

“The Restrainer Restrains until...”

2 Thessalonians 2:7



Who is he?

by
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Author's Preface

Could a two thousand year old prophecy in the Second Book of Thessalonians be coming true in our generation? It isn't a passage one is likely to encounter at most Sunday morning church services. Christians who don't read their Bible are unlikely to be exposed to this book. One sentence reads: "*The Restrainer restrains until he is removed out of the way*" (*II Thes. 2:7*). What evil was Paul referring to that God will one day stop restraining?

Is it connected in some way to Christ's warning about a coming great deception? Every generation since Jesus' First Coming has experienced apostasy, deception and some very wicked rulers. Will our generation be the one that will experience the evil this mysterious personage has been holding back? Or as most believe will history continue into future generations with its many ups and downs? Could an understanding of this passage in light of today's current events change the thinking of many now in deception? I hope so! But American culture, once a beacon of light to the entire world, grows more pagan as I write. Culture is certainly impacting the church more than the church influences culture. Our nation is in a moral free fall. The president seems to have turned his back on Israel. Ignoring the warning of Genesis 12:3 he is boldly courting the Islamic world. The UN Security Council, which has been holding back the United Nations General Assembly from putting terrible pressure on Israel, is about to side with the Assembly which is overwhelmingly against Israel. That would fulfill Zechariah 12:2-3! This is highly significant in light of the biblical warning to not divide the land of Israel. Lev. 25:23. The flow of evil The Restrainer is now holding back could be about to manifest. Considering all the evil and mayhem this earth has endured the past two thousand years, can it get worse? The Bible tells those who read it it can and will. Only those found watching and praying will escape what is coming according to Revelation 3:10. If you are wondering what is really going on, and should you be on higher alert, this book is for you.

Semper Fidelis,
Dave Winecoff

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1

a revealing question

first some random thoughts

Have you noticed there are people who seldom ask questions? They seem to prefer listening while others do the talking. Some of those who prefer to

listen do glean more by paying close attention. Certainly there are those who just want to talk (text or post on facebook). Some of these don't like to be interrupted at all. You can tell when you attempt to join in. Some don't care if you do any talking at all as long as you pay attention to them. Don't interrupt! That keeps them happy.

Intelligent listening is a highly underrated skill in my view. Being able to ask a question that gets an informed person talking can certainly fill in the gaps in one's education if you are a studier. It is definitely a sign of intelligence. Of course you also have to know when to excuse yourself. Some people can definitely wear you down.

When we do most of the sharing we can't learn anything new. When we listen we have the chance to learn something we didn't know before. There are those whose job it is to make important decisions. They need input from people who are experts before making important decisions. They certainly need to listen more than they talk, and how to trigger the flow of necessary information through intelligent questioning. Asking the right questions to get the right people talking is a critical leadership skill.

A book on leadership that came from my own leadership experience, much of it as a career Marine officer, is on my website. It is no longer a common perspective. Our times have become increasingly secularized. Political correctness has run amok. Believers who think the way I do are now being increasingly restrained by the changing laws. Yet these leadership skills expressed still work effectively today. They depend on character, integrity and truth which seem in short supply these days in the halls of Congress.

the interesting question

There is an interesting question that God placed in the Book of Acts. The question arises from a totally unexpected source. The passage sheds important light on a hidden influence in relationships and life that most leaders today don't even acknowledge exists.

“And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but

who are ye?"

Acts 19:15

spirits can talk

Did you know evil spirits talk? Many people have heard one speak, but didn't recognize it was an evil spirit. The source of such remarks are uttered through the mouths of those they have influence over: many human beings. All of us at times! Even Peter, the Apostle. They do not come through the conscious minds of their hosts. The unaware are influenced to speak out something inappropriate through what the Bible refers to as a familiar spirit. Some are codependent with these spirit and don't really know it. There are increasing numbers of demonized people in positions of influence today. Psychologists often call them sociopaths.

Many of us have watched a film where an exorcist caste an evil spirit out of a person that spoke through the tormented person. Spooky! I wager that few know anyone who was present at such an exorcism. Movies about such things are usually made for their entertainment value. There are some interesting documentaries on this topic too. Both can raise the hair on the backs of a watcher's neck. Those that come from Hollywood are made to scare and entertain. They have the effect of enoculating movie goers against actually believing such entities do exist. This truth is then relegated to fantasy and science fiction where it does Satan no real harm.

Most walk out after seeing such a film and give no thought to whether such evil really exists. A few nightmares maybe! Probably no research about what effect real demons and devils might be having on people's lives. And maybe there own! Certainly it is not politcally correct to believe such a world really exists. Exterrestrial visitors from other planets might be real in their minds; but demons and fallen angels? No way! Give me a break! In no way would they ever come to the conclusion that obvious reoccurring personal problems like depression, guilt, shame, rage, gluttony, perversion, alcoholism, illegal drug use, lust, and bad changes in society could have underlying personalities behind such problems.

I wrote a book some time ago about familiar spirits. It was my first attempt to deal with this topic. I have thought about this subject and done some research to educate myself. I have used deliverance scriptures in the Bible attempting to help a few who were so troubled. I have experienced people being set free from actual bondages.

the question's importance

In the verse mentioned above, the Bible speaks about an evil spirit asking an important question. “...*who are ye?*” When we read the entire passage we learn it is about a failed attempt to use divine power to cast out a demon in Jesus' name. Paul certainly knew Jesus. He preached boldly in His Name. Miracles followed his preaching. But these people trying to use Jesus' name to cast out demons didn't know Jesus personally. Neither did Jesus know them personally. Their motivation was all wrong. The enemy of their souls didn't like it. They suffered the consequences.

There were so many requests for Paul's help, he couldn't physically respond to them all. So he blessed some cloths and sent them to those needing healings. Those who in faith laid the annointed clothes on the sick saw further healings also recorded in scripture.

