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.

Worthy Quote

"For some time I have been disturbed by the way the CIA has been diverted from its original assignment. It has become an operational and at times a policy-making army of the government...I never had any thought that when I set up the CIA that it would be injected into peacetime cloak-and-dagger operations. Some of the complications and embarrassment that I think we have experienced are in part attributable to the fact that this quiet intelligence arm of the President has been so much removed from its intended role that it is being interpreted as a symbol of sinister and mysterious foreign intrigue and a subject for cold war enemy propaganda." - President Harry Truman, December 22, 1963

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against authorities, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies." Ephesians 6:12

From the New American - Magazine, John Birch Society, January 13, 2025, CIA Democrats Infiltrate Congress – Article:

"Former congressman and CIA chief Leon Panetta told the Post that running for Congress was once frowned upon by CIA operatives. That's no longer the case. CIA operatives thnk they must help shape public policy."

When we hear all of this talk about 'Deep State' ever sit back and wonder exactly who the 'deep state' is? If you can find a copy of *The Secret Team* by Prouty, certainly an interesting read.

"And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement." Revelation 17:5-6

Time of Jacob's Trouble

"Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Jeremiah 30:7

Contributed from a reader:

"The other interesting point he made was for those who believe in replacement theology (removing) the Jews he said let's Act 17:11. Why would the Holy Bible proclaim it is the time of Jacob's trouble? Should it not say it is the time of the Church Trouble? He said because the Church (Real Believers) are taken out. So just be using this one verse this theory already falls apart. Because Jacob means this is the time period where the Jews get right."

Indeed!

What is a generation? 70 years? Longer?

"The days of our years are seventy years; and if by reason of vigor they are eighty years, yet their boast is toil and wickedness; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Psalms 90:10

This was already mentioned prior, but I was thinking about the exile generation (Jer. 25:11).

Consider this little 'nugget' of truth that we have regarding the end of those seventy years...

"When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of Jehovah, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise Jehovah, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to Jehovah: For He is good, for His mercy is eternal toward Israel. Then all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised Jehovah, because the foundation of the house of Jehovah was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes. And many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not discern the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off." Ezra 3:10-13

... "old men who **HAD SEEN** the first house"... would that not indicate that there was a portion that had been exiled as children, still remembered the glory of Solomon's Temple, spent seventy years in Babylon and now have returned, seeing the foundation laid for the second Temple? Well certainly an interesting tidbit, I wonder how old they were, but could it not have been said that they were of 'that' generation?

"Truly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things are fulfilled." Matthew 24:34

Israel became a nation in 1948. Keep your eyes on Christ, be watching and ready!

Reader Submitted Question – Antichrist – Possessed

"He is also saying...During the 7 year Tribulation the Antichrist gets possessed by the devil because in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. This verse states, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition".

He then proclaims... 3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. (Editor: Luke 22:3) Which this pastor says in the Bible (if I remember correctly) it is the only time the words son of perdition.

He said why are the scriptural verses using this words twice? He said because during the tribulation the man of sin (is the Antichrist first name) the second name – son of perdition because the verse provides a comma (,) thereby this is when the devil enters his body. Same person but now under total control of the Antichrist. He said why would God use this same wording and we see in Judas he got the devil entering him. He said thereby logically the same happens since the words are the same under the second name (son of perdition?) He also said the devil fell from heaven and tried to take the throne of God. So for the devil to do this on the earth it will be the flesh of the Antichrist he controls through being demonically possed (sic) by the devil sitting in the throne when the Antichrist and aka devil proclaiming to be god in the third temple. He will need a vessel to enter.

Would like your opinion on this." (Editor: Typed verbatim as received, sic.)

Let's start off with a couple of verses:

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is unveiled, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is honored, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, declaring of himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

I would suspect that there is simply a lot of things we are not going to know. We are not meant to know 'everything' or every detail about how God fulfills that which He has spoken. *(Job 38:4; Rev. 10:7)* However we can glean a bit about the Antichrist and the relationship with Satan.

First off, who can fully understand this?

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon." Revelation 13:11

Shall any of us dare to give a 'full' explanation and then say that it is the absolute fact. Sure we might have some theories and maybe some of those are correct, but can we say for certain that we know this or that? No! We can not declare that which is still a mystery. We might ponder, but let us be careful to say that these things are absolutely so.

The other thing we should take a look at here, to at least understand some of this relationship that is purported between the Antichrist and Satan. They are and will remain to be TWO SEPARTE PARTIES. Now when it comes to possession, that is a different ordeal. We know that even the demon possessed man that Jesus met where the swine were (*Mark 5:1-20*) was a man who was demon possessed, just as Judas was as mentioned in that copying of the question.

Perhaps there is some truth to the matter of that relationship, but never will it simply be Satan controlling the Antichrist as now 'one entity' but there will always be 'two'. Here is how we know this statement to be a fact, from the Bible. The Antichrist may very well be possessed, but he will also still be the Antichrist.

"And the devil, who led them astray, was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Revelation 20:10

Note: The beast (Antichrist) and false prophet were already there. Perhaps that answers your question?

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Keep Looking Up!

February Update

I am going to try and produce one Watching & Ready column for February, but if for some reason the website doesn't have any updates, just know that I am still 'here' (unless the Rapture happens) working behind the scenes.

Probably Trump will provide plenty of potential content, though that doesn't necessarily mean that any of that will be discussed in this column, simply 'as the Lord leads'. However, I think this next week or two will prove to be quite interesting.

[A Psalm of David.]

"Jehovah is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Jehovah is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I have confidence. One thing I have desired from Jehovah, that I will seek after: That I may dwell in the house of Jehovah all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Jehovah, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of evil He shall hide me in His den, in the secrecy of His tent He shall hide me; He shall lift me up upon a rock." Psalms 27:1-5

Amen!