

Revelation 20-05-28b

Well, having looked at this timing issue, and I wanted to clarify one thing that in my coverage in the first session I may not have made perfectly clear, the timing of those two periods of days slash years in Revelation chapter 12, there is the 1290 days perhaps between the 1290 years between the stopping of worship at the temple and the abomination of desolation. Nebuchadnezzar came three times to Jerusalem. He came in 605 B.C. and took away Daniel and his three friends.

He came again in 598 to 599 B.C. to put down a rebellion, and that incursion sobered people. Jeremiah leaves with the Ark of the Covenant. Other people evacuate the city.

Those who remain there engage in intrigue and are insensate to the danger of opposing Nebuchadnezzar. And in 586, Nebuchadnezzar comes the third time. That's when the city is absolutely destroyed.

The temple is completely looted and destroyed. But it is that second incursion in 598 to 599 B.C. where the daily sacrifice would have been interrupted. So if you come 1290 years forward, you are somewhere in the vicinity of 690 to 692, which is the time of the building of the Mosque of Omar on that very site.

It's like the man who after the destruction of Jericho, and Joshua said, anybody that rebuilds this is going to be under a curse. And the man who set up the gates lost his son. He lost a son when he laid the foundations, and he lost another son when he set up the gates because there was a curse on rebuilding Jericho.

Well, in the same way, this abomination that is set up was completed in 692. You can look this up in Wikipedia or any reasonably reliable historical reference. The Mosque of Omar was completed in AD 692.

Well, if you come forward 1335 years from that, you arrive at the year, I said 2026, assuming I just picked the middle year 690 to 692. But if you go to the completion of it in 692, come forward 1335 years, that's the year 2027. Well, the text of Daniel says, blessed is he who comes to the 1,335 days, i.e., blessed is he who survives all the way to the end of the tribulation period, the entire 70th week, blessed is he who makes it through all of that.

Well, you've got to back up seven years for the rapture to take place. So if you say 2027 is the end of the 1,335 years, that would put the rapture sometime this year. A very happy coincidence would be if it also fell on the day of Pentecost, which falls in the Jubilee year, which is this year that we talked about a week or two back.

So there are a lot of things that conspire to be interesting about this particular time. But don't think that you'd have to wait seven more years for this to be the rapture. If you come to the end of the

1,335 days and you're at the end of the book of Daniel, you're also at the end of the 70th week, which means to allow for that week, the church age would have to end seven years earlier, i.e., this year.

So it's interesting. And as I say, people have been wrong 2,000 times predicting when the rapture is going to take place. I don't expect to be particularly any more right than anybody else.

I'm just saying there's an odd confluence of technology, of conditions that are described as characterizing the end times in the church in particular. The heinous apostate hollow shell that calls itself Christianity today is unprecedented, absolutely unprecedented. It is another hockey stick graph along with many other things.

The technology exists to fulfill every single one of the images in the book of Revelation. So do we suddenly look around and say, oh, but wait, I've got unfinished business here. I'm not ready if the Lord should return.

Where have you been and what have you been doing? Your heart can stop at any moment. And it's always been that way. We should always be ready and be one of those servants that the Lord Jesus describes in a parable we're going to see a bit later in our Matthew study on Sunday.

If he leaves his servant in charge of the house and goes away, when he comes back, what is that servant doing? Is he faithfully pursuing the priorities of the master or has he begun to eat and drink and get comfortable in the environment and beat his fellow servants and so on, making himself at home and serving his own gratification instead of recognizing that he represents a master who is returning. We should live every day. And listen, it could be 46 years.

It could be any amount of time. I told you an alternate way of counting and looking at the Jewish calendar and taking out 143 years from their current year count. And when you get to the year 6000, that could be the time of the rapture, back up seven years or whatever.

There's lots of different ways of calculating this. It's just interesting. What are the odds that there would be 1290 years from the removal of the Ark of the Covenant from the temple to the building of the Mosque of Omar on that spot? And wouldn't it be cool if 1335 years later is the end of the tribulation? And so seven years before that would be the rapture, which would be our immediate times.

It would just be something. And we should always be looking for that blessed hope of the return of the Lord Jesus. If you're not ready for the return of the Lord Jesus, I have two words for you.

Get ready. You know not at what hour the Son of Man comes. And that's true for Israel and it's true for the church.

