

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

17/8/14

In the absence of the big picture, all bible stories and parables can appear to be isolated events that relate to our ongoing needs and aspirations. We may be surprised to discover, that the bible is not a book defining our right to be happy and blessed. Rather, it is a book of history and prophecy that reveals the need to serve and obey God; should any hope of living be of value to us. The reality of living rests on two forces battling for supremacy of life values. On one side is God's word, his power and his revelations. On the other side, is ego driven delusions of superiority, where humans believe they know more than God. They defy or ignore the track record of continuous human failures, even death itself. Jesus revealed the power that would deliver people from death... the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the need to follow its directions in all matters of living and worship. Historically, we are very near the return of Jesus Christ and these notes address the scriptural record relating to this matter.

*Perhaps the most sobering warning reveals... that no matter how smart or astute you are, most won't be ready when the Lord returns. **LUK 12:40** Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye **think not**. This was spoken to his disciples... not to the unsaved. Even the most obvious catastrophic natural events can be hidden from our view. Consider the following news report... (Yahoo7 news, July 25, 2014) Back in 2012, the Sun erupted with a powerful solar storm that just missed the Earth but was big enough to "knock modern civilisation back to the 18th century," NASA has said. The extreme space weather that tore through Earth's orbit on July 23, 2012, was the most powerful in 150 years, according to a statement posted on the US space agency website. However, few Earthlings had any idea what was going on. "If the eruption had occurred only one week earlier, Earth would have been in the line of fire," said Daniel Baker, professor of atmospheric and space physics at the University of Colorado. "I have come away from our recent studies more convinced than ever that Earth and its inhabitants were incredibly fortunate that the 2012 eruption happened when it did."*

*The bible warns us of the harsh realities of what's coming. **LUK 21:33** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. **34** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness (distorted by natural desires and ambitions), and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. Our life is only a very small part of the big picture... we are encouraged not to get carried away by the things we find pleasant and desirable, but rather... be followers of God's directions.*

***35** For as a **snare** shall it come **on all them** that dwell on the face of the whole earth. No one will escape the end age destruction... that is why our hearts and minds need to be in a respectful attitude towards God. **36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. There are many frightful things that are going to suddenly and numerous appear... we are not certain of the order of events, but we are certain they will be fatal to everyone who is not walking in the spirit.*

Indulgent, self focus, will never give us the quality of life we seek, nor will it give us a future life with God.

***1THE 5:6** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. **7** For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. In the darkness of ego driven ignorance. **8** But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. **9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. We have been given a sure way of escape. **11** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. **12** And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you (who do you allow to be your spiritual director in the church?) in the Lord, and **admonish** you (warn and exhort); **13** And to esteem (respect) them very highly in love for **their work's sake** (so as not to waste spiritual blessing). And be at peace among yourselves. Peace is the result of effort and self control... it does not come naturally.*

*It is not about us: it is about God's plan and our willingness to fit in. The end is very near... **2PET 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. **11** Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?** This question can only be answered by you... by your willingness to make the right choices that please God, rather than the options which momentarily are more pleasing to you.*