

What Is Going On

Pastor Ken

April 26, 2026

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When you travel to a destination, whether a city or a holiday, there are different kinds of signs indicating you are almost there. One of my favorite places to visit is Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas. I love Texas. Why? I fell in love with Danice Shiree Tracy while in Seminary in Ft Worth. Now, the route to Ft Worth is simple from Wichita. Head south on Interstate 35. There will be signs along way indicating I am on the right Interstate taking me to Texas.

When I get to OKC and see the signs for Texas, I know that I am almost halfway to Ft Worth. When I cross the Red River, the next most important sign is Washington Street in Denton, Texas where I exit and eat at In N Out, I get a double-double animal version.

Now, I am only about 45 miles from my destination of Ft Worth, Texas. Hee-haw. Hook em' horns. Howdy pardner.

Texans have their own language. When a Texan, brags about how big Texas is, I love to remind them, if you take the state of Alaska and cut it in half Texas would be number 3, in size.

When you travel to a destination, you see signs along the way giving you confidence you are soon to arrive!

Let's think of this idea of signs and connect them to December 25. Suddenly in October Christmas decorations and music begins to show up in Lowes, Wall Mart and at the Malls. Soon homes will turn on Christmas lights. Christmas trees will fill Americas homes from Long Island to Long Beach. Before

we reach December 25, there are all kinds of signs that Christmas is just weeks away. On the way to Christmas, we sail and speed right past Thanksgiving.

Christmas gets a lot of press; Thanksgiving has almost no signs. There are no real signs for Thanksgiving. The second coming of Jesus is like Christmas, his return to the earth. Thanksgiving is like the Rapture, Jesus' return to snatch away and catch-up believers. It could happen at any moment.

The signs of Christmas seem to be appearing all around us. Since they are watch and be ready. The coming of Jesus Christ to rapture his church could happen even before we go home.

Then we would really be home.

I love Jesus graphic picture of the rapture in the gospels.

³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. (Luke 17-NIV)

One will be drinking coffee then the other gone, as the coffee cup spills, one in the movie theatre, the other gone as popcorn spills.

This metaphor applies to the rapture and the second coming. Matthew 24 is a preview of the signs of Jesus second coming and the rapture taking believers to heaven does not need any sign. The Rapture is Immanent. It could happen anytime.

Matthew 24 is a preview of the coming attractions connected to the Tribulation.

Now, God does not want us to be caught off guard. That is why over 25% of the bible is about prophecy. Over half of the book of Daniel alone talks about the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is the final 7 years on earth where God will judge the world for sin.

God poured out His wrath on Jesus, so He does not pour it out on Christians now.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (Romans 5-NIV)

The book of Revelation chapters 4-19, all speak about the 7 years we are studying in Matthew 24, called the Tribulation.

Again, don't miss the signs that are clearly indicating Jesus' return, reminding us we are close to the **city**, and close to **Christmas day!**

Some of the prophetic signs that Jesus return is Immanent.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948
- (2) birth pains are increasing
- (3) nations in the Middle East are in turmoil
- (4) a coalition of nations are forming to run the world economically

These signs and others we are studying in our series, What Is Going On.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948.
- (2) Birth pains are increasing; we are in a time of human history where we are moving to a point where the end-time birth pains are speeding up and intensifying.
- (3) Nations in the Middle East are in turmoil. During Covid, those in the nation of Iran, searched on the internet for literature about Jesus Christ more than any other nation on the earth.

In the book of Jeremiah, the nation of Iran is called Elan. Look at this passage.

The prophecy of Iran or Elam in Jeremiah 49:34-39, predicts the **destruction** of Iran or Elam's military might and then Iran's eventual **restoration** in the last

days. Iran is important in the Bible; it is the focus of the books of Esther and Nehemiah.

Question: I wonder if God will have a place of salvation known to the Jews, Israel, yes! Jerusalem.

And a place of salvation known to the Gentiles, Iran, yes! The book of Jeremiah seems to hint to such an event.

³⁸ *"I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her kings and officials," declares the Lord.* ³⁹ *"Yet, I will restore the fortunes of Elam in the days to come."* (Jeremiah 49-NIV)

Is it possible that the US has destroyed Iran or Elam's nuclear potential and this is what Jeremiah was talking about when he referred to the "breaking of the bow."

Key Aspects of the Elam Prophecy (Jeremiah 49):

- Location: Ancient Elam was situated in southwestern Iran, centered around the city of Susa.
- The Bow Broken: God says, *"I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might"* (v. 35). This is interpreted as a destruction of Iranian military capabilities and leadership
- Dispersion and Return: The inhabitants are scattered to the *"four corners of the sky"* (v. 36) but are promised a reversal of fortunes in the *"latter days"* (v. 39).

(4) A coalition of nations are forming to run the **world economically.**

All of these signs come straight from God's word. The signs of the time are clear. So, it is not far off before we arrive in Ft Worth, Texas or experience the joy of Christmas.

The end-times cannot be talked about without paying careful attention to the rapture of the church. The Christian is about to be removed from the earth.

Believers alive at the rapture and those who are dead in Christ will be raptured.

First, the event of the rapture will trigger the Tribulation.

Next, the event of the rapture will also trigger the beginning of eternal time, as each believer begins to enjoy rewards, the wedding, a new body. A body that will not sin and never decay.

For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ is not a riddle to be solved, but an experience to be anticipated. (1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15)

Since the **rapture triggers** activity in heaven and activity on earth, let's take a few minutes and talk about the rapture. Then talk about the Antichrist.

God does not want you to be troubled or anxious about these future events. Topics such as the **Tribulation, Antichrist** and **rapture** are intended to comfort us, not send us into a spiral of concern, cares and confusion.

Here are some promises from the words of Jesus to calm your fears about the rapture.

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)

There are many rooms in my father's house. Jesus knows what it is like to live in cramped quarters, to work in cramped quarters, to be born in a barn and die on a cross.

Jesus says, "I have unlimited space for you." (John 14:2)

Jesus' mother Mary was told there was no room for the birth of your child. There is no room in the Inn.

* We have no openings at work, no room to hire.

* We have no room on this team; all the roster spots are taken.

* I have no room in my heart for you, I love another.

* Our schedule is full, our hotel is booked up, and our reservations are closed, so room for the night.

Jesus heard every word as a preborn, as the Innkeeper said, “we don’t have room for you.”

And Jesus knew this same problem during his life. A prophet is not with honor even in his own hometown. The religious leaders would not announce Jesus as the Messiah, we have no room for Messiahs today in Israel.

No room in the Inn, he wasn’t even born.

No room in your town of origin, that must have stung.

No room in Israel, what else do I need to do to prove I am the long-awaited Messiah.

No room for you on this earth, the cross was a message of utter rejection, announcing no room.

Even today Jesus goes from heart to heart and is given the same kind of treatment, as he asks for entry.

Now, and then Jesus is welcomed in. Someone throws open the door of their heart, and when Jesus comes in, he announces, I have ample room for you. How much room is there in heaven for you? Let me give you a glimpse.

16 *When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. ¹⁷ Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). Revelation 21:16-17 (NLT)*

What do you feel when you are limited to a wheelchair in recovery? Dorm rooms in college are suffocating. Does your work space cubicle cause you claustrophobia?

Tight quarters, we've all been in them. A small hotel room. Small bunks on an aircraft carrier. A home with a growing family. If these and other settings are the norm, then Heaven will be enjoyed like you can't imagine. Heaven is a real place with an extreme amount of space.

The apostle John was given a guided tour one day of this home that we are going to call the Father's House. It is so spacious it has no earthly comparison. In the book *The Revelation Record*, author Henry Morris gives us a glimpse of the calculations:

The cube described in Rev. is 1400 miles square. This would be the equivalent of the area from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rockies. This residence could easily accommodate over 20 billion people.

Each person would have his own private room, mansion or Trump Tower that was a 75-acre cube. This would leave plenty of room for parks, streets, buildings. Heaven is going to be big.

In my Father's House are many rooms-for all who choose to call it home! So, feel free to invite all you want-

... bring the whole family-even weird uncle Herold.

... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

Oh, ok bring everyone from the city you grew up in. In fact, why not think big, bring them all... your state, your country-everybody in the whole world! Heaven is going to be a great big place. Heaven will have maps, so you don't miss a thing. You will have unlimited time to enjoy everything (no picking and choosing on this vacation because of time constraints or lack of money) and to enjoy everyone.

As the days draw closer to the dawning of a new age, somewhere in the universe God is at work this very moment building an amazing home with you in mind. A healing home. A herculean home. A holy home. A heavenly home. A happy home.

Jesus says, "I am preparing your future home right now." (John 14:2c)

Jesus is preparing a place for you right now in heaven. When our kids come home for a visit we prepare a place for them. Flowers in the room. Their favorite food is in the refrigerator. And everything is clean, clean, clean. Only the best for our kids.

And Jesus is doing that for you. Sleeping disorder, you will sleep like baby in heaven. Eating disorder, your body can eat anything. Are you afraid at night? There is no darkness in heaven, the light is always on.

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:23-NIV)

Jesus moves from the expertise of an architect or project manager and now declares with authority and confidence. I am coming back for YOU!

Jesus says, "I am coming back soon!" (John 14:3)

Why would Jesus go to such lengths to retrieve me? To reclaim us? Are we not pretty troublesome? Don't we sin too much?

We should be holy, yet our hearts are filled with hate.

We should be servants, yet I am selfish.

We should be free of fear, yet it dominates our thinking. We are told 365 times in the Bible, do not be afraid. No, I did not misspeak. God offers us a word of hope, **do not fear**, for every day of the year.

Jesus will come back for you, even though at times, you feel so unworthy, inadequate and sinful. **The Rapture is an immanent sign.**

Let me shift our focus from the rapture(heaven) to the Tribulation (earth). From what happens in heaven to what happens on earth. We come to the part of

our study in Matthew 24, where we read about the vilest and most heinous time and person in the Tribulation. In human history. Let me answer the question:

What will happen during the Tribulation?

After a generation of people misses death, one moment hear and the next there. A generation of Christians will miss the cemetery. In Matthew 24, we read about a world leader in the Tribulation called the anti-Christ, a scoundrel. He is everything that is antichrist.

Before I describe the antichrist, don't miss what will happen in the Tribulation. Look at your notes.

The nation of Israel will accept Jesus as the Messiah, God will punish sin in the earth, God's power will be unleashed, the devil's true character will be exposed, God's sovereignty in salvation will be on display.

He is called the Antichrist because he is against everything Jesus stands for.

This evil leader will want people to worship him instead of Jesus Christ. Anti-salvation. Anti-forgiveness. Anti-truth. There are over 100 passages in the bible that refer or allude to him.

God wants you to know about this prince of darkness, even though you will not be here to experience his wrath.

At the half time of the Tribulation, the prince of darkness, Satan himself will desecrate God's holiest city and temple and break a pact of peace he brokered with the Jews.

The Tribulation will impact the whole world, but the endgame will be for Satan to be worshipped from God's holiest of temples.

This bad dude coming, will set himself up as god, in the newly rebuilt temple that the Jews have been worshipping Jehovah in for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

¹⁵ *So when you see standing in the holy place “the abomination that causes desolation,” spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

This is from our study in Matt 24, a translation that we can understand-
Message.

¹⁵⁻²⁰ *But be ready to run for it when you see the **monster of desecration set up in the Temple sanctuary**. The prophet Daniel described this. If you’ve read Daniel, you’ll know what I’m talking about. If you’re living in Judea at the time, **run for the hills**; if you’re working in the yard, don’t return to the house to get anything; if you’re out in the field, don’t go back and get your coat. Pregnant and nursing mothers will have it especially hard. Hope and pray this won’t happen during the winter or on a Sabbath.*

²¹⁻²² *This is going to be trouble on a scale beyond what the world has ever seen, or will see again. If these days of trouble were left to run their course, nobody would make it. But on account of God’s chosen people, the trouble will be cut short. (Matthew 24-MSG)*

The ripple effect of this desecration of evil will spread out from Jerusalem and impact everyone immediately. Let me put my spin on these verses of what will happen as told by Jesus to his disciples and the tsunami of tragic consequences.

Run for the hills, leave your home and do not go back for family heirlooms, run,

...if you are in the field, you don’t even have time to get your jacket, run,

...if you are pregnant when this happens, be careful when you run so as not to trigger birth pains, run,

...if it happens on the Sabbath run even though it is work and you are breaking the Sabbath, run,

...no matter how difficult it gets, God is working his Tribulation plan, run,

...you won't have to run much longer, God will intervene or nobody would make it, run,

...God will deliver you, even from the hour of tribulation, run.

What does Daniel 8:23-25-CEV say about this hour and this person?

²³ When these rulers have become as evil as possible, their power will end, and then a king who is dangerous and cannot be trusted will appear.

²⁴ He will gain strength, but not on his own, and he will cause terrible destruction. He will wipe out powerful leaders and God's people as well. ²⁵ His deceitful lies will make him so successful, that he will think he is really great. Suddenly he will kill many people, and he will even attack God, the Supreme Ruler. But God will crush him!

This paragraph reads like a job description or biography of the antichrist. No world leader at that time will compare. The antichrist will be ominous. Fierce looking. A master of intrigue. A trickster. His eyes will be defiant and his heart will be evil.

He will also be charming. He will be spiritually alive. He will traffic in the occult. In the book of Revelation John tells us he will have the mouth of a lion.

*² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a **mouth like that of a lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2-NIV)*

He will be a soul captivating orator or speaker. He will mesmerize people. He will gain attention with his voice. He will put the world in a verbal trance using a hypnotic story about God; why he cannot be trusted, why God doesn't keep his word.

Why the Antichrist is the real God. And like the question in the garden, he will convince the world. ***"Has God really said?" Genesis 3:1***

Why all the detail, Pastor. Why the concern? Just as Satan entered Judas on the day of betrayal, so Satan will enter a great peacemaker. He will offer an

olive branch to Israel as a gift. He will negotiate 7 years of peace as a great diplomat, then break it all halfway through, and all hell will break loose.

Combine the putrid spirits of Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Mao-Tse-tung and Idi Amiin with every other evil and arrogant leader and you have a glimpse of the Antichrist - **on a good day!**

I know what you are thinking, Ken, I am so inspired. Thank you for this wonderful description! All this talk about the antichrist, evil and total destruction. Now, I have to go to work tomorrow. We have to eat lunch in a few minutes. How am I going to nap today, with that in my mind?

I know. Depressing. Fear inducing. This sounds like the darkest days in human history, and they are. The Tribulation is going to happen, and the Bible spells it out in Matthew, Daniel and Revelation.

It will be far worse than I described.

