

Trinity Bible Church

The Carpenter's House

April 5, 2020

Announcements:

Sunday Apr 12 Resurrection Sunday!
The Lord's Table. We will wait until our first regathering.

- ** Some have asked about how to give their offerings. You can mail them to Roger Mueller, 13225 St. Andrews Dr., OKC, OK 73122 or make them online through our website. It is safer to contribute in this manner than mailing your offering to the church.**
- ** We are going to continue to record the classes early and have them ready for Sunday morning, until further notice.**
- ** A new dimension of the website has been added which are podcasts. Go to: tbcokc.org then the "Resources" tab. You will see a link to "Podcast Development" where the Revelation and Coming Events series have been added. You can also go to the "Vimeo" link and get the video of these classes and 25 other studies.**
- ** The Rosh Pinah Seder dinner, scheduled for April 12 has been cancelled.**

	March	Total 2020	General Fund	Building Fund	Missions 2020
Income	\$ 7,761.00	\$ 24,013.00		\$ 45,629.42	\$1,200.00
Expenses	7,470.38	25,170.70		Missions Bal	1,200.00
Balance	\$ 290.62	\$ -1,157.70	\$19,965.31	\$11,321.95	\$ 0.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

The Bowl Judgments
Revelation 16:14-21

Section H—Events Following the Rapture on Earth

The Tribulation

Section A—Why Study Prophecy?

Section B—How to Interpret Prophecy

Section C—The Next Great Prophetic Event

Section D—When Does it Happen?

Section E—What Factors Affect the Timing?

Section F—What Happens at the Rapture?

Section G—The End-Time Nations

Section H—Events Following the Rapture on Earth

1. The Tribulation

2. Personalities in the Tribulation

A. The 144,000:

- 1. They are virgin Jewish men. Rev 14:1-5**
- 2. They are converted either by the Rapture (Rev 4:1), the first angel (Rev 14:6), the two witnesses (Rev 11:1-14), or a combination.**
- 3. They are sealed from any harm during the Tribulation because the same number that were saved at the outset of the Tribulation stand with the Lord on Mount Zion, the Mount of Olives, at the end. Rev 7:1-8; Zech 14:4**
- 4. There are 12,000 from every tribe but Dan. Rev 7:4-8**
 - a. The tribe of Dan rejected the gospel more than any other tribe, became a stumbling block to their brothers and adopted their own priesthood that worshipped a "graven image." Gen 49:17**
 - b. The tribe of Dan will still be in existence, but will not have the necessary numbers to make the 12,000. Eze 48:1**
- 5. The 144,000 are evidently evangelistic agents to the still dispersed Jews and to the Gentiles of the Tribulation.**

B. The Two Witnesses:

- 1. They are identified as "two olive trees" and "two lampstands." Rev 11:3-4**
 - a. Zechariah the prophet spoke of them. Zech 4:11-14**
 - b. The "olive trees" speak of the spiritual side of Israel, which is "anointed" of God. Rom 11:17, 24**
 - c. The "lampstands" speak of that which illumines that which is truly "holy." Exo 35:14 et al**
 - d. That which defines and illuminates holiness is the "Law and the Prophets" which Messiah came to fulfill. Matt 5:17; 7:12; 22:37-40**
 - e. The Pre-Flood Patriarch Enoch, although he did not die, was never a part of Israel to which the "olive tree" and "lampstand" has special**