This practice is still used today with similar results where faith is involved. Certain vagabond Jews who didn't know the true source of this power (Jesus Christ), as did Paul, tried to do an exorcism on a demon possessed person in The Mighty Name provoking the evil spirit(s) within.

Not having real faith in the source of this power, Jesus Christ, proved disasterous for them. The demon within the possessed person became enraged. The question the demon asked could not be answered to its satisfactory. The demon in the possessed man pounced on them and beat them up badly because they weren't protected by the intercessory prayer power of Jesus from Heaven.

A colorful story! Many probably skip over this story as biblical exaggeration. But the story is true to all who believe the Bible is God's inspired Word. It reveals the spiritual armor Paul had because he actually believed what he

preached. That armor of protection is also available to all who believe, to do the work we are called to do in our day.

do you have questions

You should! As a young man who thought of himself as a Christian I had a few. But my questions died in my head. I never sought answers from competent spiritual resources. Questions and answers would have sharpened my understanding. But in my youth I was one of those who just listened compliantly in my pew. I seldom learned anything out of the ordinary which required research on my own. Only what the speaker intended to convey which left real gaps in my learning.

Only years later after much absorbion of truth mixed with error did the real truth start to come into sharper focus for me. After my baptism in the Holy Spirit I started acting like a disciple (a serious student) and started to systematically study the Bible for myself.

My marvelous transformation well into adulthood happened while reading and thinking about scripture on my own. Only then did I really begin to find the answers I needed to become bolder in my faith. Until then I never really had the ability to stand up for Jesus Christ publicly. Personal fears of inadequacy held me back spiritually. I didn't know that when I was weak the Holy Spirit in me could be strong on my behalf. I didn't know how to rely on God when I knew I was inadequate to the task at hand. I really didn't know his word. So I was in spiritual darkness even though I believed!

older and wiser

Now I am older and wiser. I look back on my experiences, as one who identifies himself fully with the Lord. I have come to realize that many times when I speak out a biblical truth it will be rejected. But I don't fear man like I once did. I see I am doing what I should be doing: Speaking out on His behalf. I am wise however in doing this. It is not me that someone rejects if they reject the gospel, but the Spirit of God in me. That has serious

consequences. So, I have also learned not to cast pearls before swine. Also I can better recognize when I am being prompted by God to speak boldly; and when to hold my tongue!

Those who reject Christ must hear the truth. Maybe you are just planting seeds of faith when expressing a spiritual truth to another, that will blossom later through someone else's example. Or maybe it will take the shock of the rapture and being left behind! Remember God sends them strong delusion. Most will never come to Christ and after death will stand before God at the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11). At that time many will be without excuse having rejected your testimony, the testimony of others, and the testimony of creation that there is a Creator God.

If someone you testify to about Jesus is from the seed of Satan (Genesis 3:15) they will never come to Christ. But your faith could cause them to tremble and hold back in following Satan out of fear. In that way by speaking out you are cooperating with The Restrainer to restrain or hold back the full force of evil evidenced by that demon mentioned in Acts who asked the opening question.

One type of evil is so behind the scenes and so influential in the lives of evil doers that Jesus made a definite point during his first coming of pointing this evil out to us. Usually he didn't ask them any questions, but just delivered the tormented person through a word and the demons came out. On one occasion, and I am convinced it was for our education, he asked an important question during a deliverance:

“And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion for we are many.”

Mark 5: 10

This event is recorded by both Mark and Luke so I know it was an important question Jesus asked the evil spirits within. It shows the great numbers of these hidden powers that were in just this one possessed man. I don't see the word demons in my King James Bible. It uses the word *devils*. There are a lot of New Testament references but only three books of the Old Testament

record the word devils. Not much was revealed about this phenomenon before the first coming of Christ that is clearly recorded.

I am convinced that much of the intercession now done is against such evil wicked beings who are the force behind so much human wickedness. Behind devils we know stand fallen angels! Satan's hierarchy is described in various places such as in Ephesians.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Ephesians 6:12

So who is the main person who conducts intercession to restrain such wickedness? Could it be Jesus as he intercedes for us to set his forces in motion against this wicked kingdom described in the above verse to keep it from fully manifesting before its time?

What questions should we in this generation be asking right now?

2

the Restrainer

The Bible mentions a personality it calls “*The Restrainer*.” The word restrain or a variant is used twelve times in scripture. One of these uses mentions this Restrainer who is holding back the full power of evil from manifesting. Who is he? There is a lot of curiosity about who he is by the few who study such matters.

I have read different teachings on who he might be. In some ways it remains a mystery. Some say Michael the Archangel, the defender of the people of the Book (Israel), is who this verse refers to. He certainly restrains evil. Others say the Holy Spirit. Certainly He also restrains evil. Others say it is government, and certainly this should be true also. One said he thought this verse was speaking of America. Certainly for a time we have given safe haven to fleeing Christians and Jews and stood strong against world powers under the control of great evil, such as in WW I and II against Japan, Germany, and the Axis of evil. All such evil is under the control of Satan. This includes many if not all powerful nations. Consider the specter of communism. These evil powers seemed invincible, but the Bible tells us that they are held back by a supernatural power for a time in coming together to dominate most of the earth leaving few safe places to flee too.

could the Restrainer be Jesus?

I have never heard anyone make the case that this verse might be referring to Jesus Christ. This thought popped into my mind recently. So I will explore this idea to see if it could be true?

This mysterious personage is mentioned very forthrightly in *II Thessalonians chapter two*. Let us look at this passage from the King James Bible together. The chapter's subtitle is:

The Day of Christ.

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together onto him, That ye be not soon shaken by mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceiveableness of unrighteousness in them that perish because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

We see that this passage begins by talking about the second coming of Jesus. We are encouraged to not be shaken by anything we hear to the contrary.

