

## Thy Kingdom Coming

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry - Women's Retreat. REAL Tues. Children's Ministry Opp.
- B. Pray: HS Haiti return. Romulo Haiti.

### II. Slide5 Intro: Thy Kingdom Coming

- A. Imagine the story of Cinderella ending after the Act where she enjoyed *the night at the Ball?*
  - 1. It would have been a wonderful dance...but no marriage; A great night on the town...but no hope for a groom; A thrill for the present... but no future.
- B. Now Imagine the story of God ending after the Act where we have the *birth, life, death, resurrection & ascension* of Jesus, but then no talk about a *future*, no *Return of Jesus?*
  - 1. But we are told about the next chapter...the next Act.
  - 2. It's the one page left to be turned. The one story left to be told.
    - a) If we leave off His 2nd coming...we've had a wonderful dance...but no marriage; A great night on the town...but no hope for our groom; A thrill for the present... but no future.
- C. God has placed w/in us an interest in the future, an awareness that life as we know it is not going to continue indefinitely. Jerry Vines, Mark, pg.249.
  - 1. I don't claim to know how to unravel everything in the end times.
 

Slide6 As G.K.Chesterton said, *It is only the fool who tries to get the heavens inside his head, & not unnaturally his head bursts. The wise man is content to get his head inside the heavens.*

### III. Slide7 OLIVET OVERVIEW (1-3)

- A. How do we study End Times? How do we balance our theology.
- B. Some rules:
  - 1. Slide8 We will take it literally (not allegorically).
    - a) When the *literal* makes sense, seek no other sense. When it *doesn't* (i.e. a symbol) we will use *proper rules of grammar & interpretation.*

- b) We will interpret it with “*normal, grammatical, historical, ordinary literal sense*” w/in the normal context that it is written.
2. We will **not make it a test** of orthodoxy or spirituality.
  3. We will take it in the light of the **rest of scripture**.
  4. We will look for the **practical application**. *It wasn't written to satisfy curiosity*.
    - a) **Note**: Take heed, now learn, watch therefore, be ready. **Don't be deceived**<sup>(4,11)</sup>... *discouraged*<sup>(6)</sup>...*defeated*<sup>(13)</sup>...*doubtful*<sup>(34,35)</sup>...*distracted*<sup>(42)</sup>.
  5. We will better understand **present & future** events.
  6. We will **not** hold a **narcissistic & self-centered** eschatology. *i.e. anything that happens to 'Merica...it must be the end*.
  7. We will **not** set dates.
  8. We will not be **obsessed** by it **nor** ignore it.
  9. We will note the **Jewish** atmosphere of Jesus' teaching. [Israel/church]
    - a) We have 4 Jewish men, asked a Jewish Rabbi, about a Jewish Temple.
    - b) He warned them of: false Messiah's, referred to Jewish courts & trials, & talked about fleeing to Judea. **And** remember this *tribulation to come* was called *the time of Jacob's trouble* Jer.30:7.
- C. **Slide9** The **chapter** overview: *The Beginning of the Tribulation* (4-14); *The Middle of the Tribulation* (15-28); *The End of the Tribulation* (29-31) [**note**: vs.8,15, 29]
1. **Note**: *Rapture* is not discussed until vs.36-44. [**1st section** this morning]
- D. **Slide10** WHAT WERE THEY SEEING?
- E. **The Stones** – some were 60' long, 8' high, & 9' wide. **Reckoned to be 500+ tons**.
- F. **The Buildings** – covered approximately 1/6th of the city.
1. **John 2:20**, Herod's temple had been under construction **46 years**. *Completed 64ad*
  2. It was considered one of the **great wonders** of the **Roman World**.
  3. Josephus quote, 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.<sup>1</sup>

G. Slide11 WHAT WERE THEY *NOT* SEEING?

H. (2) The destruction prophesied.

1. Jesus already gave his *assessment* of the temple. Jewish leaders had defiled it. Jesus *departed* from it & *left it* desolate (the ultimate failure of the Jews...to know God in a personal way).
2. Slide12 The Romans destroyed it in 70 ad led by General Titus.
  - a) According to the Historian Josephus, over a **million** people were killed, mostly through starvation; nearly 100,000 were taken captive.

I. (3) Here we get the title of the *Olivet* discourse. [Note inner circle + 1]

J. 3 questions: Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, (1) Tell us, when will these things be? (2) And what will be the sign of Your coming, (3) and of the end of the age?

