

The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

April/May 2010

175

**May I have your
attention please?
I HAVE SOME
GOOD NEWS!!**



The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

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The People of Truth
A Holy Nation

I have some Good News!

By David M. McNabb

When He was on trial, Jesus was asked, "What is truth?" That remains one of the greatest questions a man can ask. If Pilate only knew that the Man to whom he posed that question had already answered it, saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). The message of Jesus' coming is called the "Gospel." It is well-known that the word gospel, translated from the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον (euangelion), means "good news." This is also the source for the word evangelist, which means "bearer of good news." Evangelists are God's heralds – the town criers of the Holy Jerusalem.

Today's world is characterized by an insatiable thirst for news. Whether an event is of extreme historical importance, or if it is simply what your friend is having for lunch three states away, you can be instantly informed.

Historically, news was carried by messengers, and spread by town criers. With the advent of the printing press in the mid-1400s, the ability to mass produce news in print form was a reality. This innovation, however, was subjected to the limitations of the speed with which the word could reach the print shop. News still arrived by messengers on foot or horseback, so the concept of "breaking news" may have not even been imaginable. A lot has changed since the 15th century, and today, newspapers are found in great numbers in every major market, and in many minor ones, being printed weekly, bi-weekly, and even daily.

With advancements in both transportation and communication, the ability to deliver information steadily improved. In the late 1830s, the first commercial electric telegraph was constructed. This technology would eventually lead to the development of the telephone, which Alexander Graham Bell patented in 1876. With the telephone and the telegraph, information could be immediately delivered by electric pulses over very long distances. Soon, an earthquake in California could be reported in New York on the same day it had happened! Not only that, but you could also be informed of whether your new grandchild was a boy or a girl shortly after its birth. With the addition of cameras and internet access to these phones, the exchange of information is available to all. Any event can be videotaped by a cell phone and uploaded to the Internet to be seen by the world.

See *GOOD NEWS* pg. 5

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Perilous Times are Here

By C. Elden McNabb

This trouble that is coming will come according to the prophecy spoken by Jesus Christ himself. As Jesus answered the three-point question asked by the Twelve Apostles in Matthew 24:1-3, He answered the first two parts and then, in verse 29, He began to answer the question, What about the end of the world? He said, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and *then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn*, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels (messengers) with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt. 24:29-31).

Thus, Jesus gave us four prominent signs of His immediate coming. I think it is probable that we have been living in the tribulation of those days, at least since the middle of 2008. Wherefore, I exhort you, and challenge you to believe these words of Jesus, and try to understand them. These words are true, but because of the general misunderstanding of the next five verses, we get sidetracked from the truth of what you have just read. Please read these words again, and do not allow anyone to persuade you that what Jesus said here is not true. It is faith in His words that will save us in this evil day, for faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:11-17). Jesus spoke partly in parables here in Matthew, but we can see the truth of Jesus' parables, especially if we have all five of the "Gifts of the Ministry" working in our congregations (Eph. 3:1-5).

First, there will be a time of tribulation; not the "great tribulation" previously mentioned in Matt. 24:4-

21 which was about the fall of Israel in 70 A.D. He did not say persecution, because He wanted to emphasize that there will be much more than persecution, although there will be that too, in time. Then the light of the Gospel will go out. The offer of redemption will be with-drawn. Some ministers will simply quit preaching out of fear, others by martyrdom. Then there are those who will fulfill the admonition "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, *until the indignation be overpast*. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity" (Isa. 26:20-21). If we are spiritual enough to be strong, and have the faith to believe what the Lord has prophesied to happen, we will still need the wisdom and knowledge of God through His Word if we are to have the strength to stand for God in these perilous times. As it is written, "Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times and strength of salvation" (Isa. 33:6). God has every intention of punishing both errant Christianity and the inhabitants of the unbelieving, secular world. But in the process, He will save some, even as He did in the days of Noah.

If you have been following the reports of true scientists who are reporting the development of the natural astrological activities, you will see that we should also anticipate devastating astronomical problems which will affect the earth's stability adversely, the nature of which has never been seen by mankind. Did not the prophet say, "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard" (Isa. 24:20) and that there would be earthquakes in diverse places?

