

The Blessed Hope!

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)

Diamond & Nugget #129

It has been over a month since my last Blessed Hope, around since mid-September of 2022 and like most of you grew weary about our still being here. The only thing that I could see was that all the negative events were accelerating to our “Red Sea” event moment. I have been silent because I have not had anything to say. Like most of you, I have been watching for those signal marks or chess moves on the global chess board flashing “red” and focus our “watching”. The sites that we watch have been quiet since the Fall Feasts have come and went without any indication that God was about to act in deliverance of God’s faithful.

We are closer to nuclear war than during the Cuba Crisis in 1962. In this case, our leaders are poking the Russian bear in an attempt to provoke a war and recent indications are that a “false flag” event will be executed to initiate World War III. The other day Jonathan Brentner posted a piece that I thought deserved sharing with the folks who read my web page. Jonathan Brentner’s post is at the right time words worth sharing, so I hope you will be blessed by his post.

Encouragement for Weary Hearts – Jonathan Brentner -

<https://www.jonathanbrentner.com/https/jonathan-brentner-q8fqsquarespacecom/config/2022/10/26/reassuring-salve-for-weary-hearts>

As we wait for Jesus’ appearing, our hearts often grow weary amid the rampant evil of our day and the hardships we encounter. Our cry often becomes one of “*how much longer, O Lord?*”

If you feel overwhelmed with life and long for our Savior to appear and intervene in our world, I am writing especially for you.

Our weariness of heart comes from a variety of sources:

- Ongoing health issues of varying intensity
- The limitations that come with aging
- The sickening wickedness in our world that’s growing exponentially
- Government corruption amid over-the-top deception and gaslighting by

- leaders
- The vile depopulation efforts of the globalists
 - The everyday talk of a nuclear World War III
 - Various forms of persecution
 - The ridicule of our hope in Jesus' imminent appearing
 - Family heartaches
 - Abuse from spouses or other family members
 - Financial woes

For those of us eagerly watching for Jesus' return, encountering these things intensifies our longing for the day He takes us up to His Father's house.

I believe the Apostle Paul also felt this yearning. In Romans 8:23, he wrote:

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

The "*redemption of our bodies*" happens at the time of the Rapture when Jesus gives us our imperishable bodies. If you sigh with longing for this day to arrive as the result of any of the reasons from the above list, you're in good company. You likely feel the same inward groaning that Paul felt as he also looked forward to the Lord's appearing.

It's our anticipation of the glory ahead for us that encourages weary hearts as we encounter the devil's opposition through the items listed above. That's why I'm writing to reassure you regarding the confidence we possess in Jesus' imminent appearing.

It's because . . .

1. PREMILLENNIALISM IS A BIBLICAL NECESSITY

Premillennialism, which is foundational to a belief in the pre-Tribulation rapture, is a biblical necessity. There must be a time when God restores a kingdom to Israel, which happens after a literal seven-year Tribulation when Jesus returns to the earth. We call this belief "premillennialism." It's the direct opposite of replacement theology, which falsely claims that God has replaced Israel with the church.

In my previous post, [Israel's future Restoration Validates Our Hope as New Testament Saints](#), I provide several points demonstrating the biblical necessity of God's restoration of a kingdom to Israel.

Why is this key to placing the Rapture before the Tribulation? First, those who adhere to replacement theology don't believe in an actual tribulation. If that's the

case, the Rapture must happen at the time of the Second Coming.

Second, if one doesn't interpret prophecy in the way that the writers of Scripture intended, one cannot recognize how its words confirm the biblical necessity of a pre-Tribulation Rapture.

2. THE RAPTURE IS A BIBLICAL EVENT

I find it reassuring to always keep in mind that the Rapture is a biblical event.

