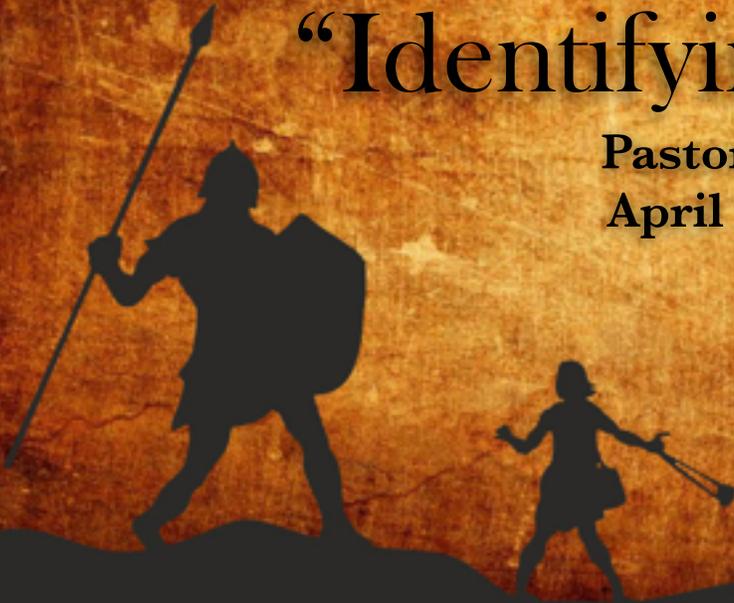


“Identifying The Giants”

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Last week learned that God raises up kings, presidents and leaders for His purpose, His Will and His timing. He also takes them out when His Will has been completed.

Daniel 2:21 AMPC

21 He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding!

Daniel 2:21 GNT

21 He controls the times and the seasons; he makes and unmakes kings; it is he who gives wisdom and understanding.

We saw how God was angry at the leadership of King Ahab over His people and his wife who was manipulating situations, people and killing off prophets.

1 Kings 16:33 AMPC

33 And Ahab made an Asherah [idolatrous symbol of the goddess Asherah]. **Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel before him.**

1 Kings 16:33 GNT

33 He also put up an image of the goddess Asherah. **He did more to arouse the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than all the kings of Israel before him.**

From wanting land that someone else had in order to plant a herb garden, Jezebel devised a plan to kill the land owner and forge signatures to get the land.

1 Kings 21:1-19 AMPC

1 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, close beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria; and after these things,

2 Ahab said to Naboth, Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near my house. I will give you a better vineyard for it or, if you prefer, I will give you its worth in money.

3 Naboth said to Ahab, The Lord forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you.

4 And Ahab [already depressed by the Lord's message to him] came into his house [more] resentful and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him; for he had said, I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers. And he lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and would eat no food.

5 But Jezebel his wife came and said to him, *Why is your spirit so troubled that you eat no food?*

6 And he said to her, *Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, Give me your vineyard for money; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it. And he answered, I will not give you my vineyard.*

7 Jezebel his wife said to him, *Do you not govern Israel? Arise, eat food, and let your heart be happy. I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.*

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal and sent them to the elders and nobles who dwelt with Naboth in his city.

9 And in the letters she said, *Proclaim a fast and set Naboth up high among the people.*

10 And set two men, base fellows, before him, and let them bear witness against him, saying, *You cursed and renounced God and the king. Then carry him out and stone him to death.*

11 And the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who dwelt there, did as Jezebel had directed in the letters sent them.

12 They proclaimed a fast and set Naboth on high among the people.

13 Two base fellows came in and sat opposite him and they charged Naboth before the people, saying, *Naboth cursed and renounced God and the king. Then he was carried out of the city and stoned to death.*

14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, *Naboth has been stoned and is dead.*

15 Then Jezebel said to Ahab, *Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite which he refused to sell you, for Naboth is not alive, but dead.*

16 When Ahab heard that, he arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite to take possession of it.

*17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,
18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel in Samaria. He is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to possess it.*

19 Say to him, Thus says the Lord: Have you killed and also taken possession? Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your blood, even yours.



Just as a reminder, King Jehoshaphat, he was the king of Judah while King Ahab was over Samaria. King Jehoshaphat who was related by marriage to King Ahab was asked to go to war by King Ahab but he wanted more information before he would go forward.

King Ahab offered the administrations prophets for confirmation of what he wanted to do, the tickling ear prophets, the ones who told King Ahab what he wanted to hear so they would get paid.

2 Chronicles 18:1-5 AMPC

1 Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, but was allied [by marriage] with Ahab.

2 After some years he went down to Ahab in Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance and for the people with him and persuaded him to go up with him against Ramoth-gilead.

3 Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead? He answered, I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will be with you in the war.

4 And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, Inquire first, I pray you, for the word of the Lord today.

5 So King [Ahab] of Israel gathered together the prophets, 400 men, and said to them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up, for God will deliver it into the king's hand.

King Jehoshaphat recognized this and said, isn't there a true prophet that will speak God's Words? Isn't there one that doesn't care if he is liked or gets paid by you? King Ahab responded, "Yes, but he's in prison because I don't like what he says..."

2 Chronicles 18:6-8 AMPC

6 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not another prophet of the Lord here by whom we may inquire?

7 King [Ahab] of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, There is another man, Micaiah son of Imla, by whom we may inquire of the Lord, **but I hate him, for he never has prophesied good for me, but always evil.** And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

8 And King [Ahab] of Israel called for one of his officers and said, Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imla.

