

PostExilicProphets 22-03-09a

Good evening, welcome to the Wednesday night Bible class at Grace and Truth Bible Church. This is the ninth day of March, 2022. We're gonna be continuing our study, both in Zechariah chapter 14, and the special study that we began last week in our look at the current events plaguing our planet.

So it's gonna be a lot of fun. We are gonna be a rip snorting. We're gonna be relying on Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost.

There is no finer, better scholar of Bible prophecy. I love him and virtually everything he ever said or wrote. And he is going to be our guiding light through chapter 14 of Zechariah, putting it in its context, also putting current world events in the context of Bible prophecy, not in a nutty or weird way, but in a sober and encouraging way.

And I'm really excited. So before I begin, let me just explain my attire for the evening. Everybody showed up in sweatshirts and I thought I would just keep mine on.

However, there's a reason for this particular one. You will see my lanyard deal and my Navy sweatshirt. Today is March the 9th, exactly 160 years ago on this date, March 9th, 1862, the famous battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack or the Monitor and the CSS Virginia, as it was known in the Confederacy, took place in Hampton Roads and the commander of the CSS Virginia, formerly known as the Merrimack was Franklin Buchanan, born September 17th, 1800 in Baltimore, the first superintendent of the Naval Academy and its primary founder.

So this is a signal day for those of us that have an affiliation with the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. And it's a little known fact that Franklin Buchanan was the captain of the CSS Virginia in that very famous battle. First superintendent of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland from 1845 to 1847.

So in commemoration of that date, I'm wearing some of my Navy regalia and puts us in a warlike and maritime spirit, which I think is great. Had that having been said, let's take a moment to ask God's blessing on our fellowship and on our study, and we'll get started. Father, we are so privileged to live in this country where we continue enjoy a great measure of freedom in pursuing our lives before you and increasing our understanding of the truth of your word and seeking to represent the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of an ever darkening time and generation.

We pray that as we look at these wonderful predictive truths from your word, that your Holy Spirit will help us to see how salient and how pertinent they are for us and enable us to move forward into the area of personal application in their light. We ask it in Jesus name, amen. I want to first read our passage in Zechariah chapter 14.

This will give us some context. The day of the Lord is coming and it has been coming for

centuries, but it has never been coming faster than it is right now. The day of the Lord is coming.

Of course, this is addressed to Israel, for Israel, about Israel. Your spoil will be divided in your midst, I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem. The city shall be taken, the houses rifled, the women ravished, half the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations as he fights in the day of battle. In that day, his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two. From east to west, making a very large valley, half of the mountain shall move toward the north, half of it move toward the south.

Then you shall flee through my mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. This, by the way, is in the vicinity of Jericho. You shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah.

Thus the Lord my God will come, all the saints with him. Your Bible says you cross it out, it should be him. The Septuagint preserves the better reading.

It shall come to pass in that day, there will be no light. The lights will diminish, it shall be one day, which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night. At evening time, it shall happen that it will be light.

There is going to be an unnatural glow in this day. In that day, it shall be that living waters will flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the Eastern Sea and half of them toward the Western Sea. This, by the way, will require that not only is the Mount of Olives split, but Jerusalem itself apparently will be elevated.

Its altitude will rise. Very interesting come to pass, geologically speaking. In both summer and winter, it shall occur, the Lord shall be king over all the earth.

In that day, it shall be the Lord is one and his name is one. All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem. It shall be raised up and inhabited in her place.

Notice the specific claim that Jerusalem will be raised up. This may be physical as well as geopolitical and spiritual. From Benjamin's gate to the place of the first gate and the corner gate from the Tower of Hananel to the King's wine presses.

This shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought, past tense, against Jerusalem. This tells us that it is in the early months of the millennial kingdom when this judgment takes place or at the crossover point between the end of the tribulation, the great tribulation and the beginning of the millennium. Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet.

Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths. It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from the Lord will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor and raise his hand against his neighbor's hand.

Judah also will fight at Jerusalem and the wealth of all surrounding nations shall be gathered together, gold, silver and apparel in great abundance. Such also shall be the plague on the horse and the mule, on the camel and the donkey, on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So shall this plague be." There's a bit of a symmetry.

It's not exactly a chiasm, but there's symmetry in verses 12 through 15. This shall be the plague in verse 12. This shall be the plague in verse 15.