Get ready, be ready, and understand that whenever it is that this life comes to a close and the next life for us begins, God has every detail. We just saw this past Sunday, the very hairs on your

head are numbered. A sparrow does not fall to the ground.

You remember the two sparrows for an Asarion and five sparrows for two Asarion? An Asarion was 1/18th of a denarius. And a denarius was a day's wage. You know that from another one of Jesus' parables.

And I worked it out. I was looking at minimum wage. If you want an interesting thing to do, look at what the minimum wage is.

You would think that it's set nationally, but it's not. It's set state by state. You can't go below the federal minimum, which right now I believe is \$5.70 or \$7.50 or something like that.

But there are other states where the minimum wage that you can pay an hourly worker is like 12 something. It just varies by the states. I found a chart that had all 50 of them listed, but I was trying to figure out what were these sparrows worth in today's money.

And they're like a dollar apiece. You could get these sparrows, an Asarion being an 1/18th of a day's wage. And if a day's wage is at minimum wage and you do the multiplication, they work out to like 75 cents or a dollar per bird.

But if you buy five, you buy four and get one free basically. But not a sparrow falls from the sky that God the Father does not take notice. And he says, you are worth more than many sparrows.

So if this message is anything more than exciting and hope inspiring, we want to do a gut check and make sure that we're prioritizing the right things and that we are trusting our heavenly father for every good thing. Your father knows what you have need of before you ask him. In my view, you can take even the biggest concerns, take it before the father once.

He's God. He doesn't need a reminder. He doesn't need daily pestering.

He doesn't need a lot of excess noise. And again, everybody's different. Me personally, the more important the thing is, the more I do like Daniel did earlier in this book where he knew he was going to go before the Lord and pray.

And so he spent a bunch of time in preparation. He thought it through, made sure that he had all of his ducks lined up personally. And he thought about the nation and he reflected on the word of God.

He read the prophecies of Jeremiah and he was prepared. And then he went to God once. He prayed to God and God sent Gabriel and gave him these visions and gave him this view of the future after one prayer, one very carefully prepared prayer.

Now Daniel always prayed. He prayed three times a day, but I don't think he prayed repetitive prayers. I think he prayed circumstantially.

I think he prayed observantly. I think he prayed with Jerusalem on his heart and the people of God on his mind. I think he prayed for his three friends.

I think he prayed for other faithful that were in captivity. I think he was varied. I think he was fresh.

I think in the same way that we don't come to each other and say the same thing over and over and over again, what kind of a friendship, what kind of a relationship with our family would we have if we saw each other and told each other the very same thing every time? Just said the very same thing, told the same story, expressed the same concern every single time. It would wear pretty thin. Why would we treat the Lord God in heaven that way when He's got a perfect memory? He's got perfect power, perfect plan, perfect love for us, in my view, and feel free to disagree and do what you've been doing.

Everybody's different and this is not the Lord, this is I, as Paul said. But to me, I can take something to God one time and I know He's got it. I trust Him.

He's got it better. All I have to do is mention it. He knows what I need before I ask Him, but I do ask Him and I do express to Him my confidence that He's got a perfect plan, a perfect provision.

Sometimes, Lord, if it's within Your will, I think this would be great, but I want Your will to be done because You know so much more than I do. My view is limited. My feelings are circumstantial.

There's corruption in my being. I can't trust the compass in my soul always to point the right way, but I'm trusting the Holy Spirit to bring my prayer properly and effectively before Your throne and to bring my request, casting all Your cares on Him, for He cares for you. So this study ought to be fun, not scary.

If it's scary, that could be a good dashboard light to go back and check some fundamental things and be sure we're where we're supposed to be doing what we're supposed to do because it should not be scary. It ought to be exciting. It ought to be a source of enthusiasm and to, if anything, redouble our efforts to redeem the time because what if we've only got till Sunday? This Sunday, May the 31st, I'm only half serious here, but this Sunday, May the 31st, is a jubilee anniversary of the day of Pentecost.

And if God was going to stop and start the church age precisely on a day, that would be a cool day to do it because it's an exact anniversary. And He could start the seven year clock for Israel of the 70th week. It would end in 2027 and long about 26 or 27, there's a near earth object that's potentially able to hit the earth and cause a lot of the mayhem you see at the sixth and seventh trumpet bowl and seal.

