



Sermon Series Notes

Back to the Future (Selected Scriptures)

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vv.5-6 The temple was considered one of the great wonders of the Roman world. According to John 2:20, it had been under reconstruction for 46 years, and it was nearing completion (completed in A.D. 63). Josephus wrote, The exterior of the building wanted nothing that could astound either mind or eye. For being covered on all sides with massive plates of gold, the sun was no sooner up than it radiated so fiery a flash that persons straining to look at it were compelled to avert their eyes, as from the solar rays. To approaching strangers it appeared from a distance like a snow clad mountain; for all that was not overlaid with gold was of purest white. Some of the stones in the building were forty-five cubits (a cubit is 17-22 inches) in length, five in height and six in breadth. (The size of train box cars).

Mark's gospel tells us that the disciples were so riveted by Jesus' prophecy regarding the temple that sought a private audience with Him on the Mt. of Olives (Mark 13:3-4). They wanted to know when these things would occur, and what signs they were to look for to know that it was about to happen. Jesus' answer has been called The Olivet Discourse.

A mere 7 years after the temple was completed, it was destroyed, just as Jesus predicted. It happened in 70 A.D., at the hands of Titus and the Roman army. Though Titus had ordered that the temple be preserved, one of his soldiers set fire to it. Seeing the destruction, Titus then ordered the temple and the city razed to the ground. The gold that covered the temple had melted and gone down in between the stones, so in order to recover it, the soldiers did not leave one stone unturned.

As Jesus gives His Olivet Discourse, it becomes clear that He is talking about signs that go beyond the destruction of the temple by Titus. He is talking about the signs of the end of the age.

vv.9-10 In the last 3,400 + years of human history, only 268 have seen no war. And this does not take into account unrecorded history.

v.11 During the tribulation, these things will intensify and be worldwide

vv.12-18 The apostles, Stephen; Acts 4:13; 6:10; 7:2-54; 25:13 26:32

v.20 See Zech.14:1-5, 9

vv.21-24 Jer.30: 6 Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale?

7 How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

* See Zech.13:8-9

* In the parallel account in Mark 13, Jesus specifically refers to the abomination that causes desolation (See Daniel 9:27; 11:31, 36; II Thess.2:3-4).

vv.28-31 When they begin to take place

v.32 My view is that this refers to the generation that sees these signs. Could we be that generation?

* How close are we? It's the same question the disciples asked Jesus. I'd like to see several things that should cause us to consider that we really could be the generation that sees the "end of the age."

1. The church age

- Daniel 9:25-27

- The rebuilding was completed in a total of 49 years. Anyone needs only to read the book of Nehemiah to understand that the rebuilding was met with great opposition (streets, a trench, times of trouble). The second division is the sixty-two sevens, or 434 years. This was the period between the rebuilding of Jerusalem under Nehemiah and the coming of the Anointed One, Jesus the Christ. Over a hundred years ago in his book, *The Coming Prince*, Sir Robert Anderson gave detailed calculations of the sixty-nine weeks, using prophetic years, allowing for leap years, errors in the calendar, the change from B.C. to A.D., and figured that the sixty-nine weeks ended on the day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, five days before his death! N.T. scholar Harold Hoehner calculates that the end of the 483 years was on March 30, A.D. 33, the same date he concludes Jesus made his triumphal entry! (Also may see Alva J. McClain, *Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks*: Zondervan, 1969).

- Eph.3; Rom.11:25-27

- The church age ends with the beginning of the final week of Daniel's vision, a seven-year period known as "The Great Tribulation," or the time of "Jacob's Trouble."

- I believe the next prophetic event for the church is this show rapture video.

2. The rebirth of Israel as a nation

- Over 2,700 years ago, God spoke through Ezekiel 37:1-14. Having been brought to the brink of extinction by The Holocaust, and yet in one day Israel was miraculously reborn as a nation.

3. The preparation and readiness for the building of a temple in Israel.

- In 2004 The Sanhedrin was reestablished in Israel, and has made the decision to begin rebuilding the temple "offsite," just the way that Solomon did (pre-fab). The Temple Institute is ready with utensils for re-establishing worship services, as well as providing Levites to serve for this purpose.

- Rev.11:1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there."

2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

4. We live in the days of modern warfare

- The number of people who will die during the "Time of Jacob's Trouble."

See Rev.6:4, 7-8; 9:15. As of this past Thursday, May 29, at 11:05 a.m. EST, the world population was 6,670,774,859. Based on these figures, if the events of Rev.6 and 9 were to take place today, 1,667,693,714 people would die (Rev.6), leaving 5,003,081,145. Then another 1,667,693,715 are gone, leaving 3,335,387,430. Pretty much half the world is dead. To put these numbers into perspective, the population of the U.S. last Thursday was 304,199,801, which means the total number dead would be almost 11 times the current population of the U.S.

- See Joel 2:1-5 (note v.5); Rev.9:17-19

- What exactly were Joel and John seeing? Video clip of modern warfare

5. Nuclear capability

- With so many people dying in such a short amount of time, the weaponry has to go beyond what we have just seen on the screen.

- Video clip of nuclear blast

- II Peter 3:10

- Nine countries have successfully detonated nuclear weapons. They are the U.S., Russia, The United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and South Africa (but has since disarmed it's weapons). Iran is acquiring nuclear capability...

6. The ability for the world to view the two slain witnesses of Revelation 11:7-10.

- First AntiChristmas

- Video clip of Haiti; Pray for Haiti

7. The technology for the mark of the beast

- Rev.13:16-17

- The verichip

8. The increase in knowledge

- Power point

- Dan.12: 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

- There has never been a time when people have been able to travel so fast and so often as in our day.

