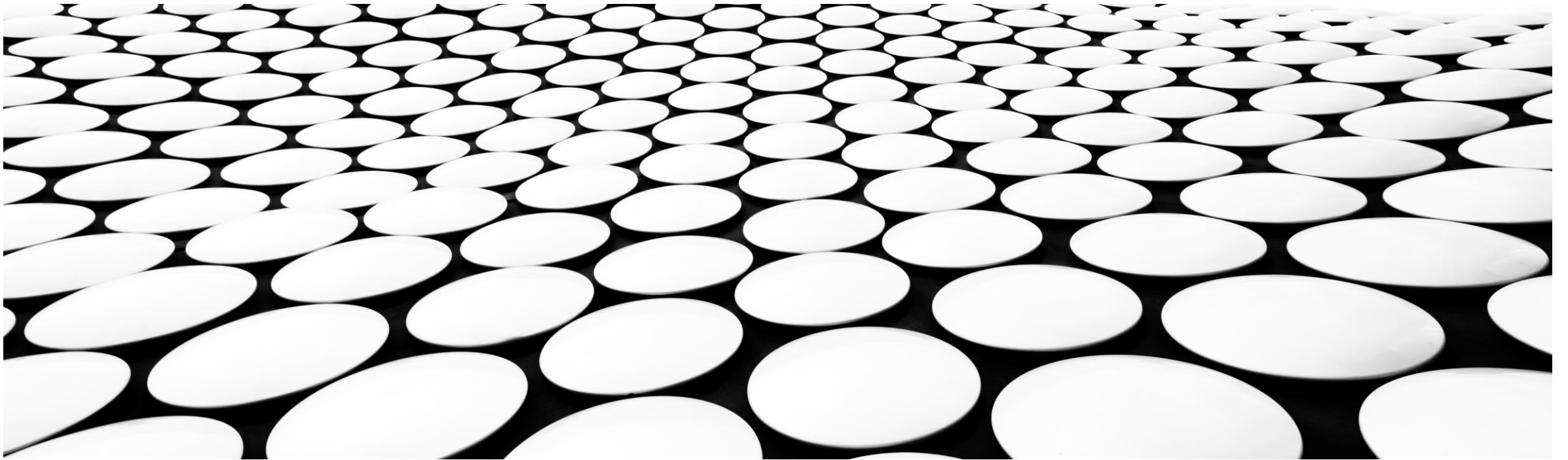
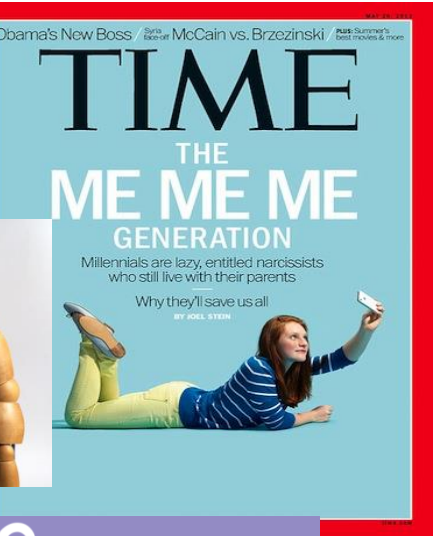

TODAY'S TIMES

WHERE'S IT ALL GOING?

