

PostExilicProphets 22-03-13a

Good morning and welcome to the Sunday morning services here at Grace and Truth Bible Church. This is the 13th day of March 2022 and we're at a nexus, at a meeting point, a coincidence, a conjunction between our Wednesday night study and our Sunday study because on Wednesday nights, of course, we are looking at the final chapter of Zechariah, Zechariah 14 in our post-exilic prophets, which deals with the end of the tribulation period, the events that take place where there is an attack on the Holy Land and the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. Ultimately, we've been looking at that this past week, but at the same time, we have come to Matthew chapter 24, where the Lord Jesus also addresses the end times and the signs of his coming.

So, as has so often been the case in our two studies, they interweave and complement each other. And so we're going to do a little bit of each this morning, but largely we are going to review and flesh out a little bit the material we covered on Wednesday. We got an overview and went rather quickly.

We're going to take a bit more time and have a little bit more help this morning on sorting. We're not going to go into painful detail. We just want a grasp of the large movements, the main players, timing, location, and to understand the run-up to the 70th week of Daniel, which will begin at the point that we depart this earth at the rapture.

Those of us who are alive and remain, the rest of us will depart the earth and go to the rapture whenever our ticker quits ticking. In any case, I think we'll be able to get some clarity and some opportunity to analyze current events in the light of the arrangement and composition of those prophetic events at which we will now look. Let's take a moment to ask God's blessing on our study, and then we'll begin.

Father, what a blessing it is for us to spend this time together, to be taught in your word through the Holy Spirit, to enable our vision, and to seek to understand the signs of the times, all with the purpose of bearing that fruit that should come as we abide in the true vine, the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that these studies will not only be interesting at an academic or an intellectual level or at a social and world events level, but that we'll find in them the motivation and the encouragement to redeem the time, to pursue the reflection of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in this life, so that we will be ready to do so in the life to come. We pray it in Jesus' name.

Amen. I want to begin by noting that our guide through these sometimes deep waters is the 1958 book *Things to Come* by Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost. And to begin our study, I would like to look at that book in its text.

And so if you will watch here, you will see that we are at chapter 20 in Dr. Pentecost's book, XX, Roman numeral 20, *The Campaign of Armageddon*. Dr. Pentecost says, the kings of the earth

and of the whole world are to be gathered together through the activity of the Trinity from hell to what is called the battle of that great day of God Almighty in Revelation 16, 14. Revelation 16.

We could turn there just to review. Let's take a look at Revelation 16. Our purpose here is to compare the geopolitics and the incursion into Ukraine and the rest of these very attention occupying events with the text of scripture.

So I have Revelation 16 here before you, and let's just review. This is the bowls of God's wrath. We've been through Revelation.

You remember that the seals, the trumpets, the thunders, and the bowls are all different perspectives on the same period of time, ending with the great earthquake. This is the third of the ones that are detailed for us. Of course, the thunders are a hidden mystery that will be revealed as we watch them unfold from glory.

But here we have the bowls. So we're in Revelation 16. I'm looking at it in our New King James.

I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth. Now, what do we know about the 70th week of Daniel? This is partly review from Wednesday and partly general knowledge accumulated over the years. What do we know about the 70th week of Daniel? We are pre-tribulation rapture people, right? We believe we're leaving before these events take place.

So the next event that will begin the fulfillment of prophecy in scripture about the end times, this would be Matthew 24, various portions of Revelation, a lot of Old Testament prophecy about in Daniel chapter nine and Ezekiel 38, 39, and so on. All of these things are going to be taking place after we leave. So first and foremost, not to worry.

We belong to God through Christ. We are the body of Christ and we will leave. Remember the persecution of the early church in Acts.

Remember when Peter was imprisoned, Stephen was stoned. There were internal and external oppositions to the birth and growth of early Christianity. Where was Jesus at that time? He left, right? Acts chapter one, he ascended from the Mount of Olives and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Then the events of the early church unfolded. So it will be for the 70th week of Daniel, the body of Christ is going to ascend and disappear into a cloud. Then these things are going to unfold.

So first and foremost, nothing we look at here should be worrisome. We shouldn't be fretting. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but power, love, and a sound mind.

We are in Christ. There is nothing on this earth more valuable to God than believers, you and me, especially believers who are endeavoring as best we can to stay on the narrow road and aim for the straight gate that leads to life. And that's becoming, in my estimation, an

increasingly scarce commodity.

