

Ted's Weekly Message of Hope, March 20, 2020

I was led by the Holy Spirit to share this with you. This is my first weekly message of hope of a series to follow. I want to encourage you during these perilous times not to panic but to stay focused on the Word of God, and pray on a daily basis. Trust in Him that He is always there to protect us and watch over us, because He promised to do so in the Bible.

Whether it is the collapse of the financial markets from the panic created by the media from the Coronavirus pandemic, or talks about another worldwide recession due to recent drop in oil prices by Russia and Saudi Arabia, and the economic crises in the Middle East, don't let the satanic influence of the media create doubt or fear in your mind about your faith in Jesus Christ with what's going on, because much of what we hear and see on the news is politically driven.

The Bible tells us in **Matthew 24, Luke 21 and Mark 13** there will be signs in our world in the last days preceding the return of Jesus Christ to this earth, which will be increasing in frequency and intensity, but don't be troubled by them. These signs are wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, famines, pestilences and earthquakes.

The disciples of Jesus asked Him in **Matthew 24:3-7** *"Tell us, what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"* Jesus answered: *"Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places"*.

What Jesus is saying, the signs of His second coming to this earth are: (1) Satanic deception (e.g. biased or false news reporting by the media, false teachers and false prophets), (2) Wars and rumors of wars (e.g. with Iran, Syria, Turkey and North Korea), (3) Famine (e.g. in Africa & among thousands of refugees from Syria), (4) Pestilences (e.g. Coronavirus and plague of locusts that recently devastated Eastern Africa), and (5) earthquakes and natural disasters in many parts of the world.

The Apostle Paul warned his disciple Timothy about deception in the last days and how to stay true to the Word of God in **2 Timothy 3:13-15**: *"But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"*.

The Apostle Paul warned about economic and social turmoil would happen in the last days in **1 Thessalonians 5:3**: *"While people are saying, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape"*, and **2 Timothy 3:1**: *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come"*.

If you have been following the news the past four years, you would realize we are experiencing spiritual warfare in our nation like never before, as foretold by the apostle Paul when he said to put on

the full Armor of God in **Ephesians 6:10-12**: *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”*. In other words, our daily struggles are not with other human beings, but with demonic spirits in the unseen world that driven by Satan.

Daniel 7-9, Revelation 13 and 2 Thessalonians 2 tell us after we are raptured to be with the Lord in heaven, there will be political and economic turmoil all over the world, leading to the formation of a ten-kingdom European confederacy from which a world leader will arise and will promise to be the answer to the world problems. His title is the Antichrist. For seven years he will exercise immense control over the lives of the left behind earth’s inhabitants, so that “no one may buy or sell” without his mark 666, most likely implanted as a microchip in the right hand or in the forehead (**Revelation 13:17**). He will regulate worldwide commerce with his right-hand man the False Prophet.

In spite of all this, our Lord encourages us to keep our trust and faith in Him in **Proverbs 3:5-6**: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight”*. His promise to protect us with His angels in perilous times is based on our decision to put Him first in our life and draw close to Him as we are told in the following passages of scripture:

- **Matthew 6:33-34**: *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble”*.

-**James 4:8**: *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”*.

-**Psalms 91:1-12**: *“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling (that means if you put God first in your life and stay close to Him and His Word), no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone”*.

Therefore comfort one another and pass this on to other people you care about....More information on this topic is in my book “Are We The Generation That Will See Christ’s Return”, which is available for purchase on **Amazon.com**.