Then the passage talks about the coming of the man of sin. And it says this man is currently being restrained or withheld by someone. This phrase is strange in the old english which I underlined, but is talking about the restrainer restraining. When that personality is taken out of the way, that wicked man will be revealed, and then after a time the Lord shall come and consume him with the spirit of his mouth and the brightness of his coming. It also talks about those who will be sent strong delusion who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

who is this mysterious person?

Could the one who has been holding back evil be Jesus? Scripture clearly tells us he ever lives to make intercession for us while in heaven? Could the one who is coming back in great power to destroy evil and to judge and rule who is certainly Jesus Christ, also be the one who is now holding back the full force of evil through his mighty intercessions from Heaven?

I think this is a fair question to ask. I am not saying it is the same person. We might not know the answer this side of Heaven. But since so many different personages have been put forth as a possibility I am just proposing we look closely at whether it could be Christ.

We see that the restainer is to be removed. How would this occur if it was Jesus? The Father would simply say to Jesus; it is time: Go get your Bride. Stop praying for her. Go fetch her now! That would certainly bring to an end Jesus' intercession for his church; his bride. Could the intercession of Jesus be so powerful it is holding back greater evil from happening? Revelation discusses greater evil and says the saints will be overcome.

*“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”
Revelation 13:7*

This indicates a time coming when we don't want to be here.

Certainly we who love God cooperate with the Holy Spirit and with God's

holy angels and with the righteous actions of government in resisting evil. So in effect all who love God and pray and stand with Jesus Christ are in part restraining evil. But who is the Head of the Body; the Church? Where does the Holy Spirit now indwell here on earth? Certainly the head of this powerful body of people is Jesus Christ. It makes me wonder if The Restrainer is Jesus.

what does he do?

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Hebrews 7:25

We see here in this verse that Jesus saves to the uttermost those who come to the Father by His Sacrifice. That certainly would include restraining evil in their lives. Further we see that he ever lives to make intercession for those who believe in him. I find this interesting. Jesus prays from heaven. I know there are different forms of prayer. There are many good books that have been written about prayer. The different types of prayer! The purpose of prayer: Praise, worship, warfare, requests, forgiveness, repentance, etc! We see in the above verse the word intercession. What does that mean? I goggled this explanation:

1. the action of intervening on behalf of another.

"through the intercession of friends, I was able to obtain her a sinecure"

mediation, intermediation, arbitration, conciliation, negotiation; More intervention, involvement;

synonyms: pleading, petition, entreaty, agency; diplomacy

"the hostages were released after intercession by trained negotiators"

- ⑩ the action of saying a prayer on behalf of another person.

"prayers of intercession"

I would add that when Jesus Christ is doing the intercession it is so much more powerful an act. It is certainly directive since he has the full cooperation of his Father's angels and the Holy Spirit.

We know from the Book of John that the entire Bible is God's inspired

Word. John tells us that the Word became flesh entering this world to save us in the form of Jesus Christ. We know that once God speaks forth a word it does not return void. We know that there is power in His Word and that we his people can appropriate that power to act in his will.

As a military man I find the word intercession a very interesting word. I wonder if it is like artillery firepower on the battlefield clearing a path for the infantry? Does our human intercession have anything to do with the work of The Restrainer in these end times we live in? I suspect our personal intercession affects the lives of believers more than we will know this side of heaven.

what is he holding back

The Bible and Jesus Christ warns of a great delusion that will occur once the restraining power of this personage is withdrawn. There has been a lot of speculation as to what this coming blindness could be. Certainly when we go up to heaven in the rapture of the church the fallen angels are at the same time cast down on to the earth. These seven years will be very terrible times for those left on earth.

a coming great delusion?

We have heard a lot about UFOs since 1948. Both the rebirth of the nation of Israel in a day and the mysterious crash at Roswell were in this year at fulfilled ancient prophecy about the rebirth of Israel. Could this be just coincidence? I don't think so. A lot of research has gone into the phenonema of UFOs and some other related subjects such as alien abductions, cow mutalations, crop circles, the hidden purpose of CERN, Deep Underground bases, Area 51, etc.

I have heard from eye witness accounts that the powerful name of Jesus has prevented abductions in progress from happening. I also know this first hand from one very close to me. To the knowledge of those who specialize in these studies who are willing to admit it, no Christian has ever been abducted who has cried out to Jesus.

I think when we are gone that the great delusion could involve these UFOs deceiving mankind. Could the intercession of Jesus be holding back the progress of Satan in his plan to deceive all those who are left behind on this earth? Certainly the sealing of the 144,000 Israelites who are left behind, as are those in the modern nation of Israel who don't acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, could be partly about protecting them from this strong delusion coming on the earth while keeping them safe until their acknowledgement and his resulting rescue.

3

does intercession trigger restraint?

Could intercessory prayer be 'the point of the spear' of all restraint? Just asking. Certainly resistance is one aspect of restraint. But it is not the whole of it. Lets look at this word intercession to see if it might somehow be tied in with what The Restrainer is doing.

We find ten matches for this word in the Bible. Let's follow these uses through scripture and see where it takes us. Only three of God's greats used

this word that is recorded. All three were certainly men of prayer. All three were foreknown by God: Isaiah, Jeremiah and Paul! In this first verse we find Isaiah speaking prophetically of Jesus Christ long before his coming to earth. Is this interesting or not?

Isaiah

“Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Isaiah 53:12

Who are the strong he shall divide the spoil with? Could that be speaking of us who have broken free of the enemy's bondages proving his strength through our trust in Christ? We are his dear children. Do you believe that? This is the only time we see Isaiah a great man of God use this very particular word.

Jeremiah

Next we see Jeremiah another great in God's Kingdom. He says this:

“Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor pray for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.”

