A COMMENTARY BY GENE HELTON

I can’t sing a praise hymn, but I can still praise Him!

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IT MAY BE HARD FOR YOU TO BELIEVE, BUT IT IS TRUE

Note: All emboldened, underlined and highlighted words in scripture references and commentary are my emphasis. All Scripture references are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Someone who reads this may say, “you and others have been warning about the so called end times for years and it hasn’t come to pass.” Not only does the Bible warn of the end times, it also warns of an attitude of skepticism and unbelief of the events that will come to pass in the end times. Please read and consider the following:

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 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. (2 Peter 3:3-10)
If one is a skeptic and/or an unbeliever of the approaching end times, then I would again warn that events of the end times are surely coming our way and if one continues in skepticism and unbelief, they do so at great personal peril. Those of us who warn are not crying wolf, we are stating facts from the Word of God.

The signs of the impending end times are indeed many; too many to be covered in a short commentary. Events are occurring at an accelerated pace. In this writing, I will address two signs of great significance.

1. TO BE A BLESSING TO ISRAEL IS TO BE BLESSED

Any event having to do with the nation of Israel is important. To narrow the scope just a bit, within Israel, the city of Jerusalem has been, now is and always will be of paramount importance. For instance it is in Jerusalem where the temple will be rebuilt. It is in Jerusalem where JESUS will rule and reign for a thousand years in an era commonly referred to as the MILLENNIUM. Israel is a nation that was founded by God when He called Abram. The boundaries of the land on which that nation would reside are clearly defined in scripture.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

(Genesis 12:1-3)

Recently, our present president made an announcement that has caused most of the world, both friend and foe alike, to be highly critical of the United States and our president. Since the restoration of Israel to nation status in 1948, it has been the city of Tel Aviv that has been recognized by other nations as the capital of Israel. The announcement to the world by President Trump was that the United States will now officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and begin the process of planning the move of our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The United States has long been blessed by God because of our friendship and support for the nation of Israel. These blessings are linked to a promise made to Abram (Abraham) when he was called from Ur of the Chaldees to be the beginning of the Hebrew nation. (see the scripture preceding this paragraph) God promised to bless those who would be a blessing to Abram and his descendants; that is in effect a promise to bless all those who would be in full support of the nation of Israel. Whether or not our president sees that as a reason to support Israel, I do not know. In any event, true believers should surely see, in this act, the unfolding of God’s plan for the end times.
While shopping in a store recently, a clerk said to me: “I heard on the news this morning that we might become a cashless society.” What he said didn’t surprise me even a little bit. Such a society is prophesied in the book of Revelation.

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. 

(Revelation 13:16-18)

Already and almost on a daily basis, we are part of monetary transactions in which we never see cash pass through our hands. Many or us have direct deposit to a banking account, of an income of one kind or another, without going to the bank, cashing a check or putting money in our pockets. We then in turn order some item from Amazon or go to a department store and purchase something without any cash passing through our hands. We have a kind of buying and selling power that is already cashless. That is only a preview of a system that is to come. Someday, in my opinion, the place of the direct deposit may not be a bank, but may be a deposit directly to a person’s body. Someday, in my opinion, to make a purchase may not involve the scanning of a chip in a card, but may involve scanning of a chip in a person. We can already see the current way of doing things as being fore runners of such a process. With our telephones, we can scan items in a store and in some stores even avoid the long check out lines. Please see my earlier commentary on RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) at the following link:

RFID, WHAT IS ITS ULTIMATE FUTURE USE?

Technological advances have come so rapidly in the past twenty years, so fast that things once thought to be impossible can be done with ease today. The advancements are coming at an even more rapid rate now. Today’s latest technology will either be improved tomorrow or completely outdated. I’ve been doing Internet research on DIGITAL CURRENCY, BITCOIN AND CRYPTOCURRENCY. Although I don’t fully understand what I read and it seems to be designed not to be understood by average folks, these seem to be somehow related to a cashless way of buying and selling. Whether we understand it or not, whether we like it or not, a cashless way of buying and selling is coming down the pike. “And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark…..” (Revelation 13:17a)
I've only given you commentary about two of many signs that can be seen as being fulfilled by true believers who study and try to understand the events of the world in light of end times Bible prophecies. For sure, there are some folks who are heretics and either they are not sound in the Word of God or else they are out and out false prophets. However, there are many who are lead of God to warn the masses of what lies ahead. We’re not crying wolf. We’re concerned that folks know, before it is too late, that there is trouble ahead for those who do not trust Jesus Christ and His finished work of Calvary’s cross to save them. To die lost, to come to the end of time as we know it without trusting Jesus is the worst thing that can happen to anyone. There is a Heaven to be gained. Jesus is the only way to God’s Heaven. There is no other way. If you come to Jesus in admission of sin, repenting of sin and fully trusting in your heart His sacrificial death on Calvary’s cross as a full payment for your sins; you will be saved and on your way to heaven. If you’re lost and if you come to Jesus in repentance and faith, He will surely save you. If you’re lost and want to talk to someone about being saved, you can talk to me or any other true Christian. Seek the Lord while He may be found.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

AIN’T GOD GOOD!

Gene Helton

A retired Baptist Pastor,
but not a retired Christian!

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