We shall see a recovery from the tribulation of these days, then we shall see the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, followed by something so severe that it shall cause all of the tribes of the earth to mourn. Then "they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Then Jesus shall send His messengers to gather together His elect from the four winds. Yes, in direct fulfillment of

prophecy, Jesus was the first of the seven anointed leaders of God's Church foretold by the prophets, and He will be here "with the last [one]" as the Grace Age comes to its end (Isa. 41:4). Can we believe the words of the Son of God? How can we afford not to?

Perhaps you have not previously heard the words of Jesus explained this way, but you must believe His word and trust His grace every day. Believe Him; it is called faith. Faith does not come by spurious words of men's wisdom, but by the hearing of the word of God. These words of our Lord and Savior are neither strange nor difficult to grasp, although some of it may need some careful and studious attention. It can be understood, but only if we have a ministry with all the five gifts functioning, especially the Apostles and Prophets.

Jesus raised the point of the great trouble which God intends to pour out upon the world as the sixth millennium from Adam draws to an end. He explained the reason for all of the hard things which are coming, especially His anger with His own children, and then with the inhabitants of the world as a whole, just as it was in the days of Noah (Matt 24:29-47). The waywardness of the descendants of Seth was God's major complaint, and the primary reason for the flood. His chosen lineage had walked away from God's intentions for them, intermarrying with the descendants of Cain (Gen. 6:1-8). Time after time in the history of the seed of Abraham, up until their rejection and the dissolution of the nation of Israel in 70 A.D., God rebuked and punished them various times. That His people should not intermarry with unbelievers, the heathen idolaters, was of the utmost importance to God. For every time they mixed with the other peoples of the world, they fell into the same ungodliness, and idolatry which was practiced there.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ reached Europe in the first century A.D., and stagnated there in the dysfunctional condition which was prophesied of in Isaiah 1:12-31. The judges and counselors, the apostles

and prophets, were gone, and false teachers had supplanted them. From about the third century to about the 15th to 16th centuries, the process of preaching the Gospel to every creature ceased to spread. Christianity had become a government mandate under the heavy hand of Rome, and resistance to its rule punishable by death. Then the reformation began, and until about the middle of the twentieth century, the condition of the advancement of the knowledge of God remained fairly strong. But by the end of World War II, the trend had reversed. Christianity had never completely broken all the fetters of Roman paganism, and the pendulum began to swing back to Rome. In 1962, because of the new ecumenical movement, the return to Rome began to pick up momentum here in the U.S.A., and in 1964, the U.S. government began to outlaw the use of the Bible in public places.

It has taken a few years, but today, Christianity is very close to a major clash with the anti-Christian powers of the world. That includes all of us, from the zealous advocates of active Pentecostalism to the more staid Christians, even including the Church of Rome.

God is preparing to punish errant Christianity in every category, and in the same time-frame protect a group of people who have zealously clung to the true concepts which make Christianity acceptable in His sight.

Paul put it this way, "Know this also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high minded, *lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God*, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning [about God], and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, *so do these also*

resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Tim 3:1-13). What an unflattering description of the condition of Christianity as God begins to wind down the Grace Age.


"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and *that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: *that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Tim. 3:14-17). With these words, Paul showed us how to escape the wrath of God, by learning the Word of God.

Please do not fall into the trap of changing the word "perfect" to the word "mature." If you do, you will shut out an important amount of understanding of the Holy Scriptures. In three prominent men in the Old Testament, Noah, Abram, and Job, God showed us what He meant. He did mark the perfect men (Ps 37:37). The Lord said, "Noah was a just man and *perfect in his generations*" (Gen. 5:9): meaning Noah became as good as a person could be in that period of time. And God commanded Abram, saying, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Gen. 17:1). Also the Lord said, of Job, "That man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God." It was he of whom God told Satan, "There is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God [and hates evil]" (Job 1:1-8). Therefore Jesus told His disciples, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48).

That is our commandment, our challenge today. Christianity has gone the way of the world. They have

even fallen into the trap of seeking after wealth, against which the apostle Paul warned us saying, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience" (Col. 3:1-6).

We are approaching the final developments which will soon usher in the coming of our Lord and King. It is indeed high time to wake out of sleep, and seek the Lord, search His word, and search our own hearts for anything which might provoke the Lord to say unto us also,

"How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: they would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil" (Prov. 1:22-33). 