And right at the center, you have the enemies raising their hands against each other. You think of the days of Gideon, where with the breaking of the lamps and the pitchers and the blowing of the trumpets, the enemy largely destroyed each other. And you get the idea that there is gonna be a similar disintegration, confusion, and all of these enemy nations are gonna wind up fighting and destroying each other.

And this may be with some of their tactical nuclear weapons where they think they are being attacked and they fire and they inadvertently slay their allies and themselves. Judah will fight at Jerusalem and the wealth of the surrounding nations will be gathered together. There is gonna be a spoil.

These things represent the typical spoils of battle, the gold and silver and the apparel. This is all the paraphernalia, all of the support gear with which these soldiers will have accompanied themselves. It's all gonna be laying out there for Jerusalem and Judah.

After a long siege, this is gonna be a great benefit to them. Then in verse 16, it'll come to pass that everyone who is left of the nations which came up against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. The survivors which are largely gonna be the people back in the nations that were not warriors and were not leaders and were not on site for this battle that concludes the campaign of Armageddon are going to be submissive to the government that the Lord Jesus sets up in Jerusalem.

Whichever the families of the earth did not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain. Control of the weather is trivially easy for the Lord Jesus Christ, especially in his glorified return. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter, they shall have no rain.

They shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the feast of tabernacles. In that day, holiness to the Lord shall be engraved on the bells of the horses, the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the

bowls before the altar.

Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah, in other words, the holy precinct and that which is sanctified and dedicated to the worship of the Lord will not be restricted to just the temple grounds. The entire city is gonna be holiness to the Lord. Every cooking pot, every skillet, every vessel will be like those bowls that were used in worship in the temple courtyard.

In that day, there shall no longer be a, it says in your Bible, Canaanite, cross it out. We saw this earlier in chapter 11, verse seven. And in chapter seven, verse 11, this word translated, almost transliterated, Canaanite means the poor.

In all of those contexts, it's talking about the poor. And you can just put in the margin there, 11, seven comma 11, we've already straightened this out. What is this saying? In that day, there shall no longer be a poor person in the house of the Lord.

Remember when the poor would come, such as Joseph and Mary and bring doves rather than a bull or a goat or a full animal sacrifice because they were poor. The people in the land, there is no such thing as poverty in the millennial kingdom. Nobody is poor.

Makes a lot more sense than a Canaanite, right? Never were any Canaanites other than, when they engaged in idol worship and such, but that the prosperity in the millennial kingdom will be complete. I wanna read you a summary. This is another great reference book.

It is called the Prophecy Knowledge Handbook. It's by Dr. John F. Walvoord. It was published in 1990.

Every prophecy in the Bible is covered in this book. Start to finish, Genesis to Revelation. It is the culmination of the life's work of Dr. Walvoord, who was the second president of Dallas Theological Seminary, became chancellor after Dr. Campbell took over and was still on the campus and could be seen when I was going to school in the 80s and 90s there.

And a wonderful student of the word of God. He is the editor of the Bible Knowledge Commentary, innumerable books. But this is a great reference on prophecy.

If you need a quick check to say, well, what is this talking about? This is it. I'm gonna read you the summary of Zechariah chapter 14, included in Dr. Walvoord's wonderful compendium here. In Zechariah 14, one through three, the interpretation of this difficult portion was made clear by later revelation concerning the events of the end time leading up to the second coming of Christ.

This taking of the city and raping of the women and so on was difficult to understand until later prophetic revelation put it in a context. What is it talking about? The final drama of the great tribulation ending in the second coming of Christ is described in these verses. The day of the Lord is coming when your plunder will be divided among you.

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it. The city will be captured, the houses ransacked and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as he fights in the day of battle. This will be a stage in what is called in Revelation 16, 14, the battle on the great day of God almighty, AKA the battle of Armageddon, Revelation 16, 16. So 16, 14, 16, 16, you can put that in the margin next to these three verses.

This is what it is referring to. Now, Zechariah 14, four through eight, attending the second coming of Christ will be cataclysmic events, including the division of the Mount of Olives into northern and southern halves with the great valley in between. On that day, his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, half the mountain moving north, half moving south.

Those who seek to escape Jerusalem will flee by this newly made valley, which apparently will extend from Jerusalem down to the city of Jericho. We already talked about this. This makes clear that the second coming is a future event.

All these preterists we've talked about in recent days and weeks, have you ever seen the Mount of Olives split in two? Is there a valley? No. Did God come, the Lord come, stand on the Mount of Olives? No. So preterism is bunk.

