

Revelation Overview Pt. 5

by Chuck Smith

The sermon discusses the two great wars that are yet to come, the first being the battle between Muslim nations and Israel, and the second being the battle of Armageddon, which will bring judgment and destruction to those who worship the beast and take his mark.

Duration: 57:04

Scripture: Revelation 4:6-8, Revelation 14:2-3, Revelation 14:6-7, Revelation 14:12-13, Revelation 15:1, Revelation 16:1

Topics: "Revelation"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's wrath as described in the book of Revelation. The fourth angel pours out his bowl upon the sun, causing it to shine with great power and scorching men with intense heat. Despite these judgments, the people on earth become hardened and refuse to repent, leading to a final rebellion against God. The sermon also mentions the preaching of the gospel as a witness during the great tribulation and the fall of Babylon.

Transcript

According to the Bible, there are two great wars that are yet to come. Two battles still to be fought. The first of the two will be fought when the Muslim nations, with the aid of Russia, will attack Israel.

This battle is recorded for us in the Bible in Ezekiel chapter 38 and in chapters 39. And according to the Bible, this battle will take place in the last days. This mighty army, like a cloud covering the ground, will invade the Holy Land.

And in this battle, God Himself will intervene and save Israel in a supernatural way from certain destruction. And in thus saving Israel, the world will realize that God has miraculously intervened. God said, And I will execute judgment upon him with a plague and bloodshed.

I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones, burning sulfur on him and on his troops and many nations with him. And I, and so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am Jehovah." As God speaks about how He Himself will destroy this invading army, God said that He will destroy five-sixths of those that have invaded, and that they will be seven months in burying the dead.

And God promised that at the time that He destroys these invading armies, that no longer will blindness be upon Israel, but once again their eyes will be opened to see the truth. And they will again be God's people. God again will reveal Himself and work with them as His people.

At the present time, the Bible tells us that blindness has happened to Israel in part, until the fullness of the Gentiles is come in. And so we are living in a time when God is working basically among the Gentile nations, drawing out from it a bride for Jesus Christ. But when God intervenes in this coming battle, then God's Spirit will be poured out upon the nation of Israel.

Now, when that takes place, it precludes the church being here. So sometime during the invasion, or as the God intervenes, somewhere in there, God is going to take His church on into heaven as we looked at Revelation chapter four, where John, representing the church, heard a voice like of an angel or a strong angel saying, come up hither, and I'll show you things which must be hereafter. God said in verse 29 of chapter 39, I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord.

Zechariah, when he was talking about this Bible, this battle, he wrote about it, and he said, this is the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all of the people that have come against Jerusalem. Their flesh will consume away while they stand on their feet, their eyes will consume away in their sockets, and their tongues shall consume away in their mouth. Sounds like a, actually a neutron bomb with extremely heavy radiation.

This would be the effect of that kind of a radiation upon a person described quite interestingly here about, or by Zechariah, some 2,500 years ago. Now, how close are we to that battle? Well, we realize that right now there is a real struggle going on between the Muslims and Israel. The Palestinian state, we read about it every day in the paper.

Each week it seems that this war is escalating. Of course, we know about the 50 tons of weapons that were seized by the Israelis from this tanker or this cargo ship that was bringing them in. This morning I received on my email a message from one of the intelligence digests that actually comes from Israel, and I thought it was quite interesting.

According to the latest intelligence reports, since the Israeli army's massive takeover of the Palestinian town of Tokarm, which of course was just yesterday morning before dawn, the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat advanced the timetable for his planned Waterloo, the battle he sees as his last heroic stand. As he is confined to Ramallah since December the 3rd, Arafat said to his intimates a few days ago, words to the effect that we are all in rapid motion toward the laying down of our lives in the sacred cause. The expression he used was not contemporary.

It came from an old Muslim Hadith tradition. And one feature of the intifada Arafat embarked on 15 months ago is the increasing resort to fundamentalist modes of speech and thought. Our sources take his words to mean that he is ready for the final showdown with Israel, barring only the time and the venue.

