

Understanding the times, Part 2

But now, what should we DO?



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.
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Summary: *America and the world are at a tipping point. This year 2020 could be a major turning point in world history as God removes his hedge of protection around the USA. The elections in November could result in riots and worse – though we pray for peace and God’s protection. We continue the theme of understanding our times – and then what God’s children are supposed to be doing about it all.*

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Hi, everyone. Are we getting really close to the return of the Son of God to reign for a thousand years and take over the world governments? God the Father knows the exact day and hour (Matthew 24:36), and no doubt we’re 10 years closer to that date now than we were 10 years ago! Of that we can be certain.

And do you feel a sense of anxiety, angst, unsettledness in the whole world right now? Not just in our country, but everywhere? I certainly do as I hear from friends in England, Canada and Kenya and other places.

I’m also feeling a great sense ***that an evil spirit is flowing in the land*** and infecting so many we see now on TV bent on destruction, burning and killing. YOU sense it too, don’t you?

Has Satan attacked God again as Revelation 12 prophesied, and perhaps has been cast down and now he’s furious? If you’re unclear of what I mean, pause me for a few minutes and go read Revelation 12 and then come back. I don’t know for sure if that’s happened yet, but his foul spirit is sure flowing around the world and infesting those whom he inspires to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

In my last sermon, part 1 to “Understanding the Times in which we live” – I suggested that we’re probably *at a real “Tipping point” in America and*****

even around the world. We started talking about the times we're in. But now, what should you and I do?

What happens in November will be huge for America. God knows what HE wants to get done and whom He wants to lead the country, but sometimes I wonder if God gives us leaders he decides we deserve – based on how concerned we are for the nation around us. I'll prove that as we go along.

Are you praying for your country? Do you even see we're at a "tipping point" time in our history? DO you recognize we're in one of those years that centuries from now will be remembered as a pivotal point of history and prophecy?

Of course we all hope for Christ to return soon and set up his kingdom as described by the dream Daniel interpreted in **Daniel 2**. But if things continue in the direction they're going, **all the pillars and foundations that built our country will be demolished – and there will be massive chaos.**

I believe there will be rioting and destruction in our streets after this November's election – like you might see in 3rd world countries – especially if President Trump is re-elected. And if the other side is elected, the slide downhill will be especially swift.

It's easy for believers to have a blasé attitude to it all and simply say,

"Hey, it's Satan's world; we knew this was all prophesied to happen and so now it is, and truly – there's not a lot I can do to stop it or to do about it, and frankly the sooner this world's governments all topple – the better!" – as we then go on our merry way.

Another thing: if we do understand the times, and what's going on, does God want his children to just be aware of the times but do nothing? We'll continue that discussion today. Edmund Burke once said, "There's only one thing necessary for evil to triumph and that is for good men to do nothing."

So hello everyone. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of Light on the Rock.org. I still work full time and try to crank this out along with my webmaster Scott and his superb helper with me on this – his wife Brandie. God brought us all together for his special purposes. Without Brandie and Scott, I don't see how this website even survives barring miracles from God. So praise God for them.

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Then the BLOGS – be sure to check those out too. They’re short, quick-read articles. A recent one is “What does Scripture have to say about RACE?” and one on the coming “Cashless society” and others.

And please **take time to comment and tell us** how these sermons and blogs are helping and affecting you, or if you have suggestions and comments.

Back to the sermon.... And a couple quick reviews from last time:

We started last time with **the men of Issachar** who were commended for being men who “had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...” (1 **Chronicles 12:32**). And Jesus (**Yeshua** is his Hebrew name, which I prefer to use) chastised the people of his day for being able to discern the weather but not to discern the times in which they lived. (Luke 12:54-56; Luke 19:41-44). Let’s pray our God gives us eyes/ears to discern.

In Part 1 – I discussed some of the major pillars and foundation stones of our country are being toppled and thrown out.

1. God has been systematically kicked out of our lives in school and the government and public arena.)

Our country was founded largely by people who believed in the Bible and in God. **But in the last 60+ years, God and his Word have been kicked out** of the government, out of schools, out of business. Tossing God out of our lives is the cornerstone of what started the mess we’re seeing.

Because of turning against God himself and his word, backed up by Supreme Court decisions, God’s protective HEDGE that had been around our country to protect is, is being removed; by God himself!

I spoke last time about how the God has hedged us and our nation about with protection. That's so clear in Isaiah 5.