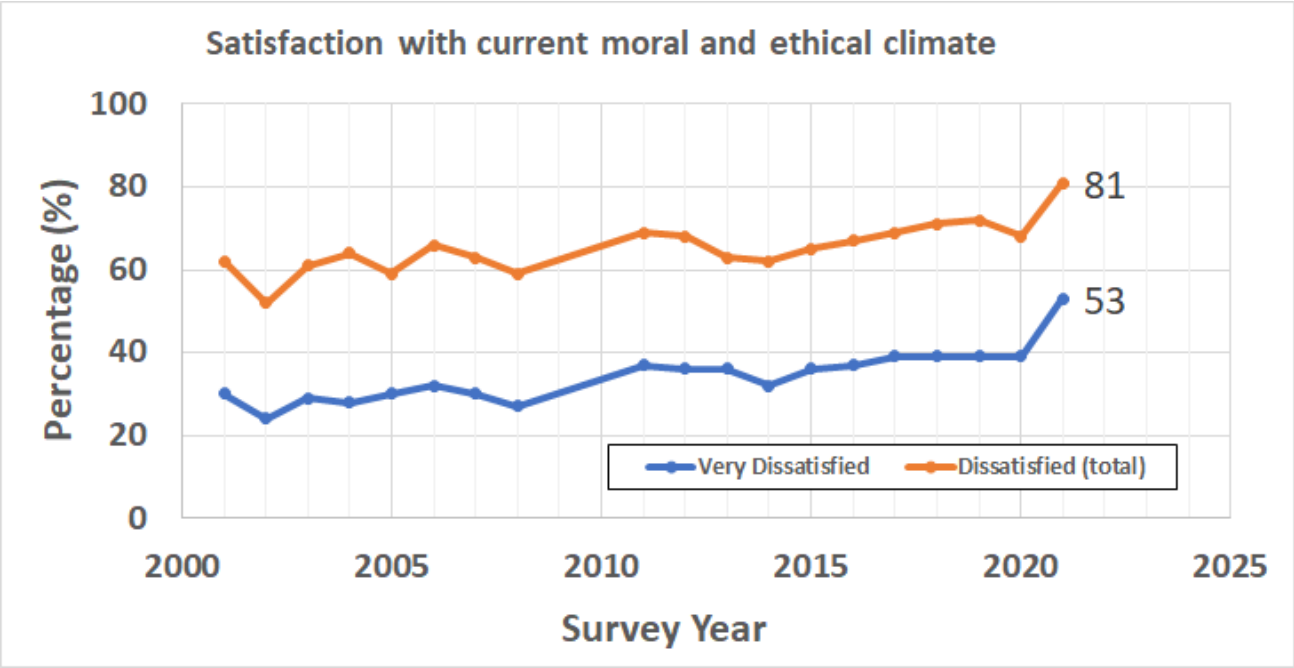


CHALLENGES OF TODAY...



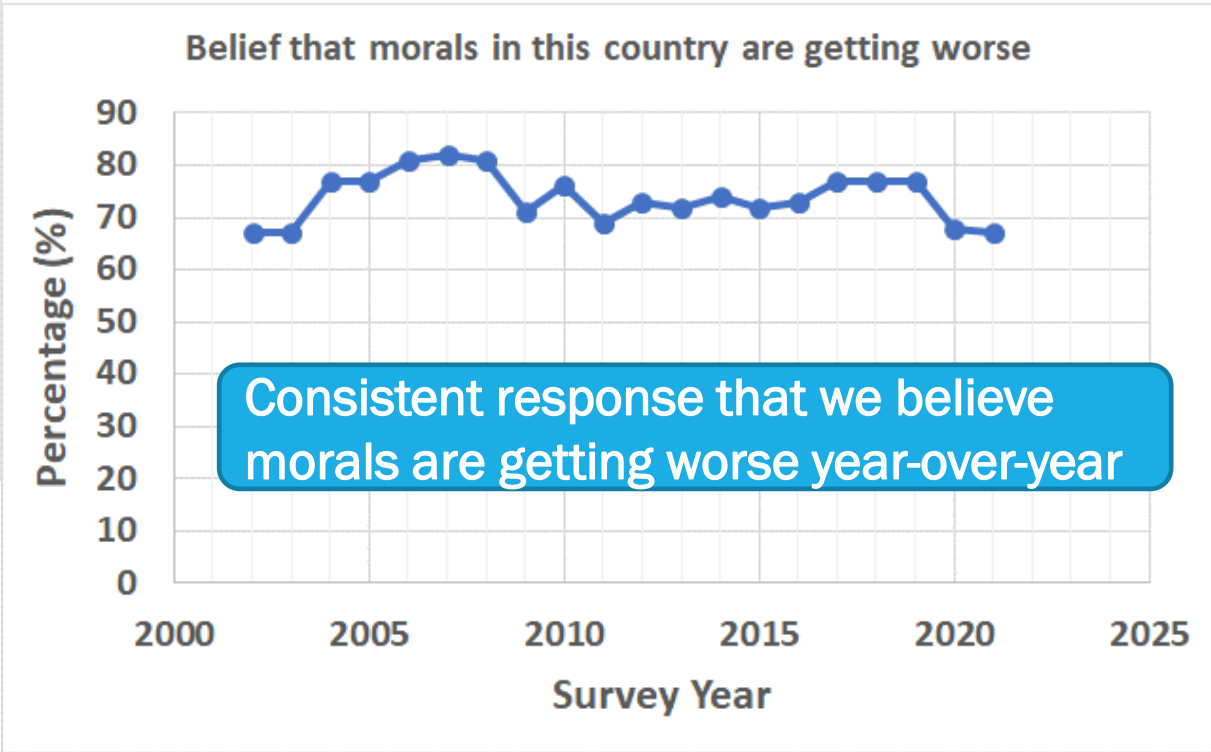
MORALITY...

