

ARE WE IN BIBLICAL HISTORIC TIMES??

September 15!!! Tuesday, September 15, 2020!!! This will be a historic day. It is the day when Israel and the UAR will enter into a “peace agreement” and begin “normalizing” the relationship between the two nations. It is being hailed as a major accomplishment within President Trump’s administration. I am not writing this little essay to either agree or disagree with what is happening. I simply desire to make some observations concerning what is taking place.

Many are hailing this news as a wonderful thing. Others, of course, see it as a negative thing for the world. My thoughts are to go to the Bible and see what, if anything, does it say about such things taking place. I know that many do not see or believe the Bible in any of the situations that have risen over the past years as having to do with anything concerning Bible prophecy. Many, so called believers as well as non-believers, have denied or negated, Bible prophecy in these days. I, however, am not one of them. I believe that God has a plan and that His plan will come to pass to its completion in the days that are yet to come.

So what about this “peace agreement” with the UAR? It seems as if it is a wonderful thing and that it is the start, even though it is a small step, to a lasting peace in the Middle East. However, we must view it in terms of what the Bible tells us.

The Bible does refer to many nations that we don’t really know how they relate to the world and its order today. It refers to Gog and Magog and how they relate to Bible prophecy in these end times. There have been and currently are many different interpretations on what countries or regions they represent.

I am not an expert on Bible prophecy and its final fulfillment and how it all exactly pans out upon this earth. However, there are many “telling signs.” The final analysis will be interesting to see. I do believe we are getting very close to the final “seven year period.” How it all pans out is really anyone’s guess. That is, anyone except God, the Father. His plan shall be established and come to pass.

We must, however, be careful to not follow after certain “prophets” in this specific time period that are saying that Biblical prophecy, especially those found in Revelation, Ezekiel and Daniel, have already happened and that we are living in a “new biblical time.” These are certain people that have crept into the Body of Christ as the Letter of Jude and 2Peter tell us. They come with very deceptive words which ultimately change the Word of God and cause many to go in a different direction than what God’s Word actually reveals. This is very, very dangerous.

This is especially true when it comes to the end times and the end time prophecies found throughout the Bible. There are many people that take things as they happen and tend to “prophecy” concerning them and how they relate to God and His Word. They tend to all try to “spin” it and make it wonderful for God’s people. That is not to say that as a member of the Body of Christ that we are to live in fear and tremble at every little, or big thing that takes place. However, even as a believer during these end times, it will be “challenging” to say the least.

The greatest tool we all have is God’s Word and what He tells us in it concerning the end of times upon this earth. We must be very, very careful not to always listen to people thinking that they are always correct in what they are prophesying concerning the end times. We have a more sure Word of prophecy – His Word found within the scriptures. God’s Word tells us this in 2Peter 1:19-21, “*We have also a **more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: ²⁰ Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.** ²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

The main problem is that man does not wish to take the time to hear from God – directly. That is why the Holy Spirit was given to man in the first place. The main purpose the Holy Spirit was given to man was so that God could empower people to now hear His Word and understand what His Word was and is telling us. Unfortunately, the main purpose for the Holy Spirit has changed for us over the years. It now-a-days has become all about the power of the Holy Spirit and not so much about understanding or knowing His truth. Hmmmm.....

As we return to what we originally were speaking about – the peace arrangement between Israel and the UAR, I would like for each of us to keep these few thoughts that we spoke about in mind. Are the things that we are witnessing before our eyes the beginning of the true end times? Only time will tell. However, the only thing that we know which is totally true is God's Word. His Word is true and it is the whole truth. All of His Word will come to pass - all of it.

As Daniel mentioned to us in His writing, the end will come in "seventy times seven years" or 490 years. Everything has taken place except the last seven years. The first 483 years was everything that led up to and included Jesus death and resurrection. The final seven years are yet to come. These last seven years will be the times that will see the Anti-Christ come on the scene.

The scriptures tell us that the first 3½ years will be fine. The Anti-Christ will cause and make it seem as if everything in the world has turned right – except to the true believers who will see things the way the Bible reveals them. The final 3½ years will be the time when the Anti-Christ truly reveals who He is and everything goes "south."

Are we in those times as of yet. I personally do not believe we are in the last seven years. I do believe we are getting close. How close is not at issue. The most important issue to the Lord and which should be to all of those who truly call upon God, the Father and Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, is whether or not those who truly believe in Him are doing everything they possibly can to bring others into a saving knowledge of who Jesus is.

