



Perilous Times

Sermons Presented By Stephen McIntyre
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The world we live skates on very thin ice. The line that separates the civilized world from barbarianism is thinner than we thought. Mens hearts are failing them from fear as they see that veneer unravelling before their very eyes.

Come to Jeremiah 8 in your Bible. If you've watched the news this week, there is trouble in the Middle East. There are bombs being detonated - destroying homes - destroying lives. Human beings blowing themselves up in the name of God! I would like to share with you a scripture text from the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah 8 talks about a bomb(?) balm in Gilead. **Jeremiah 8:22, "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?"**

I will tell you that Jesus Christ is the only Balm of Gilead. And now Human Bombs and all kinds of Bombs of destruction have replaced Balm. And that's the problem. Until Jesus Christ is accepted as Saviour and King in Palestine there will be no peace in Palestine. Terrorists strap bombs to their bodies and walk into family restaurants and kill the innocent because they are serving a false messiah.

Zechariah 2 talks about the holy land.. **Zechariah 2:10-12, "10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. 11 And many nations shall be**

joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee. 12 And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again. 13 Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation."

There is a place in this world called the holy land (Palestine, Israel and Jordan), but is it in fact holy? Strife, turmoil, gunpowder, bullets, bombs and bloodshed. A website that takes its visitors on a photographic journey of the Holy land displays the following message: "Visit the holy land from the safety of your home computer...take a photo journey!"

Will things get better in the holy land before Jesus comes? The word of God tells us no. If this old world lasts another fifty years, do you realize that the current population of six billion will skyrocket to nine billion. Most of that increase will be in the developing countries. The middle east is one of those. There will be even more people jammed into that volatile spot. We can manipulate human genes, but we cannot master human nature. We've tried and tried, but the only hope is in Jesus Christ. He is coming! Jesus must come into my heart, into your heart and finally He will come to take us home!

From today's headlines Palestine is often viewed as a God-forsaken place. It is dangerous for its residents let alone its tourists. It all started when Abram allowed Hagar into his tent. God promised the Holy Land to Abram's descendants. Abraham had two boys: Ishmael and Isaac. Mohammed was an Ishmaelite and Isaac was the first Jewish child.

Genesis 16:12 gives the following statement about Ishmael and his character: **"12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."**

In other words, this text says there will be no cure for the conflict as in the Middle East. As long as there are Muslims and Jews they will never find true peace between them. They will be at each others throats.

The war today in Palestine could very well escalate, drawing into its vortex Iraq, Iran, Syria, and who knows who else. Mid East oil would surely be affected. The last days are not child's play. **2 Timothy 3:1, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."**

We are supposed to be in a new world order. But what we see on our TV screens is a new world Disorder. Terrorism is rampant everywhere causing bloodshed and violence. The sword cannot bring salvation. Only Jesus can save. So what is next? Only God knows what is next, but He gives some hints in the Bible. **Matthew 24:6, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."**

The true terrorists are not the terrorist that fly jet aircraft into buildings. The true terrorists today are the ones that penetrate the human heart with their deadly cargo of sin. Our greatest danger is not Anthrax but Apathy. Our greatest loss is not buildings but belief. Jesus said in **Luke 18:8, "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"** That's the greatest danger. Are the vast multitudes mired deep in sin today? Are we, as an end-time movement that is to proclaim the soon return of Jesus and the truth as it is in Jesus, mired in sin as well? Only God can read the heart. May we as a people of the book search our hearts and repent if we

have fallen short of the glory of God. The Lord will rejoice and bring restoration and revival amongst His people! The Devil has the world today engrossed in prostitution, pornography, pleasure and profit. Love of money must be replaced by love of the Master.

Just before World War Two, Nazi Germany made laws taking religion out of all government functions. Taking prayer out of all public places. God was removed from all government activities. We, here in North America, have been systematically doing the same thing in. It is high time to get back to the God who will save us to the uttermost. **Hebrews 7:25, "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."**

Jesus continues with His table of contents for last day events: **Matthew 24:7, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."**

Pestilence means "Any virulent or fatal contagious disease." Aids could be referred to here. Eighteen hundred new babies are born every day infected with HIV. Six new people become infected each minute. U S News and World Report, July, 24, 2000 p. 24 says that Aids is the worst plague ever to hit human population.