- **In the Tribulation, God is the judge.**
- **In the Rapture, God is the rewarder.**

Forgive me if I tell you, I have no concerns about the Tribulation. The Antichrist. I am not even slightly interested. Or inquisitive a bit.

By the time this evil world dictator arrives I will be long gone. A bad dude is coming but before he does the rapture, God's people are gone, because Jesus will *harpazo* us.

Upon the sound of the trumpet and the signal from Christ, we will be transformed into the presence of Christ. This rescue could happen at any moment.

At that moment earth's greatest evacuation will take place. But God's work has told us this happened before. Maybe not rapture, but release from tribulation. Noah got on an ark. Lot got out of Sodom and Gomorrah.

A machinist often hovers a magnet over trash to separate the good stuff from the bad. Every item that contains the properties of magnet rises out of the trash and attaches to the magnet.

The rapture will have a similar effect. Jesus will appear in the sky, and all who share in his nature, who house the Holy Spirit, who house the presence of Jesus-will be caught up by his magnetic presence to meet him in the air.

What a moment of miracles that will be. Who will go?

This calling forth includes God's children, who were conceived yet, never took breath outside the womb. The rapture includes children who have not reached the age of accountability. While they lack the maturity to decide for Christ, they are safely rescued by Jesus.

So are the people who lacked the mental capacity to accept Jesus as Savior. They will receive brand new brains.

Sinners, saved by grace will go. Murders saved by grace will go.

Again, let me emphasize, Noah felt no rain drops and Lot felt no brimstone. In the same way, Jesus will rescue the church. We are encouraged to celebrate this event, and how can that happen if we are going through it.

The names are endless of those rescued, and perhaps you will be one of them, Rahab from Jericho, Samson from his sexual sin. Moses was rescued from Egypt. Jesus was rescued from Herod.

Our Great God is the God who rescues us from **troubles, temptation** and even the **Tribulation**.

Rev 3-NIV ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

So, I don't have a prayer, for you, but I do have a promise I want you to declare as we conclude and sing a song- this is the next event on God's calendar. You don't want to miss it!

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4-NIV)

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Tight quarters, we've all been in them. A small hotel room. Small bunks on an aircraft carrier. A home with a growing family. If these and other settings are the norm, then Heaven will be enjoyed like you can't imagine. Heaven is a real place with an extreme amount of space.

The apostle John was given a guided tour one day of this home that we are going to call the Father's House. It is so spacious it has no earthly comparison. In the book *The Revelation Record*, author Henry Morris gives us a glimpse of the calculations:

The cube described in Rev. is 1400 miles square. This would be the equivalent of the area from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rockies. This residence could easily accommodate over 20 billion people.

Each person would have his own private room, mansion or Trump Tower that was a 75-acre cube. This would leave plenty of room for parks, streets, buildings. Heaven is going to be big.

In my Father's House are many rooms-for all who choose to call it home! So, feel free to invite all you want-

... bring the whole family-even weird uncle Herold.

... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

Oh, ok bring everyone from the city you grew up in. In fact, why not think big, bring them all... your state, your country-everybody in the whole world! Heaven is going to be a great big place. Heaven will have maps, so you don't miss a thing. You will have unlimited time to enjoy everything (no picking and choosing on this vacation because of time constraints or lack of money) and to enjoy everyone.

As the days draw closer to the dawning of a new age, somewhere in the universe God is at work this very moment building an amazing home with you in mind. A healing home. A herculean home. A holy home. A heavenly home. A happy home.

Jesus says, "I am preparing your future home right now." (John 14:2c)

Jesus is preparing a place for you right now in heaven. When our kids come home for a visit we prepare a place for them. Flowers in the room. Their favorite food is in the refrigerator. And everything is clean, clean, clean. Only the best for our kids.

And Jesus is doing that for you. Sleeping disorder, you will sleep like baby in heaven. Eating disorder, your body can eat anything. Are you afraid at night? There is no darkness in heaven, the light is always on.

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:23-NIV)

Jesus moves from the expertise of an architect or project manager and now declares with authority and confidence. I am coming back for YOU!

Jesus says, "I am coming back soon!" (John 14:3)

Why would Jesus go to such lengths to retrieve me? To reclaim us? Are we not pretty troublesome? Don't we sin too much?

We should be holy, yet our hearts are filled with hate.

We should be servants, yet I am selfish.

We should be free of fear, yet it dominates our thinking. We are told 365 times in the Bible, do not be afraid. No, I did not misspeak. God offers us a word of hope, **do not fear**, for every day of the year.

Jesus will come back for you, even though at times, you feel so unworthy, inadequate and sinful. **The Rapture is an immanent sign.**

Let me shift our focus from the rapture(heaven) to the Tribulation (earth). From what happens in heaven to what happens on earth. We come to the part of

our study in Matthew 24, where we read about the vilest and most heinous time and person in the Tribulation. In human history. Let me answer the question:

What will happen during the Tribulation?

After a generation of people misses death, one moment hear and the next there. A generation of Christians will miss the cemetery. In Matthew 24, we read about a world leader in the Tribulation called the anti-Christ, a scoundrel. He is everything that is antichrist.

Before I describe the antichrist, don't miss what will happen in the Tribulation. Look at your notes.

The nation of Israel will accept Jesus as the Messiah, God will punish sin in the earth, God's power will be unleashed, the devil's true character will be exposed, God's sovereignty in salvation will be on display.

He is called the Antichrist because he is against everything Jesus stands for.

This evil leader will want people to worship him instead of Jesus Christ. Anti-salvation. Anti-forgiveness. Anti-truth. There are over 100 passages in the bible that refer or allude to him.

God wants you to know about this prince of darkness, even though you will not be here to experience his wrath.

At the half time of the Tribulation, the prince of darkness, Satan himself will desecrate God's holiest city and temple and break a pact of peace he brokered with the Jews.

The Tribulation will impact the whole world, but the endgame will be for Satan to be worshipped from God's holiest of temples.

This bad dude coming, will set himself up as god, in the newly rebuilt temple that the Jews have been worshipping Jehovah in for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

¹⁵ *So when you see standing in the holy place “the abomination that causes desolation,” spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

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¹⁵⁻²⁰ *But be ready to run for it when you see the **monster of desecration set up in the Temple sanctuary**. The prophet Daniel described this. If you’ve read Daniel, you’ll know what I’m talking about. If you’re living in Judea at the time, **run for the hills**; if you’re working in the yard, don’t return to the house to get anything; if you’re out in the field, don’t go back and get your coat. Pregnant and nursing mothers will have it especially hard. Hope and pray this won’t happen during the winter or on a Sabbath.*

²¹⁻²² *This is going to be trouble on a scale beyond what the world has ever seen, or will see again. If these days of trouble were left to run their course, nobody would make it. But on account of God’s chosen people, the trouble will be cut short. (Matthew 24-MSG)*

The ripple effect of this desecration of evil will spread out from Jerusalem and impact everyone immediately. Let me put my spin on these verses of what will happen as told by Jesus to his disciples and the tsunami of tragic consequences.

Run for the hills, leave your home and do not go back for family heirlooms, run,

...if you are in the field, you don’t even have time to get your jacket, run,

...if you are pregnant when this happens, be careful when you run so as not to trigger birth pains, run,

...if it happens on the Sabbath run even though it is work and you are breaking the Sabbath, run,

...no matter how difficult it gets, God is working his Tribulation plan, run,

...you won't have to run much longer, God will intervene or nobody would make it, run,

...God will deliver you, even from the hour of tribulation, run.

What does Daniel 8:23-25-CEV say about this hour and this person?

²³ When these rulers have become as evil as possible, their power will end, and then a king who is dangerous and cannot be trusted will appear.

²⁴ He will gain strength, but not on his own, and he will cause terrible destruction. He will wipe out powerful leaders and God's people as well. ²⁵ His deceitful lies will make him so successful, that he will think he is really great. Suddenly he will kill many people, and he will even attack God, the Supreme Ruler. But God will crush him!

This paragraph reads like a job description or biography of the antichrist. No world leader at that time will compare. The antichrist will be ominous. Fierce looking. A master of intrigue. A trickster. His eyes will be defiant and his heart will be evil.

He will also be charming. He will be spiritually alive. He will traffic in the occult. In the book of Revelation John tells us he will have the mouth of a lion.

*² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a **mouth like that of a lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2-NIV)*

He will be a soul captivating orator or speaker. He will mesmerize people. He will gain attention with his voice. He will put the world in a verbal trance using a hypnotic story about God; why he cannot be trusted, why God doesn't keep his word.

Why the Antichrist is the real God. And like the question in the garden, he will convince the world. ***"Has God really said?" Genesis 3:1***

Why all the detail, Pastor. Why the concern? Just as Satan entered Judas on the day of betrayal, so Satan will enter a great peacemaker. He will offer an

olive branch to Israel as a gift. He will negotiate 7 years of peace as a great diplomat, then break it all halfway through, and all hell will break loose.

Combine the putrid spirits of Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Mao-Tse-tung and Idi Amiin with every other evil and arrogant leader and you have a glimpse of the Antichrist - **on a good day!**

I know what you are thinking, Ken, I am so inspired. Thank you for this wonderful description! All this talk about the antichrist, evil and total destruction. Now, I have to go to work tomorrow. We have to eat lunch in a few minutes. How am I going to nap today, with that in my mind?

I know. Depressing. Fear inducing. This sounds like the darkest days in human history, and they are. The Tribulation is going to happen, and the Bible spells it out in Matthew, Daniel and Revelation.

It will be far worse than I described.

- **In the Tribulation, God is the judge.**
- **In the Rapture, God is the rewarder.**

Forgive me if I tell you, I have no concerns about the Tribulation. The Antichrist. I am not even slightly interested. Or inquisitive a bit.

By the time this evil world dictator arrives I will be long gone. A bad dude is coming but before he does the rapture, God's people are gone, because Jesus will *harpazo* us.

Upon the sound of the trumpet and the signal from Christ, we will be transformed into the presence of Christ. This rescue could happen at any moment.

At that moment earth's greatest evacuation will take place. But God's work has told us this happened before. Maybe not rapture, but release from tribulation. Noah got on an ark. Lot got out of Sodom and Gomorrah.

A machinist often hovers a magnet over trash to separate the good stuff from the bad. Every item that contains the properties of magnet rises out of the trash and attaches to the magnet.

The rapture will have a similar effect. Jesus will appear in the sky, and all who share in his nature, who house the Holy Spirit, who house the presence of Jesus-will be caught up by his magnetic presence to meet him in the air.

What a moment of miracles that will be. Who will go?

This calling forth includes God's children, who were conceived yet, never took breath outside the womb. The rapture includes children who have not reached the age of accountability. While they lack the maturity to decide for Christ, they are safely rescued by Jesus.

So are the people who lacked the mental capacity to accept Jesus as Savior. They will receive brand new brains.

Sinners, saved by grace will go. Murders saved by grace will go.

Again, let me emphasize, Noah felt no rain drops and Lot felt no brimstone. In the same way, Jesus will rescue the church. We are encouraged to celebrate this event, and how can that happen if we are going through it.

The names are endless of those rescued, and perhaps you will be one of them, Rahab from Jericho, Samson from his sexual sin. Moses was rescued from Egypt. Jesus was rescued from Herod.

Our Great God is the God who rescues us from **troubles, temptation** and even the **Tribulation**.

Rev 3-NIV ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

So, I don't have a prayer, for you, but I do have a promise I want you to declare as we conclude and sing a song- this is the next event on God's calendar. You don't want to miss it!

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4-NIV)

What Is Going On

Pastor Ken

April 26, 2026

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going. (John 14-NIV)

When you travel to a destination, whether a city or a holiday, there are different kinds of signs indicating you are almost there. One of my favorite places to visit is Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas. I love Texas. Why? I fell in love with Danice Shiree Tracy while in Seminary in Ft Worth. Now, the route to Ft Worth is simple from Wichita. Head south on Interstate 35. There will be signs along way indicating I am on the right Interstate taking me to Texas.

When I get to OKC and see the signs for Texas, I know that I am almost halfway to Ft Worth. When I cross the Red River, the next most important sign is Washington Street in Denton, Texas where I exit and eat at In N Out, I get a double-double animal version.

Now, I am only about 45 miles from my destination of Ft Worth, Texas. Hee-haw. Hook em' horns. Howdy pardner.

Texans have their own language. When a Texan, brags about how big Texas is, I love to remind them, if you take the state of Alaska and cut it in half Texas would be number 3, in size.

When you travel to a destination, you see signs along the way giving you confidence you are soon to arrive!

Let's think of this idea of signs and connect them to December 25. Suddenly in October Christmas decorations and music begins to show up in Lowes, Wall Mart and at the Malls. Soon homes will turn on Christmas lights. Christmas trees will fill Americas homes from Long Island to Long Beach. Before

we reach December 25, there are all kinds of signs that Christmas is just weeks away. On the way to Christmas, we sail and speed right past Thanksgiving.

Christmas gets a lot of press; Thanksgiving has almost no signs. There are no real signs for Thanksgiving. The second coming of Jesus is like Christmas, his return to the earth. Thanksgiving is like the Rapture, Jesus' return to snatch away and catch-up believers. It could happen at any moment.

The signs of Christmas seem to be appearing all around us. Since they are watch and be ready. The coming of Jesus Christ to rapture his church could happen even before we go home.

Then we would really be home.

I love Jesus graphic picture of the rapture in the gospels.

³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. (Luke 17-NIV)

One will be drinking coffee then the other gone, as the coffee cup spills, one in the movie theatre, the other gone as popcorn spills.

This metaphor applies to the rapture and the second coming. Matthew 24 is a preview of the signs of Jesus second coming and the rapture taking believers to heaven does not need any sign. The Rapture is Immanent. It could happen anytime.

Matthew 24 is a preview of the coming attractions connected to the Tribulation.

Now, God does not want us to be caught off guard. That is why over 25% of the bible is about prophecy. Over half of the book of Daniel alone talks about the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is the final 7 years on earth where God will judge the world for sin.

God poured out His wrath on Jesus, so He does not pour it out on Christians now.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (Romans 5-NIV)

The book of Revelation chapters 4-19, all speak about the 7 years we are studying in Matthew 24, called the Tribulation.

Again, don't miss the signs that are clearly indicating Jesus' return, reminding us we are close to the **city**, and close to **Christmas day!**

Some of the prophetic signs that Jesus return is Immanent.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948
- (2) birth pains are increasing
- (3) nations in the Middle East are in turmoil
- (4) a coalition of nations are forming to run the world economically

These signs and others we are studying in our series, What Is Going On.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948.
- (2) Birth pains are increasing; we are in a time of human history where we are moving to a point where the end-time birth pains are speeding up and intensifying.
- (3) Nations in the Middle East are in turmoil. During Covid, those in the nation of Iran, searched on the internet for literature about Jesus Christ more than any other nation on the earth.