Jeremiah 7:16

Here we find God telling this powerful man of God not to pray for Israel. A very curious command. Why so? Probably because their cup of sin had filled to the brim with their apostasy, and only destruction now awaited them. It is dangerous to turn one's back on God. For a whole nation to do so is utter folly. Especially a people that had been so favored by God! He further says make not intercession to me for I will not hear thee. When we intercede we are going straight to God. Jeremiah follows with this statement:

“But if they be prophets, and if the word of the LORD be with them, let them

now make intercession to the LORD of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the LORD, and in the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem , go not to Babylon;”

Jeremiah 7:18

If you read to the end of this passage you learn that if any made intercession to the LORD about these things God heard them not. The vessels were carried away. Many now believe they are in a vault at the Vatican for use in future bargaining to gain favor with the nation of Israel. Further on God has this to say through his prophet.

“Nevertheless Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them.”

Jeremiah 36:25

Here we see that three men made intercession to the earthly king, but he would not hear them further proving that all earthly authority is under the control of the living God. Here intercession is directed to an earthly authority to no avail. We don't direct our prayers to God in Heaven if we want answers from earthly authorities like the Pope or dead saints like Mary. If we want answers to our prayers, we must go straight to God.

Paul

Look at Paul's use of this word.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.”

Romans 8:26

Here we find something very interesting. Have you ever prayed for an infirmity and had your prayers go unheeded? I certainly have! I have tried endless prayers and nothing happened! But after my encounter with Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit and watching him interceded in Heaven, things have changed for me. My faith has soared higher than a kite.

Now that I am born again, I have The Spirit of the living God within me. The Holy Spirit! He can make intercession for me with groanings which can't be uttered. There comes a time when we come to the end of ourself and begin to rely on him. He is the source of all supernatural strength. When we are weak He is strong! That's what the Word of God says. Have you ever reached that point of need? I certainly have. The next verse makes things very clear for me.

“And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

Romans 8: 27

is something really being held back?

Here we see that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have one mind when it comes to intercession. Praise God. Intercession is powerful. Look at what Paul concludes with in this chapter in Romans:

“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

Romans 8:34

If Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us what do we really have to worry about? That is what verses like Deuteronomy 28:7 tell us. I'll let you look that verse up. It is worth looking up. In fact it is one I have memorized. I have quoted it almost daily for years to remind myself of his mighty power.

“God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? How he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not

bowed the knee to the image of Baal.”

Romans 11:2-4

I imagine that many serious watchers out there on the walls warning people probably feel like they are the only one left in their circle of influence that God can rely on. In our day too there are those feeling burned out as Isaiah did. But there is a small company of men who have not bowed their knees in our generation to the false idols worshipped in our day.

If you know you are saved, isn't it exciting to know God foreknew you and will not cast you away in spite of your shortcomings in spite of how you might be feeling at this moment.

Look at Paul's attitude in this next verse:

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions; and giving of thanks, be made for all men;”

I Timothy 2:1

a mighty intercessor in heaven

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Hebrews 7:25

I have personally seen by vision that I have a mighty intercessor in Heaven. I have found out personally I can rely upon him. I know he intercedes for me. I have experienced this personally in a profound way. I have testified about this before.

I expect that He also might be the one in Thessalonians chapter two referred to as the Restrainer who is holding back the full power of evil even now. I am not dogmatic about this. I just have a suspicion. I suspect that someone smarter than me will explain to me why the Restrainer is not Jesus, if I am wrong about this matter.

4

our worst enemy

We all face challenges in this life. No one is exempt! Some of us by all societal measures should never amount to anything based on earlier life experiences. Yet many in spite of horrible past circumstances go on to overcome stark beginnings and do great exploits. Others with all the apparently right advantages in the world's eyes, end up making a real mess of their lives and chances. What explains the difference? Character? Trials and tribulations give all of us the opportunity to develop good character, or cave in to the temptations we all face in this life.

One conclusion that I have reached is this: I have been my own worst enemy. A right attitude overcomes much. A wrong attitude helps one to dig one's own grave. My attitude has influenced me for good and bad in the course of my life.

How should we as a society measure success and failure? There are so many standards out there to choose from. Most are really traps. Many select a material standard to judge their actions by. For some its the longevity of their marriage which seems to mean everything to them. For others its the success of their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The size of one's

house and bank account drive many! Even the number of people at one's funeral! Or something less meaningful: the success of a sports team! Could any of these measures be an accurate assessment of divine success?

a biblical measure

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doeth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doeth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus told a parable that really struck a nerve with me. It was about a rich man named Lazarath and a beggar. Both died. What happened after their deaths should cause us all to reevaluate our lives.

No matter the generation one is born into each individual life has its own particular challenges because of society at large. If you are like me you may have wondered what it would have been like to live in another time or culture. I used to read historical fiction. They are some very talented writers who can really romantize a time in history. As I have aged I have come to appreciate more the opportunities in the generation I was placed in by God.

anti-semitism

My parents and grandparents suffered through some difficult historical events: the great depression, WWII, the Korean War, etc. I never heard them complain. One of the great sins of my parents generation was anti-semitism. My dad fought in two wars: WWII and the Korean War; and was a leader of Marines.

He didn't fight in Europe against Hitler and the Nazi's. I didn't hear the adults in my family discuss this unrational hatred the Germans had for the Jews. Probably such discussions if any were saved until after we kids were in bed. The German's were certainly out of control. Their unrational hatred effected

many nations.

Dad did fight against the Japanese, and later against the North Koreans and Chinese forces. The Marines were mostly used in the Pacific campaigns where they were pitted against a similarly awful superior racial attitude. Certainly an immense national pride! It certainly consumed both the German and Japanese peoples of their day. They were fanatical enemies for sure. But look what intercession did: They are not our enemies today. It is amazing how we helped rebuild those two enemy societies from the bottom up after the war was over. Only a Christian people under the influence of Christ, I think, could do such a great thing.

