My commandments.' If they had done that, there would not have been any problem. But they did not keep their garments. They did not stay faithful to God's Word and obey Him. They began thinking, 'We can learn to walk in our own righteousness. We can be as gods, knowing good and evil. We can determine our own will and our own destiny.' That is what man is doing today. That is humanism.

Revelation 16:16-17 continues: 'And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.'

Whom did He gather unto Armageddon? He gathered those who were watching, those who were watchmen on the wall, and those who kept their garments. Two things are mentioned here: those who watch and those who keep their garments. This watching implies being of a sober mind, being aware, being knowledgeable, and being informed.

I believe that is what the true remnant is doing today. They are being alert. They are staying informed, and they are knowledgeable. That does not mean we are perfect. It does not mean we walk on water yet. It does not mean we do not have problems in our midst. But it does mean we are aware. We are watching. We are alert to our condition today as a people and a nation.

I also believe it signifies a people who know their true biblical identity and who know who the enemies of Christendom are. Watchmen watch over the things of God. In other words, they have to know something about God's will, His plan, and His purposes in order to fit this description of the watchmen in verse 15.

Then it speaks of those who keep their garments. This is also referred to in the Scriptures as white raiment. It has to do with purity, both spiritually and physically. Strong's Concordance says that these garments have to do with inner and outer dress. Only Christians can put on the kind of garments described here.

Water baptism is part of this special clothing that we are to put on as Christians. It is part of our spiritual attire. Those who have been baptized through water baptism and baptized through the power of the Holy Spirit are those individuals who have these special garments and can go beyond the veil. The priests of old, under the old covenant, wore special garments. The high priest could go beyond the veil. This is a type and symbol of the priesthood we are reading about in Revelation 16:15.

The Scriptures say that we are to be priests and kings of the Most High God. Who are these priests? Who are these kings? They are those who have put on these garments and those who are watchmen on the wall. In other words, we are talking about a body politic with an active part in Christendom and in God's kingdom purposes for us. We are His kingdom people.

This means we must have an understanding of God's government. We must have an understanding of God's law. We must understand who we are as His people. All of these things comprise kingdom knowledge, kingdom understanding, and kingdom living, which we are to exercise as His people.

This also has to do with putting on the new man. For this message, I want to read these passages to you because they are extremely important to having a proper understanding of those who are called to be gathered together in that place called, in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon.

This is not going to be a physical battle in the usual sense. We are talking about the powers of darkness being utterly destroyed. They will not rise again. The powers of darkness and the satanic stronghold that the Antichrist has over our nation today will be brought down, both literally and figuratively. This means every area these antichrists have permeated - the religious field, the economic field, and the political field - will be brought down. It will be exposed for exactly what it is. Light and truth will fill this nation and the world as we have never seen before. This is what the new heaven and the new earth are all about.

I do not know about you, but I get excited when I start thinking about this. There are so many things we could get into here. Look at the type of body our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had after the resurrection. It was a physical body of flesh and bone, yet it could appear and disappear and could pass through walls. I believe this is a type of the body and ministry that is coming for the sons of God in this millennial age, when the powers of darkness will be utterly destroyed.

You are going to be able to walk through the walls of Congress. There will be no secret meetings. Truth will be exposed to them. The light and truth of Christ will be brought out. Righteousness will be exalted in this nation. In other words, His law and His righteous purposes will be the order of the day.

When we look at all the things that grieve us today and bring sadness to us, we can know that these things are going to be gone. He says He will wipe away our tears. We will have a clean slate in this nation. We will truly have peace. Men will beat their swords into plowshares. This is the glorious gospel of the kingdom message that needs to be taught and understood. It is part of the hope and vision we should all have as the body of Christ.

Let us go to Romans chapter 8. 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.' Notice: in Christ Jesus. 'For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.'

'For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.'

'For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.' This is the garment change. If you have not had this garment change, this will be your condition. Those who are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh. I hope that does not describe any of us in the body of Christ, to whom God Almighty has given so many great things.

Those who are after the Spirit mind the things of the Spirit. In other words, we have an understanding and discernment that people in the world do not have - or at least we should. We are talking about spiritual things. The world cannot really comprehend what is happening today because it does not have the mind of Christ to comprehend it.

'For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.' The carnal mind is enmity against God. Please notice that it does not say Satan, or some invisible boogeyman, is enmity with God. It says the carnal mind is enmity with God. 'For it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.'

