



Revelation 16

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Tape #8255
By Chuck Smith

Let's turn now in our Bibles to the sixteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation. Going back to chapter fifteen, John said, "I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, there were seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God" (15:1). So that is sort of an introduction to chapter sixteen. The "seven angels that have the seven last plagues" and it is declared that, "in them is filled up the wrath of God" or this is the climax. This is the culmination of the Great Tribulation period. This will bring to an end the time of man's government. We have the final government of man in position. The antiChrist ruling over the western powers. It is during the reign of this king that the Lord of heaven will come and establish a kingdom that will never end! So we're coming right up to the border of the glorious return of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ! This will complete the great tribulation period. This will complete the wrath of God.

Now in chapters seventeen and eighteen, you will find that there is some fill-in as he gives us detail of the destruction of the religious systems of Babylon and the commercial system of Babylon. That will be details that will be filled in of events that have already transpired. But we have come and will come in chapter sixteen to the final great battle, the Battle of Armageddon. The final conflict and it is during this conflict that Jesus Christ will return to the earth, will set His foot upon the Mount of Olives and will establish the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

So John tells us,

I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God upon the earth (16:1).

More literally they are bowls. You think of a vial, you think of a little test tube in a laboratory. These are bowls of God's wrath that are to be poured out upon the earth.

So the first went, and he poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon men, which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image (16:2).

"Grievous and noisome sore." This is sort of a running, ulcerated type of sore. A sore that there is no cure and a sore that causes great pain. There is a possibility that this could be that kind of flesh-eating virus that people have already contracted in some places, this flesh-eating virus--the noisome and grievous sore.

We read in the Book of Zechariah that those that come against Jerusalem, that this is the punishment wherewith they will be punished. "Their eyes will melt in their sockets. Their tongues in their mouth. And there will be a grievous and noisome or running sore on their bodies" (Zechariah 14:12). It does describe the effect of ultra radiation from neutron bombs. And there is, of course, that possibility that this is the result of fallout from neutron bombs. But whatever be the cause, it is the first bowl of God's wrath that will be poured out in these last seven that will complete the judgment of God.

The second angel poured out his bowl upon the sea; it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea (16:3).

In the trumpet judgments, the second judgment fell upon the sea and one third of the animals of the sea or the fish or whatever, one third of them perished in the trumpet judgments. This kills everything in the sea. I'll tell you what, you won't want to be living in Newport Beach or Huntington Beach when the sea turns to blood and all of the life forms within the sea die and begin to float up on the beach. The stench of it will be something horrible. I don't know if there is anything that smells worse than sea life that is rotting.

It's almost inconceivable, the results of the sea dying. The sea with its salt content is really sort of a great purifier of the pollution of the earth. The salt within the sea, of course, is a preservative of the waters. And we are dumping all kinds of stuff into the seas. Right now, of course, we're aware of the problem in Huntington Beach so close to us. The bacterial count of the water so high that a large portion of the beach has been closed in the state park as they try to find out the source of the sewage leak. But when the salt no

longer has that cleansing or purifying effect upon the pollutants, the sea life dies. The sea becomes as blood. What a horrible thing that will be.

The third angel poured out his bowl upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood (16:4).

The fresh water supplies of the earth. The streams, the lakes turning to blood. Can you imagine the effect that that will have upon the inhabitants of the earth in that day? Water is basic for life. And when the fresh water supplies are polluted to the extent that there will be a real scarcity of water, becoming as blood. Now here is an interesting thing. When this particular judgment takes place, John said,

I heard the angel of the waters say (16:5),

The angel who is in charge over the waters. He says,

Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because You have judged thus (16:5).

As he sees this judgment, he declares the righteousness of God in the judgment.

For [the reason is] they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink; they deserve it (16:6).

God pouring out His judgment upon the earth that has rejected His Son Jesus Christ. Who has abused and killed the prophets that God has sent. The world that is in open rebellion against God, shedding the blood of the saints. When God turns the water into blood, the angel more or less says, Right on! How fair! They've shed the blood of the saints and now You've given them blood to drink. That's what they deserve. Now in verse seven,

I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments (16:7).

