



# Watching & Ready Column (Matthew 24:42-44)

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near; at the doors.” Mark 13:28-29

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The Watching & Ready Column is posted on the website in PDF format to allow for printing, to be available for loved ones who are Left Behind.

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## All Will Stand Ministry Update

Certainly a difficult time to get the second Watching & Ready column ready for this month, yet, as always, the Lord sees to it that what has to get done, gets done.

The shortwave African radio shows come to an end today with the last broadcast, with the podcasts to all of those *Back to the Basic* shows available on the website.

Behind the scenes still ‘college’ work going on, for now it has been reading books during my spare time, so far quite successful in having read quite a few. If the Lord doesn’t take us Home soon, this studying will be very useful for upcoming columns.

Pastor Jose in Colombia is very busy doing the Lord’s work and the work is great. He now is pastoring a new Church and still overseeing the other Church, as he goes throughout the byways in a neighborhood of lost souls, seeking whomever might listen to the Gospel, doing the bidding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lord willing, an occasional new podcast series is written down on my desk to explore for the future, this would only be on the website only and pertaining to the sort of things often discussed in these columns, but furthering on with more information, pondering, as we wait.

Until He comes, there is work to be done, whether we are holding the rope, boots on the ground, spending time in prayer, loving our neighbors, being a good testimony to those around us, we are all individually representatives of Christ, part of the body:

*“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all immersed into one body; whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and were all given to drink into one Spirit. For also the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as*

*He intended. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, but yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, we clothe them with greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have abundant elegance, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given more abundant honor to that part which is lacking, that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” 1st Corinthians 12:14-27*

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## From AWS’s Email Inbox

It seems good to simply post this here, in whole, as it was send via email. While AWS doesn’t delve into politics, there are times where the Lord leads into that direction and these sort of things simply can not be ignored. From the inbox:

## Trembling before the man who uses Christianity for his advantage

In a radio address in 1933, Adolf Hitler in his first address to the German people, stated this, “The national government will support and defend the foundations on which the strength of our nation is built. It will seek firmly to protect Christianity as the basis of our whole morality and the family as the nucleus of the life of our people and our community.”[1]

Even Niemöller, who would later become Hitler’s personal prisoner, was at first infatuated with Hitler believing he would bring morality to Germany as well as be a defense for Christianity. And the Church in Germany failed to see that this man who hated the Jewish people also hated Christianity. He hated the ones who held to a suffering Savior rather than proclaiming a noble Jesus who would supposedly reinforce a positive Christianity. Hitler wanted a militant Christianity that promoted strength and prosperity. Jesus in his eyes was to be a hero, not divine but powerful, conquering the enemies of Germany.

If Hitler had continued as head of a German State he would not only have destroyed all of the Jewish people, he would have also destroyed all orthodox Christians.

And this is the point, when a leader uses Christianity to his advantage, the Church should both tremble and pray for discernment. The temptation to align with the worldly ruler is a greater hazard for the Church than outright persecution. The Church is tainted, eventually becoming a faithless Church. And sorrowfully those Christians who align with such a leader will eventually turn on brothers and sisters besmirching them and insisting they are neither patriotic enough nor true Christians. I am thinking of such faithful leaders as Timothy Keller and some members of the Gospel Coalition. There are others who are slandered.

Daniel and his three friends are examples of faithful believers who although captives and subjects of a narcissistic ruler were never committed to him but rather were committed to the God of Israel. They served God not Nebuchadnezzar. And here is the interesting part. Every time Nebuchadnezzar experienced the power of God he would proclaim how great Daniel's God was.

"The King answered Daniel and said 'Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery.'" (Daniel 2:47)

Yet he was using these faithful Hebrew men for his own purposes and not until the end of his story did he truly commit to God. In much of his insincerity he was a danger to believers proclaiming what he did not believe. His morality was unaffected. After losing his sanity because of his boasting and then regaining it he was able to proclaim, "... I Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored Him who lives forever;

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but he does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'what have you done?'

