

“HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL PASS AWAY, ... MY WORDS SHALL NOT PASS AWAY.”

Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33

These words are a brief portion of the message and teaching that Jesus gave to His disciples when they were leaving Jerusalem after being questioned by the religious leaders. In the next two days, after the “last supper” and when He finished His time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus would be arrested. Jesus would then stand “on trial” before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish High Court). He would then go before Pontius Pilate, then before Herod and then again before Pontius Pilate, where He would ultimately, be sentenced to His death on the cross.

If we notice, this statement made by Jesus is found in all three of the “Synoptic Gospel” accounts. It is not found in John’s Gospel because John’s Gospel was not really written to tell us about the life of Jesus but mainly John wrote His Gospel account to tell the world again, the main message of why Jesus came to this earth. He came as the Messiah and as the Son of God. Jesus came to give every person the chance to accept all that He did for them on that cross and to believe that He rose again. If anyone would believe those facts, they would be “born again” and become a child of God.

Getting back to these words that Jesus gave to His disciples, it is important to understand that Jesus spoke these words as He just concluded His final teachings and questioning by the “religious leaders” in Jerusalem. He answered all their questions, proving that He was truly the Lamb of God. As they were leaving Jerusalem, the disciples commented on how great the buildings and the walls of Jerusalem were.

Jesus then used that opportunity to teach them of the events of the “Last Days” and the “End Times.” He tells them that those walls of Jerusalem will soon fall. Then He proceeds to declare all the events that will take place in the coming “Last Days.” These events that He mentioned were the things leading up to the time just prior to the 7 years of that time that we commonly refer to as the “tribulation.”

The main truth of the matter in everything that Jesus was teaching His disciples and to all of us today, is the fact that Jesus' Words will never, ever, never "pass away." In other words everything that we read in the scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, will always be there for God's people to know and praise God for. They may be accomplished and fulfilled but they are never to be thrown away or forgotten.

This is vital for every believer to truly understand. We are in a world that in some places, they are declaring that the Old Testament is no longer valid or useful to the child of God. We are being taught by some, I believe, unknowingly or even some who are deceived and influenced by the devil, that much of the New Testament is "out dated" and should also be discarded along with the Old Testament. To all of that, I said it before and I will say it again – Hogwash!!!!

Jesus, Our Savior, Our Messiah, our King of kings and Lord of lords, a member of the "Triune" God, tells His disciples that **His words** will "**never pass away.**" They will never end. For anyone who teaches contrary to Jesus' own words, let me just say that they are going against what Jesus taught. Jesus tells us clearly and without any other interpretation that His "words" will **NEVER PASS AWAY!!! PERIOD!!!** (The "period" is added by me and not in the scriptures)

What does that mean? Well, it simply means that **HIS WORD WILL NEVER PASS AWAY!!!** The Word will always be there for us to continually know, learn from and grow in. Yes, even when we are in Heaven. Why? It is simply because Jesus is the Word and He will never end. Just think of that. If the Word is no longer to be useful to His people, then, Jesus who is the Word, will no longer be useful. Hmmm..... Will Jesus just pass away? I don't think so.

When we are in heaven, it will be the first time that we will be able to truly grasp and understand **all** of the Word found in our Bibles. It is only then that we will be able to truly grasp and understand **all** that the Father has done for us. It is only then that we will truly grasp and understand **all** that Jesus did for us. It is at that time when we will all bow down before our God - the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We will worship them for who they are - the almighty and living true God!!!

That is why Jesus constantly tells us to “watch” and be ready. We read this in:

- Luke 21:36, “**Watch** ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”
- Matthew 24:22-24, “**Watch** therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”
- In Mark 13:32-37 we read it **four times**, “But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. **Watch** ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house comes, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**.”

I wrote out these scriptures for us to truly see, understand and grasp what Jesus was telling both, His disciples, and especially us today in this time that we are living in. Jesus tells us to **watch** because we will never know the exact time of His return. We must watch but we must also be praying. This is because even though we do not know the exact time, we know that He will be coming - and it will be soon. As true believers in Jesus, He simply tells us to watch.

We must be watchful for His return because until He does come back we are to continually tell others about Him so that they could be saved. This is vital for us to truly understand. It is God’s desire for all to be saved. However, we know, unfortunately, that will not be the case. Regardless of that fact, we must continually live out this life as a true child of God and most importantly we are to tell others. Hopefully, more will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

We are all very much aware of what is going on in the world today. There are many different things that tell us that we are on the precipice of the “last of the Last Days” and the bringing in of the “End of Times.” None of these things are more telling signs to the child of God than all the things that are taking place in the Middle East. Israel is in the “cross hairs” of Iran, Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Syria, as well as, Russia and China who are backing those nations and armies. At the time of this writing, Iran had just attacked Israel and Israel has retaliated. All of these things are “telling signs” of what the Bible has told us will happen.

The United States is still backing Israel but that position is in a very precarious state. It will not take much to “push” the United States to come against Israel as soon as the real pressure comes from other countries around the globe. We are already strongly suggesting to Israel to stop attacking Hamas in Gaza.

I am not going to get into what Israel or the United States need to do. They will do whatever God has ordained for both them and every nation to do for these times that we are in. I am more concerned with the believers during this time. Whether we are “pro-Israel” is really a secondary issue. If you are a true believer in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you must first be for whatever God will be and is doing in this hour.

