

As a pastor, it is almost impossible not to get sucked into the political intrigue surrounding our current pandemic and deep-seated theological concerns of working to align “this moment with that ‘prophecy’.” The early church from the very inception of its formation believed they were in the last days and believed the coming of Jesus to initiate the kingdom was imminent. Jesus is not waiting for a one world government or a pandemic or a plague or a paperless society or an embedded tracking chip or multiple celestial signs and wonders. He will return to set all things straight when He is ready to return.

However, I would like to set forth a perspective or an approach that seeks to speak peace and rest into these moments and not fear, anxiety, or anger. I offer you the following short video overviews for the Books of Daniel and Revelation. May they be used for your profit.

First, there are many pastors and bible teachers who suggest indirectly and others teach outright the correlation of symbols and images found within the Book of Revelation with current events. I've listened to several videos like this. I am not of the same theological persuasion as those individuals. The first time I heard this, I noted how most were simply citing current events and the news cycles. They were not preaching the Bible. Most create significant social unrest and are mishandling the Word of God. Perhaps some of what they say is true concerning some kind of dark political conspiracy. However, I do not agree with their political or biblical conclusions. I do not doubt the serpent's seed is seeking to destroy that of the woman's, but I say that broadly and not specifically.

Second, as followers of Jesus, His return has always been at any moment and the older I get the readier I am for that return. **It isn't that everything is that bad, but rather He is that good.** The Church has a clear mission. The uncertainty of our circumstances does not change this. The world in which we live is not going to tell you that **Jesus is Lord and that He is alive.** This is uniquely ours. And it is the only message that is eschatologically certain. It is ours through authority (Matt. 28 and Dan. 7) and through power (Acts 1, 2). Sure, there might come a day when we in America will be forced to either confess, “Caesar is Lord or Jesus is Lord.” But let us not forget that many of our brothers and sisters in the 10/40 window have been living in that context for decades. They would not understand our concern over these “light afflictions.” I am convinced that the day is quickly approaching when **every knee will bow and every tongue will confess** that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father, but the timing of that day is unknowable to us.

Friends, **Jesus right now sits enthroned at the Father's right hand.** Much is done and more still awaits, but let us not think billionaires, business men, and bankers are pulling the prophetic purse strings. You and I need to keep looking to Jesus who is the author and perfecter of faith. If you find yourself being swept up by the tides of this moment, read Psalm 2. God isn't wringing His hands in anxiety, but laughing at the arrogance of fallen humanity. He will have His way. Read Psalm 2 slowly and read it prayerfully. That is what God says about this moment. And may you keep living the God “sourced” life.

Thank you so much for being a part of our church's journey and story.

We are together for the gospel, Pastor Pat