

PostExilicProphets 22-01-05b

We are ready now to continue our study in the book of Zechariah. And having reviewed the structure, it's important to get the drift. People were able to do this in ancient times because they functioned in an oral world with very little written support except amongst scribal types.

And people had a vastly better memory and a vastly greater sensitivity to things that were memory aids. They recognized symmetry when they heard it. And there was a wonderful opportunity to store, absorb, reflect, meditate on the truth of God's word because of these devices.

It's easy for us to see in writing. And you think, well, what about these people that didn't have a written scripture? Because these prophecies were delivered in a language that they recognized, that scribes could easily convert into the Aramaic that they spoke, they were facile in grasping the big chunks and comparing them. We don't have that language advantage, but the symmetry helps us just as it helped them.

So whether it was then or whether it is now, these symmetries are important to observe and it greatly helps us understand the book. And hopefully if you ever think back on the prophet Zechariah in future weeks, months or years, this understanding of the big picture will help parse the content of any given portion. You hear somebody quote the Lord Jesus as he rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and it's a fulfillment of a prophecy in Zechariah.

When you go and look that up, you find that's in a part of the book that dealt with his first coming. No surprise. And we're going to see something now in this first burden that reflects that.

So as you look at chapter 11, again, we've already seen chapter nine and chapter 10. We saw rejoice greatly daughter of Zion. Your king is coming to you just delivered lowly riding on a donkey.

This is so important to recognize first coming. I say again, first coming, what is Jesus role? He is the suffering servant and he is the priest. That's the first coming.

The priest accomplishes mediation between God and man, between God and his people. And he is the suffering servant. He offers the sacrifice of himself in our stead.

All of us sacrificial system communicates substitution. It is substitutionary atonement. God recognizes the heart of a person who realizes that the wages of sin is death, the wages of corruption and fallenness and human inability to fulfill God's standards of righteousness.

I put this animal forward in my place. I see this animal die in my stead and on my behalf. And I grieve over that, that I am in need and that God has provided a way where I don't have to die every time this recognition comes to me.

Every time I fail, every time I recognize my transitory nature, my fallenness, my short life, my limited ability to enter into God's perfect righteousness. But this sacrifice provides a way. And I know that it's symbolic.

The blood of goats and bulls is never going to take away sin, but it is an expression of hope and expectation. You have all through Zachariah, hope and expectation. God is making a way.

Some of it enables us to negotiate the present. Much of it is future hope. Trust God, wait on the Lord, be of good cheer.

Those who wait upon the Lord will have their strength renewed. They'll fly, they'll walk, they'll run energized with the promises, the power, the provision of God. So we saw that in chapter nine, we saw in chapter 10, ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain, the Lord will make flashing clouds.

He will give them showers of rain grass in the field for everyone. The idols are speaking delusion. The diviners envision lies until false dreams.

My anger, verse three of chapter 10 is kindled against these shepherds. I will punish the goat herds. The Lord of hosts will visit his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them as his Royal horse in the battle.

He comes the first time on a donkey because he is the servant. He's lowly. He is not invoking power or force.

This is opportunity. This is something you can choose or reject. You can superficially acknowledge as the throngs do on the tragic entry Sunday, right? There can be various kinds of reaction to this non-threatening presentation.

The second time it is going to be different. How many times in Zechariah do we see there is a first appearance? And there is a second appearance. There is a first mission and there is a second mission.

There is a first purpose and a second person. The Messiah who is coming the first time as the suffering servant on a donkey is going to come back the second time as the conquering king on a horse. And you see the most clear representation of that in revelation chapter 19.

It does not say the rider on the white horse doesn't have a sign on his thigh that says suffering servant and priest for the needy. He doesn't say ride in on a horse and he's got a banner over him, which is love. What does it say on his thigh? King of kings, Lord of the Lords.

He's already done the suffering servant. He has already led with love and he was despised and rejected. He came into his own and his own almost entirely received him not.

