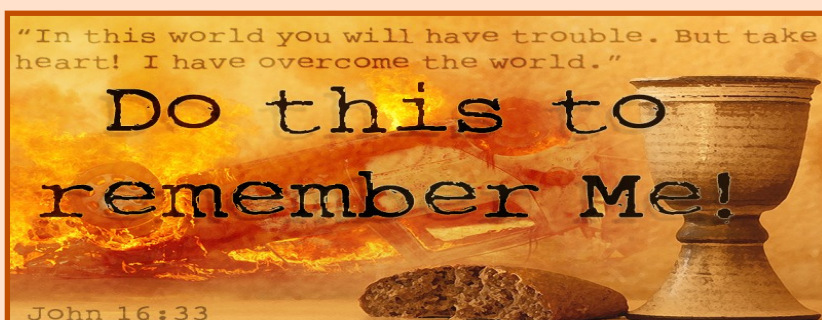


THE CORNERSTONE

August 2021

SLBC August Events

August 1, 2021—
Communion Sunday



August 1, 2021
Fellowship Meal



Bring a main dish and a side or dessert to share. Join us immediately after the worship service.

August 27, 2021

6:00 p.m. Game Night

Bring a dish or dessert to share. Dinner at 6:00 pm

Games to follow after!



Missions for the Month



May 2021

Dear Friends

We are so thankful for how God's word is spreading. This would not be possible without your prayer and financial support!

In April, John Wry in Canada and Oscar Portes in Venezuela put together a webinar that included both Bolivian and Venezuelan young people. It was taught by young Bolivians. The Venezuelan group was able to rent a home with good internet where they were all able to stay together in person. This was important because Venezuela has a curfew from 2pm till dawn. Oscar said it was spectacular. The 17 people who attended were very enthusiastic about what they learned. The picture shows Pastor Aaron Jaspe, his wife Ana, and another believer, Rafael, who organized the event.



This past Monday 24 Venezuelans from two different cities were able to join a 1 Timothy webinar. With the help of Oscar's church, Comunidad Cristiana Dulce Refugio, he was able to print the manuals, although Monday early morning he ran out of toner, so families each received only one manual to share.

We are so thankful for Oscar Portes who works hard to print manuals and find ways to have them sent to locations where they are needed. We are also very thankful to John Wry for not only setting up the webinars for Bolivians, but also including the Venezuelans. His comment concerning this ministry was, "It's really like we just happened to be driving by and someone had a flat tire so we decided to loan our jack. Nothing more. Except in this case the jack is God's amazing grace. The initiative is all on them (the Venezuelan and Bolivians), which I find is a result of God working. So pretty cool all around. Thanks for all your hard work on making the tools to help explain the truth and empower these folks."

Like the Thessalonian believers, our Venezuelan and Bolivian brothers and sisters have truly "welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. [Their] faith in God has become known everywhere (1 Thess. 1:6-8)".

P.S. Pray for Bret and Brad Rigby as they go to Zambia May 4-18 to teach the book of Hebrews. Pray for health, safety, logistics and receptive hearts.

DM2

***PO Box 1614, Livingston, TX 77351
www.DM2USA.org***



Andy Woods—Pastor

Signs of the Times for 2021

(Part 18)

In our first installment, we observed that the Bible places much emphasis on the signs related to Christ's return (Matt. 24:33; Luke 21:28; Heb. 10:25, etc.). Observing these signs helps us ascertain that general time of human history in which we find ourselves. We noted that if the signs of the Tribulation period are rapidly approaching, and the rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation period, then the rapture must be coming even faster. Thus, we began to ask ourselves, what are some of these signs that are now setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period? We selected the following *seven* signs as deserving of analysis to be covered in this

series:

1. Signs related to Israel
2. Signs related to international politics
3. Signs related to economics
4. Signs related to technology
5. Signs related to spirituality
6. Signs related to society
7. Signs related to understanding Bible prophecy

Therefore, this series is dedicated to exploring the *seven* signs related to the soon return of Jesus Christ. As a result of this teaching, may we all grow in our understanding of the unique time in which we now live. As dealt with in the prior installments in this series, there are several signs meriting discussion concerning the modern state of *Israel* and *international politics* and signs related to *economics* and *technology*. In this installment, we continue to turn our attention toward the predicted *spiritual signs* of the last days.

5. Signs Related to Spirituality

The Bible has much to say about the *spiritual* climate that will characterize the world at the time of Christ's Second Advent. While there is much to consider, for our purposes we will limit ourselves to just *six* categories. These include the advent of *global persecution against believers*, *global religion*, *ecumenism*, *ridicule of the doctrine of the Second Advent*, *the last days apostasy of the Church*, and *the rise of Anti-Semitism*. Having already explored the trends toward *persecution*, *global religion*, *ecumenism*, *ridicule of the doctrine of the Second Advent*, and *the last days apostasy of the Church* in prior installments, here we continue to turn our attention to the *rise of Anti-Semitism*.

Antisemitism

Another *spiritual sign* of the last days will involve a trend toward *Anti-Semitism*, which involves an irrational hatred toward the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yet, such animosity is a product of the angelic conflict. This spiritual reality is openly disclosed in Revelation 12. To properly understand this conflict, it was first necessary to examine its historical origins (Rev. 12:1-5), which we did in the prior installment. In this installment, we will explore how such Satanically inspired spiritual warfare will eventually evolve into last days' Anti-Semitism.

