

Stupendous events are to take place before Jesus the Son of Man is revealed in glory. He is coming to possess the earth and establish His Kingdom in righteousness. But when? No man knows the day or the hour. Therefore the solemn exhortation to watch. But there are clues. When the fig tree leafs out that generation will not pass away before all the events He has forecast have come about. The term generation can be taken literally for the space between grandfathers and grandchildren. Or it can refer to a spiritual condition characterizing a people which might span several literal generations. The fact that Israel is now again a nation with a government after almost two millennia of dispersion would seem to be a significant indication the end is near. Israel now has a secular government with a significant and growing "orthodox" minority. Since Daniel's prophecy describes Israel's king making a treaty, the seventieth week will not proceed until that treaty is possible. Israel must exist as a sovereign nation to make a treaty. That treaty is apparently now possible. A foreshadowing of it may be seen in Israel's alliance with the United States of America. During the Seventieth Week the alliance will not be with the United States but with a European despotic ruler called in scripture the Beast. He has not appeared yet but only the Rapture stands in the way. A short time after we are gone the prophetic clock will resume ticking and the last Week of seven years will run their terrible course. Revelation 6 - 20 describe that awesome period of Tribulation upon the Christ-less generation in Israel. But among them the Spirit of God will awaken some to seek the coming King and call upon the Name of the Lord. They will be saved as the Lord promised. They are to watch. Be ready. The Son of Man is away in heaven but will return. He mentions four time periods of the night. In His longsuffering He has waited till past the rooster's crow. The Spirit awakened the believers in the 1800's to the long buried truth of the Rapture. Now we are the ones waiting the trump and His voice "COME UP HERE!" Ready? Let's not be sleeping.

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

1 Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon

them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Two days before the Passover the chief priests and scribes sought how they might destroy Jesus. But not on the feast day for they feared the people and the Romans' displeasure if an uproar should occur. Jesus didn't accommodate their intent. He remained outside of Jerusalem seemingly outside of their reach delaying them from carrying out their plot until the eve of the Passover. He was invited to a feast in Bethany. Was He oblivious to the plot? Was He, resigned to His fate, simply "eating and drinking for tomorrow we die"? (1Corinthians 15:32, Isaiah 22:12). No, for He would return to the city, Jerusalem itself, to eat what was to be the last legitimate Passover celebrated in Israel with His disciples. From there He would go to the cross. Blood of the True Passover Lamb would be shed to redeem His people. Meanwhile He calmly enjoys a get together and meal with some friends in the home of Simon the leper, probably one healed by the Lord.

There the only person who seemed to have comprehended His mission and His impending violent death on the cross symbolically anointed His body for burial. Lavishly! She brought fully enough for His whole body, yet touched only His feet. Certainly touching any more than that would have been inappropriate contact. But His feet were all anyone should dare to touch when worshiping the Lord of glory. In glory we will cast our crowns at His feet. She washed His feet with her tears and anointed His feet with ointment valued as costing her a year's wages. How physically refreshing it must have felt. How much more it refreshed His heart. And she wiped His feet with her hair. Her long, glorious hair, the God given glory adorning of all womenkind. Womankind, the glory of mankind. Poor, deceived, self-sufficient, independent Eve was there represented by the lowly weeping, worshiping woman publically derided, kneeling at her Lord's feet. Were you represented there too?

Judas was offended. This could have been sold. Sell the worship of a devoted sinner? How many covetous

Judas today steal hearts seeking God and steer them toward the “virgin Mary” or some other cash idol. This was the last straw! His heart craved that 300 pence he could have had. Wasted! He dared to denounce her and thereby enticed the other disciples into a heartless dismissal of her humble gesture of devotion. Devotion far exceeding theirs. **Let her alone!** The words rang out. **Whosoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.** The fragrance lingered in her hair.

The Lord is not unmindful of the poor or advocating they be neglected. “... ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good ...” yes we are to do them good. And we are free to do so when ever we want to. But then He says, **but me ye have not always.** He was leaving. In John we read more of that. “I go unto the Father.” He was not simply leaving them by dying. He would rise from the dead and ascend bodily to heaven. But although He was indeed leaving them He would return, John 14:1-3. And He promised meanwhile He would be in the midst of any, even just two or three who are gathered together unto His name, Matthew 18:20. See also:

Matthew 28:20 . . . lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Hebrews 13:5 for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

The disciples remind Him of the Passover. They didn’t know this would be the last Passover. Why had they waited so long? The city was teeming with visitors all with the same intent. But Jesus has it all arranged (supernaturally?) beforehand and simply directs them how to find it. Earlier that week a man had had his donkey ready for the procession of the entering King. Another man had his large upper room furnished and ready for the Lord. All they had to do was say “The Master saith ...” and it was theirs. Had he also been checking his calendar against Daniel’s prophecy?

We read much more of what occurred and what was said that last night in the other gospels. In particular, John chapters 12-17 cover this evening in detail.

Judas seemingly was getting to the end of his patience. He couldn’t stand this any longer. What was all this stuff about anointing for burial? Three hundred pence!! That could have anointed his money pouch very nicely! Why wouldn’t Jesus make His move? He had all the power He needed. He could destroy the Jewish leaders and Romans standing in the way. Then, when Jesus became king, his disciple Judas would be rich and powerful. Did Judas scheme to betray Jesus to his enemies and get a little cash in the meanwhile? Did he think that when they tried to apprehend Jesus He would just walk through them untouched as He had other times before? Did he think maybe Jesus would even be forced to overpower them and thus finally begin to reign as He was supposed to? Did Judas plan to force Jesus’ hand? Then Judas would get his reward for enduring the hardships he had with Jesus. Judas had to know Jesus regarded him as His friend. He would probably thank him for giving him the nudge He needed. He would thank him for creating the

occasion for His taking the throne. But He was so humble and slow to take what is His ...

But if Judas believed all this about Jesus’ power and destiny wouldn’t that make him a believer? How could God rightly condemn him? Consider this!

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Judas had knowledge but had not bowed to Jesus as Lord. Judas was Judas’ lord.

Hebrews 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. 7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: {by: or, for} 8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. 9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God..

We read Satan entered into Judas. He became Satan’s dupe. His tool. It was Satan’s objective to do everything possible to destroy Jesus. Kill Him. But not just kill Him, but get Him to sin. Get Him to disobey God. Get Him to attempt to jump start the Kingdom and skip the crucifixion. Satan moved Judas to hatch his diabolical scheme to undo Jesus. If he succeeded, God would take care of destroying Jesus. All would be his (Satan’s) forever. Judas’ selfish coveting was nothing compared to Satan’s proud coveting. Judas merely reflected this. God confounded all of Satan’s efforts, using his scheming to facilitate the very cross of Jesus which, when accomplished, became the total defeat of Satan himself. Who can outwit God? Who can undercut His purposes and His Plan? Not Judas. Not Satan. They became mere pawns. Jesus went on to complete the work He set out to do. God is glorified! Jesus will be crowned King! And we are saved! And we will reign with Him. Judas won’t.

By Ron Canner, April 25, 2007