So that's in scrambled order, but wouldn't it be great if? But it's people that have thought this every single time they've thought it in the past, they were wrong. So I wouldn't cut a hole in a sheet. I wouldn't do anything different than what we are supposed to be doing every single day.

Redeem the time. Be that servant that is found faithful. Jesus told his disciples at one point, we'll see it in Matthew, when the son of man returns, will he find faith on the earth? At whichever one of his returns you want to look at, will he find faith when he comes to me and my house? I hope we are found serving the Lord.

I hope we are found faithful. I hope we are found as those who are counted worthy. Jesus said, if you love other things more than me, you're not worthy to be my disciple.

What a horrific judgment. And you can't, there's no do over it's now, which is the appointed time. Now is the day of deliverance.

Read Hebrews. This is the time when we can enter into his rest. Hebrews chapter two, Hebrews chapter three, Hebrews chapter 11.

Hebrews is a great encouragement book. And it talks about the Lord Jesus, our high priest, tested in all points like we are yet without sin, who offered himself on our behalf, who made a new and living way through the veil. Well, won't it be great if we are worthy to be introduced by the Lord Jesus Christ by name to God, the father, because we were found doing what we're supposed to do with every minute, with every hour, with every day that remains to us in this life, however long it may be.

It would be especially funny if everybody who thinks Jesus is going to come back on Sunday, May 31st, he actually comes back Saturday the 30th and people aren't quite ready yet. Oh Lord, I needed that extra 25. I had a few more things.

We should be ready right now. We should be ready any minute, any minute rapture, any minute ready to, to lose this version, one body and get the two Oh upgrade. I can't wait.

No more pain, no more sorrow, no more tears, no more suffering capabilities, greater capabilities with greater faith, greater capabilities and opportunities. The more we invest in this life, small things that you do, small extra minutes you spend in prayer in reflection are going to make huge differences in the eternal future. So if there was ever a time to be motivated to continue doing what we should always do, it's now, um, I'm still preparing lessons for Sunday.

I'm still preparing lessons for next Thursday and the Sunday after that and the Thursday after that, because I do not know at what hour the Lord is going to return. And I want to be ready to continue this life. I want to be ready to get introduced to the next life.

The Lord says, watch and pray, be alert, pray, be found faithful, be found as one who is worthy to be his disciple. Having said that now let's turn to Revelation and look at this woman labeled mystery Babylon over in Revelation chapter 16 and 17. Now this woman actually shows up, uh, several places.

So if you begin in chapter 11, when the two witnesses, remember this is, this is an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet, the sixth trumpet, uh, sounded clear back in Revelation chapter nine. And by the end of that chapter, nine 21, the people have still not repented of their murders or their pornography, their pharmacies, their, their cheating. Then you have these visions, this interlude of visions.

And you have the angel with the little book that John eats. You have the two witnesses in chapter 11 and the, the death of the two witnesses, they finished their testimony. The beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit makes war against them, overcomes them and kills them.

These are God's commissioned witnesses that have power to call down fire from heaven. Uh, notice in verse three of chapter 11, uh, God gives power to my two witnesses. They will prophesy 1,260 days.

Now this is one half of that 70th week, all of trees, lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. So they're going to lose the ability to repel their enemies at the point that their mission is complete.

At the point that your mission is complete in this life, your life will end not a minute before and not a minute after God has determined the exact lifespan. If we are here, God has a purpose for our life. All those who have gone before us, God's purpose was complete and fulfilled.

And that's why they're not here anymore. Their work is done. Same thing here.

So they are untouchable. They are irrepressible. They cannot be stopped.

They cannot be shut down for 1,260 days because they operate in the power of God. You are irrepressible. You are unstoppable.

You cannot be held back so long as you are operating in the power of God for the purpose that God put you here. And you will last exactly as long as God wants you to. I will last exactly as long as God wants me to not a minute longer, not a minute less.

We have nothing to fear if we are faithful in pursuing our calling. If we love God and we are the called, God determines everything about us. He gives us our power.

He gives us the span of time to use that power. And when that span is complete, here's what happens. If anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth, devours their enemies.

If anyone wants to harm them, he will be killed in this manner. But verse seven, when they finish their testimony, their work is complete and they're done. They don't need to be here anymore.

The beast will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. Now this can only be by

God's permission, by God's preemptive design. God allows this.