The more scarce things get, the more valuable they are. We are precious in God's sight. He will never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Think of your promises. People get wide-eyed and adrenaline starts flowing when prophecy becomes the subject. It shouldn't be happening to us.

We know better. We've got some scripture under our belt. We have perspective.

We have confidence. We have the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Any questions that we can't answer for ourselves, we know whom we have believed.

He is able to keep what we have committed to Him. Whatever concerns, whatever issues, whatever loved ones, whatever questions, commit it to Him. He's got it.

He's a lot smarter than we are. He loves each and every one of us more than we can possibly love each other. So no worries.

To me, it's interesting. We live in an exciting time. We live in a day where it is possible to see the final positioning of the elements that are going to be in play in the latter days and the latter years of Israel, which is that last seven years, the 70th week of Daniel, and the last day, which is the culmination of that seven year period.

So by way of review, if you remember on Wednesday, here's the big idea, the single thing to bring away from our Wednesday night study is Daniel 70th week, Daniel 9, 26 and 27. This was the outline of the latter part of Israel's history that was given to Daniel by Gabriel, seven weeks and 62 weeks until the coming of Messiah the Prince. That has happened.

There's one more week to go from 69 to 70, but that week was suspended and put on hold and the church age began. God reached up and stopped the pendulum on the Israel clock with seven years left to run. Now we are going to look at that seven years, that period that transpires after we leave, we are gone.

We're not here. God is not a God of confusion. He's not going to mix Israel and the church.

We have different covenants founded on different promises. We have different programs. There is great commonality.

We learn from their experience. They will learn from our experience, not only in the tribulation, but throughout the millennium, but we are different and distinct. Israel is the people of God, the father, the church is the people of the Lord Jesus Christ, the program in the 70th week.

And I'm careful to call it that because it's loosely called the tribulation, but only the last three and a half years is the time of Jacob's trouble. It is divided into two parts. The first part is a temporary peace that cannot last because it is based upon a covenant that the beast is going to

make with the nation of Israel and in his control over the Western confederation, the revived Roman empire, the feet with the iron mixed with clay and the 10 toes and that, that's his bailiwick.

That's what he's king of. That's what he's in charge of initially. There are other world powers and we saw this on Wednesday.

So the main idea here is there will be four great centers of power for great confederations during this seven year period. You have the beast in charge of what we would look at today as the European union. That's in the West.

We have Roche Gog, the king or prince of Magog up in the North. This is Russia and it's satellites. It's either conquests or allies that's in the North.

You have the kings or king of the East. This is the Asiatic powers, primarily China and whoever allies with them. And then you have the king of the South to put this in some perspective.

Think about the map of Europe. Here's a nice colorful map of Europe and you can see the current issue there with Ukraine and Russia up here at the top. You see Ukraine is kind of orange.

Russia is a paler cream color up here and notice that directly south of the Russia-Ukraine border you have the Black Sea. Hopefully I don't have the black and the Caspian mixed up, but directly below that you have Turkey. Turkey is this area right in the center of the map.

Below that you have this green area which is Syria. You have a light green here which is Iraq. Over to the east of that this very large chunk is Iran.

South of Iraq you have Saudi Arabia. The little orange piece south of Syria is Jordan. This little tiny dark section here is Israel and north of that you have Lebanon.

Then to the south and slightly west of Israel you have Egypt. You have Libya and so on. This is the map of the world as it exists today.

Off-screen to the east you have China. So when we talk about the four big nexuses, groupings, alliances, confederations, they are relative to Israel. This little tiny patch defines who everybody is.

So in the west you've got Europe here, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, all of these people over here, Poland, Germany, Hungary, Austria. All of this is a combination. It's the EU.

It is also NATO and it is pictured as the 10 toes. How many countries? I don't think it really matters. It just means everybody over here is in it.

So north, east, south, and west. West being the area where the beast who we call the Antichrist, more about that shortly, is going to arise and rule. So in Revelation chapter 16, what we have is

the depiction of what is going to take place in the last three and a half years of that seven year period.

The seals, trumpets, and bowls, the bowls in particular, really pick up halfway through. So let's take a look at Revelation 16. I heard a loud voice from the temple.

Who's in the temple? God, perhaps God's right hand throne room angel. The voice says to the seven angels, go pour out these bowls. So the first bowl loathed some sores.

This is verse two. The first went out and poured his bowl upon the earth and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. Now think about this a little bit.

