



Discerning What is Next: *God is Watching Over Us*

I. Are You Listening?

Jeremiah 31:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: **'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'** ¹¹ For the LORD will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

A. The Gathering of the Jewish People

B. The Preparation of the Church

II. God Provides Insight

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NIV)

²⁹ The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

A. Unknown/secret

Acts 1:7 (NIV)

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

Mark 13:32 (NIV)

³² "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

B. Revealed

Daniel 2:17-23 (NIV)

¹⁷ Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸ He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ²⁰ and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. ²¹ He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. ²² He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. ²³ I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

Daniel 9:2-3 (NIV)

² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

III. Time and Eternity

Mark 10:28-31 (NASB)

²⁸ Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, ³⁰ but that he will receive a hundred times as much now **in the present age**, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and **in the age to come**, eternal life. ³¹ "But many *who are* first will be last, and the last, first."

A. "This current age" ---"under the sun"

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. ¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; **nothing was gained under the sun.**

B. "The age to come"

Matthew 25:31-33 (NIV)

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because **great is your reward in heaven**, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 12:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹ "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

C. "The signs of our times"

Matthew 16:1-4 (NIV)

¹ The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. ² He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' ³ and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but **you cannot interpret the signs of the times.** ⁴ A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

D. Judgement is part of the transition

Isaiah 2:4 (NIV)

⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

IV. Our Response

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also **to all who have longed for his appearing.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are Lord of all. We pause today to listen to You. Grant us understanding hearts, eyes to perceive spiritual things and ears which can hear Your direction. In You we have safety and joy. Apart from You is only desperation. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for Your Church in the earth. Through our lives may Your will be done on this earth, in Jesus' name, amen.