Consider the following quote from the late Dr. Ed Hindson, a beloved scholar whose insights into biblical prophecy we sorely miss:

"If you disagree on the timing of the rapture, please don't tell people, 'There's never going to be a rapture.' No, there must be a rapture or the Bible is not true. There must be a time when the archangel shouts, when the trumpet sounds, and the dead in Christ are raised and the living are caught up (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We may differ on the timing of the rapture but not the fact of the rapture."[i]

In other words, there must be a time when the series of events Paul describes in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 happen, or *"the Bible is not true."* Jesus is coming for us and at that time He will give us imperishable bodies exactly as He promises us in 1 Corinthians 15:50-54. Regardless of what one calls the event these passages describe with much detail, they form the basis of our future hope in Jesus' appearing.

The event we call the "Rapture" is simply the Lord fulfilling the prophecies contained in the above texts as well as those found in John 14:1-3, Titus 2:11-14, Revelation 3:10-11a, and others.

The Rapture is a biblical event.

3. THE RAPTURE CANNOT HAPPEN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE SECOND COMING

The biblical descriptions of the Rapture and Second Coming differ in ways that make it impossible for one to reconcile the two into one event. They cannot happen at the same time.

For example, the place of the resurrection in the differing sequence of events during the Rapture and Second Coming confirms this distinction.

When Paul writes about the Rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-54, he says that the raising of the **"dead in Christ"** happens immediately after Jesus appears.

With the Second Coming, however, the resurrection of tribulation saints does not occur until after a lengthy sequence of events (see Rev. 19:11-20:4), this raising of the dead may not even occur until a day or two or more after Jesus' return to earth.

There's another key distinction that comes from these passages. At the time of the Rapture, Jesus resurrects the **"dead in Christ"** (1 Thessalonians 4:16). In Revelation 20:4, John says that at His return to earth, He raises "those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus." In one instance, all believers rise from the dead while in the other, the apostle only mentions a subset of them.

If the words of Scripture matter, and they do, then we cannot combine these two events into one.

4. THE NEW TESTAMENT EXPECTANCY OF THE RAPTURE

The apostles repeatedly described their readers as eagerly anticipating Jesus' return for them (1 Cor. 1:7; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-13; James 5:8; James 5:8-10; 1 Peter 1:13). New Testament saints watched for the Rapture as though it could occur at any moment. When we say that Jesus' appearing is imminent, we echo this expectancy. Nothing needs to occur before the Rapture takes place.

As for the Second Coming, the Lord told us that at least two major events would happen before it. In Matthew 24:15-29, Jesus says that the defilement of the temple by the antichrist and the "great tribulation" that follows it will happen before He returns to earth. According to His own words, events that have not yet happened must occur before the Second Coming; it's not an imminent event that we can expect at any time.

Only a pre-Tribulation Rapture fits as the eager anticipation of Jesus' appearing that we see throughout the New Testament.

5. THE EXPECTATION OF THE THESSALONIANS

The expectation of the Thessalonians for Jesus' appearing also supports placing the Rapture before the tribulation.

The new converts in Thessalonica grieved when some of their members died. A careful examination of Paul's response (see 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17) reveals the cause of their unnecessary grief; they thought that the dead in Christ would miss out on the joy of the Rapture. In response, the apostle assures them of the primary place that the "dead in Christ" will have during Jesus' return for us.

How could they have thought this way apart from expecting Jesus' appearing to

happen at any moment? They, like the apostle Paul, believed Jesus could return for them in their lifetime.

6. THE SURPRISE BEGINNING OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

In 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3, Paul tells his readers that the start of the day of the Lord will surprise people “like a thief in the night” with its “sudden destruction” from which “they will not escape.” The day of Lord, a primarily Old Testament term, refers to an extended time of the Lord’s wrath on the earth leading up to and including Jesus’ return to the earth and subsequent kingdom.

If the day of the Lord were to begin at any time after the seal judgments of Revelation 6 commence, this day would not catch people by surprise. No one will be saying “**peace and security**” (v. 3) after the pestilences, famines, pandemics, and wars of the seal judgments kill one-fourth of the earth’s population, almost two billion people.

Since the Rapture must happen before the seal judgments of Revelation 6, it must occur before the start of the Tribulation.