- significance, thus he is probably not one of the witnesses. Enoch was also part of the Age of the Gentiles and not the Age of Israel, which aligns better with Daniel's 70th Week, which is for the Jews. Gen 5:21-24
- f. The evidence indicates that the Two Witnesses are Moses and Elijah, the two heavenly witnesses at the Lord's transfiguration. They attest to "The Anointed One's" fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, and in which the Father is "well-pleased." Mal 4:5; Matt 17:1-3 & Mark 9:1-4 & Luke 9:28-31
2. Their ministry is primarily a call for repentance of the Jews during the first half of the Tribulation, out in the desert. Rev 11:3
 3. They are supernaturally protected for a specified period of time. Rev 11:5
 4. They have special powers. Rev 11:6
 - a. Moses turned water into blood. Exo 7:9-20
 - b. Elijah was given the power of famine. 1 Kgs 17:1
 5. They will die a martyr's death at the hands of the Anti-Christ. Rev 11:7-9
 6. The world reaction is jubilation. Rev 11:10
 7. After 3½ days they are slowly resuscitated as the entire world watches. Rev 11:11-12
 8. The Prophetic Fulfillment is further authenticated with a massive earthquake. Rev 11:13
 9. This is the end of the "Second Woe" which began with the 6th Trumpet Judgment. Rev 11:14 cf. 9:12
 10. The timing is clearly identified as near the middle of the Tribulation, close to when the Antichrist takes his seat in the Temple because the nations have only another 42 months to trample Jerusalem underfoot. Rev 11:1-2

Revelation 16:1-21

The Trumpet Judgments

Section D—The Things Which Will Be 4:1–22:5

g. The Sixth Bowl—Preparation for Armageddon 16:12-17

The Euphrates Dried Up. 16:12

L.T. = And the sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, that they way might be prepared for the kings from the east.

The Antichrist's Propaganda Machine. 16:13

L.T. = And I saw coming out of the mouth of the Dragon and out of the mouth of the Beast and out of the mouth of the False Prophet three unclean spirits like frogs

The Identification. 16:14

L.T. = And they are spirits of demons, performing signs, who go out to the kings of the whole inhabited world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of the God, the Almighty.

Summary:

- 1. The unholy trinity commissions three demons who can be identified by the sound of their voice.**
- 2. These demons will probably be represented as the "messiahs" of the different world religions.**
- 3. They will convince the kings to follow the Beast as the true "messiah" of which they themselves spoke.**
- 4. They will attempt to occupy and defend by sheer numbers the land promised to Abraham.**
- 5. They will see the Sixth Bowl as a blessing, yet, it just opens the trap.**
- 6. After the Sixth Trumpet Judgment releasing the Kings of the East is another statement of the fact that humanity would not repent. Rev 9:20-21**

A Warning to Believers. 16:15

L.T. = Behold, I am going to come like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays spiritually awake and keeps his outer garments, lest he may walk about scantily clad and they may see his shameful deed.

Summary:

- 1. This is a spiritual exhortation to the remaining Believers.**
- 2. They should not find themselves "surprised" by all the events leading up to the Second Advent.**
- 3. Failure to be spiritually alert is labeled a "shameful deed."**
- 4. The one who keeps his outer garments refers to those who are:**
 - a. Where they should be and doing what they should be doing.**

b. Not falling for the propaganda.

The Gathering. 16:16

L.T. = And they began to gather them together to the place which in Hebrew is being called Harmagedon.

Summary:

- 1. This assembly starts between the Sixth and Seventh Bowl.**
- 2. The unclean spirits are pursuing their arrogant and blasphemous objectives to stop "the God of the heaven."**
- 3. The Kings of the East are stopped south of the Dead Sea. Joel 3:12-17; Zech 14 cf. Isa 63**
- 4. The King of the North is besieging Jerusalem. Rev 10; Eze 38–39**
- 5. The King of the West is the only army that actually makes it to Megiddo.**
- 6. At Megiddo is the Plain of Esdraelon, which is also known as the Jezreel Valley.**
- 7. At the Conquest, the Jews failed to take this area as well as Edom, although both areas were a part of the Abrahamic Covenant. Jdg 1:27-28; Gen 15:18**
- 8. Michael takes his stand at this point in time to stop the Jews from being annihilated. Dan 12:1**
- 9. Seven warnings have been issued to the invaders. Rev 10:4**
- 10. Jerusalem has become an intoxicant to the nations. Zech 12:1-3**
- 11. God's grace is still available. Joel 2:11-13**
- 12. The demonic message is probably contains the proposition that to kill "The God of the Heaven," who is causing all the plagues, all of His followers must be killed.**

It is Time. 16:17

L.T. = And the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the atmosphere; and a loud voice came out of the inner sanctum from the throne, saying, "It has come into existence."

h. The Seventh Bowl–The Earthquake and Hail 16:18-21

The Physical Phenomena. 16:18

L.T. = And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was an earthquake, a great one, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so mighty, thus great!