Remember I believe the USA/UK etc. are all a part of “the House of Israel” and the country called Israel in Middle East is “the House of Judah”. I'll have to speak on this soon. The 12 tribes of Israel split into 2 “houses” – the northern House of Israel and the southern House of Judah. But our country is doing things that are causing Yehovah to burn down that hedge and take it away.

Isaiah 5:7

**For the vineyard of YHVH of hosts is the house of Israel,
And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant.**

He looked for justice, but behold, oppression;
For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

Now let's read about what God says he is going to do:

Isaiah 5:5

**“And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard:
I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned;
And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.”**

If our hedge of protection from God is removed, we're going to see some catastrophic things in this country more than ever.

WHY is God saying he'll do that? In short – because we have thrown him out of our daily life nationally and too many are living a life of sin, a life against his laws and ways. **Read Isa 5:18-25** – calling evil “Good” and what's good is now evil V.20. (Isaiah 5:20)

But no matter what happens, remember God can hedge You and ME about with protection, or let us go through trials; but those will strengthen us if that's the purpose he has for us.

Satan's goal is to change the world system so a future one-world New World Order government that worships HIM – SATAN -- can be set up that will force everyone to get their mark, to go THEIR way, or die... and he'll go after the children of God! Satan and his demons are behind all this. He hates God and God's children and wants God out of this world's societies.

Once this foundation is destroyed and God is kicked out, then it opens the door for every other evil to permeate our countries.

Even the **Supreme Court of the land has made some awful decisions.**
Go back and hear part 1 where I say so much more on these points:

- **Legalizing ABORTION in 1973** -- the dismemberment and slaughter of over 60 million of our precious embryos and fetuses of yet unborn boys and girls.
- God had decreed in Genesis 2 that marriage was to be between one man and one woman. **In 2013, The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was thrown out as somehow unconstitutional when the Constitution nowhere discusses marriage.** President Obama celebrated by bathing the People's House – the White House – in the colors of the rainbow. The rainbow colors, hijacked by LGBTQ – when in fact the rainbow was the symbol of God's covenant with Noah and his family. Now
- Then in June 2020, the definition of which SEX you were was decreed to not be biological anymore, but what you decided you want your sex identity to be. "Sex" now refers to sexual *ORIENTATION*. You should be **sure to read Leviticus 18.** There it lists very openly what GOD says is good and right for sexual relationships – and what is evil in his eyes. Our nation is going down the road of evil.

Before long, I suspect anyone will be able to have sex with whomever they want, *whatever* they want, whenever they want – and chaos and God's punishments will plague the lang.

I discussed other big foundational signs of the times to be watching:

- **MUCH MORE DEMONISM, WITCHCRAFT, ALIEN talk as Satan is given a bigger opportunity in these end times.**
- **What started as a *protest* against police brutality because of the one cop who ended up killing George Floyd case, has now been hijacked to be attacks on police and businesses, and now ANARCHY – NO LAW – is in full swing unless ...our government can get back on top of it.**

THE protests have turned from protests into a stated goal to take down the USA as we know it today. I hope you realize that, and see that!

- **I also mentioned last time that 2020 will be remembered as the time we learned how QUICKLY everything as we know it, can CHANGE suddenly, abruptly.** Remember that in terms of the last days too. Now we understand the Bible's phrase "Peace and safety, then sudden destruction" (1 Thess. 5:3).

So you be sure to watch my previous sermon, part 1. Let's add a few more areas to be sure to keep your eyes on:

- **Watch Jerusalem** and Israel in the Middle East. God's eye has always been focused more on Jerusalem than any other spot.
- **Europe and Germany.** They're weak right now but watch for them to rise into a powerhouse.
- **China** – growing in power. Building bases in the coral islands that are nearer the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia - than China. Trying to become the world's #1 military and economic superpower. MUCH of the **world's business** already depends on China. Almost all our **medications** come from there now. Many businesses are actually OWNED now by China. China, I believe, has also ENSLAVED the **Uyghur people**, Muslims in northwest China are now slaves in concentration camps. They make Nike shoes and parts for Apple and the many things we like to buy for cheap here. *Our cheap products from China are cheap because much of it is apparently coming from slave labor.*
- **Loss of more of our civil rights** – so quickly and suddenly. The First Amendment's opening statement is about freedom of religion, but now the California governor prohibits even assembling in just small home communities. Mass protests, even violent ones, were permitted – but churches were shut down.