...Now I Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are true and His ways are just and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

Daniel and his three friends possessed several marks of faithfulness as they served the king. They worked secretly to make sure they didn't make use of the king's bounty of food and drink. They told the king his faults when it was necessary, even telling him that he might escape judgement by breaking away from his sins by doing righteousness and "from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor." They refused to obey any command that consisted of idolatry even when it angered him and placed their lives in danger. In fact, they stood against a nation of people who were willing to indulge the King to the point of worshipping him.

They were never on the side of Nebuchadnezzar, but rather on the side of the Lord. And in that place of honesty and

faithfulness Nebuchadnezzar, the Jewish people and eventually the Church was blessed. The Church belongs to Christ and His people are called to faithfulness, discernment and courage. Take pleasure in the purity of Jesus' commitment to His Church and to us the individual members of His Church. We are home in Him no matter the growing darkness nor the insistence that there exists others besides Christ who can bring us out of the darkness.

#### About Me



Viola Larson

Writer, Lover of books, interested in the history of intellectual and religious ideas, tend with love gardens, grandchildren and great grandchildren. My husband, Brad, is a retired Steinway Piano tuner. We live in a hundred year old house that always needs repairs.

[1] J.S. Conway, *The Nazi Persecution of the Churches, 1933-45*, (New York: Basic Books, 1968), p. 15, found in *Exile in the Father-Land: Martin Niemöller's Letters From Moabit Prison*, Edited by Hubert G. Locke, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans 1986) Intro 4.

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Editors Note: Consider the war going on with Israel verses Hamas and other Middle Eastern enemies. Consider the characteristics of former President Donald Trump, compared to the Word of God. (Oh...I know, but -what- are we supposed to do, vote for Kamala Harris! ... well perhaps we just don't have a good choice. ☺)

Now consider that we have pulpits full of pastors from one end to the other in this country.

How is it that these men, supposedly called by God to the pastorate, irregardless of what denominational name they might go by, seem to take -no notice- that we have a man who has very serious characteristics, according to the Bible, (Trump) of at least being a suspect of being the Antichrist (who is by the way likely also Jewish, seemingly the biggest secret), as well as a mess in Israel that could in the near future turn into a major war with Iran in the Middle East (potential for a major 'peace' deal (*Daniel 9:27*) and they are oblivious to these things!

Well with what was 'pasted' here you can see *'there is nothing new under the sun'* (*Ecc. 1:9*). Let's ensure that no matter the outcome of this election, if you vote and what/who you vote for, that in our hearts we have truly -voted- for Jesus Christ to be our personal Lord and Savior. That we have both repented toward God and by faith believed into Jesus Christ.

... *"testifying both to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."* *Acts 20:21*

Here in South Dakota, I am very curious to see if the people will vote against God and allow recreational marijuana, as well as removing the retroactive law that was in place prior the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade that now prevents abortion from being allowed in this state. If I were to guess from the signs that I see, this state will allow recreational marijuana (legalized drugs), as well as continued to ban abortion.

As a side note here and of interest...I was listening to a late night AM radio program on the way home from a jobsite and one of the hosts mentioned that they didn't really have any Trump/Harris signs in his neighborhood, just a couple. He mentioned that there were other signs, state political signs, but not those.

So as I have been driving around, I also noticed that unlike the last election, there is a LARGE absence of signs for Trump or Harris, but still our state candidate and a bunch of pro marijuana and anti abortion measure signs. Not sure how to take that, but it is certainly interesting to note.

Let's take this side note a little bit further:

Talking to a friend, who uses social media regularly, there is still talk of apparently a potential civil war, either way, Trump or Harris...both sides.

So will we have an election where a candidate wins and the other simply concedes soon thereafter or will we have a mess? Unfortunately I am believing the later is more likely. If you see the beginning of problems with the election, you might consider to get a bit extra of the long lasting staples (canned goods, dried beans, rice) to have around the house. Let's hope this country can make it through the election. I'll share my thoughts, based upon the bits and pieces of news that come my way...as I now stay far away from the non-stop internet streams of current events...

(Just personal observations and thoughts here, nothing to do with AWS's ministry...)

If Trump loses, but says they stole the election, look for people to possibly take up arms this time and start what I would expect to be a brief shooting war that will snuff out soon thereafter, as society waits to see any Supreme Court action...