What is the general consensus about morals?



81% of those surveyed are dissatisfied with the current moral & ethical climate

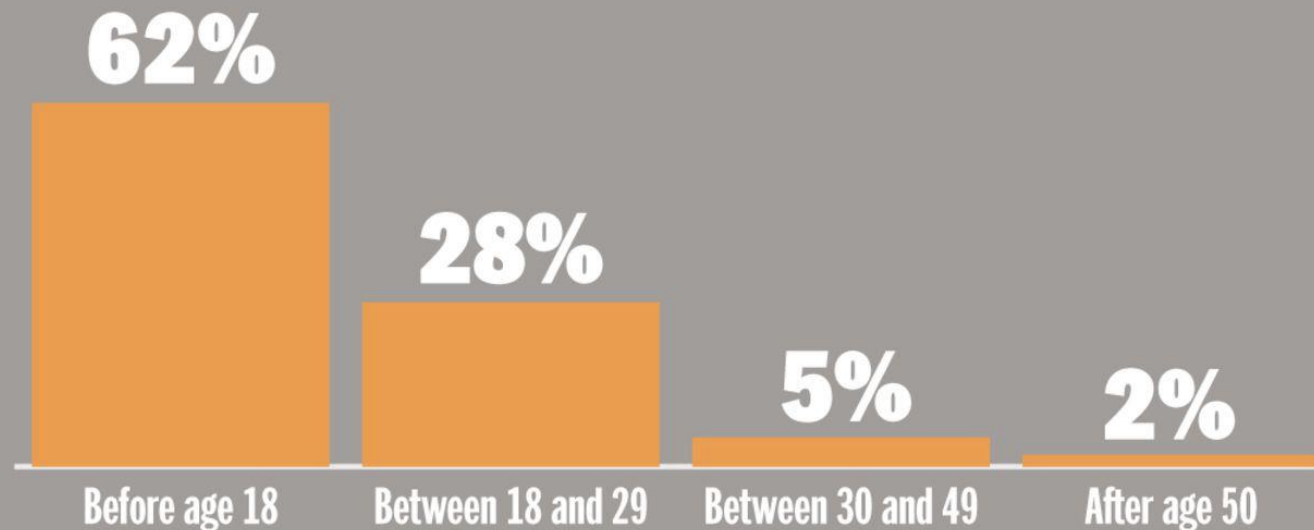
Are things getting better or worse?



EVENTUALLY, INFLUENCE FADES...

Many 'nones' lost faith before they finished high school

Percentage of religiously unaffiliated Americans raised in a faith group who said they abandoned religious practice at the following time



SOURCE: Public Religion Research Institute

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC

Our window of time to pass along morals is limited

A RESULT OF OUR ERA OF HUMAN THINKING

Post-modernism: ~1989 – present

“Post modernity, in contrast to modernism, **rejects any notion of objective truth** and insists that the only absolute in the universe is that there are no absolutes. **Tolerance is the supreme virtue and exclusivity the supreme vice.** Truth is not grounded in reality or in any authoritative “text” but is simply constructed by the mind of the individual or society.”
(B. Kruger)

At its core, ‘truth’ is being rejected & redefined for us...