Once they are decided, he will order the secret Palestinian arsenals opened up and the heavy weapons that he has stockpiled in the Gaza Strip and West Bank to be brought out for battle. He is known to have hidden stores of KSIM-1 and KSIM-2 rockets, mortars, anti-tank and anti-air missiles. They will be used for attacks on Israeli population centers and setting Israeli tanks and helicopters on fire.

Arafat will no doubt follow Osama bin Laden's example and instruct his men to never surrender, but to fight to the death. It is far from sure that every last Palestinian will obey his directive, but some may prefer to lay down their arms and give themselves up. The Israeli army command has developed responses to the various possible Palestinian scenarios, which may include instructions from Arafat to a Palestinian force to carry out suicidal attempts to capture an Israeli town or village or part of one.

This force could scarcely hope to survive. His last diplomatic act before all is lost is likely to be a dramatic last hope appeal from the battlefield to the Arab, American and European rulers to intervene to save the Palestinian people. If this comes off, the Palestinian leader will have won the final victory of turning the conflict over to an international authority.

Even if his European backers let him down, Saddam Hussein and Hezbollah may ride to his rescue. They could fire their missiles against Israeli targets, thereby opening a second front and expanding Arafat's fight to an Arab war proper. Arafat's last gamble has been decided, all except for the timing, the location, and the sequences.

By using the word mashri, meaning rapid, he sends a strong signal that he does not intend to let the grass grow under his feet. This is from the latest intelligence reports from Israel. The plan of Arafat to order suicide attacks and to wage battle against the Israelis using the rockets and so forth that they have actually already brought in through the tunnels and all through the Gaza area.

And it's just a matter of time. He's just waiting for the moment to call for the suicide attacks and then to call for the help of the other Arab nations to save him from destruction and the Palestinian people from being destroyed by Israel. So we are really, as it would appear, on the verge of one of the great battles that is going to take place in the last days.

As we look at the conditions in Israel today, we realize that it's just could take place at any time. The conditions there are very severe right now. And he is being more or less held as a prisoner in a house there in Ramallah.

And they've destroyed his helicopter, they've destroyed his air base. He's sort of stuck in that position right now. And he's in a desperate, he's cornered, he's desperate and he is apt to make this final move by which he hopes to bring in the international community and if not at least the Arabs to help him and to actually bring on this final battle.

So we're down to the wire and we realize that we're living in perilous times like the Bible said. Now as we turn to Revelation chapter 14, there is one more great battle to take place after this battle between the Muslim nations and Israel that is described for us in Ezekiel 38 and 39. They will be supported by Russia in this battle, but there is this one final battle to go.

So as we look at Revelation 14, he first of all sees the Lamb Jesus Christ on Mount Zion and the 144,000 that we met back in chapter 7 who were sealed in their foreheads by the seal of God that they might be protected against some of the judgments that are coming. They are there with, and we are told here what that seal is in their foreheads, having his father's name written in their foreheads. The name of God is Yahweh or Yehovah.

We're not certain of the pronunciation as it appears in the Bible. It is only YHVH. And so they're in their foreheads, the seal of God, the YHVH, the name of the Father there in their foreheads.

I heard a voice from heaven. It sounded like many waters. Have you ever been to Niagara Falls or maybe in Yosemite to the Vernal Falls where you stand by the falls and you hear the roar of that waterfall? That is what the sound of the voice of Jesus is like, like a roar that comes from a waterfall and the voice of many waters and the voice of a great thunder.

I heard the voice of the harpers and they sang as it were a new song before the throne accompanied by the harps and the four living creatures and the elders. No man could learn that song but the 144,000 which were redeemed from the earth. Each group it seems has their own special song.

The church has its song and back in chapter five we heard the church singing their song of redemption. Worthy is a lamb to take the scroll and loose the seals for he was slain and has redeemed us by his blood out of every nation tribe tongue and people made us under our God kings and priests we will reign with him upon the earth. That's the song of the church and only the church can sing it.

