

His Wife Made Herself Ready Part 1

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. – Revelation 19:7 KJV.

I've got a few verses in Ecclesiastes and then two passages in the book of the Revelation. And this I know, if you came hungry, wanting to hear and get good news from that distant land, I am sure this morning that you have already sought the Lord and that you were in your closet and found your heart moved towards Him. If that is you, no matter the preacher's faults or stuttering or stumbling, God will still give you that good news and that bread - the sweet manna of Canaan. I'm not saying that honey will be dripping all around you as it was in Saul's son. Jonathan stuck his end of his sword into it and took a bite. His eyes were open, he did see, and his father said, "You'll die this day." – paraphrase of **1 Samuel 14:44**. Saul was a religious man that had put religious restrictions upon his men of war. Jonathan said, "If you all had eaten this, then we would have been much stronger today." - paraphrase of **1 Samuel 14:30**. And Saul intended on killing him. So, I'm not saying that honey will be that thick around you, but I'm sure that our God will drop at least a morsel into your soul. And you'll have something that you can carry with you when crossing that last sea. John mentioned the Lord Jesus naked on the cross. And that was what I was thinking about while I was getting dressed this morning. Naked. These that paint His picture can put a loincloth around Him, but He hung naked because that's the way I am before God. And in all my preaching and in all my attendance to the house of God, if I am not in Him and on that cross my sins were not buried in the sea of God's forgetfulness, all activity is of no value, no good. It won't profit me a bit standing before him. So children, it's time that all of us get very honest with God- as a people, as individuals. Our first passage I think will be Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 and verse 15. If you're there, would you bow with me?

Our Father, in the 33 years of our Lord fulfilling Thy law completely, not as God, though He was, but as man, in our place, if we are in Him. And as the end of life came upon Him, there in the garden, sweat becoming as great drops of blood, but not one drop was in vain. And then they nailed those precious hands to that old wooden beam. Blood continued to drip from the garden to the judgment hall and there on Calvary. That is my hope - my only hope. I want to live before these and those that I know as an example, a witness, but I know that doesn't pay for one sin, no matter how small it might be. They all must be under the shed blood of our Redeemer. And Father, we get careless sometimes with Him, about Him. We get so bogged down with life- so busy. Jobs demanding so much of us in this day and family. And yet in it all, Lord, we must not, we must not lose Thee. I pray that you might draw all of these dear souls to the Lamb. I ask you, Father, that you would bring a reality of salvation in Christ - that you would bring a devotedness. And I won't take that death lightly. And Lord, the little that I can see there, it is such a small amount. But blessed be Thy name, Lord Jesus, Thine, O God, our Father. And thank You for the Spirit of God, that if we listen and we walk with Thee, then He will direct and keep us on that straight path. Enable us to come to Thee through Christ. I pray you'd help every individual here from the young teenagers, preteen, to those not many years behind me. Help us this day to be honest before Thee, honest with ourselves. And Father, give us hearing ears, seeing eyes, understanding heart, and give a

10/22/2023

<https://www.cherithbaptist.com/>

good utterance in speaking Thy Word. Not my thoughts, but Thine. Be exalted, O God, as you exalt your Son in our midst this day. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

I'll give you the title when we get in the Revelation. I know that's not good preaching, but I want to wait about that. In Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 verse 15, **That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.** The history of this old world that you and I are living in, including all things - all things except this very moment. And yet the moment that I said is already behind you and already in history. So we and our life are like the hands on that clock. We are always moving in a circle - coming back to the beginning point - which will be tomorrow this time. We have made that complete circle. Just like the hands of that old clock that move continuously. It gets to the end of the day and only to begin over tomorrow - if you have a tomorrow. Don't any of you claim that (a tomorrow). Now Solomon said "that which has been", that which is in history "is taking place right now" and "that which is in the future", that which is to be, "was somewhere in the past" - paraphrasing **Ecclesiastes 3:15**. And so you're living a day at a time, I hope. Give us this day. You're not storing up for tomorrow. You're not waiting on tomorrow to bring better times for you, happier times. You're living in the day, very thankful that God has given you this day and means whereby you can get to Him. Now turn back and this is reversed in what it should be to Chapter 1, Verse 9 - very similar in wording, in language and meaning. **The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. - Ecclesiastes 1:9 KJV.** When Ezekiel was looking at those wheels, he was looking at the providence of God moving in them. And that's your life. Things you've already been through may be what you go through. Hopefully not the bad times, but you're going to go through that which you've already been through.