Back in chapter six under the fifth seal, there were those souls that were under the altar and they were saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, before You avenge our blood on the adversaries on the earth" (Revelation 6:10)? And they were given white robes and they were told that they were to wait a short season until the full number were slain even as they were slain. They're crying for entrance into heaven but they are told that they have to wait for a short season. There are more that are to be slain. And it would seem that the voice of these who have been martyred, cry out at that time also and they declare, "True and righteous are Thy judgments."

That's one thing that you can be sure about. God's judgments will be righteous. God will not be unfair. He will reward every man according to His works. During the time of the great rebellion against God, headed by this man of sin, we find that he has power to put to death those that refuse to worship him or worship his image or take his mark. So there will be probably millions that will be martyred during that time. Men who have enough sense not to worship him, not to take his mark and not to worship the image that they make of him. And so he will shed a lot of blood, the blood of those who refuse to enter into his rebellion against God. And thus when God turns the fresh water supplies to blood, the acknowledgment of the righteousness of God's judgment. Verse eight,

And the fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with the great heat (16:8,9),

It is possible that the sun will go into a supernova. There are other scriptures that make reference to the sun actually increasing in intensity seven times and the moon, of course, will be seven times as bright as it reflects the sun. The possibility of a supernova. Or the possibility that God will move the earth a little closer to the sun. It's a very interesting thing the position of the earth in relationship to the sun. It's just the right distance to sustain life upon the earth. Any closer and the radiation of the sun would fry men a lot quicker. Any further the earth would be a refrigerator. So it's just the perfect distance. Now if God would move the earth towards the sun, again the greater radiation and the greater intensity of heat that would come from the sun upon the earth. We know that the planet Venus, the temperatures get so hot that the water is all dissolved into gases and life is impossible. And so God has placed us at the right distance.

Now there is an interesting prophecy in Isaiah that talks about the earth reeling to and fro like a drunken man and being moved out of her place. That is perhaps a change of orbit that will bring the earth closer to the sun and it would have the same effect of this earth becoming superheated from the sun. "The fourth angel pours out his vial upon the sun, power was given unto him to scorch men with fire and men were scorched

with the great heat.” At this point, wouldn’t you think that the people on the earth would begin to repent and cry out to God for mercy? But what happens?

they blasphemed the name of God, which has power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory (16:9).

The Book of Romans speaks of “after the hardness of your impenitent heart” (Romans 2:5). If God has dealt with you and the dealings of God in your life have brought you to Jesus Christ, rejoice! The judgments of God are going to turn the hearts of men against God and in the midst of these judgments, three times in this chapter, we find them blaspheming God because of the things that are taking place here on the earth. “They repented not to give Him glory.”

And so the fifth angel poured out his bowl upon the throne of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain (16:10),

It’s interesting that in the fifteenth chapter talks about the seven last plagues and how that there is a parallel between the plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians and these seven bowls of God’s judgment. There is also a parallel between these judgments in these seven bowls with the seven trumpet judgments, only the trumpet judgments are not as severe. The trumpet judgments only a third part of the ocean is affected and a third part of the fresh water supplies. In the bowls of God’s wrath, it will be complete. All of the fresh water supplies and all of the oceans. But now with the plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians, you remember that Egypt was covered with darkness. They had to have little lamps during the daytime. But that darkness did not extend into the area where the Israelites were living. God made a separation there.

Now here God is going to pour out this darkness or cause the darkness in the kingdom of the beast. So there will be this strange and unusual darkness in the kingdom of the beast in his throne and “his kingdom is full of darkness as they gnaw their tongues for pain.”

And again they blaspheme the God of heaven because of their pain and their sores, and they repent not of their deeds (16:11).

So the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared (16:12).

