THE POSSESSED

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"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" [Luke 17:26].

The Lord Jesus prophesied that just prior to His Second Coming the condition of the world would resemble the time of Noah. This would be a sign to those living in the last days that Jesus would soon appear and the world as we know it would be destroyed.

In verse twenty seven, Jesus also predicted, "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all". In other words, those living just prior to the coming of Christ would seemingly be enjoying their lives in a normal and undisturbed fashion.

However, when one examines all the other prophesies concerning the end time we understand that this particular passage is referring to the condition and destruction of the people of the world and not His church. Many other scriptures foretell of a time the church will be warned and prepared for His Second Coming. I believe we are now in that time of warning and preparation. *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made*

herself ready" [Revelation 19:7].

There are many prophesies warning the church of the scenario of the end time. Most everyone is familiar with Matthew chapters twenty four and twenty five that are very revealing.

In order for the church to be ready Jesus would certainly want His people to have understanding of the time they were living in. We know by the prophecies we find in the Bible that the world will be totally unprepared for our Lord's return, but the church will be warned and prepared. Thank God for His marvelous Grace!

So, for us to compare our world today with Noah's time we would need to know what the time of Noah was like. We find the description of that era in Genesis chapter six.

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" [Genesis 6:5-8].

What a horrible condition mankind had evolved into! So horribly wicked that their thoughts was continually evil. In verses eleven and twelve God said, *"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth".* Violence filled the earth! All flesh had corrupted God's way! Man had become so horribly immoral that God had no other choice but to destroy them. The Bible tells us that only eight people were saved! Jesus said the rest of the world at that time never knew what was going to happen. *"And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" [Matthew 24:39].*

I thank God we have the Word of God to prepare us for the future! The worldly are not going to know when Jesus returns and the end of the world, but His people are not left in darkness. God is preparing a people for Christ's second coming! I hope this message will help you be prepared.

Violence is certainly on the increase worldwide. According to a recent World Health Organization report, "Each year, over 1.6 million people worldwide lose their lives to violence. Violence is among the leading causes of death for people aged 15–44 years worldwide, accounting for 14% of deaths among males and 7% of deaths among females. For every person who dies as a result of violence, many more are injured and suffer from a range of physical, sexual, reproductive and mental health problems."

Yes the world is evil and wicked and will be growing worse and worse. Be prepared, you will continue to hear of sick, disgusting acts committed on children, women, and even corpses! As sickening as it may sound, bestiality is also on the rise!

Throughout the world murder, theft and all manner of mayhem is on the rise, more and more each year. Public schools are not safe; knives, guns, explosives, dope, and alcohol are discovered almost every day in raids on schools in this country. A lot of public schools have now installed metal detection devices to try and slow the influx of dangerous weapons into the classrooms.

Public places use to be safe. It is now dangerous to go shopping at your neighborhood mall or to a movie! The whole world is aflame with lust and perversion! And believe it or not, it is worse in many other countries, and it is going to get worse in this country.

"But evil man and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." [2Timothy 3:13]

Jesus said concerning the end time: "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many would wax cold." [Matthew 24:12]

Sad to say, but there are very few looking to Jesus for a move of God. With all that is happening in the world, you would think folks would be seeking salvation and deliverance, but they are not! Instead, their minds are continually upon evil just as it was in the days of Noah. Many today can only imagine what a real revival is by reading past reports or watching old time preachers on Youtube!

People don't understand that God has not changed. He destroyed every human being and all the animals in Noah's time, because of SIN! *"As in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man."* He destroyed everyone except those eight souls on Noah's ark! How much more do you think God's wrath is kindled against this generation that has rejected His marvelous gift of love that is in Christ Jesus. Think about it! God was so gracious to sacrifice His own Son for the salvation of mankind and then, they overwhelmingly rejected Him.

If God spared not the old world that sinned without any plan of redemption, you had better take heed, God will not spare this present world, that has been given *Trumpet Messenger Page 4* every opportunity to make reconciliation with God through the precious Blood of the Lamb!