You have already the mark of the beast in place. This means the beast has taken control during the first three and a half years and has become more or less the world leader. So this is not right after the rapture when this first bowl is poured out.

This is the beginning of that time of Jacob's trouble the last three and a half years. That's what you see here. A foul loathsome sore came upon those who had the mark.

You wonder if the mark is some form of technology that goes bad in their bodies or whatever. In any case, they start having physical issues as a result of something that the beast requires in order to buy and sell. The second bowl, the sea turns to blood.

The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea. It became blood as of a dead man. Every living creature in the sea died.

You think about what that's going to do to the food supply. They're all worried about famine due to loss of wheat and cutting off of fuel supplies for deliveries and so on. Think what happens when there's no more tuna, there's no more halibut, there's no more tilapia, there's no more of a great source of food that not only for industrial canning and so on, but also the smaller nations that rely on the sea for their staple foods.

That's going to go away. Thirdly, you have the rivers and springs of water, and they become blood. Something fouls the water supply.

It attacks the saltwater areas in the sea. Now it's going to get into the freshwater. Is this some weird algae bloom? Whatever it is, God decrees it, and it fouls the rivers and springs of water, and they become blood.

The thing about blood is you can't live on it. Remember from the earliest times, from the time of Noah back in Genesis chapter 9, you remember when he said, God told Noah, you can now eat meat. The diet changes from fruits and vegetables and crops and so on.

Now you can eat meat, but you must drain out the blood. Do not eat the blood. It is forbidden in the law of Moses.

It's extremely unhealthy. People that do blood pudding, I don't get it. So this is going to make this non-potable.

And the angel of the waters says, you are righteous, O Lord, the one who is and who was and who is to be, because you have judged these things. They have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink, for it is their just due. It is a judgment from God.

I heard another from the altar saying, even so, Lord God almighty, true and righteous are your judgments. Those who say that God is not going to judge actively, he's just going to wait for consequences to come from people's sin and evil, haven't given credence to all of their Bible. They're just picking and choosing.

Fourth bowl, men are scorched. All of this last three and a half years, we are long gone. Even if you're a mid-tribulation rapture person, we're long gone.

The fourth angel poured out the bowl on the sun and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. Men were scorched with great heat. They blasphemed the name of God, who has power over these plagues, and they did not repent and give him glory.

Whether God communicates through grace, with mercy and love, whether he gives mankind the example of the Lord Jesus, who did not judge, did not come to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. God has tried the carrot approach. Now he is using the stick.

In neither case, with neither approach, do people repent. People who do not want to have a relationship with God cannot be persuaded, cajoled, coerced. They can't be scared into it.

They can't be wheedled into it. They cannot be loved into it. They can't be judged into it.

No matter what God does, they hate him for it. He sends the Lord Jesus. They hate him for it.

He sends judgment to turn them from their ways. They hate him for it. There's a small minority of people who will turn, and some of these episodes are going to be like the plagues in Egypt, where there were individuals who became part of the mixed multitude, had the observation as Rahab, and came to the same conclusion.

There really is a God in Israel, and I need to be on the right side of him. But generally speaking, mankind is not going to respond. They're going to blaspheme the name of God who's sending these plagues.

They do not repent. They do not give him glory. The fifth bull, darkness and pain.

The fifth angel pours his bull on the throne of the beast. Interesting, no? His kingdom became full of darkness. I would suggest to you, if I had to guess in this day and age, this is the internet going permanently down.

This is the GPS satellite system going offline. Darkness means you can't see. Intel is key to operating, whether you are governing or whether you are operating in battle.

When you go dark and blind, this is a precursor to disaster and defeat and destruction. God is going to take away the ability of the beast to see and know what is going on. The infrastructure that provides communication is going to go down and go down hard at God's instigation.

So the kingdom is full of darkness. Nobody knows what's going on, and they nod their tongues because of the pain. This is stress.

This is starvation. This is psychological pain as well as physical pain, I think. And they blaspheme the God of heaven because of their pain and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

There is still the opportunity to repent, and they don't do it. The sixth bull, the great river Euphrates, its water is dried up. Remember, this water has already turned to blood, but now it's dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. This is the unholy trinity. The dragon is Satan.

The beast is the leader of the revived Roman Empire slash EU, and the false prophet is his press agent, his flack, his mouthpiece, his spokesperson. Our president's got one. Every president has had one in recent memory.

The beast has one. They are spirits of demons performing signs which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God almighty. This is not the beginning of the three and a half years.