To those who did receive him, he gave the right to become sons of God to those that believed on his name. There is a discriminator. How many times have we seen it? I have not come to

bring peace, but a sword.

And it's going to divide households into those who accept and those who reject, those who are sheep and those who are goats, those who will enter into life and those who are going to enter into destruction, those who enter into blessing, those who enter into judgment. It is based on choice, free will over and over again. God says, I have held out my hands to a people who are disobedient and turn around and show me the neck.

And Jesus himself said, do not cast your pearls before swine. Everybody is not going to get pearls. Swine are going to run over the cliff and be drowned.

That's what happens to swine at the behest of Jesus. You receive the demons, you enter into destruction. You receive the ministry of the Lord Jesus.

You run and fall at his feet. The Legion leaves and you are suddenly clothed and in your right mind where none of the efforts of mankind to bind the hands and chant, man, manacle the feet and try to put clothes on you. They broke those bonds.

They shattered those shackles and they terrorize people all up and down the road, but they run to the feet of Jesus. And to those who run toward him, there is mercy, grace to help in time of need. There is love.

There is restoration. There is inner strength. There's every possible provision, every possible opportunity to those who reject.

Everything is opposite. That's why there are two mountains, Gerizim and Ebal. There are sheep and there are goats.

The righteous enter into eternal life, but the evil and the unrepentant and those who reject enter into everlasting punishment. Daniel said it, Daniel 12, those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake some to a resurrection of life, others to a completely different fate. It is everywhere in the Bible.

And we've talked about how in the modern day, there is this deception being perpetrated from the inside. People in the progressive movement do not evangelize unbelievers. They recruit their followers entirely from within the church, the disaffected, those who have had a hard time, those who have suffered at the hands of their fellow Christians.

Why is there this evil? I'm beginning to doubt my faith. Where is God? Oh, let me tell you, the God of your faith is wrong. Let me give you a God invented in my own image.

And he's nothing but love. He's nothing but comfort. He's nothing but acceptance.

He's nothing but grace and forgiveness. And it's all about enemy love. Your great commands are love God and love each other.

And that's all there is. And we ignore the things that say, well, you've got love, but love, not the world. Love, not the things that are in the world.

You cannot serve God and mammon. There is a choice to be made. And God does not love his enemies out of the lake of fire and into heaven.

He does not love the goats out of the judgment and into the kingdom of light. What happened when God expressed his love through the Lord Jesus Christ throughout his first coming, Jesus didn't judge anyone. Jesus didn't persecute anyone.

Jesus called out evil. He's going to, we're going to see it in Matthew this coming Sunday, the woes he pronounces on the Pharisees and the hypocrites, but he calls out their actions. He does not harm a hair of their heads.

He warns them, woe is coming to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites. You're missing the opportunity to change your ways. The tax collectors and sinners are entering the kingdom of God and you're not, what's the matter with you? Wake up.

And the discernment of their evil thoughts and actions is a warning. The ax is laid at the root of the trees, but the trees have not been cut down yet. The wheat and the chaff have been separated, but the chaff has not yet been burned.

There is still opportunity. And there are very few, as we have seen who do respond. Now is the appointed time.

Now is the day of salvation. That message continues when you get to the first chapters of Hebrews. Beware lest a promise of entering into his rest remains unclaimed.

Look at the example of your fathers. Wake up. Now, while it is today, change your mind.

Well, if there is no change of mind, there is absolute judgment, but there is this deception called enemy love that has just caught fire in the Christian church and is everywhere because it's easy. It's simplistic and it doesn't require acknowledgement of sin. And because you don't acknowledge sin, you don't have to look for a remedy for sin.

And sadly, you cannot love. I cannot love. No one can love unless sin is first dealt with.

I tell you even weeping that people who try love without eliminating sin are enemies of the cross. They are cut off from Christ. They are fallen from grace because we cannot have the love of God.

