

*He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

(Revelation 22:20)

## **2011 Anno Domini: Further Thoughts** **(or, *Everything We Know is... Incomplete*)**

The bottom line with 2011, A.D., is that is a year of reconnection to the Head, Who is Christ. All the systems of the Body of Christ, the family of believers, are in place, yet now there is a separation going on between the Body and the churches that believers were nurtured in. I said this last month, but it bears repeating; believers are going to be faced with a choice – either follow God’s lead and move with the flow of His Holy Spirit, wherever that may take the believer, or stay with the familiar and comfortable and be left behind and miss out on what may very well be the last great move of God before the return of the Lord Jesus.

With this move of God comes new teaching, which will be of immense help to believers to put to use for the purposes of the Kingdom. We pray not merely for Revival, but for a Great Awakening to turn this nation (and the world) around. Often throughout the history of this country, such Great Awakenings have preceded major events, whether they are for good or ill. God does not treat His people like mushrooms, if you’re familiar with the old joke; He prefers His Body be kept aware of what is happening in both His Kingdom and His world.

With that knowledge, He also wants us to have everything of His; the fullness of all His promises and power. Jesus promised us that we would not only do what He did while on Earth, but even greater things than these, because the Holy Spirit was released to dwell in every believer. We could have it now; but I believe one reason we do not is we have not yet reached the place where we are sold out completely to God. It’s the only reason I can think of why we don’t have everything in the Kingdom the Lord Jesus wants us to have. But this is changing, because the Body of Christ is *maturing*, and quickly. Once a child is born, he or she is freed from the connections to the placenta – which also carries the same genetic makeup as the child, only the placenta is the structure that gives nutritional support from mother to the developing baby, and will eventually be discarded. Unlike placental tissue, however, we have a choice in where we go, and that is decided in how deep in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus we want to go.

All of the promises of God are available for believers to act upon them; when Jesus handed down the Great Commission (Mark 16:15), He said that there would be signs that follow those who believe – laying hands on and healing the sick, casting out demons, the lack of effect of any poison they are forced to drink or may be delivered by snake attack (just as the Apostle Paul shook off the viper that bit his hand on Crete in Acts -- and suffered no ill effects). These are available for every believer; you need nothing more to access them except to act in the power of the Holy Spirit, regardless of the teachings of your particular denomination. And if your denomination teaches these promises were for the Apostles alone and not for you... then you might want to try to steer the denomination in the right direction or, failing that, leaving the denomination altogether.

I do not advocate “sheep stealing.” More often than not, if we go to a different church (say in another town while on vacation), my wife and I do not tell people anymore that I am a minister, because the reaction you get, however subdued, is much like an old Western movie where the sheep herder walks into the cattle rancher’s saloon: *Whut’re yew doin’ here, boyah?* (And with so many churches that have suffered splits because of people looking to make a congregation for themselves at the expense of other churches and pastors, whom can blame them?) But the bride wants the bridegroom, not the attendant who would keep them apart because he wants the bride for himself. We as believers need to get ready for the great day when our Lord returns if we want to be with Him in Heaven for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Everything we know right now is incomplete; there is much we yet to learn about the Kingdom of God and I, for one, am looking forward to learning them because I want to be ready. And we need to be ready as soon as possible, because the Lord Jesus’ coming is coming sooner than we think. I know you hear this from just about every preacher and minister that has a voice, but events of the past few years suggest that He *really* is coming soon, and that the players for the End of the Age are in place. One ministry (who I will not name to give them a break) recently published a photo of an Islamic festival where an image appeared that many believe is that of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam of Islam, whose qualities some Christian ministries believe remarkably similar to the spirit of the anti-Christ. And then, last week, there was this photo (and video) of what has been categorized as an unidentified flying object over the Temple Mount in Jerusalem:



Some do not believe this to be a UFO, as the “object” appears to be too small... unless, of course, it’s not a *spacecraft*... Coincidence? I won’t rule it out, but as far as I’m concerned, it’s far too much of one to be accidental.

We as believers need to learn all we can of the Kingdom of God while we can, and keep current in our walk with the Lord. And if you’re not a believer, you really should look into the promises of God through His Son, Jesus. We are, indeed, coming down to where the end times will not be something we read about in Daniel or Revelation, but something we live through. The only question is for whom.