1. The questions weren't really being asked **the right way**, *because* they still had many **political overtones** in their questions.
  - a) e.g. in Acts 1:6 (post res) they were still asking, *Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*
  - b) It is like the boy asking his father, *Daddy, why does the sun shine in the daytime when we don't need it, & not at night when we do?*
    - (1) That kind of question is **difficult** to answer, **not** because the answer is **hard**, **but** because the question is **so wrong**. :)

#### IV. Slide13 **SPIRITUAL DECEPTION (4,5)**

A. Jesus' aim **wasn't** to *satisfy their curiosity about the future* (or ours) **but** to *encourage their faith & help them face the challenges that lie ahead*.

1. Slide14a A photographer has the ability to make 2 objects, *1 in the foreground, one in the background* **both** come into **focus**.

<sup>1</sup> Josephus, Wars of the Jews, V.5.6. (Book 5, Ch.5, Sec.6)

- a) That's what Jesus does here: w/an event in **ad 70** & an event to come...*The Trib.*
- B. **Slide14b Take heed** – Watch, keep your eyes open, evaluate, test, try the spirits, bring everything to the test.
1. The predominate note of the age will be one of **deceit & confusion**.
- C. Signs of the **beginning** of the Tribulation (8)
1. Don't get these mixed up w/*signs of His Coming*. These are only the *beg of sorrows*.
- D. **The signs are: Spiritual Deception. International Disruption. Physical Destruction. And, Religious Discrimination.**
1. Though these have always been with us, obviously they will **accelerate**.
  2. So under our banner of **Spiritual Deception** we're warned against **False Christ's**.
- E. **Slide15a FALSE CHRIST'S**
- F. Pages of history are filled w/tragic stories of *False Messiah's, False Prophets, & their enthusiastic disciples*.
1. How easy it is for people to follow popular leaders w/their simple but erroneous solutions for the problems of life.
  2. **Slide15b** 1 Jn.2:18 **Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.**
  3. These *anti-Christ's* are **not** someone who is *against* Christ, **but** who appears *instead of* Christ.
    - a) These include *the false Jesus of the cults; the false Jesus of the gurus of eastern religion; the false Jesus of ultra-liberal theologians*.
    - b) Their basic message is *anti-Christian* in that they reject **the true Christ**.
    - c) Don't be deceived because they use the *same terms or names*. Their Christ is an *impostor*

## V. **Slide16 INTERNATIONAL DISRUPTION (6,7a)**

- A. **The Roman Empire** had enjoyed a measure of **peace** for many years...**but** it wouldn't last.

- B. **Nation against nation...kingdom against kingdom** - speaks of not a specific war or wars, **but** instead *a general course of the age*. **Continual turmoil among nations**. Sounds like our day.
- C. As the *American writer, historian, philosopher* **Will Durant** wrote, **In the last 3,421 years** of recorded history **only 268** have seen *no war*.

## VI. Slide17 **PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION (7b,8)**

### A. Slide18a **FAMINE**

- B. **Famine** is *an extreme scarcity of food*. **1 in 8** in our world live in *chronic undernourishment*
1. Famine is often left behind in **a wars wake**. [As **Oddny Gumaer** shared **2 weeks ago**, of people starving in **Aleppo, Syria** in the wake of their war] (someone gav her a check for sleeping bags & **said** to keep the muslims there???)
  2. Famine is also caused by **man's abuse of the environment**.
  3. Famine is also can be **sent by God** as a judgment.

### C. *Famine Redefined* (from *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, book) quote pg.8.

1. *People with money can always buy food. Famine affects only the poor. People that devote 60-80% of their income to food simply eat less and die sooner. Death usually results from diseases that underfed bodies cannot resist. Children are the 1st victims.*

### D. Does the world produce enough food to feed everyone?

1. **Yes**. World agriculture produces **17% more calories per person** today **than** it did 30 years ago, despite a **70% population increase**. [*mud cookies* from Hinch market]

### E. **PESTILENCES**

F. **Not in some translations**. It means *plagues* which usually follow famines.

### G. **EARTHQUAKES**

H. **You want to get away from earthquakes?** Best continent to live on would be *Antarctica*.

1. Although they do have small **ice quakes** (ice sheets shift, not land mass).

I. **To stay in America?** Then try Florida & North Dakota.

J. **There have always been earthquakes** but *in various places* means, *from place to place, everywhere, here & there*. LKGNT

1. **Slide18b** According to the US Geological Survey there are approximately **1,000,000** earthquakes around the world every year. Of these approximately **1/10** are large enough to be *felt by humans*. So on any day there will be on average **275** earthquakes around the world that can be felt.

a) Each year in So Calif we get about **10,000** earthquakes.