In the book of Jeremiah, the nation of Iran is called Elan. Look at this passage.

The prophecy of Iran or Elam in Jeremiah 49:34-39, predicts the **destruction** of Iran or Elam's military might and then Iran's eventual **restoration** in the last

days. Iran is important in the Bible; it is the focus of the books of Esther and Nehemiah.

Question: I wonder if God will have a place of salvation known to the Jews, Israel, yes! Jerusalem.

And a place of salvation known to the Gentiles, Iran, yes! The book of Jeremiah seems to hint to such an event.

³⁸ *"I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her kings and officials," declares the Lord.* ³⁹ *"Yet, I will restore the fortunes of Elam in the days to come." (Jeremiah 49-NIV)*

Is it possible that the US has destroyed Iran or Elam's nuclear potential and this is what Jeremiah was talking about when he referred to the "breaking of the bow."

Key Aspects of the Elam Prophecy (Jeremiah 49):

- Location: Ancient Elam was situated in southwestern Iran, centered around the city of Susa.
- The Bow Broken: God says, *"I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might" (v. 35)*. This is interpreted as a destruction of Iranian military capabilities and leadership
- Dispersion and Return: The inhabitants are scattered to the *"four corners of the sky" (v. 36)* but are promised a reversal of fortunes in the *"latter days" (v. 39)*.

(4) A coalition of nations are forming to run the **world economically**.

All of these signs come straight from God's word. The signs of the time are clear. So, it is not far off before we arrive in Ft Worth, Texas or experience the joy of Christmas.

The end-times cannot be talked about without paying careful attention to the rapture of the church. The Christian is about to be removed from the earth.

Believers alive at the rapture and those who are dead in Christ will be raptured.

First, the event of the rapture will trigger the Tribulation.

Next, the event of the rapture will also trigger the beginning of eternal time, as each believer begins to enjoy rewards, the wedding, a new body. A body that will not sin and never decay.

For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ is not a riddle to be solved, but an experience to be anticipated. (1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15)

Since the **rapture triggers** activity in heaven and activity on earth, let's take a few minutes and talk about the rapture. Then talk about the Antichrist.

God does not want you to be troubled or anxious about these future events. Topics such as the **Tribulation, Antichrist** and **rapture** are intended to comfort us, not send us into a spiral of concern, cares and confusion.

Here are some promises from the words of Jesus to calm your fears about the rapture.

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)

There are many rooms in my father's house. Jesus knows what it is like to live in cramped quarters, to work in cramped quarters, to be born in a barn and die on a cross.

Jesus says, "I have unlimited space for you." (John 14:2)

Jesus' mother Mary was told there was no room for the birth of your child. There is no room in the Inn.

* We have no openings at work, no room to hire.

* We have no room on this team; all the roster spots are taken.

* I have no room in my heart for you, I love another.

* Our schedule is full, our hotel is booked up, and our reservations are closed, so room for the night.

Jesus heard every word as a preborn, as the Innkeeper said, “we don’t have room for you.”

And Jesus knew this same problem during his life. A prophet is not with honor even in his own hometown. The religious leaders would not announce Jesus as the Messiah, we have no room for Messiahs today in Israel.

No room in the Inn, he wasn’t even born.

No room in your town of origin, that must have stung.

No room in Israel, what else do I need to do to prove I am the long-awaited Messiah.

No room for you on this earth, the cross was a message of utter rejection, announcing no room.

Even today Jesus goes from heart to heart and is given the same kind of treatment, as he asks for entry.

Now, and then Jesus is welcomed in. Someone throws open the door of their heart, and when Jesus comes in, he announces, I have ample room for you. How much room is there in heaven for you? Let me give you a glimpse.

16 *When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. ¹⁷ Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). Revelation 21:16-17 (NLT)*

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I know what you are thinking, Ken, I am so inspired. Thank you for this wonderful description! All this talk about the antichrist, evil and total destruction. Now, I have to go to work tomorrow. We have to eat lunch in a few minutes. How am I going to nap today, with that in my mind?

I know. Depressing. Fear inducing. This sounds like the darkest days in human history, and they are. The Tribulation is going to happen, and the Bible spells it out in Matthew, Daniel and Revelation.

It will be far worse than I described.

- **In the Tribulation, God is the judge.**
- **In the Rapture, God is the rewarder.**

Forgive me if I tell you, I have no concerns about the Tribulation. The Antichrist. I am not even slightly interested. Or inquisitive a bit.

By the time this evil world dictator arrives I will be long gone. A bad dude is coming but before he does the rapture, God's people are gone, because Jesus will *harpazo* us.

Upon the sound of the trumpet and the signal from Christ, we will be transformed into the presence of Christ. This rescue could happen at any moment.

At that moment earth's greatest evacuation will take place. But God's work has told us this happened before. Maybe not rapture, but release from tribulation. Noah got on an ark. Lot got out of Sodom and Gomorrah.

A machinist often hovers a magnet over trash to separate the good stuff from the bad. Every item that contains the properties of magnet rises out of the trash and attaches to the magnet.

The rapture will have a similar effect. Jesus will appear in the sky, and all who share in his nature, who house the Holy Spirit, who house the presence of Jesus-will be caught up by his magnetic presence to meet him in the air.

What a moment of miracles that will be. Who will go?

This calling forth includes God's children, who were conceived yet, never took breath outside the womb. The rapture includes children who have not reached the age of accountability. While they lack the maturity to decide for Christ, they are safely rescued by Jesus.

So are the people who lacked the mental capacity to accept Jesus as Savior. They will receive brand new brains.

Sinners, saved by grace will go. Murders saved by grace will go.

Again, let me emphasize, Noah felt no rain drops and Lot felt no brimstone. In the same way, Jesus will rescue the church. We are encouraged to celebrate this event, and how can that happen if we are going through it.

The names are endless of those rescued, and perhaps you will be one of them, Rahab from Jericho, Samson from his sexual sin. Moses was rescued from Egypt. Jesus was rescued from Herod.

Our Great God is the God who rescues us from **troubles, temptation** and even the **Tribulation**.

Rev 3-NIV ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

So, I don't have a prayer, for you, but I do have a promise I want you to declare as we conclude and sing a song- this is the next event on God's calendar. You don't want to miss it!

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4-NIV)

What Is Going On

Pastor Ken

April 26, 2026

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going. (John 14-NIV)

When you travel to a destination, whether a city or a holiday, there are different kinds of signs indicating you are almost there. One of my favorite places to visit is Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas. I love Texas. Why? I fell in love with Danice Shiree Tracy while in Seminary in Ft Worth. Now, the route to Ft Worth is simple from Wichita. Head south on Interstate 35. There will be signs along way indicating I am on the right Interstate taking me to Texas.

When I get to OKC and see the signs for Texas, I know that I am almost halfway to Ft Worth. When I cross the Red River, the next most important sign is Washington Street in Denton, Texas where I exit and eat at In N Out, I get a double-double animal version.

Now, I am only about 45 miles from my destination of Ft Worth, Texas. Hee-haw. Hook em' horns. Howdy pardner.

Texans have their own language. When a Texan, brags about how big Texas is, I love to remind them, if you take the state of Alaska and cut it in half Texas would be number 3, in size.

When you travel to a destination, you see signs along the way giving you confidence you are soon to arrive!

Let's think of this idea of signs and connect them to December 25. Suddenly in October Christmas decorations and music begins to show up in Lowes, Wall Mart and at the Malls. Soon homes will turn on Christmas lights. Christmas trees will fill Americas homes from Long Island to Long Beach. Before

we reach December 25, there are all kinds of signs that Christmas is just weeks away. On the way to Christmas, we sail and speed right past Thanksgiving.

Christmas gets a lot of press; Thanksgiving has almost no signs. There are no real signs for Thanksgiving. The second coming of Jesus is like Christmas, his return to the earth. Thanksgiving is like the Rapture, Jesus' return to snatch away and catch-up believers. It could happen at any moment.

The signs of Christmas seem to be appearing all around us. Since they are watch and be ready. The coming of Jesus Christ to rapture his church could happen even before we go home.

Then we would really be home.

I love Jesus graphic picture of the rapture in the gospels.

³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. (Luke 17-NIV)

One will be drinking coffee then the other gone, as the coffee cup spills, one in the movie theatre, the other gone as popcorn spills.

This metaphor applies to the rapture and the second coming. Matthew 24 is a preview of the signs of Jesus second coming and the rapture taking believers to heaven does not need any sign. The Rapture is Immanent. It could happen anytime.

Matthew 24 is a preview of the coming attractions connected to the Tribulation.

Now, God does not want us to be caught off guard. That is why over 25% of the bible is about prophecy. Over half of the book of Daniel alone talks about the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is the final 7 years on earth where God will judge the world for sin.

God poured out His wrath on Jesus, so He does not pour it out on Christians now.

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The book of Revelation chapters 4-19, all speak about the 7 years we are studying in Matthew 24, called the Tribulation.

Again, don't miss the signs that are clearly indicating Jesus' return, reminding us we are close to the **city**, and close to **Christmas day!**

Some of the prophetic signs that Jesus return is Immanent.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948
- (2) birth pains are increasing
- (3) nations in the Middle East are in turmoil
- (4) a coalition of nations are forming to run the world economically

These signs and others we are studying in our series, What Is Going On.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948.
- (2) Birth pains are increasing; we are in a time of human history where we are moving to a point where the end-time birth pains are speeding up and intensifying.
- (3) Nations in the Middle East are in turmoil. During Covid, those in the nation of Iran, searched on the internet for literature about Jesus Christ more than any other nation on the earth.

In the book of Jeremiah, the nation of Iran is called Elan. Look at this passage.

The prophecy of Iran or Elam in Jeremiah 49:34-39, predicts the **destruction** of Iran or Elam's military might and then Iran's eventual **restoration** in the last

days. Iran is important in the Bible; it is the focus of the books of Esther and Nehemiah.

Question: I wonder if God will have a place of salvation known to the Jews, Israel, yes! Jerusalem.

And a place of salvation known to the Gentiles, Iran, yes! The book of Jeremiah seems to hint to such an event.

³⁸ *"I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her kings and officials," declares the Lord.* ³⁹ *"Yet, I will restore the fortunes of Elam in the days to come."* (Jeremiah 49-NIV)

Is it possible that the US has destroyed Iran or Elam's nuclear potential and this is what Jeremiah was talking about when he referred to the "breaking of the bow."

Key Aspects of the Elam Prophecy (Jeremiah 49):

- Location: Ancient Elam was situated in southwestern Iran, centered around the city of Susa.
- The Bow Broken: God says, *"I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might"* (v. 35). This is interpreted as a destruction of Iranian military capabilities and leadership
- Dispersion and Return: The inhabitants are scattered to the *"four corners of the sky"* (v. 36) but are promised a reversal of fortunes in the *"latter days"* (v. 39).

(4) A coalition of nations are forming to run the **world economically**.

All of these signs come straight from God's word. The signs of the time are clear. So, it is not far off before we arrive in Ft Worth, Texas or experience the joy of Christmas.

The end-times cannot be talked about without paying careful attention to the rapture of the church. The Christian is about to be removed from the earth.

Believers alive at the rapture and those who are dead in Christ will be raptured.

First, the event of the rapture will trigger the Tribulation.

Next, the event of the rapture will also trigger the beginning of eternal time, as each believer begins to enjoy rewards, the wedding, a new body. A body that will not sin and never decay.

For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ is not a riddle to be solved, but an experience to be anticipated. (1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15)

Since the **rapture triggers** activity in heaven and activity on earth, let's take a few minutes and talk about the rapture. Then talk about the Antichrist.

God does not want you to be troubled or anxious about these future events. Topics such as the **Tribulation, Antichrist** and **rapture** are intended to comfort us, not send us into a spiral of concern, cares and confusion.

Here are some promises from the words of Jesus to calm your fears about the rapture.

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)

There are many rooms in my father's house. Jesus knows what it is like to live in cramped quarters, to work in cramped quarters, to be born in a barn and die on a cross.

Jesus says, "I have unlimited space for you." (John 14:2)

Jesus' mother Mary was told there was no room for the birth of your child. There is no room in the Inn.

* We have no openings at work, no room to hire.

* We have no room on this team; all the roster spots are taken.

* I have no room in my heart for you, I love another.

* Our schedule is full, our hotel is booked up, and our reservations are closed, so room for the night.

Jesus heard every word as a preborn, as the Innkeeper said, “we don’t have room for you.”

And Jesus knew this same problem during his life. A prophet is not with honor even in his own hometown. The religious leaders would not announce Jesus as the Messiah, we have no room for Messiahs today in Israel.

No room in the Inn, he wasn’t even born.

No room in your town of origin, that must have stung.

No room in Israel, what else do I need to do to prove I am the long-awaited Messiah.

No room for you on this earth, the cross was a message of utter rejection, announcing no room.

Even today Jesus goes from heart to heart and is given the same kind of treatment, as he asks for entry.

Now, and then Jesus is welcomed in. Someone throws open the door of their heart, and when Jesus comes in, he announces, I have ample room for you. How much room is there in heaven for you? Let me give you a glimpse.

16 *When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. ¹⁷ Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). Revelation 21:16-17 (NLT)*

What do you feel when you are limited to a wheelchair in recovery? Dorm rooms in college are suffocating. Does your work space cubicle cause you claustrophobia?

Tight quarters, we've all been in them. A small hotel room. Small bunks on an aircraft carrier. A home with a growing family. If these and other settings are the norm, then Heaven will be enjoyed like you can't imagine. Heaven is a real place with an extreme amount of space.

The apostle John was given a guided tour one day of this home that we are going to call the Father's House. It is so spacious it has no earthly comparison. In the book *The Revelation Record*, author Henry Morris gives us a glimpse of the calculations:

The cube described in Rev. is 1400 miles square. This would be the equivalent of the area from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rockies. This residence could easily accommodate over 20 billion people.

Each person would have his own private room, mansion or Trump Tower that was a 75-acre cube. This would leave plenty of room for parks, streets, buildings. Heaven is going to be big.

In my Father's House are many rooms-for all who choose to call it home! So, feel free to invite all you want-

... bring the whole family-even weird uncle Herold.

... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

Oh, ok bring everyone from the city you grew up in. In fact, why not think big, bring them all... your state, your country-everybody in the whole world! Heaven is going to be a great big place. Heaven will have maps, so you don't miss a thing. You will have unlimited time to enjoy everything (no picking and choosing on this vacation because of time constraints or lack of money) and to enjoy everyone.

