

He IS Coming!

The day was Friday, December 16, 2022 when what I thought was impossible happened. What was the impossible thing that happened on Friday? It was this: at approximately 5:00 p.m. CST in a small town in Central West Texas, there was the sound of rumbling, the dishes in the cabinets rattled, and the floor seemed to move. Say what? You got it! An earthquake happened! West Texas! The middle of nowhere!

I have lived in the area all my life. In fact, I was actually born in the small town's hospital (that has not existed in so many years that only old-timers remember there was one) and have lived there continually except for a few years when I lived in the neighboring, larger city. We have had several tornados and a large dynamite blast that shook the town, but never an earthquake. Today, however, we felt the effects of an earthquake and an aftershock a little while later. They are saying it was a 5.3 earthquake just outside of Midland, Texas. The interesting thing is that my sister and her family live in Midland and didn't seem to have as much "shaking up" as we did so many miles away.

I happened to be in the kitchen when it hit. I have to admit I was confused and had a big question forming in my mind. "What in the world is going on?" It didn't seem like anyone else in the house was really aware of it, but they were busy doing other things and I was simply walking through the room. I spoke to my husband about it and we decided that maybe it was simply a plane flying low over our house and caused some "weirdness" to happen. Even though I did not know exactly what had happened, I did have a "knowing" that something unusual had happened and it was important. Forget the "airplane" idea!

Now you may ask why it was important. I will tell you why it is so important. "*And there shall be earthquakes in divers places,*" Jesus declared in Mark 13:8. I know that the word "divers" is not a word that we use a lot, especially not in West Texas; however, I do have dictionaries and have looked up that word several times. The definition I usually think of for "divers" is "different", i.e. in different places. This time, though, I felt led of the Lord to look it up in my trusty Funk & Wagnalls Dictionary and was led to a little different definition – diverse. When I looked up "diverse", I discovered this – "marked by distinct differences; not alike."

This earthquake was definitely different – to my knowledge, there had never been an earthquake that we felt so definitely in our area. And, quite truthfully, I never would have expected to feel an earthquake in our area. I know that there is an extinct volcano near our town – in fact, it is right across the road from our family farm. But, it has been extinct a very long time and has almost become "forgotten." The only "shaking" we know about is the dynamiting that happens at a nearby mine. We know about it because we keep getting cracks in our walls and ceilings. However, we never hear it or feel it. The earth just shifts a little over time and we get cracks.

You have to understand that we are not like San Francisco, California. We are not built over a geographical "fault". We don't look for or expect tremors. We look for, or expect, wind – lots and lots of wind! No tremors, though. I also know that we are in an "oil-rich" state and that "fracking" is an issue; however, our area is removed from most of that.

Now that I have given you a little idea of our area and what happened today, I want to relay the message of the "time." The message? Yes -- and the message is:

Jesus is coming!

Jesus gave us a description of the signs that point toward the end of this age. The Holy Spirit called it “perilous times” in the second letter of Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:1. All these different things happening – wars, rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes, pestilences, and troubles – all these things signal the soon return of our Lord and King.

I am not saying that He is coming tomorrow. I am not saying that He is coming next year. What I *am* saying is that we need to be busy looking, listening, and staying tuned in to the spiritual dimension. The Holy Spirit is the one who will keep us ready and prepared if we will let Him. He will help us be ready to deal with the troublous times that come. He will help us to not be deceived, revealing the truth to us at all times. He will be the one to keep us in the perfect peace that will empower us as we prepare to meet our Lord.

If you make a study of Matthew 24:6, you will be made aware of a statement that can bring clarity concerning the Lord’s prophecy. That statement is this: “for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” It is true that, for many years, we have been hearing and seeing many of these events that Jesus spoke of happening. And, still He has not come. He told us that would be the case. These “events” are signs of the time. He hasn’t come yet -- He isn’t come now – but, He *is* coming.

His promise is true. He is coming again; and, He is coming for you and I and all that look for His appearing. We have to “use” these signs in the way that they were intended. They are indicators that things are still on track. We are not to be surprised that these things are happening; we are not to be afraid that these things are happening; we are not to think that the devil has won, God has lost and it is all over for us. Quite the contrary, we are to be assured that all is going as planned and it is just a matter of time until we are going home. What a delightful thought!

Many years ago, in another one of those small West Texas towns, a young man in our church wrote a lovely song. I have lost touch with him through these many years and I do not know if he ever published the song or copyrighted it in any way. I do not want to steal his song or his words, but I would like to share with you the chorus. I find that it comes up often in my heart and mind lately. It states: “Praise the Lord, I’m going home to be with Jesus. He gives me strength; He gives me hope to carry on. No more trials will I go through when I get home. Praise the Lord, I’m going home. Praise the Lord.” If Bill is out there and reads this, I want him to know what a blessing that song has been to me and my family these many years.

We *are* living in times of trouble and difficulty. We do seem to be living in a time when things are in quite a bit of turmoil; but, we have the advantage. We’ve read the end of the Word of God and Jesus won, which means *we* won as well! Take courage, or be of good cheer. Everything that we could possibly need to be victorious is available to us by faith. And, best of all, it signals that we are soon “going home”!

I challenge you to spend more time in the Word and in prayer. Ask, seek, and knock for knowledge, wisdom, and skill in the word and in the power of God. Stay alert and look for those signs that signal His return. And, most of all, listen. What are we listening for? A shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God!

***“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God:
and the dead in Christ shall rise first:***

***¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds,
to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”***

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

On December 16, I heard a “noise,” a rattling and tinkling of dishes; and, it was loud enough to call me to attention and cause me to listen for something “more.” The world that we know today is definitely not prepared for what is coming. I am concerned that many in the Church are not prepared – that they are not listening. I am not speaking of being prepared for calamities and terrors. I am speaking of being prepared for the Lord – the *good* stuff!

I encourage us all to spend more time in the presence of the Lord so that our spiritual “senses” will be sharp and attuned (in sync or in agreement) with Him and His purpose - awaiting His “sounds.” Let’s get our spiritual ears listening in such a manner as we could say that our “ears are stretching out and seeking” His call, His trump.

The Lord truly revealed a “mystery” or secret to us in His Word found in 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 and He ended His revelation of victory with an admonition to be firmly fixed in faith, not moved about or changed by any of the enemy’s devices, and to always be “about the Father’s business” – the work of the Lord. The world may not know what’s going on, but we do. Listen, we have it made!

How come we have it made? Because, I know a secret and so do you:

He’s Coming!

Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Scriptural Supports: Mark 13:3-13; Matthew 24 and 25; Luke 21 8-36; 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 4:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Ephesians 4:11-16; Luke 2:49