K. **Slide19 BEGINNING OF SORROWS** (8) (*sorrows* = Lit. *birth pangs*)

L. *Birth pangs* of course come suddenly, build gradually, & then lead to terrible sorrow.

1. Is. 13:6-11 (esp.8) (6) **Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand... (8) Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth.**
2. 1 Thes. 5:3,4 **Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.**

M. **So, political & geological disruption** will give false prophets & false Christ's great opportunity to deceive people.

## VII. **Slide20 RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION (9-14)**

A. Not only were the believers to **take heed & avoid deceivers...** but were also to take heed to *themselves*. **Why?** Because they would face increasing **opposition & persecution** from **2 main sources: Official & Personal**.

B. Persecution would begin in the **local Jewish courts & synagogues** [says Mrk 13:9] **Then** they would move to the **higher courts**. [*governors, Kings*]

C. **Note:** this happened in **ACTS**... Persecution started in the **local courts:** Sanhedrin & High Priest (Acts ch's. 4, 5, 7). Herod (12). Magistrates in Philippi (16). Felix (23). Festus (24). King Agrippa (25). **All the way up to Caesar.**

D. They were to use these at opportunities to **witness...for a testimony to them** (Mrk. 9b).

1. **Persecution would only result in Proclamation.**

a) Our friend **Dan Jones** in **Alamos Mexico** thrown into prison for 9 months? *Led men to Christ & now is the only pastor allowed to go in & evangelize.*

b) Whether **Paul** before Agrippa; **Peter & John** before the Sanhedrin, or **Martin Niemoller** before Hitler... **Persecution results in Proclamation.**



- c) **Slide21** More Christians were martyred in the 20th cent than in all other centuries combined [christianity.com]
- d) **105,000** Christians are martyred for their faith each year [Deseret News, 2011]
- e) Currently over **100 million** Christians are being persecuted worldwide [Reuters, 2013]
- f) **70%** of the world's pop lives in a *religiously intolerant environment* [Pew Forum, 2011]
- g) **North Korea** continues to be the worst country in the world for persecution.

(1) Tertullian to his persecutors, *We multiply whenever we are mown down by you. The **blood of Christians is seed.***

E. (12) **Job security** for those of you in **Law Enforcement**...*lawlessness will abound.*

F. **Slide22** (13) He who **endures to the end** shall be saved –

1. Not as a condition for salvation, for it applies to **witnesses** during the Trib.
2. During the tribulation true believers will **prove their faith** by their **faithfulness**.

G. (14) **Gospel preached to all nations** –

1. **Does this destroy the teaching of the imminent return of Christ?** (i.e. He can't return until...)
2. **If** this is spoken in the midst of **the beginning** of the tribulation, **then by the end** of the tribulation I believe there will be **salvations** from **every Tribe, Tongue & Nation**.

a) Isn't necessary before *the Rapture*.

b) **Though** I don't think that *taking the gospel to all nations* is a **condition** for our Lords return; **but** it is certainly Christ's **commission** to His people. *The question is...will you participate?*

H. Someone once said, **If the shoe fits...wear it. If the gospel fits...wear it; own it, live it, give it, share it.**

I. The coming events cast their *shadow* **before His return**.

1. **Illustration:** If you place your **hand** high above your lap, & then slowly move your hand **downward**, watching your hand's shadow. It 1st starts out **fuzzy**, **but** as your hand draws near your lap, the shadow becomes more & more **clear**...till the hand is there. [so w/end times]

- J. This chapter began with the disciples *admiring* the temple stones & the surrounding buildings...but they didn't know it was *a sinking ship*. When the Titanic began to sink do you think they were still admiring *the awesome vessel it was*? No, they were concerned with their very *lives*.
- K. *Hopefully*, the prophecy of the *rap up* of this planet, should wean us off this world.
1. Why are we so mesmerized & enthralled by such a place destined for doom?
    - a) It's like getting excited over *a nights stay in a cheap motel*, vs. owning a mansion indefinitely. - **Let's wean ourselves** from this world!
- L. *Slide23* If you want to be *distressed*...look within.  
If you want to be *defeated*...look back.  
If you want to be *distracted*...look around.  
If you want to be *dismayed*...look ahead.  
*Slide24* If you want to be *delivered*...**Look Up**.