

Old Landmarks - Proverbs 22:28



**"Ask for the old paths, where the good way (road) is,
and walk in it, and you shall find rest for your souls."**

- Jeremiah 6:16



**The trumpet shall
sound and the
LORD shall
descend!**

The Rapture - *"Caught up ... to meet the Lord!"* - 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

The Bible speaks of a near but unknown day when Jesus Christ will lift away from this world all those who love and follow Him.

The reason? A terrible seven year war called *"The Great Tribulation"* is coming upon the earth. Jesus promises to save all those who love Him from that event.

This rescue has been called, *"The Rapture,"* the Latin term for the words "caught up" in the following Scripture:

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall be resurrected first."

*Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort each other with these words."*

Jesus gave multiple clues as to when that day would be. Here are some of them.

The Fig Tree— *"When it puts forth leaves you know ..."* Matthew 24:32

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leavens, you know that summer is near:

Likewise, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Truly I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

The Bible refers to Israel as Jehovah's "fig tree." In the days of the prophet Jeremiah, God evicted Israel off the land because she had adopted the idolatrous ways of the nations around her. But He distinguished between the "good and bad" figs of Israel. While the land lay barren for 70 years, God protected the "good figs" even in the land of

their captivity, and promised to bring them back into the land of Israel.

Looking past the captivity of Israel to God's promise of restoration, the prophet Habakkuk wrote: *"Though the fig tree does not blossom ... yet will I rejoice in Jehovah, I will joy in the God of my salvation."* - Habakkuk 3:3

When Jesus spoke this parable, Israel was yet to experience one more dispersion. The Roman army dispersed the Jews to the four corners of the earth in 70 AD. For almost 2000 years she stayed in a state of exile ... until May 14, 1948. On that day, Israel became a nation and the fig tree blossomed again.

Jesus said the generation who

sees that event would also see His return. It has been 63 years since that miraculous day.

An interesting fact is that fig trees produce two crops each year - one inferior crop in the spring, but a sweet awaited crop in late summer. Jesus' first visit to Israel found the tree with unripe figs - but when He returns again they will be perfectly ripe.

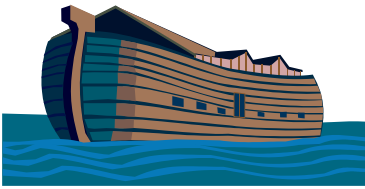
Jesus said, *"When these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption is drawing near!"*

Luke 21:28



Inside this issue:

Life as Usual?	2
As the Days of Lot	2
So Shall It Also Be ...	3
What Are We Waiting For?	3
Tell the Righteous	3
Grandma's Pen	4
Here Comes the Groom	4



"God spared Noah, a preacher of righteousness ..."

"At one time, the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah (120 years!) while the ark was being prepared, in which few, that is, eight souls, were saved ..."

- 1 Peter 3:20~

Life as Usual?

"But of that day and hour knows no one, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

But as the days of Noah were, so also shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so also shall the coming of the Son of Man be." - Matthew 24:36-39

Jesus said the world would be like it was in Noah's day when He returns. So what is wrong with the things listed above? Absolutely nothing - unless someone is preaching the end of the world and people are ignoring the message to continue "life as usual."

This is the exact scenario of Moses' day. The Bible says: *"The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence ... and God said to Noah, the end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence*

through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Make an ark ... Come, you and all your family into the ark; for you have I seen righteous before Me in this generation." - Genesis 5, 6

The sin that marked Noah's day and ours is *indifference to God*. Noah preached for 120 years that God was offering refuge through an ark of safety from the coming flood. The response? *Life as usual* - fatal indifference to sin; indifference to what God says is right and wrong; indifference to the preacher; indifference to the offer of rescue; indifference to eternity. All they cared about was the temporary party of here and now.

The good news is that Noah was able to save his sons and their wives! One day, his sons looked at the mockers and looked at their dear Dad, and bent down and picked up hammers to build alongside their parents. They believed!

Noah's building and preaching was not in vain. Perhaps, in spite of the indifference in our world, your preaching will save your family.

As the Days of Lot

"Likewise, as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built.

But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." - Luke 17:28, 29

Lot lived in a city called Sodom, right next to another city called Gomorrah. These cities were exceedingly wicked before the LORD. They were a city given to homosexuality, known for their violent rape to unwary strangers passing through. God said the "cries" of its victims had reached to the heavens.

Lot had been God's Ambassador to these cities and they mocked and ignored him. Finally, God sent two angels to rescue Lot and his family before God's judgment was poured out.

When Lot called to his sons-in-law and said, *"Get up! Get out of this place; for the LORD*

will destroy this city!" he seemed as one who mocked to his sons-in-law.

"And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise! Take your wife and two daughters, which are here, lest you be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he (Lot) lingered, the men (angels) laid hold of his hand, and his wife's hand, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful to him: and they brought him forth and set him outside the city." - Genesis 19:14-16

The same indifference to sin that marked Noah's day, marked Lot's day. Can you image "life as usual" while someone is yelling, "Fire! Fire! Get out! Get out!"

