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Troubling Times Are Leading to Christ's Coming and Great Glory



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #315 ~

Many conflicts, tragedies, and calamities are presently afflicting this earth. In times like these many people become unsettled and afraid, wondering what's happening, or even if the world is coming to an end. I understand why non-Christians may think like this, but confusion, fear, error, and hopelessness should never be true of Christians. That's because God has told you all you need to know about the future. Jesus said, *"Be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time"* (Mk. 13:23). *"He made know to us the mystery of His will"* (Eph. 1:9). God has told you exactly what He wants you to know – He has told you what you need to know – He has told you the key players and parts of His end-times' plan for you, the church, Israel, and the world.

God also wants you to know that He is in complete control of all that is and will be happening on this earth. In churches, in the lives of both saved and lost, in states and countries, in governors and presidents, in Israel and Iran, and in you and your family, God is sovereignly,

powerfully, righteously, and lovingly working. And He's not just overseeing the affairs of this world, He is intimately involved in everything that happens. Every single second, God is precisely and wisely carrying out His plans for planet earth and for every person on this earth.

God is continually leading, moving, and bringing you and this entire world closer to the end of this age and the coming of Christ. From God's perspective, what's occurring from now to Christ's coming is like a trillion-piece puzzle, and God is putting all the pieces together. He *"works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will"* (Eph. 1:11). And this global puzzle, God's plan for this world, for this present age, will be completed at Christ's coming.

At this time in history, Rom. 8:28 and Rom. 8:29 is truer than ever before. Rom. 8:28 says, *"We know that God causes all thing to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* And what is God's purpose for you? Rom. 8:29 tells us, *"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son?"* His purpose for you is to be like Jesus, to be perfect, to be powerful, to be immortal, to be glorious. 1 Cor. 15:42-44, Phil. 3:20-21, 1 John 3:2

We often look at Rom. 8:28 microscopically, thinking about the small events of our daily life. But you must see the big picture, you must know where your life is headed, that you will see Jesus, and be like Jesus, that you will be glorified. You must understand Rom. 8:28 in its context, you must connect it to Rom. 8:29 and Rom. 8:30 – *"These whom He predestined, He also called. And these whom He called, He also justified, and these whom He justified, He also glorified."* Do you realize the everlasting , life-changing truth of this last verse? It's one of the best, big-picture verses in the Bible. In eternity past, God planned out the entirety of your life, your eternal life, from justification to glorification to eternity future. Rom. 11:33-36

Next to knowing and growing in Christ, next to understanding the truth and eternal value of His first coming, you need to understand the truth

and eternal value of His 2nd coming, and what's leading up to Christ's return to earth. No Christian should be naïve, ignorant, speculating, or worrying about the end-times and the truth of Christ's 2nd coming. God has told you everything He wants you to know about the future, for He's convinced it will increase your hope, and your faith, love, and peace (Col. 1:3-5). I pray that you want to know these truths, and then tell others, encouraging the saved and warning the lost. 2 Tim. 4:1-8

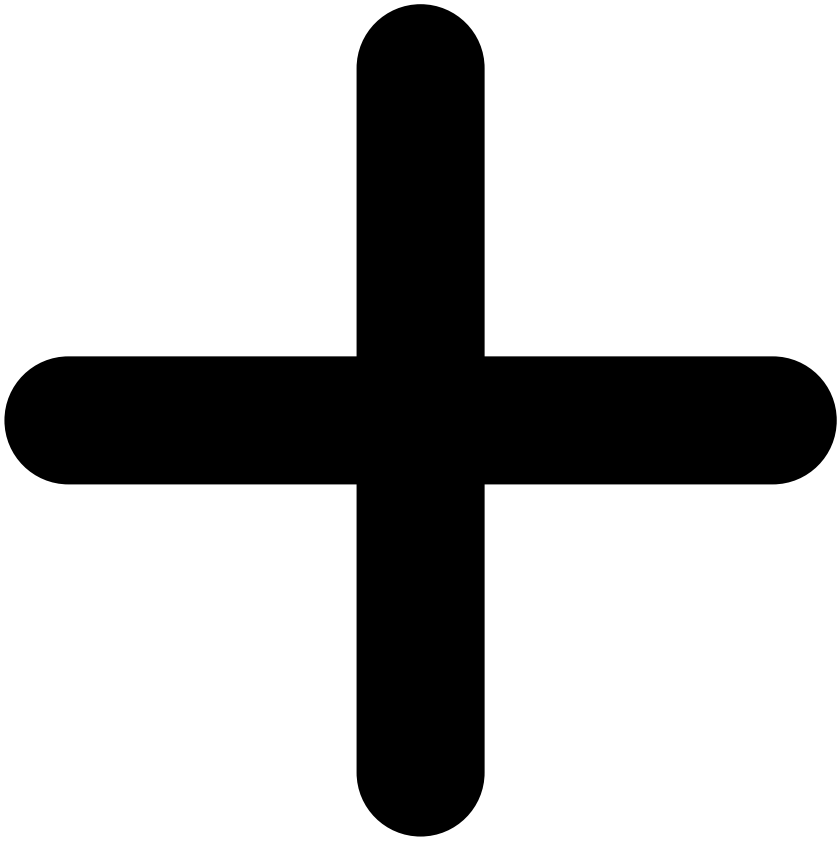
So read, pray, study, and learn what God has planned out for you, the church, Israel, and the world. *"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it, for the time is near"* (Rev. 1:3). I encourage you to take all the time you need to read and understand the book of Revelation, as well as Matt. 24, and Mark 13, and Luke 17:22-37, and Luke 21:5-36, and Rom. 8:18-25, and Rom. 11, and Rom. 13:11-14, and Rom. 15:8-13, and 1 Cor. 15:20-28, and 1 Cor. 15:50-58, and 1 Thess. 4:13-18, and 1 Thess. 5:1-11, and 2 Thess 1:3-12, and 2 Thess. 2:1-12, and Heb. 10:25-31, and Heb. 12:22-29, and James 5:3-11, and 1 Peter 1:3-16, and 2 Peter 3:3-13, and 1 John 2:28-3:3.

In the next post, I will talk about eschatological prophecy, I will describe the key players and parts of God's plan from now until the millennial kingdom. I will briefly talk about the Jewish people, the nations, the end-times, the birth pains, increasing evil, technology, the peace treaty, the Jewish temple, the Antichrist, great tribulation, the rapture, the day of the Lord, the salvation of the Jews, and the millennial kingdom. Each of these are key parts of God's perfect plan as it relates to Christ's coming and to you, the church, Israel, and the world.

"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over, the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Rom. 13:11-12). *"Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."* Revelation 22:7

P.S. It's vitally important that you know what will be taking place before

Christ’s coming – and I have talked about it at great length on this blog site. Here are a few other posts on this subject: *“Matthew 24 – A Road Map of the End-Times”*, *“When Is Christ Coming Back?”*, and *“What Needs to Happen Before Christ’s Return?”*



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