God permits them to be overcome in the same way that the Lord Jesus allowed himself to be arrested, tried, and crucified. It was a part of God's plan, perfect plan, necessary plan. Their dead bodies lie in the street of the great city spiritually called Sodom in Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

There's no doubt about the identity of that city. This is going to be Jerusalem. Those from the people's tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

Those who dwell in the earth will rejoice. But in verse 11, after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God enters them. Notice God allows them to be overcome.

Now God is going to overcome that overcoming. He's going to breathe life and breath into them. They stand on their feet and great fear falls on those who see them.

This is greater fear than anything they induced during their 1260 days of ministry. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, come up here. And they ascended to heaven in a cloud and their enemies saw them.

In that same hour, you have the great earthquake, 10th of the city falls, 7,000 are killed. The rest are afraid and give glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is passed.

The third woe is coming quickly. Then the seventh angel sounds loud voice in heaven saying the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. If that sounds familiar, you remember it from that section of Handel's Messiah.

He put those words to music in there. It's unsurpassed. And the 24 elders before God fall on their faces, sing this song.

The temple of God is open in heaven. The ark of his covenant is seen in the temple. There's lightning, noises, thunderings and earthquake and great hail.

Then you have that sign that we saw in Revelation chapter 12 and 13 of the woman and the beast. So what I'm pointing out here is that after the 1260 days of the witness of these two witnesses, the testimony of these two witnesses, be a bit more elegant way to say it. They are killed, but then you have another three and a half days.

So if they began their testimony at the same time that the antichrist stops the daily sacrifice and offering and begins the last half and you're counting 1260 days, well, after 1260 days of witness, days continue and the judgments are not complete, right? So then is their witness during the first 1260 days or is it another 1260 day period floating somewhere within the 2,520 days or whatever

that double that is during the entire tribulation period? It's difficult to know. Prophetically people are all over the map in interpreting the 1260 days, but clearly this is not the exact last half of the 70th week because there's at least three and a half days that follow this and they come up and then in that hour, there's an earthquake and there's still a third woe that has not come yet. So there has to be time for this third woe to happen.

So we don't have to figure all this out right now. It's interesting and we'll probably do a bit more detailed look at the book, but right now I want to talk about the church. I want to talk about the second woman.

So if you have questions about this, just, just hold them. You can think about them. You can try to solve the puzzle yourself.

I will tell you some of these things I haven't studied to my own satisfaction at this point, but I'm just observing and I observed that there are days after the 1260 days of the witnesses. So I can say with some confidence, that's not the last half of the tribulation after which Jesus returns and splits the Mount of Olives. There are more days and there's a whole nother woe that has to happen.

So whenever it is, it's not right at the end. It's got to be somewhat earlier. It could be the first half could be somewhere in the middle.

We'll see later. It's not that important. We won't be here.

I tell you with great confidence, the 24 elders that are up in heaven singing songs and the white robe throng with palm branches singing praises to God. They've been up there this whole time. You and I are not here.

People we love are not here. All of us, all of us, church age types are in glory. So these are the poor misguided people that if they had only chosen for Christ, they could have been church, but they are age of Israel believers, 144,000 fleet of the hills.

This is a different group. We can observe just as we observe the Old Testament. We interpret and we apply.

Is it important to be faithful? Is it important to be obedient? Is it important to know the word of God and watch the signs? Absolutely. But this is not us. We're not down here.

So where are us? Where are we? Well, flip over a few pages now to Revelation chapter 17. You see that the seventh bowl, the bowl judgments tend to cluster toward the end of this 70th week of Daniel. They tend to cluster underneath the sixth and seventh seal and the sixth and seventh trumpet.

And this seems to be God's final judgment and it overlaps with them. But the bowls tend to be in

the last part of this last part of the 70th week. But then one of the angels look at chapter 17.

One of the angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me saying to me, come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters. Now in the narrative here, you do realize that in chapter 16, the seven bowls all got poured out, right? Chapter 16 gives us the pouring out of all seven judgment bowls from God. But it began back in chapter 15.

I saw a sign in heaven, great marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues for in them, the wrath of God is complete and they're called the last plagues. And so they're going to cluster toward the end of this tribulation period. Judgment is going to come at the end.