7. THE LORD’S PROMISE THAT WE WILL MISS THE WRATH OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

In 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, the Lord through the apostle Paul assures the Thessalonians, and us, that we will not experience this time of God’s judgment upon the earth known as the day of the Lord,

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”

The context of this promise tells us that the wrath Paul has in mind belongs to the Day of the Lord rather than hell. It begins with the “**sudden destruction**” that “**will come upon**” those taken by surprise at the start of this time of wrath.

We learn from 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 that the readers of Paul’s epistle came to faith in Jesus believing they would not experience this future time of wrath upon the earth.

“For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” (emphasis mine)

For me, this is a very strong argument favoring a pre-Tribulation Rapture as the

Lord promises us that we will miss the Day of the Lord's wrath, which includes all of the Tribulation.

8. JESUS' PROMISE TO THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

We have additional verification of the pre-Tribulation Rapture in Jesus' promise to the church at Philadelphia. In Revelation 3:10-11a we read:

“Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming quickly.”

This ***“hour of trial”*** here does not refer to a time of persecution that would come upon a particular church or even all believers, but rather points to a time of suffering that will impact all the people of the world, which fits with the events that John describes in Revelation 6-18.

The fact that this testing is specifically for ***“those who dwell on the earth”*** (Rev. 3:10) further confirms its reference to the judgments on earth known as the Tribulation. John uses this phrase eight other times in the book of Revelation (6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8 12, 14; 14:6; and 17:8). In each instance it either refers to either people impacted by the Tribulation or to those refusing to repent of their sins during this time.

In these chapters, however, the apostle never refers to the church as being on the earth.

9. THE CHURCH CANNOT REMAIN ON THE EARTH DURING THE EVENTS OF REVELATION 6-18

We know that the Lord has currently entrusted the church with proclaiming the saving message of the Gospel to the nations.

Why then is there the need for the two witnesses that John describes for us in Revelation 11:4-13 if the church is present on earth during this time?

Besides these two spokesmen, in Revelation 14:6–7 John tells us about an angel that will proclaim the Gospel during the Tribulation:

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, ***“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”***

If the church is present on the earth during the events of Revelation 6-18, why does the Lord need to send an angel to proclaim the gospel? This only makes sense with a pre-Tribulation Rapture.

The presence of the 144,000 sealed Jewish believers during this time also points to the absence of the church during this time of judgment (Revelation 7:1-8). Many believe they will act as evangelists sharing the Gospel with the lost. Again, why is this necessary if the church remains on the earth during the events of Revelation 6-18?

Furthermore, if the church is still present, such a distinction between believing Jews and Gentiles couldn't exist according to Colossians 3:11.

THE CRY OF OUR SOUL

The Lord might catch us up to meet Him in the air today, or we may continue waiting a while longer. I'm certain we live in the season of His appearing, but I don't know how long it will last.

When my heart grows weary from, I return again to the passages of Scripture that promise a glorious future solely because of the blood that Jesus shed for me on the cross.

Jesus is preparing a place for us in glory and He's most certainly returning to take us to where He now dwells in glory (John 14:2-3, 17:24; Colossians 3:4). He will transform our aging bodies into ones that are immortal and glorious (see 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Philipians 3:20-21).

Know for certain that the Lord is going to judge the vile wickedness and vile agenda that's openly promoted by most government leaders. Just this morning, I needed to again read Psalm 37:1-20 in order to calm the anger rising inside me because of all the deception, lawlessness, and murderous agenda of those in power in America.

The cry of our soul finds its answer in the certainty that Jesus is coming soon to rescue us from this troubled world before things get a whole lot worse.

In my book, *'The Triumph of the Redeemed-An eternal Perspective that Calms Our Fears in Perilous Times'*, I go into much greater detail on all the above points, and others, that demonstrate the biblical necessity of the pre-Tribulation Rapture. I also explain why this hope is so necessary for a biblical outlook on all we see happening around us.

Note: Please consider signing up for my newsletter on the home page of my website at <https://www.jonathanbrentner.com/> . It will greatly help me reach more

people. Thanks!

[i] Ed Hindson, Future Glory (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2021), p. 14.

These are some of the little read reports of news events reported in the past twenty-four hours. Events are confirming our need to be looking up!

