



## Preparing the church for persecution

Lk: 21:5-7: And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, **6: As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 7:** And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? And what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

8-9: And he said, **Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. 9: But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.**

10-11: Then said he unto them, **Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: 11: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.**

12-15: **But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. 13: And it shall turn to you for a testimony. 14: Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: 15: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.**

(Some will insist that these passages are only for the Jews, but I think Jesus gave these warnings in such a way that the early church would heed them and the latter church would have the same warnings to prepare them for what is to come.

We live in a day and age where the enemy is attacking the Bible and trying to discredit it. We live in a day when people love unrighteousness. We live in a day when the law has been taken out of the way. We live in a day of every wind of doctrine. We live in a day of the casual church. We live in a day of the Oprahs and Obamas. I'd say the signs are here. We better get ready for the fight for our lives.)

16-19: **And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and**

**friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. 17: And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. 18: But there shall not an hair of your head perish. 19: In your patience possess ye your souls.**

(This is very conceivable now that we see the church is dividing into two camps – those who love the Bible and are sticking with what it teaches and those who have reinterpreted the Bible into “Do what is right in your own eyes.” [Study the book of Judges.]

The new gospel seems right to many in the modern and postmodern church because they were conditioned to it gradually. We can liken it unto the way one cooks frogs. They are put in a pot of cold water and it is slowly brought to a boil. The frogs never suspect that they are in danger until it is too late to jump out.

The new gospel seems right to many of today's Christians and they like it better because they can continue in unrighteous-ness and still claim salvation through the blood of Christ who was just trying to enable people to go to heaven even though they are sinners.

With the new gospel came the teachings such as a woman's right to choose to murder her baby and that men can love men, etc. And that God mainly wants us to help those in need, and so on. The pressure to live godly is off and they like it so. Many will hate those who stand for the truth and they will turn against them.) 2Tim:3

Mt: 5:11-15: **Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12: Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:** for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. **13: Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for** nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. **14: Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15: Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.**

**44-45: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

**Mt:10:24: The disciple is not above his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? 26: Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. 27: What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. 28: And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

**Jn: 14:1-9: Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2:** In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4: And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5: Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7: If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8: Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9: Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

**Jn: 14:15-17:** If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16: And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17: Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18: **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

**Jn: 14:24-26:** He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. 25: These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.\

**Jn: 15:18-21: If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19:** If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20: Remember the word that I said unto you, **The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21: But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.**

**22-27:** If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. 23: He that hateth me hateth my Father also. 24: If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. 25: But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, **They hated me without a cause. 26: But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.**

**Jn: 16:1-6: These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2: They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3:** And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4: But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning,

because I was with you. 5: But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? 6: But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

2Cor: 4:12-18: So then death worketh in us, but life in you. 13: We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; 14: Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. 15: For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16: For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17: For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18: While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1Pet: 4:12-19: 12: Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14: If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15: But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16: Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 17: For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18: And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19: Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Acts: 14: 21-22: And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, 22: Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Rev: 2:9-10: I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. 10: Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

For further re-enforcement in standing for the truth in the face of animosity go to Heb: 10, 11, 12 esp. 10:34-36 and 12: 25-43

Dan: 8: 9: And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great,

toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. 10: And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11: Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. 12: And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. 13: Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? 14: And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

Isa: 43:1-2: But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. 2: When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Ps: 94: 11-23: The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity. 12: Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law; 13: That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked. 14: For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. 15: But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it. 16: Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? 17: Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. 18: When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up. 19: In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul. 20: Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? 21: They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. 22: But the LORD is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge. 23: And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the LORD our God shall cut them off.

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