

How Long O Lord?

Have you ever wondered how many more “Feasts” will we have before Jesus returns? How long will we wait? Wait is a four letter word no one seems to like. It is almost certain, people of every generation had thoughts that Christ’s return was imminent. Taking a snapshot of the present morality in our own nation, it’s a wonder He hasn’t wiped us out already. Many of the evils depicted in the Bible are coming to fruition, but at the same time, there is nothing new under the sun **(Ecclesiastes 1:9)**.

2 Peter 3:4- “And asking, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the forefathers died, everything has remained the same as from *the* beginning of creation.”

If we take a look at the present year on the Hebrew Lunar based calendar, we are in the year 5786, which began last September 22, 2025. Based on this Hebrew time estimate we are now in the sixth millennium. A millennium is one-thousand years. The Hebrew year count starts in year AM 3761. This year was established by a 12th century Jewish Maimonides as the biblical Date of Creation. How he produced this may be something for historians to dig into, but this is not a history class. The

“AM” designation before the number in the year identifies it as part of the *Anno Mundi* epoch indicating the age of the world according to the Bible. For example, the beginning of the year 2026 in the Gregorian calendar converts to year AM 5786. It is based on *biblical accounts of the creation of the world* and following history. It is of interest and may be a category on Jeopardy, but it won’t get you on the first bus to the Sea of Glass.

Numerically, we *are* closer to the end of the age *calendar wise* than they were, so who knows? We can *speculate* and even target a specific Holy Day when Christ returns based on scripture, but *nobody* knows for sure when Jesus will return. The emphasis is to *be ready for whenever* He chooses to return.

Matthew 24:32-36- “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branches have already become tender, and it puts forth its leaves, you know that summer *is* near. In like manner also, when you see all these things, know that it is near, even at *the* doors. Truly I say to you, this generation shall in no wise pass away until all these things have taken place. The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My words shall never pass away. **But concerning that day, and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**”

We know there are many things that are yet to transpire, but betting eternity on an uncertainty is not recommended. However, the moral decay and decadence that is now the norm would support we are definitely on borrowed time. Unrighteousness and ignorance are heralded as a virtue.

Isaiah 5:20- 21- “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! **Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!**”

The above scripture from Isaiah without a doubt describes our society. Truth from any news site is all but gone. **There is no truth in them.** Newscasters are now paid by the word. Stupidity is a contest to see who can outdo the other in being outrageous. The division in our nation and even in our churches are destructive.

John 18:38- “Pilate said to Him, “**What is truth?**” And after saying this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, “I do not find any fault in Him.”

John 14:6- “Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.**”

It may seem we have been given a reprieve, and the pendulum is swinging back to the right a bit. Society is about fed up with all the WOKE and DEI nonsense that has pushed down our throats in the past few years and fraud is being exposed at every level. Mockery of God and those who try to do good are being met with a level of accountability we have not seen for decades. I did catch a story on the news that there has been a recent rise in religious revival among younger Gen Z population. It is primarily in the Catholic Church which still isn't the truth but maybe it might curb some from an even more destructive path. Lately, the “cancel culture” is being cancelled and *being held accountable* for a change. **We too will be held accountable if we are not prepared.**

The mindset of “perception is reality” has replaced truth. Emotions and political opinion counter facts. This should have no influence on our thinking as we have the One true source for *all* truth. Our concerted efforts and focus need to be on the church, His church and ***those who profess to be in it***. There is no margin of error. ***His warnings in His word are directed at us***. We know this from scripture that His judgment will begin in His House. I know you should have this one committed to memory by now.

1 Peter 4:17-18- “For the time *has come for* judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it first *begins* with us, what *will be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if the righteous are saved with much difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and *the sinner?*”

Our faith is being tested. If yours has been tried lately, relax, you're on the right track. Keep in mind, lessons *not learned will be repeated and they become more difficult.*

James 1:2-4- “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials, Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But let endurance have *its* perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything.”

1 Peter 4:16- “Yet if anyone *is suffering* as a Christian, he should not be ashamed; but let him glorify God because of this,”

It may seem our trials are increasing, or setbacks are a daily occurrence, especially prior to and during the Holy Days. It is all part of God's plan for those whom He has called. He is banging out the dents in the armor of His chosen. It's never easy

and sometimes, it hurts. We tend to focus on the storm rather than the One who is taking us through it. *We fail to see any trial as a message from God* that He is trying us, testing us, correcting us by trying to get our attention. *We see it as a problem rather than a lesson*, failing to realize He is guiding us to repentance and spiritual growth.

Job 5:17-18- “Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects. Therefore, do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He makes sore and binds up; He wounds, and His hands make whole.”