Romans 5 5 shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. So long as we are unrepentant with regard to sin, this is one of the basics change of mind away from dead works and faith toward God. We have to be cleansed and recognize the need and the opportunity for cleansing from sin.

There is no power to love. There is no discernment in love. There is no divine backing for love in any direction.

So long as sin is present and to affirm love without dealing with sin is like affirming wisdom without dealing with sin in the garden. The fruit is desirable to make you wise. Oh, Jesus is desirable to make you love.

Let's ignore the sin equation. The wages of sin is death. It doesn't say the wages of lack of love is death.

It's sin. Sin has to be addressed. If we've got sin in our lives, we need to stop the presses, stop the schedule, climb off the trolley and figure out how to deal with that sin, how to claim God's grace and get that sin out.

We cannot prosper. We cannot bear fruit. How can you have the fruit of the spirit when there's sin that is preventing the Holy Spirit from having any meaningful effect in our lives? And you cannot love with any meaningful effect so long as there is sin.

Any proposal, any pretense at love is going to be sinful. It will be misdirected. It will be wrongly motivated.

It will be falsely identified. It will be love that is not really love. More to say about that here shortly.

But let me get back here because we have two things to cover, and I've got about 15 minutes to cover them. First of all, remember in chapter 11, which is the closing portion of the first burden. I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land.

Verse six. What is the first burden occupied with? What were the first four visions? First two sermons. What were they occupied with? Focusing, emphasizing first advent, first coming of Christ, right? This is going to be about the first coming, the first advent.

I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land, says the Lord. Why? Because when he came into his own, his own received him not. In prophecy, God already sees it coming.

Jesus knows this is going to happen. Indeed, I will give everyone into his neighbor's hand and into the hand of his king. They're going to be oppressed under the Roman Caesar.

We have no king but Caesar, they say at the crucifixion. Remember that? Okay. If that's your king, small K, you're going to be in his hand.

This is why there is no Jerusalem after 70 AD. There is no temple after 70 AD. They're given into the hand of the king.

Who destroys Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD? Caesar does. I'm going to give you into the hand of your king because you did not accept your king, capital K. First advent, they shall attack

the land and I will not deliver them from their hand. There will be no deliverance from the legions of Titus at the behest of Vespasian and so on.

So I fed the flock for slaughter. In particular, the poor of the flock, I fed them for slaughter. Many good people are going to suffer under this persecution, right? I took for myself two staffs, the one I called beauty and the other I called bonds.

And remember beauty, this basically is grace. It is that which is pleasant or delightful or lovely. God's promises of blessing and reward and opportunity is grace.

It's a wonderful message. The love of God. God so loved the world.

God loves his people. Has God cast off his people whom he foreknew? God forbid, Paul says. God loves his people.

God chose them out of all of the nations to be the place of his presence and the light that would shine to the rest of the Gentiles and the nations. But I took these two staffs. One is grace.

One is all of the positive blessings of Mount Gerizim. That's the staff. This is the opportunity.

Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. They encourage me. They bless me.

They lead me in paths of righteousness. I'm beside still waters. I'm in green pastures.

This wonderful staff of God's grace, God's blessing. That's what this first rod represents. The second one is bonds.

I will keep the unity of the people of God, Ephraim and Judah, the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. I can unite them. I can bring them together.

I can restore them. I can make them one again. All of the division and the conflict and the horrific things that happened under the reign of Ahab and under Manasseh and under Athaliah and all of the awfulness that took place in the divided kingdom, the excesses of Jehu, the things that Elijah and Elisha tried to remediate, the things that Jeremiah wept over, the things that put them into the hands of the Assyrians in 721 and into the hands of the Babylonians in 586.

That can be remedied. They can be reunited. They can be brought together.

This is the second staff, which is bonds. All 12 tribes can experience the blessings that Ezekiel described during the captivity. Remember, he says the land of the kingdom can be redistributed.

