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Signs Of The End Times

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There has been much talk regarding the "blood moons" and what is going on in the heavens. The "blood moons" have occurred before and are usually in line with something that has taken place in Israel, ie; Israel being recognized as a nation in 1948 and again in 1967, when after the 6 day war, Israel was able to take possession of Jerusalem. These "blood moons" however are in correspondence with Israel's feast days, the feast of Passover and the feast of tabernacles.

Joel and Acts talk about these signs, but in addition to the signs in the heavens there is to be other signs of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, such a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a restoration of years that has been destroyed by the enemy, the coming together of the former rain and latter rain, miracles, healings and deliverances.

Joel 2:21-32 "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. 23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. 28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. 32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call." KJV

Acts 2:16-21 "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." KJV

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the believers, there was such a change in them, that bystanders could see the change, that they were different, some even thinking that they were drunk, but Peter assured them that was not the case, but that they were full of the Holy Spirit.

Matt 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." KJV

1 Cor 10:32 "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:" KJV

These are the three classes of people that the gospel of the kingdom is being preached to.

The signs that are being seen in heaven are making people begin to wonder about the second coming of Jesus. Is He coming soon? What is happening in Israel, what is happening in the

body of Christ, the church? How do we prepare for this? These are some of the questions that are being asked.

Acts 3:19-21 "So repent (change your mind and purpose); turn around *and* return [to God], that your sins may be erased (blotted out, wiped clean), that times of refreshing (of recovering from the effects of heat, of reviving with fresh air) may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 And that He may send [to you] the Christ (the Messiah), Who before was designated *and* appointed for you—even Jesus, 21 Whom heaven must receive [and retain] until the time for the complete restoration of all that God spoke by the mouth of all His holy prophets for ages past [from the most ancient time in the memory of man]." AMP

Acts 3:19-21 "Now it's time to change your ways! Turn to face God so he can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you, and send you the Messiah he prepared for you, namely, Jesus. For the time being he must remain out of sight in heaven until everything is restored to order again just the way God, through the preaching of his holy prophets of old, said it would be. Moses, for instance, said, 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet just like me from your family. Listen to every word he speaks to you. Every last living soul who refuses to listen to that prophet will be wiped out from the people.'" MESSAGE

Acts 3:19-21 "Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. 21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets." NLT

These scriptures speak of a time of refreshing after repentance and how Jesus will be kept in heaven until all the things spoken of in the prophecies will be fulfilled. Jesus cannot come until restoration takes place in the church. A restoration of all the apostolic gifts, the full gospel of the kingdom being preached, signs and wonders following the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. There must be revival.

The parable of the feast talked about in Luke 14 tells that the invitation was given to all, but there many who had excuses and chose not to enter in, but the invitation was given to all until the feast was full, no one being denied. In the book of Numbers when the children of Israel were rejecting God, He said that "the earth shall be filled with His glory." Isaiah chapter 11 tells us "that the earth would be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea, that all flesh would see the glory of the Lord."

We are living in the time that the angels desire to look into and understand the ministry of the time that the prophets spoke of prophetically. What has been spoken to the Jews and the world, we understand, but what has been spoken to the church we don't always understand. Because of this the church just sits by, becoming lukewarm, just waiting, not prepared or ready. Jesus says "we must occupy until He comes."

Rev 19:7 "Let us rejoice and shout for joy [exulting and triumphant]! Let us celebrate *and* ascribe to Him glory *and* honor, for the marriage of the Lamb [at last] has come, and His bride has prepared herself." AMP

Rev 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." KJV

How do we prepare and make ourselves ready for Jesus coming? The marriage will not take place until the church is ready. He is ready, the church is not ready, however, Jesus is coming for a glorious church.

Eph 5:26-27 "So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, 27 That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things [that she might be holy and faultless]." AMP

Eph 5:26-27 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." KJV

We are in the kingdom of heaven and there are principles which have to work in order for us to have kingdom living.

Matt 25:1-13 "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." KJV

The emphasis in these verses is that some were ready and some were not. How do we make ourselves ready? The bride in Revelation 19 had made herself ready, not waiting until the groom had arrived, we must make ourselves ready ahead of time. Do we really believe that Jesus is coming? If we do, we will live in a state of preparedness. We need to be as the wise man mentioned in Matthew 7 and Luke 6, the wise man that built his house on a firm foundation, prepared for the storms of life that came his way.

It is a challenge for us to be prepared for that day. We are living a society that is pretty loose, in our thinking, morals and actions. We must not allow ourselves to become too busy with the affairs of life. There has to be planning and growing in order to develop the character of Jesus in us.

Rev 2:4 "But I have this [one charge to make] against you: that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first [you have deserted Me, your first love]." AMP

This verse is to the church at Ephesus, they were doing many good things, but had abandoned their first love. Jesus had been their first priority at one time, but that had all changed, they had fallen away.

Staying connected to the power source, plugged in through prayer and bible study. Don't let the things of life pull out the faith in you. Jesus must be our number one priority.

Rev 3:14-18 "And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the trusty *and* faithful and true Witness, the Origin *and* Beginning *and* Author of God's creation: 15 I know your [record of] works *and* what you are doing; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth! 17 For you say, I am rich; I have prospered *and* grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing; and you do not realize *and* understand that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 Therefore I counsel you to purchase from

Me gold refined *and* tested by fire, that you may be [truly] wealthy, and white clothes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nudity from being seen, and salve to put on your eyes, that you may see." AMP

God had blessed these people, but they had changed, not trusting God, they had lost their first love, had grown lukewarm, could no longer hear Him.

Part of our being prepared is we must keep our trust in God, after we have received the blessings of God, we can't forget Him. We must be living upright, having conduct and deeds that represents Jesus, yet not getting over into a works mentality. Our works can never make us good in anyway, it is only by grace and faith.

Rev 19:8 :She has been permitted to dress in fine (radiant) linen, dazzling and white—for the fine linen is (signifies, represents) the righteousness (the upright, just, and godly living, deeds, and conduct, and right standing with God) of the saints (God's holy people)." AMP

Let us produce the fruit of the Spirit that is how the bride prepares herself, it is not overnight, but comes over a period of time. We begin to take on the image of Jesus.

Gal 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, 23 Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge]." AMP

He is coming for a glorious church, there will be new ones coming in, yet there has to be a core within the body of Christ that has taken on the image of Jesus.

2 Peter 3:11-14 "Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated *and* holy behavior and devout *and* godly qualities, 12 While you wait and earnestly long for (expect and hasten) the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will flare *and* melt with fire? 13 But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness (uprightness, freedom from sin, and right standing with God) is to abide. 14 So, beloved, since you are expecting these things, be eager to be found by Him [at His coming] without spot or blemish and at peace [in serene confidence, free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts]." AMP

If we believe that Jesus is coming, we will prepare.

2 Thess 2:2-3 "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" KJV

Many churches teach that this falling away is believers falling from the church, but that is not the case, there will be great revival before Jesus comes. Falling away first means the departure or rapture of the church.

The Weiss translation of this verse states; "Do not begin to allow anyone to led you astray in any way, because that day shall not come except the afore mentioned departure of the church to heaven comes first."