The USA's FIRST AMENDMENT: "Congress shall make **no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof**; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people **peaceably** to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

- **Thought control.** Satan's laying the groundwork for eventually the world dominating Beast system when everyone has to think exactly the same way – or you're locked down or even killed. You certainly won't be

able to buy or sell anything. Freedom of expression is OK only now if you agree with the far left. Otherwise you are fired, thrown out, destroyed. **It reminds you of “1984” and the Thought Police in that book.**

HOW is thought control starting: If you're not “woke” enough, you can be banned from Facebook, Twitter, You Tube and so on. In China they have SOCIAL CREDIT SCORE. Scary. You're denounced if you don't go along with “group think”.

I hope you see and understand these times and these things!

- **THIS year, by far more than other years, what happens in November will affect the country powerfully for a generation. We're facing a massive sea-change coming up – unless God stops it for his reasons. I cannot overstate how BIG of a turning point we're in!**

There's so much more I could say but let's move now into what we are to do!

SO WHAT SHOULD GOD CHILDREN DO?

1. IDENTIFY AND REMEMBER WHO IS our TRUE ENEMY.

Our enemy is simply called that in the Bible – “the ADVERSARY”. That is what “Satan” (or haSatan – The Enemy) in Hebrew *means*. His very name means “the Enemy, the Adversary”. God does not hide who our enemy is. His full name -- “Satan the devil”-- means “The adversary who slanders”.

Let's NOT act like, or post on Facebook like anyone else is our enemy.

Children of God – let's stay classy and write in a way that doesn't mince our words, but neither are our words rude or profane. Ultimately most people will be saved, I believe. This is why, and how, we are to bless and pray for our enemies because they too will one day be saved. *Now true, when Satan leads and guides certain people or groups, in that sense they are working for the Adversary Satan.*

Paul called the sorcerer **Elymas** an enemy but first called him “you son of the devil, you ENEMY of all righteousness...” (Acts 13:10).

Acts 13:10

“...you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?”

Ultimately, we need to become really conscious that our real enemy was defined by Paul when he says in Ephesians 6 that “We do not fight against flesh and blood but against Satan’s forces.”

Ephesians 6:11-12

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles of the DEVIL.**

12 For **we do NOT wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, **against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**”

Our real enemy is not those who seem to be destroying our country, burning businesses and looting and killing innocent lives. Nor is it your spouse divorcing you for all you’re worth. Nor is it those who gossip about you at work, nor is it any of the movements that want to tear down our country. They may *be in tune to the Adversary*, but ultimately, we need to see past them and keep our peace and composure no matter what they do.

They’re not our real enemy. And someday you will help judge angels – *including demons probably if you read 1 Cor. 6:3 and 2 Peter 2:4.* You certainly will put your feet on Satan’s NECK someday (Romans 16:20) in victory.

But our war is real. Unseen enemies but real. We need to put on the belt of truth, the sword of the spirit – the word of God, the shield of faith, the helmet of our salvation and sandals/shoes of sharing the gospel of peace.

- 2. SEEK our heavenly Father, our God NOW, AS NEVER BEFORE. Get your personal life in order. Walk with Christ as never before. Our God rewards those who diligently seek him (Heb.11:6) FOCUS on loving God intensely – plus fellow mankind as well.**

WHY? We’re coming into the roughest times the world has ever seen. We’re not there yet but world events could be getting much rougher soon. You want God to say he KNOWS you. RE-SET your priorities. God of course knows who you are, but there are several examples where Christ says to the lawless, “Depart me from me, for I never knew you”.

Matthew 7:21-23

"NOT everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will

say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 And then I will declare to them, '**I never KNEW you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**'

Look at what Yeshua says to the 5 foolish virgins who let their oil run out.

Matthew 25:11-12

"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'
12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, ***I do not KNOW you.***'

Paul's greatest goal was to be able to say he felt he knew God and Christ and was known by them. See **Philippians 3:9-11.**

Seek him and he will be found of you. **MAKE** the time to recommit your priorities to praying first and last thing in the day and mid-day as well somehow. In fact, give God the BEST time of your day. Don't wait til you can barely stay awake to pray! Cut out time wasters. I found myself using up too much time again back in Facebook and too much news again... and have had to cut back.

TO WHOM does God call for prayer and repentance? Notice who must repent. Notice what God does, and remember WE today, we children of God, WE are the temple, we are the HOUSE of God today:

2 Chronicles 7:13-16 GOD speaking:

"When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence [PLAGUES] among My people,

14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from THEIR wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place."