As the days draw closer to the dawning of a new age, somewhere in the universe God is at work this very moment building an amazing home with you in mind. A healing home. A herculean home. A holy home. A heavenly home. A happy home.

Jesus says, "I am preparing your future home right now." (John 14:2c)

Jesus is preparing a place for you right now in heaven. When our kids come home for a visit we prepare a place for them. Flowers in the room. Their favorite food is in the refrigerator. And everything is clean, clean, clean. Only the best for our kids.

And Jesus is doing that for you. Sleeping disorder, you will sleep like baby in heaven. Eating disorder, your body can eat anything. Are you afraid at night? There is no darkness in heaven, the light is always on.

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:23-NIV)

Jesus moves from the expertise of an architect or project manager and now declares with authority and confidence. I am coming back for YOU!

Jesus says, "I am coming back soon!" (John 14:3)

Why would Jesus go to such lengths to retrieve me? To reclaim us? Are we not pretty troublesome? Don't we sin too much?

We should be holy, yet our hearts are filled with hate.

We should be servants, yet I am selfish.

We should be free of fear, yet it dominates our thinking. We are told 365 times in the Bible, do not be afraid. No, I did not misspeak. God offers us a word of hope, **do not fear**, for every day of the year.

Jesus will come back for you, even though at times, you feel so unworthy, inadequate and sinful. **The Rapture is an immanent sign.**

Let me shift our focus from the rapture(heaven) to the Tribulation (earth). From what happens in heaven to what happens on earth. We come to the part of

our study in Matthew 24, where we read about the vilest and most heinous time and person in the Tribulation. In human history. Let me answer the question:

What will happen during the Tribulation?

After a generation of people misses death, one moment hear and the next there. A generation of Christians will miss the cemetery. In Matthew 24, we read about a world leader in the Tribulation called the anti-Christ, a scoundrel. He is everything that is antichrist.

Before I describe the antichrist, don't miss what will happen in the Tribulation. Look at your notes.

The nation of Israel will accept Jesus as the Messiah, God will punish sin in the earth, God's power will be unleashed, the devil's true character will be exposed, God's sovereignty in salvation will be on display.

He is called the Antichrist because he is against everything Jesus stands for.

This evil leader will want people to worship him instead of Jesus Christ. Anti-salvation. Anti-forgiveness. Anti-truth. There are over 100 passages in the bible that refer or allude to him.

God wants you to know about this prince of darkness, even though you will not be here to experience his wrath.

At the half time of the Tribulation, the prince of darkness, Satan himself will desecrate God's holiest city and temple and break a pact of peace he brokered with the Jews.

The Tribulation will impact the whole world, but the endgame will be for Satan to be worshipped from God's holiest of temples.

This bad dude coming, will set himself up as god, in the newly rebuilt temple that the Jews have been worshipping Jehovah in for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

¹⁵ *So when you see standing in the holy place “the abomination that causes desolation,” spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

This is from our study in Matt 24, a translation that we can understand-
Message.

¹⁵⁻²⁰ *But be ready to run for it when you see the **monster of desecration set up in the Temple sanctuary**. The prophet Daniel described this. If you’ve read Daniel, you’ll know what I’m talking about. If you’re living in Judea at the time, **run for the hills**; if you’re working in the yard, don’t return to the house to get anything; if you’re out in the field, don’t go back and get your coat. Pregnant and nursing mothers will have it especially hard. Hope and pray this won’t happen during the winter or on a Sabbath.*

²¹⁻²² *This is going to be trouble on a scale beyond what the world has ever seen, or will see again. If these days of trouble were left to run their course, nobody would make it. But on account of God’s chosen people, the trouble will be cut short. (Matthew 24-MSG)*

The ripple effect of this desecration of evil will spread out from Jerusalem and impact everyone immediately. Let me put my spin on these verses of what will happen as told by Jesus to his disciples and the tsunami of tragic consequences.

Run for the hills, leave your home and do not go back for family heirlooms, run,

...if you are in the field, you don’t even have time to get your jacket, run,

...if you are pregnant when this happens, be careful when you run so as not to trigger birth pains, run,

...if it happens on the Sabbath run even though it is work and you are breaking the Sabbath, run,

...no matter how difficult it gets, God is working his Tribulation plan, run,

...you won't have to run much longer, God will intervene or nobody would make it, run,

...God will deliver you, even from the hour of tribulation, run.

What does Daniel 8:23-25-CEV say about this hour and this person?

²³ When these rulers have become as evil as possible, their power will end, and then a king who is dangerous and cannot be trusted will appear.

²⁴ He will gain strength, but not on his own, and he will cause terrible destruction. He will wipe out powerful leaders and God's people as well. ²⁵ His deceitful lies will make him so successful, that he will think he is really great. Suddenly he will kill many people, and he will even attack God, the Supreme Ruler. But God will crush him!

This paragraph reads like a job description or biography of the antichrist. No world leader at that time will compare. The antichrist will be ominous. Fierce looking. A master of intrigue. A trickster. His eyes will be defiant and his heart will be evil.

He will also be charming. He will be spiritually alive. He will traffic in the occult. In the book of Revelation John tells us he will have the mouth of a lion.

*² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a **mouth like that of a lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2-NIV)*

He will be a soul captivating orator or speaker. He will mesmerize people. He will gain attention with his voice. He will put the world in a verbal trance using a hypnotic story about God; why he cannot be trusted, why God doesn't keep his word.

Why the Antichrist is the real God. And like the question in the garden, he will convince the world. **"Has God really said?" Genesis 3:1**

Why all the detail, Pastor. Why the concern? Just as Satan entered Judas on the day of betrayal, so Satan will enter a great peacemaker. He will offer an

olive branch to Israel as a gift. He will negotiate 7 years of peace as a great diplomat, then break it all halfway through, and all hell will break loose.

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- Dispersion and Return: The inhabitants are scattered to the *"four corners of the sky"* (v. 36) but are promised a reversal of fortunes in the *"latter days"* (v. 39).

(4) A coalition of nations are forming to run the **world economically**.

All of these signs come straight from God's word. The signs of the time are clear. So, it is not far off before we arrive in Ft Worth, Texas or experience the joy of Christmas.

The end-times cannot be talked about without paying careful attention to the rapture of the church. The Christian is about to be removed from the earth.

Believers alive at the rapture and those who are dead in Christ will be raptured.

First, the event of the rapture will trigger the Tribulation.

Next, the event of the rapture will also trigger the beginning of eternal time, as each believer begins to enjoy rewards, the wedding, a new body. A body that will not sin and never decay.

For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ is not a riddle to be solved, but an experience to be anticipated. (1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15)

Since the **rapture triggers** activity in heaven and activity on earth, let's take a few minutes and talk about the rapture. Then talk about the Antichrist.

God does not want you to be troubled or anxious about these future events. Topics such as the **Tribulation, Antichrist** and **rapture** are intended to comfort us, not send us into a spiral of concern, cares and confusion.

Here are some promises from the words of Jesus to calm your fears about the rapture.

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)

There are many rooms in my father's house. Jesus knows what it is like to live in cramped quarters, to work in cramped quarters, to be born in a barn and die on a cross.

Jesus says, "I have unlimited space for you." (John 14:2)

Jesus' mother Mary was told there was no room for the birth of your child. There is no room in the Inn.

* We have no openings at work, no room to hire.

* We have no room on this team; all the roster spots are taken.

* I have no room in my heart for you, I love another.

* Our schedule is full, our hotel is booked up, and our reservations are closed, so room for the night.

Jesus heard every word as a preborn, as the Innkeeper said, “we don’t have room for you.”

And Jesus knew this same problem during his life. A prophet is not with honor even in his own hometown. The religious leaders would not announce Jesus as the Messiah, we have no room for Messiahs today in Israel.

No room in the Inn, he wasn’t even born.

No room in your town of origin, that must have stung.

No room in Israel, what else do I need to do to prove I am the long-awaited Messiah.

No room for you on this earth, the cross was a message of utter rejection, announcing no room.

Even today Jesus goes from heart to heart and is given the same kind of treatment, as he asks for entry.

Now, and then Jesus is welcomed in. Someone throws open the door of their heart, and when Jesus comes in, he announces, I have ample room for you. How much room is there in heaven for you? Let me give you a glimpse.

16 *When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. ¹⁷ Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). Revelation 21:16-17 (NLT)*

What do you feel when you are limited to a wheelchair in recovery? Dorm rooms in college are suffocating. Does your work space cubicle cause you claustrophobia?

Tight quarters, we've all been in them. A small hotel room. Small bunks on an aircraft carrier. A home with a growing family. If these and other settings are the norm, then Heaven will be enjoyed like you can't imagine. Heaven is a real place with an extreme amount of space.

The apostle John was given a guided tour one day of this home that we are going to call the Father's House. It is so spacious it has no earthly comparison. In the book *The Revelation Record*, author Henry Morris gives us a glimpse of the calculations:

The cube described in Rev. is 1400 miles square. This would be the equivalent of the area from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rockies. This residence could easily accommodate over 20 billion people.

Each person would have his own private room, mansion or Trump Tower that was a 75-acre cube. This would leave plenty of room for parks, streets, buildings. Heaven is going to be big.

In my Father's House are many rooms-for all who choose to call it home! So, feel free to invite all you want-

... bring the whole family-even weird uncle Herold.

... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

Oh, ok bring everyone from the city you grew up in. In fact, why not think big, bring them all... your state, your country-everybody in the whole world! Heaven is going to be a great big place. Heaven will have maps, so you don't miss a thing. You will have unlimited time to enjoy everything (no picking and choosing on this vacation because of time constraints or lack of money) and to enjoy everyone.

As the days draw closer to the dawning of a new age, somewhere in the universe God is at work this very moment building an amazing home with you in mind. A healing home. A herculean home. A holy home. A heavenly home. A happy home.

Jesus says, "I am preparing your future home right now." (John 14:2c)

Jesus is preparing a place for you right now in heaven. When our kids come home for a visit we prepare a place for them. Flowers in the room. Their favorite food is in the refrigerator. And everything is clean, clean, clean. Only the best for our kids.

And Jesus is doing that for you. Sleeping disorder, you will sleep like baby in heaven. Eating disorder, your body can eat anything. Are you afraid at night? There is no darkness in heaven, the light is always on.

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:23-NIV)

Jesus moves from the expertise of an architect or project manager and now declares with authority and confidence. I am coming back for YOU!

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Why would Jesus go to such lengths to retrieve me? To reclaim us? Are we not pretty troublesome? Don't we sin too much?

We should be holy, yet our hearts are filled with hate.

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We should be free of fear, yet it dominates our thinking. We are told 365 times in the Bible, do not be afraid. No, I did not misspeak. God offers us a word of hope, **do not fear**, for every day of the year.

Jesus will come back for you, even though at times, you feel so unworthy, inadequate and sinful. **The Rapture is an immanent sign.**

Let me shift our focus from the rapture(heaven) to the Tribulation (earth). From what happens in heaven to what happens on earth. We come to the part of

our study in Matthew 24, where we read about the vilest and most heinous time and person in the Tribulation. In human history. Let me answer the question:

What will happen during the Tribulation?

After a generation of people misses death, one moment hear and the next there. A generation of Christians will miss the cemetery. In Matthew 24, we read about a world leader in the Tribulation called the anti-Christ, a scoundrel. He is everything that is antichrist.

Before I describe the antichrist, don't miss what will happen in the Tribulation. Look at your notes.

The nation of Israel will accept Jesus as the Messiah, God will punish sin in the earth, God's power will be unleashed, the devil's true character will be exposed, God's sovereignty in salvation will be on display.

He is called the Antichrist because he is against everything Jesus stands for.

This evil leader will want people to worship him instead of Jesus Christ. Anti-salvation. Anti-forgiveness. Anti-truth. There are over 100 passages in the bible that refer or allude to him.

God wants you to know about this prince of darkness, even though you will not be here to experience his wrath.

At the half time of the Tribulation, the prince of darkness, Satan himself will desecrate God's holiest city and temple and break a pact of peace he brokered with the Jews.

The Tribulation will impact the whole world, but the endgame will be for Satan to be worshipped from God's holiest of temples.

This bad dude coming, will set himself up as god, in the newly rebuilt temple that the Jews have been worshipping Jehovah in for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

¹⁵ *So when you see standing in the holy place “the abomination that causes desolation,” spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

This is from our study in Matt 24, a translation that we can understand-
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¹⁵⁻²⁰ *But be ready to run for it when you see the **monster of desecration set up in the Temple sanctuary**. The prophet Daniel described this. If you’ve read Daniel, you’ll know what I’m talking about. If you’re living in Judea at the time, **run for the hills**; if you’re working in the yard, don’t return to the house to get anything; if you’re out in the field, don’t go back and get your coat. Pregnant and nursing mothers will have it especially hard. Hope and pray this won’t happen during the winter or on a Sabbath.*

²¹⁻²² *This is going to be trouble on a scale beyond what the world has ever seen, or will see again. If these days of trouble were left to run their course, nobody would make it. But on account of God’s chosen people, the trouble will be cut short. (Matthew 24-MSG)*

The ripple effect of this desecration of evil will spread out from Jerusalem and impact everyone immediately. Let me put my spin on these verses of what will happen as told by Jesus to his disciples and the tsunami of tragic consequences.

Run for the hills, leave your home and do not go back for family heirlooms, run,

...if you are in the field, you don’t even have time to get your jacket, run,

...if you are pregnant when this happens, be careful when you run so as not to trigger birth pains, run,

...if it happens on the Sabbath run even though it is work and you are breaking the Sabbath, run,

...no matter how difficult it gets, God is working his Tribulation plan, run,

...you won't have to run much longer, God will intervene or nobody would make it, run,

...God will deliver you, even from the hour of tribulation, run.

What does Daniel 8:23-25-CEV say about this hour and this person?

²³ When these rulers have become as evil as possible, their power will end, and then a king who is dangerous and cannot be trusted will appear.

²⁴ He will gain strength, but not on his own, and he will cause terrible destruction. He will wipe out powerful leaders and God's people as well. ²⁵ His deceitful lies will make him so successful, that he will think he is really great. Suddenly he will kill many people, and he will even attack God, the Supreme Ruler. But God will crush him!

This paragraph reads like a job description or biography of the antichrist. No world leader at that time will compare. The antichrist will be ominous. Fierce looking. A master of intrigue. A trickster. His eyes will be defiant and his heart will be evil.

He will also be charming. He will be spiritually alive. He will traffic in the occult. In the book of Revelation John tells us he will have the mouth of a lion.

*² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a **mouth like that of a lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2-NIV)*

He will be a soul captivating orator or speaker. He will mesmerize people. He will gain attention with his voice. He will put the world in a verbal trance using a hypnotic story about God; why he cannot be trusted, why God doesn't keep his word.

