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A Message of Hope for This Present Time



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #391 ~

Thinking about the evil and disconcerting condition of our country (the election and now these glitches, cyber-attacks, and tech outages) may cause you to wonder what's happening in our world. Most people consider things from a human point of view, but don't realize that everything is going exactly according to God's plans. They don't know that God's word clearly tells us what we must know about the future. As Christians, we are to understand the times, and how we should live (1 Chr. 12:32). We are to be Christ-living, forward-looking, hope-energized people. And Christ is central to our hope, that we will be forever with Him, and that He has an amazing future in store for us in the ages to come.

So what do we learn from God's word?
Psalm 1. The wicked, the sinners, the scoffers, do not know God and

will not be in heaven. They *"will not stand in the judgment"* or in the *"assembly of the righteous"*, and will perish, will be eternally punished. But the righteous, the true believers, will have eternal life, will know God (John 3:16, 17:3). They will stay away from sinners, the wicked. They will delight in God's word and meditate on it day and night, and be prosperous. And they will live forever *"in the assembly of the righteous."*

Psalm 2. Nations, peoples, and kings are *"devising a vain thing"*, are *"taking a stand before God"*, are *"against the Lord and against His anointed."* In life, there are those who are inwardly immoral and outwardly moral (Pharisees), and those who are inwardly and outwardly immoral – and they are all sinners. What is God's response? He sure is not silent. He laughs, He scoffs at these rebels, He speaks *"to them in His anger"*, He terrifies *"them in His fury"*. Then there's Christ, our Judge and King, and in His righteous anger, He will defeat His enemies, inherit the nations, and reign over them. What a holy and glorious turn of events that we will witness in the coming years. But at this time, God is warning unbelievers to fear and worship Him, to turn to Christ the Savior, to repent of their sins and believe that He paid the penalty of their sins before it's too late, before they perish and *"pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."* 2 Thess. 1:9

Psalm 11. The *"foundations are destroyed"*, the godly principles of this world are being wrecked before our very eyes. So what are the righteous, what are the Christians to know and do?
1) Take refuge in the Lord. A believer's priority is not to seek a temporary physical refuge (like an underground bunker), but to find spiritual safety and eternal security in the Lord.
2) Know that God is sovereign, and is righteously reigning over everyone and everything in this world.
3) Know that God is omniscient, holy, just, and merciful. He knows what each person thinks and does. He tests the unrighteous and the righteous. And those who don't pass the test, who are evil and opposed to God will suffer, will forever be punished. But *"the upright will behold*

His face", and will literally and eternally be with Jesus, their Lord, Savior, and King. Pss. 17:15, 27:4-6; Job 19:25-27

Psalm 33:10-12. Gentile nations are apart from God and are devising man's plans. But their plans will come to naught, for God will frustrate them. In the near future, the United States and other world powers will be stopped in their tracks, for God will prevent them from fulfilling their god-less plans. After that, the Antichrist will arise, and God will bring his evil schemes to an end. But God's end-time and next-age plans regarding His chosen people and the nation of Israel will then be fulfilled. The Jewish people will be greatly blessed, a testimony of His love, power, faithfulness, and glory. *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen for His own inheritance."* Ps. 105:8-11, Is. 60-62

Psalm 37. The lessons of this Psalm are very relevant, especially during great tribulation times, when the Antichrist is ruling over the earth. With all the evildoers in the world, it is easy to fret, to worry, to get angry. But as a Christian, you must not do this. You are to *"trust in the Lord, and do good"*, to *"dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness"*, to "*delight yourself in the Lord"*, to *"commit your way to the Lord"*, to *"rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him", to "cease from anger", to "not fret", "to depart from evil",* to *"utter wisdom",* to have God's law in your heart, and to know that *"evildoers will be cut off",* that the *"wicked will perish."* In the age to come, Christians, as coheirs with Christ, along with believing Jews, will *"inherit the land"*, will *"inherit the earth"* (Ps. 37:11, Matt. 5:5). This phrase, *"inherit the land"*, appears six times in Ps. 37. That's because God wants to impress upon Jews and you the truth of your future, that you will be reigning with Christ over this world. Rev. 5:10, 20:6

Psalm 46. This too is needed in great tribulation times. There are wars and earthquakes, which, along with famines, plagues, and false christs, are birth pains occurring before Christ's coming (Matt. 24:4-8). We are instructed to take refuge in the Lord, to get our strength from Him, to

know that God is with us, and that Christ will destroy our enemies. We are to be still, to trust and rely on God, and to know that He *"will be exalted among the nations… will be exalted in the earth."* We are to also have hope, to know that we will soon be dwelling in the *"city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High."*

Psalm 47. It won't be long before Christ will be physically and spiritually reigning over this world. *"O clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with the voice of joy. For the Lord Most High is to be feared… He subdues peoples under us and nations under our feet… For God is the King over all of the earth; sing praises with a skillful psalm. God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne."*

Psalm 67. The Jewish people will be greatly blessed. And why? Because this is God's promise to them, (Gen. 12:1-3), because God loves them, because He wants them to be a blessing to the world, because He wants them to declare His message of salvation and make known His ways on the earth. God's purpose is that the whole world would praise and fear Him. He will *"judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth",* and the earth will be blessed. *"Let all the peoples praise You… God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him."* Psalms 65, 73, 96

