



## 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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### Submitted Question: Does the Antichrist know he is the Antichrist?

Interesting question...one that the Bible can answer, in fact it is relatively a simple question to answer...let's address this question.

Now the world hasn't been paying that much attention in the past decade or so, at large, into the pretrib Rapture, the eventuality of the Antichrist, the Tribulation, etc. These topics were much more popular until around 2012, when I suppose the world didn't end and the remainder of the 'hold-outs' simply went back asleep (2 Pet. 3:1-4). Most of these people were not Saved, but they believed the Bible to be God's Word, they believed much, but they did not believe in repenting towards God and by faith believing into Jesus as their Lord and Savior (Acts 20:21).

*“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and reprobate with regard to every good work.” Titus 1:16*

There was and I suppose there still is, a certain segment of society who had what we will call an 'antichrist watch list'. Now once again understand that though this ministry will talk/warn about such things, for instance speaking of how President-elect Trump seems to meet all of the requirements, it has never been the goal of All Will Stand to purposely search out candidates. Rather, knowing the Bible, understanding these prophecies, when someone appears to meet the 'qualifications' according to the Bible, how can nothing be said? Should this not be pointed out? Certainly I think so.

So of course this question got submitted in regards to Donald Trump. If Donald Trump is the Antichrist, would he know it? After all, he himself did once say he was the 'coming one'!

Well let's readdress that question, does the devil know it?

*“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, but My Father only.” Matthew 24:36*

We can take a look at the following verse and come to a simple conclusion:

a.) No one knows – not the angels (Satan is a fallen angel (Ezk. 28:13-15))

b.) No one knows – not even Jesus, only the Father.

So here would be now the question, certainly no one knows the day nor the hour, but the season (fig tree Matt. 24:32-25) you ask, can they still know, just –not- know when the unveiling is (2 Thes. 2:8)?

Awhile ago I spoke with a pastor who shared the same viewpoint on the preparation of the Antichrist somewhere in the world that I have. It was simply this: the devil always has a man ready for the role of the Antichrist, because he does not know when it is going to happen.

So let's go out on a limb here, not saying with any certainty, but because, as far as I can see, Donald Trump seems to meet all of the biblical characteristics listed about the Antichrist that can be known prior to the Tribulation, that said, Satan could have him lined up for that 'position', yet if time goes by and the Rapture doesn't happen, then he would move on to the – next- candidate, who would probably already be being 'groomed' now.

After all history would tell us of Nero, first century A.D. as being a 'type of antichrist' (1 John 2:18), but the spirit of the Antichrist (1 John 4:3) has already been in the world since the beginning of the Church Age.

While I have someone who has also been trying to look to find this quote I read along time ago about Donald Trump, when he was running in 2016, to try and get the exact quote to perhaps see the 'mindset' that –may- be in such a person, however, I have never found that quote.

Yet in a gist, that quote was simply in a magazine form Trump's first wife who stated that something to the order of 'he always said he was going to be king', so perhaps, without a citation to back that up, nonetheless, maybe? that is the mindset of such a person, more of a 'dictator' position.

Yet, understand, simply from 2 Thessalonians 2:8 that the Antichrist is unveiled after the Rapture, so this always means that he was already there in power somewhere and THEN unveiled. So let us consider this also, not knowing the fullness but only able to ascertain with assuredness what the Bible tells us as fact, not always understanding the 'mysteries' (1 Cor. 4:1; 13:2). Yet we know that from Matthew 24:36 that no one could know for sure, as the day nor the hour would not be known, otherwise this theory, of which I hold to, that the devil has always had someone 'ready' for that –position- would not be plausible.

There is a photo that one can find of the ceiling in Trump's NYC penthouse and in there is Apollo coming (another name

for Satan) to rule on the ceiling. Interesting artwork considering the outcome of the recent election.

*“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so persistently harasses us, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2*

Keep your eyes on Christ and doing His Work until the end!

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## Who Can Make War?

Prayers are certainly being answered and still need to be given, there is a work going on behind the scenes with a book that I believe God has given the author as a task to complete. I have now seen a rough draft which is AMAZING to have it so fast, certainly God answer prayers as I know this man is literally hard pressed to get this done...there is much resistance.

So hold tight, in God’s timing and according to His will there will be some very good information that pieces together the reason that ‘even if President Trump were the Antichrist, the Church wouldn’t know it’ from the *Repent!* book that was published back in early 2020.

The reasons ‘they’ wouldn’t know it, well because they are blind to the overwhelming evidence that the United States as the prophesied revived Roman Empire that the Bible mentions. So when all eyes are on ‘Rome’ then only if a leader suddenly became ‘suspicious’ from the EU, would perhaps some eyebrows be raised nowadays, but if one were to meet and not seemingly be disqualified (by not possessing a characteristic laid out in the Bible) the characteristics that the Bible prophesizes that the Antichrist has, but rise from the United States of America, they would be largely if not fully ignored by the far vast majority of so-called ‘christians’ in this country as they would be blinded by the viewpoint of looking toward Europe for the revived Roman Empire, rather than elsewhere. Yet, let’s simply take a –very- basic argument, a Bible passage about the –home- of the Antichrist and the seat of government (revived Roman Empire (*Dan. 2:40-43; 7:23-24*)).

