Watching & Ready Column (Matthew 24:42-44)

"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near; at the doors." Mark 13:28-29

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The Watching & Ready Column is posted on the website in PDF format to allow for printing, to be available for loved ones who are Left Behind.

Angry Drivers

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

I recall reading several emails from PB about 'angry drivers' that would 'flare up' from time to time and be heard outside of his shop in Spokane, WA. At the time I lived in a small pristine town on the shores of Lake Michigan, near the mighty Mackinac Bridge. The affairs of the world, at that time, never seemed to have as much as an affect there, as it did elsewhere.

Yet around a month or so ago, I started to notice angry drivers, revving their engines, racing around, skirting the law, beeping their horns, etc. This time it didn't stop, in fact one morning I woke up to not one horn, but another a few minutes later of angry drivers on the busy street outside of our home.

What is the cause of this seemingly now –sticky- break in the peace of the traffic? Is this because President Trump is back in office??? Have the price increases finally become too much for many??? Are the jobs becoming more and more scarce??? What is going on? Well, I simply don't know the cause and can only guess, but I do know from conversations that I have had with cashiers, family and friends, the pricing of goods and services are starting to affect their ability to function as they normally would.

We who truly know the Lord should not fret during these times (Pr. 24:19), but we need to keep focused and understand that these are the 'labor pains' (1 Thes. 5:3) that are about ready to be come upon the lost and those who refused to accept the free gift (Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16-21; Acts 17:30-31) that God bestowed upon the world through Jesus Christ who died on the Cross for our sins and rose again from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God.

"By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time onward waiting till His enemies are made His footstool." Hebrews 10:10-13

Keep Looking Up!

Distractions

As I beginning to continue writing this, I see that the original thought for the next Watching & Ready Column was back in March. Now it is May! Yet this topic about distractions has been on my mind for quite some time now and I think it is high time to finally put this down on paper. This is in an article form on the website, much to big for a little news letter.

Editor Update: Well now it is June. The distractions haven't stopped. In fact, I actually 'missed' the Pakistan/India ordeal and caught it afterwards. Though during my listening of the radio news stations off and on, I caught the Iran bombing and for a moment I paused, thinking that I now must 'dig in' to the bottom of this and for a week or so, off and on, I visited some websites, reading up on all of the ordeals, waiting for the Iranian response, watching the recent debate back and forth about the effectiveness of the bombing, etc.

In fact I even called up my internet/phone provider to see if I could get cable television hooked up so that I could get the national news stations. However, that quickly ended when it would have more than doubled my current bill.

Right away, listening to talk radio 'big heads', watching Fox News (at the gym) and visiting websites like Zero Hedge, I could –clearly- see the talking points, the steering, the propaganda. Knowing that talk radio can only go so far, the television news a bit farther and finally the internet can '1984' and steer opinions faster than a pancake can cook on one side of a hot griddle, my desire to do more 'digging' at the moment faded as quickly as it began. I was ready to pull out the popcorn and watch these end time events unfold, of which I am certain that is what we are currently viewing.

But if we are in the moment of giving opinions on what just happened in the Middle East with Iran, I will give my observations and thoughts about the matter, not knowing what will happen next more than the other person, just believing God's Word and believing that we who claim to be Believers ought to be watching and ready more than ever (Matt. 24:42-44). We must be 'looking up', even if we find ourselves having to deal with the 'vanities' of this life (Ecc. 12:8).

On one of the talk radio programs I had heard them discussing how this bombing of Iran (before any questioning of the successfulness of the bombing) was unprecedented. They went on to discuss how the Abraham Accords that President Trump has been working on with Israel's neighbors is certain to come to pass with a lasting peace deal in the Middle East.