The carnal mind is self - this self-nature that must be burned out and purified. This is the lake-of-fire process that the carnal nature and carnal tendencies must go through in order to be purged. The carnal mind is a blind knowledge. It is where all manner of evil comes from, and it will not subject itself to the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives in order to overcome our carnal nature.

These are deep spiritual things I am sharing with you. If you do not understand them, you need to begin seeking understanding, because this is what will make the difference in the end. This is the icing on the cake that I am sharing with you here.

Romans 8 continues: 'So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.' Now listen to this: 'Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.'

If you do not have the Spirit of Christ, you may call yourself part of His body and say, 'Lord, Lord,' but your actions and behavior will not manifest it. We are supposed to be fruit inspectors - inspectors of the fruit of the Spirit. This goes beyond merely saying, 'We obey the law. We do not lie, cheat, steal, or bear false witness.' This reaches into our very being, our attitude, and the way we respond to and deal with one another.

Do we have love, joy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, and meekness? These are the fruit of the Spirit, and we have covered them many times. Romans 8 says, 'And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.' His righteousness - not our own.

'But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.' This is part of the garment we read about in Revelation 16. This is part of the clothing, the new garment we are to have as Christian people - not under the old covenant, but in a new covenant relationship.

'Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.' If we live after the flesh, we shall die. 'But if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.' This is why the apostle Paul said, 'I die daily.' He had to die daily to self, and that is something we must all begin doing more regularly. We need to do it daily, just as the apostle Paul did. Some of us may need to do it ten times a day.

We get locked in and comfortable with ourselves. We think, 'Everybody else is doing it this way,' or, 'I want to fit in with so-and-so.' But that is not the attitude we ought to have. We ought to say, 'I want to fit in with Christ. I want to be what He wants me to be.' Romans 8 says, 'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.'

There is more to this. Let us go to Galatians 3:22. 'But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.'

'But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.' The law had a job to do. It was there to show us our sin and to point the way to the cross, bringing us unto Christ so that we might be justified by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Period. End of it. It is not the law. It is Christ.

We do not put the law in a higher position than Christ. It is essential for us to understand the rightful place of Christ as described in the Scriptures, and the rightful place of the law. Galatians 3 continues: 'But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.' Over and over, we are told that we are children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

'For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.' Here is the baptism that is essential for us. It is part of the garment that we are to put on. Those baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is much that we could say about this garment. There is much we could say about this special remnant of people being prepared for the special days that are coming in the end time.

Let us go to Revelation 19:11. The Scriptures say, 'And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.' In righteousness He judges and makes war.

'His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.' That is interesting. He had a name that no man knew but Himself. This is a new name. This is a new understanding, a new covenant understanding, described in these verses.

'And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.' This is something many people overlook. Who is the Word of God? Jesus Christ - Yeshua. This is the new covenant fulfillment for us, His people, which the world does not have and which the Jews do not have. They can quote their sacred names to me all day long, but this goes beyond a name and beyond words. It is a new understanding of the identity of our God, who died upon the cross to redeem Israel.

If you do not have this understanding, then you have other gods before you. You are living in confusion today, and you do not really understand what the gospel message is about. This is how serious it is. We must understand the identity and deity of Christ.

Revelation 19 continues: 'And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.' 'And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations.' He will rule the nations with a rod of iron, and He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

'And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.' Here is another identifying mark: King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah.

Then John says, 'And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice,' saying to the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, 'Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God.' He is going to feed these vultures. There is going to be bloodshed. There will be tremendous upheavals worldwide like we have never seen before. That is why I believe Israel is scattered. This is not just a localized thing. It will be a worldwide earthquake.

Revelation 19 goes on to say that they will eat 'the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men,' and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 'And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him.' This is the war, this battle of Armageddon, that we read about in Revelation 16.

Who will be part of this army of God? Those who have this white raiment, those who are the true priests and kings of the Most High God. They make war against Him who sits on the horse and against His army. It is not just against Christ; it is also against God's militia. This will be a war and battle staged against God's militia. These battle lines are being drawn today. The Antichrist element in its attack against God's true Israel people is being drawn today. We are in the midst of this battle right now, my friends, and the victory is ours. Hallelujah.

We should not be discouraged by what is happening. It is all predicted in the Scriptures. We should be people of faith, and our faith is in Him. We should not be despondent. We should not live in fear of what the enemy is doing. Yes, they are preparing. They are building up their army. They are doing their best to create fear within the nations, but all they are doing is planning their own destruction.

