

# I STILL Believe (Part 7B)

Sunday, September 27, 2020

## Luke 18:8 (NIV)

8 ...I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Let's review the statements of faith we have studied so far...

1. **I Still Believe** in the One, Eternal, Self-existent God, creator of the heavens and the earth, all that is seen and unseen; His love of and desire to reveal himself and have relationship with those whom he has created.
2. **I Still Believe** in the Trinity of the Godhead as being revealed as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. **I Still Believe** that sin separates us from God and that the result of that sin is death or eternal separation from God in Hell
4. **I Still Believe** that God's remedy for Sin is Salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus and His work upon the cross.
5. **I Still Believe** that we are called to walk, by that same faith, in relationship with Jesus Christ, allowing the presence of His Holy Spirit to transform us into a new creation
6. **I Still Believe** that The Bible is God's Holy Word. That The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.
7. **I Still Believe** that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is the gift Jesus promised to all who believe
8. **I still Believe** in The Church
9. **I Still Believe** in The Ministry and its offices as given by God to the Church
10. **I Still Believe** that God Answers Prayer
11. **I Still Believe** in Divine Healing
12. **I Still Believe** God Provides
13. **I Still Believe** God wants us to Forgive

## I Still Believe (Part 7B)

**I Still Believe** God has a plan for the Last Days and has revealed that plan to us in His Word

## KEY TEXT:

### **Matthew 24:15-35**

<sup>15</sup> “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. <sup>18</sup> Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. <sup>19</sup> How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

<sup>22</sup> “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. <sup>23</sup> At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you ahead of time.

<sup>26</sup> “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

<sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the distress of those days

“‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

<sup>30</sup> “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

<sup>32</sup> “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>34</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

I am not trying to establish and argue for an exact timing of events with this message but rather give an overview of the events leading up to and including the period that we refer to as The Last Days or End Times

There is a broader reference to The Last Days and a more specific time period both of which we refer to as the last days

We also refer to these events as the End Times, and The Day of The Lord

Looking at the broader sense of The Last Days, Gods plan reveals to us many things and knowing, understanding, and believing in that plan helps us to stand firm to the end

Last week we discussed these parts of Last Days events

Evil Will Increase

Birth Pains or Tribulations (small t)

The Judgement of God

A Great Falling Away

Last Days Revival

Be Ready

Rapture Of the church

Today I want to continue to look at several more things God says will take place in the Last Days

### Peace and Safety

- Historic peace treaty last week

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**

**5** Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

### **Daniel 9:27**

<sup>27</sup> He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

**Jeremiah 8:11** – "Because, even because they have seduced My (God's) people, (Israel) saying, 'Peace', and there was no peace ..."

And in **Ezekiel 13:10** – “For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people (Israel) slightly, saying, ‘Peace, Peace’; when there is no peace.”

## The Great Tribulation

### **Matthew 24:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

<sup>22</sup> “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

### **Daniel 9:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

<sup>25</sup> “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. <sup>26</sup> After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolation have been decreed. <sup>27</sup> He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

### **Daniel 12:1**

**12** “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.

### **Jeremiah 30:7**

<sup>7</sup> How awful that day<sup>(A)</sup> will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble<sup>(B)</sup> for Jacob, but he will be saved<sup>(C)</sup> out of it.

## Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls

[Revelation 6:1-2](#). Christ opens the **first of the seven-sealed scroll**, and the rider on the **white horse** (probably Antichrist) appears, using diplomacy and the promise of peace to establish his one-world government.

[Revelation 6:3-4](#). **red horse** The **second seal** introduces a great world war.

[Revelation 6:5-6](#). **black horse** The **third seal** brings severe inflation (the aftermath of war).

[Revelation 6:7-8](#). **pale horse** The **fourth seal** results, as do all wars, in death, but in this case it totals one-fourth of the people and living creatures.