POST MODERNISM

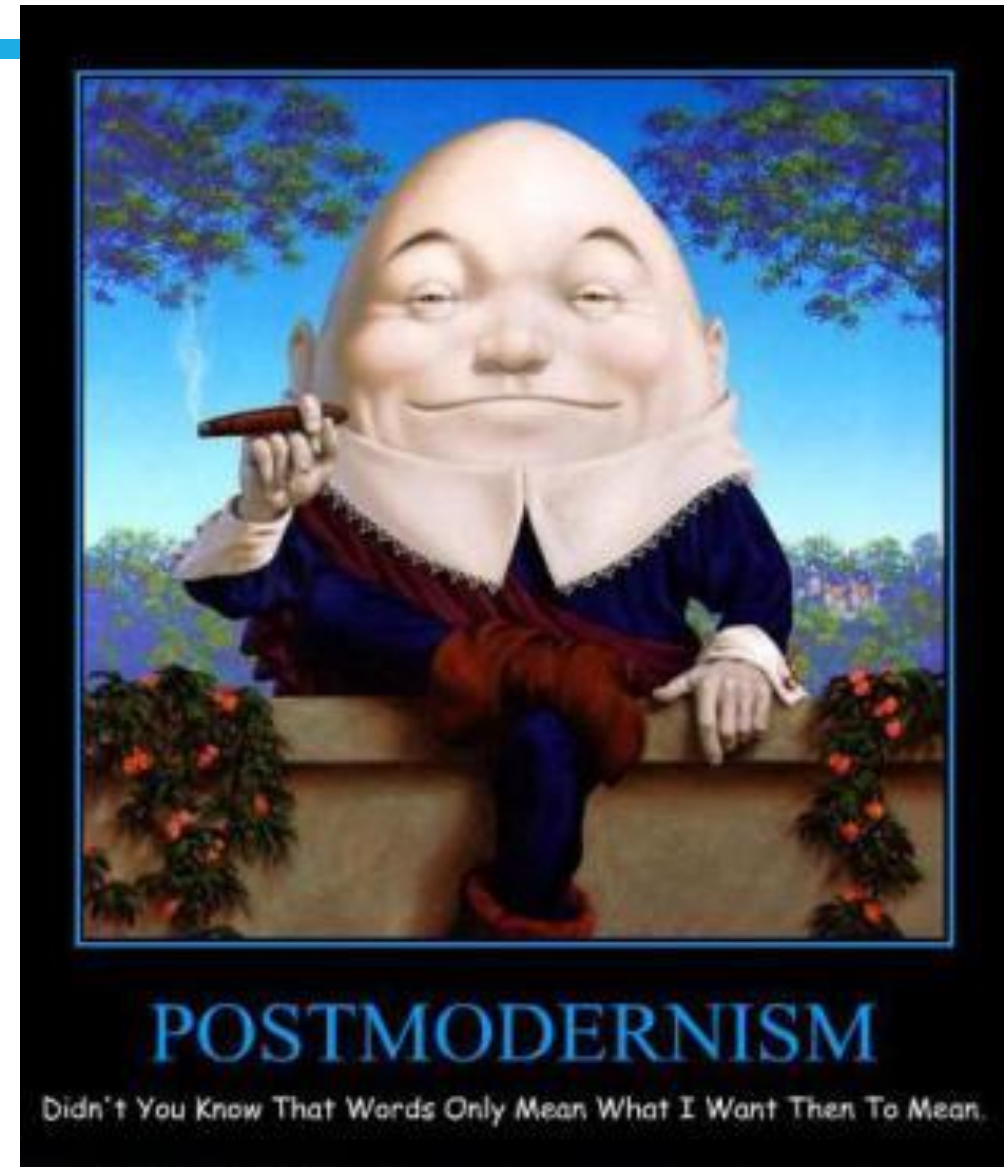
- There is no truth, only many truths
- There are no principles, only preferences
- There is no grand reason, only reasons
- There is no grand narrative of human progress, only countless stories of where people and their cultures are now.