The River Euphrates has been called the great divider between the East and the West. East of Euphrates, the eastern part of the world. West of Euphrates, the western part. And it has been referred to historically as the great divider of the earth. It is a river that comes from the mountains of Turkey, flows about eighteen hundred miles and it is navigable for around twelve hundred miles. A great river and the source of life for the fertile Babylonian plains. God is going to dry it up.

It could be that this will be the effect of the sun having seven times the intensity that the glaciers there in the high mountains of Turkey will be melted. Remember during the first part of this period of time, the seven years, when the two prophets of God, the two witnesses shut up heaven that it doesn’t rain for three-and-a half years of drought.

But also an interesting by-product of the sun increasing in intensity could possibly bring about the melting of the polar ice. It is estimated that if the ice caps on the poles were melted that the level of the ocean would rise two hundred feet which means that we will be under water here. Los Angeles would be under water. New York would be under water. And it is possible that this will be one of the effects of the sun’s intensity increasing sevenfold. Also it would cause, of course, greater evaporation in the oceans and you would have more moisture suspended in the atmosphere. When you start thinking of all of the different effects that could happen as the result of this intensity of the sun, it is quite interesting for the scientist to play with this. They have and there are some good books that deal with these issues of the potential of these things taking place.

However God does it, the River Euphrates will be dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the East. We do read here in the next few verses how God is going to basically gather together the nations of the world for this final conflict, the Battle of Armageddon. And drawn into this battle will be the kings of the East, the tremendous population, the majority of the people of the world live in the East--China, India, Japan. And they will move towards the West to meet in this final gigantic battle.

In the Book of Daniel as it speaks of the antiChrist, of his ruling over the western nations, it does speak

of him beginning to move into Africa. His forces are coming into Africa to conquer this great continent, no doubt in order to have the vast natural resources that exists in Africa. After he has passed through Egypt with his troops and he's moving through Ethiopia, it says, "Tidings out of the North and the East will trouble him and he will turn his forces from the conquest of Africa, bringing them back to face the forces of the North and the East" (Daniel 11:44). And they will meet, of course, in the Valley of Megiddo where God will gather together the nations and the people of the nations for this final great battle.

And so John says, verse thirteen,

I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, the mouth of the beast, and the mouth of the false prophet (16:13).

Your trinity of evil. The dragon, Satan, his man, the antiChrist and the false prophet. These "unclean spirits, demon spirits coming out of their mouths like frogs."

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, and they go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world, to gather them to battle of that great day of God Almighty (16:14).

And so these demonic powers will control the leaders of the world to bring their armies together for this great battle of God Almighty.

Behold [the Lord says], I come as a thief. Blessed is he that is watching, and keeps his garments, lest he walks naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon (16:15,16).

Or the Mountain of Megiddo. There in the northern part of Israel or the central part of Israel, just east from Haifa, you have the Esdraelon Valley in which many of the great wars in history have been fought. This is where the vast hordes will be gathered for this final conflict, the battle of Armageddon. This is where "the blood will flow to the horses' bridle for the space of eighteen hundred furlongs" (Revelation 14:20), which we mentioned could be square miles rather than linear.

It is interesting that verse fifteen just doesn't seem to fit. It just seems to be an interjection that sort of interrupts the flow. Going from verse fourteen it naturally flows into verse sixteen. "They are spirits of devils working miracles which go forth to the kings of the earth and the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty and he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon."

This is such a monumental and horrendous event that defies the imagination of men. It boggles our minds to conceive of perhaps billions of people gathered to fight. It just is mind-boggling so that as this horrible event is being described, the Lord sort of gives a word of encouragement to His people. As they are looking, as we are looking at these events, the events of these seven bowls, the final plagues that will bring the culmination of God's wrath and judgments upon the earth. Again Jesus is saying, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he who is watching."

