The LAST Generation

Prophecy Teaching Series
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WHEN THE NATIONS MEET THE SON OF GOD

Last Saturday night, the NBC show Saturday Night Live featured a skit in which Jesus came out of the garden tomb, sword in hand, and began exacting revenge on all who had opposed Him. As might be expected, many in the Christian world were indignant and protested the network, charging blasphemy. I saw the skit later on the internet and had a different reaction. While the skit was in very poor taste, and not particularly well-done, I thought to myself, “I am watching a prophecy here – and those people producing it are completely unaware of what they are showing.”

I immediately thought of this passage in Revelation:

Rev. 19:11-18

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
[12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
[17] And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; [18] That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.
There are several “charged” phrases or words in that passage such as: “dipped in blood,” “out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword,” and “smite the nations.” So while the SNL producers might have snickered to themselves that they were mocking Jesus and the faith, they, in fact, were prophesying precisely what the Bible proclaimed through John 2000 years ago. (The truth is, Satan isn’t the brightest bulb in the eternal chandelier!)

Jesus came to Earth 2000 years ago to seek and save the lost - the Savior. When He comes back, it will not be as Savior but as Judge and Lord. He Himself told us exactly what would happen following the horrendous and horrifying seven years known as the Tribulation:

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: [32] And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: [33] And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. [34] Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: [35] For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: [36] Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. [37] Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? [38] When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? [39] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? [40] And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. [41] Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: [42] For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: [43] I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. [44] Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? [45] Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. [46] And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

The seven-year tribulation period ends with the Battle of Armageddon when the Lord Jesus together with all of us saints returns to Earth. Antichrist will have pretty much had his own way during that tribulation time when the world is largely ruled by the
triumvirate from Hell, the unholy trinity, Satan the Father, the Antichrist the son and the
False Prophet the unholy spirit. Antichrist will have set up his capitol in Jerusalem
where he rules the western world and some of the eastern as well. Near the end of the
tribulation, Israel will again be invaded by an army numbering 200 million troops, coming
from the East to contest the right of the western nations to exercise global dominion. It is
at this point - as you read on the previous page, lines 12-36, that Jesus returns in full
authority and sovereignty and puts down all opposition.

3000 years ago, King David well prophesied this divine moment in history when he
wrote:

Psalm 2:1-12

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? [2] The kings of
the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and
against his anointed, saying, [3] Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away
their cords from us. [4] He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall
have them in derision. [5] Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them
in his sore displeasure. [6] Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. [7] I will
declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I
begotten thee. [8] Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance,
and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. [9] Thou shalt break them
with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. [10] Be wise
now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. [11] Serve the Lord
with fear, and rejoice with trembling. [12] Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye
perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that
put their trust in him.

That passage reminds me of the great story of Horatio Hornblower, captain of the 7th
Fleet Flagship U.S.S. Missouri, when he ordered his signalman to radio ahead this
directive when an obstacle appeared on the radar screen directly with his course of
degrees starboard.” Hornblower raged to his associate, “Doesn’t he know who I am?
Tell him again to move 20 degrees starboard and that I am Captain Horatio
Hornblower!” A second answer came back: “I am Seaman 2nd Class Jones. You move
20 degrees starboard!” Hornblower, now enraged, ordered, “This is the Battleship
Missouri. We can and will blow you out of the water. Now move - or else!” Jones
radioed back, “This is the lighthouse.” That settled the matter. There’s no way a
mighty battleship can win a navigation contest with a lighthouse. That’s the spirit of
Psalm 2 – rebellious humanity telling God to move over and God radioing back, “Change
course - or else.”

A PSALM IN YOUR HEART / GEORGE WOOD / GPH / page 9
What impudence on the part of humanity - to think they could challenge God's authority and that of His appointed Son and King, Jesus Christ. God laughs in derision! What an awful thought! Can you even imagine the arrogance of the world's leaders, shaking their fists at God and defying Him to do anything about it?

Verse 9 of this Psalm informs us that God will tell His Son, "Break them with a rod of iron....dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. God is going to deal sovereignly with the nations that have ignored His decrees - and especially those who have hunted and haunted His chosen people, the Jews.

In Revelation 11:15 learn of one of the angels who sounds his trumpet and a judgment is poured out on earth:

*And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

Antichrist's rule and power are ended and all nations will now be subjected to the authority of Christ.

When Jesus returns to this planet He is coming as both King and Conqueror. Rev. 19:12 informs us that His eyes are as a flame of fire. On His head are many crowns, indicating His authority over every nation and tribe. Verse 14 tells us that Jesus is accompanied to this planet by "the armies that were on white horses." That's us, folks - those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, coming down from the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

With a word from His mouth, King Jesus will demolish all opposition to His rulership. It is at that time that God will summon all the birds of carrion and prey from the ends of the earth and will say to them, "Come, and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, both free and bond, both small and great." Even as we read that passage we remember that Israel is a part of the great bird migration system from Europe to Africa and back. The nations of Planet Earth with all their military might will now yield in subjection and surrender to King Jesus.