Why the Antichrist is the real God. And like the question in the garden, he will convince the world. **"Has God really said?" Genesis 3:1**

Why all the detail, Pastor. Why the concern? Just as Satan entered Judas on the day of betrayal, so Satan will enter a great peacemaker. He will offer an

olive branch to Israel as a gift. He will negotiate 7 years of peace as a great diplomat, then break it all halfway through, and all hell will break loose.

Combine the putrid spirits of Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Mao-Tse-tung and Idi Amiin with every other evil and arrogant leader and you have a glimpse of the Antichrist - **on a good day!**

I know what you are thinking, Ken, I am so inspired. Thank you for this wonderful description! All this talk about the antichrist, evil and total destruction. Now, I have to go to work tomorrow. We have to eat lunch in a few minutes. How am I going to nap today, with that in my mind?

I know. Depressing. Fear inducing. This sounds like the darkest days in human history, and they are. The Tribulation is going to happen, and the Bible spells it out in Matthew, Daniel and Revelation.

It will be far worse than I described.

- **In the Tribulation, God is the judge.**
- **In the Rapture, God is the rewarder.**

Forgive me if I tell you, I have no concerns about the Tribulation. The Antichrist. I am not even slightly interested. Or inquisitive a bit.

By the time this evil world dictator arrives I will be long gone. A bad dude is coming but before he does the rapture, God's people are gone, because Jesus will *harpazo* us.

Upon the sound of the trumpet and the signal from Christ, we will be transformed into the presence of Christ. This rescue could happen at any moment.

At that moment earth's greatest evacuation will take place. But God's work has told us this happened before. Maybe not rapture, but release from tribulation. Noah got on an ark. Lot got out of Sodom and Gomorrah.

A machinist often hovers a magnet over trash to separate the good stuff from the bad. Every item that contains the properties of magnet rises out of the trash and attaches to the magnet.

The rapture will have a similar effect. Jesus will appear in the sky, and all who share in his nature, who house the Holy Spirit, who house the presence of Jesus-will be caught up by his magnetic presence to meet him in the air.

What a moment of miracles that will be. Who will go?

This calling forth includes God's children, who were conceived yet, never took breath outside the womb. The rapture includes children who have not reached the age of accountability. While they lack the maturity to decide for Christ, they are safely rescued by Jesus.

So are the people who lacked the mental capacity to accept Jesus as Savior. They will receive brand new brains.

Sinners, saved by grace will go. Murders saved by grace will go.

Again, let me emphasize, Noah felt no rain drops and Lot felt no brimstone. In the same way, Jesus will rescue the church. We are encouraged to celebrate this event, and how can that happen if we are going through it.

The names are endless of those rescued, and perhaps you will be one of them, Rahab from Jericho, Samson from his sexual sin. Moses was rescued from Egypt. Jesus was rescued from Herod.

Our Great God is the God who rescues us from **troubles, temptation** and even the **Tribulation**.

Rev 3-NIV ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

So, I don't have a prayer, for you, but I do have a promise I want you to declare as we conclude and sing a song- this is the next event on God's calendar. You don't want to miss it!

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4-NIV)

What Is Going On

Pastor Ken

April 26, 2026

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going. (John 14-NIV)

When you travel to a destination, whether a city or a holiday, there are different kinds of signs indicating you are almost there. One of my favorite places to visit is Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas. I love Texas. Why? I fell in love with Danice Shiree Tracy while in Seminary in Ft Worth. Now, the route to Ft Worth is simple from Wichita. Head south on Interstate 35. There will be signs along way indicating I am on the right Interstate taking me to Texas.

When I get to OKC and see the signs for Texas, I know that I am almost halfway to Ft Worth. When I cross the Red River, the next most important sign is Washington Street in Denton, Texas where I exit and eat at In N Out, I get a double-double animal version.

Now, I am only about 45 miles from my destination of Ft Worth, Texas. Hee-haw. Hook em' horns. Howdy pardner.

Texans have their own language. When a Texan, brags about how big Texas is, I love to remind them, if you take the state of Alaska and cut it in half Texas would be number 3, in size.

When you travel to a destination, you see signs along the way giving you confidence you are soon to arrive!

Let's think of this idea of signs and connect them to December 25. Suddenly in October Christmas decorations and music begins to show up in Lowes, Wall Mart and at the Malls. Soon homes will turn on Christmas lights. Christmas trees will fill Americas homes from Long Island to Long Beach. Before

we reach December 25, there are all kinds of signs that Christmas is just weeks away. On the way to Christmas, we sail and speed right past Thanksgiving.

Christmas gets a lot of press; Thanksgiving has almost no signs. There are no real signs for Thanksgiving. The second coming of Jesus is like Christmas, his return to the earth. Thanksgiving is like the Rapture, Jesus' return to snatch away and catch-up believers. It could happen at any moment.

The signs of Christmas seem to be appearing all around us. Since they are watch and be ready. The coming of Jesus Christ to rapture his church could happen even before we go home.

Then we would really be home.

I love Jesus graphic picture of the rapture in the gospels.

³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. (Luke 17-NIV)

One will be drinking coffee then the other gone, as the coffee cup spills, one in the movie theatre, the other gone as popcorn spills.

This metaphor applies to the rapture and the second coming. Matthew 24 is a preview of the signs of Jesus second coming and the rapture taking believers to heaven does not need any sign. The Rapture is Immanent. It could happen anytime.

Matthew 24 is a preview of the coming attractions connected to the Tribulation.

Now, God does not want us to be caught off guard. That is why over 25% of the bible is about prophecy. Over half of the book of Daniel alone talks about the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is the final 7 years on earth where God will judge the world for sin.

God poured out His wrath on Jesus, so He does not pour it out on Christians now.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (Romans 5-NIV)

The book of Revelation chapters 4-19, all speak about the 7 years we are studying in Matthew 24, called the Tribulation.

Again, don't miss the signs that are clearly indicating Jesus' return, reminding us we are close to the **city**, and close to **Christmas day!**

Some of the prophetic signs that Jesus return is Immanent.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948
- (2) birth pains are increasing
- (3) nations in the Middle East are in turmoil
- (4) a coalition of nations are forming to run the world economically

These signs and others we are studying in our series, What Is Going On.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948.
- (2) Birth pains are increasing; we are in a time of human history where we are moving to a point where the end-time birth pains are speeding up and intensifying.
- (3) Nations in the Middle East are in turmoil. During Covid, those in the nation of Iran, searched on the internet for literature about Jesus Christ more than any other nation on the earth.

In the book of Jeremiah, the nation of Iran is called Elan. Look at this passage.

The prophecy of Iran or Elam in Jeremiah 49:34-39, predicts the **destruction** of Iran or Elam's military might and then Iran's eventual **restoration** in the last

days. Iran is important in the Bible; it is the focus of the books of Esther and Nehemiah.

Question: I wonder if God will have a place of salvation known to the Jews, Israel, yes! Jerusalem.

And a place of salvation known to the Gentiles, Iran, yes! The book of Jeremiah seems to hint to such an event.

³⁸ *"I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her kings and officials," declares the Lord.* ³⁹ *"Yet, I will restore the fortunes of Elam in the days to come."* (Jeremiah 49-NIV)

Is it possible that the US has destroyed Iran or Elam's nuclear potential and this is what Jeremiah was talking about when he referred to the "breaking of the bow."

Key Aspects of the Elam Prophecy (Jeremiah 49):

- Location: Ancient Elam was situated in southwestern Iran, centered around the city of Susa.
- The Bow Broken: God says, *"I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might"* (v. 35). This is interpreted as a destruction of Iranian military capabilities and leadership
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... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

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¹⁵⁻²⁰ *But be ready to run for it when you see the **monster of desecration set up in the Temple sanctuary**. The prophet Daniel described this. If you’ve read Daniel, you’ll know what I’m talking about. If you’re living in Judea at the time, **run for the hills**; if you’re working in the yard, don’t return to the house to get anything; if you’re out in the field, don’t go back and get your coat. Pregnant and nursing mothers will have it especially hard. Hope and pray this won’t happen during the winter or on a Sabbath.*

²¹⁻²² *This is going to be trouble on a scale beyond what the world has ever seen, or will see again. If these days of trouble were left to run their course, nobody would make it. But on account of God’s chosen people, the trouble will be cut short. (Matthew 24-MSG)*

The ripple effect of this desecration of evil will spread out from Jerusalem and impact everyone immediately. Let me put my spin on these verses of what will happen as told by Jesus to his disciples and the tsunami of tragic consequences.

Run for the hills, leave your home and do not go back for family heirlooms, run,

...if you are in the field, you don’t even have time to get your jacket, run,

...if you are pregnant when this happens, be careful when you run so as not to trigger birth pains, run,

...if it happens on the Sabbath run even though it is work and you are breaking the Sabbath, run,

...no matter how difficult it gets, God is working his Tribulation plan, run,

...you won't have to run much longer, God will intervene or nobody would make it, run,

...God will deliver you, even from the hour of tribulation, run.

What does Daniel 8:23-25-CEV say about this hour and this person?

²³ When these rulers have become as evil as possible, their power will end, and then a king who is dangerous and cannot be trusted will appear.

²⁴ He will gain strength, but not on his own, and he will cause terrible destruction. He will wipe out powerful leaders and God's people as well. ²⁵ His deceitful lies will make him so successful, that he will think he is really great. Suddenly he will kill many people, and he will even attack God, the Supreme Ruler. But God will crush him!

This paragraph reads like a job description or biography of the antichrist. No world leader at that time will compare. The antichrist will be ominous. Fierce looking. A master of intrigue. A trickster. His eyes will be defiant and his heart will be evil.

He will also be charming. He will be spiritually alive. He will traffic in the occult. In the book of Revelation John tells us he will have the mouth of a lion.

*² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a **mouth like that of a lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2-NIV)*

He will be a soul captivating orator or speaker. He will mesmerize people. He will gain attention with his voice. He will put the world in a verbal trance using a hypnotic story about God; why he cannot be trusted, why God doesn't keep his word.

Why the Antichrist is the real God. And like the question in the garden, he will convince the world. ***"Has God really said?" Genesis 3:1***

Why all the detail, Pastor. Why the concern? Just as Satan entered Judas on the day of betrayal, so Satan will enter a great peacemaker. He will offer an

olive branch to Israel as a gift. He will negotiate 7 years of peace as a great diplomat, then break it all halfway through, and all hell will break loose.

Combine the putrid spirits of Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Mao-Tse-tung and Idi Amiin with every other evil and arrogant leader and you have a glimpse of the Antichrist - **on a good day!**

I know what you are thinking, Ken, I am so inspired. Thank you for this wonderful description! All this talk about the antichrist, evil and total destruction. Now, I have to go to work tomorrow. We have to eat lunch in a few minutes. How am I going to nap today, with that in my mind?

I know. Depressing. Fear inducing. This sounds like the darkest days in human history, and they are. The Tribulation is going to happen, and the Bible spells it out in Matthew, Daniel and Revelation.

It will be far worse than I described.

- **In the Tribulation, God is the judge.**
- **In the Rapture, God is the rewarder.**

Forgive me if I tell you, I have no concerns about the Tribulation. The Antichrist. I am not even slightly interested. Or inquisitive a bit.

By the time this evil world dictator arrives I will be long gone. A bad dude is coming but before he does the rapture, God's people are gone, because Jesus will *harpazo* us.

Upon the sound of the trumpet and the signal from Christ, we will be transformed into the presence of Christ. This rescue could happen at any moment.

At that moment earth's greatest evacuation will take place. But God's work has told us this happened before. Maybe not rapture, but release from tribulation. Noah got on an ark. Lot got out of Sodom and Gomorrah.

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This calling forth includes God's children, who were conceived yet, never took breath outside the womb. The rapture includes children who have not reached the age of accountability. While they lack the maturity to decide for Christ, they are safely rescued by Jesus.

So are the people who lacked the mental capacity to accept Jesus as Savior. They will receive brand new brains.

Sinners, saved by grace will go. Murders saved by grace will go.

Again, let me emphasize, Noah felt no rain drops and Lot felt no brimstone. In the same way, Jesus will rescue the church. We are encouraged to celebrate this event, and how can that happen if we are going through it.

The names are endless of those rescued, and perhaps you will be one of them, Rahab from Jericho, Samson from his sexual sin. Moses was rescued from Egypt. Jesus was rescued from Herod.

Our Great God is the God who rescues us from **troubles, temptation** and even the **Tribulation**.

Rev 3-NIV¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

So, I don't have a prayer, for you, but I do have a promise I want you to declare as we conclude and sing a song- this is the next event on God's calendar. You don't want to miss it!

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4-NIV)

What Is Going On

Pastor Ken

April 26, 2026

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going. (John 14-NIV)

When you travel to a destination, whether a city or a holiday, there are different kinds of signs indicating you are almost there. One of my favorite places to visit is Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas. I love Texas. Why? I fell in love with Danice Shiree Tracy while in Seminary in Ft Worth. Now, the route to Ft Worth is simple from Wichita. Head south on Interstate 35. There will be signs along way indicating I am on the right Interstate taking me to Texas.

When I get to OKC and see the signs for Texas, I know that I am almost halfway to Ft Worth. When I cross the Red River, the next most important sign is Washington Street in Denton, Texas where I exit and eat at In N Out, I get a double-double animal version.

Now, I am only about 45 miles from my destination of Ft Worth, Texas. Hee-haw. Hook em' horns. Howdy pardner.

Texans have their own language. When a Texan, brags about how big Texas is, I love to remind them, if you take the state of Alaska and cut it in half Texas would be number 3, in size.

When you travel to a destination, you see signs along the way giving you confidence you are soon to arrive!

Let's think of this idea of signs and connect them to December 25. Suddenly in October Christmas decorations and music begins to show up in Lowes, Wall Mart and at the Malls. Soon homes will turn on Christmas lights. Christmas trees will fill Americas homes from Long Island to Long Beach. Before

we reach December 25, there are all kinds of signs that Christmas is just weeks away. On the way to Christmas, we sail and speed right past Thanksgiving.

Christmas gets a lot of press; Thanksgiving has almost no signs. There are no real signs for Thanksgiving. The second coming of Jesus is like Christmas, his return to the earth. Thanksgiving is like the Rapture, Jesus' return to snatch away and catch-up believers. It could happen at any moment.

The signs of Christmas seem to be appearing all around us. Since they are watch and be ready. The coming of Jesus Christ to rapture his church could happen even before we go home.

Then we would really be home.

I love Jesus graphic picture of the rapture in the gospels.

³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. (Luke 17-NIV)

One will be drinking coffee then the other gone, as the coffee cup spills, one in the movie theatre, the other gone as popcorn spills.

