



*Aww, I'm so sorry you've encountered this...*

A friend of ours sounded like he needed encouragement. He had encountered folks that were sure they knew when the rapture was going to be and that covid is one of the Revelation plagues. They hold onto their views with the tight fists of a toddler hanging on to their security blankets. They're sure my friend hadn't studied his Bible enough. They had the charts after all!

My friend is frustrated these folks were more focused on the "when" of the Rapture than the "Why" of their own current purpose here on Earth. Their anxiety about the increasingly weird times we live in is overriding a little bit of common sense and a lot of opportunity to focus on worshiping our Triune God right now. (Ps 145:1; Ps 113:3; Ps 71: 8,15; Ps 34:1; Ps 104:33; Ps 146:2; Hebrews 13:15; Rev 4:8).

I know, I know, the news reports can cause great anxiety regardless of what side of the political spectrum you're on. That's why the Wolf household shuts it off. Don't get me wrong we do try to keep informed but we know the true source of our comfort and it's not in the 24/7 information bombing of the media. (Romans 15:4) Well- that and it all tends to make us pretty consistently say (or mutter) "Come, Lord Jesus".

The enemy of this world wants us distracted. He wants us to forget where our true comfort and peace come from. (1 Peter 5:8 Ps. 23:4; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Our purpose on this earth and forever after is to worship and praise Him. (see paragraph 2 scripture) Go about His business until He calls us home. (Mark 25; Jude 1:20-21; 2 Peter 1:3-15).

Though, I believe it's human to wonder "How much longer, Lord?"

Add to this is the fact we have a built in need to "go home". Ever since the Fall and Adam and Eve leaving the Garden of Eden -and might I remind you- God's direct presence - we have longed for somewhere else. The longing that won't be satisfied until we are where we are supposed to be- Heaven and God's presence\*\*. (Rev 7:9-17).

But that's just it. We can ask. Speculate and search scripture. In the end- we won't know until - well- we know. And we're supposed to be ok with it (Matthew 24:44; 2 Thessalonians 2; 2 Peter 3:8) .

When I teach The Historic Christian Orthodox Faith Tenets I put "end time views" in the negotiables category. We are to hold the negotiables and, honestly, everything God gives us with an open palm. If our focus is on Him instead of money, persons, possessions or the issue of the day, our grip should loosen. Which isn't easy. With the world going crazy around us, we want answers. When will it be all over? When God isn't quick with answers, we try to find our own. Sometimes in timelines and charts. Yet Jesus in Matthew 24:36-39 (truthfully all of 24) tells us that's so not necessary.

Having said that, should we still be prepared? Of course. That's the whole point of Matthew 25's parables.

When hunting around for the other scripture in the newsletter I came across Act 9:31. Look at what it says : *"Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied."* We live between that and Titus 2:11-12. You know the drill - look it up. I do warn you - there's not a single chart in all of it.

Living in the tension,

Susan and Joe Wolf

PS.\*\* This thought wasn't mine but for the life of me I don't remember where I read it. I like to give credit where credit is due so if anyone else recognizes this, contact me please.