Fit Bodies, Fat Minds (OS Guinness)

Contrast with the words of Jesus...

“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me”

John 14:6



SO WHAT?

There is a day of judgment coming...

“God will repay each person according to what they have done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger” Rom 2:6-8 (cp 2 Tim 4:4)

“He has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all people by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:31

“Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to scoff, but others said, ‘We shall hear from you again concerning this.’” Acts 17:32

“...in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue just as they were from the beginning of creation... But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly people. 2 Pet 3:3-4, 7

FRAMING UP THE CHALLENGE

Summary of the Challenge:

- The Bible says Jesus is returning to the earth – we each have limited time
- Terrible things are coming on the earth
 - ‘...the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.’ (2 Pet 3:6-7)
- There is a way to escape the judgment before His return
 - ‘save yourselves from this untoward generation’ (Acts 2:40)
- But, some simply can’t seem to get it... they don’t see it and may scoff
- What can they expect to see... where is it all going?

Opportunity:

- Educate ourselves now so that we can make an informed and wise decision

SCRIPTURAL PRECEDENT – *A few examples*

Jeremiah

Jer 27:1-11 – King of Babylon will come down. Make sure that when this occurs that you submit yourself in service to him. If you do this, you will remain in the land (**v.11**). If you fight against God’s plan, you will be destroyed (**v.8, 13**). **Fulfilled = Babylon invasion 606BC**

Olivet Prophecy

Luke 21:20-21 – “When you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.” **Fulfilled = Rome destroys Jerusalem AD70**

Jesus

Preparing disciples for what lay ahead

Principle

Jn 13:19 – “Now I tell you before it come, that, **when it come to pass, ye may believe** that I am he”

Jn 16:4 – “But these things have I told you, that **when the time shall come, ye may remember** that I told you of them...”

Jesus planted seeds that he knew would only bear fruit later

JESUS' WORK TO PREPARE THE DISCIPLES

What types of things did Jesus tell his disciples?

1) Things that were different than their expectations

- **Crucifixion**: Messiah would be rejected and crucified prior to being glorified (**1 Pet 1:10-12**)
- **Rejection by Religious**: Leaders professing to look for Messiah would be the ones rejecting him

Mt 16:21-22 – “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and **suffer** many things of the **elders and chief priests and scribes**, and be **killed**, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.” (cp to **Mk 8:31-32; Lk 9:22**)

Lk 9:44-45 – “Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the **Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men**. But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.” (cp to **Mt 17:22-23; Mk 9:31-32**)

JESUS' WORK TO PREPARE THE DISCIPLES

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Jn 3:14 – “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even **so must the Son of man be lifted up**”

Jn 8:28 – “When **ye** have **lifted up the Son of man**, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself...”

Jn 12:32-34 – “And I, if **I be lifted up from the earth**, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die. The people answered him, we have heard out of the law that Christ abideth forever: and how sayest thou, the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”

Jn 16:32 – “Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered... and leave me alone.”

JESUS' WORK TO PREPARE THE DISCIPLES

What types of things did Jesus tell his disciples?

2) Irrefutable sign

- **Resurrection:** Messiah would be raised from the dead the 3rd day

Matt 12:38-40 – “... Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered... for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the **Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**”

Matt 16:21 – “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be **raised again the third day.**”

Mk 9:31 – “...The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed **he shall rise the third day.**” (cp **Matt 17:23**)

JESUS' WORK TO PREPARE THE DISCIPLES

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2) Irrefutable sign

- **Resurrection**: Messiah would be raised from the dead the 3rd day

JESUS EXPECTED THEM TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER

Before the Crucifixion

Jn 14:25-26 – “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

- It was important that the disciples had first heard the message
- The Holy Spirit acting on them would be required for them to truly ‘get it’
- Then, they would be able to ‘remember’ what Jesus told them and understand its significance.

