

The End of All Things by Tricia Berg

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 1 Peter 4:7

I chose this verse tongue-in-cheek in honor of the "Revelation 12 sign" that has Youtubers in a frenzy. It even made it into the mainstream news. The world is NOT ending today (September 23, 2017) as SOME claim—to whom I say: Read your Bible, people! Even if this were the "sign," it does NOT say that's the END. (I am aware that not all say it's a sign of "the end," but that's the way the news reported it.)

*And **a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.** She was pregnant and was crying out in **birth pains** and the agony of giving birth. And **another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.** His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and **the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.** Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, **"Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"** And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to*

*the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. **Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.** And he stood on the sand of the sea. Revelation 12:1-17*

To the best of my understanding, Rev. 12 is when the antichrist, who has been proclaiming peace for the past 3.5 years (Dan. 9:27), reveals his true colors because Satan has been cast out of the heavens and enters into him—at which time he stands in the holy place and proclaims himself to be God, demanding to be worshiped. That event begins the 3.5 year reign of the beast, also called the hour of trial. After that is OVER, God's wrath begins (whereas what happens prior to that is the wrath of the beasts—there are actually two working together - Rev. 13, Rev. 17).

Matt. 24:29-31 [sun dark, moon dark AFTER great tribulation, trumpet call]

Joel 2:31 [sun dark, mood blood BEFORE Day of Lord]

Rev. 3:10 [faithful Church of Philadelphia spared from hour of trial to come on whole world]

Rev. 17:12 [10 kings rule with beast for "one hour"]

Rev. 11:2 [holy city trampled by nations for 42 months]

Daniel 7:25 [antichrist makes war against the saints for a time, times, and half time]

Rev. 6:12 [sun and moon dark, men hiding from God's wrath]

Rev. 14:17-20, Rev. 16, Rev. 19:11-21 [God's wrath]

Regardless of what does not happen today, the verse at the top is STILL good advice for us all to heed. The verse connects God's response to our prayers with being self-controlled and sober-minded. Isn't that interesting? (Matt. 24:36-25:30, Mark 13, Mark 14:38, Luke 12:35-59, Rev. 16:15)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be **sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:6-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come **like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security,"** then sudden destruction will come upon them as **labor pains come upon a pregnant woman**, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to **surprise you like a thief.** For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us **keep awake and be sober.** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for **wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Remember what Jesus said about faithfulness and fruitfulness in the Parable of the Sower? Not everyone overcomes. (See the Jesus' letters to the CHURCHES in Revelation 2-3 for His advice on how to be ready when He returns. Also Heb. 6:4-12, Heb. 10:23-39, Heb. 12, 1Pet. 1, 2Pet. 1) People think that Jesus is NEVER coming back, but Peter predicted they would say that. (2Pet. 3) The longer He seems to delay, the more chance people have to repent and be saved. (Hab. 2:2-5, Psalm 90)

"Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and **does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.** This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has **no root** in himself, but **endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.** As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but **the cares of the world**

and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." Matthew 13:18-23

This teaching goes along with John 15, when Jesus told us we MUST abide in Him in order to bear fruit, remain in His love and please His Father, as He has always done Himself. (John 8:29-36)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that **bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing. **If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.** No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and **bear fruit** and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another. **If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because **they do not know him who sent me.**" John 15:1-21

But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;** against such things there is no law. And **those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For **salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.** The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us **cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.** Romans 13:11-14

This country's Bible illiteracy is severe spiritual malnourishment and is a real danger. (John 6:35) Not only might we perish for lack of knowledge of God (Hosea 4:6, Jer. 4:22), but people who don't know what the Bible actually says are REALLY easy to trick. (Matt. 17:15-20, Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 6:26, Luke 21, Acts 20:17-38, 1Tim. 1, 1Tim. 6, 2Tim. 2-4, 2Pet. 2-3, 2John 1, Jude 1) The Bible warns us repeatedly not to be deceived, but if we don't even read it then how will we be prepared? (1Cor. 6:9-20, 1Cor. 15:33-34, Gal.6:7-10, Jam. 1:12-27, 1John 1-5)

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, **we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God.** On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled **to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers,** so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ

as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must **no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.** But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to **put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.** Therefore, having **put away falsehood**, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. **Be angry and do not sin;** do not let the sun go down on your anger, and **give no opportunity to the devil.** Let the thief **no longer steal**, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. **Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths**, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.** 5:1 Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is**

shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." **Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 4:17-5:21

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the **readiness** given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of **faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of **salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end **keep alert** with all **perseverance**, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth **boldly** to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:10-20

At some point, there will be such great delusions performed that IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, even the elect of God would be fooled into believing them. (No, I'm NOT kidding--just because we don't see these things happening YET doesn't mean they won't, possibly during our lifetime.) Someone will be "proving" with signs and wonders that he is "god," and the unsaved world will believe him and obey his command to take a mark in order to buy and sell (i.e. survive) and worship him. (Rev. 13, Rev. 14:9-13)

Now's the time to make sure your name is in the Book of Life so that God will protect you from what's coming (whether spared the entire ordeal or at least from being deceived by it). Better to even lose your life for refusing to comply

with the demands of the beast than to end up in the Lake of Fire. (Rev. 20:15) No matter when these things come to pass, we each need to be ready TODAY in case it's our own last. (Heb. 3:13-15, Heb. 12:15-17, 25-29) As we can see by the following passages, God is not going to force anyone to obey UNTIL He returns and He will reward those who are found doing so willingly at that time.