Good News

Continued from Page 2

In 1893, Nicola Tesla demonstrated wireless radio transmission before the National Electric Light Association. In 1901, Guglielmo Marconi established wireless communication between St. John's, Newfoundland (Canada) and Poldhu, Cornwall (England). Today, most radio stations offer news segments each hour, and some stations have a “news/talk” format, broadcasting news and also programming that often emphasizes politics and current events all day.

In the middle to late 1920s, not only were they able to send audio over the airwaves, but pictures as well. Now you could not only read the news, but you could hear it – and even see it! In the late 1970s, Ted Turner debuted the first basic cable system. With this new medium, a possibility for news networks was created. Mr. Turner launched the Cable News Network, CNN, on June 1, 1980. It would later be joined by other 24-hour news networks, such as MSNBC, Headline News, Fox News, and many others, including channels that focus only on business or sports news. Now you do not have to wait until the network news at 5 or 11 o'clock. You can get your news on the TV any time of the day or night.

Technological developments in the 40s, 50s and 60s revealed the initial potential of the computer. In 1969, a computer network was created called Arpanet. Arpanet would later merge with other networks, and together with advances in the 70s, would produce the Internet. In September 1981, fundamental protocols for the Internet were established, and today it is arguably the most powerful form of communication ever known to man, practically interconnecting the entire world.

With all of these media available to us, what do we get? We get an endless parade of violence, opi-

nion, and celebrities. We are baraged with the evidence of sin and its effects on a daily, hourly, and even more frequent basis! All of this news is either bad news, or irrelevant gossip.

Most of the news presented is biased and opinionated, while some news sources claim to be more fair and balanced. One might pose the question, what is news? Can news be biased? Can news be balanced? The answer is, of course, no. If you are trying to promote an agenda, or seeking ways to offer different sides of a story, then you are no longer reporting on the facts, but are rather expressing opinions.

While gossip and opinion obviously appeal to the carnal man, the spiritual man is interested in truth.

Jesus' coming is called good news. It is not an opinion or a myth, but news – real news. When the angel appeared to the shepherds, he said, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12). The shepherds went and found the baby, just as the angel had said. The angel was not offering a biased report, nor was he trying to be fair and balanced. He was just reporting the news.

Men of great faith, who witnessed Jesus' ministry with their own eyes, recorded those events in the pages of what we call the New Testament. Three of Jesus' twelve, Matthew, John and Peter, describe the things that they saw. The death of Jesus was a fact, they were witness to it.

The resurrected Lord also appeared to the disciples, as they also record. He also appeared to Paul several years later. But both Peter and Paul make statements that show that their faith was not based on what they saw, but on the facts

that were first declared by the mouth of God through His holy prophets.

Peter was one of only three disciples that witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (the other two being the sons of Zebedee). As he describes that event in 2 Peter 1:16-21, he says, “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.” Although he saw and heard amazing things that day, he goes on to say that the word of prophecy is more sure than even his own experiences.

Paul, who saw a vision of the risen Jesus, likewise declares, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:1-4). He gives greater weight to that which happened “according to the scriptures:” the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, than to his own testimony, because the “good news” is not opinion or legend, nor is it hearsay, but fact. Being absent when those events occurred, Paul says that he preaches the gospel (good news) that he also received.

Paul said in 2 Cor. 5:7, “We walk by faith, not by sight.” This does not mean we walk by some random belief or hope. No, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

Holy men of old spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. This unbiased reporting, with no effort to balance it by the words of man's wisdom, is what makes the Gospel truly good news. We are not expected to believe someone's testimony, or someone's experience, we are only expected to believe the report of the Lord!

Prophecies about the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus were written centuries before the events. Jesus fulfilled the volume of prophecy that was written of Him.


The heralds of God's news network reported the good news, and from the days of Isaiah until now, we ask, "Who has believed our report?" (Isa. 53:1; Rom. 10:16).

And what is that report? Here is some of Luke's file footage: "Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suf-

fer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:26-39).

The good news is the same today. Jesus died for your sins, and was raised for your justification, just as the Scriptures required. In a world where news seems to be everywhere and nowhere at the same time, it is the word of the Lord that brings us the tidings of great joy and great hope.

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4).

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Pet. 1:24-25). 