Hebrews 12:7-13- “If you endure chastening, God is dealing with you as *a Father* with *His* sons. For who is the son whom *the* Father does not chasten? But if you are without chastisement, of which all are partakers, then you are bastards and not sons. Furthermore, we have had our fleshly fathers who chastened *us*, and we respected *them*; should we not all the more *willingly* be subject to the Father of spirits, and live *forever*? For in the first case, they chastened *us* for a few days in whatever way seemed good to them; but in the second case, He *chastens us* for *our own* benefit that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now truly, no chastisement for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterwards it yields *the* peaceable fruits of righteousness to those who have been exercised by it.

Therefore, lift up the hands that are hanging down, and *revive* the weakened knees;
And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which *is* lame be turned aside; but
let it rather be healed.”

I know that’s one of my biggest faults. Trivial things can put me in a “launch
mode.” Overcoming this flesh, we are in will take us the rest of our lives. But
praise God, He is full of grace and mercy.

Psalm 86:15- “But You, O LORD, are a God full of compassion, and gracious,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and truth.”

Psalm 103:8- “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in
mercy.”

Psalm 116:5-6- “Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.
The LORD preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.”

Psalm 145:8- “The LORD is gracious and full of compassion; slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love. (★ *-of great mercy*)

We must display this grace and mercy to others.

Colossians 4:5-6- “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside *the church*, redeeming the time. *Let* your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how to answer each one.”

God has a way of reminding me I’m not a judge just yet. It may be a future role for us in His Kingdom, but as for now the only thing I am to judge *is my spiritual condition* and *am I growing* in the likeness of Jesus Christ? We all prepared for the Passover and covenant renewal by self-reflection. This Feast week, we are striving to get the “leaven” out of our lives and ingesting the true “Bread of Life” Jesus Christ and His Word. For times such as these, we must be ingesting His word, *writing it in our hearts, and living it!* We will never need a book or the internet *if His Word is in us.*

From our studies, we know that God is a God of order and sequence. His perfect plan *will* unfold *in* His time and *in* His order. We know that Christ ascended up to Heaven in a cloud and He will return in the same manner. **He ascended to Heaven 10 days before Pentecost. As we mentioned earlier, from scripture we can speculate Christ will return at, on or near the Feast of Trumpets.**

Acts 1:9-11- “And after saying these things, as they were looking at Him, **He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.** Now while they were gazing intently up into heaven as He was going up, two men in white apparel suddenly stood by them, Who also said, “You men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into heaven? **This same Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, shall come in exactly the same manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.**”

Before His triumphant return, miraculous things will take place. Many prophecies must be fulfilled before His return. One of my favorites is The Two Witnesses. They will prophesy a thousand-two-hundred and sixty days. One of the meanings of prophesy is *truth*. Judging from their mission, they will be the last warning to the church and **any ears that may listen to Christ’s truth and the plan of God.** It will be no wonder they will be hated and criticized and murdered for professing their faith and sharing God’s word.

Revelation 11:3-12- “And I will give *power* to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and *the* two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth. And if anyone attempts to harm them, fire will go out of their mouths and devour

their enemies. For if anyone attempts to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have authority to shut heaven so that no rain may fall in *the* days of their prophecy; and they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will. And when they have completed their testimony, the beast who ascends out of the abyss will make war against them, and will overcome them, and will kill them. And their bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those of the peoples and tribes, languages, and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days, for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, and will make merry, and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth.” Then after the three and a half days, *the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, “Come up here!” **And they ascended into heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them rise.**”

They will be the first two resurrected in the First Resurrection. All the Sunday “Churcher’s” **worshipping on the “Lord’s Day”** will be quickly educated of what the “Lord’s Day” involves when it happens. I wanted to include just as a reminder for your ready answer, some scriptures pertaining to the Lord’s Day.

Zephaniah 1:14-15- “The great day of the LORD *is* near; *it is* near and comes swiftly, the sound of the day of the LORD. The mighty man shall cry bitterly there. That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,”

Malachi 4:5- “Behold, I *will* send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the **great and dreadful day of the LORD.**”

These scriptures do not depict a day of worship...Sunday churchers picked the wrong day.

Joel 2:1-2- “Blow the ram’s horn in Zion and sound an alarm in My holy mountain!” Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD comes, for *it is* near at hand—**A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness.** As the morning *is* spread across the mountains, **so comes a great people and a mighty people; there has never been the like, nor shall there ever be again, even to the years of many generations.**”

This sounds like a good description of those returning with Christ.

Matthew 24:30-31- “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet; and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to *the* other.”

There are those who are *waiting* for the “rapture,” to be whisked off to Heaven when they see Jesus returning. They’ll be surprised when they wake up one-thousand years after He returned.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18- “Because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds for the meeting with the Lord in the air; and so shall we always be with the Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words.”