Now the 144,000 have their special song and only they can sing their song. There is again the song of Moses and of the lamb and it's the song of Israel and redeemed Israel but the church has its own song but the 144,000 have their song and these 144,000 are described as not defiled with women they're virgins they follow the lamb wherever he goes they were redeemed from among men and they are the firstfruits unto God of those who are preserved and brought out of the great tribulation. I saw another angel and now we're going to see three angels flying through the midst of heaven and the first angel has the everlasting gospel.

He is preaching to those that dwell on the earth to every nation kindred tongue and people. Now the church has been commissioned to take the gospel into all of the world but when the church is removed then God will use an angel to take the gospel to all the world flying through the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell upon the earth to every nation kindred tongue and people. Now when Jesus was giving the signs of the last days to his disciples he said and the gospel will be preached as a witness to all nations and then shall the end come and so the gospel being preached as a witness will be done during the great tribulation by this angel flying through the midst of heaven.

The message he has he declares with a loud voice fear God give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come worship him that made the heaven and earth and the sea and the fountains of water. So calling upon people to fear God and to worship God he is the creator. A second angel flies through the midst of the heaven declaring the fall of Babylon when we get to chapter 17 and 18 we'll deal with that.

There is a third angel that follows them and he is an angel that is warning people not to worship the beast or the antichrist or his image which is in the holy of holies in the temple in Jerusalem not to receive his mark in their forehead or in their hand and this if they do the warning is they will drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the lamb.

In other words warning people don't worship the beast don't take his mark don't worship his image if you do if you take the mark there is absolutely no hope for your salvation you will have sealed your own fate if you take the mark better to be put to death than to take the mark hopefully you won't be here to have to make that kind of a decision God has made a way for us not to be here but if you are not ready when our Lord returns for his church then chances are you will be here and you'll have to make that choice of either taking the mark or being put to death because they have power to put to death those that refuse to worship the beast or those that refuse to take his mark but you will do so with full knowledge of knowing

that in taking it you are sealing your own eternal destiny.

The angel goes through the heavens to warn people of that I'm amazed really at the patience of God and at the grace of God even at this time people who have turned their backs on God throughout their lifetime and suddenly realize the Lord has taken his church these things are not just fairy tales they're things that God has described and told us that are going to come and now they have come to pass and you see this antichrist rise you realize that they're requiring everybody to receive a mark in their right hand or forehead in order that you might buy or sell by means of this mark and you'll be warned by an angel not to do it lest you will seal your eternal destiny and talking about the destiny it declares that they will drink of the wine of the wrath of God which will be poured out

without mixture into the cup of his indignation they'll be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels the presence of the lamb notice it doesn't say in the presence of the church I do not believe that we will have any real remembrance or knowledge when we are in heaven of unsaved loved ones the bible says there will be no sorrow there if if we were realizing when we're there that our loved ones have uh are not with us that they uh are not there in heaven it would be a time of great sorrow for us and the fact that there is no sorrow in fact I think that God is just going to remove that little bit of of RNA from our memory bank and and we'll be so excited and thrilled with what's there we won't really remember too much of what was here that was painful or hurtful

in Isaiah 63 the Lord said well no 65 17 for behold he said I create new heavens and a new earth and the former shall not be remembered or come into mind be ye glad and rejoice forever in that I create for behold I create Jerusalem a rejoicing and her people a joy and I will rejoice in Jerusalem and joy in my people and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her nor the voice of crying now we read in verse 11 the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever and they have no rest day nor night who worship the beast and his image or whosoever receives the mark of his name you say do you really believe that they will be punished forever well when I turn to the 22nd chapter it tells me that if anybody takes away from the words of this prophecy that his name will be taken out of

the book of life now do you want me to say something other than what God said I can only tell you what God said I believe it and if you want to take away that's your business but not me here's the patience of the saints here are they that keep the commandments of God in the faith of Jesus I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me right blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from now on yea sayeth the spirit for they have rest from their labors and their works to follow them better to die by martyrdom than to worship the beast or to take his mark now we get to the battle of Armageddon this next uh battle that will take place after the one we described tonight the final battle this is the final uh rebellion of man and this is what uh man trying to govern man will ultimately end in this