Today the media, politicians and entertainers make a mockery of Jesus and make jokes about Ministers and Christians. But they remain quiet and respectful to the Muslims! Something is going on in our country and in the world. The Muslim religion is being uplifted and supported and the Christian religion is being attacked. You better wake up! These are the last days and persecution of Christians is promised to come!

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to realize that sin and ungodliness have sky rocketed over the last fifty years. When one looks at the advertising of Hollywood films, television programing and modern games you realize it's obviously demon inspired and controlled. It is hard for me to believe that Christian parents would allow their children to spend literally hours before a computer screen or smart phone playing these games much less allow them to watch the sitcoms presently on television. Shame on you if you're guilty!

It seems people cannot distinguish between good and evil! When scrolling through Facebook, you see the language used by some of the people that profess to be born again Christians and I am absolutely astounded. How can such filth come out of the same mouth that praises God on Sunday? Something is wrong. Dreadfully wrong!

The world today is getting remarkably like the days of Noah!

I am amazed at the depravity all around us and sometimes I wonder, "Have people lost their minds? Has a spirit of insanity gotten hold of folks?" It's not just average men and women that are seemingly losing their minds, but it's the professionals; doctors, lawyers and *Trumpet Messenger Page 5* politicians! Incredibly stupid nonsense uttered by people that should know better; presidents, senators and those in the news media. Something is very, very wrong!! Are people losing their minds or is there something very dark and foreboding taking place in the world?

I believe people are being possessed by demon powers from the underworld on a scale that is unappalled in the history of the world. Satan's legions of demons are being unleashed upon those that have been conditioned through unconfessed sin to receive them!

The prophet Daniel warned that in the latter times wicked transgressors would come to their fullness. *"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up" [Daniel 8:23].* Also in Daniel chapter twelve, he warns, *"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand" [Daniel 12:10].*

The New Testament is filled with accounts of the Lord Jesus ministering to multitudes of individuals that were possessed with devils. His apostles and early church also encountered others that were possessed with evil spirits as they spread the gospel throughout the known world. In one instance Jesus encountered a man that lived among the tombs that had a legion of demons in him. A Roman legion is between 3,000 and 6,000. This man could have had as many as 6,000 demons in him! You may not want to acknowledge it, but demon possession was real then <u>and it is real today</u>!

Wherever Jesus went, He cast out devils! He cast seven devils out of Mary Magdalene who became a devoted follower of Christ (See Luke 8:2). Here are a few more instances: "And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him" [Mark 1:34]. "And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils" [Mark 1:39]. "But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you" [Luke 11:20]. And lastly, His commission to His disciples: "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues" [Mark 12:17]. Obviously, Jesus knew His disciples would also face demoniac possession and He gave them power over them! This awesome power to cast out devils is available today!

In the time of Jesus and also the early church demon activity was obviously rampant! But what about today? When is the last time you heard about someone casting out a devil? Have you met anyone that had a devil cast out of them? It is almost as if the devils are in hiding? I have heard of only a few accounts that I really felt was an actual exorcising of a devil! I don't believe these devils are hiding; the problem is, most people just don't recognize them!

I know several years ago there were so called deliverance ministers and churches that said they were casting out devils. Many of them had buckets by their altars for those that were possessed to throw up the demons in after they were prayed over. Others would wrestle with and hold down supposedly demon possessed people until they confessed to be delivered. I remember one such occasion whereas a woman vomited up a supposed devil in a bucket. It looked more like left over green beans to most of us! I believe most all of the (deliverance ministry era) was nothing but the flesh trying to manufacture the power of God. Just mostly foolishness and the devils probably had the last laugh! Back then they taught there were coffee devils, cigarette devils, overeating devils, and such.