Now the King, Jesus Christ Himself, will set up a special JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS. Here He will determine what human beings can enter into His eternity and who cannot. Multiplied millions will be brought into judgment before Christ and we learn that He will quickly divide those multitudes into two sections:

Matthew 25:31-46

*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: [32] And before him shall be gathered all*
nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his
sheep from the goats: [33] And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats
on the left. [34] Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye
blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of
the world: [35] For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye
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these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

The sheep on the right hand are those humans who will be saved and ushered into eternity.
The goats on the left represent those who will be eternally lost.

Jesus will say to the sheep, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared
for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungry and you gave me meat; I
was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in I was naked and
you clothed me. I was sick and you came to visit me. I was in prison and you came to
see me.” The “sheep” are shocked. Remember they have just come through the horrible
tribulation and they say to Jesus, “When did we ever do all those things to you or for you?”

Verse 40 is Jesus’ response: “In as much as you have done these things to these the least
of my brethren you have done it unto me.”

So....who are Jesus’ brethren? Ah, now it starts to come together! Jesus was a Jew. His
“brethren” are the Jewish people and Israel. Now the pieces start to fit. When Antichrist
came to power early in the tribulation period, he made a decree that no one could worship
anyone but him....nor could anyone buy or sell without his mark. But there was a large
group of people who would not commit idolatry. They could not and would not take his
mark. They could not buy or sell. 144,000 Jews were commissioned by God - and sealed
by Him - to evangelize the world. When they would come to a village or city, they could
not rent a motel or walk into a restaurant or purchase food at a restaurant or grocery store. Many of them were arrested and put in prison. But the “sheep” took them in, cared for them, clothed them, visited them in prison. The “sheep” were people who had taken Christ as their Saviour and would not heed Antichrist’s warnings. Now the King has returned and He is rewarding those who were good to “His brethren.” On what basis? They had ministered to those 144,000 Jewish evangelists who had brought Christ to them, giving them access to eternal salvation. It wasn’t their “works” that saved them for they would never have risked their lives like that had they not already been saved by Christ Himself. Now Jesus says to them: “Come, ye blessed of my Father - inherit the Kingdom prepared for you.”

Now the scene changes:

The King turns to those on His left hand, the goats, and thunders down the verdict: “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Oh, how they will plead: “But, Sir, we didn’t know....when did we ignore You or turn aware from Your need?” The Lord will say that they had a chance to minister to Him as they ministered to those He had sent.... but they rejected the evangelists and, in so doing, rejected Him.

There will be no appeals. No question as to Christ’s right to judge. Now note this carefully: There will be no individual alive on the earth at the time of the Second Coming of Christ who will not pass under the judgment of the Son of God. He will receive into His earthly millennial reign those who have accepted Him as personal Saviour previous to His return through the ministry of the 144,000. He will reject from His kingdom those who have rejected salvation through the blood of Christ.

My friend, you will meet Jesus yourself - either at the Cross or one of the Judgments. I can only pray that you will be one of those who have been redeemed by Christ’s blood.

**SO WHAT’S NEXT? WHAT SHOULD WE BE LOOKING FOR NOW?**

The event that triggers everything we have discussed so far is the Rapture of the Church. Here is precisely what we in the Assemblies of God believe about this:

“The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep (died) in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the IMMINENT and blessed hope of the church.”

1 Thes. 4:16-17

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:* [17]
Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Romans 8:23
And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

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

1 Cor. 15:51-52
Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

My friend, some day the world will wake up to learn that multiplied millions of people have vanished suddenly and without any advanced warning. I personally believe that for the most part, the world will be relieved that we are gone. Those who are missing family members or close friends will perhaps grieve but, in general, the world will be happy to see us go.

Our leaving will usher into society a huge vacuum that Satan will rush to fill with his personal masterpiece....the Antichrist. I don’t want to be around here when that happens. But I do want to be a part of that blessed “gathering of saints” who will instantly be transported into the presence of Christ - in the air!

How should the follower of Christ be living in these days of anticipation of His return? Paul wrote:

Titus 2:11-14
For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, [12] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; [13] Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; [14] Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1. We should deny - stay away from - ungodliness and worldly lusts. Not easy to do in this suggestive world of our’s. However, the power of the Holy Spirit within us enables us to be overcomes through the Word of God. There MUST be a difference in the way of
follower of Christ lives from that of those who do not follow Him.

2. We should live soberly. That does not mean we do not enjoy life. I enjoy life to the hilt. I love to laugh. But I am in earnest about the fact that God is not willing that any should perish and I must do everything God and His Word call upon me to do to bring as many with me as possible.

3. We should live righteous and godly lives in this present world. Does that mean we are perfect? No, but it does mean that with every fiber of our being we seek to exalt Christ through our living. We are not saved because we do “good things;” however, if we are truly saved, pleasing God is the paramount purpose of our lives.

4. We should be “looking for that blessed hope.” Let’s honestly examine our own lives here today.

   A. Do we REALLY believe that Jesus’ return for His people is imminent? Are we looking for it to happen?

   B. Does the way we live in our everyday lives indicate that we are looking for Him? Or is the “rapture” just a theory we give lip-service to?

5. Are we “zealous of good works?” - that is, obeying the commands of our Lord such as the Great Commission? Ah, that truly does make us the “peculiar people” of whom Paul wrote. May we so live in this present hour!

NEXT WEEK: USHERED INTO ETERNITY!