



*“ . . . you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free ”*

—Jesus Christ (John 8:32)

It never ceases to amaze me how relevant the Scriptures are to trends within our society, today; especially within the current “cancel culture.” Take this past election, for example: After four years of turning American politics on its head by seeking to impeach a man simply because of something people “feel” about him, and enduring unparalleled social pressure (something we call “peer pressure” among teens, but deny among adults engaging in “gossip”)—we have experienced a culture that suddenly seems to have turned from civility to hostility, and from the ability to discuss issues and belief systems with which we may disagree—into a nation up in arms: sometimes, literally (as with Antifa) and occasionally, with the media agreeing to condemn it (as with the incident on January 6<sup>th</sup> of this year).

Our nation’s shenanigans at the voting booth have also become an unspoken “given” within quiet and sleepy discussions, while others awaken to the loss of truths and innocence once cherished, being trampled—without “due process.”

Yet for the Christian, there is another truism found within Scripture that describes an even higher form of understanding which the Bible calls “wisdom.” Said wise king Solomon of wisdom, “all who hate me, *love death*” (Proverbs 8:36). —And, of course, wisdom is enjoined when dealing with such things as a deadly virus (as COVID); nor does this mean that if we ignore God’s wisdom we suddenly embrace death (or suicide)—directly. No, it is just that when we turn from the Light, we start running into those things that go “bump” in the Night. We start to make foolish decisions: like trying to defeat a virus, by shutting down much of our country . . . and churches, for months on end, instead of turning as a nation, *to God*. —And turning to government as our savior, for those “really serious” problems of the world, like the poverty found in South & Central America, by

(continued . . .)

throwing open our borders with little regard for the holes in our own safety net (or the rape & pillaging of many seeking a better life)—while also starting to spend so much of our national reserves on an effort to save the soul of our country (through socialism) . . . that we find we can no longer afford to fully upgrade our national defenses—but then again, how much do we have to spend to survive pending judgment?

So that what was once “the land of the free, and home of the brave” starts to become a very different place—willing to surrender everything to avoid dying in the near term (physically) when sacrificing houses of worship to “stay safe” (although few dare to say it, for it is politically incorrect!).

Therefore today, within this UPLOOK we *will* dare to trace some of these trends deeper, within Scripture itself, to the core of human experience and into the heart of the world’s foremost “spiritual hospital” on earth. We will start to trace this trend into what the Bible calls a “mystery”—within

our church and world.

No, no, we will not be pointing our fingers at a long list of errant ministers who have taught this, or that, but will take a look at ourselves as we seek to do what the apostle Peter instructed all of us to do on the day that the Church was birthed, on the Day of Pentecost:

*“Save yourselves from this perverse generation!”*

Acts 2:40

We will do this by first examining a prophetic principle of divine judgment—that “mystery” found within the pages of the apostle Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians (its second chapter). Only then, after we have admitted that the church-at-large, and much of our beloved nation, is now engaged in a pattern that is leading towards divine judgment—will we be ready to again search the pages of Bible prophecy to get a better idea of what the prophets have hinted about this beloved country, that was once, “one nation, under God, indivisible: with liberty and justice, for all.”



# The “Mystery”

*And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, . . ."*

Mark 4:11

Among the mysterious treasures found within the Bible, there is one that runs from Genesis to Revelation revealing a contest of kingdoms called the “mystery of iniquity” (or, of “lawlessness,” in modern transla-

tions)—that will culminate with Christ’s returning. Yet for many who do not know the Lord, such things seem mere “foolishness” and the stuff of fables. Therefore, its simple truth eludes them. However Christ’s kingdom remains an eternal kingdom, unshakeable, and unlike any “deep state” that now dominates the lower regions of human society or darkens the realms of pure evil, over which the Devil himself has domain.