And here are the 12 tribal allocations plus Levi bonds, restoration, renewal, renaissance, the three shepherds who were trying to lead the people and leading them all astray, these false evil shepherds. I fired them all in one month. Remember, my speculation on this is this is the.

The chief priests and scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the three leading groups in

Jesus day that were leading the people astray. We're going to see it on Sunday, sitting in Moses seat, pretending that they've got the authority of Moses for their human traditions. What a racket, what an evil perpetration of self-interest, hypocrisy.

And Jesus is going to call it out in no uncertain terms in Matthew chapter 23. We're going to see it coming up. I dismissed the three shepherds in one month.

We've just seen in the week before his crucifixion, Jesus has silenced the Sadducees. He silenced the scribes and he has silenced the Pharisees and no one dares talk back to him. He's fired them all as leaders and the multitudes recognize it, at least for the moment.

I dismissed three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed them and their soul also abhorred me. These are the groups that are going to conspire together.

It's kind of like, what does it take to unite Republicans and Democrats and Libertarians and Independents in our country? An attack from outside, a threat, whether it's, you know, terrorists or virulent disease or whatever. People will suddenly all get behind the same remedy because of a common enemy. And Jesus, in representing the truth, representing his father, coming as the embodiment of God's love and God's grace and God's deliverance is going to unite them against him.

He's going to hate them and they are going to hate him. Notice, my soul loathed them. He doesn't say my soul loved them, but they loathed me.

The coming of Messiah is not all love. It isn't all enemy love. I don't understand.

You just have to cut your Bible to shreds and pick up a few scraps to believe that the paradigm that Jesus introduced abrogates everything in the Old Testament and half of the New Testament. And it's just love, love, love. Let's get a John Lennon record and just play it until it's running backwards.

Not so. My soul loathed them. Zechariah, as a foreshadowing of the Messiah, says, and they hate me right back.

There is animus. There is division. There is opposition.

There is hostility. And necessarily so. What fellowship hath light with darkness? I said, I will not feed you.

Let what is dying die and what is perishing perish. This is the conclusion of the first advent. Where are we here? We're at the end of the first burden and we're at the end of the first advent.

Make sense? Notice how this continues. Let those that are left eat each other's flesh. And this almost literally comes true in the siege of Jerusalem and the siege of Masada and so on.

These ending times. I took my staff beauty and cut it in two. There's a double symbolism here

to cut the staff in two does two things.

It's not the original staff, but now there's two of them. Right? There's no longer one olive tree. Now there's two.

There's no longer one grace staff, but two. And in hindsight, we can look and say, I wonder if half of that staff is for the remnant of Israel that is going to be blessed and provided for. And the other half is going to be for the Gentiles who are going to come to faith after Pentecost.

And that is going to be a different staff for a different time to different groups than what the original one was intended for. I cut it into that. I might break the covenant, which I had made with all the peoples.

Remember, Jesus says, this is the new covenant in my blood in the upper room. So it was broken on that day. Thus, the poor of the flock who were watching me knew that it was the word of the Lord.

Tax collectors and sinners go in before you. Jesus said, it's the poor who figured out the rich, the well-off, the powerful, those who are first end up being last. Those who are last, the poor recognize this is the word of the Lord.

I see the fulfillment of prophecy here. I've been paying attention in synagogue. Then I said to them, if it is agreeable to you, give me my wages and if not refrain.

So they weighed out for my wages, 30 pieces of silver. The Lord said to me, throw it to the potter. I am going to save this for next week.

I have told you and we're coming onto it in Matthew. We're coming up to Judas and the 30 pieces. This is so fraught.

This is such a thing of beauty. I'm not going to squeeze it into the next eight minutes. We'll leave it for next time.

Trust me when I tell you, you don't want to miss the coverage of these sections right here. And this is where we're going to stop. But just be aware.

God gave the information ahead of time to his people, to those who were asking and seeking and knocking. They were prepared. They knew that God was looking out for the poor.