Without God's intervention and restraining power I don't think any of these demonically controlled powers our parents fought against could have been stopped by a civilized society. Our hidden ace-in-the-hole was biblical faith and prevailing prayer power. That is my opinion from my own personal research. There are many things that can't be explained except that they were miracles. The faith of my parent's generation was a quiet faith. But most believed Jesus Christ was who he said he was.

I think in prior generations there were more believers who really knew how to pray and who trusted the God of the Bible in a way that has been lost in the present generation. My dad's grandmother was one of those hidden warriors. Though she carried on spiritually in a very quiet, hidden manner.

I having studied the wars my dad fought in. I have had the privilege of teaching warfare courses at two universities, I am convinced *The Restrainer* mentioned in the Bible kept us from being overrun by the barbarians on my parent's watch. And so far on our watch too.

Many thought Hitler was the Anti-Christ. Satan probably has had someone standing in line for that role in every generation because he is not quite sure what God will do. Christians knew how to get down on their knees and pray back in my grandparents and parents generation in a way it seems many aren't doing in this age. My proof? Evil is on the rise here inside America. That was only true outside America in their day. What prior generations of

Americans gained by the sweat of their blood we are now squandering away foolishly.

My dad, a great uncle, and an uncle were Marine officers during WWII. I am sure prayers sustained them more than they knew in this life. All three of them came through without a scratch. All three were in the thick of it. Fighting was so fierce in one campaign, the battle for Okinawa, that my dad was the fourth battalion commander to assume command in an infantry battalion in a thirty day period. The first three battalion commanders were badly wounded or killed. He lead that battalion for the next year. I know the power of prayer can sustain a man in combat. I have heard many stories. I have sensed divine protection myself.

I mentioned the evil of anti-semitism. I was naive growing up about such matters. I never remember hearing anything about it in our household. I do remember only one Jewish family in our neighborhood in all my growing up years. The man was a major my dad knew. He had a large fish tank in his home. I went with my dad once to his home. I grew up on and around Marine bases. Jews were rare in the Marines. They were probably too wise to go that route. Why would a smart Jew choose a profession where men were all armed in a non jewish culture? If I had been a Jew, and knew the history of antisemitism, that's what I would have come to.

Now that I am older and hopefully wiser and have studied Bible history and world history; I can see that anti-semitism is again on the rise. Certainly the Islamic religion is fostering hatred of the Jews. They are the nearest thing in our times to the German Nazis. They too want to see the Jews eliminated off the face of the earth. Few it seems are standing up to them right now. Certainly many of our current national leaders aren't. Thank God our Congress recently took a stand on behalf of Israel.

evil's enduring face

There have been terrible evils that have surfaced in every age as we study what history has to say. Thank God that his restraining hand has held evil back from reaching its full potential. In my lifetime I have never heard of the

brutality that is now surfacing. Consider the behavior of ISIS!

A retired army friend who was an officer of note in the intelligence field just sent me over some images of ISIS murdering Christian children. They are gruesome. It seems that many in our present administration just want to appease such evil.

Is our generation becoming more callous about such matters? Or is it just my imagination? At any rate our nation's foot dragging response to such brutality is very discouraging! How much worse do things have to get before we see this growing threat for what it truly is. A march towards world conquest! The Bible has a lot to say about what we see developing right now.

Once again it seems America is its own worse enemy. At the start of the last two world wars as a percentage of our gross domestic product our spending on a strong national defense was at its lowest point. We were not ready to fight logistically or tactically. Once again we seem to be disarming as our potential enemy's arms spending increases.

Thank God that we have a supernatural friend who is restraining the full power of evil behind the scenes. But the bad news is this: At some point God is going to remove The Restrainer for a little season, seven years, to test the world. Are you spiritually ready when that day arrives? It could be soon!

why anti-semitism is so harmful

In a nut shell it makes one an enemy of God. God has told us in Genesis that he will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel.

“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 13:3

5

are we pawns?

The Bible calls us Kings and Priests. (Revelation 1:6) If we as believers are aware of Biblical end time prophecy and follow the world news headlines, we can see what is going on more than most. Why are not more Christians alarmed and asking questions about the obvious discrimination as our government favors any religion over Christianity? Few people in the local church seem to discuss such things with their friends. At least that I overhear! Does this mean most believers are fast asleep spiritually? This is troubling!

show me your fight

With the obvious assault on our Constitutional freedoms I am amazed more people don't see our individual freedoms being eroded and are not speaking out because of their alarm. If many Christians feel the way I do they certainly keep their opinions to themselves. The average person seems so distracted by the little unimportant things. It can only mean that few see the larger picture of what is going on. Polls tell us half in the church don't even bother to vote. And many of those who do don't seem to be influenced by what God thinks about the growing secularism in our nation. Since my youth the trivial things that can occupy our time has grown by leaps and bounds distracting more and more people from really important issues.

Government is placing more restrictions on our individual rights. Our ability to defend ourselves against those who are lawless is critical. The response time of the police to a 911 call grows longer as criminal behavior becomes more sophisticated. Also the police are becoming more alienated from the citizens they protect. Such trends are not good. Government bends over backwards to defend the lawless. Even where evidence is overwhelming of

someone's guilt the system is ponderous and inefficient. Seeing this evident bias in favor of law breakers over those they victimize is discouraging.

People of faith become less willing to speak out on behalf of Christ because of the growing prejudice against those of faith. It seems that the system looks to make an example of those who do speak out boldly on behalf of righteousness. The consequence being that good people are more likely to remain quiet in the face of unrighteousness making it seem that the law breakers outnumber those who do obey our laws. But this is not yet the case. But a time is coming when it will be the case according to prophecy.