This metaphor applies to the rapture and the second coming. Matthew 24 is a preview of the signs of Jesus second coming and the rapture taking believers to heaven does not need any sign. The Rapture is Immanent. It could happen anytime.

Matthew 24 is a preview of the coming attractions connected to the Tribulation.

Now, God does not want us to be caught off guard. That is why over 25% of the bible is about prophecy. Over half of the book of Daniel alone talks about the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is the final 7 years on earth where God will judge the world for sin.

God poured out His wrath on Jesus, so He does not pour it out on Christians now.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (Romans 5-NIV)

The book of Revelation chapters 4-19, all speak about the 7 years we are studying in Matthew 24, called the Tribulation.

Again, don't miss the signs that are clearly indicating Jesus' return, reminding us we are close to the **city**, and close to **Christmas day!**

Some of the prophetic signs that Jesus return is Immanent.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948
- (2) birth pains are increasing
- (3) nations in the Middle East are in turmoil
- (4) a coalition of nations are forming to run the world economically

These signs and others we are studying in our series, What Is Going On.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948.
- (2) Birth pains are increasing; we are in a time of human history where we are moving to a point where the end-time birth pains are speeding up and intensifying.
- (3) Nations in the Middle East are in turmoil. During Covid, those in the nation of Iran, searched on the internet for literature about Jesus Christ more than any other nation on the earth.

In the book of Jeremiah, the nation of Iran is called Elan. Look at this passage.

The prophecy of Iran or Elam in Jeremiah 49:34-39, predicts the **destruction** of Iran or Elam's military might and then Iran's eventual **restoration** in the last

days. Iran is important in the Bible; it is the focus of the books of Esther and Nehemiah.

Question: I wonder if God will have a place of salvation known to the Jews, Israel, yes! Jerusalem.

And a place of salvation known to the Gentiles, Iran, yes! The book of Jeremiah seems to hint to such an event.

³⁸ *"I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her kings and officials," declares the Lord.* ³⁹ *"Yet, I will restore the fortunes of Elam in the days to come."* (Jeremiah 49-NIV)

Is it possible that the US has destroyed Iran or Elam's nuclear potential and this is what Jeremiah was talking about when he referred to the "breaking of the bow."

Key Aspects of the Elam Prophecy (Jeremiah 49):

- Location: Ancient Elam was situated in southwestern Iran, centered around the city of Susa.
- The Bow Broken: God says, *"I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might"* (v. 35). This is interpreted as a destruction of Iranian military capabilities and leadership
- Dispersion and Return: The inhabitants are scattered to the *"four corners of the sky"* (v. 36) but are promised a reversal of fortunes in the *"latter days"* (v. 39).

(4) A coalition of nations are forming to run the **world economically**.

All of these signs come straight from God's word. The signs of the time are clear. So, it is not far off before we arrive in Ft Worth, Texas or experience the joy of Christmas.

The end-times cannot be talked about without paying careful attention to the rapture of the church. The Christian is about to be removed from the earth.

Believers alive at the rapture and those who are dead in Christ will be raptured.

First, the event of the rapture will trigger the Tribulation.

Next, the event of the rapture will also trigger the beginning of eternal time, as each believer begins to enjoy rewards, the wedding, a new body. A body that will not sin and never decay.

For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ is not a riddle to be solved, but an experience to be anticipated. (1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15)

Since the **rapture triggers** activity in heaven and activity on earth, let's take a few minutes and talk about the rapture. Then talk about the Antichrist.

God does not want you to be troubled or anxious about these future events. Topics such as the **Tribulation, Antichrist** and **rapture** are intended to comfort us, not send us into a spiral of concern, cares and confusion.

Here are some promises from the words of Jesus to calm your fears about the rapture.

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)

There are many rooms in my father's house. Jesus knows what it is like to live in cramped quarters, to work in cramped quarters, to be born in a barn and die on a cross.

Jesus says, "I have unlimited space for you." (John 14:2)

Jesus' mother Mary was told there was no room for the birth of your child. There is no room in the Inn.

* We have no openings at work, no room to hire.

* We have no room on this team; all the roster spots are taken.

* I have no room in my heart for you, I love another.

* Our schedule is full, our hotel is booked up, and our reservations are closed, so room for the night.

Jesus heard every word as a preborn, as the Innkeeper said, “we don’t have room for you.”

And Jesus knew this same problem during his life. A prophet is not with honor even in his own hometown. The religious leaders would not announce Jesus as the Messiah, we have no room for Messiahs today in Israel.

No room in the Inn, he wasn’t even born.

No room in your town of origin, that must have stung.

No room in Israel, what else do I need to do to prove I am the long-awaited Messiah.

No room for you on this earth, the cross was a message of utter rejection, announcing no room.

Even today Jesus goes from heart to heart and is given the same kind of treatment, as he asks for entry.

Now, and then Jesus is welcomed in. Someone throws open the door of their heart, and when Jesus comes in, he announces, I have ample room for you. How much room is there in heaven for you? Let me give you a glimpse.

16 *When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. ¹⁷ Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). Revelation 21:16-17 (NLT)*

What do you feel when you are limited to a wheelchair in recovery? Dorm rooms in college are suffocating. Does your work space cubicle cause you claustrophobia?

Tight quarters, we've all been in them. A small hotel room. Small bunks on an aircraft carrier. A home with a growing family. If these and other settings are the norm, then Heaven will be enjoyed like you can't imagine. Heaven is a real place with an extreme amount of space.

The apostle John was given a guided tour one day of this home that we are going to call the Father's House. It is so spacious it has no earthly comparison. In the book *The Revelation Record*, author Henry Morris gives us a glimpse of the calculations:

The cube described in Rev. is 1400 miles square. This would be the equivalent of the area from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rockies. This residence could easily accommodate over 20 billion people.

Each person would have his own private room, mansion or Trump Tower that was a 75-acre cube. This would leave plenty of room for parks, streets, buildings. Heaven is going to be big.

In my Father's House are many rooms-for all who choose to call it home! So, feel free to invite all you want-

... bring the whole family-even weird uncle Herold.

... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

Oh, ok bring everyone from the city you grew up in. In fact, why not think big, bring them all... your state, your country-everybody in the whole world! Heaven is going to be a great big place. Heaven will have maps, so you don't miss a thing. You will have unlimited time to enjoy everything (no picking and choosing on this vacation because of time constraints or lack of money) and to enjoy everyone.

As the days draw closer to the dawning of a new age, somewhere in the universe God is at work this very moment building an amazing home with you in mind. A healing home. A herculean home. A holy home. A heavenly home. A happy home.

Jesus says, “I am preparing your future home right now.” (John 14:2c)

Jesus is preparing a place for you right now in heaven. When our kids come home for a visit we prepare a place for them. Flowers in the room. Their favorite food is in the refrigerator. And everything is clean, clean, clean. Only the best for our kids.

And Jesus is doing that for you. Sleeping disorder, you will sleep like baby in heaven. Eating disorder, your body can eat anything. Are you afraid at night? There is no darkness in heaven, the light is always on.

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:23-NIV)

Jesus moves from the expertise of an architect or project manager and now declares with authority and confidence. I am coming back for YOU!

Jesus says, “I am coming back soon!” (John 14:3)

Why would Jesus go to such lengths to retrieve me? To reclaim us? Are we not pretty troublesome? Don't we sin too much?

We should be holy, yet our hearts are filled with hate.

We should be servants, yet I am selfish.

We should be free of fear, yet it dominates our thinking. We are told 365 times in the Bible, do not be afraid. No, I did not misspeak. God offers us a word of hope, **do not fear**, for every day of the year.

Jesus will come back for you, even though at times, you feel so unworthy, inadequate and sinful. **The Rapture is an immanent sign.**

Let me shift our focus from the rapture(heaven) to the Tribulation (earth). From what happens in heaven to what happens on earth. We come to the part of

our study in Matthew 24, where we read about the vilest and most heinous time and person in the Tribulation. In human history. Let me answer the question:

What will happen during the Tribulation?

After a generation of people misses death, one moment hear and the next there. A generation of Christians will miss the cemetery. In Matthew 24, we read about a world leader in the Tribulation called the anti-Christ, a scoundrel. He is everything that is antichrist.

Before I describe the antichrist, don't miss what will happen in the Tribulation. Look at your notes.

The nation of Israel will accept Jesus as the Messiah, God will punish sin in the earth, God's power will be unleashed, the devil's true character will be exposed, God's sovereignty in salvation will be on display.

He is called the Antichrist because he is against everything Jesus stands for.

This evil leader will want people to worship him instead of Jesus Christ. Anti-salvation. Anti-forgiveness. Anti-truth. There are over 100 passages in the bible that refer or allude to him.

God wants you to know about this prince of darkness, even though you will not be here to experience his wrath.

At the half time of the Tribulation, the prince of darkness, Satan himself will desecrate God's holiest city and temple and break a pact of peace he brokered with the Jews.

The Tribulation will impact the whole world, but the endgame will be for Satan to be worshipped from God's holiest of temples.

This bad dude coming, will set himself up as god, in the newly rebuilt temple that the Jews have been worshipping Jehovah in for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

¹⁵ *So when you see standing in the holy place “the abomination that causes desolation,” spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

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The signs of Christmas seem to be appearing all around us. Since they are watch and be ready. The coming of Jesus Christ to rapture his church could happen even before we go home.

Then we would really be home.

I love Jesus graphic picture of the rapture in the gospels.

³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. (Luke 17-NIV)

One will be drinking coffee then the other gone, as the coffee cup spills, one in the movie theatre, the other gone as popcorn spills.

This metaphor applies to the rapture and the second coming. Matthew 24 is a preview of the signs of Jesus second coming and the rapture taking believers to heaven does not need any sign. The Rapture is Immanent. It could happen anytime.

Matthew 24 is a preview of the coming attractions connected to the Tribulation.

Now, God does not want us to be caught off guard. That is why over 25% of the bible is about prophecy. Over half of the book of Daniel alone talks about the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is the final 7 years on earth where God will judge the world for sin.

God poured out His wrath on Jesus, so He does not pour it out on Christians now.

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The book of Revelation chapters 4-19, all speak about the 7 years we are studying in Matthew 24, called the Tribulation.

Again, don't miss the signs that are clearly indicating Jesus' return, reminding us we are close to the **city**, and close to **Christmas day!**

Some of the prophetic signs that Jesus return is Immanent.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948
- (2) birth pains are increasing
- (3) nations in the Middle East are in turmoil
- (4) a coalition of nations are forming to run the world economically

These signs and others we are studying in our series, What Is Going On.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948.
- (2) Birth pains are increasing; we are in a time of human history where we are moving to a point where the end-time birth pains are speeding up and intensifying.
- (3) Nations in the Middle East are in turmoil. During Covid, those in the nation of Iran, searched on the internet for literature about Jesus Christ more than any other nation on the earth.

In the book of Jeremiah, the nation of Iran is called Elan. Look at this passage.

The prophecy of Iran or Elam in Jeremiah 49:34-39, predicts the **destruction** of Iran or Elam's military might and then Iran's eventual **restoration** in the last

days. Iran is important in the Bible; it is the focus of the books of Esther and Nehemiah.

Question: I wonder if God will have a place of salvation known to the Jews, Israel, yes! Jerusalem.

And a place of salvation known to the Gentiles, Iran, yes! The book of Jeremiah seems to hint to such an event.

³⁸ *"I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her kings and officials," declares the Lord.* ³⁹ *"Yet, I will restore the fortunes of Elam in the days to come."* (Jeremiah 49-NIV)

Is it possible that the US has destroyed Iran or Elam's nuclear potential and this is what Jeremiah was talking about when he referred to the "breaking of the bow."

Key Aspects of the Elam Prophecy (Jeremiah 49):

- Location: Ancient Elam was situated in southwestern Iran, centered around the city of Susa.
- The Bow Broken: God says, *"I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might"* (v. 35). This is interpreted as a destruction of Iranian military capabilities and leadership
- Dispersion and Return: The inhabitants are scattered to the *"four corners of the sky"* (v. 36) but are promised a reversal of fortunes in the *"latter days"* (v. 39).

(4) A coalition of nations are forming to run the **world economically**.

All of these signs come straight from God's word. The signs of the time are clear. So, it is not far off before we arrive in Ft Worth, Texas or experience the joy of Christmas.

The end-times cannot be talked about without paying careful attention to the rapture of the church. The Christian is about to be removed from the earth.

Believers alive at the rapture and those who are dead in Christ will be raptured.

First, the event of the rapture will trigger the Tribulation.

Next, the event of the rapture will also trigger the beginning of eternal time, as each believer begins to enjoy rewards, the wedding, a new body. A body that will not sin and never decay.

For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ is not a riddle to be solved, but an experience to be anticipated. (1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15)

Since the **rapture triggers** activity in heaven and activity on earth, let's take a few minutes and talk about the rapture. Then talk about the Antichrist.

God does not want you to be troubled or anxious about these future events. Topics such as the **Tribulation, Antichrist** and **rapture** are intended to comfort us, not send us into a spiral of concern, cares and confusion.

Here are some promises from the words of Jesus to calm your fears about the rapture.

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)

There are many rooms in my father's house. Jesus knows what it is like to live in cramped quarters, to work in cramped quarters, to be born in a barn and die on a cross.

Jesus says, "I have unlimited space for you." (John 14:2)

Jesus' mother Mary was told there was no room for the birth of your child. There is no room in the Inn.

* We have no openings at work, no room to hire.

* We have no room on this team; all the roster spots are taken.

* I have no room in my heart for you, I love another.

* Our schedule is full, our hotel is booked up, and our reservations are closed, so room for the night.

Jesus heard every word as a preborn, as the Innkeeper said, “we don’t have room for you.”

And Jesus knew this same problem during his life. A prophet is not with honor even in his own hometown. The religious leaders would not announce Jesus as the Messiah, we have no room for Messiahs today in Israel.

No room in the Inn, he wasn’t even born.

No room in your town of origin, that must have stung.

No room in Israel, what else do I need to do to prove I am the long-awaited Messiah.

No room for you on this earth, the cross was a message of utter rejection, announcing no room.

Even today Jesus goes from heart to heart and is given the same kind of treatment, as he asks for entry.

Now, and then Jesus is welcomed in. Someone throws open the door of their heart, and when Jesus comes in, he announces, I have ample room for you. How much room is there in heaven for you? Let me give you a glimpse.

16 *When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. ¹⁷ Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). Revelation 21:16-17 (NLT)*

What do you feel when you are limited to a wheelchair in recovery? Dorm rooms in college are suffocating. Does your work space cubicle cause you claustrophobia?