If Trump wins, expect Harris to fight it, but expect also the 'left' to take to the street in a George Floyd type scenario in the major cities, to 'help' her 'fight'.

Wouldn't it be nice to simply have an election where things are not so wound-up in this country?! Unfortunately the hour is late and these are the sort of realities we may very well have to deal with until the Lord comes to take us Home.

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### **Not a Jot or a Tittle**

*"For truly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the Law till all is fulfilled." Matthew 5:18*

We have the Bible, the very Word of God. For those of us who truly know the Lord, understand the seriousness of God, the seriousness of His Word.

For what God has spoken will always come to pass, we can be assured of that, down to the finest detail, for not one jot, nor tittle will be forgotten about, but it will be completed in its entirety.

So true is this also to all of mankind, whom each individual will stand before their Creator (*Rev. 20:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10*):

*"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable multitude of angels, to the gathering and assembly of the firstborn who are registered in Heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made complete, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from the One speaking from Heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also the heavens." Hebrews 12:22-26*

Sometimes this is relevant in our own personal lives where God perhaps has spoken something that will come to pass in our future, whatever it might be. Irregardless of what we might see with our eyes, consider David, his anointing by Samuel and his plight, even leaving the country, before finally becoming king of Israel. We could even further consider that at first it was not all of Israel that he was king over, yet we have the history recorded for us that not one jot or tittle that God had spoken thru His prophet Samuel to David, as well as to David himself failed. The same still applies to those of us who know the Lord today.

The Lord will bring these things to pass, we can be assured of that, though it probably, at least in my experience, will not be how we -think- it will happen, just as we can see with examples throughout both the Old and New Testament.

The same applies to the world and the coming Tribulation. These things that most pastors brush over or do not contemplate, will and are certainly quickly approaching the lost sinners of the world, which is the far vast majority of people. Consider the seriousness of these things, but also consider the seriousness of the individual who, without Christ, dies, for them it is already too late. Are you watching and ready? Are you warning others and preaching the Gospel to them? Are you a good example for Christ? Do not forget about those whom the Holy Spirit directs your attention towards. As the Lord leads, whether a small or 'big' task, consider what your King has stated in His Word and do His work accordingly, for the things of the end seem to be coming upon us sooner than we might have believed (*2 Pet. 1:9*):

*“Jehovah of Hosts has sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so it shall come to pass; and as I have purposed, so it shall stand;” ... Isaiah 14:24*

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## **Technology Update: Irene the Super Computer**

So the rumor goes...

Consider that in our modern day society we are now ‘playing’ with AI technology, really something that I suppose I now seem –anti-tech- to some, but the line for me was crossed with the public release/push to use that technology, though it had been used behind the scenes for sometime (search engines, sites like Amazon/Ebay for product advertising, etc.). But what if it wasn’t so new...

The rumor is that deep underground in a top secret base controlled by the United States back in the 1970’s there was a super-computer, named Irene, that was ‘conscious’, self-aware, you could say 4th generation AI. Now we have all heard that truth is stranger than fiction and there is no way to verify such a rumor, but consider that this is written in a book that I recently read, one that is –way- prior to any public knowledge of artificial intelligence (AI), the term was not even in use in the general public.

AWS is not going to tell you what technology to use/not use. In fact, we all have the same guideline to weigh these things by, the Word of God, and we should diligently be doing so with technology, as well as every other aspect of our individual lives. However with some books I read on this same sort of subject (AI), newer ones, there is certainly an agenda and the public is being trained to accept this technology by ‘playing’ with it now. Folks, we are LIGHT YEARS away from realizing the technology that Mystery Babylon (*Rev. 17:5*) has been preparing to become technocrats (Antichrist world government system) in a most dystopian world in what appears to be the near future.

Now when I mention that I have an idea jotted down to do some radio podcasts, these are one of the things that I think and hope the Lord directs to expand on, not in written form, but in a ‘chat’ regarding what is happening behind the scenes.

*“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting; and so much the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25*

Amen!

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**Keep Looking Up!**

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