The Days of Lot

By Joel McNabb

What a wondrous age we live in today, just to think that our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to this earth. The disciples of the early church did not have this hope to look forward to. Although they knew that Jesus would return some day, their hope was in the resurrection. One day after leaving the temple, while Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples came to Him asking, "Tell us, when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matt. 24:3). Jesus then proceeded to explain to them the specifics of these three occurrences: He

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told them what to look for when the temple would fall; that no man knew the day and hour that the earth would be destroyed; then He told about the signs of His coming and what those days would be like. Maybe we, as believers today, should be more like those who walked with Jesus, asking more questions about what we have been taught, and questioning as to what will be the signs of His coming.

Are we looking to the signs of his coming today? Are we looking for the days of the son of man? If we are truly living in the last days, then the signs of His coming should be all around us. For over 150 years, we have been told that we are in the last days, and the doctrine that He could come any time has been preached. The years have gone by, and many have died, never seeing His return or His days. Most Christians have become complacent about the Lord's return because they cannot see His days. "But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 24:48-51).

"Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?" (Job 24:1). The signs are here, and many Christians are just going about their lives unaware that our Lord is coming soon. This scripture is clear; God knows what time it is and that His plans are right on schedule. Why then do we not see the 'days of the

Lord'? Jesus gave the wicked generation of Jews of His day a sign when they asked Him. In Matt. 12:39, He said the only sign they would have was the sign of the prophet Jonas. Jesus died, and was in the grave three days and three nights. Still they did not understand. Likewise, our Lord gives us signs of His return in Matthew 24 and Luke 17. We are told that our signs will be as in the days of Noah and Lot. Everything that took place in their days is a sign of what it shall be like when Jesus returns. These two men were warned by God of eminent destruction, and they were provided a way of deliverance. Noah prepared an ark for the saving of his house and those animals that were with him, and two angels came and led Lot and his family from Sodom before God destroyed it.

If we are to know and see what it is going to be like when Jesus comes, we must look at what happened to these men, and ask God to give us understanding. I know that many will say we are not to know the day nor the hour, and they use Matt. 24:36 and Mark 13:32, never bothering to ask about what day or hour Jesus was talking. It is just presumed that He is talking about when He will return. If we would take the time and read the verses above, we could clearly see that Jesus was speaking of a day when the elements will melt with fervent heat as Peter said (2 Pet. 3:10). Why are we told to take heed? Why, when Jesus began to answer the Apostles' questions, did He tell them to "Take heed that no man deceive you."

At the first coming of Jesus, there was a great sign in the heavens; even the wise men from the East were aware of it and made their journey to see the child who was born to be king of the Jews. Of His second coming Jesus said, immediately after the tribulation of those days, then the sign of the Son of man would appear in heaven, and they shall see the Son of man coming in clouds of heaven (Matt. 24:29-31). Will our eyes be open and be like the wise men at the first coming? Does God change? "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal. 3:6). He is telling us that He always works in a certain

way, so that we will know that it is Him.

We are told by Jesus that "also as it was in the days of Lot ... even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:28,30). He even warned us to remember Lot's wife, which almost seems out of place if we are to believe the common doctrine taught today about the Lord's return. Two angels went to Sodom to get the righteous out before the destruction, if they would heed the warning and go. But before they went, those two went with the Lord to make a special visit to Abraham to let him know what was about to happen. The Lord said he was going to have a look at Sodom, to see if the noise of their wickedness was as bad as He had heard. Abraham pleaded for mercy and bargained with the Lord to not destroy the righteous with the wicked. Finally, the Lord said that if there were ten righteous people that He would save Sodom, but ten righteous could not be found. Here we see that Abraham knew of the destruction before it happened, and was desperately trying to see that the righteous would be saved.

The judgment was set, and Sodom would fall. On the eve of the calamity, God sent the two angels to the city to get Lot and his family out. When they came to Lot, he invited them to come to his home, and fixed them a meal of unleavened bread, perhaps to show us what time of year this took place. (The Law of Moses had not been given yet, but Moses did write this occurrence as the Spirit of the Lord moved on him.) The feast of unleavened bread was given to the children of Israel to observe, because God said, "for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever" (Ex. 12:17). God did not just mention what kind of bread Lot had made to let us know what they were eating or how they made bread. He always has a meaning to what He tells us, so when we hear unleavened bread we should associate it with other places where it is mentioned. This also ties these two events together, Sodom and Egypt,

for in both places God sent two messengers in to deliver His people.