Summary:

- 1. The impact of this bowl, when it hits the atmosphere is to trigger the greatest earthquake in human history.**
- 2. There are no more "necessary delays" for the return of the Lord.**

The Results. 16:19

L.T. = And the great city was split into three parts and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was remembered before the God, when He gave her the cup of the wine of the anger of His wrath.

Summary:

- 1. Jerusalem, the great city, is split geographically and spiritually into three parts. Zech 13:7-9**
- 2. In Jerusalem are the Atheists, the Polytheists and the remnant of the believing Jewish Monotheists.**
- 3. Those who were spiritually awake and "keeping their garments" would be by the Mount of Olives. Zech 14:1-5**
- 4. Babylon the Great financed and promoted the apostasy that has now gripped humanity.**
- 5. Evidence indicates Babylon the Great was eliminated in the third year of the Tribulation. Cf. Jer 51:46**

Further Impact. 16:20

L.T. = And every island fled away and the mountains were not found.

Still More. 16:21

L.T. = And huge hailstones, about 100 pounds each, came down from heaven upon the men; and the men blasphemed the God because of the plague of the hail, because great is its plague, violent.

Summary:

- 1. The earth's topography is leveled which portrays man's arrogance being brought down. Cf. Luke 3:1-6 cf. Isa 40**
- 2. This is similar to the Seventh Plague on Egypt which judged the god Seth, the protector of crops. Exo 9:13-35**
- 3. The "harvest" of the Second Advent has arrived. Cf. 14:17-20**
- 4. This is a massive artillery barrage of hailstones that take place in the darkness. Josh 10:11 cf. Matt 24:29; Joel 2:31; Zech 14:6**
- 5. This chronology resumes in 19:11.**
- 6. At least three mountains remain: Olives, Zion, and Megiddo.**
- 7. Incredible pressure does not guarantee repentance, which is an important factor in the Angelic Conflict.**
- 8. Humanity is hardening its heart, like the Pharaoh of the Exodus.**
- 9. God used plagues at the beginning of Israel's history to bring about their deliverance and just prior to the Second Advent He is using plagues to remind them that He is The Deliverer and will defeat all enemies. Cf. Psa 110:1**

Coronavirus: Discipline or Testing?

According to the WSJ last week, on the front page, "There is a run on Jigsaw puzzles as people cope with COVID-19."

We certainly live in a world and land of confusion. What is going on? Who is in charge? What is the best way to cope with the situation? And so it goes. Who would have ever thought that Jigsaw puzzles would ever be more sought after than a sporting event, or television show, or ... How quickly life can change!

Much has been said and a lot more will be said before we are past this "viral" situation. Speculation is rampant and fear is prevalent, often among God's people as well as the rest of the unbelieving world.

I have heard some say that Covid-19 is caused by God, and others that is simply the fruit of a fallen world. More often than not when there are two extremes the truth is found somewhere in the middle. What do we know for certain and how do we glorify God in the middle of a crooked and perverted generation?

Indeed, there are many dynamics at work. Did God actively send the virus as divine discipline or passively permit it as a result of a fallen world? History has shown that He has done both. In either event, the result is divine discipline and testing which affects the righteous as well as the unrighteous. In an unrighteous world the innocent suffer.

My analysis is that we just don't know whether this is the Directive or Permissive Will of the Almighty God. Did He send the virus or permit it? Old Testament saints often knew for certain, because the Lord made it clear through the prophets that He was the cause. Tribulational saints will also know for certain where the judgments are coming from, as evidenced by the Book of Revelation, and the direct statements from the Lord through the Apostle John. The fact is, we don't know.

It should be clear that the Lord is seeking to not only get the attention of the world, but also the Church, for "judgment is to begin with the household of God (1 Pet 4:17)." While there are still churches seeking to accurately study and teach the Word of God many have abandoned its complete inspiration as a doctrinal tenet and as a result have "wandered away from the faith, (1 Tim 6:10)" seeking the things of the world instead of the things of God.