'And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him,' by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. 'These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.' The remnant, or the rest, 'were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.'

Do not tell me that God Almighty is not a God of wrath. Do not tell me He is not angry with the Antichrist element today. Do not tell me judgment is not coming upon the world, because the Scriptures clearly tell us that it will. It is coming. He only gives Babylon, Egypt, and Assyria so long, and after that period of time, judgment comes. When? I do not know. I am not a time predictor, though some people want to get involved in that. But it is coming.

Let us go to Daniel 12:1. Here we are reading about the end time again: 'And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people.' This is Israel. Michael stands for Israel. 'And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.' This is Jacob's trouble. 'And at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.'

Some people want to tell me this occurred in A.D. 70. Hogwash. This is not talking about that. It says there will be a time in which His people will be delivered - everyone written in the Lamb's book of life. As if A.D. 70 ended and nobody else could be written in the Lamb's book of life after that. No, this is not describing that particular period of time. It is a time when His remnant people will be delivered.

Daniel continues: 'And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.' 'And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.'

'But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.' 'Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.' We have an increase of knowledge today like we have never seen before. It is so fast that we cannot even keep up with the technology.

Then Daniel looked and saw two others, one on this side of the bank of the river and the other on that side of the bank of the river. One said to the man clothed in linen, who was upon the waters of the river, 'How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?' I am not sure what river this is describing, but I suspect it is the symbolic Euphrates River written about in the book of Revelation, upon which the seventh vial will be poured out and whose waters will be dried up.

This money system of the Antichrist will be dried up. Remember the Euphrates River of old: it was a life-giving force for old Babylon. This new Euphrates River, their money system, is a life-giving force for the mystery Babylon that is over us today. It will be brought down.

Daniel says, 'And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river,' when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven and swore by Him that lives forever, 'that it shall be for a time, times, and an half.' And when he has accomplished the scattering of the power of the holy people, all these things will be finished. There was a scattering here. Has not Israel been scattered? When He has accomplished the scattering of the power of the holy people, all these things will be finished.

Daniel said, 'I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?' The answer came: 'Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.' 'Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.'

Is that not happening today? The wicked do not understand the things of Scripture. These things are spiritually discerned, and they cannot comprehend them. But the purified, those who have this white raiment, those who have put on the mind of Christ and have been baptized into the body of Christ, are the ones who will have understanding. The wicked will do wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand. That is why sudden destruction will come upon them.

Now let us go to Jeremiah chapter 16. I am not sure how far we will be able to get in this chapter, but let us begin in verse 1. This chapter addresses Israel's Babylonian captivity and their return into the land of Judea after their seventy-year captivity. This captivity, though, parallels Israel's end-time captivity and the form of deliverance that God Almighty will accomplish for us in the days ahead at His coming.

Verse 1 gives instruction to the prophet Jeremiah not to have children, nor was he to take a wife. 'The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying, Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.'

'For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land; They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth.' They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven.

Is that not what we read in Revelation - the fowls? Again, my friends, this parallels what is going to come upon Israel in the end time and the great destruction that will come upon those who have rejected Christ and have been enemies of Christendom. You and I have a part and a role to play in this. Again, this is just as we read in Revelation, where Jesus Christ consumes them by the sword.

Verse 5 says, 'For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even lovingkindness and mercies.' God says He has taken His peace, lovingkindness, and mercies from them. Enter not into the house of mourning; neither go to lament nor bemoan them.

This is a righteous form of hate that we are describing here. This is utter contempt - a day in which I say to you that the sons of Isaac and the Saxons will learn to hate. You may say, 'That sounds very extreme.' My friends, when you are engaged in war, you will not have love and peace on your mind in the battle. And I want to tell you something: the battle is not over for us at all. When you become a Christian, the battle commences right then and there.

You should be prepared for battle. Being a Christian means knowing something about the spiritual purposes of God and knowing how to stand in the gap in the time of battle. It means knowing when the enemy is coming. That is what being a watchman on the wall is all about. A watchman on the wall implies there is an enemy out there, an enemy who wants to come in and attack, an enemy who wants to take this by force.

They have been doing that and getting away with it for quite some time. But the day is coming when our Commander-in-Chief will come. He will prepare us and call us, and we will be part of His

army. We will be used as His battle-ax and weapons of war. There will be a cleansing in this nation. There will be bloodshed. Correct me if I am wrong, and perhaps I am misinterpreting the Scripture, but from what I read here, the enemy will be consumed.