If we are heading into those last days of the “Last of Days,” my question is, will we as believers be ready for it? Or...will we be sucked into the ways of the world because it will look like peace will come about because “someone” will be able to “broker” that peace? Will there come that time when it looks like there will be true peace that will be in all the world? Will there be a “great unity” among the nations that will be “brokered” by that “person” who looks to everyone as if he is a great man of peace? Could that person, that “great man of peace,” be really the “anti-christ?”
Hmm.....

If and when that should take place, as true believers, we must be ready. The scriptures are clear. We will be “getting out of town” and heading for that place that God will set up for all His believers to go to and live out that time period because the last 3½ years of that tribulation are right behind that time of “peace and plenty.” (See Matthew 24:15-21; Mark 13:14-20; Luke 21:20-24)

The Jewish people will be even be fooled because, for a time, they will be allowed to worship on the Temple Mount for the first 3½ years. However, lookout for those last 3½ years. That “man of great unity” will suddenly change his ways. He will set up another image upon the Temple Mount – the image of the Beast!!! That will be the “signal” for the very “Last Days” of the “End of Time.”

As mentioned, we have been living in the “Last Days” ever since Jesus returned to Heaven. Jesus left His disciples after being with them for 40 days following His Resurrection. The New

Testament Letters written by Paul, Peter, James and John, all support this teaching of the “Last Days” and the “End of Times.” They declare that the resurrection and ascension 2000 years ago of Jesus Christ back to the Father, started the count down of these “Last Days.” We are still in them.

If we read all of Mark 13 we get an excellent picture of the Last Days and of the End of Times. Jesus moves, sometimes in the same sentence, between speaking of the last days as referring to the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70 by Rome) and then into His Second Coming.

Let’s take a look at the following scriptures found in Mark 13.

- Mark 13:2 - *“Do you see these huge buildings?’ Jesus asked. ‘Not one stone here will be left on top of another. Every stone will be thrown down’”*

- Mark 13:7-8 - *“You will hear about wars. You will also hear people talking about future wars. Don’t be alarmed. Those things must happen. But the end still isn’t here. Nation will fight against nation. Kingdom will fight against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many places. People will go hungry. All of those things are the beginning of birth pains.”*

Jesus goes on to teach of the false messiahs and false Christs that will come. For us, in our day, we have seen these false teachers and false messiahs come and go. Many are still going on today.

- Jesus teaches in Mark 13:6, *“Many will come in my name. They will claim, ‘I am he.’ They will fool many people.”*

- Jesus continues on this same theme and then strongly warns the believer in Mark 13:21-23, *“At that time someone may say to you, ‘Look! Here is the Christ!’ Or, ‘Look! There he is!’ **Do not believe it.** False Christs and false prophets will appear. They will do signs and miracles. They will try to fool God’s chosen people if possible. **Keep watch!** I have told you everything ahead of time.”*

The above are all signs of the “Last Days.” The “Last Days” are the days from when Jesus left this earth until the time of the “End of Times.” Many of these things have already taken place and they continue to take place. However, Jesus always tells His true believers that we must “watch.” We must always be ready for when the “End of Times” comes.

We must always remember that all of this is the reason why the Holy Spirit came. Jesus, after His resurrection, came back to this earth to “re-teach” the disciples about the things that He tried to teach them when He was with them for those 3½ years. After 40 days, He told them He must leave but He promised that the Father would pour out the Holy Spirit to the true believers to help them in sharing the Good News of salvation through Jesus.

Ten days later the Holy Spirit came. We must realize that the Holy Spirit was given to help the true believer in living their lives as His Children during these “Last Days.” The Holy Spirit has been given to the true believer so that they will be able to grasp and understand the things written in the Word concerning these “Last Days” and the “End of Times” as they are happening and to “*watch and to be ready.*”

We must believe that Jesus Christ “comes” to earth twice. He came the first time 2000 years ago. He came as the King but mostly as the “suffering servant” coming into Jerusalem on a donkey. The purpose of that “first coming” was to “open the door” of salvation for all those who choose to believe in the Messiah and for all those who from that time would believe in what Jesus did. His first coming brought and established the New Covenant – salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God.

The second time Jesus comes to this earth will be when He returns - His “second coming.” He will return as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It will be at that time that Jesus will come from Heaven, this time on a white horse and takes His place on the Temple Mount as the King and the absolute and supreme authority (Lord) of the this earth. He will rule, along with His people for 2000 years. After that, the devil and all his forces of darkness, along with all those who chose to follow after that enemy throughout the ages, will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

There will then come forth a “New Jerusalem” where God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit will be seen in all of their fullness and glory. They will be worshiped, forever and ever, by all of His people. We are told this Revelation 21-22. At that time, the Word of God will still be with us. It will be fulfilled and we will see the Word in all of His glory. Yes, we will all see Jesus, who is the Word, in all of His glory. The Word will never fail and it will never end!!!

Jesus told His disciples at that time and He is telling us today, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*” Again, I want to state this sooooo..... very clearly and succinctly - Jesus and the Word are the same and will never “pass away.” The Word of God will be with us forever simply because Jesus is the Word and He will be with us forever.

God, the Father will never end. Jesus, who is the Word, will never end. The Holy Spirit will never end. They will be with us forever and ever and ever and ever. Amen!!!

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come, Lord Jesus, come!!!”