Sorry. You can't spiritualize this away with any credibility whatsoever. That day will also be unique in that apparently it will be a lengthened day.

On that day, there will be no light, no cold, nor frost. It will be a unique day without daytime or nighttime, a day known to the Lord. When evening comes, there will be light.

Other topological changes will take place, which apparently will elevate Jerusalem so the waters flowing from Jerusalem go half to the Eastern Sea or the Sea of Galilee and half to the Western Sea or the Mediterranean. There will be other unusual phenomena occurring in connection with the second coming of Christ. There are about half a dozen references here.

I'm going to read them slowly once. If you wanna take them down, other phenomena that take place at the second coming, here is your list. We do not have time to look at these references.

You can look them up later. Isaiah 11, 10. Isaiah 34, four.

Joel 2, 10. And Joel 2, 30 to 31. Joel 3, 15.

The last one is Matthew 24, 29. Quickly again, Isaiah 11, 10. Isaiah 34, four.

Joel 2, 10 and 30 to 31. Joel 3, 15. Matthew 24, 29.

You can look them up. It's all a description of the second coming. None of these things have

taken place.

Historically, they are future. A great many events are packed into a relatively short period of time. Now, verses nine through 21 of our chapter, Zechariah 14.

The millennial kingdom will be distinguished by the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah of Israel and King of Kings will rule over the entire earth. This is verse nine. The Lord shall be king over all the earth.

Included in the topographical changes will be the elevation of Jerusalem as described above. It's described again in verse 10. From that day forward, Jerusalem will be secure and never be destroyed again.

An indication of the rule of Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords is that he will judge the nations that fought against Jerusalem. Verses 12 and 13. A plague will seize man and beast alike.

And in the results, a great quantity of gold, silver and clothing will accrue to Israel's benefit. These may be literal gold, silver and apparel or they may be symbolic of spoils in terms of whatever modern equipment and technology has been left on the battlefield by these that are slain by the Lord. Those who survive the purging judgments at the beginning of the millennial kingdom will be required to worship Christ annually.

Verse 16. This is primarily worship in the sense of obedient bringing of tribute. You can't force people into actual worship, but you can force external obedience and the bringing of tribute.

If they do not worship him as commanded, God will hold their reign. Verses 17 through 19. It will be a time when the holiness of God is especially revealed.

False elements will be shut out. And he's here referring to the Canaanites that are mentioned, but I am convinced that we're talking about the poor. And what this is an indication of is that under the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, people who say end hunger now, end world poverty and so on, Lord Jesus is the one who will actually accomplish that.

The partial revelation of the nature of the millennial kingdom as described here is amplified in many other scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments. That is Dr. Walvoord's summary of our chapter. And it is sufficient to give us context for what we're now going to look at from Dr. Pentecost talking about the campaign of Armageddon.

Why is this of interest? It is described in part here in Zechariah. It is alluded to as immediately preceding the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. And it is the last three and a half years of the 70th week of Daniel.

Everybody good so far? The campaign of Armageddon. Now, what we're going to see tonight is that this thing is of a duration. It's not a single great battle at the end like some of us have

maybe thought in times past.

It is going to be pretty much throughout those three and a half years. It is going to begin one way and it is going to end another way. Of particular interest to us is the way it begins because the movement and the conflict between those forces that we saw last week, King of the North, King of the South, King of the East, and the Confederation revived Roman Empire under the beast in the West, clashes one way at the beginning, clashes in a very different way in the end.

And Dr. Pentecost is so helpful in sorting this out that we're going to go through it. If we don't finish it tonight, we're going to keep going until we do because this will make sense of much of what we are currently seeing on the world stage as I speak. So let me begin by picking up here in a section called the Campaign of Armageddon in Dr. Pentecost's book.

This is something that comes about and the timing of it has been estimated in so many different ways that Dr. Pentecost sorts through them. There's four or five different ways that it is commonly understood. Normally I would just skip that and say, this is the way we should understand it, but his discussion of why these other understandings are not valid incorporates so much scripture and so many observations of characteristics that I find it very useful to review.

So we're going to take our time and we're going to look at things in terms of timing and unfolding that as you look at scripture, don't make sense, and then we'll see the way it does make sense. And in the course of moving through these, it's going to be very helpful to put both prophecy and current events into perspective for us. So we have already covered the four big players in the four corners of the compass.