Liberal Agendas, Nuclear Threats, And Crimes Against Humanity – Amir Tsarfati - <https://harbingersdaily.com/worldview-w-amir-tsarfati-liberal-agendas-nuclear-threats-and-crimes-against-humanity/>

Tuesday will see an incredibly important election take place in Israel. The “government of change” that was voted in at the last election lived up to its name. Unfortunately, none of the changes were for the good. A liberal agenda has taken over that elevates social issues and international cooperation above national strength. Ultimately, the government collapsed under its own incompetence and an interim government was established for the transition to the elections.

The fact that they now have a caretaker government has not slowed down the terrible decisions of the leftist wing. The administration has just approved a maritime agreement that gives up dozens of miles of Israeli waters. The interim prime minister signed the agreement today. This is an illegal border deal that hasn't been brought through the proper approval process of parliament. Why have they skirted the system? Because this evil government knows they don't have the majority to make maritime territorial concessions with an enemy country that is controlled by a terror group which is a proxy of the ayatollahs in Iran!

Because of the critical nature of these elections, Behold Israel has called for 3 Days of Prayer & Fasting for Israel. Beginning on Sunday, October 30, and lasting through election day, November 1, we are asking you to join us in lifting Israel up before the Lord. The nation has lost its way, and we know from Scripture that there are times ahead when it will become much, much worse.

However, we also know that God loves His chosen people. He will care for them now, and there will come a day when they will look on the One they have pierced, mourn their actions, and turn to Him in repentance. That is when He will draw all of them into His kingdom based on their faith in Him. But for now, we as the church mourn the wayward prodigal nation, as we lift them before the Lord asking for His mercy, grace, and wisdom to be poured out on the citizens and the government. Will you please join us in that time of prayer?

2 Chronicles 7:14 – “If My people who are called by My name will humble

themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Israel Hits Damascus Three Times in One Week

Around midnight of October 22, Israeli missiles struck Damascus International Airport. At noon two days later, in an unusual daytime strike, Israel once again directed missiles toward the airport. Then, just last night, another airstrike pummeled areas near Damascus. Targeted were weapons and equipment from Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which were bound for Hezbollah in neighboring Lebanon. The IRGC presence in the region continues to grow as Iran quickly fills in the vacant areas left behind as Russia pulls more and more troops out of Syria to fight in the conflict with Ukraine.

Joint Israeli Operation into the Lion’s Den

A force made up of IDF soldiers, members of Shin Bet, and anti-terror agents raided a Nablus-based terrorist organization called Lion’s Den early Tuesday. The target was the group’s leader, Wadee al-Houh, who was killed in the operation. The ensuing gun battle lasted over an hour and left four other terrorists dead and more than 20 injured. No Israeli soldiers were hurt in the operation. Lion’s Den was operating an explosives laboratory in the Kasbah of Nablus, and they were responsible for the October 11 drive-by shooting that took the life of 21-year-old IDF soldier Ido Baruch. The murder of Baruch took place only two days after a similar drive-by shooting in Jerusalem killed 18-year-old IDF Military Policewoman Noa Lazar.

Russia Accuses Ukraine of Planning Dirty Bomb Attack

Until recently, all most people knew about dirty bombs is what they learned from the TV show 24. Now, they’re all over the news as Russia accuses Ukraine of having one of these nuclear-waste-packed explosive devices ready to detonate in one of the Russian-occupied regions of their country. Ukraine, in turn, says that Russia is creating a false flag, so that they can use a dirty bomb themselves in an attempt to sway public opinion against Ukraine while giving Moscow an excuse to respond with a true nuclear weapon. And by all indications, Putin is fully prepared to “go nuclear”. Just yesterday, Russia held its annual Grom (Thunder) exercise, which simulates a massive nuclear strike in response to an enemy nuclear attack. For more details surrounding this story, as well as expanded coverage of Israel’s attacks on Damascus, please watch my Breaking News Update from Monday. Also, if you have not yet signed up for my Telegram channel on which I post up-to-the-minute news throughout the day, you can do so here.