This kind of foolishness does not diminish the fact that demon possession is active today. You can be assured, it is! Satan and all his angels are alive and doing their duty on planet earth! The Word of God is clear! We are promised demoniac activity and I believe it is increasing.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" [1Timothy 4:1-2]. The Apostle Paul is prophesying of the time just prior to the coming of the Lord. He warns of a <u>"departing from the faith"</u> and places the blame on <u>"seducing spirits"</u> and <u>"doctrines of devils"</u>! He further predicts that people will become hypocrites and will lie and have no conscience! This is a horrible condition! Please remember, He is writing to the church of our time!

I want you to understand you can give yourself to these evil spirits or you can give yourself to God. Two spiritual forces drawing you – which will you obey? It's up to you! Oh how often I have warned people of this condition! Many times I have said, "you will either be filled with God or with the devil! Unless you are filled with the Spirit of God, you will lie, cheat, backstab and steal while justifying your actions. You will be so overwhelmed of the demoniac that you will not know what you are doing! Remember what Jesus said of those that crucified Him, *"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they*

know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots" [Luke 23:34].

Many Bible teachers and students believe "Mystery Babylon" of the book of Revelation is the Roman Catholic Church and her daughters are the denominations that have held on to her apostate doctrines. If this is true we know that Babylon will soon fall. Already the world is witnessing the horrible atrocities and abominations that the Catholic Church has practiced and hid for generations. Her daughters (denominations) are not guiltless either. Babylon will soon be (if not already) completely taken over by the demoniac. *"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird" [Revelation 18:2].*

Jesus said there was coming a "time of sorrows". He said, *"And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another" [Matthew 24:10.* I believe the spirit of betrayal is now widespread. Many are betraying one another and the Truth. Don't be surprised when the brother or sister in Christ you thought would always be there for you has now turned against you!

This spirit of betrayal and hatred is going to try many. Personally I have encountered some that have already been given over to the demoniac. It is hard to believe the lies and hypocrisy coming from those that I thought I could always count on! In Mark chapter thirteen Jesus is even clearer about who this will impact: *"Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye*

shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" [Mark 13:12-13].

I have experienced my share of disappointments in men and women that said they were born again Christians. I have been lied to and lied about numerous times. What really hurts is you expect things like that to happen from people that are worldly and unsaved. But when those that befriend you and tell you how much they love you turn against you, it hurts; no matter how tough you try to be.

One thing that has always amazed me is these liars need no foundation. I used to think there must be some truth in any story told, but no, that's not true. Many lie with absolutely no basis.

Some that later repented had a remarkable confession to make. They said they didn't know why they said what they said or did what they did! One person was in tears and was actually begging for forgiveness! Thank God they woke up and realized they had sinned!

These were people that loved me and my ministry! How could they do such a thing? The scriptures is where I found some help in understanding why! *"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do . . ." [Luke 23:34].* There it is, "They know not what they do"! They were completely taken over by the devil! As a matter of fact the scriptures say, they will kill you thinking they do God service! *"They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" [John 16:2].*

I firmly believe demoniac possession is evident when one is out of control of their emotions and thoughts. *Trumpet Messenger Page 10* When a lie is told by one that is possessed, they actually believe they are speaking the truth. Deception can be that real! A person that is deceived doesn't know or believe they are deceived!

Let me give you another for instance. I really don't believe there is an alcohol demon or a tobacco demon. However, I do believe indulging in these can be an inroad for demoniac activity in a person's life. Habits are hard to be broken. Drug addiction is everywhere today and in all classes of people. Like alcoholism, drug addiction can be, and in many cases deadly. When Satan is allowed into your thought patterns through chemical dependence, it is a foothold that he uses very successfully. The alcohol, tobacco or drug itself is not a demon, but they can easily conjure up demons when abused. Never forget, Satan comes to steal, to kill and to destroy. That's his ultimate purpose! To accomplish his purpose, he needs to completely take you over to where you are no longer in control.