great battle uh a truly world war and I looked and behold there was a white cloud and upon the cloud one that sat like the son of man having on his head a golden crown in his hand a sharp sickle another angel came out of the temple crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud and he said thrust in your sickle and reap for the time has come for you to reap for the harvest of the earth is ripe and he that sat on the cloud thrust in the sickle and the earth was reaped another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven also having a sharp sickle another angel came out from the altar which had power over fire he cried with a loud voice cry to him that has the sharp sickle saying thrust in your sharp sickle gather the clusters of the vine of the earth and for her grapes are fully

ripe and the angel thrust in his sickle to the earth he gathered the vine of the earth and cast it into the great wine press of the wrath of god and the wine press was trodden without the city and blood came out of the wine press even to the horse bridles by the space of 185 miles a stream of blood four feet for 185 miles coming from this battle of armageddon now in isaiah isaiah uh in chapter 63 asked the question who is this that comes from edom with dyed garments from bozrah this one who is glorious in his apparel traveling in the greatness of his strength and the answer from this one is i that speak in righteousness mighty to save the question why is your apparel red and your garments like one that has been treading in a wine press the answer i have trodden the wine press alone and of

the people there was none with me for i will tread them in mine anger trample them in my fury and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments and i will stain all my raiment the time of god's judgment has come no more mercy just the judgment of god upon a christ rejecting world and jesus the righteous judge bringing the battle of armageddon and treading bringing them together into the wine press and then treading it until the blood flows 185 miles uh from this battle now in chapter 15 i saw another sign in heaven it was marvelous there were seven angels having seven last plagues for in these will consummate or complete uh the wrath of god to come upon the earth we've been going through from chapter six looking at this period of great judgment and this this is going to culminate the

judgments of god i saw the sea of glass that was mingled with fire that is before the throne of god we had that back in chapter four and those that had gotten victory over the beast over his image over his mark over his number of his name and they were standing on the sea of glass having harps of god and they sang the song of moses the servant of god and the song of the lamb saying great and marvelous are thy works lord god almighty just and true are thy ways thou king of saints who shall not fear thee oh lord and glorify thy name for thou only art holy for all nations shall come and worship before thee for thy judgments are made manifest and after that i looked and behold the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony of heaven was open the seven angels came out of the temple they had the

seven plagues they were clothed in pure and white linen having their breasts girded with golden girdles and one of the four living creatures the cherubim gave unto the seven angels seven golden bowls that were full of the wrath of god who lives forever and ever and the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of god and from his power and no man was able to enter into the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled so in chapter 16 again the battle of armageddon culminating and the last of the bowls that were to be poured out heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels go your ways pour out your bowls of wrath upon the earth the first went poured out his bowl upon the earth there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon men which had the mark of

the beast and upon them which worshiped his image a noisome and grievous sore that is a running sore that would not heal the type of sore that comes from radiation the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea it became as the blood of a dead man and every living soul died in the sea on the second of the trumpet judgments one third of the creatures in the sea died this will finish it off uh all of these uh ecologists and those that are worshiping the earth will be chagrined when god does this the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers the fountains of water and they became blood it sounds like the Nile river in the time of moses the plague that god sent and i heard the angel of the water say thou art righteous oh lord which art and was and shall be because you have judged

thus for they have shed the blood of the saints and the prophets and you have given them blood to drink they deserve it and i heard another out of the altar say even so lord god almighty true and righteous are

thy judgments now there are a lot of people that question the right of god to judge uh we have become uh a a soft kind of people uh and uh we have become very tolerant of evil and we've sort of taken a um attitude toward evil well you know that's what they want to do let them do it you know and rather than being righteously indignant over evil we've come to just accept many evil things and in that acceptance we sometimes have difficulty and uh in our minds with the severe judgment of god that's going to come against evil but it is interesting that as the judgment is being poured out