So Dr. Pentecost, and I'll just pick up here kind of in the middle because we can't cover everything, but in terms of this campaign that is pictured as extending from the plains of Israel on the North, this is up near Mount Carmel. Remember that's kind of where the valley begins down through Jerusalem, extending out to the Valley of Jehoshaphat on the East and to Edom in the South. This wide area would cover the entire land of Palestine and this campaign, this conflict that is going to be centered in Israel and in the larger context of the Middle East is going to involve and implicate the entire modern day nation of Israel, which largely covers the old nation of Israel as it existed in its later forms.

This wide area would cover the entire land of Palestine and this campaign with all its parts confirms what Ezekiel pictures when he says the invaders will cover the land. Now you can start looking for Ezekiel chapter 38 because Ezekiel 38 and 39 is what puts our Zechariah 14 and our current world events into context. Ezekiel 38, but it says the invaders will cover the land, Ezekiel 38, nine, and again in verse 16.

This area conforms to the extent pictured by John in Revelation chapter 14, verse 20. So we're starting with where is the campaign of Armageddon ending in what we would call the battle of Armageddon where the Lord Jesus comes down and ends the thing. Where does it take place?

We know this from Ezekiel 38, nine and 16 and Revelation 14, 20.

It is the entire land of Israel in a swath from the Northwest through the Southeast and into the South. So Dr. Pentecost quotes Sims. The conclusion of Sims is well taken.

You'd have to get Dr. Pentecost and figure out where Sims is. I didn't take time to look it up. It appears from scripture that this last great battle of that great day of God Almighty will reach far beyond Armageddon or the Valley of Megiddo.

Armageddon appears to be mainly the place where the troops will gather together from the four corners of the earth and from Armageddon the battle will spread out over the entire land of Palestine. Joel speaks of the last battle being fought in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, which is close by Jerusalem. Isaiah shows Christ coming with bloodstained garments from Edom and Edom is South of Palestine.

So the battle of Armageddon, it seems, will stretch from the Valley of Megiddo in the North of Palestine through the Valley of Jehoshaphat near Jerusalem on down to Edom at the extreme Southern part of Palestine. And to this agree the words of the prophet Ezekiel that the armies of this great battle will cover the land. The book of Revelation also says the blood will flow to the bits of the horse bridles for 1600 furlongs.

And it has been pointed out that 1600 furlongs covers the entire length of Palestine. Jerusalem will no doubt be the center of interest during the battle of Armageddon for God's word says, I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle. So that's the location.

And I emphasize, we have seen that the word translated battle would be better translated campaign. This is going to be of three and a half years duration. Who are the participants? This is the point B. Who are the participants? We began looking at this last time.

The alignment of nations during the tribulation period, we've already discussed. We did that last week. It was seen that there will be four great world powers.

On the West, you have the 10 Kingdom Confederation, whether 10 is symbolic or literal in my mind is up in the air. I think if you wait for the EU to boil down to 10 nations, you might miss what's happening. 10 is the number of completeness, 10 fingers, 10 toes, you've changed my wages 10 times.

It just means everybody that's supposed to be there is there. New baby is born, what do you do? 10 fingers, 10 toes, great. The baby is whole.

So it's gonna achieve its final form and the number 10 signifies that. This is my addition, by the way, I'm going to freely amend supplement and argue with Dr. Pentecost from time to time. So just take his opinion as initially having much more weight than mine.

And when in doubt, go with him. Constituting the final form of the fourth great world empire.

The Kings of the East, the Asiatic peoples from beyond the Euphrates.

In the modern day, we would say China or actually we would say China. The King of the South, North African power or powers. This could be Egypt, this could include Saudi Arabia.

Anybody that's South of Israel is South. Libya, Ethiopia, I think this could implicate the Muslim kingdoms and powers. Then you also have the Northern Federal Republic of Russia and her allies or Russia and her conquests, whichever way you want to look at it.

It may be that Russia is a monolith because Russia has absorbed the countries that back in 1958 would have needed to be allies or were federated under the Soviet Union or whatever. So you can add a fifth, Dr. Pentecost says, you need to take into account a fifth army. Can you guess what it would be? You get the North, the East, South and the West, but the armies of the Lord from heaven on white horses are gonna come down and end this conflict.

