

March 20, 2020: From the Rabbi...

Shalom Rosh Pinah Community. As a result of this global pandemic, we are going to miss another Shabbat together (with more on the horizon from the sound of things). We are going to miss you all!. We look forward to the day when we all have our lives back to normal and we are able to enjoy our various gatherings again. We need to continue to pray that this time we're in, will pass soon, that all stay healthy and that all of us will be safe during these trying times, **in Yeshua's Name.**

I want to share some of my thoughts with you: To provide some comfort from the word of God as to what we are confronted with; As you evaluate the messages from all the voices you are hearing; And as to where I believe we are in these end times. I'm concerned people could be misled by misinformation being posted on the internet and on the air waves which can lead one to fear and/or be consumed by worry. In the case of predicting future events during times of uncertainty, remember we are to weigh all things against scripture. So, with that in mind, what does scripture tell us?

In HaBrit Chadashah (the New Testament), **Matthew 24:11 says:** *Many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many.* **2 Timothy 4: 3-4 says:** *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from truth, and shall be turned unto fables.* In times of uncertainty, when people are looking for and wanting to hear answers, prophets and teachers appear on the scene. The difficulty becomes distinguishing the words of false prophets and teachers from the words of true prophets and teachers in times of crisis. There is a saying that emotionally charged information will make it all the way around the world before facts even get a chance to put their shoes on.

With time, prophecy is either fulfilled or it is not. If it is fulfilled, then you have heard from a true prophet. If, however prophecy is not fulfilled then you have heard from a false prophet. **2 Peter 1:20-2:1-3 says:** *First of all, understand this: no prophecy of the scripture is to be interpreted by an individual on his own; for never has a prophecy come as a result of human willing-on the contrary, people moved by the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) spoke a message from God. But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you...Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them, the true Way will be maligned. In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated stories.* **Matthew 7:15-16 says:** *Beware of false prophets, which come to you wearing sheep's clothing, but underneath they are hungry wolves! You will recognize them by their fruit.* Remember this, there are many false prophets but few true prophets. Why? Because true prophets are 100% correct all the time. Anything less is a false prophet.

Speaking of time, some may not see prophecy fulfilled in his or her lifetime, but that does not mean it will not be fulfilled. This is where faith becomes important in a believer's life. **Romans 10:17 says:** *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* **Hebrews 11:1 says:** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* It is actions

in the space of time that confirm prophecy and the fulfillment is in God's timing not ours. **Revelation 19:10** says: *...Worship God! For the testimony of Yeshua is the Spirit of prophecy.*

What is God's timing? **Psalm 90:2 & 4** says: *Before the mountains were born and You had not yet fashioned the earth and the inhabited land, and from the remotest past and to the most distant future You are God. For even a thousand years in Your eyes are but a bygone yesterday, and like a watch in the night. 2 Peter 3:8* says: *...one day is with the lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. Revelation 4:8* says: *...Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.* God is timeless. We know as believers that Yeshua is returning as Mashiach Ben David (The conquering King) and we anxiously await his return. So when is He to return? Only God knows. **Matthew 24:36** says: *But of that day or hour Knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

So since God is timeless and only He knows when His son Yeshua is to return, how are we to know when **Revelation 1:19** which says: *...the things which shall be hereafter; are to commence?* So now let's look at man's timeline in conjunction with God's timing to see where the verses fall. Yeshua's talmidim (disciples) asked the same question in which Yeshua answered.

Matthew 24:3-39 says: *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he*

is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

We also read of this account in both the books of Mark and Luke where more information is added to provide further content to what Yeshua had shared.

Mark 13:1-11 says: *And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled? And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows. But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. And the gospel must first be published among all nations. But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.*

Luke 21:5-13 says: *And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And they asked him,*

saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

So where are we on man's timeline with respect to God's timing for the return of Yeshua?

I believe man's timeline started when Yeshua returned to His throne as recorded in **Acts 1:6-12** **which says:** *When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.* Since then and until today, we have, through the centuries, been experiencing the words our Yeshua spoke with more intensity every time we progress through them. Let me repeat them again from **Matthew 24: 4-8** **which says:** *Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.* Until God makes his decision to proceed with what is spoken of in **Revelation Chapters 6-22**, we will continue to cycle through events mentioned in **Matthew 24:4-8** but with more intense experiences every time an event occurs.

I also believe God's timing for Yeshua's return commenced, as recorded for us in **Revelation Chapters 4 and 5** (I encourage you to read these two chapters). But the authority to proceed with **Revelation Chapters 6 thru 22** is still subject to God's timing. Once **Revelation Chapter 6** does commence, the intensity of the events spoken of in **Matthew 24:6-8** will be at their zenith. I encourage you to also read these two sections to see how they compare. I wish to note they also compare to what we see in our Passover; as we discuss the progression of the ten plagues. I don't think this relationship is a coincidence since a comparison can also be drawn.

During these troubling cycle times, which are to be more frequent (like birth pains racing to a birth) as we progress toward Yeshua's return, remember **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10** which says: *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

I believe these troubling times now (and through the centuries past) are the way God has chosen to call His people back to Him and to open the door for salvation through Yeshua ha Mashiach; to those who are lost.

So I hope this message provides you with some information and insight from our scriptures that will assist you in these end days in weighing the words you may be hearing (and will hear in the future) from those who think we are now in the Book of Revelation tribulation.

In Closing: May...

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:

The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Even Come Quickly Yeshua!

Shabbat Shalom!