What was the author who wrote that poem? Was it Kipling? It was called 'The Beginnings,' sometimes remembered by the line, 'When the Saxon begins to hate.' Perhaps he had a vision of these things that we are reading about right now in the Scriptures.

Jeremiah 16 continues: 'Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them.' There will be no lamenting for the wicked. Again, that can be somewhat hard to take.

Let us go to verse 10: 'And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?'

'Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law.'

Does this apply only to Israel of old, or does it apply to us today as well - this walking after other gods? I have told you before, and it bears repeating: we have more idol worshippers in the world today than at any time in the past. The New Age movement, Mormonism, Catholicism, Zionism, Buddhism, and others are all worshipping false gods. True Christianity is only a small segment - just a remnant.

Today I want to share something with you quickly. I do not know how much time I have left, but it looks like I have run out. I am going to read this anyway. I have to get this on the record. This is from The Prophetic Observer, and it is about papal infallibility.

In May 1994, the Christian world was startled by the signing of an ecumenical agreement titled Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium. Signers of the document included such names as Bill Bright, Chuck Colson, Pat Robertson, representatives from the Southern Baptist Convention, and representatives from other churches and denominations, including prominent Catholics.

Pope John Paul II has prophesied that there will be unity of faith and that all religions will be worshipped together by the year 2000. This adds a new dimension, light, and understanding to Goals 2000 - the beginning of the third millennium. But what is John Paul II's terminology for religious ecumenicalism? We quote from page A8 of the May 31, 1995, edition of the San Francisco Chronicle.

The report says, in substance, that Pope John Paul II said he was willing to seek agreement with other Christian denominations on the future role of the papacy. He made his offer in a 115-page document titled That They May All Be One, dedicated to the search for unity among Christian churches that have split from each other during the past thousand years. It sounds good, does it not?

Papal primacy means that the papacy is the supreme authority. Recognition of the pope's supreme authority over any unified Christian church has been one of the thorniest issues facing theologians between Rome, other Western Christian churches, and Eastern Orthodoxy. The pope said, 'This is an immense task which we cannot refuse and which I cannot carry out by myself.'

In dialogue on primacy, Cardinal Edward Cassidy said the pope sees the Catholic position on primacy as an essential point of faith. The pope made clear he would not accept a symbolic papacy. Listen: he would not accept a symbolic papacy without teeth. Rome would have to hold the primary place among Christians. He also said a pope should have the authority to make infallible declarations regarding the basic tenets of faith.

The pope is willing to accept all Christians back under his authority if we accept the infallibility of everything he does and says. It is Catholic doctrine that papal infallibility supersedes even Scripture, the very Word of God. End of quote.

Do you not think this applies to what we are reading here today? Listen, folks: the pope is a false god. He is a false god. It is the Catholic Church that has brought in all kinds of abominations upon us today. These abominations are described in the book of Revelation. The church is part of that harlot system, the mother of harlots. It has done more to bring Christians into idol worship than any other faith I can think of. It is one of the bloodiest religions. It hates true Christianity.

The Roman Catholic Church has been invaded and corrupted from its beginning. It is this same system that is working its so-called miracles, described in the book of Revelation, by unifying itself with the dragon and the false prophet to form this one-world New World Order in which the Catholic Church wants to play a dominant role.

I do not have time to go into this much deeper, but we have assurances from the Word of God that there will be a cleansing. Jeremiah 16:20 says, 'Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?' Then verse 21 says, 'Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is The LORD.'

He is going to make Himself known throughout the nations. This, my friends, is really the evangelical work we are called unto. It is not the type of gospel you will hear from Billy Graham or Pat Robertson.

I do not know about you, folks, but this is strong meat. We have only skimmed the surface this morning concerning some of the things we have been called to do in the end time. Do not sell yourselves short. You are being prepared in more ways than you think.

Let us continue to prepare ourselves. Let us remember that we are to keep our garments. Let us remember that we are to be watchmen on the wall. Let us stay awake, and let us not allow these things of the end time to catch us by surprise.

With that, let us close. Let us all stand.

Our Father, we thank You again for these important truths we are learning from Your Word. We thank You for the things You have given us to prepare Your remnant people - those who are called according to Your purposes, those who are faithful in serving You, those who are willing to make sacrifices, and those who are willing to continue checking themselves in their spirit. Help us not to look to other people or put our faith in the things of men, but to put our faith in Your purposes and Your calling upon us. To that end we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.