Matthew 24:8, "All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Matthew 24:9-12, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Including Christians!!

Is love toward God growing cold? Is wickedness increasing? Did you know that born-again Christian adults are more likely to experience a divorce than are non-born Christians. (27% vs. 24% source: Survey Expert - George Barna Research Group, year-2000).

More facts:

- Christians spend seven times as much time on entertainment as they do on Spiritual Activities. (Ibid.)
- Fewer than 1/3 of all teenagers are likely to attend a Christian church once they are living independent of their parents.
- Belief that the Bible is literally true has now dropped from 65% of North American adults to 33% since 1960. (Source- Gallup poll, see also The Washington Times, 12- 11-00)
- Barna suggests that North America is now entering a period that historians will someday regard as the "beginning of the era of Moral anarchy." This is happening very fast. "Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 11.

Has anyone here ever been in a fender bender. Your driving along, enjoying a peaceful drive through the countryside on a beautiful warm sunny day. Your thoughts are relaxed and you are truly enjoying the

tranquillity of the day. All of a sudden, out of no where, another car backs out of there driveway and before you know it, bam! It happens so quickly. You don't have time to dodge the impending collision. Because of the peaceful drive through the countryside our drivers caution light in our minds was turned off. We were not prepared! The final movements will be rapid ones.

The time of the end is at hand! All one has to do is diligently study from the book of Daniel and Revelation where it is revealed that we are indeed living in the time of the end. There is no doubt! Do we know when Jesus is coming? God has not revealed a specific date but in His love and mercy He has given us precious signs so that we will know that His coming is soon - even at the doors!

Events are changing to actually bring about the second coming of Christ. The former generation stood on the threshold of these things. It seems like we are standing, witnessing the unravelling of society. Just months ago the world seemed to be safer. Now, the globe itself seems to be changing. There is an ice island the size of Rhode Island that has broken away from Antarctica and some of that ice was made before Jesus was born. This has never happened before.

The world is disintegrating. Events are capturing the attention of prophecy students. Signs are everywhere. Massive Volcano s are about to erupt. Earthquakes are threatening. The areas most prone to Earthquakes are the most populated!

Daniel 2 in your Bible tells the approximate time that Jesus will come. **Daniel 2:34 - "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces."** We know this will happen quickly because this stone that was cut out without hands, smote or utterly destroyed the great image representing the kingdoms of this world. The word smote means to strike with powerful effect! A quick strike - a powerful strike! Who does this stone or rock represent? Jesus! Jesus comes approximately in the time of the ten toes, the ten nations of Europe. His coming surely is soon.

Matthew 24:13,14, " But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Take China for instance. There are Chinese citizens today being sentenced to death whose only crime is assembling in a private home for Christian worship. Bibles are being confiscated. But the gospel will soon go to all the world and then Jesus will come.

Revelation 13 talks about the power of the beast. **Revelation 13: 11-12, "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."** When you look at the world right now, you see a very believable Revelation 13. The goals of the beast result in universal worship. All will worship together. All will soon be forced to worship false teachings and the commandments of men.

The freedoms we enjoy today could go down with the setting of the sun some day. And they will. We don't have much longer. God is opening windows of opportunity to share precious Words of Life. Through

persecution and conflict the gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached to the entire world, and then the end will come!

The most important thing that we can possibly do, is to establish our relationship with Jesus Christ, to make sure that it is solid, to make sure that we know Jesus. **John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2. The same was in the beginning with God. 3. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.** We are in Christ when we are in the Word! Jesus reveals Himself to us in His Word! And that relationship with Jesus is all that matters. The only thing in this life today is to stay with Jesus, stay connected and help others get connected to the source of eternal life!

Everything is lining up as foretold in prophecy. Are we lining up? Are we awake? Are we doing our duty to warn others? Are we really connected with Jesus? Are we watching? Are we praying?

Matthew 25 makes a final statement to conclude. **Matthew 25:13, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."** We need to watch and be ready. Jesus' coming is soon. Don't allow anything to lull you back into sleep. Let's be ready, and stay ready, and get others ready. In time like these we need a Saviour. We need Jesus!