[Revelation 6:9-11](#). **Fifth seal**. Souls under the altar... Wait a little longer

[Revelation 6:12-17](#). This **sixth seal** exhibits the wrath of God poured out in the form of a **mighty earthquake**, the like of which has never been experienced. It is so severe that people call on the rocks to fall on them.

[Revelation 8:1-6](#). The **seventh seal** introduces the Seven Trumpet Judgments, silence in heaven for half an hour.

[Revelation 8:7](#). The **first trumpet** judgment results in one-third of all trees and green grass being burned up by hail, fire, and blood cast upon the earth.

[Revelation 8:8-9](#). The **second trumpet** sees a great mountain of sulfur falling into the sea and destroying a third-part of the sea and all living creatures in it and a third of the shipping vessels.

[Revelation 8:10-11](#). The **third trumpet** causes a great star (or meteor) called *Wormwood* (or “bitter”) to fall on the fountains of water and third of rivers to turn bitter, resulting in the deaths of millions.

[Revelation 8:12](#). The **fourth trumpet** results in one-third less sun, moonlight, and stars, extending the darkness of night.

[Revelation 9:1-12](#). The **fifth trumpet** introduces hideous demon-like creatures such as scorpions and locusts out of the bottomless pit. Not able to kill men, they torture them for five months so badly that they “will seek death and will not find it.”

[Revelation 9:13](#). The **sixth trumpet** introduces two hundred million horsemen (demon spirit-like death angels), who kill one-third of the people.

[Revelation 11:3-14](#). The **Two Witnesses** prophesy 1,260 days—a ministry which, if taken literally, would correspond with the forty-two months of judgments already described.

[Revelation 11:15](#). The **seventh trumpet** judgment introduces the awesome events described in chapters 12-18 and the most severe set of judgments yet reported, the Vial Judgments.

[Revelation 16:1-2](#). The **first bowl** causes giant sores on those who rejected Christ and instead accepted the mark of the Beast, signifying their worship of him.

[Revelation 16:3](#). The **second bowl** is poured out on the sea, turning it “to blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.”

[Revelation 16:4](#). The third **bowl** vial turns the rivers and other sources of water to blood (an especially just judgment because the people remaining had killed so many Tribulation saints).

(26) [Revelation 16:8-9](#). The **fourth bowl** will intensify the sun’s heat until ungodly men blaspheme the name of God.

(27) [Revelation 16:10-11](#). The **fifth bowl** will cause darkness to cover the throne of Antichrist and his entire kingdom. The sores will continue unrelentingly, producing such agony that men will gnaw their tongues for pain and blaspheme God and refuse to repent.

(28) [Revelation 16:13-16](#). The **sixth bowl** sends lying demon spirits out to the kings of the whole world to bring them down to “the battle of that great day of God Almighty,” more popularly known as the Battle of Armageddon.

(29) [Revelation 16:17-21](#). The **seventh bowl** results in a judgment of Almighty God that destroys the entire world system and judges all unsaved men severely. But even though enormous hailstones fall, the unregenerate still refuse to repent. This judgment is so devastating that it prepares the world for the coming of Christ to set up His earthly kingdom. -*Tim LaHaye, No Fear of the Storm*

## Mark of the Beast

### **Revelation 13:16-18**

<sup>16</sup>It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup>so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

<sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

### One World Government and One World Currency

The Bible does not use the terms "one-world government" or "one-world currency," but it does contain similar ideas. For example, the future Antichrist will have much influence. [Revelation 13:3-4](#), referring to him as "the beast," says, "the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?'" The Antichrist will clearly have global influence and power.

[Revelation 13:7-8](#) adds, "And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain." However, this may be different from claiming the Antichrist leads a one-world government. The tribulation period is described as being full of conflict and strife. The specific governmental structures and context in which these things unfold is not directly stated.

### Abomination That causes Desolation

In 167 B.C. Antiochus erected a statue of the Greek god Zeus in the Jerusalem temple. He also ordered that swine, biblically unclean animals, be offered on the temple altar, desecrating the holy place (fulfilling Daniel's prophecy). These acts were loathsome, abhorrent and detestable to the Jewish people and were the first fulfillment of the abomination of desolation.