The time was running out. The two angels asked Lot of his other family members in the city, besides the ones that were with him, to take them out of the place also. Lot went to his sons-in-law, who were married to his other two daughters. Now, I say this to show that there were eight righteous that were in Sodom. If there had been ten, God would have saved Sodom because of His promise to Abraham. Peter characterizes Lot as being "just" (2 Pet. 2:7). I would like you readers to see that there was only a little time to try to let those few know that trouble was coming and to warn them to escape it. Lot told his sons-in-law and his daughters that it was time to get out of this place as God was going to destroy the city, but they would not listen and made fun of him, thinking he was crazy. As the day broke, the angel began to hurry Lot, telling him to take his wife and two daughters that were there and get out. Lot did not feel the urgency of the time, so while he lingered around, the angels grabbed him, and his wife and daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and brought them outside the city. When the angels had brought them far enough, they told them to escape and not look back, but to go to the mountain, lest they be consumed. Lot pleaded that the mountain was too far, and saw that there was a little city nearby and asked if he and his family could go there. God allowed Lot to go to the city and that he would save that city for Lot's sake, but he must hurry. (See Genesis 19).

I would like you to hear something in this passage that you may have never heard before when you were taught about the story of Lot. Here we see that Lot and his family made it out of Sodom safely before the destruction came, and they made it to a little city. It is there that Lot's wife sees what is going on and looks back then turns into a pillar of salt. She didn't just turn her head around and take a glance at what was happening. If we read little farther in this passage, we are told that Abraham looked toward the city when it was being destroyed, and he did not turn


into salt. Lot's wife not only looked back, but turned back to her life and family that was left behind. I hear the words of Jesus, "Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it" (Luke 17:32-33). Lot's wife was safe from harm, yet looked back to the life she had and the daughters and sons-in-law that had been left behind. We are taught today that this passage reveals the catching away, where one is taken and the other left. But if we are taken to heaven, how then could what happened to Lot's wife reflect this? Can you imagine someone being changed to immortality, being transported to heaven, and then all of a sudden decide to look back on the life that they were leaving?

The Bible is a two edged sword: **Salvation** and **Prophecy**. From the story of Lot and the deliverance of his family from the destruction of Sodom, we can see how Jesus' death and resurrection has brought us salvation and forgiveness of our sins. There is also a prophecy to be fulfilled in this story. Jesus has shown us that the days of Lot were a sign of what will happen just before He returns. When Jesus gives power to His Two Witnesses and sends them out to proclaim His coming, as in the midnight cry, they will try to get as many out of the place where the judgment of the Lord will fall as possible. The sons-in-law of Lot reveal that there will be those who will mock the two witnesses, and being caught unaware, they will be left behind. The two prophets will then press with urgency to those that will hear, sending them

to where the Body is and to where Jesus will come. And when the Two Witnesses have finished fulfilling their portion of prophecy, the Beast will make war with them and kill them. "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" (Rev. 11:3-12).

When Jesus finished His story of one being taken and the other left, His disciples wanted to know where they were taken to. "And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together" (Luke 17:37). Are we going to be like the disciples, and ask the questions, such as, "Why did He call those that were taken 'eagles'?" The word "eagle" is a key word, used to describe Moses and Aaron in Ex.19 as the two witnesses, "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent" (Rev. 12:14).

There were eight righteous in Sodom, but only four heeded the warning of the two angels. We are told that there were ten virgins that heard the midnight cry, but only five made it into the wedding. Dear readers, we have reached the end of six thousand years since the creation of Adam, and the King of Kings is coming. The words of prophecy have to be fulfilled, and if we are not watching and waiting,

we will be left behind. I implore you today to shake yourselves, and read the Bible. It is time to be sure of what we know, and ask questions if we do not know or understand what God is saying. If you are not sure of your salvation, there is time to get everything right with the Lord before it is too late. Take a look at the world you are living in. Do you think that God is going to let it continue in its iniquity? He is not. He is sending His Son to judge this world and all those that are in it. Those that will hear and endure to the end will be saved. I pray that we all will hear and prepare our hearts and be ready, so that day will not come up on us as a thief, "And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through" (Luke 12:39). People, get ready! Jesus is coming! Will you be one of those that are safe under the shadow of His wings? Ask questions, dear saints. Ask! 

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