Psalm 98. A large remnant of Jewish people will be saved at the end of Dan. 70th week, and the whole world will know this (Is. 45:17, Dan. 9:24). God will miraculously restore, will beautifully and wonderfully renew the earth (Ps. 65, Acts 3:21-22). Then the Lord God will come and *"judge the world with uprightness and the peoples with equity."* Rev. 8-9, 11, 16

These Psalms are applicable to believing Jews and, for the most part, to Christians. In this time of increasing evil, you must not be in the dark, you must know and take heed to the many prophetic truths that are clearly communicated in the Psalms and other portions of God's word:

* Know that God is sovereign and is causing all things to work together for His glory and His purposes.
* Know that the Gentile's god-less plans to rule the world will utterly fail.
* Know that God will save or judge individual people and that they will be forever blessed or forever punished, and that He will judge individual nations.

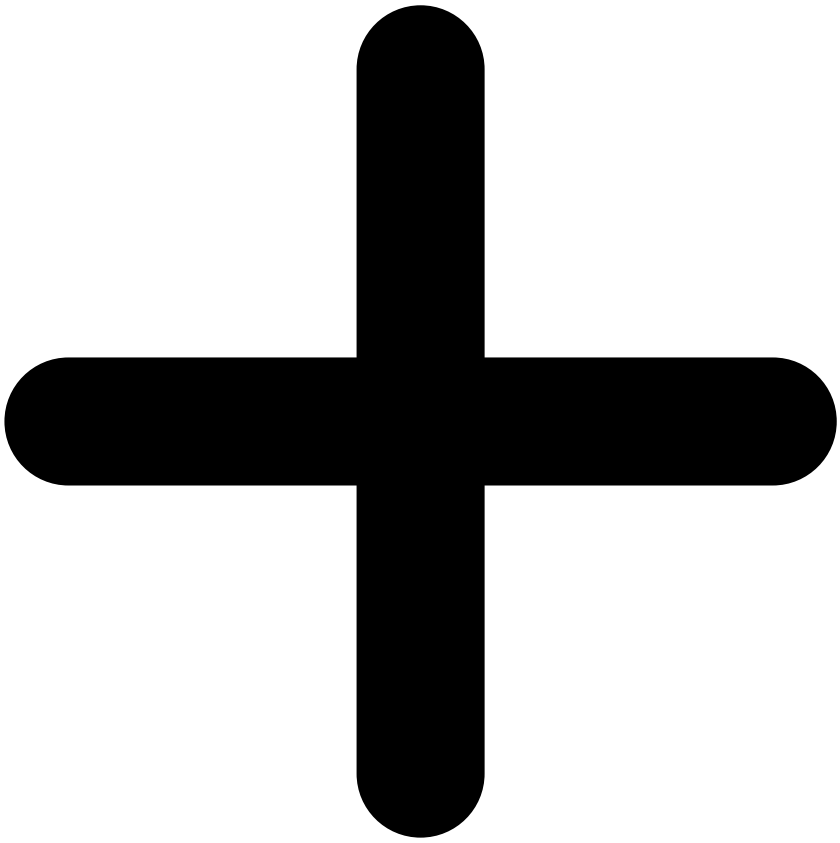
* Know that it won't be long before this world bows to Christ and confesses that He is Lord.
* Know that you are to love the Lord and trust Him as the foundations of our nations are destroyed, as birth pains affect parts of the world, and as great tribulation afflicts the elect, both Jews and Gentiles.
* Know what you are to do during the trying times of the birth pains and great tribulation, that you are not to fret, are not to do evil but good, are to wait on the Lord, are to speak words of wisdom, are to be looking forward to that time when you will be with Jesus and inherit the land.

* Know that God will judge the entire world at the end of this age.
* Know that a remnant of Jewish people will be physically and spiritually saved during Dan. 70th week, and that God will greatly bless them and use them for His purposes and glory.
* Know that Christ is coming back to be King over the world, and that believing Jews and Gentiles will reign with Him, and that it will a good, glorious, and blessed age for them and their land.
* Know that we live in an evil age, but soon, there will be a good age, a 1,000-year kingdom age perfectly ruled by Christ the King.

You must also know the God-ordained, end-time order of events, what many will witness in the years ahead. The Jews will confirm an agreement with the coming Antichrist; they will build their temple; the Antichrist will desecrate this temple; and great tribulation will afflict Jews and Christians. This persecution is cut short, at which time Christ returns to rapture the church. After that, Christ judges sinners still on earth, and then saves a remnant of Jews. There's the battle of

Armageddon, the defeat of the Antichrist, and the chaining of Satan. Then our Savior and King, Jesus Christ, will begin reigning over a renewed earth, and for 1,000 glorious years, we will rule with Him.

In these last years, you must know what will be taking place and be doing the Lord's work. You need to seek God's kingdom (Matt. 6:33), build the church (Matt. 16:18), preach the gospel (Matt. 24:14), make disciples (Matt. 28:19-20), pray *"Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name; Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,"* and be *"encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near"* (Heb. 10:25). And be filled with the Spirit. *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* Romans 15:13





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