when this third bowl is poured upon the fresh waters of the earth and they turn to blood the angel there says right on how appropriate they have shed the blood of your saints and and all of these people that died when they refused to take the mark of the beast and all great multitude of people they have shed their blood and you have now given them blood to drink oh that's so fitting for what they have done the fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun power was given to him to scorch men with fire it is possible that the sun will go into a supernova and uh of course that would have a disastrous effect here upon the earth the power the sun actually uh begins to shine with great power and men were scorched with the great heat and what is their reaction you know you can become so

hardened to god and to the things of god that you will find it impossible to repent and that when god begins to judge it will only irritate you and anger you and turn you that much harder against god and that's what happens here the people have gone so far they have tasted of iniquity so much that even now as they're beginning to experience god's judgment for the things that they have done rather than repenting calling upon god confessing sin and asking forgiveness we find that they blaspheme the name of god which has the power over these plagues and they repented not to give him glory the hard stubborn obdurate art of man who has rejected the lord when the fifth angel pours out his bowl upon the earth upon the throne of the beast his kingdom was full of darkness and they nod their

tongues for pain and again they blasphemed the god of heaven because of their pain and their sores and they repented not of their deeds when the sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river euphrates the water thereof was dried up that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared the river euphrates was often called the great divide it divided the east from the west those nations east of the euphrates were called eastern those that were west of the euphrates were called western nations the euphrates river begins in the mountains of turkey and it flows for some 1800 miles and became the great divider between the east and the west but now god dries up the river euphrates to prepare the way for the kings of the east and he said i saw three unclean spirits like frogs they came

out of the mouth of the dragon and of the beast and of the false prophet for they are the spirits of devils working miracles which go forth unto the kings of the earth and to the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of god almighty behold the lord said and this is just sort of interjected i'm coming quickly blessed is he that watches and keeps his garments lest they walk naked and they see his shame and that's just sort of thrown in i mean we're we're at the end this is the horrible aspects of the judgment he's gathering now these these demons are gathering the the nations the kings of the world into the valley of magetto for the final great battle he gathered them together into a place called in the hebrew tongue armageddon and that's the only place that in the

bible where that uh word is used but uh it is a uh it is of course the valley that is there at the base of uh magetto and uh that is where many of the great battles of history have been fought and that is where the final battle of history will be fought when the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven and from the throne saying it's over the end of the great tribulation

and there were voices and thunders and lightnings there's a great earthquake such as when not since seen since men were upon the earth so mighty an earthquake and so great the great city was divided into three parts cities of the nations fell great babbling came into remembrance before God to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath every island

fled away the mountains were not found there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven every stone the weight of a talent the Italian talent was about 55 pounds and the Israeli talent was 105 pounds so those are pretty big chunks of ice falling out of heaven because of the plague of hail for the plague thereof was exceeding great an interesting thing when they were testing out at the Bikini Atoll the hydrogen bomb they had those ships out there you remember they put many ships out there and to just find out what kind of a destructive power would come from the hydrogen bomb and the interesting thing after they detonated that hydrogen bomb as they of course many of the ships were just destroyed by it but as they examined some of the ships that were away from the center of the blast they had

these interesting uh dents on the deck the the metal decks these big dents and they tried to figure out what in the world caused these dents on the decks of these ships and what they finally theorized is that when the hydrogen bomb went off that it caused the the ocean there uh where the bomb was detonated uh the water was sucked up out of the ocean by the explosion turned into the gases hydrogen and oxygen gas and then as it came up into the atmosphere and cooled it again condensed together and actually fall fell back as great chunks of ice and that these dents on the battleships were actually created by these chunks of ice falling from heaven uh as the aftermath of the hydrogen bomb quite interesting uh analysis or uh kind of uh analysis of what had happened now getting back to the