*For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: " **'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'** " So then, **each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.** Romans 14:10b-12*

*And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. **Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.**" **"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." **Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.** "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. **I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.** He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. Revelation 22:10-21*

If you think you're "too smart" for this "nonsense," God knew you would say that and so He said this:

*For **the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,** but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.** For Jews*

*demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.** For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But **God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.** And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

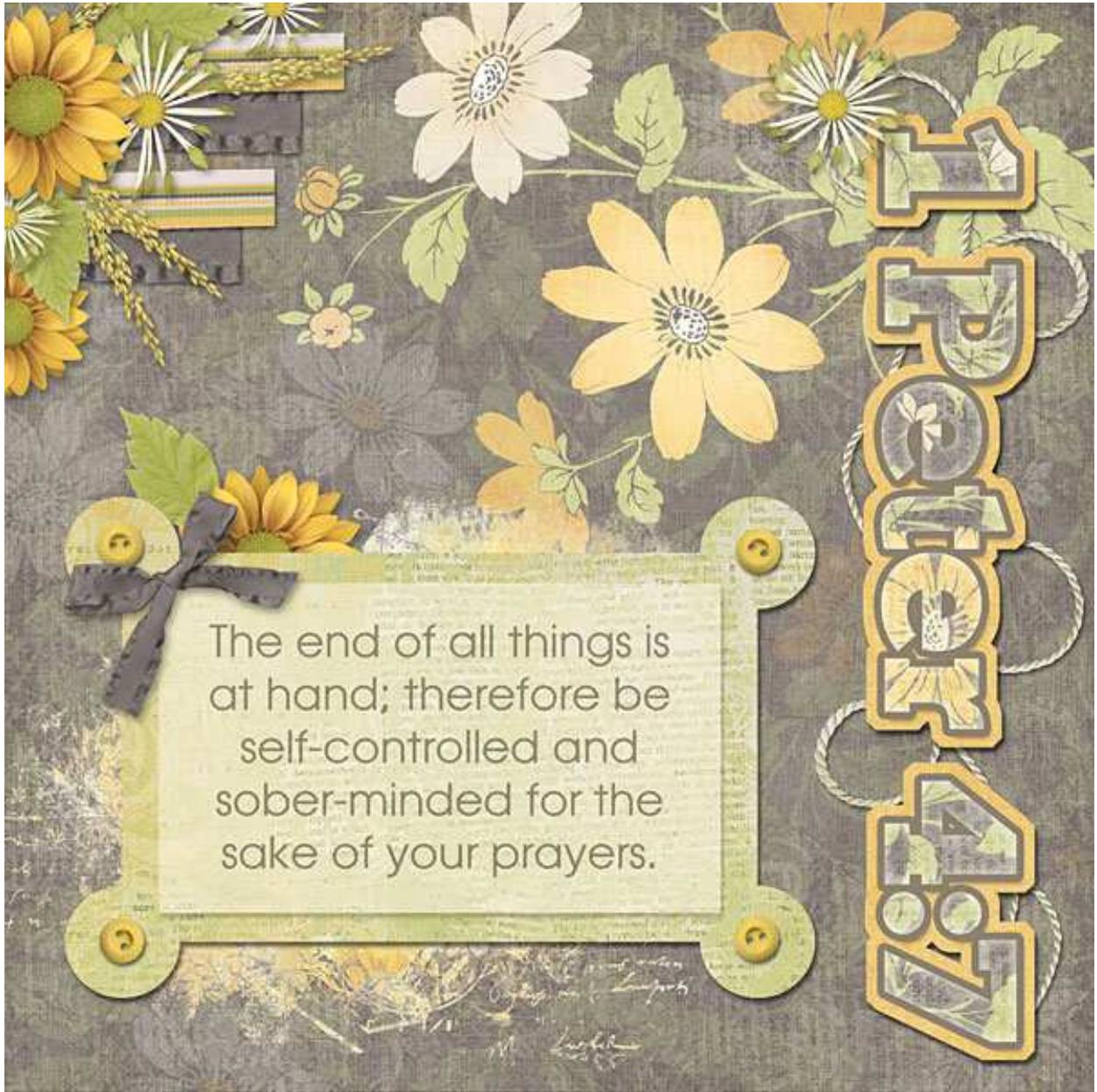
Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 1 Corinthians 3:18-20

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