City and county jurisdictions are placing more restrictions on churches and home fellowships in the area of parking and other such matters. This has the effect of making it more difficult for the righteous to gather in peaceful assembly. Believers are becoming more isolated as our government becomes more unfriendly to Christianity because of their emphasis on multiculturalism.

pawns too can fight

Those who love God and speak out about their love, tend to think they are in the minority, mere pawns in the game of life. Many Christians have fallen silent about their love outside the church walls. No Christian should act like he is in the minority. But many do. (i John 4:4). It just seems like we are in the minority, but this is not true. (II Kings 6:14-15)

If you are a good chess player you know pawns have the ability to checkmate a king. The pawns outnumber those who are more favored on the chess board and a pawn can capture a more important piece. Those who are new players tend to forget the significance of pawns. It just seems that focus is on the higher ranking pieces and that they do all the real fighting on the chess board. But don't ever think a pawn is insignificant. We aren't according to scripture. Satan knows this great truth and works hard to keep us thinking like lowly pawns. But we are kings in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The pressure against Christians is growing within the American government,

but this prejudice is still quite subtle and covert when compared with other secular nations. But it is effective propaganda that keeps many of us silent about our faith. Satan's people know they are still in the minority here in America. So they have to work behind the scenes in secret as much as possible to advance their agenda.

What are the enemies of Christ up to here in America? They want us to think we are a minority, even though we still are in the majority. So they can move against us more strongly in the public arena! They are doing their best to isolate us and divide us by their evil strategies so they can defeat us.

the greatest battle

Someone said a believer's greatest battle is to conquer the demons in their own lives that create fear, doubt, depression and other self defeating emotions. I wish I knew who said this. It is so true. I wish I could give this person credit for this great truth. But it probably springs from biblical thinking as do all great truths.

Most of us who believe, I suspect, fall far short of what God had planned for our lives, me included. We tend to set such small expectations for ourselves. We don't see ourselves as God sees us. We are too often overcome by unwarranted fears, doubts, and unbelief. When I look at various believers I know, many are up and down in how they are living out their lives according to the gospel. Look at personal happiness for instance.

Most people seem to be more unhappy than when I was younger. Why is this? Bottom line: happiness is a choice people make irrespective of circumstances. We are all afflicted by dark forces from time to time. But Christians have more to be happy about than any other people because of what awaits us in heaven.

Why do many of us battle depression? Its a spirit we can take dominion over. Yet so few understand that it is largely a spiritual problem. We open doors to such problems when we are not quick to forgive and repent. Many people finally seek professional help to win the battle against depression not having discovered a spiritual approach to victory such as the power of praise. Some

can go their whole lives being plagued by this particular spirit and never realize they need spiritual help. They seek relief through medicine, counselling, alcohol, etc. while rarely turning to Christ and his promises of wellbeing. Lots of money is spent on vain attempts to cope with depression with less than perfect success. Often these approaches just increase their problems because of unpleasant side effects.

We all know people with such reoccurring health problems. They try to get control over such problems through an attempt at positive thinking, doctors, medicine or a change in lifestyle. Most never consider that the problem at its root is spiritual. Winning such battles often lies more in the area of forgiveness, repentance and spiritual warfare than in seeking costly professional remedies.

For many our problems at the root are often financial in nature. We work hard to save and forgo unnecessary expenditures with meager success. We look for part time work to increase our take home pay. Many eventually just give up and go on permanent welfare. Falling even further behind until we give up! Could it be that the problem is not a natural problem at all, but a supernatural one, demanding a supernatural solution? All these things make it less likely that people will stand up against important things like our national slide toward immorality.

why is it so hard to ask for spiritual help

Before any believer will ever begin to see a problem as one where they are being troubled by evil spirits several things have to occur first. Most don't want to ever question why they are making no headway in solving a difficulty that won't go away. Could it be demonic at its root? Such a question is not asked by most.

To ask such a question: first a person needs to come to the conclusion that demons are real. Most people don't really want to think about such matters. This takes real investigation. They need to really explore the Bible and see what it has to say about devils and demons.

If they ever do come to the conclusion that demons are real and could be at the root of their problem, then they have to decide whether or not they want to address such a problem at all.

If they do come to the conclusion that this is the problem then they need to find competent help. Since most don't think they are worthy to go straight to the source of all power: God himself and his written word. So the result is that very few people in fact know about such problems or how to address them.

Many churches don't want to face such problems either. Being honest in this area is a quick way to have others back away from you. Multiply this by hundreds of thousands of people and you begin to see why our nation is in such trouble and the trouble is growing.

is suicide rational

As we proceed through life and can't make headway against personal problems that are defeating us they begin to weigh us down. And when our secular government exacerbates such problems with stupid policies it really hurts people. If we never think about such things outside the accepted box of rational thinking many will start to believe that the only solution might be something as drastic as suicide. Killing one's self is a growing epidemic across America. In some regions it is the number one way young people are dying. This is so sad! It is a growing problem in the military as well. Multiple deployments backing up failed strategic thinking makes no sense at all. It builds pressure on individuals from top to bottom.

If one is thinking suicide it is not a natural thought. It is supernatural in its origin. The impus to live is very strong in people. God made us that way; to be overcomers. When such a thought begins to dominate one's thinking such a person needs outside help because he is no longer thinking rationally.

a whole class of people

There is a whole class of people that Satan is trying to defeat here in

America. Namely Christians. He hates us. If he could he would encourage every last one of us to commit suicide. He wants to isolate us and divide us and to get us to turn inward and become compliant and not question what he is trying to do here in America and in Western Civilization so he can destroy us.