JESUS EXPECTED THEM TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER

After the Crucifixion

Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:25-26 – “O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” (*cp 1 Pet 1:10-12*)

- Suffering first and then glory after... they should have been able to get...
- Jesus had to help them put the pieces together afterward

Disciples in Jerusalem

Luke 24:44-46 – “These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:...”

- Jesus made a point to tell them all these things *before*, while he was yet alive
- Jesus had to help the disciples put the pieces together

APOSTLES USED THE SAME METHOD TO PREACH

Day of Pentecost

1) Things that were different than expectations

Acts 2:22-23 – Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, **ye have taken, and by wicked hands** have **crucified and slain**

- Crucifixion and rejection by religious

2) Irrefutable Sign

Acts 2:24,32 – whom God hath **raised up**, having loosed the pains of death... **this Jesus hath God raised up**, whereof we are all witness

- Resurrection

Result: Conversion and baptism of 3,000 people! (**Acts 2:41**)

APOSTLES USED THE SAME METHOD TO PREACH

Peter and John in Temple – Solomon's Porch

1) Things that were different than expectations

Acts 3:13-15a – The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom **ye delivered up**, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But **ye denied** the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and **killed the Prince of life...**

- Crucifixion and rejection by religious

2) Irrefutable Sign

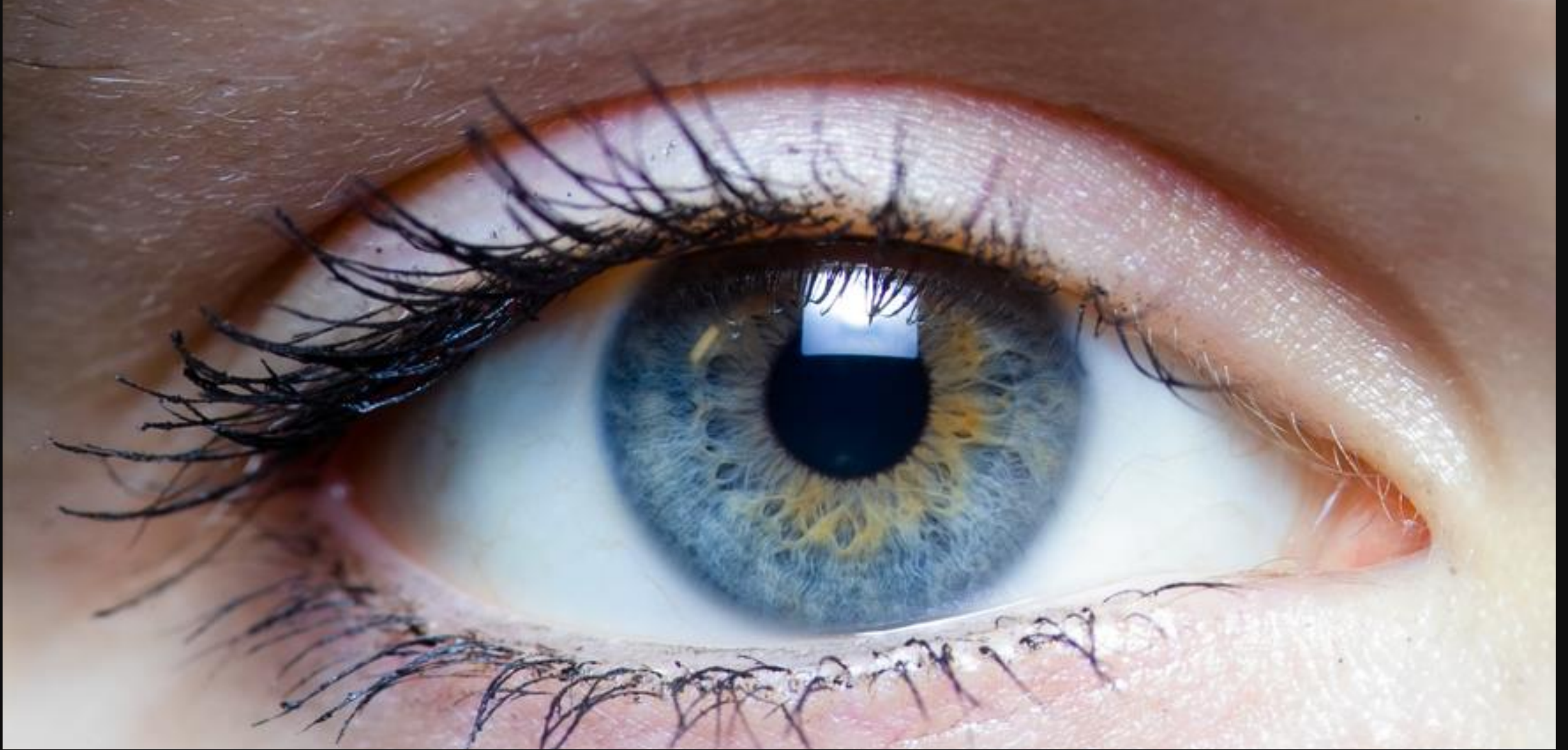
Acts 3:15b – whom God hath **raised from the dead**; whereof **we are witnesses**

