

12312023 Welcome to 2024! After being married 42 years and in full time ministry 33 years Therese and I have learned and experienced so much. We have learned the value of being READY for whatever life has in store.

This our church theme for the year....READY

Ready has the idea of being mentally, spiritually, relationally, and physically prepared for whatever may come, and whatever needs to be handled as God's plans unfold in our lives. We need to be rapture ready and delay ready, adversity ready and prosperity ready, Ready to change and ready to keep on keeping on. Being prepared is the character trait of success.!

Nothing happens that God is not already aware of and has not allowed. How comforting it is to know that God still is in control of the events of the earth. Sometimes we may not understand what is happening in our world today, but Daniel tells us clearly that God is in control.

he does all things with a purpose and for a purpose...

We must understand that the time circumstances and situations all of us are living in and under are completely in the control of God.

- Nothing has escaped notice
- All is under His Command
- In fact there is supernatural design in it.
- **This does not mean he cannot change it but it does mean until he does, we are fully capable of doing all that he commands.**

This is the bottom line.

- All you have is now, tomorrow is promised to no man
- Where your at is here
- What God is doing in your life he is doing now...
- what you are doing now impacts your tomorrow

He is the God of our location He is also the God of our History...Our story is weaved into his story... He knows our individual history on this planet, timing, location birth, death...life story

- As Daniel taught the wise men more than 500 years before the birth of Jesus that the King of Kings would come and their would be signs of the time and a star appear to lead them to the King...they believed were watching and waiting and **Ready** for it

Daniel also in that chapter gave us knowledge to wait and be Ready for ... This Rock from Heaven would destroy and replace all earthly Kingdoms ... by establishing His Kingdom

NLT DA 2: 44 “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.
⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

The rise and fall of empires appear as if happening by the will of men, but Daniel 2 reveals to us very clearly that God is behind all human events. He declared what the psalmist had declared earlier...

PS 95:1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to **the Rock** of our salvation. *PS 95:2* Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. *PS 95:3* For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

The Kingdom of the Rock is inaugurated 500 years later as Jesus the King of all Kings is born in a manger....33 years later will be crucified...three days later resurrected...40 days later ascended to heaven seated at the Right hand of the Father

The Apostle Paul affirms this...

NLT Eph 1:9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

Paul reveals a mystery...Kept hidden by God further revealing that more will take place regarding our King...the uniting under the Kingdom of Jesus... which will include the uniting of heaven and Earth together...

In fact if you study the Book of Revelation the book of the Revealing of Christ!...which we will this year...everything to happen all the symbols in the 404 verses has reference in the Old Testament especially Ezekiel, Zechariah, and Daniel...except chapter 21-22...the uniting of the *new heaven and new earth*...

Can we know the chronology of this complete establishing of the Kingdom of God? Yes !!

As Jesus himself gave John the Apostle the chronology. Around 95 during the time of his exile and imprisonment on the Island of Patmos... *NLT Rev1:1* This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave *him* to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything he saw.

Then Jesus himself speaks... *NLT REV 1:8* “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

The overall chronology... *ESV 17* When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last,¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

- **This is the John who was so close to Jesus on earth...in fact called John the beloved...Yet when he sees Jesus in His Glorious God Hood...falls down as dead...absolutely overwhelmed.. reminds me of Moses asking to see the Lord**

NLT EX 33:18 Moses responded, “Then show me your glorious presence.”¹⁹ The LORD replied, “I will make all my goodness pass before you,

and I will call out my name, Yahweh,^[c] before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. ²⁰ But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live.”

- **Jesus says I have the keys of death and hades... though you a mere man ought die...I have absolute control over life and death...and Hades what happens after death!..i have absolute control...the Resurrection proves it!**

Jude 1:25 All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

- **So After Jesus revives him...he gives him a three part command...**

¹⁹ ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

- *One Write the things you have seen... he just saw the Glorified Resurrected Christ ..*
- *Two the things that are...chapters 2-3 regarding the Church age as revealed in the seven churches. Seven also being the number of completeness..The commendations, problems and messages to the churches ... will follow the church in all times...until it is removed...taken up raptured*
- *Three and those that are to take place after this...after the church is Raptured.....chapter 4-18..., the tribulation where Gods judgments against the wicked of the world begins, and his restoration of the Jews it includes the tribulation, Armageddon, Second coming, wedding Feast...Satan imprisoned the 1000 year reign of God with God's people, loosing of Satan once more final judgment, great white throne judgment... ending with the complete establishing of the new heaven and New Earth... this is new!*

So before this what will happen? what is the next thing to happen?? **The end of the things that are.... The snatching away...the Rapture of God's church before God's judgments against the evil of humanity and the**

demonic begin for we are not under God's Judgment, so we will be removed when it happens..

*as Paul tells us ... NIV ROM 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be **saved from God's wrath through him!**¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

*BE READY..as Jesus speaks of the churches in Revelation 2-3...**the things that are!!***

Paul tells us what we the church should be looking forward too.. to catch up be snatched away") The Thessalonians some twenty years after Jesus resurrection were worried as believers were dying...what will happen to them when the Lord returns?

*NLT 1 Thess 4:13 And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.¹⁵ **We tell you this directly from the Lord:** We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died.¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.¹⁸ So encourage each other with these words.*

These events will take place after the events of the things which are...inferring that what is will not be anymore... and what will come is after that...starting in chapter 4 of Revelation...

NLT 4 :1 Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.”

Through chapter 18..then in chapter19 the wedding feat of the Lamb and second coming are revealed..

These events will take place after the events of the things which are...inferring that what is will not be anymore... and what will come is after that...starting in chapter 4 of Revelation in fact the word church is not referenced by name again until the very end of the revelation.. after he tells the end of the Rock coming to turn to dust all the wickedness of the world in the heavens and the earth and the reuniting of the new heaven and New earth...

NLT Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.^[a] ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” ⁵ **And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!”** And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

Again the purpose in telling us the end before it happens....tell the churches BE READY..keep coming to Jesus...stay thirsty for Jesus

NLT REV22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the **churches**. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the

bright morning star.”¹⁷ The Spirit and the **bride** say, “Come.” Let anyone who hears this say, “Come.” Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

So be Ready!!!As Paul tells us **NLT 1 Thess 5:1** Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. ² For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.

⁴ But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. ⁶ So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. ⁷ Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. ⁸ But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

⁹ For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. ¹⁰ Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. ¹¹ So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Be Ready ! Live Alert... 2024...is the year to be ready if he comes and if he delays....