Tight quarters, we've all been in them. A small hotel room. Small bunks on an aircraft carrier. A home with a growing family. If these and other settings are the norm, then Heaven will be enjoyed like you can't imagine. Heaven is a real place with an extreme amount of space.

The apostle John was given a guided tour one day of this home that we are going to call the Father's House. It is so spacious it has no earthly comparison. In the book *The Revelation Record*, author Henry Morris gives us a glimpse of the calculations:

The cube described in Rev. is 1400 miles square. This would be the equivalent of the area from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rockies. This residence could easily accommodate over 20 billion people.

Each person would have his own private room, mansion or Trump Tower that was a 75-acre cube. This would leave plenty of room for parks, streets, buildings. Heaven is going to be big.

In my Father's House are many rooms-for all who choose to call it home! So, feel free to invite all you want-

... bring the whole family-even weird uncle Herold.

... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

Oh, ok bring everyone from the city you grew up in. In fact, why not think big, bring them all... your state, your country-everybody in the whole world! Heaven is going to be a great big place. Heaven will have maps, so you don't miss a thing. You will have unlimited time to enjoy everything (no picking and choosing on this vacation because of time constraints or lack of money) and to enjoy everyone.

As the days draw closer to the dawning of a new age, somewhere in the universe God is at work this very moment building an amazing home with you in mind. A healing home. A herculean home. A holy home. A heavenly home. A happy home.

Jesus says, "I am preparing your future home right now." (John 14:2c)

Jesus is preparing a place for you right now in heaven. When our kids come home for a visit we prepare a place for them. Flowers in the room. Their favorite food is in the refrigerator. And everything is clean, clean, clean. Only the best for our kids.

And Jesus is doing that for you. Sleeping disorder, you will sleep like baby in heaven. Eating disorder, your body can eat anything. Are you afraid at night? There is no darkness in heaven, the light is always on.

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:23-NIV)

Jesus moves from the expertise of an architect or project manager and now declares with authority and confidence. I am coming back for YOU!

Jesus says, "I am coming back soon!" (John 14:3)

Why would Jesus go to such lengths to retrieve me? To reclaim us? Are we not pretty troublesome? Don't we sin too much?

We should be holy, yet our hearts are filled with hate.

We should be servants, yet I am selfish.

We should be free of fear, yet it dominates our thinking. We are told 365 times in the Bible, do not be afraid. No, I did not misspeak. God offers us a word of hope, **do not fear**, for every day of the year.

Jesus will come back for you, even though at times, you feel so unworthy, inadequate and sinful. **The Rapture is an immanent sign.**

Let me shift our focus from the rapture(heaven) to the Tribulation (earth). From what happens in heaven to what happens on earth. We come to the part of

our study in Matthew 24, where we read about the vilest and most heinous time and person in the Tribulation. In human history. Let me answer the question:

What will happen during the Tribulation?

After a generation of people misses death, one moment hear and the next there. A generation of Christians will miss the cemetery. In Matthew 24, we read about a world leader in the Tribulation called the anti-Christ, a scoundrel. He is everything that is antichrist.

Before I describe the antichrist, don't miss what will happen in the Tribulation. Look at your notes.

The nation of Israel will accept Jesus as the Messiah, God will punish sin in the earth, God's power will be unleashed, the devil's true character will be exposed, God's sovereignty in salvation will be on display.

He is called the Antichrist because he is against everything Jesus stands for.

This evil leader will want people to worship him instead of Jesus Christ. Anti-salvation. Anti-forgiveness. Anti-truth. There are over 100 passages in the bible that refer or allude to him.

God wants you to know about this prince of darkness, even though you will not be here to experience his wrath.

At the half time of the Tribulation, the prince of darkness, Satan himself will desecrate God's holiest city and temple and break a pact of peace he brokered with the Jews.

The Tribulation will impact the whole world, but the endgame will be for Satan to be worshipped from God's holiest of temples.

This bad dude coming, will set himself up as god, in the newly rebuilt temple that the Jews have been worshipping Jehovah in for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

¹⁵ *So when you see standing in the holy place “the abomination that causes desolation,” spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

This is from our study in Matt 24, a translation that we can understand-
Message.

¹⁵⁻²⁰ *But be ready to run for it when you see the **monster of desecration set up in the Temple sanctuary**. The prophet Daniel described this. If you’ve read Daniel, you’ll know what I’m talking about. If you’re living in Judea at the time, **run for the hills**; if you’re working in the yard, don’t return to the house to get anything; if you’re out in the field, don’t go back and get your coat. Pregnant and nursing mothers will have it especially hard. Hope and pray this won’t happen during the winter or on a Sabbath.*

²¹⁻²² *This is going to be trouble on a scale beyond what the world has ever seen, or will see again. If these days of trouble were left to run their course, nobody would make it. But on account of God’s chosen people, the trouble will be cut short. (Matthew 24-MSG)*

The ripple effect of this desecration of evil will spread out from Jerusalem and impact everyone immediately. Let me put my spin on these verses of what will happen as told by Jesus to his disciples and the tsunami of tragic consequences.

Run for the hills, leave your home and do not go back for family heirlooms, run,

...if you are in the field, you don’t even have time to get your jacket, run,

...if you are pregnant when this happens, be careful when you run so as not to trigger birth pains, run,

...if it happens on the Sabbath run even though it is work and you are breaking the Sabbath, run,

...no matter how difficult it gets, God is working his Tribulation plan, run,

...you won't have to run much longer, God will intervene or nobody would make it, run,

...God will deliver you, even from the hour of tribulation, run.

What does Daniel 8:23-25-CEV say about this hour and this person?

²³ When these rulers have become as evil as possible, their power will end, and then a king who is dangerous and cannot be trusted will appear.

²⁴ He will gain strength, but not on his own, and he will cause terrible destruction. He will wipe out powerful leaders and God's people as well. ²⁵ His deceitful lies will make him so successful, that he will think he is really great. Suddenly he will kill many people, and he will even attack God, the Supreme Ruler. But God will crush him!

This paragraph reads like a job description or biography of the antichrist. No world leader at that time will compare. The antichrist will be ominous. Fierce looking. A master of intrigue. A trickster. His eyes will be defiant and his heart will be evil.

He will also be charming. He will be spiritually alive. He will traffic in the occult. In the book of Revelation John tells us he will have the mouth of a lion.

*² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a **mouth like that of a lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2-NIV)*

He will be a soul captivating orator or speaker. He will mesmerize people. He will gain attention with his voice. He will put the world in a verbal trance using a hypnotic story about God; why he cannot be trusted, why God doesn't keep his word.

Why the Antichrist is the real God. And like the question in the garden, he will convince the world. **"Has God really said?" Genesis 3:1**

Why all the detail, Pastor. Why the concern? Just as Satan entered Judas on the day of betrayal, so Satan will enter a great peacemaker. He will offer an

olive branch to Israel as a gift. He will negotiate 7 years of peace as a great diplomat, then break it all halfway through, and all hell will break loose.

Combine the putrid spirits of Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Mao-Tse-tung and Idi Amiin with every other evil and arrogant leader and you have a glimpse of the Antichrist - **on a good day!**

I know what you are thinking, Ken, I am so inspired. Thank you for this wonderful description! All this talk about the antichrist, evil and total destruction. Now, I have to go to work tomorrow. We have to eat lunch in a few minutes. How am I going to nap today, with that in my mind?

I know. Depressing. Fear inducing. This sounds like the darkest days in human history, and they are. The Tribulation is going to happen, and the Bible spells it out in Matthew, Daniel and Revelation.

It will be far worse than I described.

- **In the Tribulation, God is the judge.**
- **In the Rapture, God is the rewarder.**

Forgive me if I tell you, I have no concerns about the Tribulation. The Antichrist. I am not even slightly interested. Or inquisitive a bit.

By the time this evil world dictator arrives I will be long gone. A bad dude is coming but before he does the rapture, God's people are gone, because Jesus will *harpazo* us.

Upon the sound of the trumpet and the signal from Christ, we will be transformed into the presence of Christ. This rescue could happen at any moment.

At that moment earth's greatest evacuation will take place. But God's work has told us this happened before. Maybe not rapture, but release from tribulation. Noah got on an ark. Lot got out of Sodom and Gomorrah.

A machinist often hovers a magnet over trash to separate the good stuff from the bad. Every item that contains the properties of magnet rises out of the trash and attaches to the magnet.

The rapture will have a similar effect. Jesus will appear in the sky, and all who share in his nature, who house the Holy Spirit, who house the presence of Jesus-will be caught up by his magnetic presence to meet him in the air.

What a moment of miracles that will be. Who will go?

This calling forth includes God's children, who were conceived yet, never took breath outside the womb. The rapture includes children who have not reached the age of accountability. While they lack the maturity to decide for Christ, they are safely rescued by Jesus.

So are the people who lacked the mental capacity to accept Jesus as Savior. They will receive brand new brains.

Sinners, saved by grace will go. Murders saved by grace will go.

Again, let me emphasize, Noah felt no rain drops and Lot felt no brimstone. In the same way, Jesus will rescue the church. We are encouraged to celebrate this event, and how can that happen if we are going through it.

The names are endless of those rescued, and perhaps you will be one of them, Rahab from Jericho, Samson from his sexual sin. Moses was rescued from Egypt. Jesus was rescued from Herod.

Our Great God is the God who rescues us from **troubles, temptation** and even the **Tribulation**.

Rev 3-NIV ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

So, I don't have a prayer, for you, but I do have a promise I want you to declare as we conclude and sing a song- this is the next event on God's calendar. You don't want to miss it!

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4-NIV)

What Is Going On

Pastor Ken

April 26, 2026

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going. (John 14-NIV)

When you travel to a destination, whether a city or a holiday, there are different kinds of signs indicating you are almost there. One of my favorite places to visit is Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas. I love Texas. Why? I fell in love with Danice Shiree Tracy while in Seminary in Ft Worth. Now, the route to Ft Worth is simple from Wichita. Head south on Interstate 35. There will be signs along way indicating I am on the right Interstate taking me to Texas.

When I get to OKC and see the signs for Texas, I know that I am almost halfway to Ft Worth. When I cross the Red River, the next most important sign is Washington Street in Denton, Texas where I exit and eat at In N Out, I get a double-double animal version.

Now, I am only about 45 miles from my destination of Ft Worth, Texas. Hee-haw. Hook em' horns. Howdy pardner.

Texans have their own language. When a Texan, brags about how big Texas is, I love to remind them, if you take the state of Alaska and cut it in half Texas would be number 3, in size.

When you travel to a destination, you see signs along the way giving you confidence you are soon to arrive!

Let's think of this idea of signs and connect them to December 25. Suddenly in October Christmas decorations and music begins to show up in Lowes, Wall Mart and at the Malls. Soon homes will turn on Christmas lights. Christmas trees will fill Americas homes from Long Island to Long Beach. Before

we reach December 25, there are all kinds of signs that Christmas is just weeks away. On the way to Christmas, we sail and speed right past Thanksgiving.

Christmas gets a lot of press; Thanksgiving has almost no signs. There are no real signs for Thanksgiving. The second coming of Jesus is like Christmas, his return to the earth. Thanksgiving is like the Rapture, Jesus' return to snatch away and catch-up believers. It could happen at any moment.

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... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

Oh, ok bring everyone from the city you grew up in. In fact, why not think big, bring them all... your state, your country-everybody in the whole world! Heaven is going to be a great big place. Heaven will have maps, so you don't miss a thing. You will have unlimited time to enjoy everything (no picking and choosing on this vacation because of time constraints or lack of money) and to enjoy everyone.

As the days draw closer to the dawning of a new age, somewhere in the universe God is at work this very moment building an amazing home with you in mind. A healing home. A herculean home. A holy home. A heavenly home. A happy home.

Jesus says, "I am preparing your future home right now." (John 14:2c)

Jesus is preparing a place for you right now in heaven. When our kids come home for a visit we prepare a place for them. Flowers in the room. Their favorite food is in the refrigerator. And everything is clean, clean, clean. Only the best for our kids.

And Jesus is doing that for you. Sleeping disorder, you will sleep like baby in heaven. Eating disorder, your body can eat anything. Are you afraid at night? There is no darkness in heaven, the light is always on.

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:23-NIV)

Jesus moves from the expertise of an architect or project manager and now declares with authority and confidence. I am coming back for YOU!

Jesus says, "I am coming back soon!" (John 14:3)

Why would Jesus go to such lengths to retrieve me? To reclaim us? Are we not pretty troublesome? Don't we sin too much?

We should be holy, yet our hearts are filled with hate.

We should be servants, yet I am selfish.

We should be free of fear, yet it dominates our thinking. We are told 365 times in the Bible, do not be afraid. No, I did not misspeak. God offers us a word of hope, **do not fear**, for every day of the year.

Jesus will come back for you, even though at times, you feel so unworthy, inadequate and sinful. **The Rapture is an immanent sign.**

Let me shift our focus from the rapture(heaven) to the Tribulation (earth). From what happens in heaven to what happens on earth. We come to the part of

our study in Matthew 24, where we read about the vilest and most heinous time and person in the Tribulation. In human history. Let me answer the question:

What will happen during the Tribulation?

After a generation of people misses death, one moment hear and the next there. A generation of Christians will miss the cemetery. In Matthew 24, we read about a world leader in the Tribulation called the anti-Christ, a scoundrel. He is everything that is antichrist.

Before I describe the antichrist, don't miss what will happen in the Tribulation. Look at your notes.

The nation of Israel will accept Jesus as the Messiah, God will punish sin in the earth, God's power will be unleashed, the devil's true character will be exposed, God's sovereignty in salvation will be on display.

He is called the Antichrist because he is against everything Jesus stands for.

This evil leader will want people to worship him instead of Jesus Christ. Anti-salvation. Anti-forgiveness. Anti-truth. There are over 100 passages in the bible that refer or allude to him.

God wants you to know about this prince of darkness, even though you will not be here to experience his wrath.

At the half time of the Tribulation, the prince of darkness, Satan himself will desecrate God's holiest city and temple and break a pact of peace he brokered with the Jews.

The Tribulation will impact the whole world, but the endgame will be for Satan to be worshipped from God's holiest of temples.

