

we're almost home

"these all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. for those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland." heb 11:13-14

frankly, i'm a little surprised we are still here. we always knew to keep our eyes on israel as God's dealing with them is an indicator of his time clock and proceedings. the turmoil that has gripped the nation in recent days has the world on edge. right now it is being condemned, and as i heard someone says, "just wait and see how it is turned around on israel." i'm sure things will be happening so fast that even as i write this it may be obsolete or old news. it's changing so fast.

have you ever looked at a map and seen this tiny sliver of land totally encompassed by vast areas covered by abraham's other children seeking the demise of their brethren. "and it shall happen in that day that I will make jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples." zech 12:3 i personally cannot see how anyone could look at israel and the jew and not see God's hand in it all. happenings foretold centuries ago are now coming to fruition. "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. has He said, and will He not do? or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" num 23:19

it is so nearing the time to fulfill these words He

spoke: "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." john 14:3 yes, our blessed hope is closer than it has ever been and i am beside myself. for those of you unfamiliar with that term it means: if you are beside yourself with a particular feeling or emotion, it is so strong that it makes you almost out of control.

years ago my mentor and i used to take trips together, mostly down to galveston. as we would be nearing home, i can recall her singing a little phrase; "we're almost home" over and over. i suppose it was from when she took her children on trips and they kept asking how long in boredom.

friends, now we are the ones asking how long. we have watched through likely times and as our hope slowly escaped, we looked towards the next likely time. we have not and we will not continue obeying our Lord's command: "and what I say to you, I say to all: watch!" mark 13:37

i truly believe our watch is almost over. the turmoil in israel just solidifies it in my heart. we're almost home. i can't promise for sure it will be this year but i can promise it won't be much longer. i can promise because He has promised.

what if it should be one more year? when i see things progressing so fast i can't believe it really will be, but what if? does it seem so long a time to seal a two thousand year longing? to bring to a conclusion "the time of the gentiles?" it may feel like forever in my

anxious heart but my logic realizes how brief it is. what would you do with that final time and how would you spend it?

some have said there will be a final great revival and ingathering. personally i don't see it as much as i do the great apostasy and falling away. can God do it? most certainly. i hope He does because i know so many are believing for lost loved ones.

but the wrath of God, the great tribulation, is just a breath away. "for the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" 1 pet 4:17 just make sure His wrath is spent on none of you.

if you have fallen away from your first love i urge you to heed the warning He gave. "nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love." rev 2:4 i don't know what all "against you" entails, but i don't want to know.

i remember my first love in the flesh and i remember my first love in the Spirit. only one has endured through the years. not only endured, but grown and matured to the extent it is deeper and more precious now than when i first believed. if you have ventured off the way, go back to where you loved Jesus most. He never left. yes, we're almost home!