Those who recognized the word of the Lord, those who were watching and waiting, motivated by the hope of the fulfillment of these prophecies, made their hands strong. That's it in a nutshell. God has promised.

God knows what's going on. If you have faith in God, make your hands strong, get busy. You know how to get rid of sin.

You know how to move forward in fulfilling the two great commands that the law expresses. Ultimately, love the Lord, your God, love one another. Make your hands strong.

God is in his heaven. He's got the things that are beyond our canon, beyond our observation. He's got those figured out.

He's going to deal with the horns. He's going to make provision. God knows those who are his.

So be strong and enjoy the ride. It's going to be a whole new ballgame when we get to glory. But I want to close by telling you about something that is in the wind.

And it began late last year with the unveiling by Mark Zuckerberg, the head of Facebook, when he renamed his company from Facebook to Meta, M-E-T-A. I've mentioned this in brief, but with Meta comes the Metaverse. Now, think about the straw basket.

Think about the woman inside it with the lid. Where does that basket go? The Plain of Shinar. What is the Plain of Shinar famous for? This is the Tower of Babel.

This is man by man's efforts, raising himself up to God, right? Pay attention now. I'm accessing an article on the gospelcoalition.org website. If you haven't visited that, a lot of great stuff here.

And this is a sample of it. This is an article by Ian Harber and Patrick Miller, and I'm indebted to them. When I heard Zuckerberg, I watched his whole pitch on the Metaverse.

These guys have done a great job of distilling what it means for Christians. And the name of the article, if you want to find it, is How to Prepare for the Metaverse Addressed to Believers Such as You and Me. And I like everything about this article.

For most people, metaverse is a new word. We've only heard it because of Facebook's announcement of their name change. What exactly is it? There's a guy named Matthew Ball who is a managing partner in a venture capital fund who's investing heavily in this enterprise that Mark Zuckerberg is leading with Facebook.

The metaverse is a massively scaled and interoperable network of real-time rendered 3D virtual worlds which can be experienced synchronously and persistently by an effectively unlimited number of users with continuity of data such as identity, history, entitlements, objects, communications, and payments. It is a man-made paradise. It is a man-made millennial kingdom.

You put on your 3D helmet or your goggles or whatever it is. You may not be happy with your physical appearance. You create your own identity.

You create your appearance. You choose everything about yourself. And this avatar becomes you and you live in this world.

Now listen, you think, well, isn't it just for a few gamers and so on? Some of us have lived long

enough to see when people were first predicting what is now the internet that back when I first started learning about it as an IT guy, they were calling it the grid because it was going to be the connections of so many different what at that time were independent servers and bulletin board services and things. And they said, the grid is coming. These things are going to be interconnected.

Well, instead of the grid, it's the internet. But it was prophetic. It happened.

And I am here to tell you the money to be made, the convergence of technology and the ability to control people is coming. This metaverse is the real deal. It's not going to be the province of a few rich people.

It is going to be available in greater or lesser amounts to everyone. So when they say synchronously and persistently experienced, you're going to wake up and do some things in the real world, and then you're going to put your goggles on and be in the world of your dreams. It will be addictive.

It will be attractive. You can actually begin to do your work in the metaverse and you don't have to take your goggles off. You can be a brain in a jar, essentially.

And your experiences, you can virtually attend a concert and everybody gets a first row seat. They have already done this. This is not prospective.

It has already happened. Everybody who attended this concert, and it was tens of thousands of people, did so virtually. They were in the audience and the performance was digitized.

If you've seen the commercials, you probably haven't seen the show, but there's commercials for these singers, and they don't want to be hindered by their physical appearance and the judges don't like them. So they become a digital avatar. It's already happening.

It's here. Don't wait for it. Don't look five, 10 years down the road.

It's already here. This is just the foretaste of glory human. Oh, what a foretaste of trans humanism.

This is where this is leading trans humanism. Write it down. Look it up.

