

Understanding This Time & Season

I. A New Way Of Life

II. New Habits

A. Watch, Listen, Think, Act (Good Things Happening, Too)

B. We Are Witnesses To Major Decisions re: Israel And The Land

- 1) The recognition of Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel by the USA & moving our embassy to Jerusalem, May 14, 2018 — corresponded with the 70th anniversary of birth of modern nation of Israel
- 2) The recognition of the Golan Heights as part of Israel, March 25, 2019 — USA recognized the sovereignty of Israel over the Golan Heights
- 3) Acknowledging Israel's right to inhabit the West Bank, November of 2019 US acknowledged that Israeli settlements in the West Bank do not violate International Law
- 4) Historic peace agreements with Muslim nations in 2020: United Arab Emirates—The Abraham Accords, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia,

Deuteronomy 10:14-15 (NIV®)

¹⁴ To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today.

Romans 9:4-5 (NIV®)

⁴ the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

Through Christ expanded to include all people!

Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV®)

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are

all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Romans 11:25-27 (NIV®)

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: **Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.** ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. ²⁷ And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

C. Awareness Of What Is Ahead —Unique Tribulation In Israel

Jeremiah 30:3-7 (NIV®)

³ The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to **the land** I gave their forefathers to possess,' says the LORD." ⁴ These are the words the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah: ⁵ "This is what the LORD says: **"Cries of fear are heard-- terror, not peace.** ⁶ Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale?

⁷ How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

D. Great Distress In The Earth (For All People)

Matthew 24:21-22 (NIV®)

²¹ For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. ²² If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, **but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.**

❖ God chose us, we did not choose him

III. God's Chosen People

A. God Has Chosen You

Romans 8:31-33 (NIV®)

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against **those whom God has chosen**? It is God who justifies.

Colossians 3:12 (NIV®)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2 Timothy 2:8-10 (NIV®)

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am

suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore **I endure everything for the sake of the elect**, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 (NIV®)

² We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. ³ We continually remember before our God and Father **your work** produced by faith, **your labor** (bothersome) prompted by love, and **your endurance** inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, **that he has chosen you**,

B. Chosen for Assignments

Acts 10:40-41 (NASB®)

⁴⁰ "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but **to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God**, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Acts 9:14-15 (NASB®)

¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for **he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel**;

Galatians 1:15 (NASB®)

But when God, who had **set me apart even from my mother's womb** and called me through His grace, was pleased

C. Must Choose to Finish the Course . . . **do not be presumptuous!**

1 Corinthians 10:1-12 (NIV®)

¹ For **I do not want you to be ignorant** of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. ⁶ Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

⁷ **Do not be idolaters**, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry."

⁸ **We should not commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.

⁹ **We should not test the Lord**, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes.

¹⁰ And **do not grumble**, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹ **These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.** ¹² **So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!**

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We rejoice in your faithfulness. It is you who called us out of darkness. You have redeemed us from an empty way of life. You have made us righteous. It is you who has justified, sanctified and delivered us. Now we choose to listen, to obey, to serve and to rejoice! Our desire is to see the glory of the Lord in all the earth. We turn away from everything that would hinder and lay aside all that might entangle so that we may run with perseverance the race you have marked out for us. Holy Spirit help us, let Jesus name be exalted, amen.