

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

April 2011

I believe everyone is asking, “What in the world is going on?” The events that are presently unfolding in this world are striking to say the least.

As children of God, we turn to His Holy Word to find real answers when we find ourselves looking anxiously about at the current events in this world around us.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – *“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*



My friend, the day is coming when living believers will be **caught up**. The Bible tells us so. These two words in Latin give us the term **rapture**.

You might be asking, “*What is the rapture?*” The rapture, or catching up of believers, involves those who have died and those who are living when the Lord comes. The next time the Lord returns He is in the air. He does not come all the way to the earth. This rapture will occur just prior to the beginning of the tribulation period. Then we see in Matthew 24:29-30 and Revelation 19:1-16, this tribulation period ends with His second coming where He returns to the earth with His church (us) and He will set up His 1,000 year Millennial reign.

Now, we see in the Bible Jesus listing the characteristics of the first half of the tribulation period as it leads to the end of the age. Let's remember, the rapture of the church will be just prior to this. So, notice these signs!

Jesus said in **Matthew 24:4-5** - *"Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."*

There are now hundreds of names of people worldwide who have become famous claiming to be Jesus. Many of these have died or have been locked away for horrific crimes against humanity.

Jesus said in **Matthew 24:6a** - *"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars."*

We are currently engaged in military action in Iraq, Afghanistan, and now Libya, and we must also remember the world wars and smaller wars we have had a part in since the founding of America.

Jesus said in **Matthew 24:7** - *"And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places."*

Famines - Extreme shortages of food leading to the death of thousands presently in Ethiopia, Sudan, Niger, Kenya, Somalia, Zimbabwe, and many other areas in the world.

Pestilences - Aids, locust plagues, West Nile virus, guinea worm, and many others.

Earthquakes - Within the last 20 years death tolls in: Iran, 50k; Sumatra, 228k; Pakistan, 86k; China, 87k; Haiti, 222k; Japan Tsunami; 10k.

Jesus said in **Matthew 24:12** - *"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."*

Revolution - Right now thousands are protesting in Egypt, Yemen, and Libya along with union protests in London and here in America in the states of Indiana and Iowa.

2 Peter 3:3 - *"...Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the Fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'"*

My friend, Jesus is coming. The Bible tells us so. **Revelation 22:12** - *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."*

Let's remember what our Lord said in **Matthew 25:23** - *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things."*

Thank you for praying for me during my recent trip to preach at the *"Neighbors and Nations Bible Conference"* in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The conference was a success! Many were blessed, and encouraged, as we turned to God's Word to see the believer's position in Christ and the command from our Lord to go and make disciples. I preached the Sunday morning and evening messages to kick off the conference; Eric Thomas of First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia,

Herb Hodges of Spiritual Life Ministries from Memphis, and Fred Luter of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church of New Orleans, Louisiana followed me.

Pastor Tony Buchanan said, "I really enjoyed it. God used each of our speakers to minister and challenge us." Pastor Tony and the staff did an outstanding job in taking care of all the details that were involved in making this conference a great success.

My friend, here at Abiding Above Ministries we need your help in discipling others one-to-one and in sending out Bible lessons all over America. And, please help us as we continue to spread the salvation message of Jesus Christ through our radio broadcasts.

William MacDonald, a godly Christian man who wrote many wonderful books that were translated into numerous languages was not a rich man when he died in his 90's. He had given all the proceeds from his books to spread the gospel far and wide. He said this, "Any sacrifices we make are no sacrifice at all, when seen in the light of Calvary. Besides all this, we only give to the Lord what we cannot keep anyway."

MacDonald goes on to remind us all what missionary Jim Elliot who was martyred in Ecuador said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

Let's be careful in accumulating riches that will fall into the devil's hands when Christ returns for His saints.

I am grateful for your continued prayers and support. I can tell you are praying my friend.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges
President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3