*“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads names of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled at the beast. So they did homage to the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they did homage to the beast, saying, **Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?**” Revelation 13:1-4*

So the question goes like this to someone who is presumably a true Believer. Often a pastor or a more mature Christian might discuss these things or a comment might –rightfully- be made that Rapture appears to be imminent (*1 Thes. 4:16-18*).

**Questioner:** So you think that the Rapture could happen at any moment?

**Answerer:** Yes, for certain, look at all of the things going on in the world today!

**Questioner:** What about the USA, where is that in the Bible?

**Answerer:** Some say that there is mention of the USA in the Old Testament.

**Questioner:** If the Rapture could happen at any moment, where is the revived Roman Empire?

**Questioner:** Doesn’t that have to be here? At first the EU had ten nations, then it had eleven, now it is over thirty!

**Questioner:** Where is their military power? Is it not NATO which is controlled by us, the United States?

**Answerer:** Well that is a good question, I don’t know the answer to that.

**Questioner:** Well the Bible says regarding the military power seat of the Antichrist ‘who is able to make war’ with him? I don’t know about you, but I’m not afraid of Rome, Italy taking over the world.

**Questioner:** In fact, Italy does actually have nuclear weapons, but they are under control of the United States of America. Is it not possible, seeing as how the EU ended up with way more than ten nations, that the ten regions that the world is broken into is the revived Roman Empire and the United States of America is the current controlling seat of this final empire?

**Answerer:** Well, no, you have to be wrong, the Bible says Roman empire, so it has to be Europe, perhaps things will change?

**Questioner:** Perhaps, a nuclear war, which is plausible now with the Ukraine/Russia/NATO war could quickly change the landscape and cause a much different Europe with a standing army, more unification, etc., in the not to distant future, but you rightfully said that we should believe the Rapture is imminent at any moment, so currently that is not the case.

**Questioner:** What about Donald Trump, if the United States of America is the revived Roman Empire, then wouldn’t the Antichrist come out of the United States??? Would that then not logically be the seat of the President of the United States?

**Questioner:** Have you not noticed that he seems to have a lot of characteristics of the Antichrist?

**Answerer:** It can't be, the Antichrist comes out of Europe, not the USA. God is using Trump to fix and set in order the things in this country.

**Questioner:** Ok...well have you actually ever *Acts 17:11*ed it? Or are you just going with what has been stated since the days of Hal Lindsey and his popular book called *The Late Great Planet Earth* that sold tens of millions of copies? At the time it was a plausible theory, but the eventual European Union still does not have an accurate description match and so far the economic/political/military power that is described in the Bible as being controlled by the Antichrist. We, the United States, control the major military operations in Europe through NATO.

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At this point, does the conversation stay friendly or turn nasty? Well hard to say, but in many cases I could imagine that it might simply be a 'disagreeing' debate with the Answerer, but they would likely hold a 'grudge' about that person and if there were any opportunity in the Church for a position of teaching (i.e. Sunday School, etc.) or other ministry, that person would likely be overlooked simply because of the above stated beliefs.

Though in all reality not many talk about it one way or another and if they did that argument would be so exceedingly rare, most would simply digest the EU theory and not even contemplate it or look into the Bible to see 'if these things are so' (*Acts 17:11*) themselves.

Nonetheless, that little made up bit of dialogue is certainly bits and pieces to conversations that I and Brandon have had regarding these things, with pastors. So far neither of us have had any real problems, but both of us have been told at least once, that any theories of the USA is wrong, it is Europe.

In the meantime, I have been slowly reading some Hal Lindsey books to see the source that popularized all of this. Note, as of this writing, I can certainly see some things that Lindsey is wrong with, but this ministry is not critical of him at this time. I'm reading another book that he came out with.

Of interest, while not for official purposes, I should mention that Lindsey was so popular back in the day (early 80's) that he was actually given an invite to speak at the Pentagon about Bible prophecy to employees and their families and did so! Even the military wanted to know how Israel fit into all of this because, according to him, what he was saying in his book matched what their 'supercomputer' printouts were saying would be the future trouble spots of wars! Very interesting...

## Peace & Safety

*"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the*

*night. For when they say, **Peace and safety**; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall by no means escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we watch or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore encourage each other and build up one another, just as you also are doing." 1st Thessalonians 5:1-11*

What is the opposite of 'peace and safety'?