Pray that God open YOUR eyes to see where YOU and I must change. Then WE repent. WE pray for mercy on our nation as Daniel did for his people. As Jeremiah did – all through the book of Lamentations.

Have that strong relationship of loving obedience and awe for our God, praying constantly - and your chances increase dramatically you could be protected during the Great Tribulation.

Luke 21:34-36

"**But take heed to yourselves**, lest your **hearts** be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and **cares of this life**, and that Day come on you *unexpectedly*. 35 For it **will COME AS A SNARE** on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be **counted worthy to escape** all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

3. **SPEAK UP and STAND UP for what's right! If you don't speak up, you're emboldening the anarchists and lawbreakers.**

This point is worthy of an entire sermon, and I WILL develop it further later. Let this be an introduction.

Our country is at a tipping point in its history. If things don't change, we are about to lose forever our civil liberties, our freedoms, our cultural heritage, even our history – even as our school books are being re-written.

God's people wonder what they can do. Some won't even pray for the nation and cite a few verses in Jeremiah. **Please check out my sermon "Should we pray for our nation and the world?" – given in March 2020.** There I explain it thoroughly.

DANIEL certainly didn't just assume when the 70 years of punishment was drawing to an end that he didn't have to do anything. This is what **Daniel 9** is all about, when Daniel prayed for God's mercy on the nation of Judah – and on HIM too. Daniel's prayer **throughout Daniel 9** is about how "WE" have sinned. ARE YOU and I praying like that?? When's the last time you did?

Many of God's people say, "But God has his plan and his will -- and he will do what he will do. Nobody can go against it. So I can't do anything. And I certainly don't want to do anything against his will. And one more point: God doesn't need ME, anyway and I don't want to cause any ruckus or argument."

ESTHER's example

Back in the days of the Persian Empire, there was a quiet Jewish girl named **Hadassa, renamed Esther**. She was found to be the most beautiful girl in

all the land and was added to the emperor's harem. Imagine that! If you're not familiar with the story of Esther, read it soon. Anyway the king's top official **Haman** was devising **a plot to ethnically cleanse** the whole empire of Jews. Wipe them all out. That was his plan. The Hitler of his day.

Mordecai, the cousin of Esther, told her she couldn't remain quiet. Mordecai is beside himself as Esther stalled at first. Speaking up could be the death sentence. You weren't even allowed to approach the king without his permission. Anyone trying to – was summarily executed.

What would YOU have done? Be honest. Would you have said, "God doesn't need me. He could just have Haman die of a heart attack right now and fight for us all. I don't need to do anything or risk my own life. The king hasn't called for me to come before him in ages and I'm supposed to obey the law of the land and be submissive to my husband."

True faith is proven by what we actually DO – not just what we think or say. Faith is proven by works (James 2:21-25).

Some of you won't speak up about what's going on in the country. I commend those of you who DO speak up – on Facebook, to your congress members, or in your conversations. But some of you are afraid of being FIRED, or ostracized. Or maybe you don't want to "rock the boat" – so you remain silent. That's kinda how Esther started. Just safe in her court of women, anonymous Jewess. She was OK, so she thought. So let's read it.

Esther 3:13

And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, **to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month**, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions.

On video I summarize what happened... and then let's read:

Esther 4:10-12

Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces *know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death*, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days." 12 So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

Esther 4:13-14

And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "**Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.**

14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish.

Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Mordecai basically tells Esther – “Hey cousin! You’re about to miss the very reason for your existence, and your PURPOSE in life. God USES people. Over and over”.

Did God NEED Gideon and his 300 men? Couldn’t he have saved Israel without anyone? Did God need David to face Goliath? Did God need Abraham to risk his life and go save LOT and all the captives in Genesis 14?

Esther, NOW is your day to do something. All of us Jews are dead if something doesn’t change! And God put you where you are so you could DO something!”

Who knows if YOU and I weren’t put on this earth right now so it’s OUR turn to pray, to SPEAK UP, to ACT, to DO some things that can change God’s mind or the course of history!

Let that sink in. The real enemy was not Haman, though he was being used by the Adversary Satan. If all the Jews had been killed, there could be no Messiah born many years later! This was Satan’s REAL goal.

So Esther ACTED. But first she fasted, prayed along with many others. ***Faith is shown by what we DO (James 2:21-25)***. She didn’t just pray – but fasted first, then acted.