- The computer age/the internet

9. First time in history clear signs for the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38-39.

- See Ezekiel 38:1-5, 8; 38:13

- Power point of nations and their ancient history

- Note 39:11-12; 38:16, 23

- Unique from Zech.14:2 (note Zech.13:8-9)

- My wife says she believes this is God's swan song before the rapture of the church (swan song = big finale in opera).

- AT some point in the future, Israel is going to have the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38 come against her, and God is going to step in and

miraculously defend her. The result will be that all the nations will know that the God of Israel is THE LORD!

- A study of ancient Hebrew, ancient history and modern-day geography pretty much concludes that Ezek.38:2 refers to Russia, Moscow, and Tobolsk (Siberia). This is the conclusion of William Gesenius, the father of modern Hebrew lexicography (the science behind compiling dictionaries). His assessment was made in 1846, long before the Communist revolution and the subsequent rise of the Soviet Union as a nuclear superpower. It is also the conclusion of Dr. Arno Gaebelein, 20th century Bible expositor, and of Dr. Dwight J. Pentecost, once professor of Bible exposition at Dallas Theological Seminary.

- There is some disagreement among scholars as to the identification of Meshech as Moscow and Tubal as Tobolsk, as some believe these refer to ancient tribes that settled portions of modern day Turkey, but there is widespread agreement that Rosh and Magog refer to Russia and the lands & people of the former Soviet Union.

- See Ezekiel 38:5,15; 39:2 (far north")

- Power point of map

- In Ezekiel 38:5, the first country named as part of the alliance with Russia against Israel is Persia. Until March 21, 1935, Persia was the official name of the country we today know as Iran. NEVER in the last 2500 years (since these prophecies were given) has Russia and Iran had a military alliance. Many used this as an attempt to disprove the Bible.

- Economic and political ties between Iran and Russia began to develop in the 1990s. Military ties grew rapidly. Tehran was desperate to rebuild it s military forces after years of war with Iraq. Moscow was desperate for hard cash after the collapse of the Soviet Union and needing a beachhead into the oil rich Middle East. It was a match made in hell.

- The Clinton administration became so concerned that in 1995 it pressured the Russians to sign an agreement whereby Moscow would stop selling arms to Iran. Despite the agreement, Russian arms sales to Iran between 1992 and 2000 topped \$4 billion. When Putin took office, he quickly abandoned the agreement altogether.

- In December 2004 Putin became the first Russian leader to ever visit modern Turkey. He said, Russia and Turkey are moving toward cooperation and the flourishing it will bring with it.

- In April 2005 Putin met with the president of the Palestinian Authority, pledging to sell new arms to the Palestinians. On that trip he defended recent missile sales to Syria.

- January 2006, Putin extended an invitation to the newly elected Hamas leadership to Moscow for high level talks. He later said he did not see Hamas as a terrorist organization and that Hamas electoral victory was a big setback, an important setback for American efforts in the Middle East.

- In April of 2008 Putin signed an arms deal with Libya.

- Moscow has on more than one occasion planned direct Russian invasions of Israel. In the summer of 1982, then Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin went public with a story that prior to that time had been known only to the upper eschelons of Israeli and U.S.

intelligence. The Israeli Defense Forces had uncovered a secret but massive cache of Soviet weaponry in deep underground cellars and tunnels in Lebanon that had caught him and his advisors completely off guard. The weapons appeared to have been pre-positioned by Moscow for the launching of a full-scale invasion of Israel.

- Have we forgotten October 6, 1973? On the day of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the Jewish year, Egypt, Syria, and numerous Arab countries attacked Israel. It caught both Israeli and U.S. intelligence officials completely off guard. It was clear to the general public that the Soviet Union was providing weaponry, ammunition, intelligence, and military training to help the Arab and Islamic coalition destroy Israel, but what was not known is the extent to which the Soviets were orchestrating the war behind the scenes and preparing to enter into it directly. As the tide in the war miraculously turned, Israeli forces took the Golan Heights, were bombing Damascus, had retaken most of the Sinai Peninsula, crossed the Suez Canal, and had ground forces within 100 kilometers of Cairo. With pressure from the Arab world, Moscow began a massive round the clock airlift of arms and ammunition to their allies. The U.S., in turn, began a massive, round the clock airlift of arms and supplies to Israel. Russian general secretary Leonid Brezhnev threatened unilateral action by the Soviets if the U.S. did not stop Israel from its advance. Richard Nixon countered, We could in no way accept unilateral Soviet action. This would be in violation of our understandings, and of the agreed Principles we signed in Moscow in 1972, and of Article II of the prevention of Nuclear War such action would produce incalculable consequences

- Russia would have been elated if Osama Bin Ladin had been able to ruin the U.S. on 9/11. And Russia is now in a military alliance with Iran, whose president has already stated his purpose to destroy Israel and the U.S. (The Great Satan).

- Note: There is an interesting country missing from the alliance of Ezekiel 38-39. Who is it? Iraq. If this were to all take place in our day, Iraq would not likely take part, because the U.S. and Iraq are currently tied together.

II. JESUS WARNING/ADMONITION (vv.34-36)

* See Matt.24:36-39, 42

* For some of us, these things get us excited about Jesus soon return. But for others, it's like when the flight attendant goes through all the safety information before takeoff. We've heard it time and time again, so we just focus on our magazine, or plug in the ipod and listen to some tunes, etc.

III. THE WAY TO STAY ALERT (vv.37-38)

* Staying in the Word is the best way for me to keep looking up every morning they came to hear him we better keep listening to Jesus.

* See John 17:17

CONCLUSION

* See II Peter 3:11-14