This battle is at the end of the three and a half years when these bulls are poured out, right? So that's what we saw on Wednesday night is that there is a difference between what we see in Ezekiel 38 and 39, which is the invasion of the king of the north into Israel, and he perishes on the mountains due to a cataclysm that God sends, versus this great battle at the end. After the bulls have been poured out, the Euphrates dries up, kings of the east come over, and you've got the entire world, all of the nations assembled, and God is about to tread the winepress of his wrath on the entire world. Two greatly different scenarios.

So from Wednesday night, remember from the time we leave, which is the rapture, which closes the church age and begins the last seven years of the age of Israel, there's going to be three and a half years of what they call the false peace. It's a real peace, it just can't last. It is the difference between being giddy and stimulated and being genuinely happy.

You know, you can be hilarious and you can be ecstatic for a short time. Any unbeliever can be pleased, can have a good time, can raise their glass and toast something great. But if you have

no relationship with God, that good feeling and that fine circumstance has no foundation and does not last.

In the same way, the peace that is going to pertain for three and a half years after we leave is going to seem like paradise has come. Nirvana has arrived. The Christians that were fouling up the works and the worship of God and the rest of it, apparently there is celebration that that's no longer a problem.

Christianity in its true sense is certainly no longer a problem because as Paul says in Thessalonians, that which has inhibited the rise of evil has been taken out of the way. That's us. Now that day will not come until it comes first, the apostasy, right? So which is the standing away and that's the departure.

So revelation chapter 16, verse 16, they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew Armageddon. That is the end of the three and a half year period. All right.

So as we return now to our text in Dr. Pentecost book, what are we looking at? The campaign of Armageddon. Why is it a campaign? Because it lasts three and a half years. One battle doesn't last that long.

So when he says here, the Kings of the earth and the whole world are gathered together through the activity of the unholy Trinity. Remember the three frogs that come forth from the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. That's the unholy Trinity.

And this instigates what he's got right here. The battle of that great day of the Lord called Armageddon revelation 1614. This confluence of the nations is in Armageddon revelation 1616.

We just read it there. God deals in judgment with the nations because of their persecution of Israel. This is Joel chapter three, verse two, because of their sinfulness revelation 1915, and because of their godlessness revelation 1619.

You can look those up, but essentially this just supports the observation that this judgment on God is deserved. Look at what happened with the bulls. They did not repent.

They don't have anything to drink. They blaspheme God and do not repent. They're chewing their tongue because of darkness and pain.

They do not repent. They blaspheme God. And that is the reason that this judgment comes.

He goes on to say what we have already observed. It's been commonly held that the battle of Armageddon is an isolated event transpiring just prior to the second advent of Christ to the earth. But this extent will not be seen until it is realized that the battle of the great day of God almighty that we just saw in revelation 1614 is not an isolated battle, but rather a campaign that extends over the last half of the tribulation period.

The Greek word polemos translated battle in revelation 1614 signifies a war or campaign while

makai signifies a battle, sometimes even single combat. We've already seen his next point, which is point a here, the location of the campaign. Where is it? It is the hill of Megiddo.

That's where it begins. Hence it's called Har Megiddo or Armageddon in the plain of Israel. There are several other geographical locations involved in this campaign.

Remember we talked about this. It's not just Megiddo also the Valley of Jehoshaphat an area East of Jerusalem to see this graphically up here in the North, see Megiddo. If you look Northwest of that, you see this little dip in the coastline here and down the coast, you have the town of Dor.

Well, right in here, right in this Southwest of that little dip, that's where Mount Carmel is. Over here is Mount Tabor, but Carmel where Elijah watched God take the top off is right up here. Interestingly, there's a little town there called Hellcat, but right here is Mount Carmel and you'll notice Southeast of that is Megiddo.

This is where it begins. Notice on down by Jerusalem, the second described location is the Valley of Jehoshaphat, which is the Kidron Valley between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. It comes right down between there and then it extends all the way down to Edom, South of the Dead Sea.

So notice that this comprehends virtually all of Israel. This is the Kingdom of Israel back in its heyday. You can see the Transjordan over here, where you had Gad and Naphtali and the half tribe of Manasseh.

Remember two and a half tribes were over here in the Transjordan. Over here, you have Mount Nebo, where Moses looked across the Jordan into the promised land, but he was not allowed to get in there. So this red line gives you an idea of the extent of this campaign.