The most important issue to the Father both now and for which it has been forever is whether someone will be in and spend eternity with Him. As a child of His, that should be our main emphasis. We are called the ambassadors of Christ. I encourage everyone who calls themselves His own to awaken and rise up in these last few days.

As Jesus mentions in His third to last parable while He was on this earth, the "Parable of the Ten Virgins" in Matthew 25:1-13, we see that the virgins were all asleep. However, five virgins had the oil – the Holy Spirit. They were able to enter into the marriage feast with the bridegroom while the other five scrambled to find some oil – but it was too late. We must awaken in this hour and be ready and prepared.

Rosh HaShana begins September 18th this year. This is just three days after this agreement with UAR is to be put into motion. It is a time in which the Jewish people will celebrate their New Year. It is also referred to in the Bible as "Yom Teruah", the "Day of the Sounding of the Shofar" or the "Day of the Awakening Blast." On Yom Teruah/Rosh HaShanah, the "Day of the Sounding of the Shofar," it is imperative for every person **to not miss** "hearing" this "blast."

This "sounding of the shofar" or the "awakening blast," is a "call" to awaken from their "spiritual sleep," to **repent**, turn towards God and be ready to meet with Him. It is the "sounding of the shofar" or the "awakening blast" that is to be a "warning alarm" to all who "hear it." God's heart is to awaken and warn people before He proclaims judgment. He does not desire anyone to receive the wrath of judgment. He desires none to perish.

Rosh HaShana is the first of the "Autumn Feasts of the Lord." It points to a time that is yet to come and to be fulfilled by Messiah. The "Spring Feasts" of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Pentecost were fulfilled through Jesus at His first coming 2000 years ago. God will "sound the alarm" to His people, and to the entire world to "awake" from their slumber and prepare themselves for His "second coming."

Ten days following Rosh HaShana is called the "Ten Days of Awe." In brief, during these ten days there is a deep heart of repentance and turning towards God. Yom Kippur is the culmination of the "Ten Days of Awe," hence the term used, "Day of Judgment." It is the day that the "gates of heaven are now shut."

In Jewish tradition, Yom Kippur is the most solemn day of the year. It is a day of fasting and doing nothing but praying and turning towards God. Yom Kippur is when the next shofar blast is to be sounded. In Jewish tradition, this shofar blast is called, "The Great Trump." It is a blast that declares "Final Judgment." This is the day when the "gates of Heaven" are closed and judgment has been sealed.

Yom Kippur is referred to as the Day of "Face to Face." This was the only day that the High Priest would be able to meet with God "face to face." This refers to us, today as those who believe in Jesus. Jesus tore open the veil of separation for that "Day" when we shall behold Him, "face to face."

Again, in the parable of the "Ten Virgins" as found in Mathew 25, we can see the distinct references to the end times and the Feasts of Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. We see that there were "ten virgins." This is referring to and corresponds to the "Ten days of Awe." Remember, it is during these "Ten Days of Awe" that the people are to "**prepare and be ready.**" This is done through a **true heart of repentance** and a lifestyle that reflects the character of God.

In Matthew 25:5, we see that all of the virgins were slumbering while awaiting the Bridegroom but yet five of them were "prepared" and "ready" with "oil" within their lamps. This meant that even though they were slumbering they were in the "watching" mode and truly ready for His return.

The oil is symbolic of the "oil of the Holy Spirit" which represents the Holy Spirit's work in the regenerative work of salvation. The ones with the "oil" had a **true heart of repentance** and their lifestyle reflected the character of God. Unfortunately, they were asleep which represents a "slumbering" church today. It is time for the "slumbering church to awaken." God is giving us an "awakening blast" in many ways in these days so that we awaken from our slumber.

Therefore, we all can see that this moment in time could be a moment in which God is calling out to those who truly believe and are turning towards Him to awaken in this hour. Whatever the news media is bringing to us; whatever we hear or see; we must be God's ambassadors and bring forth His "Good News" to those who are lost. The "Good News" is not Israel and the UAR seemingly entering a "peace accord." The "Good News" is salvation in and through Jesus and only Jesus.

The time is short. It must be all about Jesus in this hour. It must be all about Him in our lives and telling others the only way to eternal life – Jesus Christ. The only thing we all can know for sure from the things that are taking place throughout the world these days is that things are speeding up. The time is short.