Now listen very carefully! If you <u>cannot stop</u> smoking, drinking or using drugs, you have been overcome. You are no longer in control! You are now not only under the control and influence of a demoniac spirit, you may very well be possessed of a devil and desperately in need of deliverance!

Another area of demoniac possession is the rampant use of pornography. Over the years I have prayed for men that were struggling with this problem. There are probably countless men and women who struggle with this also that may be ashamed to ask for prayer. Some that I prayed with told me they could not help themselves. They had to watch it every day! One man confessed to me that he believed it was a demon as it was completely in control of him. <u>He had to watch it</u>! He was possessed by a devil! Beware and please guard your children as pornography is everywhere. Some form of it is easily found on television. It can be viewed on the internet via your computer or smart phone. It is even in many of the games you are allowing your children to play. It is an inroad for Satan and if not curtailed it could very well destroy you. I believe Satan has used pornography to manipulate men to become rapists and mass murderers of women throughout the world. A person's innocent curiosity can trigger an obsession that ultimately becomes a possession. First he entices. Once he possesses, he controls! Remember, you must first give yourself to these things!

Truly, we are now living in very dangerous times. Much more dangerous than most are aware of. Many have taught the mystery of iniquity would come after the rapture. But the Bible is clear. *"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way"* [2Thessalonians 2:7]. According to Apostle Paul, the mystery of iniquity has been working since apostolic times! I believe it is taking over multitudes as I write this message!

I know I have written some very hard things in this message but I want you to be prepared and escape the evil that is being manifested. Although I have painted a very dark picture of the end time, God is still on the Throne and He is coming back for a glorious church!

Most Bible students realize there are two kingdoms. One is the Kingdom of Light also known as the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of His dear Son. The other is the Kingdom of darkness. These two kingdoms oppose one another. Both these kingdoms have been enlarged by two different seeds: the seed of Truth and the seed of lies. Jesus revealed these two seeds and the sowers of the seeds in Matthew chapter thirteen. Both seeds are coming to maturity. This is extremely important in knowing what will happen in the end time. There is a fullness of each seed coming! Please read Matthew thirteen when you have time. You may also request our article, "Two Seeds In The Kingdom" which is very revealing.

Matthew thirteen describes how that two seeds were sown in the kingdom. Chapter fourteen of Revelation describes the seeds becoming full mature fruit. Here it is: "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped' [Revelation 14:14-16].

Please notice, the harvest of the earth was ripe. It was ripe - ready to harvest; it was mature; it had come to the fullness! And the earth was reaped! I believe this reaping is the resurrection of the saints! They are caught up; changed in the twinkling of an eye. (See 1Thess. 4:17; 1Cor. 15:52-54).

Let's continue reading as there is another reaping! Verse seventeen: "And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle,

and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God" [Revelation 14:17-19].

I want you to see this clearly. The first reaping occurred in verses 14-16. Now beginning with verse 17 we see another reaping! Another angel came with a sharp sickle. Another angel announces the vine of the earth has grapes *(fruit of the seed)* that are fully ripe. Ripe - ready to harvest; it was mature; it had also come to the fullness just like those in the first reaping. The angel thrust in his sickle and reaped this harvest also. However this last harvest was destroyed! It was cast into the great winepress of the wrath of God! Clearly, there are two separate reaping's of the harvest of the earth.

I believe there is a fullness coming to both seeds that were sown in the earth; the fullness of God and the fullness of the devil. There will be no in between. You will be filled with one or the other. Thank God you can be in that First Resurrection! You don't have to be deceived! You don't have to succumb to the doctrines of devils and evil spirits being loosed upon the earth!

In closing, please consider these two verses: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. <u>Resist the devil, and</u> <u>he will flee from you</u>. <u>Draw nigh to God, and he will draw</u> <u>nigh to you</u>. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" [James 4:7-8]. Make your calling and election sure (2Peter1:10)! Those that know their God will do exploits! They will cast down imaginations! They will renew their minds and transform themselves! They will be the Overcomers found in the book of Revelation! Are you one of these?