And if you want to see the participants that are described for this, we go first to Ezekiel chapter 38 and chapter 39. Ezekiel 38 and 39. We can look at it first in the text here.

This is Ezekiel 38. The word of the Lord came to me saying, son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the Prince of Rosh, Meshach, and Tubal. Rosh, Meshach, and Tubal.

Prophecy against him and say, I am against you, O Gog, the Prince of Rosh, Meshach, and Tubal. Now, who are these guys? Well, it's Russia. This is the King of the North, the Confederation in the North.

If you go back in scripture to understand who these individuals are, you can see here that this comes from Genesis, where the descendants of Japheth are listed. These are descendants of Japheth. If you go back to Genesis chapter 10, verses one and two, the sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madi, Javan, Tubal, Meshach, and Tiras, seven sons of Japheth.

Four of them are mentioned here. Magog, Gomer, Tubal, and Meshach. So Gomer, Meshach,

and Tubal are brothers of Magog.

Gomer means complete. Historians are not sure if this is North or South of the Black Sea. Remember, I was telling you before that the, it's not always clear where these guys are.

Are they, if they're North of the Black Sea, they would be in the Ukraine, Southern Russia area. If they're South of the Black Sea, they're going to be in Turkey. Make sense? You've got, this would be North of the Black Sea, Ukraine, Southern Russia, Romania, Georgia, around in that area.

South of the Black Sea would be Turkey. So which is it? We're not real sure, but it's in that area. It's definitely North.

So Gomer means these Black Sea types. Meshach, the second one, means drawing out people on the area East of the Black Sea. Armenia is modern day Eastern Turkey.

So Meshach is Turkey, Russia, and Georgia. Again, looking at your map, you can see that you've got the Istars and the Bajans and all that over there, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan. This could also be as far over as Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and all of the other Istars.

Anything that is East of the Black Sea, maybe even across the Caspian, would pertain. So interesting in the light of recent events that you now have Russia trying to accumulate territory in this area. Tubal is in East Asia Minor, which is Eastern Turkey.

Togarmah is Syria, South of the Black Sea, East to the Caspian Sea. Historically, Turkey is also known as the House of Togarmah. So the Black Sea region is the area to watch, isn't it, for this conglomeration? Because what Ezekiel is talking about here is the early part of the campaign.

What happens in the middle of the week? This Northern invasion is going to happen to begin this three and a half year campaign. Makes sense? So when he comes down toward Israel, he is going to have not only Russia, but evidently Ukraine, Turkey, possibly Syria, and others in that region could all be confederated. This is the meaning of Meshach and Tubal, along with Rosh.

But God says, look at verse four, I will turn you around. I will put hooks into your jaws. I will lead you out with all your army horses and horsemen.

And when God says, I will turn you around, God is, evidently this campaign might be moving West. Maybe he's going toward the EU. Maybe he's going toward the NATO countries.

But God says, I'm going to put hooks in your jaws and I'm going to lead you out. God's going to turn him around. This is Ezekiel 38.4. You're going to have a big army, lots of transportation, lots of armor, splendidly clothed, bucklers and shields, heavily weaponized.

In our day, this would be missiles and so on. Notice Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them. So who are these types? Take a look at the participants here.

Here's another map. And up here at the top, you have Gog, you have Magog, here's Meshach, Togarmah, Gomer, and Tubal. Notice how these are the four points of the compass on this map in Turkey.

Turkey is going to be a big player. We've been saying, keep your eye on Turkey. Keep your eye on Erdogan in this day.

Tubal, Meshach, Togarmah, and Gomer are all historically located in this region, south of the Black Sea. Here's Persia, Iran, modern day Iran. You saw where Iran just launched missiles into Iraq, very close to our unmanned embassy there.

There was a missile strike last night from Iran into Iraq. Couldn't figure out why, but it came right across the border, up I think somewhere not terribly far from Arbil, which is east of Mosul, north of Kirkuk, but it was up in this northeastern region of Iraq. It was hit by missiles from Iran last night.

At that time, they didn't know why. I haven't checked the news this morning, but look at your players, Gog and Magog up here in the north, Rosh. You've got Meshach, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah here in the Turkey area, south of the Black Sea.

Notice Ukraine is directly north of the Black Sea. This whole area around the Black Sea, north, south, and east of it would be implicated. You've got Persia over here.