Esther 4:15-16

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. **My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"**

She began to see her purpose in life. How about you? How many of you can say with Esther and Gideon and you and me – “I believe God put me on this earth at this time for a reason and a purpose! And I won’t be silenced!” *If you can’t speak up NOW, how will you speak up when the Beast power takes over?*

NOW is the time to speak up against those who have hijacked a protest and turned it into socialistic unrest! Now is the time to say it’s NOT a peaceful protest anymore – it’s criminal activity – when one starts to burn, commit arson, destroy, kill, steal. In fact that describes SATAN – The thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

God is also seeking for someone to stand in the GAP in the wall or hedge and give him a reason not to punish, but could find NO ONE. What a shame.

Ezekiel 22:29-31

The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger.

30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD (Adonai YHVH)".

Will YOU stand in the gap in behalf of your country and people?

Now is the time to sigh and cry and speak up against abortion – as 60 million plus, babies have been slaughtered. 60 MILLION. God wants to see that you CARE enough, to sigh and cry out to him for the abominations. Are you doing that? ARE you? When’s the last time you actually cried for your country?

- Write congressmen or senators – you disapprove of the huge debt;
- Speak up about your views on school and the corona virus or anything

“The only thing that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke

Ezekiel tells us that when God’s wrath begins to really be poured out, HE spares certain ones.

Ezekiel 9:3-4

Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side;

4 and YHVH said to him, ***"Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who SIGH and CRY over all the abominations that are done within it."***

Ezekiel 9:5-6

5 To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.

6 Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; ***but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark***; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

Does your sighing and crying for the abominations count? You bet it does. In Revelation 9, Satan is allowed to open the abyss or bottomless pit where super bad demons are caged, yes even now... they hate that abyss. Remember demons cast out of the man called LEGION who had so many demons in him – begged Yeshua not to send them to the ABYSS! (Luke 8:30-31).

So horrific demons are unleashed sometime in the future – and notice this:

Revelation 9:4

“They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, ***but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.***”

It's time to speak up. When godly people say nothing, do nothing, then evil has a free hand. When good people are silent, it's seen as approval, acquiescence. It's time to pray, to "sigh and cry" for our country!

We will be judged based on what we've been given. We've been given freedom to speak. **Paul** was given freedom to appeal to Caesar – like us appealing to the Supreme Court. And Paul did (Acts 25:11). Paul could question a centurion's call to have him, a Roman, flogged without a hearing. And Paul did question it; he DID speak up. Paul used his civil rights, is what I'm saying (Acts 22:25-29).

This year the stakes are so high and even our own safety is on the line.

- One side wants the right to kill babies in the womb, and one side doesn't.

- One side wishes to have less police, even abolish police, even tear down the wall President is building – and one side wants more law and order.
- The left wants free taxpayer funded education, medication, housing and feeding for illegals the minute they arrive. The whole world would migrate here if that's allowed! We're already over 24 trillion in debt.

Covid19 Wuhan virus won't be the last pestilence. And what's coming will be far, far worse. This is just practice. Many more plagues will come.

TRIAL RUN

How about when the Beast power gets set up. Will you have the courage to speak up then? The Beast system will kill anyone who does not do their bidding and get their 666 number. But if you do that, you'll die under God's wrath. Speak up against the Beast system. What we're going through now, I'm saying, is a good trial run. Maybe this is a test run. In 2016, 25 million conservative evangelicals stayed home and didn't bother voting, for example.

Is this our trial run – to see if you have the guts to speak out? I'm noticing that as more and more conservative blacks, whites, and Hispanics speak out – more and more others are getting brave enough to speak out as well. They realize they're not the only ones. When the world sees that we don't all fall into the monolithic thinking of the far left, maybe they'll see.

Mark 8:38

“For **whoever is ashamed of Me and My words** in this adulterous and sinful generation, ***of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed*** when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

“The Return” Sept 26, 2020 sabbath

There's an announced national day of prayer and repentance and a DAY of RETURNING TO GOD – Sept 26, 2020, Saturday (sabbath)

<https://thereturn.org> I believe it's been organized by Jonathan Cahn, a Messianic rabbi and conservative speaker and sabbath keeper -- but he's calling on all people of God to assemble and repent and seek God's blessing, forgiveness and guidance in what's happening for the country.

IMPORTANT: On sabbath, Saturday, Sept 26, 2020 there's a planned large gathering of God-believing people who try to obey God as best as they understand how... who will meet in Washington DC on the National Mall, and ***pledge to returning/repenting to God.***

Personally, I'm pleased to see this. Please don't mock it. It reminds me of what happened in Nineveh. I certainly don't see it as a bad thing but a wonderful thing. Isn't that what 2 Chronicles 7:14 is all about?