### Second fulfillment of the abomination of desolation

A second fulfillment of the abomination of desolation occurred in A.D. 70 when Roman armies under Titus sacked the city of Jerusalem. In the process, Titus' forces destroyed the temple building and altar. It has not been rebuilt to this day. Luke 21:20 identifies Jerusalem being "surrounded by armies" before its desolation in A.D. 70.

This event also appears to be the forerunner of a similar event that will happen shortly before the return of Christ.

### The future fulfillment of the abomination of desolation

When Jesus spoke about the "abomination of desolation," He was speaking in the context of a discussion about the "end of the age" (Matthew 24:3, 13-14).

Jesus said, “Therefore when you see the “abomination of desolation,” spoken of by [Daniel the prophet](#), standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand), ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains’” (verses 15-16). So here we see another fulfillment of the “abomination of desolation” to occur in the future.

We should also note that Daniel 12:11, which mentions this abomination of desolation being set up, also states that the daily sacrifices will be taken away. Since the Jews are not currently offering any daily sacrifices in Jerusalem, this means that daily sacrifices will be reestablished at some point in the future. For sacrifices to be offered, an altar must be constructed.

## The return of Jesus to The Earth

### **Zechariah 14:1-4**

**14** A day of the LORD is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls.

<sup>2</sup> I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. <sup>4</sup> On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.

### **1 Thessalonians 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

### **Revelation 19:11-16**

<sup>11</sup> I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:



## Armageddon

### **Revelation 16:16**

16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

### **Revelation 19:17-21**

New International Version

**17** And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, **18** so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."

**19** Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. **20** But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. **21** The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

## Millennial reign

### **Revelation 20:1-3**

**20** And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. **2** He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. **3** He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

### **Isaiah 2:1-5**

**2** This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: **2** In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

**3** Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. **4** He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. **5** Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## Final Judgements

*The [judgment seat of Christ](#) ([2 Corinthians 5:10](#)).*

### **2 Corinthians 5:10**

**10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Resurrected (and raptured) believers in heaven will be judged for their works. Sin is not in view at this judgment, as that was paid for by Christ, but only faithfulness in Christian service. Selfish works or those done with wrong motives will be burned up (the “wood, hay, and stubble” of [1 Corinthians 3:12](#)).

### **1 Corinthians 3:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> their work will be shown for what it is, <sup>(A)</sup> because the Day<sup>(B)</sup> will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. <sup>(C)</sup> <sup>14</sup> If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>(D)</sup>

Works of lasting value to the Lord will survive (the “gold, silver, and precious stones”). Rewards, which the Bible calls “crowns” ([Revelation 3:11](#)) will be given by the One who is “not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him” ([Hebrews 6:10](#)).

*The judgment of the nations ([Matthew 25:31–46](#)).*

### **Matthew 25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

After the tribulation, the Lord Jesus will sit in judgment over the Gentile nations. They will be judged according to their treatment of Israel during the tribulation. This judgment is also called the judgment of [the sheep and the goats](#) because of the imagery Jesus uses in the [Olivet Discourse](#). Those who showed faith in God by treating Israel favorably (giving them aid and comfort during the tribulation) are the “sheep” who will enter into the Millennial Kingdom. Those who followed the Antichrist’s lead and persecuted Israel are the “goats” who will be consigned to hell.

### *The Great White Throne Judgment* ([Revelation 20:11–15](#)).

This final judgment of unbelievers for their sins occurs at the end of the Millennium, before the creation of the new heaven and earth. At this judgment, unbelievers from all the ages are judged for their sins and consigned to the lake of fire.

#### **Revelation 20:11-15**

**11** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. **14** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. **15** Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

### New Heavens and New Earth

#### **Isaiah 65:17**

**17** “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

#### **2 Peter 3:13**

**13** But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

#### **Revelation 21:1-4**

**21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

### CONCLUSION

#### **Revelation 16:15**

**15** “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”