Russia Continues with Plan to Freeze Ukraine

Recently appointed Russian commander in Ukraine, General Sergei Surovikin, is living up to the infamy of his reputation as he continues to pursue his apparent goal of causing the freezing deaths of tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians this winter. One electricity plant after another has fallen to Russian bombs, as Surovikin methodically destroys the infrastructure of the nation. Currently, 50% of Ukraine's electricity plants are destroyed or damaged to the point of being unproductive. This is not conventional warfare; these are crimes against humanity.

Nations Stand Against Russia

Just yesterday, Poland's Senate voted in a resolution that declared Russia to be a terrorist state. As part of the resolution, the senators stated their desire for the International Criminal Court to investigate the Russian military for possible war crimes. Meanwhile, the UK, France, and Germany are together encouraging the UN to investigate Russia's use of Iranian drones in Ukraine, which would violate a UN Security Council Resolution. Both Russia and Iran continue to deny Iran's provision of drones and their involvement in the training of drone pilots. This is despite the fact that Iranians have been turning up amongst the Russian casualties in Ukraine. In response to the possibility of a UN investigation, Russia has threatened to not renew the deal to sell Ukrainian grain. Moving to Israel, we see that factions within the country are dipping their toes into the anti-Russia waters. Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that if he is elected into office once again, he will consider providing weapons to Ukraine. That will be one more reason for Russia to come against Israel.

40 Days Since Mahsa Amini was Killed in Iranian Custody

Mahsa Amini was arrested by Iran's moral police for not wearing her hijab properly in public. Three days later, while still in custody, she died due to the injuries she received at the hands of her captors. Immediately, riots began, and they have increased exponentially. Forty days have now passed and in anticipation of the public's response to this significant date, the police blocked the roads to the cemetery that contained her gravesite. Defying authorities, however, thousands of protesters walked to her burial site. For the nation's leadership, the situation is getting out of hand. The regime is now preparing to bring in the IRGC against the rioters, which is essentially setting their military on their own civilians. It is very likely we are about to see immeasurable violence against innocent Iranians at the hands of the Islamist leaders.

Iran Arrests Suspects Accused of Working with Mossad

Iranian authorities have arrested 10 suspects in the country's West Azerbaijan province, accusing them of working with the Israeli Mossad. A report claims that they "set fire to cars and homes of people affiliated with the security apparatus and received cash for taking photos which they sent to Mossad agents." [There is

a] high percentage of minorities in Iran, as well as the passionate hatred many of them feel toward the regime. When the Mossad goes looking for partners in Iran, they don't have a difficult time finding them.

Iran Terror Attack

An armed terrorist attack on the Shahcheragh shrine, a Shia holy site in Shiraz, Iran, left at least 15 dead and 40 wounded. While early reports put the number of attackers at three, the figure was later revised to only one. Officials have him in custody, labeling him as "Takfiri", a Sunni extremist.

Threats Against North Korea Nuclear Test

Following a series of unannounced North Korean missile tests this month, concern is growing that Kim Jong Un is preparing for a seventh nuclear test, his first since 2017. In a joint warning, South Korea, Japan, and the United States stated that there would be an "unparalleled" response should the North Koreans follow through with the test.

Saudi Arabia and China Getting Chummy Over Oil

It seems like it was only two years ago that Saudi Arabia and the US were oil buddies. Now, however, the Saudis don't seem to have the time of day for the new US administration, and they are seeking new friends in Beijing. This past week, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Minister of Energy, met online with Zhang Jianhua, Chinese National Energy Administrator. Both parties expressed their great desire to strengthen ties between the countries in the field of energy.

I trust Jonathan Brentner's remarks have strengthen and encouraged you to hang in there. We are weary and drained emotionally waiting for those words, "***Come up hither!***"

THE ABC'S OF SALVATION



ADMIT

Admit you are a sinner and have made mistakes.



BELIEVE

Believe that Jesus is God's Son, died on the Cross for you, and rose up from the grave on the third day.



CONFESS

Confess Jesus as the Lord of your life. And commit yourself to a life of following Jesus, and serving others.

(Romans 3:23; John 1:12; Romans 10:9)

Amen

Blessings,

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