This is where this is all going. Early examples offer glimpses of this future. You can get this whole article off the gospelcoalition.org. Prepare for the metaverse.

Read it. Read all of it. There's not a word in here I don't agree with and think is absolutely true.

Fox's alter ego, musical artist performing as digital avatars for the show's judges. Niantic's Pokemon Go allows players to use phone cameras to see augmented reality Pokemon and capture them. You use your phone and when you hold it up using the camera in a city street, if somebody has hidden one of these Pokemons that you're supposed to find and capture, it's

standing by a lamppost.

It's in a doorway. It's sitting in a car. The augmented reality mixes digital avatars and representations of various things.

All of the stuff that he said is going to be synchronous and persistent. You can see it. You hold up your phone and you see stuff you can't see with your naked eye.

Eventually, this is going to be glasses that you wear. Your phone is going to be Bluetooth to these glasses and when you look around, Google has already done these with Google Glass and so on. Travis Scott put on a live concert within Fortnite.

This is a service, Fortnite, F-O-R-T-N-I-T-E, where players could participate, dance, and move across worlds. More than 30 million people participated. This is history, folks, not the future.

30 million people participated, making it bigger than the Super Bowl halftime show. In the future, people may expect or even prefer virtual venues as the place to experience live events. Apple's facial recognition software uses infrared.

This is current. This is not development. This is not breadboard.

This is not down the road. Apple's facial recognition software currently uses infrared to analyze 30,000 points on your face. 30,000 points on your face.

This is what allows you to make animojis and memojis, which accurately render your facial expressions in real time. In the metaverse, people's digital avatars will seamlessly reflect their actual facial expression, creating a simulacrum of authentic personal presence. You wink, you grimace, you smile, you frown, you wince.

It all goes straight into your metaverse personality, if you so choose. PlayStation 5's controllers have revolutionary haptic technology, which enable game makers to create eerily realistic physical sensations. In the future, haptic gloves will give you the ability to feel a digital handshake, hold a digital mug, or slap a digital high five.

Microsoft's PlayFab, Amazon's Gamelift use artificial intelligence to host and matchmake gamers seeking a multiplayer experience. This is the meeting of online dating services with the metaverse. You can meet people with similar interests, and these algorithms will match you up and will put you together in groups to find people that have similar goals, values, and priorities.

Instead of going to church and finding people that love the Lord and love his word and want to prepare for the eternal future, you find people who want to live in this man-made world now and you share their ideas. This keeps games fun because you only compete with similarly skilled players. In the metaverse, matchmaking services might use AI-powered personality testing to create digital friend groups based on shared interests.

Man-made fellowship that has a basis in the artificial intelligence world instead of the reality of

God in Christ. NFTs, write it down, non-fungible tokens. You know what fungible is, right? It's the stuff that falls apart.

Non-fungible tokens allow you to own a discrete piece of digital property. This is already going on with digital currencies, bitcoin, and the like. You can own a discrete piece of digital property.

In the metaverse, people will buy digital designer projects, wearing them, using them across platforms in virtual reality, even in the real world via augmented reality. People walking around with glasses and phones and stuff. If you got you a fancy hat in the digital world, people hold up their phone and they see you wearing this super cool hat, designer hat.

There's only 12 of them and you've got one, etc. Digital artwork, digital artifacts of various kinds. Put on your AR glasses and a person or place becomes a living, moving piece of art or advertisement.

Microsoft's latest flight simulator, listen to this, you're gonna have to read the rest of the article, I'm out of time. Microsoft's latest flight simulator contains over 2.5 million gigabytes of data. Flight simulator, the game where you fly your Cessna, 2.5 million gigs of data.

It's incomprehensible because Microsoft mapped the real world and built it into the game. It has two trillion unique trees, two trillion trees, no two of whom are the same. This is the world now, not the future now.