This country (the United States) is a land that once prided itself on being a part, or at least an *unofficial* part of the kingdom of Light, as it strove to be a “shining city upon a hill” (i.e. a nation founded on the principles of Scripture, as we “proclaimed liberty throughout the land”). Thus, to better understand what is happening within the larger sphere of good and evil today, it seems prudent to carefully examine our country’s founding while also seeking to understand a simple, but serious, birth defect within its foundation—now becoming more evident within this twenty-first century. For, at the point at which these two kingdoms of Light and Darkness diverge, there lies a fault line that is widening and growing ever more evident as the hours, days, and years progress.

To keep this discussion as simple as possible, let us consider a key statement within our nation’s birthing:



“And you shall . . . Proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants . . .” Leviticus 25:10

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness . . .

--from the US Declaration of Independence, 1776

Let us consider, as well, a favored quote located on the bronze plaque placed at the base of the Statue of Liberty, in New York harbor:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to  
breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming  
shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost  
to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

—Emma Lazarus (1883)

Now, for the sake of comparison, allow me to quote a few passages from the New Testament, of the Holy Bible, where the Jewish Messiah (Jesus Christ) offers the covenant blessings of the nation of Israel to *all* who would follow the Christ: the one sent to be the savior of humankind and Lord of *all* who place their trust in Him.

<sup>28</sup> *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup> *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* <sup>30</sup> *For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

Matthew 11:28-30

—As for the underlying concept of freedom, itself, the Lord over God's Kingdom (which spans all nations of all

true believers) says:

*Then Jesus said to those Jews\* who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

John 8:31-32

And of the stuff (“things”) of wealth and prosperity?

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

Matthew 6:33-34

To enlarge upon this last point, regarding the acquisition of wealth (for a great and increasing confusion on the purpose of personal wealth now abounds): Please recall to mind those founding words within the Declaration about “the pursuit of happiness”—and contrast this perspective with the Bible’s warning to those seeking to accumulate wealth, for wealth’s sake. For as the apostle Paul warns: “. . . *the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*” (1 Timothy 6:10)

So then, what are we to “pursue”??

*But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life . . .*

1 Timothy 6:11-12

And how, exactly, does all of this relate to the spiritual battle (in a practical way) now engaged in by those of us on pilgrimage towards our final Home? —And how

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\* this includes all believers in the Christ (Romans 2:28,29)



## Beyond the **STATUS QUO**

<sup>40</sup> *Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.* <sup>41</sup> *Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.*

<sup>42</sup> *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*

Matthew 24:40-42

**I** have a confession to make. I am actually quite thankful that the *LEFT BEHIND* series sold over 65 million copies. Some may wonder at this admission, but Scripture teaches that prophets must foretell the future in proportion to their faith (Romans 12:6). Therefore, if the God is revealing something that cannot be conceived of by the prophet, or something that they cannot “see” in their mind—then they cannot proclaim it. For, “faith is the substance of things *hoped* for . . .” (Heb. 11:3)—and you can only *hope* for something that you can *imagine* happening. It seems logical, therefore, that if a prophet needs faith to proclaim the future . . . the one *receiving* that prophecy **must also be able to conceive of what is being stated or proclaimed**, or they will not be able to believe what is told to them!

It is for this reason that, although I can demonstrate that the church will go through the Great Tribulation—for Christ has most certainly promised that we will all have tribulation, itself (John

16:33)—many believers who believe that the church will be taken out of this world *before* Tribulation nonetheless realize that the verses quoted at the opening of this article are exactly what the *LEFT BEHIND* series is describing!

In other words; anyone familiar with the *LEFT BEHIND* series knows what the “rapture” or “catching away” of real Christians may look like—even though the opening quote of our discussion, today, takes place *after* the Tribulation, (as per Matthew 24:29-30). —Which is good news for *us* because, if Christ must come *before* great tribulation . . . We may have missed it, for that’s what we are stepping into, today!