If you don't believe America and Western Civilization owe their great achievements to the favor of being in Christ, and to the supernatural power available to us within the Christian belief system; you don't know your history. Christianity is what made us exceptional as a people. The forces of anti-christ have been working tirelessly to defeat us so they can bring in their anti God agenda. All these subtle attacks going on against us here in America right now are designed to make us give up so we can be more easily overpowered and controlled. Many want to do to us here what Islam is doing to Christians overseas. But until The Restrainer stops restraining they can't overpower those of us who know our God. The Bible says we will do great exploits.

we are not powerless

As long as we believe what the Bible has to say about us and look to Christ and his Holy Spirit we can not be defeated. The Bible tells us to be bold and strong and not to fear. We find this challenge 38 times in scripture.

6

while still here

Each and every day has its opportunities to fight the good fight of faith. We need to be alert and aware so as not to let an important opportunity pass us by because we are too distracted to see it. Yesterday I missed a very slight nudging in the spirit. A friend and I were trying to fix a leak in a daughter's kitchen faucet. I had bought a standard repair kit that included a needed tool.

That tool wasn't the right fit and caused the time to fix it to take much longer.

daily submission

Now that I think back on that chore it was not one of my sharper moments. Why? I don't think I started out the day right before the Lord. Early morning prayer is so important. One of my favorite verses is in James.

“Submit yourself to God, resist the devil, and he will flee.”

James 4:6

There is a poem I heard an acquaintance quote at a weekly early morning Christian fellowship meeting in the late 70s at the Washington Athletic Club in downtown Seattle. It went like this:

I Met God in the Morning

I met God in the morning, When my day was at its best, And His presence came like sunrise, Like a glory in my breast. All day long the Presence lingered; All day long He stayed with me; And we sailed in perfect calmness, O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered, Other ships were sore distressed, But the winds that seemed to drive them, Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings, With a keen remorse of mind.

When I too had loosed the moorings, With the Presence left behind.

So, I think I know the secret, Learned from many a troubled way;

You must seek Him in the morning, If you want Him through the day.

Author Unknown

That day I missed a very slight nudge from the Holy Spirit to bring my set of tools from the garage. The project went down hill from there taking much longer than it should have with several trips attempting to find the right tool. Why the time wasted? Because I didn't meet God adequately that morning, I

suspect.

This life is so short. Most of us, me included, so often treat time as if we have more than enough to spare. I have missed too many of God's slight nudgings or knowings making things more complicated for myself and others. Some times these nudges have to do with really important matters. A nudge to pray for someone in trouble at that moment for instance....

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

James 4:14

has your perspective changed?

Before I was born again I saw life through a different set of eyes than I am seeing life through now. I thought I was submitted to God because of my weekly church attendance and a mostly ritualistic prayer life. But I wasn't. The ability to see spiritually is a wonderful, always valuable experience. Before my eyes were opened spiritually by the new birth I truly thought I knew all I needed to know about spiritual matters. Certainly I did on an intellectual level. But I really had no idea how important this new level of understanding really is. Most people go through their entire lives without it. I was headed in that direction too until God showed mercy to me by revealing himself in a totally unexpected and very real manner.

Now I understand his love in a fresh new way and try to seek his presence daily. I am more aware how valuable time is in a biblical sense. I know I only have today. I can't count on tomorrow. I try to live my life differently than before I was aware of how real the spiritual world really is and how much it influences what is going on around us.

at any moment

I believe that the next spiritual event to take place for the church is the rapture of true believers off this earth. Because I believe this I seem to live my life differently than most. I am in great anticipation for this coming event.

And yet I find that most people don't want to hear this. I can't share it with very many people. To me this is very sad. If this coming event is fact and I believe it is; than people need to know. Yet when I share it mostly the universal reaction is a stunned look of disbelief.

When one looks at what the disciples of Christ had to say following his departure it is obvious they were looking for him to come back in their generation. Before they died! So they had a pre-tribulation point of view. Yet they all died looking for his soon return. Does this invalid the believe in a soon coming Rapture? Certainly not! If a generation is about fifty years, then forty generations have gone by since Jesus went back to heaven to prepare a place for those who love him. (John 14:1-3)

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will

come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

John 14:1-3

Does this mean that his first disciples who died without seeing his return in glory are disappointed? I think not for scripture is clear. The dead in Christ are the first to rise and than after them we who are alive and remain.

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality....”

I Corinthians 15:51-53

So I and those who also long for his appearing have this great hope of the rapture to sustain us while we serve him here on earth in this fallen world. Life is winding down. Things are waxing worse and worse, and while we are

here we are to do what we can to make a difference in this life in others.

I think the greatest work we can do is to walk as he walked on this earth. One thing scripture is clear about! Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer. He had a busy day and often it was nights that he spent in prayer with his Father in Heaven.

I do think prayer is our greatest ministry. I try to discuss spiritual matters with those I love where and when I can. But often they don't want to hear what I think. So I have found over time that prayer, for those who are closed to what I have to say, is my only option. Opening my mouth about spiritual matters too often seems to provoke people I care about.

Opening my mouth doesn't seem to be an effective course of action in a lot of instances. I have tried giving spiritual books as gifts. But seldom am I thanked. It is rare to receive feedback from such a gift which probably means they go unread. Also some good films I liked I have passed along with similar results.

Prayer alone doesn't seem enough, but at least I don't get any negative feedback. God has so many other ways to bring about conversion in people. I seem to have more success with strangers than with family.

vexed in the spirit

Are many of the things you are hearing and seeing troubling you? If so you are in good company. And if you respond by praying as the Lord leads even though often there is no feedback, this is a really important activity to do.

Many of the mighty men and women of God in our generation are vexed in the spirit by what was going on in our culture. Is our generation really any different than past generations in this regard?

7

what we don't know

the seriousness of rejecting knowledge

I have made much of the following verse in other writings:

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”

Hosea 4:6

We saw this following Christ's first coming. With the rejection of Christ Jerusalem was destroyed thirty six years later and the Jews who were not killed were scatters among the nations. Jesus prophezied exactly what would happen. What we don't know, or refuse to accept, but need to know can open the door of ignorance leading to the destruction of our nation which has also been greatly blessed by God.