So while the animosity of the first four is vented against each other and against Israel, Zechariah 12, two and three, which we've already seen, Zechariah 14, two, it is particularly against the God of Israel that they will fight at the conclusion of this battle. And this is one of the helpful distinguishing features of the beginning of the campaign of Armageddon and the end, because at the beginning, there are nations pitted against each other, at the end, they're fighting against God, proper. But the God of Israel fighting, this is Psalm 22, Isaiah 34, two, there's a host of other references.

I'm not gonna give them all to you. If you don't have a copy of Things to Come, it's a worthwhile book to get. I don't recommend many books, but you really ought to have a copy of this one if you wanna keep track of what's going on, review what we're covering here in some haste or at least some efficiency, I hope.

So, now we come to a section which Dr. Pentecost has labeled the invasion by the Northern Confederacy. Who is the Northern Confederacy, pop quiz? Can you say Putin? No, Russia, it's Russia. If it were to happen anytime in the near future, it would be under Mr. Putin.

I don't think anybody is rooting for Putin, but if it were to happen anytime in the near future, he would be the guy. But this is the Northern Confederacy or the Northern, the King of the North is Russia. Certainly headed by Russia, it's the figurehead.

Whatever Russia has been able to accumulate, bring to bear, confederate with, ally with, overcome and take into its bosom, this is the King of the North. According, this is a reference to write down, according to Daniel 9, 26 and 27, the Prince of the Roman Empire, where is that now? That's not the King of the North, right? The King of the North, that's Russia. Who is the Prince of the Roman Empire? Where is the Prince of the Roman Empire? What are we talking about? This is the quote unquote 10 nation Confederacy in the West.

So according to 9, 26 and 27, the Prince of the Roman Empire will make a covenant with Israel for a seven year period. This covenant evidently restores Israel to a place among the nations of

the world and the integrity of Israel is guaranteed by the Roman powers. If this were to take place in the modern day, we would say the EU comes to Israel's defense.

They come in on the side of Israel and whoever is leading the EU in this time, which we would call the Prince who shall come or the Beast, the leader of that Confederacy is. Now remember, we're talking Antichrist here. We're talking Beast.

He's gonna rise up and head, rise up out of and head the EU. And he is gonna come in initially on the side of Israel. This is not only an attempt to settle the longstanding dispute among the nations as to Israel's claim to the land of Palestine, but also a satanic imitation of the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant, which gives Israel title deed to the land.

This action is pictured by John in Revelation chapter six, verse two, as a rider going forth to conquer to whom sovereignty is given by peaceful negotiations. Remember he rides forth conquering into conquer. He's got a bow, but no arrows.

Remember the four horsemen of the apocalypse, the first one goes out and he's got a bow, but he conquers, he gains control through diplomacy and he's going to gain control of Israel through diplomacy. This condition will exist for three and a half years after which the covenant is broken by that confederation in the West and the period known as the great tribulation begins. This is Matthew 24, 21.

The tribulation on the earth is evidently caused by Satan, who has been cast out of heaven into the earth at the middle of the tribulation period, Revelation 12, verse nine. Now, remember there is a historic reference there when the dragon is cast out and takes a third of the stars with him and then he pursues the woman who has the child. There's an indication that Satan has already been cast out of heaven and limited to this earth, but something new happens in the same way that at the end of the millennium, God releases Satan from the bottomless pit.

Something happens in the middle of the tribulation or in the middle of the 70th week of Daniel to begin the tribulation that gives Satan fresh energy. Something is taken away. Something is permitted that wasn't there before.

That's Revelation 12, nine. He is going to go forth in great wrath, Revelation 12, 12, to attack the remnant of Israel and the saints of God, Revelation 12, 17. All of this is in nine through 17 of Revelation 12.

This satanic activity that moves nations in those days is depicted by John when he says, I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They're the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world to gather them to the battle of the great day of God almighty. This is Revelation 16, 13, and 14.

Satan instigates this final great confrontation at the end of the 70th week. This is not to infer that this period is not the period of God's wrath upon sinful men, but it does show that God to

pour out his wrath is going to permit Satan to execute a program in his wrath against the whole world. You know how many times God has used Assyria or Babylon or other rod and staff of indignation and judgment, God will use things to accomplish his purpose and then judge them.

There are a number of theories as to the events in the campaign of Armageddon. Now, he's got seven of them here. I encourage you to list these because we're gonna go through them, see what scripture has to say that either confirms or obviates these interpretations, these understandings.