Or, put another way: prophetic interpretation within institutionalized religion, most often supports a view of prophecy that will allow those in the pew to “go to sleep,” as judgment approaches—but judgment is really our *friend* when we embrace it as God’s corrective force in our lives (1 Cor. 11:31-32, Heb. 12:6-12).

Or, put in still another way: “Status quo Christianity would merely allow a sleeping church to have ‘pleasant dreams’”—as the reality of God’s painful warnings from prophecy loom upon the horizon (a warning vividly portrayed, by the way, in Christ’s parable of some sleeping virgins, in Matthew 25:1-10 . . . )!!

I know that the above statement, if taken to heart, may seem earth shattering and apocalyptic to many reading this material: particularly, if we considers ourselves to be among the truly faithful, willing to die for our faith. Yet, as the apostle Paul clearly states within the Scriptures:

*Yes, and all who desire to live  
godly in Christ Jesus will suffer  
persecution.*

2 Timothy 3:12

And the Lord, Himself, has said:

*<sup>17</sup> And you will be hated by all for  
My name's sake. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair  
of your head shall be lost.*

Luke 21:17-18

So that, although we all go through tribulation, all true Christians *are* saved from the wrath to come (1 Thes. 1:10). For, as the three Hebrew boys went into the fire within Babylon—not a hair of their heads was even singed (Daniel 3:27)! What does all of this mean, in practical and eternal terms, for the us today? And . . .

**H**ow may we be awakened (not “woke”)—and stay awake as Paul the apostle says we may, in 1Thes. 5:6-7?

I propose to you that we may do so by prayerfully, and humbly, considering Bible prophecy with a **de-termination to love the truth** (2 Thes. 2:11-12)!!

While keeping in mind all that has been discussed thus far concerning victims of the status quo, I now ask that we consider the following discussion in full light of all we have now discovered. For many are starting to re-study Bible prophecy in hope of eventually gaining a better understanding of John’s Revelation of Jesus (the last book of the Bible)—by first studying the Old Testament book of Daniel, which has definite links to that crown jewel “hidden” at the end of the Book.

Therefore, I heartily agree and do recommend the careful study of the Daniel’s prophecy for insight into our future, **but caution the reader to thoroughly understand that the same road blocks that hinder the understanding all prophecy (i.e. resistance to views that point the finger of judgment in our direction) are resident within this section of**

**Daniel’s writings, as well.**

So now that we have (hopefully) armed ourselves for battle, let us jump straight into the fray, shall we? Let us go to the main passage, within the prophet Daniel’s prophecy that has strong links to the Revelation.

**W**e now step directly into Daniel’s seventh chapter which (for obvious reasons) we will only be able to touch upon with our “little toes” as we literally dip into these waters . . .

*<sup>2</sup> Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. <sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. <sup>4</sup> The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.*

Daniel 7:2-4 [emphasis added]

Because I wish to do some serious digging (even though only touching the fringes with our “little toes”!), I am going to ask the reader to have a Bible

open, as we examine a few issues here. For I recommend that you read this entire chapter, as well as the next, before continuing. Why read the entire two chapters? Because it is possible that you may notice something different about the seventh chapter, which does not occur within the eighth:

It is highly non-specific.

For Daniel’s eighth chapter tells us that its symbols relate to the kingdoms of Media Persia and Greece (Dan. 8:20-21)—before telling us that an alternate interpretation also points to the very end of the age, as we now know it (in verse 23).

No such notation appears within Daniel’s seventh chapter: none. Oh yes, there are definite and undeniable apocalyptic statements made towards the end of this chapter, as well, pointing into eternity—when Jesus delivers the Kingdom up to the Father (in verses 13 & 14)! However, there are no

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**I know that the  
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statements about the meaning of the symbols of the seventh chapter with reference to the time in which Daniel was then living: not one. We may make assumptions, but there are no definite statements made . . . within this chapter.

However, I do not wish to encourage the reader to “remove their toes” from the waters we have begun to enter. Instead, please *do* notice the exact wording of the passage we have quoted above. Notice the “Great Sea” and the beasts arising out of it, in Daniel 7:2. Got it?

