

Second Coming: God's Decision

1. PURPOSE OF THIS SERMON

a. I make no apologies for the message of this series. If it bothers you, ask God what it might be that he is trying to teach you.

(Deuteronomy 10-15 KJV) And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

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(Deuteronomy 8:18 KJV) But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

b. God gives power to gain wealth and God will pull the cork on wealth.

c. Pride says:

i. we did this of ourselves.

ii. we can handle problems by our own accord.

d. We need to be for God and against that which is against God! We need to be for Truth.

2. TEXT

(Matthew 24:1-51) "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,

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but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

3. THE WORLD THEN

a. How was it in the days of Noah?

(Gen 6:5-7, 9-13 NIV) The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them."

This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people

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of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

- i. Violence is prominent everywhere and increasing.
 - ii. People mock God by saying, "I have heard all my life that Jesus is coming and it has not happened yet!"
 - iii. They mock God.
- b. "that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time."
- i. Human beings had turned their back on God. No longer did man seek the will of God, rather they sought their own satisfaction.

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1. Another event in history: Charles Mitchell, Chairman of the National City Bank of New York:
 - a. "The industrial situation of the United States is absolutely sound. And our credit situation is in no way critical. The interest given by all the public brokers is always exaggerated. The Markets are in healthy condition. The last six weeks have done an immense amount of good by shaking down prices. I know of nothing wrong with the stock market or the underlying business in credit structure."
 - b. In fairness, Mitchell tried to provide positive comments about the situation I believe in hope to stem the crisis of the time. But being positive is not enough to stem the tide.
 - c. Made two days before the Stock Market crash of 1929.

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d. Did God pull the cork?

- c. "the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence."
- i. Mankind had turned to anarchy. Each was on his own within the "group" he or she may have pledged allegiance to.
 - ii. Suicide went up.
 - iii. Theft, especially bank robberies increased significantly.
 - iv. Murders increased.
 - v. Are we headed this way also?

4. THE REAL PROBLEM.

a. Then

- i. The Roaring Twenties
- ii. "Greatest era of prosperity. People's minds were focused on making money. Known as a decade of Decadence."
- iii. "In ten years it (United States) changed from a country of well mannered, God fearing people into a nation saturated in drunkenness, licentiousness, and obsessed with sex."

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- iv. "Money and sports are our golden idols."
- v. "God's name is used in vain now more than ever. Language has turned vulgar."
- vi. "Marriages are breaking down faster than ever. Chastity is old fashioned."

- 1. 1910 – 1 out of 100 marriages ended in divorce.

- 2. 1928 – 1 in 6 ended in divorce.

- 3. 1935 – 1 in 50 ended in divorce.

- a. Some say it was simply because it was too expensive.

- b. A return to God and Biblical ways.

- vii. These quotes come from various Newspaper writers, not the religious community, of that day.

b. Today

- i. These quotes are as relative today as they were then.

- ii. What is different? Nothing!

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- iii. The problem humanity incurs upon itself has nothing to do with Democrat or Republican. It has to do with the people and their relationship with God.
 - iv. When trouble comes into our lives, only then do people turn to God.
- c. There is plenty of blame to go around.

5. WHY WOULD GOD JUDGE?

a. First Question is, "why not?"

- i. "As it was in the days of Noah..." (Mat 24:37 NIV)

1. Many say that we should hang tight because the world moves in ebbs and flows. That we simply are in a slump, like those in the past, will change.

2. Perhaps.

a. But what if we have pushed one to many times?

b. What if we have hit God's limit?

c. ARE WE PREPARED FOR HIS TIME TO COME?

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- i. For many, probably most, the answer is, No.
3. We live in a world that violence is rampant, sex is the new idle.
4. Churches are splitting in numbers never before seen because:
 - a. they do not like the pastor,
 - b. or the pastor does not preach well enough,
 - c. or he has been there too long.
 - i. I even heard of one split simply because they did not like the Pastor's wife. Not that she did anything wrong, but she was too introverted.

6. LESSONS FROM SODOM

(Genesis 18:20-21 NIV) Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

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(19:1-13 NIV) The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

"My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning." "No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square." But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom--both young and old--surrounded the house.

They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can

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do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."

"Get out of our way," they replied. And they said, "This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door. But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.

The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here--sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

- a. What were the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah?
 - i. Pride.

1. Are we different?

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- a. Politicians that become liars for the sake of their power. This is not the way most of them started. They wanted to do good for the most part.
 - b. Preachers who strut their stuff because they believe they are the power of God, not the power of God working through humble men and women.
 - c. They start like Saul, humble. But as money and wealth came in, they became unto themselves the power.
 - i. Gold jewelry - rings, necklaces, Rolex watches. Proclaiming a gospel of affluence. Women with more makeup than a street walker.
 - ii. This is not God's idea of prosperity!
"Beware the false teachers."
- ii. Idleness
1. Unwilling to work expecting, demanding that others provide for them. (Now there are those undeservedly stuck in the poverty. Jesus tells us we will always have the poor with us. These deserve our help.)

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2. Or have become so wealthy they do nothing to work for the poor and needy. (Yes, I know there are exceptions.)

a. I know of one man that is so wealthy he needs not work anymore. He plays golf everyday ignoring a hurting world around him.

iii. Sexuality

1. Sex is used as a power over others rather than the gift of intimacy that God meant it to be.

7. WORLD VIEW

a. We have over 6 Billion people.

b. Of this only 1.2 Billion are professed Christians, or 20%, the majority in America. But this percentage is shrinking.

i. Some say the age of the Church is coming to a close. Maybe. Maybe not.

ii. Judgment is coming and the balance is in grave danger. They include our spouses, our children, and our friends.

8. THE BIBLE SAYS:

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- a. we must feed on the Lamb.
 - i. Study God's Word.
 - ii. Live God's Word.
- b. we must be ready to defend our faith.
 - i. In other words share our faith.
 - ii. Defend the faith in the midst of conflicting messages.
 - iii. If you think faith is personal, you are sadly mistaken.
- c. We must be ready to go at any moment. As in Exodus, Noah and his family, and Lot and his family.

9. WILL THE PEOPLE GOD:

- a. Repent of their sins?
- b. Pray fervently for the world, nation, community, family, and their self?

10. GOD'S COMMAND

(Deuteronomy 6:5-9, KJV) And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

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And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

11. CONCLUSION

- a. God does not accept excuses, only faith.
- b. I honestly do not know if this is the end times. I only look at the leaves on the fig tree and wonder?
- c. Is God giving us a warning? I believe as a minimum this is so.