In Ecclesiastes Chapter 11, Solomon said, **and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be - Ecclesiastes 11:3b KJV.** So you've got today - the only time promised to you to make sure everything is right. Am I prepared to meet the Lord if He comes tonight? And there is a great dread in my heart of having to follow someone here or more than someone - follow you in a coffin. And that will ruin a night's sleep for me. Make sure whether you are a young boy, young lady, or an old one, make sure, and you being in Christ, that He'll spare you well beyond my time with you. Ever how you fall, ever how death finds you, right with God, free of sin in Christ, or wrong. That's how it will be for you.

In Ecclesiastes Chapter 9 Verse 10 - **Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.** Unless the Lord returns, there is a grave placed out there somewhere for you. There will be a headstone there and I hope that the writings on it are honest and that you are in glory. Whatever your hand finds to do - you have heard some things that you ought to be doing this morning or undoing. Just get it done. I want you to turn to the Revelation - last book, last chapter. From here, I'm going back to Matthew. So just kind of keep your place here. Later on, we are going to visit a couple of chapters previous to Revelation 22. This is the Lord Jesus, the revelation of God to Him, the revelation of the person of Christ given to John out there all alone on that island. In Verse 11 - **He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. Revelation 22:11 KJV.** Whatever you are when the end comes, that's what you will be throughout eternity. And do not think that in eternity that you do not carry a mind with you or ears or a heart whereupon all this is written. "Abraham, would you send Lazarus?" - paraphrase of **Luke 16:24**. The rich man kept his mind. He was very well acquainted with his misdeeds, his wrongdoings, and his failure to do what he ought to have done. "Send him to my brothers." -

10/22/2023

<https://www.cherithbaptist.com/>

paraphrase of **Luke 26:27-28** What the rich man is saying is, "I didn't live right before them, and if they go to hell, come here, it is going to be my fault with stripes added." Whatever your mind is when you pass - I'm not counting those with the dreaded disease of losing their mind. I'm not counting that at all. I'm counting you with a sound mind. But if that disease ever strikes you, the last of your sound mind will follow you. **He that is unjust, let him be unjust still:and he that is holy, let him be holy still** - from **Revelation 22:11 KJV** All labor as to preparation of this day of meeting the Lord is in time. Today, **Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth** – **Proverbs 27:1 KJV**. But you know what everybody is looking for in this day? We're looking for some outward visible sign of the Lord's return. "If you'll just give me enough time to get ready", or, "I'm going to enjoy today and tomorrow I'll get everything straight". No, tomorrow you are going to do exactly like you did today apart from the Lord's work within. We all are like a family with teenagers now, and the parents are called away for the weekend, and you've got to stay home. And you keep checking on them, "Let us know when you're coming home." You were not interested in the day when they would come home, you were interested in having everything straightened out before they got home. You couldn't care less. If they stayed away a month, that would be all right. You were having a big time. "Well, I have a couple hours to clean up before you get back."

Well, our Lord Jesus said in **Matthew 16:4a, A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it**. You are looking in vain - looking into the future right now. And the only ones not interested in the precise time of the Lord's coming, or in exactly all the signs that they should be watching for, are those that are at this moment, in this time walking with Him - in fellowship with Him. And the closet hears your petitions and you know because God smiles upon you as you say, "Father". You're walking with Him right now and it won't matter if he comes back this afternoon or tomorrow or a month or two weeks from now. And you're the only ones that are not interested in, "Just give us a sign". You are serving Him in this present moment. "You have no need that I write unto you. For the day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night, but that day shall not overtake you." – paraphrase of **1 Thessalonians 5:1-2**. Paul is writing to young men, "You brethren that are not in darkness." – paraphrase of **1 Thessalonians 5:4**. I want every soul to be honest right now to God because He's the only judge. If you knew that the master of the house would be in this afternoon, how would that change the day for you?

Man has always wanted to peer into the unknown and preachers have made vast sums of money by bringing their little charts and all this that they have figured out in time and setting before people what the Revelation really means. They've got it all figured out except really they do not have it figured out. But that's just because we are curious. Why do you think we sent satellites out into an unknown distance? And we keep looking. If we can find some reason, some explanation as to how we got here, or if we can find life on another planet, then that will help us. Man has an interest in that which is not known. And His last words there in Acts 1 - His last visible appearance to his disciples, they had this question, "Lord, will thou at this time restore unto us the kingdom of Israel?" – paraphrase of **Acts 1:6**. "Well, brethren, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons." – paraphrase of **Acts 1:7**. You know why they had an interest in the nation of Israel, that kingdom being restored? Then they wouldn't be under bondage to any other king, any other nation. Those disciples, as did all people in Israel, they knew that they were the chosen nation, the chosen people of God. In the late 1970s, there was a minister that decided that he would fly around the country and hold these rallies because America was headed in the wrong direction. And he would have these large rallies and he'd fly back into his place up there in Virginia and give them a 15 minute sermonette on Sunday and fly back out. And what he

