

June 5, 2020

## Men Sharpen Men

### Being Watchful

Often we seek truth and we look far away i.e. the distant past or future to find it but often fail to see what is present. The truth is right before the eyes and those who truly and sincerely trust the Lord and His Word are able to see it. As we study let us examine and examine ourselves to see if we have been, currently in or will enter into what actually exist.

**Eccl 3:14-15** (New English Translation)

14 I also know that whatever God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken away from it. God has made it this way, so that men will fear him. **15 Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been; for God will seek to do again what has occurred in the past.**

**Eccl 1:9-10** (NET)

**9 What exists now is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing truly new on earth. 10 Is there anything about which someone can say, "Look at this! It is new!"? It was already done long ago, before our time.**

Question, Has Sodom and Egypt gone away? Are they here now?

### That Which Has Been

**Ezek 16:49-50** (King James Version)

**Sodom**

**49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. 50 And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.** (More concerning Sodom Gen.13:10-13; 19:1-29, Lk.17:28,29)

**Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; Luke 17:28 (KJV)**

Lot and his family were told when they are escaping Sodom and going to place that they were not acquainted with, not to look back, i.e. toward Sodom. Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of Salt. (Gen.19:17-26) Lot's wife sought to save her life but lost it. (Luke 17:32,33).

*Lot and his daughters did not look back but continued forward and were saved from destruction. They received the promise.*

### Israel in the Wilderness

(Ex.15:22,23; 16:2,3,8; 17:1-3; 32:1-4; Numbers 11:4-6; 14:2-4; 21:5)

During the time that Israel was going through the wilderness into the promise land they were thirsty and hungry they murmured, grumbled and complained as they **looked back at what they had in Egypt**; and **wanted to go back to Egypt**, the comfort of plenty food and water. They never made it to the promise land because they did not believe what the Lord promised.

*Joshua defended the Lord and did not look back, nor murmured when entering the promise land and he received the promise 40 years later.*

### That Which Is To Be

#### 2 Thess 2:9-12 (KJV)

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had **pleasure in unrighteousness**.

*We who have been cleansed by The Spirit and continue to believe in and love the truth in and of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ are and will be saved from judgement (damnation) (2Thess.2:13,14).*

### That Which Has Been Is Now

In the United States where we have plenty of food and water and Idleness (pleasures, ease) a pestilence (Corona Virus) was reported going throughout the country and the government, by the hand of God (Rom.13:1-4; 1Pet.2:13-15), shut down or took away the access of ease and idleness. However many grumbled and complained because they could not go to pleasures of beaches, restaurants, movie theaters, etc. Several rebelled as they continued to look back at the ease and comfort they enjoyed therefore they disobeyed the orders from the government and pursued the pleasures they longed for.

*Those who trusted the Lord by the government continued to obey and received promises, especially spiritually i.e. patience, calling on the name of the Lord, suffering for Christ sake, the Lord receiving the glory even though it may not have been realized.*

## That Which Has Been, Is and Will Be

### 2 Thess 2:7 (KJV)

**For the mystery of iniquity does already work:** only he who now letteth (hold back) will let, until he be taken out of the way.

1. Is the mystery (secret, unknown) of iniquity (lawlessness) working here now? Was it in the past? Will it be in the future?

#### Self-Examination

2. What did you do when the comforts of ease were taken away during the virus? Murmur grumble, Complain? Cast your care on the Lord and give Him praise?
2. What are you doing now when hardships, trials and the comforts and pleasures of life are taken away? Murmur, Grumble Complain? Cast your care on the Lord, give Him praise?
3. What promises will you not receive? What promises will you receive?

Consider during trials:

Job Blessed the Lord (Job. 1:13-22). We are instructed to give the Lord thanks for and in all things (Eph. 5:20; 1Thess. 5:18); Be not anxious cast your care on the Lord with thanksgiving, (Philip.4:6); Give thanks (Col.3:17); Give thanks, the sacrifice of praise (Heb.13:15)

Those who did not / will not receive promises because they look back, turn back or fall away.

(Lk.9:60-62) (Lk.17:32,33) (Heb. 10:38-39) (Jn.6:60-66) (2Pet.2:20-22) (Heb.6:4-8).