This bad dude coming, will set himself up as god, in the newly rebuilt temple that the Jews have been worshipping Jehovah in for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

¹⁵ *So when you see standing in the holy place “the abomination that causes desolation,” spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

This is from our study in Matt 24, a translation that we can understand-
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¹⁵⁻²⁰ *But be ready to run for it when you see the **monster of desecration set up in the Temple sanctuary**. The prophet Daniel described this. If you’ve read Daniel, you’ll know what I’m talking about. If you’re living in Judea at the time, **run for the hills**; if you’re working in the yard, don’t return to the house to get anything; if you’re out in the field, don’t go back and get your coat. Pregnant and nursing mothers will have it especially hard. Hope and pray this won’t happen during the winter or on a Sabbath.*

²¹⁻²² *This is going to be trouble on a scale beyond what the world has ever seen, or will see again. If these days of trouble were left to run their course, nobody would make it. But on account of God’s chosen people, the trouble will be cut short. (Matthew 24-MSG)*

The ripple effect of this desecration of evil will spread out from Jerusalem and impact everyone immediately. Let me put my spin on these verses of what will happen as told by Jesus to his disciples and the tsunami of tragic consequences.

Run for the hills, leave your home and do not go back for family heirlooms, run,

...if you are in the field, you don’t even have time to get your jacket, run,

...if you are pregnant when this happens, be careful when you run so as not to trigger birth pains, run,

...if it happens on the Sabbath run even though it is work and you are breaking the Sabbath, run,

...no matter how difficult it gets, God is working his Tribulation plan, run,

...you won't have to run much longer, God will intervene or nobody would make it, run,

...God will deliver you, even from the hour of tribulation, run.

What does Daniel 8:23-25-CEV say about this hour and this person?

²³ When these rulers have become as evil as possible, their power will end, and then a king who is dangerous and cannot be trusted will appear.

²⁴ He will gain strength, but not on his own, and he will cause terrible destruction. He will wipe out powerful leaders and God's people as well. ²⁵ His deceitful lies will make him so successful, that he will think he is really great. Suddenly he will kill many people, and he will even attack God, the Supreme Ruler. But God will crush him!

This paragraph reads like a job description or biography of the antichrist. No world leader at that time will compare. The antichrist will be ominous. Fierce looking. A master of intrigue. A trickster. His eyes will be defiant and his heart will be evil.

He will also be charming. He will be spiritually alive. He will traffic in the occult. In the book of Revelation John tells us he will have the mouth of a lion.

*² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a **mouth like that of a lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2-NIV)*

He will be a soul captivating orator or speaker. He will mesmerize people. He will gain attention with his voice. He will put the world in a verbal trance using a hypnotic story about God; why he cannot be trusted, why God doesn't keep his word.

Why the Antichrist is the real God. And like the question in the garden, he will convince the world. **"Has God really said?" Genesis 3:1**

Why all the detail, Pastor. Why the concern? Just as Satan entered Judas on the day of betrayal, so Satan will enter a great peacemaker. He will offer an

olive branch to Israel as a gift. He will negotiate 7 years of peace as a great diplomat, then break it all halfway through, and all hell will break loose.

Combine the putrid spirits of Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Mao-Tse-tung and Idi Amiin with every other evil and arrogant leader and you have a glimpse of the Antichrist - **on a good day!**

I know what you are thinking, Ken, I am so inspired. Thank you for this wonderful description! All this talk about the antichrist, evil and total destruction. Now, I have to go to work tomorrow. We have to eat lunch in a few minutes. How am I going to nap today, with that in my mind?

I know. Depressing. Fear inducing. This sounds like the darkest days in human history, and they are. The Tribulation is going to happen, and the Bible spells it out in Matthew, Daniel and Revelation.

It will be far worse than I described.

- **In the Tribulation, God is the judge.**
- **In the Rapture, God is the rewarder.**

Forgive me if I tell you, I have no concerns about the Tribulation. The Antichrist. I am not even slightly interested. Or inquisitive a bit.

By the time this evil world dictator arrives I will be long gone. A bad dude is coming but before he does the rapture, God's people are gone, because Jesus will *harpazo* us.

Upon the sound of the trumpet and the signal from Christ, we will be transformed into the presence of Christ. This rescue could happen at any moment.

At that moment earth's greatest evacuation will take place. But God's work has told us this happened before. Maybe not rapture, but release from tribulation. Noah got on an ark. Lot got out of Sodom and Gomorrah.

A machinist often hovers a magnet over trash to separate the good stuff from the bad. Every item that contains the properties of magnet rises out of the trash and attaches to the magnet.

The rapture will have a similar effect. Jesus will appear in the sky, and all who share in his nature, who house the Holy Spirit, who house the presence of Jesus-will be caught up by his magnetic presence to meet him in the air.

What a moment of miracles that will be. Who will go?

This calling forth includes God's children, who were conceived yet, never took breath outside the womb. The rapture includes children who have not reached the age of accountability. While they lack the maturity to decide for Christ, they are safely rescued by Jesus.

So are the people who lacked the mental capacity to accept Jesus as Savior. They will receive brand new brains.

Sinners, saved by grace will go. Murders saved by grace will go.

Again, let me emphasize, Noah felt no rain drops and Lot felt no brimstone. In the same way, Jesus will rescue the church. We are encouraged to celebrate this event, and how can that happen if we are going through it.

The names are endless of those rescued, and perhaps you will be one of them, Rahab from Jericho, Samson from his sexual sin. Moses was rescued from Egypt. Jesus was rescued from Herod.

Our Great God is the God who rescues us from **troubles, temptation** and even the **Tribulation**.

Rev 3-NIV ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

So, I don't have a prayer, for you, but I do have a promise I want you to declare as we conclude and sing a song- this is the next event on God's calendar. You don't want to miss it!

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4-NIV)

What Is Going On

Pastor Ken

April 26, 2026

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going. (John 14-NIV)

When you travel to a destination, whether a city or a holiday, there are different kinds of signs indicating you are almost there. One of my favorite places to visit is Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas. I love Texas. Why? I fell in love with Danice Shiree Tracy while in Seminary in Ft Worth. Now, the route to Ft Worth is simple from Wichita. Head south on Interstate 35. There will be signs along way indicating I am on the right Interstate taking me to Texas.

When I get to OKC and see the signs for Texas, I know that I am almost halfway to Ft Worth. When I cross the Red River, the next most important sign is Washington Street in Denton, Texas where I exit and eat at In N Out, I get a double-double animal version.

Now, I am only about 45 miles from my destination of Ft Worth, Texas. Hee-haw. Hook em' horns. Howdy pardner.

Texans have their own language. When a Texan, brags about how big Texas is, I love to remind them, if you take the state of Alaska and cut it in half Texas would be number 3, in size.

When you travel to a destination, you see signs along the way giving you confidence you are soon to arrive!

Let's think of this idea of signs and connect them to December 25. Suddenly in October Christmas decorations and music begins to show up in Lowes, Wall Mart and at the Malls. Soon homes will turn on Christmas lights. Christmas trees will fill Americas homes from Long Island to Long Beach. Before

we reach December 25, there are all kinds of signs that Christmas is just weeks away. On the way to Christmas, we sail and speed right past Thanksgiving.

Christmas gets a lot of press; Thanksgiving has almost no signs. There are no real signs for Thanksgiving. The second coming of Jesus is like Christmas, his return to the earth. Thanksgiving is like the Rapture, Jesus' return to snatch away and catch-up believers. It could happen at any moment.

The signs of Christmas seem to be appearing all around us. Since they are watch and be ready. The coming of Jesus Christ to rapture his church could happen even before we go home.

Then we would really be home.

I love Jesus graphic picture of the rapture in the gospels.

³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. (Luke 17-NIV)

One will be drinking coffee then the other gone, as the coffee cup spills, one in the movie theatre, the other gone as popcorn spills.

This metaphor applies to the rapture and the second coming. Matthew 24 is a preview of the signs of Jesus second coming and the rapture taking believers to heaven does not need any sign. The Rapture is Immanent. It could happen anytime.

Matthew 24 is a preview of the coming attractions connected to the Tribulation.

Now, God does not want us to be caught off guard. That is why over 25% of the bible is about prophecy. Over half of the book of Daniel alone talks about the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is the final 7 years on earth where God will judge the world for sin.

God poured out His wrath on Jesus, so He does not pour it out on Christians now.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (Romans 5-NIV)

The book of Revelation chapters 4-19, all speak about the 7 years we are studying in Matthew 24, called the Tribulation.

Again, don't miss the signs that are clearly indicating Jesus' return, reminding us we are close to the **city**, and close to **Christmas day!**

Some of the prophetic signs that Jesus return is Immanent.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948
- (2) birth pains are increasing
- (3) nations in the Middle East are in turmoil
- (4) a coalition of nations are forming to run the world economically

These signs and others we are studying in our series, What Is Going On.

- (1) Israel has a homeland since 1948.
- (2) Birth pains are increasing; we are in a time of human history where we are moving to a point where the end-time birth pains are speeding up and intensifying.
- (3) Nations in the Middle East are in turmoil. During Covid, those in the nation of Iran, searched on the internet for literature about Jesus Christ more than any other nation on the earth.

In the book of Jeremiah, the nation of Iran is called Elan. Look at this passage.

The prophecy of Iran or Elam in Jeremiah 49:34-39, predicts the **destruction** of Iran or Elam's military might and then Iran's eventual **restoration** in the last

days. Iran is important in the Bible; it is the focus of the books of Esther and Nehemiah.

Question: I wonder if God will have a place of salvation known to the Jews, Israel, yes! Jerusalem.

And a place of salvation known to the Gentiles, Iran, yes! The book of Jeremiah seems to hint to such an event.

³⁸ *"I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her kings and officials," declares the Lord.* ³⁹ *"Yet, I will restore the fortunes of Elam in the days to come."* (Jeremiah 49-NIV)

Is it possible that the US has destroyed Iran or Elam's nuclear potential and this is what Jeremiah was talking about when he referred to the "breaking of the bow."

Key Aspects of the Elam Prophecy (Jeremiah 49):

- Location: Ancient Elam was situated in southwestern Iran, centered around the city of Susa.
- The Bow Broken: God says, *"I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might"* (v. 35). This is interpreted as a destruction of Iranian military capabilities and leadership
- Dispersion and Return: The inhabitants are scattered to the *"four corners of the sky"* (v. 36) but are promised a reversal of fortunes in the *"latter days"* (v. 39).

(4) A coalition of nations are forming to run the **world economically**.

All of these signs come straight from God's word. The signs of the time are clear. So, it is not far off before we arrive in Ft Worth, Texas or experience the joy of Christmas.

The end-times cannot be talked about without paying careful attention to the rapture of the church. The Christian is about to be removed from the earth.

Believers alive at the rapture and those who are dead in Christ will be raptured.

First, the event of the rapture will trigger the Tribulation.

Next, the event of the rapture will also trigger the beginning of eternal time, as each believer begins to enjoy rewards, the wedding, a new body. A body that will not sin and never decay.

For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ is not a riddle to be solved, but an experience to be anticipated. (1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15)

Since the **rapture triggers** activity in heaven and activity on earth, let's take a few minutes and talk about the rapture. Then talk about the Antichrist.

God does not want you to be troubled or anxious about these future events. Topics such as the **Tribulation, Antichrist** and **rapture** are intended to comfort us, not send us into a spiral of concern, cares and confusion.

Here are some promises from the words of Jesus to calm your fears about the rapture.

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)

There are many rooms in my father's house. Jesus knows what it is like to live in cramped quarters, to work in cramped quarters, to be born in a barn and die on a cross.

Jesus says, "I have unlimited space for you." (John 14:2)

Jesus' mother Mary was told there was no room for the birth of your child. There is no room in the Inn.

* We have no openings at work, no room to hire.

* We have no room on this team; all the roster spots are taken.

* I have no room in my heart for you, I love another.

* Our schedule is full, our hotel is booked up, and our reservations are closed, so room for the night.

Jesus heard every word as a preborn, as the Innkeeper said, “we don’t have room for you.”

And Jesus knew this same problem during his life. A prophet is not with honor even in his own hometown. The religious leaders would not announce Jesus as the Messiah, we have no room for Messiahs today in Israel.

No room in the Inn, he wasn’t even born.

No room in your town of origin, that must have stung.

No room in Israel, what else do I need to do to prove I am the long-awaited Messiah.

No room for you on this earth, the cross was a message of utter rejection, announcing no room.

Even today Jesus goes from heart to heart and is given the same kind of treatment, as he asks for entry.

Now, and then Jesus is welcomed in. Someone throws open the door of their heart, and when Jesus comes in, he announces, I have ample room for you. How much room is there in heaven for you? Let me give you a glimpse.

16 *When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. ¹⁷ Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). Revelation 21:16-17 (NLT)*

What do you feel when you are limited to a wheelchair in recovery? Dorm rooms in college are suffocating. Does your work space cubicle cause you claustrophobia?

Tight quarters, we've all been in them. A small hotel room. Small bunks on an aircraft carrier. A home with a growing family. If these and other settings are the norm, then Heaven will be enjoyed like you can't imagine. Heaven is a real place with an extreme amount of space.

The apostle John was given a guided tour one day of this home that we are going to call the Father's House. It is so spacious it has no earthly comparison. In the book *The Revelation Record*, author Henry Morris gives us a glimpse of the calculations:

The cube described in Rev. is 1400 miles square. This would be the equivalent of the area from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rockies. This residence could easily accommodate over 20 billion people.

Each person would have his own private room, mansion or Trump Tower that was a 75-acre cube. This would leave plenty of room for parks, streets, buildings. Heaven is going to be big.

In my Father's House are many rooms-for all who choose to call it home! So, feel free to invite all you want-

... bring the whole family-even weird uncle Herold.

... don't leave out any of your friends.

... go all the way back to your early school days and bring those friends from Elementary school, from your little league team, from the Boy Scouts, in fact why don't you invite your whole High School graduating class.

Oh, ok bring everyone from the city you grew up in. In fact, why not think big, bring them all... your state, your country-everybody in the whole world! Heaven is going to be a great big place. Heaven will have maps, so you don't miss a thing. You will have unlimited time to enjoy everything (no picking and choosing on this vacation because of time constraints or lack of money) and to enjoy everyone.

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This calling forth includes God's children, who were conceived yet, never took breath outside the womb. The rapture includes children who have not reached the age of accountability. While they lack the maturity to decide for Christ, they are safely rescued by Jesus.

So are the people who lacked the mental capacity to accept Jesus as Savior. They will receive brand new brains.

Sinners, saved by grace will go. Murders saved by grace will go.

Again, let me emphasize, Noah felt no rain drops and Lot felt no brimstone. In the same way, Jesus will rescue the church. We are encouraged to celebrate this event, and how can that happen if we are going through it.

The names are endless of those rescued, and perhaps you will be one of them, Rahab from Jericho, Samson from his sexual sin. Moses was rescued from Egypt. Jesus was rescued from Herod.

Our Great God is the God who rescues us from **troubles, temptation** and even the **Tribulation**.

Rev 3-NIV ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

So, I don't have a prayer, for you, but I do have a promise I want you to declare as we conclude and sing a song- this is the next event on God's calendar. You don't want to miss it!

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4-NIV)