| "And he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week." | Dan 8:9 And out of one of them came a little horn which became |
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| Daniel 9:27a | very great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the beautiful land. |
| Going off of the common thread of that base of the Abraham Accords, that unless someone was quite savvy about the news, | Dan 8:10 And it became great, even to the host of the heavens. And it caused some of the host and of the stars to fall to the |
| would not know, that common thread is that Israel's enemies are equally an enemy of Iran. Iran's nuclear threat is just as | ground, and trampled them. Dan 8:11 He magnified himself even to the Prince of the host. |
| concerning to them, as it is to Israel. | And the regular sacrifice was taken away by him, and the foundation of His sanctuary was cast down. |
| You see, they believe that Iran could try to take over the Middle East, threatening their very existence and therefore they have been | Dan 8:12 And a host was assigned to him against the regular sacrifice because of transgression. And he cast truth down to the |
| walking towards a 'lasting peace' (see the remainder of Dan. 9:27 | ground. He did all this and prospered." |
| to see that it does not last), under the guise of a shared common enemy. (Iran is operated by a radical form of Islam, whereas most | We are limited on space here in this small column, but for those |
| other Arabic counties in the region only have smaller sects of that.) | who are reading this and have access to a Bible, read through the majority of this chapter in <i>Daniel</i> . What Daniel is discussing here |
| So from my perspective, what happened is perfect. President | is the rise of the revived Roman Empire. Take a moment to also compare <i>Revelation 17</i> . What we have here is a description of the |
| Donald Trump –proved- he was willing to fight Iran by dropping a major surprise attack on them using the 'big bombs'. Bombs | revived Roman Empire, of which, at least in 2025, this appears to be by all means (<i>Rev. 13:4</i>) the United States of America. |
| big enough to see craters from satellite images! Yet with the question as to whether or not Iran is months away, a year away, | For the purpose of this 'tidbit' mixed in with this Watching & |
| whether or not they whisked away some of the key components of their nuclear program, etc., this, in my opinion, ensures that Iran | Ready Column, let's do the same thing that Daniel did and contemplate a bit, focusing on the <i>'little horn'</i> . |
| remains a threat at some point in the future, from the perspective of it's neighbors. Therefore, now that these other countries know | "I was contemplating the horns. And behold, another little horn |
| that President Trump is not simply bluffing, they are now more | came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted |
| dependent than ever on securing a deal for their own protection, even if it means aligning with Israel to secure that 'peace'. | before it. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things." Daniel 7:8 |
| "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He is | Who is them??? |
| now restraining, until it is raised from out of the midst." 2nd Thessalonians 2:7 | So this 'little horn' 'came up among them'. Would this not |
| Perhaps my thoughts are completely wrong on this matter, as it is | logically be world leaders? Would this not mean that this person, would be the Antichrist (2 Thes. 2:3-4) would be an elected |
| still a mystery, these things will not be known, however, we must remember that our eyes need to be on Christ, especially in this late | leader, who would –eventually- go from being that elected leader to being the Antichrist (after the Rapture (1 Thes. 5:9))??? |
| hour. | This ministry is -not- one who is proclaiming that President |
| "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." | Trump is the Antichrist (though there are really far and few who do), nonetheless, he does still appear to meet all of the |
| 1st Corinthians 9:24 | characteristics that could be known prior to the Rapture, though I also believe that satan who also does not know the 'day nor the |
| "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we | <i>hour' (Mark 13:32)</i> has leaders who have characteristics, such as Hitler or even Nero, often in positions of power. |
| should live with sound mind, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our | Editors Note: Let me also add a tidbit about the naysayer who |
| great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that | declared that President Trump can not be the Antichrist and then |
| He might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify a people for His own possession, zealous unto good works." Titus 2:11-14 | used characteristics that they also know would not be possible to have occurred until after the Rapture. While such attacks seem to |
| Amen! | be pointed towards 'ministries' (small 'm') that proclaim that Trump is the Antichrist, nonetheless, clearly those who |
| | understand the Word of God, who have studied the Bible, must not use characteristics of the Antichrist that are not possible to be |
| A Thorn Among 'Them' | seen until after the Rapture as evidence that President Trump can not be the Antichrist, lest both sides of the argument be equally |
| Dan 8:8 "Then the male goat became very great. And when he | debunked. This ministry is in agreement that no one should be proclaiming that President Trump is the Antichrist, that authority |
| became strong, the great horn was broken. And in its place came up four conspicuous ones toward the four winds of the heavens. | is not given to them from God, as the Rapture (of which case if they are Saved, they wouldn't be here to proclaim ⁽²⁾) has not |
| | happened, but equally God's Word should not be misused by those who truly do know the Lord, to provide 'fire' for their |

argument. If President Trump meets the characteristics that can be known beforehand, than so be it, whether or not he is the Antichrist will become known soon enough, then the matter will be settled. Or if he no longer meets one of the biblical characteristics, than it will equally be made known. Afterall, this man who is in office, who had the election 'stolen' from him and defied all odds to return, the one who himself claimed to be the 'chosen one' the one who has caused (first term) certain ultra religious sects of Jews to determine if he (Trump), who has Jewish roots (his parents are buried in a Jewish cemetery in New York), who has a picture of Apollo (satan) coming on a chariot in his NYC penthouse, is of the lineage of David (of which they supposedly did find) well, I could go on, but for this ministry and for me, he will remain a suspect. If I could debunk him with one verse, I certainly would. Remember that the false christ that Israel looks for, the Antichrist, is simply a political leader who will restore their country to it's rightful place (Acts 1:6-7). END **EDITOR NOTE...**

Could we say 'he' about the EU?

Turning our focus on *Daniel 8:11*, the question of who 'he' is (also talking about this '*little horn*') proves that this '*little horn*' is indeed a man, not an empire. That 'he' is the Antichrist.

Folks, this is not the time to be messing around, 'playing', goofing off, but rather the time to be quite serious for those who are truly Saved. Consider the parable of the ten virgins:

"Then the kingdom of Heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all nodded and fell asleep. And at midnight there was a cry: Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him! Then all those virgins arose and prepared their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us! But he answered and said, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man comes." Matthew 25:1-13

"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to what his work shall be." Revelation 22:11-12

Amen!

Theft – Family Fare

On one of my shopping trips, I picked up some groceries from a supermarket. This was during the mid-morning (9ish) and the store was not particular busy. As I am past the checkout station and looking over my receipt before I walk out the door, there

comes this man with handfuls of items, a 12-pack of pop, snacks, etc., heading straight for the door.

I look up at him and watch as he just walks towards the door, finally we make eye contact and he stares, probably wondering if I am going to do something or say something to stop him, but I just glared back at him, disappointed.

Shall I holler 'thief' so that half the store can hear me? Could I tackle the guy? Should I get the manager? Well the manager did appear a minute later and glanced out in the direction he had went in the parking lot and shrugged his head, going back to his regular duties.

One of the cashiers sometime ago had already told me that the store policy was to do nothing, but watch. She had a guy come through with a full cart of groceries, grinning at her, as he walked out the door, helpless to do anything. From my perspective if the store doesn't care, well that is their ignorant policy that simply helps to further the problem of theft and enable those who chose to sin against their Creator by stealing that which is not there.

"You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15

God doesn't take these things lightly, not like the stores and liberal states/cities/prosecutors, no rather it is one of the Ten Commandments. So perhaps in hindsight I should have simply blurted out 'God has said you shall not steal.' Would perhaps the conscience still work (1 Tim. 4:2)?

Well, nonetheless, this is just another preview of the things to come for those who are Left Behind at the starting gun, which is the Rapture.

"And they did not repent of their murders nor their sorceries nor their sexual perversions nor their thefts." Revelation 9:21

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Keep Looking Up!