

## *Forewarned is Forearmed*

### I. Slide1a **Announce:**

- A. Slide1b,2a/b,3,4a/b Maxine - Time Change. Women's Min Mtg/retreat. HS Camp. *Video*.
- B. Sunday Night Prayer - tonight. 6:30-7:30. Agape room.
- C. Slide5 Married Couples 2 day conf this weekend 10,11th.
- D. Slide6,7 CMCS Preview Night - this Fri 5-8pm. Complimentary dinner & introducing ourselves to our church body. Discussing the upcoming year. Visit info booth for more info.
- E. Slide8 Property sale - as of this week...*your church is Debt free!* Then in 90 days, rest of purchase price will be paid to us. [The *debt* was for property & its development *not* operating expenses]
  1. With the Church debt free, what does this mean to me? As **stewardship** is one of our **values** and we expect **each of us** to be good stewards of the money God's entrusted us with, **the church leadership** wants to be the best stewards of the congregations' tithes. **The board will be having a prayer times as we decide what God would have us do with these funds.**
    - a) The Lord should lead our giving. We are all stewards of what the Lord provides us.
  2. **Building/facility maintenance and repairs** that are **long overdue**. Ministry needs overdue.
  3. You have been a very generous Church over the years...*perhaps this is why the Lord is increasing our resources...keep being generous, lets go do great things for the Lord!*
    - a) *How awesome that* more of your tithes will now be heading **outward**.
    - b) *How awesome that* we care for our **church family, local community, & missionary's serving cross culturally.**
    - c) *How awesome that* what was 10+ years of headaches, a law suit & much angst...has now been turned into *the ability to communicate* more **generosity, more kingdom building, & more love.**

### II. Slide9 **Intro:** *Forewarned is Forearmed*

A. Actor **Kevin Bacon** recounted when his 6-year-old son saw *Footloose* for the first time: He said, "Hey, Dad, you know that thing in the movie where you swing from the rafters of that building? That's really cool, how did you do that?" I said, "Well, I didn't do that part - it was a **stunt man**." "What's a stunt man?" he asked. "That's someone who dresses like me and does things I can't do." "Oh," he replied and walked out of the room looking a little confused. A little later he said, "Hey, Dad, you know that thing in the movie where you spin around on that gym bar and land on your feet? How did you do that?" I said, "Well, I didn't do that. It was a gymnastics double." "What's a gymnastics double?" he asked. "That's a guy who dresses in my clothes and does things I can't do." There was silence from my son, then he asked in a concerned voice, "Dad, what did you do?" "I got all the **glory**," I sheepishly replied.

1. That's the **grace** of God in our lives. Jesus took our sin upon himself and **did** what we couldn't do, **paid** what we couldn't pay. We stand forgiven and bask sheepishly triumphant in **Jesus' glory**. *Jesus our Stunt Double, our Stand In, our Substitute.*

B. **Slide10a** Last week we dealt w/the *beginning* of the Trib, 13:1-14. *Today we'll deal w/...*

1. **Slide10b Midpoint** (15-20) The Middle of the Trib
2. **Slide10c 2nd Half** (21-26) The 2nd Half of Trib
3. **Slide10d 2nd Coming** (27-31) The End of the Trib

C. **Tribulation** - a time of great worldwide troubles *unlike* anything in **history**.

1. **More space** is devoted to the Tribulation in the NT **than** to *the Coming of Christ*. Every NT *writer* refers to it.

### III. **Slide11 MIDPOINT (15-20) The Middle of the Tribulation**

A. Jesus speaks here of a *Triple decker prophecy* [1] **Historic**/Antiochus Epiphanes [2] **Near Future**/Titus [3] **Still Future**/Anti-Christ.

B. (15) **The abomination of desolation** – 167bc **Antiochus IV** (Seleucid/Syrian King) also called **Epiphanes** (**Illustrious**), desecrated/polluted the Jewish temple **by** erecting an altar, dedicated to the pagan god **Zeus** in the Holy place.

1. **After taking over Jerusalem** he tried to **Hellenize** the people (adopt Gk ways & speech)

a) **He forbade them to:** circumcise their children, offer Levitical sacrifices, & forced them to sacrifice swine.

