

FLEA VIDEO #8 -
"THE BEST IS COMING"
5.26.20

It was an evening full of ominous apprehension as shadows slowly lengthened in the city of Jerusalem. Above the city streets, in an upper room, a dozen disciples were gathered with their rabbi to celebrate Passover. But they did so in a spirit of great fear.

For three years, their Master, Jesus of Nazareth, had been on the receiving end of all kinds of threats from the religious leadership of their nation - members of the Pharisees and Sadducees, not to mention various teachers of the law. They hated Him, for all kinds of reasons: Jesus drew massive crowds that overwhelmed their abilities; Jesus hung out with people they wouldn't be caught dead with, and made that look like the right thing to do; Jesus poked holes in their beliefs and teachings you could have driven a chariot through, resulting in their being ridiculed; and last, Jesus seemed capable of performing massively visible magic tricks. Some people used the word "miracle" to describe them.

But it was how Jesus was being described that made them hate Him the most. The questions kept coming: Could Jesus be the Messiah, could He be God's promised Anointed One? Not if they had anything to do with it. There was even word that the leadership wanted Jesus dead, and they were willing to do almost anything to accomplish this.

And yet, despite all that, Jesus and His disciples were eating their Passover meal right in Jerusalem - in the enemy's backyard so to speak. And as they came together, Jesus knew their unease and, as only He could, He knew the worst was yet to come.

And so, to counter all they were feeling as they were gathered together, Jesus offered them some of the most comforting words that have ever been spoken to human beings. He said this, to His precious friends then, and to His precious friends now - and I love how the New King James Version says it: ***"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"*** - Jesus Christ, John 14:1-3 (NKJV).

Wow; what amazing words! And yet, for all the comfort they give, the message is really a very simple one: This life is not all there is. There is another life - an eternal life - that is being offered to everybody, an amazing life, an extraordinary life.

Some sixty-five years later, when the apostle John (who was present to hear these words

from Jesus) also heard a Revelation from Jesus regarding the future, he recorded this (found in the last book of our Bible): **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. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 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. '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" - Revelation 21:1-4.**

Friends, I hope you all understand the amazing promise that God gave His disciples in the Upper Room, and the extended promise from the book of Revelation. This life, everything we have on this planet, has a finite shelf life. Everything around us will one day be gone. But that's OK, because our future is not offered us in the world we now see. Our future is offered to be one that will be an eternal, never-ending place of peace, joy and contentment - in the presence of God the Father and God the Son. No viruses, no pandemics, no recessions, no fears, no job losses, no sickness, no death, no isolation. Forever in the presence of God - that is the offer.

How do we claim that offer? By surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ. By asking God to forgive us of our sins, confessing how wrongly we have lived our lives, and that we only want to live for Him and through Him. By being "born again." That's why Jesus came into the world; that's what Paul said: ***Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" - Paul, I Timothy 1:15.*** Apart from Jesus, we are sinners; that is the best we can ever be. But, surrendered to God through Jesus Christ, we become children of the King, seen by the King - God Himself - as being as perfect as His Son, because that wonderful, beautiful perfect Son makes His home, His dwelling in us, through His Holy Spirit. No matter what is going on today, we have an eternal tomorrow greater than anything we could imagine. So while it can sometimes feel overwhelming all that is going on in this world, Christians have a world so much better to plan for, that is God's promise to us as kids of the King - a promise that will last as long as heaven itself: through all eternity!