Will those people all believe everything we do? Will they all be sabbath keepers? Let me ask you this: when **Nineveh (modern area Mosul)** repented, did 100% of them all destroy ALL their idols, start keeping sabbath and all of God's laws? No, no way. But enough turned from enough evil and violence, that it turned God's mindset from destroying Nineveh – to sparing them for many years. They fasted, they cried out to God and God saw them turn from their evil ways. Enough seeking after God was done to turn GOD's intention.

This "Return" on Sept 26, 2020 is planned to actually be part of a 10-day searching for God's forgiveness and benediction that starts with the Feast of Trumpets Sept 19, 2020 and ends on the Day of Atonement on Monday Sept 28, 2020. Imagine that.

God tells us in **Malachi 3:7** after warning us that we as a nation have turned from God's laws and ordinances and not kept them...he then says this – **"Return to me and I will return to you."** Now let's read what happened when evil, sinful, violent Ninevites did this (in the area now known as MOSUL in northern Iraq).

Post: **Malachi 3:7**

"...return to me, and I will return to you..."

Lesson from Nineveh

Jonah 3:5-10

So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. [This started with the grass roots! Ordinary PEOPLE crying out to God.]

6 THEN word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. **7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published** throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,

"Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. **8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.** **9 Who can tell if God will**

turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?”

10 *Then God saw their works, that they TURNED from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.*”

I will fast and pray on Sept 26, sabbath, 2020. It's a called day of repentance. Then again on Monday Sept 28, starting the evening before, on Sunday night – **for Atonement.** Will you join me and thousands of others who will be praying, repenting, and seeking God? Please mark it in your calendar. And special prayers from Trumpets to Atonement, 10 special days of fervently seeking our God.

And so, as I speak about discerning the times, we must start with this premise: that God's people have to be concerned. God's people have to be a praying and repentant people. God's people are seeking Him as never before. God's people are sighing and crying. And God's people are begging for mercy and thanking God for his mercy – on us, on our nation, and on our planet. From what I know, have experienced, and have read – our God is a merciful God and could even relent from the disasters he has told us would happen – IF we do what it says here.

And while we do all this, remember to HONOR our leaders, all of them. Read what we're posting here from 1 Peter 2:13-17.

1 Peter 2:13-17

“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men — 16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

17 HONOR ALL people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”

That king whom Peter said to honor was NERO. He says to HONOR ALL people. So let's stop with name calling. Let's stop the horrible things some are saying about the far-Left leaders. Stop. God's children don't do that. We speak up – but honorably. We stand up for the right way – but with respect for all, even the terrible ones. NO name calling. It's not of God.

Need to end it there.... Let's recap!

So God has given each of us a definite part to play.

- **Remember who our real Adversary is**, and therefore we have no need to be disrespectful to anyone. Look past the horrors of what people are doing to the source of their evil: to Satan himself, who may well have already been cast down out of heaven.
- **Seek God as you never have before.** Change your schedule to have more time for God. Pray for. Fast more. Study his word more. Ask him to come near to you. *We're coming into rough times and those who cry out to him are far more likely to be marked for protection* – as Ezekiel 9 says. As Revelation 7 says.
- **DO use your God-given civil liberties in this nation to speak up** for law, for appreciation of your police, for wanting equity and fairness to all people and all blacks and minorities too – but in a lawful non-destructive way.

Be like ESTHER – who even risked her own life to save her nation. Yes, God didn't need her. He could have done it without her, but how great was that, that God used this young Jewish woman!

We never know exactly what God may do if enough of his people jump in and pray. Abraham asked for mercy on Sodom if there be 10 righteous. Daniel prayed. Jeremiah did. Moses and Aaron certainly did – several times. Be sure to hear my sermon on praying for the nation. But yes, speak up. Show where you stand. Paul did. You can too.

- **PRAY for our leaders and our nation – and pray for God's mercy. Pray for God's protection on you**, his people and especially those who are seeking him. Honor our leaders, honor all people. Let's be people with a higher class, more loving TONE in our Facebook postings.

I'll have to leave it with that.

With so much on the line in this TIPPING POINT YEAR, we need you to pray, grow, seek God, speak up, grow close to God and Yeshua - -as never before.

Til next time... this is Philip Shields, asking God's blessing and protection on all of you as well.