2. **Let's read from the Apocryphal literature 1 & 2 Maccabees** [not part of canon **but** good history] **To consolidate his empire and strengthen his hold over the region, Antiochus decided to side with the Hellenized Jews by outlawing Jewish religious rites & traditions kept by observant Jews & by ordering the worship of Zeus as the supreme god. 2Mac 6:1-12 This was anathema to the Jews and when they refused, Antiochus sent an army to enforce his decree. Because of the resistance, the city was destroyed, many were slaughtered, and a military Greek citadel called the Acra was established. 1 Maccabees 1:30-37**

a) In 168 bc Antiochus entered the Temple himself, **butchered a pig** on the altar, forced the Priests to **drink its blood & eat the raw pork**, then **smear**ed the remainder of the **blood** on the temple walls. [It was **abominable &** left the people **desolate**]

3. **But** Jesus says **this abomination** is **still future**.

a) The world awaits a man, a world ruler, who will solve the worlds problems (esp. in the Middle East). He will **make** a 7 yr treaty...**& then break** it in the middle.

C. **Standing in the Holy place or where it ought not** *Mrk13* (in the rebuilt temple)

1. **What is standing in the rebuilt Temple?** well, this man/the beast/antichrist has a right-hand-man...**the false prophet**. He will make **an image of the beast**, breathe life into it, & make it even speak. [**this image stands in the Temple**]

D. (16-20) **If your house burst into flames & you had 3 things to grab what would you grab?** (Photo's, **Pets?**...maybe not *Sully*, Satan's Lil Brother)

1. **Get out** (16) **Flee to the mountains**, head for the hills, **get out as fast as you can**. **Urgency**.

a) This **same warning** applied when Rome attacked Jer. in ad 70.

b) What happened in ad 70 **foreshadowed** what **will** happen in the **middle** of the Trib.

c) *Coming events cast their shadows before. Straight ahead lies yesterday.* Harry Rimmer

2. **Life is more than Property** (17)

3. **How thoughtful & tender was our Savior in sympathizing w/suffering mothers in their hour of need** (19)

4. **Exhortation to Pray** (20) specifically for 2 things...**Not in winter, not on the Sabbath** - *maybe because* in Israel the *buses, taxis, trains, & airlines* all shut down on the Sabbath (even **elevators** programed to stop every floor).

E. **Forewarned is Forearmed.**

#### IV. SlideX **2ND HALF (21-26) The Great Tribulation**

- A. (21) In the **book of Matthew** the last ½ of the trib. is called **the Great Tribulation**.  
In the **book of Revelation**, the last ½ of the trib is called **the wrath of God**.
- B. Says this is unquestionably **the worse** this planet **will have ever seen, or will ever see**.
1. World-wide unprecedented **trouble, horror, misery, & chaos** on the earth.
- C. **So, why this 7 year Time of Jacob's/Israel Trouble on planet earth?**
1. To **prepare** the nation **Israel** for her Messiah.
    - a) **God's purpose is to** bring about **the conversion** of a multitude of **Jews**.
    - b) **God's purpose is to** bring a multitude of **Jews** into the blessings of the kingdom.
    - c) **God's purpose is to** fulfill all of Israel's **covenants**.
  2. To **prepare** the **other nations** for the Messiah.
    - a) **God's purpose is to** bring about **the conversion** of a multitude of **Gentiles** [sheep/goat]
    - b) **God's purpose is to** populate the millennium with a multitude of saved **Gentiles**.
  3. To pour out **judgment** on **unbelieving man & nations**.
    - a) **God's purpose is to judge** the nations of the earth because of their **godlessness**.
      - (1) Since the kingdom to follow is a reign of righteousness, this judgement must be viewed as another step in the progress of God's program in **dealing w/ sin**.
- D. **Why so radical Jesus? Ever thought of a little softer approach? Oh, you tried that already at Your 1st coming...& you were rejected.**
- E. (22) Even in the midst of His **wrath** He remembers **mercy**. Hab.3:2 **In wrath remember mercy**
1. **The elect** refer to **Israel & Gentiles** who **come to faith** during the Tribulation.
  2. **Shorten** – **i.e.** He limits them to the 3 ½ years (or 42 months, or 1260 days) already determined. (Rev.11:2, 12:6)

F. (25) **See I have told you** – Trust His Word.

1. He told us beforehand what to **expect** & what to **avoid**.
2. *His word is dependable & durable, so trust it.*

G. **SlideX** Augustine said, He who loves the coming of the Lord is **not** he who affirms it is **far off**, **nor** is it he who says it is **near**; **but** rather he who, whether it be far off or near, **awaits it** with sincere faith, steadfast hope & fervent love.