**Now, let us flip to that enigmatic Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1) at the very end of the Bible, shall we?** Again, we must be willing to jump right in—to the middle of that vision. (My latest book, *WHEN IT IS TIME*, takes a similar approach but, of course, spends a great deal more time explaining exactly *why* we are catapulting into the *middle* of this amazing prophecy!)

Now, reading from the thirteenth chapter, we suddenly notice an amazing similarity between it, and the vision given to Daniel:

<sup>1</sup> *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.*

Revelation 13:1 [emphasis added]

The beast with ten horns also appears later in Daniel’s seventh chapter, as we will soon see, but for now I wish to simply note that this beast arises *out of the sea*. The next verse describes this beast which includes mention of a lion—without its wings (similar to the verse we quoted from earlier, where the wings were plucked). However, the similarities in no way end here, for the imagery of John’s Revelation, when examined more carefully, reveals a *mirror image* of the symbolism shared within Daniel’s seventh chapter. If we were to take the time to quote more of Daniel seven, we would note that it describes not one, but *four*

different beasts, in order: the Lion with eagle’s wings (vss. 3-4), a Bear which devours much flesh (vs. 5), and a leopard having four heads and four wings—which has dominion given to it (vs. 6). Then, the next verse says:

<sup>7</sup> *After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.*

Daniel 7:7

It is this “fourth beast” which was “different” from all the beasts listed before it, that is being described within John’s Revelation, in opening of its thirteenth chapter. Please note that these “beasts” are actually “kings” or “kingdoms” as stated later within the chapter (Dan. 7:17-18). Notice also, the chief characteristic of this “fourth beast”—it is **destructive**, to the point of appearing to be an anarchist: “*it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet.*”

When looking at the creature in John’s Revelation, the beasts/kingdoms mentioned in Daniel’s seventh chapter: **the Lion, the Bear, and the Leopard are mentioned in exactly reverse order**, forming a powerful federation, and having one very important characteristic that identifies its power source.

<sup>2</sup> *Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

Revelation 13:2

**Y**es, the gloves are off, within this prophecy, for it makes no bones about the source of this federation’s power. In a stark contrast you may note (in a comparison that may offend some, but it does

seem appropriate)—that our nation’s founding was upon Christian principles, and that we display the eagle on our dollar bill, along with the words “In God we trust.” So, did you notice Daniel’s mention of our nation’s eagle? (Notice the “eagle,” what eagle?? —Not today, we don’t, we are tracking the rise of *the* Antichrist, and must move on . . .)

From the above quotation we now know that in the day when the Antichrist becomes manifest (visible for all to see) the world will be openly serving . . . the Devil.\* Yet we must continue to move still further along, for our space is limited . . . Do you also remember the very destructive characteristic of that “fourth beast” mentioned in Daniel’s seventh chapter? We must now start to link these two prophecies together—so please take the time to notice, as well, *why* the peoples of the world will honor and worship the beast being displayed within John’s Revelation: This federation of nations has unparalleled **war like powers**.

<sup>4</sup> *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*  
Revelation 13:4 [emphasis added]

What kind of “war like powers” one wonders, are now become evident? Next verse:

<sup>5</sup> *And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, . . .* <sup>6</sup> *Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.*

Revelation 13:5-6

You may awaken now:

Welcome to the “cancel culture” of the twenty-first century.

†

\* the “dragon” is identified as the one called “the Devil and Satan,” in Rev. 12:9

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= *The "Mystery"* =

does it relate to what is happening to us within our nation *today* (as per socialism, for example: Is all money "evil"? Does one person's wealth necessarily make them better—or less, than her/his neighbor?)

