

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

Signs of the Times: IT'S CHRISTMAS! BUT WHAT IS GOING ON?

There is no denying we are in an intense time of spiritual activity. If you are sensitive to that spiritual world, you have noticed it. If not, you should be able to notice it in the frantic activities of people - from the political leaders to individuals in your daily circle. People are busy beyond normal description. Time truly seems to be flying. And there is that great fear in many of what is going on financially, how will that affect each person, and what is going on in the world of physical conflict, the world of terror that is striking ever closer. There is also a creeping realization that the leaders in Washington and elsewhere may not really know what to do.

What is happening is that again the physical world is in the midst of the spiritual battlefield. It has been this way since Adam. Battles in the spiritual realm play out around us, and we don't even know, unless we exercise that great gift of discernment. Remember the angel telling Daniel how he would have come sooner but he was caught up in a battle and had to be helped by the angel Michael in order to come all the way to Daniel?

Jesus' return – as promised and as prophesied and as predicted – is truly imminent. Imagine what is happening in those spiritual circles, especially in the circles of the Kingdom of Darkness. Panic likely describes the evil one and his minions.

Some have reported feeling a spiritual heaviness over everything now. I think that is real. It is a heavy time, one in which the King will soon come to collect his Church. Who is going to be in that group? Believers. Real believers. To have eternal life with Jesus and the Father requires that you truly believe, that you truly establish Jesus as the Lord of your life. One time Jesus made it very clear – no one can enter God's kingdom unless he is born of water and the spirit. Other times the focus was on belief. That means a serious belief, such as your believing there is enough oxygen in the room you are in to maintain your life. Paul established the criteria as confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing in your heart that God raised him from the dead.

At this season of joy – Christmas – that celebrates the birth of God as man - we have to remember that Jesus is not a baby anymore, he is not a traveling preacher, he is not on the cross, and he is not returning as a weak, kind, teacher. He is returning as the leader of the greatest, most powerful force we have ever known. He collects his believers, the citizens of his Kingdom. He defeats an enormous army in a moment, and establishes his kingdom rule from Jerusalem. He is King. King. King.

Some of you have heard me say the Bible is a system of government – God’s government. Well, God’s government is about to become even more obvious on earth. It is and will be a Kingdom. Not a democracy. No elected president.

All those views that espouse political correctness towards false faiths? Not correct. Respect for others is fine. As Peter said, God is not a respecter of persons. He doesn’t rank one above another. But I tell you he is a respecter of truth and not a respecter of falsehood.

Belief in Jesus is not a religion. It is truth. He is the King. His word is truth. His government will never end. It is a Kingdom. He is coming soon. Those who will be with him are the true believers, those for whom he is Lord.

You don’t want to be in the rest of the crowd.

Yes, celebrate Christmas for what it is – a time of remembrance of what God did long ago and a time of family and friends. But keep your eye on the goal. Not on the manger. And keep watch! Stay alert! Don’t be diverted by earthly cares. Seek first the kingdom of God, and all necessary things will be yours as well.

Merry Christmas, fellow citizens of the Kingdom!

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