10/22/2023

<https://www.cherithbaptist.com/>

started off with, it ended up being the moral majority. And that man became so popular around the United States that our President let him in. And this man whispered into the ears of our President, "Be kind and take care of Israel. They are God's chosen people. Treat them right. Supply their needs." And everybody in the last two centuries that's been under dispensational views of the scripture, they have set before us signs for which we should watch. "Now, when this happens, the Lord is near." One of those signs is in Matthew about the fig tree budding. And they said in 1948, that fig tree budded and Israel in a two year war (really a seven day war) became a nation again. And now instead of the Lord's people looking towards the Lord, everybody is watching the nation that rejected the Messiah, trying to discern by a natural eye, "We are going to get this figured out." And they're doing what God said "Don't do".

And later on, Paul writes **But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. – 1 Thessalonians 5:1 KJV.** It's kind of like a mother that's already been through the birth of a child and she won't know the specific hours or even the specific day if left to herself and nature. But she will know as the days draw nigh. And no human being knows the specific time of the Lord's return. "No need that I write unto you brethren, but you know the times and the seasons." – paraphrase of **1 Thessalonians 5:1.** You know this is coming.

Now in Matthew 24 and no, I'm not going to apologize for covering this so many times. **And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. Matthew 24:1 KJV.** The disciples saw in the face of their Lord that similar to what the Samaritans saw, his face was as he would go to Jerusalem and they wouldn't, or they rejected him. And his disciples saw - they had discernment - our Lord has left the temple. For 4,000 years, the temple had been that place where the chosen people of God went to meet with the Lord, to hear from Him. Now, our Lord said, **And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? Matthew 24:2-3 KJV.** Well, Jesus is about to tell them exactly what time He is coming and what they are to look for, right? No, no, I did not get that. But scripture says, **And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. Matthew 24:4 KJV.** Stop looking at the temple and stop thinking that the temple is where the Shekinah of the glory of God abides. He said, "I am the temple." **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. John 2:19b KJV.** And those hearers, as in everything else, they thought, "That man's crazy." Our fathers were 40 and some odd years building this temple and He is going to tear it down and raise it in three days? No, He wasn't talking about that. He was talking about His body as being the temple of Almighty God. Destroy it and I'll raise it up. You think that the temple over there is important to Jesus today? Or important to the Jews? Sure, it is. They still go to the part of the wall that is remaining and stuff their letters in the cracks of the wall, thinking that "Behind that wall is the Holy of Holies and we cannot get in there. We can leave our petitions right here, written out in this wall." Sad thing about religion. They have been looking at the wrong thing.

And I guarantee you this, that over the past couple of weeks, hundreds upon hundreds, if not thousands upon thousands around the world have been declaring to the congregations and will be this day since war broke out over there. And now these that know all about the end times, they can say "Here is a sure indicator of the Lord's soon return." No, it is only the hands on the clock that are moving around and around. They became a nation in 1948, but they were in war in 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, and 2006. And so, because our leaders think like the Jews, "We must keep them safe." And we're supporting them with money that we do not have and propping up the foundations that have already crumbled

10/22/2023

<https://www.cherithbaptist.com/>

under you, dear child. They are already gone. He said, "Well, we will come back." No, we will not. Oh, God might give us a little reprieve, I do not know. But your country is not coming back. Moms and dads, you are living in it. My God, if the Lord Jesus tarries, I can only imagine what it will be for your children. Train them up right, teach them, pray for them, and take them out to the house of God. We do not have any certain foundation except in the Lord Jesus. And I know that no one wants to hear such negative preaching or such negative thinking. I have a short line that folk can communicate that get on Sermon Audio on the message of where I was saying "There will be no revivals in America." And this was all he said - a young man - he wasn't going to have anything to do with that. All he said was "Stop it already." "I'm living in a nation God's going to send revival." If folk hear, I mean really hear, I might be like Jeremiah in Chapter 38, when the princes came to the king and said, "let this man be put to death. He weakeneth the hand of the men of war and of people. This man seeks not the welfare of this people." – paraphrase of **Jeremiah 38:4**. Well, we do not have a nation anymore with armed services that can fight. You have to bring in all these little inclusive groups. Jeremiah was saying, "God is going to destroy this nation. You're going into bondage. Mark it down." The men said to the king, "Get rid of him." I mean, our land cannot handle such preaching as that prophet preached, or Amos's preaching. When Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, went to Jeroboam, the king of Israel, and said to him, **Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words. Amos 7:10:b KJV. Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there: But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court. Amos 7:12-13 KJV.** "We are not going to listen to you, but we are looking for a sure sign of the Lord's return. Now, nobody can give it to you. Nobody knows it, but I'm going to in closing.