At the start of our lives the major undertaking of a child's life is education.

Here in America we get twelve years of public education for free, and that doesn't count nursery school and kindergarden. Public education is considered the number one priority of local government. But it seems many children major in how to fail not succeed. Many actually refuse to learn what is being taught. It is clear that for many young adults public education is no priority at all. This is very sad for our nation. They have to be in a very troubling situation to become so lost. And no amount of money seems to help.

Thank God for those students and supportive parents and teachers across our land who really do attempt to make the most of these early childhood years. Our nation depends on those willing to carry the load of progress. The educated and responsible are the major contributors to any society. Yet many of our secular government leaders seem to have no understanding at all of how important Christian education is in maintaining our national exceptionalism. In fact there are those in our current government administration that actually seem to fight to ensure that our children get no Christian learning at all. This prejudice shows great ignorance in my view.

a growing class of underachievers

I am very concerned by the very obvious and growing underclass in our nation that is void of any spiritual understanding. A significant and growing minority is also actually resisting society's attempt to teach important secular skills like reading, writing and math skills. The personal discipline it takes to learn is what makes them employable once they reach the age of eighteen.

Too many young people for many different reasons are resisting or not taking advantage of their mandatory education opportunity. This is a well documented fact. It is totally irrational.

Look at the next part of the above verse:

“...because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

Hosea 4:6

It appears that those who reject knowledge make themselves enemies of God. And their children suffer from their stubbornness as well. The traditional family has been under great attack by the enemies of God. There use to be a commonly repeated saying that I haven't heard anyone say in years: *“As the family goes, so goes the nation.”*

It seems the family is no longer looked at as an important institution in its own right. This is very sad for our society. Our culture is in a mess. And it is growing worse. We can't fix it without God's help. Our leaders largely see government control as more important than the family or God. Not good!

A unhealthy attitude inside the government system is just a reflection of the increasingly unhealthy individual families across America. Our own government has become toxic, and is institutionalizing this toxicity and it will be passed on to our children and grandchildren. This isn't good for anyone's future.

rejecting God has serious side effects

God in Romans One starting in verse eighteen tells us that sin stirs up God's wrath.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, adn fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and

worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever, Amen...”

Romans 1:18-25

Read this passage thorough to the end of the chapter. You will see what is going on here in America from a spiritual perspective. It will tell you what is going to happen if there is not a great turning back to God. To date I am not seeing any signs of such a turning back. Are you?

a third great awakening?

The question I have been thinking about in this book is how important is intercession and prayer. Can we as individuals make a difference in how our national story turns out? Since my vision in 1978 I have at times pondered two words: *Restraint* and *intercession* and their connectedness. Can I truly make a difference in the lives of those I love through prayer and intercession? I believe I can. But how about the nation?

How important really is one person in effecting the heart of a nation? I think God answers that question in scripture. Look at this verse.

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them: I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 22:30-31

These two verses tell us how important a man of God really is to that man's nation. A man of prayer is of infinite value it seems. So? Can you or I make any real difference in this life? Many of our leaders currently in important positions of government service seem to consider Christian believers of little worth. Is it too late for a company of men to arise and through intercession turn this nation back to God? It could happen.

But the most critical question I am asking myself is this: Could this be the final generation spoken of in the Bible that will witness the Second Coming

of Jesus Christ? God does have his time table to bring all things to a conclusion.

or the time of our visitation?

We see in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 that a time is coming when the restraining influence of God will be removed out of the way. I believe God set that time from the beginning because he is God. He tells us he knows the end from the beginning. At that time things will go from bad to worse. The book of Thessalonians is the first epistle Paul wrote. It is the only one that God said to read to the flock (1 Thes 5:27). So it is important.

We see how serious lack of knowledge of the prophecies of Christ's first coming was for the Jews. They failed to recognise who Jesus was at his first coming. They missed the time of their visitation. Most Jews rejected Jesus. It had devastating consequences for their nation and generations to come. Jesus told how serious the consequences would be for those of that generation. We don't want to repeat that mistake at his second coming. But human nature being what it is, most in the church could make the same mistake the Jews made.

I don't want to miss out by not watching and praying for his coming. I don't want to be so engaged in this life, that I miss out on the most important thing. His Return! Look at the awful consequences because most weren't paying attention 2,000 years ago:

“And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.”

Luke 19:44

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

Romans 13:11

we must get one thing right

If we are in the final generation we must get this one thing right. We must know the time of our visitation. There are so many indications that the generation that saw the rebirth of Israel in 1948 and that also witnessed the recapture of Jerusalem in 1967, will not all pass away before the glorious return of our risen Savior. That generation is what is referred to as the greatest generation, those who fought in WWII. They are now passing away at an accelerating rate.

I know. I am a chaplain in a local VFW Post. We don't want to make the fatal mistake most Jews made at Christ's first coming. They didn't recognize him. They rejected him.

“Take ye heed, Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.”

Mark 13:33

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.”

Matthew 24:44

There are so many warnings in scripture to watch and pray like a soldier on watch. When the enemy is close a good Commander is even closer. If we have the Holy Spirit within us, and we are busy helping restrain evil and the trumpet sounds, signaling the rapture (withdrawal) of the church, than we are ready to go and won't miss out. We won't be left behind to suffer the tribulation. But look at all those around you who are distracted. They are not aware of the nearness of his return. Their love for Jesus is not the most important thing in their life.

We have been warned. Hold tight to our Lord. He is coming very soon. Don't miss out on this Blessed Hope of the soon coming King.

...in such an hour...

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.”

Matthew 24:44

In the above verse stands a warning: *“in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.”*

in closing look at this warning from Paul in I Corinthians 10: 12

“Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

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