Your king of the south, they always say, well, this is Ethiopia and put Sheba and Dedan, and notice these arrows all go to North Africa, down to Ethiopia, a little further south in Africa, Sheba and Dedan, but look at who is in the immediate south here. You've got Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq. When these guys confederate, you could just loosely call them all put Sheba, Dedan, and Ethiopia, i.e. southern forces.

If they are recruiting from North Africa, that would make even more sense, but this is what you have shaping up as we speak. Well, what's our conclusion from all of this? First of all, it is a reminder that God is in control of human history, and God allows things to happen in the same way that He is allowing invasion. He will allow incursions, but He will control it.

God is going to put hooks into the jaws of Gog and turn him where He wants him to go. These types can confederate, they can aggregate, they can pool their resources, they can make treaties with each other, they can combine against the people of God, but God is in complete and total control. Think about this in our own lives.

There can be forces in society, there can be forces in government, there can be people who have control, whether it's in the workplace, whether it's in the social arena, but as believers who love the Lord Jesus and are endeavoring to abide in the vine and bear fruit, to live by faith, to walk by faith and not by sight, nothing will invade our territory that is not in God's complete control. He can stop it, He can limit it, He can neutralize it, or He can allow it. If He allows it, what does that mean? We are never tested above what we're able to bear.

If God allows a test into our lives, it is because we are fully equipped to handle it, and in handling it by faith, we will lay hold of righteousness and reflect His glory. If there's no conflict, there's no victory. If there's no resistance, there's no growth and strength.

God will allow carefully measured opposition into our lives in the same way that He is going to allow these confederations to move around the planet, but He is in control. He says where they go, how long they stay, how far they get, how much success they have. The only people that have to worry about the success of these invaders are those who are under the judgment of God.

If you are in line for judgment, the judgment of God is coming and will not be stopped. If you are not in line for judgment, there is no bullet made that can penetrate your hide. There is no hostile force that can get anywhere near your periphery or your kindred or yourself except by God's express permission.

And if He ever does that, it is for a reason. We've talked before about the two witnesses who are going to witness during this three and a half year period, and they're going to be able to call down fire, and they're going to be able to do all kinds of amazingly divinely enabled and empowered things, but there is a day where they are martyred. God is going to allow it because it is a part of His plan.

And you think, oh, that's tragic. They're martyred. Their bodies lay in the street for three days.

But when they are resurrected and ascended, do you think they would trade that experience and say, oh, no, I'd rather just be safe. Let me go hide in a cave somewhere or let me serve God, do spectacular things, suffer a spectacular death, and then have a spectacular resurrection that is in the word of God for now and forever? Who wouldn't sign up to be such an integral part of God's plan? I personally think it's the sons of thunder. I think it's James and John.

And they said, Lord, we are able. Jesus said, can you drink my cup? He said, we can. So very interesting.

Well, we need to pause here and take our break. But just remember, as we look at these cataclysmic history-ending events for the age of Israel, A, we're not here. B, we always look to Israel, whether it's Old Testament or in the prophetic New Testament or the prophetic Old Testament.

We look at their history. We look at their future to observe, interpret, and apply. If we are people of faith, we know whom we have believed.

We have confidence. And there is no weapon formed that can harm us unless God is weaving that into the larger part of his plan. But we have nothing to fear.

No need to be afraid. No need to be awake at night wondering, what about this? What about

that? What if there's a famine? What if there's a power grid shortage? What if they hack our internet? Don't worry. Ask God for wisdom, practical wisdom.

Do I need to make any preparation? Should I put a case of water in the pantry? Maybe. Just ask for wisdom. Nobody that goes to God and asks for wisdom because they want to live to please him and to glorify him has ever been turned down.

No prayer for wisdom has ever been turned down coming from somebody who is praying for the right reason. Jesus promises his disciples this. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you will ask what you will and it will be done for you.

Lord, I want to reflect your glory. I want to live in a way that pleases you. I don't want to have a spirit of fear.

I want to have power, love, and a sound mind. Help me understand my responsibility, my opportunity to serve, to be a good and faithful servant. Be faithful in a few things so that I can help out with many things in the future.

God, 100% of the time, answers that prayer. He is searching the earth, looking for people who will pray that prayer. Let's be them.

Well, let's pause here and take our break. When we come back, we will resume this study and get a little further into these events that are not only interesting in the sense of watching the world conform to their pattern and their shape, but for application purposes. We can learn from prophecy just as we learn from history how to live today, tomorrow, and the next day until the return of the Lord Jesus.