Future Warfare

Since Satan failed in his objective to preempt the birth of Christ, he now works in history to prevent another one of God's objectives from being accomplished, which is the manifestation of the kingdom of God upon the earth (Rev. 12:10). Satan, of course, seeks to halt the manifestation of the kingdom since He knows that when it arrives, he will be bound throughout its duration (Rev. 20:1-3) and eventually ushered into the Lake of Fire upon its conclusion (Rev. 20:10). Satan, who knows Scripture (Luke 4:9-11), understands that the kingdom will come into the world through the nation of Israel (Gen. 12:3; Isa. 2:3-4; Zech. 14:16-18). Thus, his intention is to blot out every single Jew on planet earth so that they can never call Christ back to the earth leading to the establishment of the kingdom (Matt. 23:37-39). The good news is that just as God supernaturally protected the messianic lineage thereby allowing the Messiah to be born, He will also similarly protect Israel thereby allowing the prophesied kingdom to come to planet earth.

According to Revelation 12:6-17, we know that such spiritual conflict will reach its zenith in the second half of the Tribulation after Satan is permanently removed from heaven. Presently, Satan can now enter heaven, not to worship and serve as he once did as a high-ranking angel (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17), but rather to communicate and accuse (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Zech. 3:1; Luke 22:31). Apparently, even this privilege will be taken away midway through the Tribulation period. He will then plummet to the earth and begin to pursue the woman clothed with the sun and moon and twelve stars (Rev. 12:1), or Israel (Gen. 37:9-10), knowing he has but a short time (Rev. 12:12), or three-and-a-half years (Rev. 12:14). At this point, Satan will recognize that he has exactly forty-two months (Rev. 11:2; 13:5), or 1260 days (Rev. 12:6), left to destroy Israel so that the return of Christ and the subsequent establishment of His kingdom can never be accomplished. This perspective on the angelic conflict explains Satan's hatred for Israel (Rev. 12:17) and the true source behind Antisemitism.

This perspective concerning the angelic conflict also helps us understand Anti-Semitism in our modern world. Although destined to reach its zenith in the Tribulation's second half, it is also a Satanic strategy throughout history and even today. While Paul does warn us of the coming lawless one (2 Thess. 2:3), he also reminds us that the "mystery of lawlessness is already at work" in today's world. Similarly, John explains that although the Antichrist is coming, the spirit of the Antichrist is "already in the world" (1 John 4:3). In other words, the future Antichrist will be preceded by the spirit of the Antichrist. Because the world is currently being set up for his *debut*, all the Antichrist will have to do is to turn on the keys to ignite his diabolical agenda upon his arrival. Thus, Anti-Semitism in today's world is merely preparatory for the coming Antichrist. Thus, seeing rising Antisemitism in our world is a key spiritual sign that humanity is rapidly drifting into its final hour.

The prophet Zechariah spoke routinely about last days' Antisemitism. For example, in Zechariah 14:2, he predicted that all nations would come against the Jews in Jerusalem when he wrote, "For I will gather *all the nations against Jerusalem* to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city." (Italics added). Similarly, in Zechariah 12:2-3, he predicted, "Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to *all the peoples around*; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for *all the peoples*; all who lift it will be severely injured. And *all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it*." (Italics added). Anti-Semitism as a predicted sign of the last days is noted by Charles Lee Feinberg as he comments on Zechariah 12:2-3. He observes:

The last section of the latter part of Zechariah's prophecy deals with events in the distant future...As a portion of the prophetic Scriptures it is second to none in importance in this book or any other Old Testament book. It is indispensable to an understanding of the events of the last days for Israel—the

time of the Great Tribulation and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth...In the time of our passage *all the nations of earth will be bitten by the virus of anti-Semitism*. [See Charles Lee Feinberg, *God Remembers: A Study of Zechariah* (Wheaton: Van Kampen, 1950, p. 218, 222. Italics added].

Not only is Anti-Semitism part of a long-standing satanic strategy initially designed to preempt the First Advent of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:1-5), but it is also linked to the end times scenario (Rev. 12:6-17) designed to preempt Christ's Second Advent and manifestation of His messianic kingdom. Do we see growing Anti-Semitism in our world today? In our next installment not only will we answer this question in the affirmative, but we will also demonstrate that Antisemitism is alive and well by exploring current world events.

(To Be Continued...)

SLBC News:

Carol Henry retired from the Church Office after almost 16 years of service! A reception was held in her honor on July 25th.



Library News: The Library is closed until further notice. The air conditioner pan leaked and there is water damage that needs to be repaired. Thank you for your patience.

New Ladies Ministry Leadership!

We are pleased to announce that Martin Davis has been appointed by the SLBC Elder Board as the Elder over the Ladies Ministry.

Scripture for the Month

Ecclesiastes 3 1:11KJV

To every *thing there is* a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up *that which is* planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.
What profit hath he that worketh in that
wherein he laboureth?

I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men
to be exercised in it.

He hath made every *thing* beautiful in his time: also he hath set the
world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God
maketh from the beginning to the end.