And if you skip down to verse five, after these things, I looked and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was open tabernacle of the testimony. Remember the Ark of the covenant is the Ark of the testimony. And there's a heavenly version of which the earthly version was a, a pale shadow, a copy out of the temple, verse six, revelation 15, six out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues clothed in pure, bright linen, having their chests girded with golden bands.

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels, seven golden bowls, full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever one of the four living creatures. You see that in verse seven, there's four. We believe these are the cherubim, the four living creatures that surround God's throne.

One of these living creatures has seven bowls in his hands. He hands them out to these seven angels who have the plagues. No one is able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels are completed.

And this is the shutting down of appeal during a time of judgment. The fact that no one can enter the temple means no appeals for mercy, no appeals for stopping short. And you, I don't have time to cover it, but you remember this from previous studies.

Once the door of the Ark shuts, there is no do over. There's no go back. There's no kind of repentance that can be accomplished to offset God's judgment.

Once it starts, it is going to be finished. Once the judgment is pronounced on the Southern kingdom of Judah, nothing is going to turn it back. And this is, this is consistent.

And this, that's the same idea here. So then in chapter 16, they pour them out. Well, now in chapter 17, one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came to me and said, I will show you the judgment of the harlot who sits on many waters.

This is an indication that we're probably going back chronologically. We're going back before the pouring out of these bowls. I will show you the judgment of the harlot who sits on many waters, committing these fornications and so on.

Now we looked at this last time you go down to verse five on her forehead has written a name, mystery. Her name is mystery. The one thing in the new Testament most closely associated with the word mystery is the church.

Paul introduces it. And he says, God made me a steward of the mystery that was not revealed beforehand to God's holy apostles and prophets. It's been revealed to me.

Paul introduces it. He is the steward of the mystery. Then later on in Thessalonians, he says, behold, I show you a mystery and in Corinthians also, but he says, I show you a mystery.

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye at the last Trump. So the mystery is associated with the church, the beginning of the church, Paul's revelation of church age doctrines and church truths, and then the end of the church age, which is the rapture. I show you a mystery.

So this lady has the, uh, identity on her forehead mystery. So this woman, in my view represents the church, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth. I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, martyrs of Jesus.

You don't have martyrs to Jesus until you get to the church age. So this cup full of blood of, of martyrs, and you get the idea that this must be thousands upon thousands of martyrs can't be the beast and the victims of the beast, the martyrs that are under the altar that have been slain by the antichrist. This woman has her own set of martyrs, right? Is that clear? This seems to be different martyrs, not tribulational martyrs.

They are martyrs of Jesus. I would submit to you that these are people that have been martyred in the name of the church killed in the name of God. And in the name of doctrinal fidelity, uh, martyred as supposed heretics, as those who were not faithful to what the church capital C thought they ought to say and do.

And this is someone who claims to be the church who has a band on her forehead or a label on her forehead that says, I am the mystery. I am the church and has used her power to dominate the nations by riding on the beast. So this is the church in name.

This is the church according to its own claim. I claim to be here as body of Christ. I claim to minister the body of Christ.

I will put a wafer on your tongue and say the body of Christ. I will represent as my symbol, a woman instead of Christ himself. Does this sound familiar? Does this ring any bells? Is there somebody who claims to be the church who claims to be the head of this group claims to be the Vicar of Christ, the instead of Christ claims to represent Christ, to speak for Christ, to be of equal authority with anything Christ said in the new Testament there is, and there has been, and the

blood of countless thousands and even millions of martyrs are on the hands of that organization.

And yet within that rubric and under that umbrella, you do have a remnant in the same way that an apostate rebellious Israel, you had faithful believers sprinkled who were trying to please God, trying to serve God, trying to maintain faith and obedience. Although they were in the midst of crooked and perverse generations, there have been faithful believers in every era of this age, learning the word of God, following the word of God, praying to God in heaven, attempting to be as faithful and obedient as they could under the circumstances. They are that faithful remnant.

They are the few in Sodom. They are the few in the church who have not soiled their robes, even though a church can be a synagogue of Satan, even though it can be led by Jezebel. You look at the letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapter 2 and 3, a lot of that apostasy, a lot of that awful evil is representing this same idea.

Verse 7, Revelation 17, I will tell you the mystery of the woman. Again, you have mystery tied to this woman and the beast that carries her with the seven heads and ten horns. This beast that was and is not and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition.

