

Purposeful, God-Honoring Gleaning From His Word

Blog B45;17 – Updated October, 2019

In a recent devotional time together, my beloved, Nancy, and I read John 11 - the story of Lazarus.

I'd like to emphasize one biblical Truth in this blog and then go on to tie it to an important contemporary end-time concern.

~ Jesus Christ knows all men. (John 2:24)

~ Jesus Christ discerned men were about to try to force Him to be king. (John 6:15)

~ God's Messianic plan (in Jesus Christ) was radically different than the Messianic expectations of men. (e.g., Many thought He would overthrow the Roman rule but God's deliverance was spiritual - deliverance from bondage to the dark one and from the bondage of sin leading to death.)

While the sisters of Lazarus told Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21, 32 ; NKJV), our Lord had an even better plan - God's glory in the raising of Lazarus.

Concluding principle: Human conjectures are often not what God has in mind.
God's ways are higher than our ways.

Transitioning to a current cultural affair ...

In the May/June 2017 publication of *Zion's Fire*, Marv Rosenthal, in addressing the astronomical signs of Revelation 6:12, 13, writes, "Second, following the cosmic disturbance, the sign of Christ's coming will be seen in the heavens. Jesus taught, 'And then [after the cosmic disturbance] shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven' (Matthew 24:30). The cosmic disturbance will blot out light upon the earth. The natural light sources will be 'switched off.' There will be no sunlight, moonlight, or starlight. The earth will be totally darkened - awesome, fearful, worldwide darkness as has never before happened." (pg. 18 in the May/June 2017 edition of *Zion's Fire*.) Marv makes this claim four times in the quote above and is even highlighted in bold in another place on the same page. (This claim is also reinforced in the 2017 July/August edition of *Zion's Fire*.)

Problem: Our Lord never says (nor does the Word of God ever say) the following: "There will be no sunlight, moonlight, and starlight. ... The earth will be totally darkened at the 6th Seal" (as Marv claims above).

In fact, an event following this cosmic disturbance shows light existing AFTER the astronomical signs of Rev. 6:12, 13 / Mt. 24:29.

You see, Rev. 8:12 (in describing the effects of the 4th Trumpet), states this:

"Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night." (NKJV)

So here's our fair observation tied to end-time matters and speaking biblically on this pertinent topic:

As men have incorrectly speculated on aspects of Messianic deliverance, so too does Marv incorrectly speculate on the effects of the astronomical signs of Rev. 6:12, 13.

On what grounds do we raise this concern?

On the grounds of Rev. 8:12 – light on the earth, coming from the sun, moon and stars, exists AFTER the 6th Seal. It's worth repeating in a slightly different way: In light of Bible Truth, light exists on the earth after the 6th Seal and after the 4th Trumpet blast because the Word of God says (in relationship to the effects of Trump 4) only a third of the heavenly lights diminish.

Our appeal: We need to affirm the whole Counsel of God's Word. This includes prophetically revealed details tied to the end of days, details which our Lord has given whereby we are prepared for the days of the end **in the manner HE has so outlined.**

This brings up one of the major differences we have with the Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church viewpoint. And we're NOT splitting hairs here given our Lord's Counsel that we be prepared for the **entire** gamut of the end of days before our final trumpet rapture gathering.

IF we (His Church) enter the *Day of the Lord* * (as Luke 21:25-36 together with I Thes. 5:1-11 seem to teach), we must be prepared for the season of the Trumpet blasts before God's end-time wrath comes. Remember, the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering takes place at the 7th and final trumpet (bringing our deliverance), and this unfolds before the bowls of God's wrath are poured out on the earth dwellers.

IF Marv is wrong (concerning the matter of light being "switched off" at the time of the astronomical signs of the 6th Seal in Rev. 6), could he possibly, in light of God's explicit Word, be incorrect concerning the timing of the rapture gathering (that is, as he teaches, just prior to the beginning of the Day of the Lord) following His appearing in Rev. 6:14-17? Second question: Does Scripture explicitly teach the Pre-Wrath Rapture as defined by the position? It actually does not! But God's Word does teach the final/last trumpet rapture gathering of His Church. We're simply making some fair observations and asking some fair questions at this juncture.

WHY do we persist in making these observations and asking these questions?

Because we genuinely care for God's sheep and hope God's sheep in Jesus Christ will listen to the full Counsel of His Word as opposed to listening to and following the opinions of men.

The above is a valid concern as to the protective care of God's people who are in harm's way during the days of the end before Jesus Christ sends His angels to gather His elect - Mt. 24:31.

There are other reasons why we disagree with the timing of the Rapture as outlined in the Pre-Wrath Rapture view:

1. Marv and others define the "Day of the Lord" differently than [this biblical definition](#) of the Day of Christ/Day of the Lord.
2. This Rev. 6 passage does NOT teach the rapture of the Church takes place at this time.
3. Our Lord tells us (in Mt. 24:23-28) NOT to listen to the false prophets and false christs who claim Jesus can now be found here or there. (Note: The time when these false proclaimers appear, as the text of Mt. 24 clearly teaches, takes place after the great tribulation has come to an end.)

If Marv places the false prophets and false christs before the great tribulation, then he's simply incorrect in light of the Word of God, for our Lord explicitly says these lying-signs-and-wonders false proclaimers come AFTER the close of the great tribulation. (By the way, if Marv says these false heralds are active during the great tribulation, he is faced with the same problem: Again, the Word states these particular deceivers come on the end-time scene AFTER the close of the great tribulation.) If Marv places these false christs and false prophets after the great tribulation, then he has another problem: There sincerely isn't sufficient time for this round of deception to unfold before, as he believes (not us), the Pre-Wrath Rapture (as he defines it) occurs. Either way, the Pre-Wrath position has a problem here, biblically speaking.

We need to bring a separate blog on these matters because they are important - anything but splitting insignificant hairs. We would like to do so after hearing from Marv, should he respond to our requests to dialogue about these fair, important biblical matters. (And once again, yes, we have contacted Zion's Hope about these concerns but have not yet heard from them though it has been quite some time since our initial contact.)

Soon-coming Lord of Hosts, we thank You once again for Your kind and generous revelation concerning the end of days before You make Your glorious appearing. Help us, Lord, to be ready as YOU have so Counseled. Help us be watchful as YOU have so outlined. Help us be Your beacons of light to a lost and needy generation. In Christ Jesus' holy and precious name we pray. Amen

* We strongly encourage you to do a New Testament study on the phrases: "Day of the Lord" (Acts 2:20 ; I Thes. 5 ; II Thes. 2 & II Peter 3), "Day of the Lord Jesus" (I Cor. 1:14 & II Cor. 5:5) and "Day of Christ" (Phil. 1:10 ; 2:16 & II Thes. 2) !