Another obvious delusion of a “rapture” and those who believe we “float off to heaven,” is in the above scripture, “**and the dead in Christ shall rise first.**” If people actually floated off to Heaven, **why would they need to be raised from the dead?** Besides, if they see Him coming, they have already missed the First Resurrection! Rapture is NOT in the Bible.

For those who genuinely love God and are growing in the likeness of Jesus Christ, the mystery has been unraveled and replaced with truth, clarity, and peace. In addition, **we have hope and joy believing in the promises of God and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.**

1 Corinthians 15:51-52- “Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed, In an instant, in *the* twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for *the* trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised** incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

There’s the dead being raised *again*. Those believing in the “rapture” overlook the dead part. God has personally chosen us to participate in the First Resurrection. Our salvation will not come from a “sinner’s prayer,” handing out tracts, banging on tambourines, or any other such “religious conventions.” Our walk of faith and

obedience and our love and personal relationship with God will be the determining factor. Ingesting the Word of God and getting the leaven out of our lives will clarify and give us understanding of God's Word and discernment when giving a "ready answer."

John 15:16- "You yourselves did not choose Me, but I have personally chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go forth and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; so that whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He may give you."

We have been foretold of the many signs and things that will occur prior to Christ's return. They are not to be our focus, but we are to be aware.

Again, **Matthew 24:30-** "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds** of heaven with power and great glory."

Jesus told us to watch; he didn't mean to be glued to a TV or Fox News. He does not want us to cower in a cave. **He wants us to be prepared** spiritually for His return. This week's Feast is on preparation.

Matthew 24:42- “**Watch**, therefore, because you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 25:13- “**Watch**, therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming.”

Luke 21:34-36- “**Watch yourselves**, lest your hearts be preoccupied with high living and drinking and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly. For as a snare it shall come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth.

Watch therefore and pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

There are many “**ifs**” used in the Bible. Our reward is waiting for us “**if**” we are faithful and obedient to God and His Word. Playing church is not an option.

Revelation 19:11-14- “And I saw heaven open; and behold, a white horse; and He Who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and make war. And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns; *and* He had a name written that no one knows except Him. And *He was* clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is The Word of God. **And**

the armies in heaven were following Him on white horses; and they were clothed in fine linen, white and pure.”

That’s us, the resurrected saints of God, His called and chosen. Pierre and I discussed this this past week. If you are seeing Jesus coming in the clouds and not looking at the *backside of a horse* in line behind Him, you’re probably still on the ground wondering how you could have missed the bus. The time to resolve this concern is NOW. It’s too late after the trumpet sounds. I pray the view we share on His return is following Him.

Another outlook of wondering “How long O Lord” for His return, we should ask ourselves, “**How long O Lord are you going to put up with me?**” or “**How long do we have to prepare?**” Are we learning from trials and mistakes or are we too stubborn and prideful to see them for what they are? If the seventh trumpet sounds this coming Pentecost, will we truly be ready? Have you grown in Christ’s likeness? Are you displaying fruits of the Spirit? When the seventh trumpet sounds, look out! We *can* look forward to being part of His triumphant return in the clouds and we will forever be with Him.

2 Peter 3:9-11- “The Lord is not delaying the promise *of His coming*, as some in their own minds reckon delay; rather, He is longsuffering toward us, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. However, the day of *the* Lord shall come as a thief in *the* night in which the heaven itself shall disappear with a mighty roar, and *the* elements shall pass away, burning with intense heat, and *the* earth and the works in it shall be burned up. Since all these things are going to be destroyed, what kind of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”

If we are presently in the year 5786, we are approaching the end of the millennium for the “Age of Man. (six thousand years) Not to get into numbers, but we know that numbers play an important part in scripture and six is associated with man. It would make numerical sense that Christ’s Millennial Reign *on the Earth* would begin with the seventh millennium (seven-completion), the First Resurrection. After the thousand year reign, another new beginning would be the eighth millennium (eight-new beginning), the Second Resurrection and a New Heaven and New Earth and New Jerusalem. This is conjecture and something to consider.

This is more “food for thought” for this Feast week. Is your present “spiritual condition” in need of improvement? We can all answer with a resounding yes!

Even when the trials seem impossible, we have the promise of God, He will finish what He started.

Philippians 1:6- “Being confident of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will complete *it* until *the* day of Jesus Christ.”

We still must strive to **do our part** and **not be complacent**. We have been foretold of what is coming. We have been instructed in His word on how to prepare for His Kingdom. We have this week to focus on getting the “unleavened bread” of His Word in us, in our hearts and keeping the leaven of sin out.

Revelation 10:5-7- “Then the angel whom I had seen standing on the sea and on the earth lifted up his hand to heaven And swore by Him Who lives into the ages of eternity, Who created the heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, “There shall be no more delay. But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to **sound the trumpet, the mystery of God shall also be completed**, according to the gospel *that* He declared to His servants the prophets.” Amen.