Battle of Armageddon uh it will probably take place seven years after the battle that we referred to of the Muslim nations when they are attacking Israel uh this period that God is going to be dealing with Israel once he puts his spirit upon Israel again that will be a seven-year period as we talked in the earlier discussions God has this seven-year period yet to fulfill with the nation of Israel so uh between the battles will be a seven-year period be divided into two halves three and a half years will be uh a lot of time of prosperity uh people will be worshipping this fellow he comes up with a peace program he comes up with a great economic program uh everybody's working uh you know we'll vote for him even though he is the devil because the economy is good and tell me if you haven't

seen a pattern of that in the past uh if the economy is good we'll vote for him it doesn't matter how he lives or or what he does you know the economy is good and so uh this fellow will develop a a great economy and of course you can imagine uh when the Christians are all raptured what that's going to do I mean the wealth of the Christians that is left behind their goods and so forth everybody's going to come in and and and sack uh you know the houses and and of course there'll be a lot of jobs available and uh it'll it'll be really a great opportunity economically for the world and uh for the first three and a half years it's gonna everybody's gonna say wow you know the Christians they were the problem it's good that we got rid of them you know and now look how prosperous and everything

is good you know we can send everyone no one's gonna uh you know make us feel guilty and all and you know and it'll be a time of people just giving themselves over to but then after the three and a half years when this antichrist goes to the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and he sets his image in the holy of holies and he stands there and he declares that he is God and demands that they now worship him as God that will then trigger this wrath of God that will fill up the cup of the indignation of the wrath of God and will bring on this final three and a half years which will culminate in this battle of Armageddon now Daniel tells us

talking about the antichrist he said and the king the antichrist shall do according to his will he will exalt himself and magnify himself above every God and

shall speak marvelous things against the true God and shall prosper till the indignation which is the tribulation is accomplished for that which is determined shall be done and neither will he regard the God of his fathers nor the desire of women many people believe that he'll be a homosexual nor regard any God for he shall magnify himself above all but in his estate shall he honor the God of forces and a God whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold and silver and precious stones pleasant things the time of prosperity and all thus shall he do in the most strongholds with strange gods whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory and he shall cause them to rule over many and shall divide the land for gain talking about the promised land probably create the petition and divide

that land for gain and at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind with chariots and with horsemen and with many ships and he shall enter into the countries and shall overflow and pass over he shall enter into the glorious land that is the land of Israel and many countries will be overthrown but these will escape out of his hand even Edom and Moab which is Jordan today and the chief of the children of Amman he shall stretch forth his hand upon the countries and the land of Egypt shall not escape but he shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver over the precious things of Egypt and the Libyans and the Ethiopians will be at his steps it would appear that he is moving to conquer Africa and the

vast natural resources of Africa he is ruling over the European community and over the western powers but as they are moving toward Africa tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him therefore he will go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to make away many as he is moving towards Africa this will prompt the China probably join with India and Japan the nations from the east joining together with Russia and they will challenge his advance into Africa he will bring the troops back with great fury the river Euphrates will be dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east they move across from China from India Pakistan and they move down from Russia and they meet in the valley of Megiddo and that's where all of these forces will be brought into that valley

of Megiddo for this final battle of Armageddon and he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain and he shall come to his end and none will help him and so Daniel's account of the things that will proceed or how it comes to pass where these nations meet together in the valley of Megiddo now when this battle is in full swing millions upon millions of people involved practically the world the eastern powers and Russia joined together against the western powers there is a passage of scripture that indicates as many as 200 million coming from the area of China the east this is when blood will flow like a river four feet deep at this time during this battle Jesus Christ will return from heaven Zachariah tells us that he will put his foot in that

day on the Mount of Olives and the Mount of Olives will split down the middle of new valley will be formed and that he will destroy then the Antichrist with the brightness of his coming and the Antichrist and the false prophet at that time and of course we'll get this as we move into the next chapters will be cast into Gehenna and he will bring an end to man's rebellion against God he will establish the kingdom of God and he shall live and reign a thousand years upon the earth and of course we as his church will live and reign with him and this is what is known as the kingdom age this is what we're praying for when we pray by kingdom come by will be done in earth even as it is in heaven now as we look at the world today we realize God's will is not being done in the world today man is in

