

LAST DAYS STAGE SETTING REALITIES

We as believers are not looking for the “undertaker” but for the “uppertaker”. We are not looking for the Antichrist, but for the Christ. We are not looking for signs, but for the blessed hope of our Lord’s return.

The next great event on the prophetic calendar as constantly presented to the Church is the coming of Christ for the Church at the Rapture (cf. Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 1:7, 15:53-58, 16:22; Phil. 3:20, 4:5; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13). Following on the heels of the Rapture will be the Day of the Lord judgment that will come upon the entire world.

Christ at the time of the rapture will come as “a thief in the night” (Matt. 24:43-44) which will segue into the Day of the Lord judgment which also will come as “thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2).

The coming of Christ at the Rapture and the coming of the day of the Lord are like two sides of the same coin. The coin is the coming as a thief. On the one side of the coin is the coming of Christ, and on the other side of the coin is the coming of the Day of the Lord. They are distinct but yet closely related in that the one segues into the other. Deliverance of the Church gives way to judgment of the world (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9).

Because the Day of the Lord judgment follows immediately on the heels of the Rapture it is to be expected that the world’s stage will be set for the Day of the Lord even prior to the Rapture. So, while there are no definitive SIGN POSTS given to the Church there are certain end times “stage setting” realities that we even now seemingly see coming into place.

Note a number of these “stage setting” realities....

1. Israel is back in the land in blindness (cf. Ezek. 36-39, Rom. 11:25).

The return of Israel to the land of promise is often referred to as the “Last Days’ Super Sign” (cf. Jer. 16:14-15, 30:3, 11, 31:10, Ezek. 11:17, 20:33-38, 40-41, 22:17-22, 36:24, 37:21, 38:8, Dan. 9:24-27, Hos. 3:4-5, Joel 3, Micah 4:11-12, Zeph. 2:1-2, Zech. 12:2-3, Mt. 24:16, Lk. 21:24, Rom. 11:26). Prophetic history largely revolves around Israel. It is Israel that is God’s “prophetic time piece”. Last Days’ prophecy essentially moves forward in relationship to Israel. The fact that Israel is back in the land is by

itself cogent Biblical evidence that the stage is being set for the last days' finale. However, in addition to this great truth we see a number of other "stage setting" realities all coming together at the same time.

2. The nations of the world have divided up the land of Israel which is a KEY reason that God brings judgment on the world (cf. Joel 3:2).
3. Israel is getting desperate for a peace broker who will be able to bring about a "settled" peace agreement for them as a people (cf. Dan. 9:27).
4. There is a global cry for peace in the middle east (cf. 1 Thess. 5:1-4).
5. Jerusalem as representative of the Jewish state is the focal point of ongoing global tensions (cf. Lk. 21:24, Zech. 12:3, 6).
6. A great coalition under the leadership of Russia involving Iran, Turkey, and other countries is quietly evolving which eventually will invade the land of Israel (cf. Ezek. 38-39).
7. A revival of the Roman Empire (Europe) is now underway out of which will come the Antichrist (cf. Dan. 2:40-45, 9:26-27).
8. Babylon (Iraq) with tremendous oil reserves is being positioned to once again become a major world player (cf. Isa. 13-14, 48, Jer. 50-51, Zech. 5:5-11; Rev. 18).
9. The world is oblivious to the obvious "signs" of the times (cf. Mt. 16:2-3, 1 Th. 5:1-4, 2 Pet. 3:3-4). As it was in the days of Noah people are going about life with no thought for God or coming judgment (cf. Lk. 17:26-27). As it was in the days of Noah the earth is becoming more and more "filled with violence" (Gen. 6:11, 13). The "mystery of lawlessness" that defines the spirit of Antichrist is already very much at work (Ps. 2:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:7-8; 1 Jn. 2:18).
10. Unprecedented last days' apostasy. Never before in the history of the church has any sector of the "church" (Christendom) openly embraced homosexually until recent days (cf. Lk. 17:28-30, 2 Tim. 3:5, 13).

11. Great ecumenical movements are in place that will eventuate in a great religious whore which unites apostate religion worldwide (cf. Rev. 17).
12. The emergence of a one-world order which will eventuate in a one-world government under antichrist (cf. Rev. 13, 18).
13. Mankind is capable of destroying all of human life on the planet (cf. Mt. 24:21-24). Nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons make this a chilling present-day reality.
14. Global communications are in place where the whole world can see specific events live at one time (cf. Rev. 11:9-10). Technology involving computers, television, smart phones, and a global satellite network make this a present reality.
15. Rampant mind-altering drug use, involvement with the occult, and immorality abound (cf. Rev. 9:21).
16. People are very open to receiving a permanent “mark”. We have a society that is now tattooed, pierced, and primed for the antichrist (cf. Rev. 13:16).
17. The masses are closed to sound doctrine but open to fables (cf. Mt. 24:4-5, 1Tim. 4:1, 2Tim. 4:3-4, 2Pet. 2:1-3).
18. Flippant and flagrant blasphemy is increasingly common (cf. 2 Tim. 3:2, Rev. 16:9, 11, 21).
19. Self-absorbed people who are “Earth Dwellers” with little or no thought for God largely define society (cf. Lk. 17:26-30, 2 Tim. 3:5, Rev. 3:10, 6:10, 8:13, 11:10, 13:8, 14, 17:8).
20. The growth of worldwide antisemitism. In the past we have seen pockets of antisemitism and certain areas in the world where it was prevalent. But the spread in recent times is becoming more and more a worldwide phenomenon. In the end the whole world will rally against Israel and Jerusalem (cf. Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2). The seeds of this are being sown today as a stage setting reality.

When one sees the convergence of many “stage setting” realities related to end times prophecy it should be a MAJOR wakeup call!

Romans 13:11 (NKJV)

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

Maranatha!

Live Ready!