Over and over again as Jesus was describing to His disciples the signs of His coming and the end of the age. You remember Matthew 24 as they were passing through the temple grounds, the disciples were remarking on the size of the stones that Herod had used in building the temple. And Jesus said to His disciples as they were walking and looking at these huge stones, "The day is coming and not one of these stones will be standing on another. [That seemed like a totally impossible prediction.] So when they got over to the Mount of Olives, the disciples said, Lord, when is this going to happen? And what will be the signs of this and of Your coming and of the end of the age" (Matthew 24:2)?

There are dual signs that they are asking for. Signs of the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem and the time of His coming, the end of the world as far as world governments are concerned when He comes to establish God's kingdom upon the earth. So if you don't recognize that they are asking for dual signs, the destruction of the temple and of His coming, you can get mixed up in the prophecies of Matthew 24 as Jesus begins to tell them the signs of the destruction of the temple and the signs of His coming and the end of the age.

But having given them the signs of His coming and the end of the age, He of course deals with the great tribulation period that is coming. A time of great trouble, He said, such as the world has never seen before or will ever see again. That's what we've been reading about here in Revelation. Since we got into chapter six, we've been reading about this time of great tribulation such as the world has never seen before or will ever

see again. And having given these signs to His apostles, He then said, Now “learn a parable of a fig tree. When it is yet tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is nigh and even know that My coming is at the door” (Matthew 24:32-33).

Throughout the Old Testament, the nation of Israel in an allegory was likened unto a fig tree. The fig tree was sort of scripturally a symbol of the nation of Israel. And Jesus is saying, When you see the fig tree begin to bud forth and put forth its leaves, you know that summer is nigh. And of course, we have seen the birth of the nation of Israel in May of 1948, which was the sign that things are wrapping up. From that time we have been moving towards the beginning of the Great Tribulation period. And we see, as Jesus said concerning the last days, that evil days will wax worse and worse. Jesus also predicted that in this period of time, because the iniquity of the world will abound. The love of many will wax cold.

Today man has greater accessibility to filth than he has ever had in the history of man. The X-rated videos, the Internet, and all of the opportunities to fill your mind with pollution. And men are filling their minds with that pollution.

Jesus said, As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of man. We read concerning the days of Noah that everyone was doing that which was right in his own eyes. And that the imagination of man’s heart was only evil continually. And we are coming to that place again where the imagination of man’s heart is only evil continually. We’re getting into the realm of virtual reality in the computer age and all of the potential for evil that the virtual reality will bring. And so the imagination of man’s heart being only evil continually. We’ve been moving more and more in this direction. The world is on a spiral down. Evil days waxing worse and worse.

Since the birth of the nation of Israel, we’ve seen this downward spiral as the earth is getting ripe and ready for the judgment of God. How long God will let it go, I don’t know. No man knows. But I cannot conceive of God allowing it to go much further than it has already gone. I believe that as Jesus said, “When you see the fig tree begin to bud forth, know that summer is nigh. Even know that My coming is at the door.” I believe that the coming of the Lord for His church, is at the door. I believe that we’re right there.

I think that God is giving us wake up calls for those who are listening. I think that what has happened in Turkey this week is just another wake up call as the Bible tells us of the great earthquake that is coming. We’ll get that in just a few moments. That was just a localized earthquake. But imagine something like that, only of greater intensity, the whole earth shaking, the whole world shaking. All of the major cities shaken. That’s what we’re going to be reading about in a few minutes. Time has come for us to get very sincere and diligent about the things of the Lord. And so as these things are being detailed for us, the Lord speaks up and He says, “Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that is watching and he keeps his garments lest he walks naked and they see his shame.”

We are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Blessed is he who keeps his garments. Keeps his trust and faith in Jesus Christ. And so the nations are gathered together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon or Megiddo.

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done (16:17).

I believe that this is the voice of our Lord and He is announcing, This is it! The judgments are complete. The time of man’s rebellion is over. The time for the Lord to come and establish God’s kingdom upon the earth, the new earth, the new age, the time has come. It’s done. The rebellion against God, it’s over. The kingdom of darkness, it’s over. And the time has come! That glorious day!

And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great (16:18).