Indifference to truth is a dangerous place to be. It results in fatalities. This is why God sends preachers - they are His messengers of safety, comfort and hope - to those who believe.

"So Also Shall it be in the Days of the Coming of the Son of Man"

Read Matthew 24 and compare it with current events. Israel is back in her land. We hear daily news of wars, disease, earthquakes and famines.

Anti-Jewish rhetoric has reached a historic height (so quickly after the Holocaust!) and Christian persecution is a forbidden topic by the press - although it is worse now than any other time in history.

Reported abortion statistics for the world are 14,845,647. Violent crimes can't even be numbered, slavery is at an all

time high, and religious deceivers are everywhere.

What did Jesus say? Don't panic! Rather, lift up your head because Christ is coming soon to correct this mess!

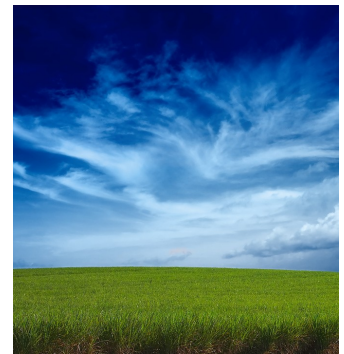
This is good news! The message of the Christian is not to be one of panic-stricken doom, it is a message of hope and rescue for those who don't want to be linked with the world in the coming judgment.

These are days of intense anticipation and excitement for those who love Jesus. It is be-

cause of His love for each of us that He died on the cross, to blot out forever the list of charges against us - charges that link us with this world.

Then He imputes His own perfect righteousness *to those who believe*. Now they have a standing of favor *in His merit* - forever!

It is not wrong to eat, drink, marry and give in marriage, buy and sell, build and plant - as long as we are "*seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first*." - Matthew 6:33



"Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, the other left.

Two shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken the other left.

Watch therefore! For you do not know what hour your Lord will come."

Matthew 24

What Are We Waiting For? - "*The precious fruit of the earth*"

"Be patient therefore, my family, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the Gardener is waiting for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it ...

You should be patient too, establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord is drawing near." - James 5:7, 8

This beautiful passage is referring to those we love who have not yet trusted Christ. They are the "*precious fruit of the earth*."

God loves our loved ones *even more* than we do. He knows we agonize at leaving them behind to go through the Great Tribulation, because He does

too. Though we long for Christ's return, we also ask Him to delay until all the lost sheep are in the fold.

Let this Scripture comfort your heart. Christ has not yet returned because He waits for those we love. Aren't you glad He waited for you?

Tell the Righteous— "*it shall be well with you*" - Isaiah 3:10

When Israel rebelled against God, God sent a message to the righteous that He would exempt them from the coming judgment. He told Isaiah the prophet, "*Say to the righteous, it shall be well with them.*"

When a nation or country gets stubborn with God, He *always* removes the righteous before He brings final judgment.

The Bible holds out for us the examples of Enoch, Noah and his family, Lot and his daugh-

ters, Joshua and Caleb, Rahab and her relatives, and those who honored God in Isaiah's day.

What does it mean to be righteous? It means *getting right* with God. God sees as "*right with Him*" all those who are honest enough to confess their sins and trust in Jesus' work on the cross to save us.

A great exchange happened on that cross: the perfect One who knew no sin, "*was made*

sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." - 2 Corinthians 5:21

Since Christ took our guilt, and gave us His righteousness, God sees *those who believe* as "*not guilty*" and removes them from the place of coming judgment.

The Rapture is not something unbiblical. It is a vital New Testament revelation in keeping with the character of God. He has always worked this way throughout history because He is righteous!



How wonderful to have the assurance that this earthly life is not all there is! We Christians have wonderful assurance and hope, because of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and His promised return! And return He will!

The question is: Will He find us watching and waiting with excitement or find us indifferent and so occupied with the concerns of this life, we've lost sight of Him and His purposes for us? May He find each of us living - not 50% or less - but 100% for Him!

Imagine that moment when He steps into the sky and the sound of the shofar bursts through the heavens calling us Home! The promise of the Rapture brings comfort, encouragement and hope as we wait for Him.

*HOPE: The best light for darkness!
The best ballast for storms!
The best warmth for life's winters!
The best energy for weariness!*

Here Comes the Groom! - *I can only imagine!*

*“Who is this that comes out of the wilderness
like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and
frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?
sword upon his thigh ... the pillars are silver,
the bottom of gold, the covering is purple, and
the midst of it is paved with love ...*

*Look at His divan! ... sixty valiant men are
around it, of the valiant of Israel. They all hold
swords, being expert in war: every one has his*

*Behold the King ... in the day of his marriage,
in the day of the gladness of His heart!"*

Song of Songs 3:6-11