Why are there at least seven different understandings? This is a little bit of deep water, which makes it fun. So hang with me here. We're gonna pause and take our break and we're gonna come back and take a look at these seven understandings of how this time is going to unfold.

Why are we looking at it now? How does it relate to our current events? Here's your application for the first session tonight. On the assumption that we are near the last days, the situation as it unfolds in prophetic scripture regarding Daniel's 70th week, the three and a half years of false peace guaranteed by a covenant made by the beast himself, this doesn't come ex nihilo, out of nowhere. Events before the rapture of the church are going to align these nations.

They are going to start to represent and to reflect and to resemble what we see in that 70th week. They don't just suddenly swarm around and reorganize. These will be confederations and groupings of nations, power centers that will have come about while we are still here.

But this great conflict with people's eyes melting in their sockets and all the rest of it will be gone. So this is why it's fun, because as we see the pieces move on the board to line up, it tells us that the time of our exodus is near. So as we look at these, don't be depressed, don't be discouraged, don't be filled with angst or undue concern about what's happening in the world, because all this tells us is what Jesus told his generation.

Look, you know how to read the sky. You should be able to read the signs of the times. And the signs of the times, as we see the King of the North flexing his muscles and gathering his allies slash acquisitions, as we see the King of the East, China, and the Asiatic Alliance becoming a force in the world, as we see the South with designs on Palestine, on Israel, on its resources and its strategic positioning, as we see Europe in a confederation growing stronger and more dedicated to objectives that do not align with Russia and do not align with China and do not align with the Arab states, you see the lines of division, you see the potential for conflict and the themes that will define that conflict unfolding before our very eyes.

And it tells you that unlike any previous time in history, any other time when people said, oh, it's 1900, Jesus is coming, or it's 1834 and Jesus is coming, or it's 1984 and Jesus is coming, there's never been the geopolitical alignments and the moving into place to match Old Testament prophecy from 2,500 years ago, like we see today. It ought to get your blood pumping, it ought to raise your adrenaline. And the application is, we should always be ready for the rapture, because the rapture is as near as your last heartbeat, your last wiggle on the

EEG, right? But if you happen to be in the generation that is alive and remains under the coming of the Lord, are we ready for what comes after for us? The tribulation, the 70th week of Daniel is coming for the people that are still here.

What comes next for us immediately after the rapture? Are we ready? Have we been investing our time? Have we taken the entrusted resources that the master gives us? Have we invested them? Are we ready to show its fruit? Have we been abiding in the vine and producing that fruit of the spirit that will redound to the praise and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ at our judgment? I'm not worried about whether they're gonna launch a missile and bake parts of the United States. I am deeply, deeply concerned that when the Lord Jesus Christ calls my name and I step forward at the Bema, that my life passes muster, that when the flames evaporate all of the wood, hay and stubble, there's something left. And I am still here right now.

I still have time and opportunity to lay hold of righteousness by faith, to lay up treasure in heaven where moth and rust and corruption and thieves do not take it away from me. That's every time I turn on the news, I say, well, it looks like this, it looks like that. I think, what am I doing with the time that remains to me? I don't know how much is left, but I want to take each and every hour and think of a way to invest at least a part of it in some fruit of the spirit.

Are you ready for the rapture? Are you ready, more importantly, for the judgment seat of Christ? Are you ready to be called and pressed into service in the future kingdom of the son? Can you be useful? Will you have skills? Will you have experience? Will you have the judgment to judge angels, to judge nations, to help the Lord Jesus Christ and the sons of David oversee the millennial kingdom? And are you qualified to own real estate in the kingdom of the father, in the capital city of the kingdom of the father? Are we qualified to dwell in the light then because we are walking in the light now? Patty and I just started a review of the study of 1 John that we did back in 2004. Now, don't go there yet. I've got to unscramble that thing.

It's all out of order. I'm glad I checked it. But the first lesson in that, that was the 7th of October in 2004.

What a great book. I'm really looking forward to revisiting 1 John. And if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have koinonia, we have fellowship.

We don't connect directly to each other. We are connected to the father through Christ. And that draws us closer together and gives us the power to love one another.

Not because we're subjective in looking at each other because we've fixed our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. So these are exciting times. It's a useful motivation to make sure our ducks are lined up and our fruit of the spirit is budding and blossoming and ripening and being entered into the books that will be opened at the judgment.

Well, let's pause here and take a break. When we come back, we're going to look at how the current events are starting to line up with the geometry that is given in prophetic scripture.