An earthquake, that will be unparalleled in the history of man. There have been severe earthquakes throughout history. And of course, we have just experienced this past week a very severe earthquake. There may be as many as thirty thousand people or more that have been killed in the earthquake who have not yet been uncovered. The toll is now risen to, I understand, above twelve thousand. But there are still several thousand missing and presumed to be under the rubble. But it’s just a little shaking compared with the earthquake that is coming.

The Lord said, Once again I will shake the earth so that everything that can be shaken will be shaken

and only that which cannot be shaken will be left. So violent an earthquake the whole earth going into violent shaking. The major cities of the earth. Can you imagine what this violent quaking will do to Los Angeles? We saw what happened in the Northridge earthquake. That was just a minor little tremor compared with what is coming. “An earthquake such as has never been before.”

And the great city [that would be Jerusalem] is divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came into remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away (16:19,20),

I suppose that includes Hawaii, too.

and the mountains were not found (16:20).

There will be a tremendous, cataclysmic, upheaval. As we were talking of some of the things last week, we suggested the possibility of the polar axis of the earth being shifted once again. It is interesting that the physicist estimate that somewhere around every five thousand years or so, there is a shift of the polar axis. And this they have concluded from the strata. They believe that the last polar axis shift perhaps took place around five thousand years ago, which would pretty much correlate with Noah’s flood. And that great flood could have been caused by a polar axis shift where new mountains would be thrust upward, where the ocean floors would be changed and as areas would sink, the waters would come in forcing again the great weight of the water. Forcing down the platelets and others being thrust upwards, mountains ranges being formed, the whole geographical change of the surface of the earth. “Every island fleeing away, the mountains were not found, the cities are leveled.”

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent (16:21):

A Roman talent was about fifty pounds. Talent in Israel was about a hundred and ten pounds. I was in Fort Collins addressing our tank troops up there a few years ago and as I was speaking, this thunderhead came over and hailstones began to fall just a little smaller than golf balls. In about twenty minutes of time there was about six inches of hailstones all over the field. When the hail started to fall, we started to seek cover. We jumped into the tanks and the armored personnel carriers there and we crowded in and listened to that hail just pound on the metal of the tanks. It was something fierce. Of course, the cars that were out there ended up dimpled.

But can you imagine hailstones of say, eighty, ninety pounds? They’d come right through the roof. They would level this place. There’s no roof that could stand up to that kind of assault. “There fell upon man the great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent,” and men fell on their knees and cried out to God for mercy. No! You would think so, wouldn’t you? You’d think that they’d be saying “Uncle” about now. But instead,

men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great (16:21).

What will it take to turn a person’s heart from their sin? There is an interesting passage of Scripture that says, Know ye not that it is the goodness of God that leads a man to repentance? As the Book of Hebrews speaks of the hardness of the impenitent heart, it’s only reserving or building up for the day of judgment that is coming. How important though that we realize that the Lord is coming for those that are ready. He likens His coming to a wedding where the virgins have gathered with the bride and they’re waiting for the groom to come. And it says, they all slumbered and slept.

We mentioned it this morning, in the eastern culture of those days and it has continued in some areas up to the present day but in those days, weddings were a tremendously important occasion. They lasted as a rule for a week or more where the fellows would be gathered in one house, the girls would be gathered together in another house with the bride. The fellows with the groom. They would have their gowns, they would be all set but they never knew. It was sort of a game. They never knew just when the groom was going to come. And in this game, there was always the endeavor to catch the bride and her maids by surprise. So often they would come at midnight. Or they would come at three o’clock in the morning and hopefully catch them unprepared, catch them napping. And so with the girls it was always that endeavor to be ready, to be able to get ready in a moment, to have things all set so that whenever they came they’d be ready for the groom to come.