That of course is talking about Gog Magog. He comes out of the bottomless pit where he is kept for the thousand years of the millennium. And he's going to go to perdition.

He's going to be destroyed, I think, in the lake of fire. Those who dwell on the earth will marvel whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. These are genuine, faithful believers.

When they see the beast that was and is not and yet is, he describes the seven heads, seven mountains on which the woman sits. These are seven kings, five have fallen, one is and the other has not yet come. And this is political power.

The beast that was and is not is himself also the eighth and is of the seven and is going to perdition. The ten horns, ten kings, they have one mind, they will give their power and authority to the beast. Verse 14, they will make war with the lamb.

These kings have to be represented in some fashion in the tribulation period because they are making war with the lamb. Jesus is not the lamb until after the cross. The lamb will overcome them for he is Lord of lords and king of kings.

Those who are with him are called, chosen, and faithful. Question, are you with him? What are you if you're with him? You want to make this week's refrigerator magnet or the next couple of days refrigerator magnet? Here's what you can put on your refrigerator, called, chosen, and faithful. The called, hear the call and respond.

The chosen, according to the foreknowledge of God, assigned useful functions and purposes knowing that they will be accomplished. And faithful, faithful is he who calleth you who also will do

it. It's his power and his strength, therefore it's his glory when we succeed.

It is appointed and a steward of any gift that we be found faithful. It's true of elders in the church. It's true of anyone with any gift to be found faithful, looking for ways to exploit the grace of God, to please God, and to reflect his glory.

Those who are with him are called, chosen, and faithful. The waters where the harlot sits are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. That has only been true in the church age, and it has been true throughout the church age.

The Roman Empire presided over and incorporated multitudes, nations, peoples, tongues. The ten horns which you see on the beast, hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. This has not yet happened.

This is going to happen during the 70th week, because what is left of the church when the faithful have been removed is going to be judged and destroyed. God has put it into their hearts to fulfill his purpose. He's going to use the beast with the seven heads and the ten horns to judge the faithless, false church.

This scarlet harlot claiming to be the mystery church and not being that at all. God is going to use the very wrath that she has perpetrated on others. This cup, she's going to be forced to drink it.

The blood of the martyrs, she's going to be forced to drink it. And those people who represent it and people who have represented it throughout history are going to be judged with this very judgment. So you look at chapter 18, verse 2, another angel comes down and cries and says, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit and a cage for every unclean and hated bird.

Notice Babylon is fallen. If you are going to be lost, you have to have been in the right place before you got lost. If you are going to return, you have to have been there in the first place.

And if you fall, you have to have been somewhere else. Babylon has not always been fallen, but this Babylon is fallen and has become a dwelling place of demons, foul spirits, unclean and hated birds. This happens after God's faithful people have been called out.

Nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Kings of the earth have committed fornication. Merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.

You look at the industry, the hundreds of millions of dollars that are made in supposedly Christian merchandise, Christian music, Christian entertainment. I was looking at a website for a church overseas, doesn't matter where or what kind, but their homepage looked like the setting for a rock concert. It was a stage with people standing there with drums and guitars.

And most of the picture was the light kit that was shining all over this. It looked exactly like the

most expensive rock concert you can imagine. The investment that Christian money has been put into that has been collected in the name of Christ and spent on entertainment and on a show, sound systems, light kits, laser beams, and all the rest of it is criminal.

There are naked who need clothing. There are hungry who need feeding. There are sick and afflicted who need visiting.

There is the gospel that needs to be shared. There is the truth of God's word that needs to be presented. And instead, most of the money has been spent on creature conference, plush seats, big stadiums, raking in the money, marketing, television, and all the rest of it.

This is merchandising, making merchandise of the word of God, using Christianity as an excuse to get rich. I heard a voice from heaven, verse four saying, come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins. God's people are in the midst of this Babylon.

And God says, come out of her. This I believe is the rapture. Lest you receive of her plagues and share in her sins.

Her sins have reached to heaven. This is mirroring the iniquitous generation in which Noah lived. And you have that picture of deliverance from judgment.

You have Enoch, who was not because God took him before that judgment. And then you have the people of God represented by the family of Noah who are delivered through the flood. But Enoch walked with God and was not because God took him ahead of the flood.

