

justification or mea culpa  
(longer than usual - i apologize)

"but you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a thief." 1 thess 5:4

i know. i can already hear everyone proclaiming, "but of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." matt 24:36 that seems to be the one scripture everyone knows and quotes more than others.

is that to mean we aren't even to be looking? the prophet daniel didn't quit looking. "in the first year of his reign i, daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." dan 9:2 he looked and he found his answer; prayer ensued.

some are ready to throw cold water on everything. i said i would be on extra watch until the middle of october and i will. in fact, i am still believing to hear that trumpet this year, and on into the next if we must. all i can say is, "God help the one who is content with their relationship as it stands and are not longing for His return." no one can judge but Jesus and you. have you lost the passion of your first love? perhaps watchers have gone to "defcon one" too often, but if we did it was only because our arousal was peaked. do you think God despises that over the one who has become numbed to the stimulus trying to rouse the sleeper?

the signs are attempting to adjust our vision to the dark; modulating our desire to watch? (like the frog slowly cooking in heated water, desensitized) thank God for those speaking out. it all seemed to fit together so perfectly. it appeared to have been the granddaddy of all watch times. but because it didn't happen we know it was not so perfect for His ways always are. false conclusions are a result of limited human knowledge; this is true both in a physical and a spiritual sense. God is constantly revealing truths sealed for needed times, and Lord, we need them now.

Jesus fulfilled all the spring feasts to the letter, and if the calendar be right, He has obviously not fulfilled the fall feasts as many anticipated. at this point i would even like to address the whole rapture debate. not whether there will be a rapture, in that i am secure, but the pre, mid or post theory. i still see it as being pre-trib, but in honesty i must say i can understand everyone's reasoning.

i see so many watchers now going down rabbit holes and grasping at every straw trying to defend their position; as if to persuade or pressure God. this is so needless as the signs God has given are obvious and shouting their presence. while it may not be the time, the season should be visible to all. the absolute truth is that no one will know until it actually occurs. there just should not be division in the body over this.

when i used to hear people say, "they are so heavenly minded, they are no earthly good," i used to vehemently disagree that it was possible. eyes fixed firmly on

Jesus is always a good thing. but has the rapture community become so "enraptured" that their eyes are not on the task before them? i know most continue their working, even more diligently because of the urgency they foresee. it's the ones who have dropped the ball, thinking they have reached the goal line.

because we, like daniel, understood by the books. we know the season is nigh and read the signs, remembering His promise, that day would not take us believers unaware. perhaps my eyes failed to read something properly because my tear filled eyes had to strain, as often happens when reading His word. but i clearly read where He told us to watch.

is "seasonal" watching all He expects or wants from us? i have heard gifted leaders say, "enough with the date setting already." we are not date setting but watch setting, noting extra watchful times. and yes, we continue watching everyday for His coming.

God, in His infinite wisdom, has set moedim - appointed times. the feasts He established are not israel's, but His set times. Jesus came to fulfill all things and fulfill them He will. some say we are not privy to His purpose but His word says, "surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." amos 3:7 i really believe that our rapture will fulfill the perfect typology God has set out in His word. we just need to dig deeper still.

has our watching made us look foolish to others? if so, know that i will gladly be a fool for Christ. the word says the whole message of the cross is foolishness

to those who are perishing. but i am not willing that Christ should look foolish by my actions. if we are misguided in anything, we know the Spirit of truth has come and He will guide us into all truth. Lord, give us eyes to see and ears to hear.

there is a window in my bathroom, and from my sitting chair position i can view the tops of the trees along with some sky. when i see them blowing in the wind, i always think of the scripture: "and it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly." 2 sam 5:24 in my heart i believe it to be the blessed Holy Spirit doing His might work: convicting an unbeliever, touching a precious one in their need, bringing light into darkness, bringing hope into situations even painful to contemplate.

i then think again how i should spend more time in prayer and intercession. i recall the sweetest of times when i would get on bended knee before my Lord, His holiness becoming so present i would bury my face in the floor, wishing all the while it was the dirt of the earth He had created me from. now days i must roll up to a table and bury my face there in homage to my Creator.

Jesus never gave up on me when i was lost in the darkness, and i will never give up on Him. if my heart knew that the rapture (His calling me home) would be delayed by years, would i prefer Him to take me now? it's a hard call. but do you know the thing i desire above them both? it's close, but i long to fulfill all the purpose He desires of me - to please Him. that is

our purpose. we were all set in this unique time of history for a reason. to proclaim "His Story" to a lost and doomed world. we can't all do it in spectacular ways like we often imagine, but if we let our heart melt into His, we will find a simple act of love is fulfilling His purpose.

i long to see the rapture, but i long for Him more still. i suppose that's why no one know the date for sure. would the early believers have been gung-ho if they knew it would two thousand years. but we know the two thousand years (two days) are up. "after two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight." hos 6:2 that's us, friends. we know Jesus was three days and three nights in the grave.

in the last chapter of the last book, Jesus proclaims three times. "I am coming quickly." rev 22:7,12,20 the call goes forth to one and all. "and the Spirit and the bride say, 'come!' and let him who hears say, 'come!' and let him who thirsts come. whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." rev 22:17

in conclusion, we are not asked to watch, we are commanded to watch. our rapture desire is not escapism from reality but escapism into reality. it is a burning desire to be with the One we love most. even as our bodies and world are decaying, our spirits are exposed to heightened realities of our blessed hope; our ears ever attentive to the summons, come up hither. "and thus we shall always be with the Lord." 1 thes 4:17