Some have said that God doesn't lead by fear but love, but we do know that the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge," so that kind of fear is good. In some countries, there is a movement to putting oil lamps over the door to ward off the virus. That is no more than hocus pocus, trying to use the magical arts. Our time frame is definitely not The Tribulation, but on a worldwide scale it clearly looks like the "beginning of birth pangs" for this seven year period to come. The need for the clear teaching of God's Word, rightly handled, has never been more evident in our lifetime.

It is really sad to see the state of the Church today and it is interesting that the Church has been shut down from normal operations by an "invisible enemy." Some people in this world risk death every Sunday to assemble with other people of God. Much of the Church however, only assembles when there is nothing else better to do. The Apostle Paul warned of this in Ephesians 6:10-13, saying, "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."

The difference here is that this "invisible enemy" comes from flesh and blood, but is being used by the "spiritual forces in the heavnlies" to stir panic and unrest. This virus is certainly an object lesson for the church designed to instruct us again about the really important things of life, the spiritual things, time with the Lord in prayer, time in His Word and time spent thinking of adjustments in our lives that need to be made. Discipline can clearly come on the church, and has, any time they get out of line. Just read Revelation 2-3, the Letters to the Churches. Have people, places, things and events become more important than "growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ?" Is the number of people today in the church who reject the Bible as God's word being disciplined for their failure, or being tested to get serious again, or both? I am sure He is using this to try to wake some people up and give them another opportunity to get it right before He takes them home or comes back. Multiples times in the New Testament we are told to "Be Alert," meaning spiritually alert to the time we are in.

The biggest Jigsaw puzzle ever set before humanity is the prophetic framework of the Word of God. Fully one-third of Scripture is prophetic and it is our calling and duty to seek to determine what is yet to be fulfilled, how it all fits together, and our role during our lifetime. Maybe people should spend more time learning the Word than opting for mechanically putting together one of those fascinating puzzles, cut into thousands of pieces. May our Lord use this time of testing to shake us to wake us. Let us be listed among the "overcomers" who rise above their culture to be obedient and honoring to God.

Parable of the Virus

Enter the virus. It has snuck in past the immune system, or human “firewall.” As is the case with most viruses it is not readily apparent or easily detectable. It does its work, multiplying and spreading its infection to all it contacts. It has the ability to mutate, to disguise itself, to make people think that it has gone away only to resurface again. It is not subject to the normal medicines. It is often an issue of poor nutrition. The virus does not realize that it is harmful to others, but nevertheless works its damage.

The virus affects one’s ability to think, one’s ability to reason and can even lead to blindness and muscular problems so that the body does not function as well as it could. It can hide to the point of making the host think that it is gone, providing a false sense of security, well-being, and a feeling of peace, while being the unseen but real cause of the illness, waiting for an opportunity to surface again.

Such a virus has infected the Body of Christ. A false analogy, false evaluation, critical spirit, legalistic bent or focus on the things and circumstances of life begins this virus. When the attitude or belief is not checked, it grows and multiplies, feeding on healthy cells in a feeding frenzy, until the virus manifests itself outwardly. The manifestation becomes more judgmental, while deeming itself discerning; more and more able to rationalize incorrect evaluations, while considering itself wise; hypercritical of others, while adding more non-biblical rules or non-essential things to one’s inventory. Being pleased with its contrived self-justification, the result is an ever-increasing arrogance and blindness to reality. The end result is to demand foolish desires and issue ultimatums rather than stand firm with other healthy cells. The virus demands its way or else it will find a place to spread itself. “Gut-wrenching” decisions are made because the flesh is doing battle with the Spirit, and the inner turmoil is being used to justify bad decisions. Things that contradict selfish desires are walled off and not even good medicine will bring healing. The peace that the viral host sought will continue to be elusive.

Blinded by elitist arrogance, faith-walking stops as the evil one again works his magic (2 Cor 4:3-4). His counterfeit medicine has claimed another victim. The Evil One and his workers are disguised as physicians (2 Cor 11:13-15). The only way to really deal with the virus is confrontation to tear down every stronghold in which it hides (2 Cor 10:5). Ignoring it will not make it depart. The spiritual struggle is not against flesh and blood but O how this Virus deceives. It is an unseen yet real battle.

