**100 SECONDS TILL MIDNIGHT**

***The Lord Is At Hand***

On August 15, 1945 the United States ended World War 2 by forcing Japan to surrender after dropping atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In the wake of the new atomic age Albert Einstein, along with some University of Chicago scientists who helped create the atomic bomb in the top-secret Manhattan Project, began in 1947 what they hoped would be a freeze of the creation of atomic and nuclear weapons. They called their new group the *Science and Security Board of Atomic Scientists*. In their effort to stem the tide of atomic and nuclear weapons they created what they called *The Doomsday Clock*. They said in their opening creed these words:

“Using the imagery of apocalypse (i.e. “Midnight”), and the contemporary idiom of nuclear explosion (“Countdown to Zero”) to convey threats to humanity and the planet, the Doomsday Clock is set every year by the Board of Sponsors to be a recognized indicator of the world’s vulnerability to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate change, and disruptive technologies.”

Over the past 75 years this Board of Sponsors, made up of scientists (13 are Nobel laurettes), set the Doomsday Clock at what they determine to be minutes, or seconds, from Midnight. During the Cold War years between 1947-1991 the Clock was always set at just minutes away from Apocalypse Now. Any minute, or second, there could be a nuclear war that destroyed the earth and all living beings. In other words, the world as we know it would end.

Since the Cold War ended they kept the Doomsday Clock ticking with the new emphasis on first “Global Warming,” and now what they term “Climate Change.” A quick look at the website reveals that as of January 27, 2021 the clock is set at:

**“It is 100 seconds to midnight”**

Can I be perfectly frank with you? A simple study of world conditions dating back to… oh, let’s say, Noah’s day, will reveal the earth has always been under threat of extinction due to either climate conditions (like a world flood), pandemics (like the 10 plagues), or horrific wars (like WW1, then WW2). The people of every age have felt the threats from threatening weather catastrophes, threatening global diseases, and the threatening rise of empires ruled by tyrants. Pick a century, any century, and an historian can show you how that generation felt about world conditions. Even a casual study of religions over the centuries will reveal they all thought the world would soon end. Leaders of Christendom have forever been predicting the return of Christ due to evil in the world.

Just look at Peter, John, James and Paul’s writings. Rome’s genocide project to wipe Christianity off the map led many saints of the first century to believe Christ would return any day and destroy the world. Apostles had to write epistles to correct these false convictions that apocalypse was upon them. For example, hear Paul’s words:

​1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for ***that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first***, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? - 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Peter, also privy to anything the Holy Spirit would say concerning the end of the world, wrote these words:

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. – 2 Peter 3:8-13

God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is the only Being that has knowledge of the end of the world. They have clearly revealed that it will NOT end by global warming (unless, of course, you mean, *“the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat*” – now that’s global warming!). It will also not end by nuclear explosions. It will not end by worldwide pandemics. It will only end when God sends His Son in Judgment and has no more need for this planet, galaxy or universe.

Until then, we can safely say, as did the apostles of Christ, “*the Lord is at hand*” (Philippians 4:5; James 5:8; I Peter 4:7). That phrase, “*the Lord is at hand*,” does not imply the world is about to end. It is simply an inference to the fact that not only was Christ always right next to us to help us, but also He could possibly return at any moment. It was not meant to be a cry of terror, as if apocalypse was near, but a message of hope and anticipation that salvation was near.

***100 Seconds to Midnight***. If that Doomsday Clock threat is meant to scare us, it is 99 seconds off reality. We who are disciples of Christ know for certain that this world will only end when God is good and ready, and not a second before. Until then, we who are Christians live by a different clock. *The Judgment Clock*. Now that clock should be real fear to the unsaved, but real joy to the redeemed.

Let us say with a song on our heart and prayer on our lips, “*The Lord is at hand*, rejoice!” - Rick