Verse six, render to her as she rendered to you, repay her double according to her works, the cup, which she has mixed, mixed double for her in the measure. She glorified herself and lived luxuriously in the same measure, give her torment and sorrow. Now this has been true all down through history.

And don't think that earlier representatives and centuries gone by are going to escape this judgment. This judgment that falls isn't just on the generation during the 70th week in some way, in some way, some shape, some form. God is going to visit this judgment on everybody that has been a part of this sham church, this false harlot church claiming the name of Christ, but not being of Christ.

Her plagues will come in one day, death, mourning, and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire for strong is the Lord God who judges her. And I think at the great white throne, when these unbelievers are raised the same, this is that judgment it's pictured in the 70th week, but it happens at the great white throne.

These people are going to be raised and their judgment is going to come in an hour. It's going to be an hour long, grisly death, like unto the grisly death that has been inflicted on victim after

victim by the hundreds, by the thousands, by the 10 thousands, by the millions, and by the tens of millions by this harlot. It's in one hour, but I think it is a long, slow, people like to think that there's hot spots in hell.

By the time they get to the lake of fire, it's going to be a relief because there is going in my mind, in my estimation, there's going to be an hour long judgment on those who have inflicted this and on, on martyrs and the martyrs are going to be vindicated. Those who have said how long, oh Lord, until we are vindicated and the people that have done these horrible tortures and imprisonments and oppressions and victimizations across the centuries, how long until they are judged. It's not going to be a simple matter of, well, you're an unbeliever and you're a bad guy.

Goodbye. And they're gone. I think there is a measure of drinking this cup and it is going to be an awful judgment and it is going to be a reminder when Jesus says, when you've done it to the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me.

This is a serious, awful judgment and it is not quick and it is not instantaneous. It's in an hour. According to scripture, the death and mourning and famine are going to be condensed into this hour of judgment and they're going to deserve every minute of it and more.

It'll be a mercy that it only lasts this hour, but I think it's going to be perpetrated on every person that was a part of this mystery battle on Harlot all down through history. Strong is the Lord who judges her. And you can see the rest of the consequences that follow.

And in verse 21, thus with violence, this great millstone thrown into the sea. You remember Jesus talking about it would be better if you had this millstone around your neck and be cast into the sea than to harm one of these little ones. Well, here's that same millstone Jesus talked about.

The great city of Babylon shall be thrown down like this millstone and shall not be found anymore. There will never again be an apostate group claiming the name of Christ. You're for real or you don't exist.

And you can see the finality of that judgment. Well, we're out of time. Time seems to go so quickly and I was striving for short sessions and once again, I have not succeeded.

But I hope you find this encouraging. I hope you find it motivating. Whatever time remains to us, that is short time.

It may be days, it may be weeks, it may be months, it may be years. But whatever the time is, is it long enough for us to invest in the eternal future to be good and faithful servants, doing and serving in the interest of our master until the day of his return. We are stewards of those things that God has entrusted to us.

Are we faithful? When the Son of Man returns, will he find faith in my life, in my house, in my priorities, in my goals, in my values, in my investment of the minutes and the hours of each day?

Will he come and judge it faithful? That should be the question. And I will be so busy analyzing and doing my best to invest in these hours. There's a part of me that says, I hope there's not too many left.

And there's a part of me that says, I hope I can shift the balance out of the totality of my life with the time that remains to me and increase the proportion of days in which I have been as faithful as I could be. So like the Apostle Paul, I don't know whether it's better to leave and go be with the Lord or to stay and be with you. He says, I'm happy either way.

To be absent from the body and be present with the Lord would be a wonderful thing. But he says, if I have the opportunity to stay here and serve, that's a great thing, too. So whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

And it's such a privilege to live in this age and be given these wonderful resources to redeem the time and to reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus both now and in those ages which are to come. So just remember, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's and He cares about the things that belongs to Him. You are worth more than many sparrows.

Let's close here in a word of prayer. Father, we thank you for the unique privilege we have of being in the body of Christ, of being a part of the special gift that you granted to Him as a result of His victory on the cross and His faithfulness and obedience throughout His earthly life. We pray that as we reflect on these things, Your Holy Spirit will impress them on our hearts, motivate us, encourage us, give us a sense of peace, help us to see clearly our opportunities and our responsibilities in the time that remains to us in this life.

We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.