According to the custom, before the groom would come he had to send a fellow in front of them crying

out, Behold the bridegroom cometh! Go out to meet him. And so Jesus gave the parable taking this typical wedding customs and said, "There were ten virgins, five were wise, five were foolish. And they were all slumbering and sleeping. And the cry went forth, Behold the bridegroom cometh! And so the virgins awoke and they found that some of them, five of them found that their lamps had gone out. And so they said to the wise virgins, Give us some of your oils so we can get our lamps going. And they said, We can't do that because we might not have enough for ourselves and you. You better go see if you can buy some. And while they were gone, the groom came and they that were ready, went in.

When the other virgins came back, they knocked on the door and they said, Open to us. And the Lord said, Sorry, we don't know you. And that was the custom. If the wedding party wasn't ready once they went into the wedding feast, the door was shut. It wasn't opened again to further guests.

The importance of being ready and that's the parable that Jesus used in light of His coming for His church. Back to verse fifteen. Watch for if the good man of the house had known in which hour the thief was coming, he would have been watching. Watch, keep your garments spotless from the things of the world lest you be caught unprepared for the Lord to return.

It's very serious business. We're living in the last days. Tragically, there are those that have been caught up in the worldly pressures and they're not watching. They're not ready. They'll be found naked when the Lord returns. And there are many indications that they will not be taken in the Rapture. People who have gone back to the beggarly elements of the world. Those who have been once delivered, have tasted of the things of the heavens and the gifts of God who have turned back. What a tragedy in these last days as we're coming down to the wire that there are so many people that are unprepared for the Rapture of the church. Jesus coming for His bride. God help us because when the door is shut, the only entrance will be by coming out of this Great Tribulation period. But you'll be facing a world that is experiencing the judgment of God against sin. It doesn't mean you're going to be lost forever but it means that salvation will be something extremely difficult. It will be by martyrdom at that time.

But if you don't have the strength and the grace to live for God now with the power of the Holy Spirit, how in the world do you think you'll ever have the strength to die for Him at that time? It's much easier to live for Him now rather than to count on dying for Him then. May God help us. Time is short! Let's live for Jesus Christ!

Father, we come now to the end of the judgment period. We see the nations gathered together in the Valley of Esdraelon, (Jezreel). We see man's final attempt to thwart the Kingdom of God. Men gathered together blaspheming the God of heaven. But Lord, we see You coming in power and in great glory. And we see Your kingdom coming and Your will being exercised over the earth as You reign with a rod of iron over the kingdoms of man. Lord, we ask that we will be ready and that we will be accounted worthy to escape these things that are coming upon the earth. Lord, we want to be standing in that company back in chapter five who are there before the throne of God, singing praises to the Lamb. His worthiness to take the scroll and loose the seals because He was slain and has redeemed us by His blood out of all of the nations and tribes and tongues and people. Lord, help us to realize the solemnity of these things. And may we live, Lord, a life that is pleasing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jesus said, Watch ye therefore and be ye ready for in such a time as you think not, the Son of man is coming. Again, He could come before you get up tomorrow morning. And you that are ready have been clapping. But what about the rest of you? What if He does come, are you ready? You don't know when the sound is going to go forth. Behold, the bridegroom cometh but it will be too late to put oil in your lamp at that time. For some of you the fire has gone out of your relationship. Your love has grown cold. You're in a lukewarm position. The Lord is speaking to our hearts tonight by His Spirit to get right or get left. And it's so important that we make sure that we are right and we are ready.

That's why the pastors are down here at the front of the church tonight. They're here to pray for you. If you're not certain that you're ready, they'll pray for you that God will just work in your life and help you to make that commitment to Jesus Christ this evening to live for the Lord. Surrender your life to Him fully, completely.

May the Lord be with you and watch over you and He's coming soon. It's interesting in these codes, and I don't really put much in it, but some fellow has thought that he has figured out by the Bible codes, he's

come to a date of sometime in September of this year for the coming of the Lord. Now as I say, I don't put much stock in that. Because "in such a time as you think not, the Son of man is coming." The fact that he thinks it, it sort of disqualifies that date that he has said. But I do believe He's coming soon. I do believe He could come in September or any time between now and then. We don't know but the important thing is that we're ready, whenever it happens. And may we be ready by God's grace.