H. **Forewarned is Forearmed.**

## V. **SlideX 2ND COMING (27-31) The End of Trib**

A. Picture yourself with your back to the ocean making a sand castle, watching & competing to those on your left & right side to make sure yours is the better than theirs. And then getting so engulfed in it **that** you never saw *the little wave* coming that just demolished it. *This chapter is that wave.*

1. When the tide of history sweeps in, many will be swept away by the fury of God's wrath.

B. (27) **Lightening** - His Coming would be *sudden, startling, universal, visible, & terrifying* to the **ungodly**. **Sudden and unmistakable.**

1. Yes, this could speak of His *swiftness* in coming back, **but** the **context** is to **contrast** the notion of an *obscure & doubtful appearance*, **or** 1 that is *local & limited*, **or** one in which is *so gradual that it can scarcely be discerned*. **3 things...**
2. **Its Visibility** - **Not** a lil *firefly* that might be missed, **but** **Lightening** that can't be ignored. **No obscurity here. Every eye shall see Him.**
3. **Its Breadth** - *The Light of the world* appears from E. to W.
4. **Its Suddenness** - Nothing is so sudden **or** so startling as lightening. [You can anticipate its coming & watch closely, **yet** not know the exact moment]

C. (29) Note **after the tribulation** (i.e. the end of it)

1. **SlideX** There are 1,845 references to **Christ's 2nd coming** in the OT, where 17 books give it prominence. In the 260 chapters of the NT, there are 318 references to the 2nd advent of Christ (1 out of every 30 vss). 23 of the 27 NT books refer to this great event. For every prophecy in the Bible concerning Christ's 1st advent, there are 8 which look forward to His 2nd.

- D. (29) Right when it looks as if the devil has control of this universe, God is going to shake His creation. This is *a Heaven-quake*.
1. Yes, world-wide chaos on the earth, **but also** terrifying signs *in the heavens*.
  2. **The universe** seems to move towards *disorganization*.
    - a) Earth's own star dims, & the moon's reflective light is too little to see by.
  3. Then in all this *cosmological confusion*...**Jesus will come** in shining clouds of **Glory**.
- E. (30) **Jesus' Return**. In contrast to His 1st coming, in obscurity & weakness; Jesus will return in majesty & glory. **This time**, not to suffer & die, **but** to rule/reign as *King of kings & Lord of Lords*.
1. **Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him.** Rev.1:7
  2. There will be **NO uncertainty** of the fact that He has returned.
  3. **Jesus will:** defeat the devil (lock him up); subdue the rebellious generation; bring everything into submission; **this world will become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ forever.**
    - a) **This is...His kingdom come. His will be done, on earth just like it is in heaven.**
- F. (31) This is the completion of the *world-wide gathering* of **His chosen ones**.
1. **Note gather** in both (28, 31). **Note the contrast** between the gatherings:
    - a) The birds of prey **gathering** around & eating the dead carcasses. Speaks of **Armageddon**...birds of prey gather wherever **dead bodies** are found.
    - b) The **gathering** of Christ's elect at the great *trumpet-summons* of His Holy angels.
  2. **Here**, His angels are released not as **grim reapers**, **but** as *joyous reapers*.
    - a) Rev.14:15 **Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.** [14-16 **Packaged Grapes**/harvested. 17-20 **Pressed Grapes**/winepress]
- G. **Forewarned is Forearmed.**
- H. **Communion:** *How does 2nd Coming tie into Communion?*
1. 1 Cor.11:23-26 **On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."** In the same

way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “*This **cup** is the new covenant between God & his people - an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it.*” For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death **until he comes again.**

- l. 2 Tim. 4:8 *Finally, there is laid up for me **the crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only **but also to all** who have loved **His appearing.***