rebellion against God but it shows you really the folly of man because of our rebellion we see all kinds of atrocities we see all kinds of different things that just tear at our hearts and we wonder how could a God of love allow that to happen well in reality God has let man just go and he has let man live in this rebellion against God if God were ruling over the earth now these things would not be going on we are told that Jesus will be ruling with a rod of iron and that these things will not be going on during the kingdom age but there will be peace like a not being afraid that even the animals will resort to a tame state that a lion and a lamb will lie down together a little child will lead them and speaks about the glorious conditions there will be no physical infirmities in that day

the lame will be leaping like the deer the blind will behold the glory of God and the deaf will or the mute will be singing his praises glorious day when our Lord reigns his kingdom comes and as we look at the sad conditions of the world that seem to be getting worse every day how our hearts long for and pray thy kingdom come thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven right now we are on the verge of seeing the first of the last two great battles you know as well as I know that even before this week is over it is possible that this whole thing could blow up and the Muslim nations would move against Israel and of course when that happens fasten your seat belt we're getting out of here the Lord will then take his church before his judgment and wrath will be poured out upon the world and

so um as Jesus said watch and be ready because you don't know the day or the hour the Son of Man is coming Paul said now is our salvation nearer than when we believed Jesus said behold I'm coming as a thief in the night but Paul said you are not the children of darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief you're children of the light therefore walk as children of the light not in wantonness that is open sin sort of proud of it not in drunkenness but as children of light as we look for that glorious day when Jesus will take his church to be with him the big question is are you ready it could happen most any time the rapture of his church are you ready that's the question it's a question that I can't answer for you only you can answer for yourself as you examine your heart and you

examine your relationship with the Lord only you can answer that question are you ready if it should happen tonight are you ready or would you be left here to face the horrible calamities that will be coming to pass upon the earth Jesus said to his disciples pray ye always that you will be accounted worthy to escape these things that are going to come upon the earth that you might stand before the Son of Man is that your prayer are you ready ask yourself search your heart what is your relationship with God tonight are you ready let's pray Father we thank you for your word that it lays out so clearly your plans for the future and Lord you said you are God you declare the end from the beginning no God like you who can tell the things that are going to transpire in the future Lord there are

those here tonight that are really not ready for you they're still walking in darkness they haven't surrendered their lives yet to Jesus Christ but I pray Father that even now the conviction of your Holy Spirit might come upon them and that they might make that most important choice of their entire life the choice to turn their lives over to Jesus Christ to allow him to rule and to reign within their lives and even now Lord as your spirit is speaking to their hearts may they make that decision in Jesus name we thank you amen shall we stand over to my left and your right there is a door and behind that door is the prayer room and there are counselors back there to pray with you and if you'd like to know for sure that if the Lord would come tonight you'd be ready and you'd be with him I

would encourage you as soon as we're dismissed you go over and go through that door and meet with these counselors who will be glad to share with you the way to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord

and so don't go home with a question mark but go home with the assurance that you're ready to meet our Lord a couple of announcements number one um pastor Romaine is um in very serious condition tonight the doctors don't really expect him to live much longer and so um I hardly well you know Romaine if you pray that God would heal him you'd have to suffer the consequences he is wanting to go and be with the Lord and it would seem that the Lord is going to answer his prayer unless there is some kind of a divine intervention but just well what can you say pray Lord just take him home or be with

him well that's it be with him Lord in this time David said yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for thou art with me Lord take his hand be with him at this time and then also if you uh enjoyed Santos music uh there is a table out there in the front this uh Calvary Ranch great program uh a rehabilitation program and as Santos said it set him on the right track helped him to be delivered from alcoholism and drug addiction and all and also he has that cd that bebop or whatever it is uh if you like that kind of music uh you can pick up his uh cd and I have one and I enjoy it I uh have to admit that that's more my style but uh anyhow may the Lord be with you and bless you and and again don't go home in a question mark but as you go may you know for

certain if the Lord would meet you at the door you'd be ready to meet him go on back to the prayer room get things right with God

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