- Resurrection

Result: Conversion of at least 5,000! (**Acts 4:4**)

What is our current level of understanding... are we able to see clearly?

Other notable instances: **Acts 4:10-12; 5:30-32**



**The eye only sees what the mind is
prepared to comprehend**

APPLICATION TO US

What are the things that are:

- 1) Different than expectations**
- 2) Irrefutable**

WHY IT MATTERS

*Principle of the Watchman (**Ezek 33:1-11**)*

Scenario	Action		Result	Responsible & why
	Watchman	People		
1 (v.5b)	Sounds Alarm	DO respond	People live!	
2 (v.3-5a)	Sounds Alarm	Do NOT respond	People die	People – had opportunity
3 (v.6)	NOT sound alarm	Do NOT respond	People die	Watchman – gave no opportunity

Principle:

Watchman is responsible for giving people the opportunity to respond.

He is not responsible for how the people respond.

[illegible]

- ⑩ Christ returns, resurrection, judgment, rewards/rejections
 - 1 Thess 4:14-17; Rom 14:10-12; Matt 25:31-46
- ⑪ Russia → south to destroy Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia
 - Isa 19:1-17; Dan 11:40-43
- ⑫ Western powers (“young lions”) surprised/ weak support in ME
 - Ezek 38:13
- ⑬ Christ/saints in Sinai preparing
 - Deut 33:2-3; Psa 68; Hab 3:3-4
- ⑭ News from NE trouble Russia → Jerusalem
 - Dan 11:44
- ⑮ Christ/saints heal & convert Egypt
 - Isa 19:18-25; 21:13-15; 60:6-7
- ⑯ Gog destroy Jerusalem, city captive
 - Ezek 38:14-17; Zech 14:1-2; Dan 11:45a
- ⑰ Christ/saints → Jerusalem, great earthquake, overthrow Russia
 - Joel 3; Ezek 38:18-23; Zech 14:3-15; Dan 11:45b
- ⑱ Decree to nations... submit to Christ!
 - Rev 14:6-7; Zech 14:16-19; Psa 2

DIFFERENT THAN EXPECTATIONS

Russia moving south to conquer Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, and Israel

Dan 11:40-45a – And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the **glorious land**, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of **Egypt** shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of **Egypt**: and the **Libyans** and the **Ethiopians** shall be at his steps...

Ezek 38:13 - art thou come to take a spoil?

Summary

- Russian confederacy is 'king of the north' power
- Russia will move south in successful military campaigns against Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, and Israel
- Western powers will be surprised... different than expectations!

Note: The believers may (or may not) have already been taken away

IRREFUTABLE SIGN

Great earthquake and overthrow of Russia (Gog)

Zech 14:4-5 – And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the **mount of Olives shall cleave** in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the **earthquake** in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. (cp **Amos 1:1-2; Acts 1:9-11**)

Joel 3:16 – The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the **heavens and the earth shall shake**: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Isa 2:19 – And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and the into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to **shake terribly the earth**... when he ariseth to **shake terribly the earth** (**v.21**)

Ezek 38:19-20 – For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, surely in that day there shall be a **great shaking in the land of Israel**; so that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, **shall shake at my presence**, and the **mountains shall be thrown down**, and the **steep places shall fall**, and **every wall shall fall** to the ground.