Two trillion unique trees, 1.5 billion unique buildings, one and a half billion buildings, no two of which are the same and they're all stored in the metaverse. The simulator matches real world activity including weather. There are people who have taken flight simulator and flown into a hurricane just to see what it's like.

This is called mirror world and in the future people might use these digital assets to design buildings for real world construction or digital use only. You could buy a hyper-realistic digital property in which you live, interact, or go on many vacations. None of these examples by itself is the metaverse, but collectively they are going to assemble and become the metaverse.

It is happening right as we speak. As the clock ticks, more and more pieces of this are clicking into place and assembling right here, right now. Now where's this all going? Read that article and then go to gab.com and search for this article.

I don't have time to read it to you. Transhumanism and the Spiritual Battle for Humanity. Transhumanism and the Spiritual Battle for Humanity.

Let me just read you a few things. The march towards transhumanism is not a conspiracy theory or an outlandish science fiction movie. It is a real and dire situation unfolding before our eyes.

The oligarchs in the American regime, in particular the ones in Silicon Valley, are obsessed with

eternal life and all topics related to transhumanism. Peter Thiel, this is a billionaire guy, you can google him, look him up on Wikipedia. Peter Thiel, billionaire, wants to inject himself with young people's blood as a method of radical life extension.

He thinks this is going to work and he's got the money to make it happen. Elon Musk put a computer chip in a pig's brain with the hopes of one day soon putting one in yours. They're experimenting with melding and merging technology, whether it's external haptics and visionary stuff and creating the metaverse, or it is putting technology in you.

Shades of revelation. Facebook, i.e. meta, is working on brain tech that can read your mind. Google's Ray Kurzweil is obsessed with progressing toward the singularity, a moment where artificial intelligence overtakes human thinking and he's on a quest to become immortal thereby.

When you can merge human intelligence and artificial intelligence you can now, in human terms, by human means, with human technology, build the Tower of Babel that will confer perfection and eternal life. Perfection and eternal life, man by man's efforts, supplying what they do not want to get from God. Read the articles, inform yourself, get smart on the metaverse and transhumanism.

It's not then, it is now. Now. Be aware, recognize that this is a threat because anything that offers an alternative to something that is going to make people this much money, the same technology that is building this artificial digital road to paradise and perfection and eternal life is going to seek to crush anything that is alternative, anything that stands in its way.

Why do you think the Antichrist is going to be on such a campaign? Seduce those who will love and believe the lie and crush anybody that gets in the way. It's here, it's now. We need to be smart, need to be harmless as doves, but wise as serpents.

Got to be, got to know what the serpent's up to, understand his plan, and we will be that much better equipped to speak the truth in love to those who are asking and seeking, looking for the reason for the hope. Zechariah, even with all of its warnings and all of its judgments, is such a hopeful book. We can be hopeful as well, and that hope can shine as a light to attract people to the only true source of blessing, future reward and opportunity, eternal life with the only true and perfect God, our creator God.

The way to him is the Lord Jesus Christ. What a wonderful position to be in. What a wonderful opportunity we have.

Well, sorry I've run a little bit over tonight, but I want to really get to the 30 pieces of silver next week. So we're done with transhumanism. I've introduced it.

That's all I'm going to say about it. Just keep your finger on that pulse. Let's close here in a word of prayer.

Father, we're so thankful for the security we have in you, the security we have in the Lord Jesus' hands. He states emphatically that no one can pluck us out of his hands. No one can pluck us out of your hands.

We may face momentary light affliction. We may have tribulation in this world, but we can be of good cheer because through the Lord Jesus Christ, there is victory. There is overcoming of the world.

Greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world. And we're so grateful for that confidence. We're grateful for the illumination that your word shines even across the centuries and across the millennia on our current day, our current hour.

And we're so grateful to be called by your name and be entered into the roles of the book of those who have received eternal life. We pray that God, the Holy Spirit will enliven these truths in our souls, enable us to walk the narrow road and enter through the straight gate that leads to life. We ask it in Jesus' name.

Amen.