In Revelation 19, remembering 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 - paraphrased "Of the times and of the seasons, you have no need that I write unto you, brethren. For you know full well the Lord comes as a thief in the night," But not to those watching and waiting for Him. And forget about that little nation over there. And you cannot forget about the humanity and the suffering and the wickedness of children being butchered there. But we have no right to say anything about it. We are butchering children here. You cannot look at that little nation. You cannot look at the "signs of the time" so-called. Do you want a sure sign? In Revelation 19:6, **And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.** I have told you about when we were young, me up at my grandmother's, sometimes our aunt would walk with us down to this creek. To us, it was a large waterfall, but you could hear it roaring. Just a small stream, but you could hear it roaring when you got to the top of the hill. It was making a sound. John said, **And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings,** all in unison **saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.** There He is for you, right there, a resting place. You do not need to know what's coming tomorrow. Next year, in 20 years if we are here, you have the Almighty God reigning. And whatsoever He is pleased to do, that doeth He both in heaven and in earth. And you have that Sure Foundation under you. You have that Rock and you have God all around.

But that's not the sign. Here is what you can go on children, of the Lord's soon return. Oh, it will not be anything visible except in the local congregation. And before the Lord returns, Verse 7a, **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him:** our God that reigneth. Why should we rejoice? **For the marriage of the Lamb is come.** And the title of the message here in the end, and **his wife hath made herself ready.** When you begin seeing these that aren't faithful, becoming faithful, when you begin

10/22/2023

<https://www.cherithbaptist.com/>

seeing these that are faithful, begin cleaning up their lives and get rid of those little foxes that you heard about. And all of them begin looking upward, knowing that the Lord is soon to return - when she, starts getting ready. All her work must be done in time. She has no time when the Bridegroom steps out of glory. So she better when she heard in the depths of her soul that little still small voice. Yet, it was a thundering in her soul - the Bridegroom coming. She got her lamp out, and she checked the oil and made sure, and she lighted the lamp and waited for the bridegroom. Just look at God's children around you. None of us are as dedicated as we ought to be. All of us can live a richer, fuller life in our soul. Will the world be watching her? Do you think God is going to remind them of God's coming - the Lord Jesus coming back as a thief in the night. No, the world cannot see this. All they will see is a bunch of overzealous Christians. It will not mean a thing to them.

So that clock has made its last round. And it is back where it was 2,000 years ago or 4,000 years before that. And He who began a work of creation is carrying on a work of creation in your soul. And down there when things get difficult for you, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Nobody will be watching the bride. You will see it in others. You will find it in your own heart. The church, the true church is unknown. No one, absolutely no one knows about her. What sounds she going to make? What sounds she going to hear? It'll be in her soul. The Bridegroom comes and she'll start getting ready. Trimming her lamps, waiting, watching. Nobody outside is going to be seeing you, knowing what's going on. But inside the walls of this local congregation, wherever they might be, a group of people is going to become dedicated and striving after godliness and true holiness and purity. You say, "But there are more churches in America, across America than there's ever been." No, there are not. There are more church buildings. "Well, God has spoken about in all these churches and some of them with thousands, thousands hearing God proclaimed. So they will be a warning. These national known preachers, they'll tell us - they hear from God and they will proclaim." The question is going to be "What God are they going to be proclaiming about?" Because the God that they've set before people is not the one, true, living God. Now folks, God has been silent in our land for a long time. He had to, for the very foundation of the nation would not have crumbled up under us if God had been speaking. So don't look for any outward appearance, for the true God works quietly - very still, very small voice. Nobody in your household can hear it but you. Neither can you hear that in anybody else's heart. And you start getting ready. Now is the time. And He's never refused a single soul that came.

Bro. Barrett Holloway

Messages Can Be Found At:

<https://www.cherithbaptist.com/>

or

https://www.sermonaudio.com/source_detail.asp?sourceid=52561