Summary

- **Global earthquake will mark the revealing of Jesus to the rest of humanity – can't miss it!!**

DIFFERENT THAN EXPECTATIONS AND IRREFUTABLE

Decree to nations – submit to Christ!

Zech 14:16 – “And it shall come to pass, that everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles: And it shall be, that whoso will not come up... upon them shall be no rain.”

Rev 14:6-7 – “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth... saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

BUT

Psalms 2 – “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us... thou shalt break them with a rod of iron...

Summary

- Those who remain will be given opportunity to submit to Christ
- Many will not submit and will be broken as a result – religious leaders will reject Jesus again!!

WHY JESUS' DECREE WILL BE DIFFERENT THAN EXPECTATIONS

Future Event	Predicted to be Antichrist	Predicted to be Jesus Christ
1. Will live in Jerusalem	L-98; W-170	Psa 2:6; Isa 2:3; Zech 14:16; 8:22; Mt 5:35; Mic 4:2
2. Will claim to be Messiah or Prince of Israel	L-46; RA-10	Lk 1:33; Zech 12:10
3. Will make a covenant with the Jews	L-46; W-117	Ezek 37:26; Jer 31:31; Hos 3:4-5; Rom 11:26-27; Isa 55:3-4
4. Will claim to be the world ruler and establish a worldwide gov't	L-95	Isa 9:7; Rev 19:15; Zech 14:9; Dan 7:13; Lk 1:32-33
5. Will claim to be a Prince of Peace	L-46; L-97	Isa 9:6,7; Mic 4:3; Zech 9:10; Ezek 37:24-26
6. Will claim to be Divine or a God	L-45; L-98	Isa 9:6; Zech 14:5; Dan 12:1
7. Will rebuild temple where the Dome of the Rock is now located	L-98	Ezek 40-46; Zech 14:16,20,21
8. Will work mighty miracles and overthrow Russia in Israel	L-95; RA-22	Ezek 38:19-22; 39:21; Zech 14:4,8,10,12,17
9. Will be a charismatic leader, intelligent, gracious	L-97	Isa 11:2-5; 9:7; Psa 18:43-45; Mic 7:16-17; Isa 55:4-5
10. Will have large numbers of angelic-like followers who execute his commands	L-114	Lk 20:34-36; Dan 7:10; Zech 14:5; 1 Thess 4:17
11. Will reinstate animal sacrifices in Temple at Jerusalem	L-46	Isa 56:7; Ezek 44:11; Zech 14:20
12. Will oppose all religious/political powers who don't accept him	L-94	Joel 3:1-17; Rev 19:15,17-18; Ezek 38-39

Reason: Many will reject Jesus as the Antichrist!!

L = [The Late Great Planet Earth](#), Hal Lindsey
RA = [Will the Real Antichrist Please Stand Up](#), John L Benson
W = [Armageddon](#), John F. Walvoord

SUMMARY

We must prepare for what is coming...

- **Jesus is returning to the earth**
- **We must investigate the Gospel for ourselves to make an informed, wise decision**
- **Jesus shared information ahead of time so that the pieces would be connected later**
- **Jesus shared things that were different than expectations and irrefutable**
 - Crucifixion, Rejection by Religious, Resurrection
- **We are being the watchman of what is coming... and so can you!**
 - Russia come down... defeats Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, and Israel
 - Earthquake... Christ revealed to mankind and will overthrow Russian power
 - Command to world to submit to power in Israel – not the antichrist... don't reject... accept!!

We each have the opportunity to choose life or death... which will you choose?



QUESTIONS

- 1. Think about your everyday life... what are 1 or 2 areas where you need to do a better job of being a 'watchman'?*
- 2. What are the 1 or 2 biggest hurdles that are preventing you from being the watchman that you'd like to be?*
 - Discuss potential strategies for how you could progress beyond them*