When the inflated mind leads one to think that it has evolved beyond the fundamental teaching of the Word of God, the extent of the deceptive virus is manifested. The Lord taught in parables to the unbelievers and baby disciples, but He reasoned from the Scriptures in the synagogues, to the disciples and the

two on the road to Emmaus. He frequently quoted or called one to learn or remember “the Scriptures” (Matt 21:42; 22:29; 26:54,46; Mark 12:10,24; 14:49; 15:28; Luke 4:21; 24:27,32,45; John 2:22; 5:39, 7:38,42; 10:35; 13:18; 17:12; 19:24,28,36,37; 20:9).

Many parts of the Lord’s Body today have adopted the “storytelling” model to grow their numbers, trying to ignore the dangerous virus of selfishness manifested in sin, seeking to make everyone feel better. This model fails to realize that immaturity caused by a bad spiritual diet damages the next generation. Stories not based on solid biblical truth gradually depart from true righteous standards and become just fanciful stories. The Bible calls them “myths” and they are markers of the last days (2 Tim 4:3-4). As a whole, things will continue to advance in the wrong direction, but the devoted Body is called to rescue those who will listen (Jude 1:17-23). The dedicated Body must be there to assist those who will one day realize they are infected with a contagious disease.

Human viruses often just have to run their course. The prescription is to rest and drink plenty of clear fluids and hope eventually the infection will lose its battle to the body. The Christian life is a call to “rest” (Heb 4:1-12) and renewal through the “water of life” (John 4:13-14). It is a rebuilding of the immune system or “firewall.”

Recovery requires good nutrition, a balanced diet and proper exercise. “Feel-good” stories are no more than a fast-food diet. “Fast-food” diets taste good but eventually kill the diner. The prescription is lots of fruit and vegetables. There is a spiritual fruit that refers to the wise applications of the Word (Prov 8:19; 11:30). The wise applications begin with a consistent intake and study of the context of all of Scripture, the vegetables. (No vegetable is listed as “unclean” which illustrates that “all Scripture is God-breathed.”)

A balanced diet also requires some “meat” which involves the more difficult things of theology, the deeper issues of righteousness and thus sin (Heb 5:12-14). It is the analogies and comparisons that make one think and “chew on” the solutions, seeking to become more Christlike. “Meat” is what makes Believers stronger. The true “Makers Diet,” is to be washed down with pure milk which pictures a childlike desire and faith to stimulate spiritual growth (1 Pet 2:1-3).

Lack of a proper diet disables the human “firewall.” Unlike computer viruses, that often have a relatively quick fix, spiritual viruses usually take much longer. A wise computer operator would never disable the computer’s virus protection assuming there is no danger. Wise people see potential danger and regularly update their systems. None would knowingly go into an infested website nor open a contaminated email.

Even the best immune system won’t stop some viruses. Some are just deadly. For those the best protection is simple avoidance. Freedom exists to visit the

infectious disease areas but wisdom realizes though it is lawful, it is not profitable. Simple spiritual common sense avoids people who pursue evil, places that promote sin, things that addict and events where sin is rampant, so the virus does not break through the firewall. Some “foods” just should be avoided and a balanced diet pursued.

Proper exercise is also needed to defend against viruses. Exercise requires self-discipline and is manifested in commitment and consistency. This exercise not only avoids contagious areas but positively builds up the immune system. Self-discipline is first a mindset before it becomes an activity. Time alone with the Lord, time with the Lord with others, pursuing a relationship with The Truth, worshipping in the Spirit and putting spiritual gifts to use in service to our Lord is the exercise that is designed to go with a balanced diet.

A balanced diet and proper exercise is clearly the best way to avoid becoming a victim of the virus carried by the evil one. The evil one looks for those whose defenses are low, with their immune system not working, so as to devour them (1 Pet 5:8). Will I have the proper diet and training to “stand firm?”