Well looking at *Roget's International Thesaurus, Sixth Edition, 2001*, some synonyms of peace and safety are the following:

Peace – comfortableness, truce, agreement, order

Safety – security, protection

Now some definitions from the *Webster's Universities Dictionary Unabridged, 1943*:

### Peace

- 1.) In a general sense, a state of quiet or tranquillity; freedom from disturbance or agitation.
- 2.) Freedom from war; cessation of hostilities; public quiet.
- 3.) Public tranquility; quiet; order, and security, such as is guaranteed by law; as, to keep the peace; to break the peace.
- 4.) Freedom from mental agitation or disturbance, as from fear, terror, anger, anxiety, or the like; quietness of mind; tranquility; calmness; quiet of conscience.  
*Great peace have they which love the law. –Ps. Cxix. 165.*
- 5.) Harmony; concord; a state of reconciliation between parties at variance; especially, a treaty between nations.
- 6.) Spiritual calm or repose.

### Safety

- 1.) The condition of being safe; security.
- 2.) Exemption from hurt, injury, or loss; as, to cross the Atlantic in safety.
- 3.) Preservation from escape; close custody; as, to keep a burglar in safety.
- 4.) In football, a safety touchdown.
- 5.) In baseball, a safe hit.

So what is the opposite of peace and safety? Well could we not suggest a state of affairs that is not quiet or calm, war, hostilities, problems, verses the quietness of concord, broken treaties between nations, active disagreement between international parties, those definitions should cover the opposite of peace, but what of safety?

Would not uncertainty about being safe, being secure, that loss of ease of mind, with anxiety and worry taking over, be the opposite of being safe, that which is a direct attribute of safety? Is there an exemption during times of war, the parties involved in war, in being injured or free from hurt during active hostilities, particularly in regions prone to attack? Is not one always waiting for the air raid siren to go off or to react instantly to a bomb blast going off in the distant? Just as that same safety is broken in a place like Mexico City after a major earthquake when many will not sleep in their homes for fear of injury or death from major aftershocks, until enough time passes that it is assumed that there is an 'agreement' with the earth that likely for the time being there will be no more major rumblings. If a nuclear weapon went off, would not the same anxiety be felt by the citizens of any country who was involved in the hostilities, whether directly or by proxy?

Not too long ago we talked about those 'labor pains' but we can get a glimpse of what the world will be clamoring for prior to the starting gun of the pretrib Rapture... for 'when they say, Peace and safety'... are they now saying it? Well certainly there are many, but is it enough???

When you look at how this world is lining up, the timing of everything, certainly a stark reminder for Believers to be focused on following Jesus Christ and to be 'watching' AND 'ready' as He stated, for the whole world is going to be deceived (Rev. 12:9) and this passage of cited Scripture only matches with that exact same timeframe.

Some pondering here, not saying that these things will happen, but could you imagine a nuke going off somewhere, perhaps 2 or 3, in the world due to either the Israeli/Hamas/Iran Middle East war or the Ukraine/NATO/Russian war?

The stock markets would tank around the world. The fluctuations of pricing of commodities and other needed goods would skyrocket from greedy investors, due to uncertainty or the outcome of such an attack, as well as some unknown future availability of such products.

This could not only cause uncertainty, much more than we see nowadays, in the peace and safety of everyone involved, for one could not have to stretch the imagination to see how the European conflict could include all NATO country members, the USA, China, North Korea, Russia and many other satellite parties (folks we are talking World War III here). Certainly the outlook amongst many would be negative and the future very uncertain.

Yet what will be the condition for the world, for those about ready to be Judged, to be Left Behind, to cry out 'peace and

safety' and -who- will provide the resolution to that? The Antichrist? Likely, and will he not also begin the control of the world's economics (Rev. 13:16-18) by providing a solution to the obvious financial ramifications, if such a thing did occur?

Is it beyond the realm of possibility for a million or more souls to be evaporated from the face of this earth in a moment due to a nuclear weapon? So many so-called 'christians' do not believe that God would allow something like that to happen, but have you not noticed that MILLIONS of Jews were killed by Adolf Hitler during World War II, tens of millions of people were killed during that same war, Mao killed tens of millions, as did Stalin.

Add up how many die during the Tribulation and you will see it is BILLIONS of people!!! If this timeframe correlates with the 'labor pains' as the Bible clearly states it does, then do not necessarily assume that nothing 'bad' can happen prior to the Tribulation, it -might- (BIG MIGHT) just be that something like that happens and gives this rising leader (the Antichrist) the foundation for the world government mechanisms that will be finalized during the 'time of Jacob's trouble' (Jer. 30:7).

Perhaps a bit of extra food and a few emergency supplies between now and 'we will see what happens in late January' might not be out of order?

Nonetheless, not knowing exactly how these things will play out or the exact conditions of the world during that timeframe, we do know with certainty that the world will be calling for peace and safety just prior to the Tribulation, but we who are truly Saved will escape the wrath of God that is about ready to come upon the inhabitants of the earth (1 Cor. 5:9).

*"Because you have kept the Word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly. Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown." Revelation 3:10-11*

Keep Looking Up!

Amen!

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