Should we flee into monasteries? Definitely not, for Jesus clearly prayed to His Father, in Heaven:

*I do not pray that  
You should take them out  
of the world, but that You  
should keep them from the  
evil one.*

John 17:15

And He taught us to also pray:

*. . . do not lead us into  
temptation, But deliver us  
from the evil one . . . .*

Matthew 6:13

Therefore, as the true Church is commissioned to shine the light of the gospel into all the world, and to lift up *our* Light beside *Heaven's* "golden Door" (which is Jesus—John 10:7-9); is it possible that the true fellowship of Christian believers that once supported this nation and our world with its light and fervor . . . may have possibly been corrupted, as we have started to pursue "happiness" instead of holiness before the Lord, and have sought to "make America Great again"—by pursuing the wrong values (of economic gain, instead of true righteousness)??

However we may look at the political vs. spiritual battle today, the Bible does paint a definite picture of the church *itself* drifting away from its moorings at the end of this age of grace, in a manner that will facilitate the rise of the Antichrist—and it is within this specific context that it speaks of both the "mystery of iniquity" (or "lawlessness" within modern translations), as well as the rise of

the "man of sin" commonly known as *the* Antichrist.

This, we cannot deny, when reading the apostle Paul's second letter to the church at Thessalonica—describing what is now taking place just prior Christ's returning in the heavens (which he spoke about in his first letter (1 Thes. 4:16-17):

<sup>1</sup> *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind . . .*

<sup>3</sup> *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

If you are a Christian, and have ever heard the above text read within a sermon, you most likely have also heard debate over what it is that the verses following mean, concerning the rise of the Antichrist. Yet, allow me to demystify any such discussion, as we allow your eyes to be open to the clear and open statement already made—that **the Day of Christ will not come unless the falling away [from the faith] comes first.** This is an inconvenient truth, refused by many, when reading the following text which states:

*Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.*

2 Thessalonians 2:5-6

So, what is "restraining" so that the Antichrist may be revealed in his own time?

**It is the condition of the Church universal** (which is the fellowship of all true believers)—

also described by Christ, in His parable of the ten virgins, wherein Christ stated:

*But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*

Matthew 25:5

Please note, carefully, that the above parable follows Christ's description of end time events found within Matthew's 24<sup>th</sup> chapter (remember our opening quote, about "parables"? Those who are "outside" have great difficulty understanding them . . .). This is why it is particularly significant that when the apostle Paul speaks of the same event in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of his first letter to Thessalonica he also adds, later:

<sup>6</sup> *Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. . .*

<sup>8</sup> *But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, . . .*

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 [emphasis added]

And why should we prepare ourselves for battle (which is why persons put battle armor)?? It is because (next verse):

*For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

1 Thessalonians 5:9

Ah yes, there is that concept of the wrath and the judgment of God, which the apostle Paul informs us about, in the very first part of that letter, by saying that we are:

*. . . to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus*

*who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

1 Thes. 1:10 (Rev. 20:11-15)

So, be blessed, in Jesus! †

# What Must I Do?

*“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”*  
Acts 16:31

**How?** . . . *If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*  
Romans 10:9,10

# In Other Words

**Acknowledge:** your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

**Accept:** His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

**Confess:** your acceptance of His lordship over you.

**Live for Him:** with your new life.

*For the scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed.”*

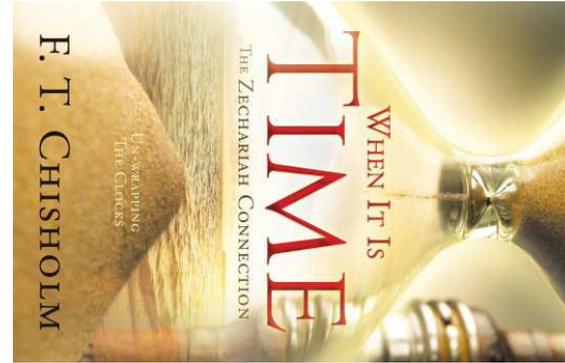
Romans 10:11

## ENDNOTES;

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A Comprehensive Approach

—to end time events

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