Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

FACING THE LAST DAYS

RLJ-1899

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The end is not just yet!

I. Many Warnings of Difficult Times

A. Know this: you must pay attention to! **Do Not Forget**.

In the last days perilous times will come "Perilous" times (2 Timothy 3:1; compare with Matthew. 8:28 exceedingly fierce)

1. Reason: deterioration of human character, ethics, morals

2. Lovers of self... of money... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

B. These things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Beginning of sorrows, "Birth pangs" of God's kingdom. (Matthew 24:7–13)

- 1. Nation (ethnos) against nation—ethnic
- 2. Kingdom against kingdom—political
- 3. Famines, and pestilences and earthquakes in different places
- 4. Christians persecuted and hated by all nations

5. Many will be "offended" and betray one another, and shall hate one another

- 6. Many false prophets, deceiving many
- 7. Abounding iniquity and lawlessness
- 8. Love of many Christians grows cold
- **C.** Need for endurance "He who has endured to the end, shall be saved" v.13

II. Divine Perspective from Revelation Chapter 1–7. How are we to face these last days without fear? Essential key to approaching the overwhelming forces that will be released against us in the last days.

A. Glorified Christ

1. Revealed as Judge (Revelation1:10–17; Romans14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10–11)

ITS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE WILL ALL ENCOUNTER JESUS AS JUDGE ONE DAY. Each one will receive things done in the body according to what he has done. There are only two categories. Whatever is not good is bad, there is nothing in between in God's categories. **2.** Victor over all forces of evil. Jesus is the First and the Last and Alive forevermore (Rev. 1:17–18): Nothing missing in His Victory. Victor over Sin, Satan, Death, Hades

- **B**. Concern for churches (Lampstands or Candlesticks) (Revelation1:13)
 - **1**. Seven stars (ministers) in His right hand (Revelation1:20)
 - **2**. His messages to the churches (not to individuals) (Revelation 2 & 3):

a. "I know your works" (few times) He did not say, "I know your church program."

b. "Repent" (few times as well) IS THE KEY to everything else. **Commendation, Correction, Warning**

c. Promises are only to "him who overcomes" (Revelation 21:7) He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. Only two possibilities: Overcome or be overcome (Rom. 12:21)

C. The Throne Room in heaven (Rev. ch. 4) "Throne" Occurring 14 times throughout the eleven verses of this chapter. Everything in the Universe is totally under the control of the ONE who sits on the Throne.

D. Worship—reveals four aspects of God' nature:

- **1**. He is Holy
- **2**. He is Almighty.
- **3**. He is Eternal
- **4**. He is The Creator (He Jesus Created all Things)

E. The Scroll= The Book of Revelation is presented, sealed with seven seals. A very strong Angel crying with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the Book, and to loose the seals thereof?" It contains God's plan to close the age (Revelation ch.5)

1. v. 5—behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. Jesus eternally "Lion of Judah" (Jewish)

2. v. 6—I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth Lion = Slain lamb – compare: (humble/broken spirit)

a. God's foolishness and weakness …foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1 Cor. 1:25) **"The Cross"**

b. Need to die and endure (2 Tim. 2:11–12) For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us:

- **F.** Ever-expanding circles of worship (Revelation 5:8–14):
 - 1. Four Living creatures and 24 elders (v. 8–10)
 - **2**. All angels (v. 11–12)
 - **3.** All the rest of Creation (v. 13)
 - **4**. Return to Four Living creatures and 24 elders (v. 14)
- **G**. Now down to earth (Revelation ch. 6):
 - **1.** The four horsemen (6:1–8):
 - **a**. White horse = conquering Gospel (v. 1–2; compare Ps. 45:1–5)
 - **b**. Red horse = Ethnic conflict (v. 3–4)
 - **c**. Black horse = Shortage and rationing (v. 5–6) (but oil and wine preserved for the wealthy)
 - d. Pale horse = famine and death (v. 7–8

(All four horses were ordered from heaven)

- **2**. Martyrs: Many already killed (Revelation 6:9–10) Many more still to die.
- **3**. Culminating judgments (6:12–17)
- 4. Note: Wrath of the Lamb (v. 16)—compare Isaiah ch. 24
 - a. Whole earth subjected to judgment (24:1-6, 7-20)
 - **b.** Judgment of satanic principalities in heavenly (24:21–22)
 - **c**. Christ's kingdom established in Jerusalem (24:23)
- **H**. Final outburst of evangelism by Jewish elect (Revelation ch. 7)
 - **1.** To precede release of final judgments (v. 1–3)
 - 2. 144,000 Israelites sealed on their foreheads (v. 4-8)
 - **3**. The harvest from the whole human race (v. 9–14)
- **I.** Culmination of witness of 144,000 (Revelation ch. 14)
 - **1**. Seal = name of Son and Father (v. 1)
 - **2**. Offering unique praise (v. 2–3)
 - **3**. Description of their character (v. 4–5)

First fruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. (from all Israel)

III. Final Application: "BE SAVED" – Acts 2:40... from this perverse generation. Don't be caught in the devil's snare

You need to be changed. You need to be different. Be encouraged: The One who is in the midst of the church is also in the midst of the throne of Christ. His name is Faithful

and True. He will never leave us nor forsake us. You can trust Him, you can put your confidence in Him.