

Saturday Celebration (6-3-06)

**"Are We Ready?"**

JESUS LAST WEEK WITH HIS DISCIPLES .... "The Declaration of Tribulation"

**Matt 24:1-14** ...The Tuesday before the Crucifixion

— The Destruction of Jerusalem & the Temple

**"But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella. ... But the number of calamities which everywhere fell upon the nation at that time, the extreme misfortunes to which the inhabitants of Judea were especially subjected, the thousands of men, as well as women and children, that perished by the sword, by famine, and by other forms of death innumerable, all these things as well as the many great sieges which were carried on against the cities of Judea, and the excessive sufferings endured by those that fled to Jerusalem itself, as to a city of perfect safety, and finally the general course of the whole war... Eusibius, Ecclesiastical History (quoted in "Jesus in Context" by Bock, p. 177)**

**"Josephus reports that the siege of Jerusalem became so difficult that some women ate their children. Craig Keener, "The Bible Background Commentary", p.113**

**Jn 13-17** ... Their Last Night Together

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

**thlipsis** (Gk) – used of the afflictions of those hard pressed by siege and the calamities of war, [Matt 24:21,29; Mark 13:19,24]; used of the straits of want, [2 Cor 8:13; Phil 4:14; James 1:27]; used of the distress of a woman in childbirth; [John 16:21]. (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

**Matt 24:8** "All these are but the beginnings of the birth pains"

**– Adversity & Tribulation are introduced as Part of Our Future. Biblically Adversity is a Fact of Life and it is Purposeful**

Rom 5:3-5

**.... but that Doesn't Mean We're Ready**

Matt 13:20-21

AMERICANS & ADVERSITY

**We Live at a Time That May Face Increased Adversity** .... This Could be Our Assigned Chapter for the Gospel Mission

— **The Threat of Nuclear Terrorism .... The Global Oil Crisis .... Environment Variables** [Solar Flares; Global Warming]

— **Staying in New Orleans**

**Are We Ready? .... Is Your Faith Ready to Face Adversity— or is it Only Primed for Prosperity?**

## MATT 24

v. 6 ... "See that you are not alarmed"

– ***Christianity Needs a Correct Doctrine of Adversity***

v. 10 ... "many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another"

– ***How Do You Do When Things Don't Go Your Way? Do You See any Purpose in Your Difficulties?***

**Rom 5:3-5** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**"We dislike anything which requires struggle. But we can have no gains without pains. To be a true Christian will cost us our easy living. J.C. Ryle, "Aspects of Holiness", p.45**

v. 12 ... "the love of many will grow cold"

– in v. 10-12 describes an environment where faith will be tested and the environment will be ripe for sin to thrive (specifically the sin of self-focus), false teaching to flourish, and affections to grow cold

v. 14 ... "this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed"

– The Continuing of the Mission

– **v. 36-51 and Chap 25** .... The Parables of the Wise Servant ... The 10 Virgins ... The Talents

– ***Be Ready and Stay on Task!***

**Matt 26:1-2** ... ***The Greatest of Adversities*** — it is this issue that made way for Jesus words in Jn 14

## JN 14 ... Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

**"Heart-trouble is the commonest thing in the world. No rank, or class, or condition is exempt from it. No bars, or bolts, or locks can keep it out. Partly from inward causes and partly from outward, — partly from the body and partly from the mind, partly from what we love and partly from what we fear, the journey of life is full of trouble. Even the best of Christians have many bitter cups to drink between grace and glory. Even the holiest saints find the world a vale of tears." J.C. Ryle, "Expository Thoughts on John", vol. 3, p 55**

**John 14:1-4** ..... ***How Do I Keep My Heart from Being Troubled in a Disaster?***

***Don't You Let Your Hearts be Troubled*** .... a troubled heart is a choice. I have to choose to Believe certain things and to Disbelieve Other Things in order for my heart to be troubled

HOW DO I GUARD MY HEART FROM TROUBLE? ..... **BELIEVE** (walk by faith)

“There is no such thing as right living without right believing.” J.C. Ryle, “Aspects of Holiness”, p. 40

**1. Believe in God** ... v. 1

*The tragedy of a Christianity that doesn't major in God*

God Defined in the Face of Adversity

**Is 45** .... God Presents His Resume & Summons Man

**v. 20-23** ... God Thundering Confidence & Summons

**v. 1-7** ... God Presents His Resume

— Believing in God means believing that He is God in the minutia. If He doesn't govern the details, he cannot govern the outcome.

God is the God of Blessing & Adversity — He's the God of Sunshine & Rain — The God of Spring Showers & Hurricanes .... He's Always Sovereign God

**Acts 17:22-27** ... Paul Pronounces Him as Sovereign Lord (v.24-25) then Presents His Resume (v. 25-26)

“Paul now makes clear that God's sovereign control is such that God has determined both the time periods in which the nations of the world would exist and the geographical boundaries they would inhabit. It makes one wonder how many kings and armies throughout history, setting out to conquer another people's territory, realized that as they did this, they were fulfilling the determined will of God, who set in advance just what nations would exist, how long each would survive, and exactly what borders would encircle the land that each would possess, in each stage of its existence. To accomplish this God must be in control of the small and the great, the decisions of kings and the will of the people. He must both know and control precisely what whole civilizations invent and produce and develop. He must control their monetary and military strength. He must regulate uprisings and revolutions and reactionaries. ... Yes, God is sovereign, and his sovereignty is both exhaustive (covering the whole sweep of history) and meticulous (every detail is planned and regulated). **Bruce Ware**, “God's Greater Glory”, p. 77-78

*Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled about Hurricanes .... BELIEVE in God*

**2. Believe in Christ** (The Redeemer, the Resurrection & the Life) ... v. 1

**Jn 11:17-27**

**Ps 23** .... though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Thou art with me.

**3. Believe This Life is Temporary** .... v. 2-3

**Rom 8:18-21**

**2Co 4:16-18**