As Micaiah tells what God has given him, the bible said that God was so angry that He asked the angels who wants to take King Ahab out and how will you do it? The angel went down to deceive them into doing what God wanted them to do.

2 Chronicles 18:18-19 AMPC

18 [Micaiah] said, Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host (angels) of heaven standing at His right hand and His left.

19 And the Lord said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said this thing, and another that.

20 Then there came a spirit and stood before the Lord and said, I will entice him. The Lord said to him, By what means?

21 And he said, I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets. And the Lord said, You shall entice him and also succeed. Go forth and do so.

22 Now, you see, the Lord put a lying spirit in the mouths of your prophets; and the Lord has spoken evil concerning you.

23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and smote Micaiah upon the cheek and said, Which way went the Spirit of the Lord from me to speak to you?

There are and will be more people to come in high places or despotisms at the “Time Of The End” who will be liars, deceivers, who will be out for their own lusts of the flesh. Money, greed, sexual immorality, false teachers doing anything and everything to get what they want so you and I, followers and imitators of Christ need to put on the whole armor of God to withstand the wickedness in high places.

We read in Revelation last week that God will even make the 10 kings who will be led by the anti-christ do His Will in order for His Word to be accomplished.

Revelation 17:16-17 AMPC

16 And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will [be the very ones to] hate the harlot (the idolatrous woman); they will make her cheerless (bereaved, desolate), and they will strip her and eat up her flesh and utterly consume her with fire.

17 For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His own purpose by acting in harmony in surrendering their royal power and authority to the beast, until the prophetic words (intentions and promises) of God shall be fulfilled.

The born again, spirit filled, imitator and follower of Jesus Christ needs to be obedient to God's Word and put on the whole armor every day.

Ephesians 6:11-13 AMPC

11 Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

*12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the **despotisms**, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of **wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.***

*13 Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to **resist and stand your ground** on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].*

Despotism defined:

noun, the exercise of absolute power, especially in a cruel and oppressive way: A country or political system where the ruler holds absolute power. Authority unlimited and uncontrolled by men, constitution or laws, and depending alone on the will of the prince;

We are going to continue to look at this deception in high places (in all areas of society) that the bible says to look for it because it is a sign of Jesus return as well. God doesn't want us to get duped, be led astray into false teaching, lose hope etc.

In 1 Thessalonians which is broken down into 5 chapters, Paul wrote about the return of Jesus Christ. In 2 Thessalonians he does a follow up letter because someone has forged a letter in Paul's name. The letter said that the return of the Lord (Jesus) has happened and you missed it. "The Church" is very upset so Paul has to write a letter and correct it.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 KJV

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

*2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

The greek word in verse 3 for falling away is: **apostasia**. All of the bibles before the 1611 King James that were translated said, “that day shall not come except for the departing comes first and that man of sin be revealed.”

This **departing** of **falling away** from the greek word **apostasia** means: to defect from or to pull away from truth or to forsake the truth. So, the day of the Lord has to come but only after there has been defections from the truth. The rapture will happen as well, but here, Paul is addressing a false letter that was written and he is telling them of the spiritual climate of deception that will be prevalent at the “Time of the End”.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Key Word: Caught up together

The meaning: To seize or pluck up by force

The Greek translation : harpazó

Part of Speech: Verb

Definition: to seize, snatch, obtain by force, to take by an open display of force, yank out of dangers way,

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 KJV

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

In all these verses in 2 Thessalonians, this is a revelation of the anti-christ. This tells you and I, events that are going to happen before the revelation of the anti-christ. The spirit of the anti-christ is in the earth but ***the anti-christ*** is not yet revealed.

1 John 4:3 KJV

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

1 John 4:3 AMPC

3 And every spirit which does not acknowledge and confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh [but would annul, destroy, sever, disunite Him] is not of God [does not proceed from Him]. This [nonconfession] is the [spirit] of the antichrist, [of] which you heard that it was coming, and now it is already in the world.

Remember, the anti-christ is a man. All throughout the bible it says. ‘the man of sin’, ‘son of perdition’, masculine pronouns are always used when connected to the anti-christ.

But, the spirit of anti-christ is here and it existed in John's day. Remember what we just read from Paul who lived at the same time as John in 2 Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 KJV

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 AMPC

7 For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, [but it is] restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way.

This rebellion is already here. It's in people and it's in high places, in despotisms, in governments, in churches, in work places etc. Now, let's keep reading God's Word in 2 Thessalonians to see where the United States is at right now...

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10 KJV

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

*10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***

Remember, there was a lying spirit that was released with Ahab to set him up in a lie to cause him to fall...

2 Chronicles 18:20-22 KJV

20 Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, **I will entice him.** And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith?

21 And he said, **I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.** And the Lord said, **Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so.**

22 Now therefore, behold, **the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets,** and the Lord hath spoken evil against thee.

2 Chronicles 18:20-22 GNT

20 until a spirit stepped forward, approached the Lord, and said, **'I will deceive him.'** 'How?' the Lord asked. 21 The spirit replied, **'I will go and make all of Ahab's prophets tell lies.'** The Lord said, **'Go and deceive him. You will succeed.'**

22 And Micaiah concluded: "This is what has happened. **The Lord has made these prophets of yours lie to you.** But he himself has decreed that you will meet with disaster!"

Now, back to Paul's letter in 2 Thessalonians...

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 KJV

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The American people are split right down the middle and this is the church as well. There is 50% of the people who want the truth, they don't want to be lied to, they want to know the truth. The other half can see the truth but don't believe it. You can show them emails, signatures, paperwork but they will not believe the truth but instead fall for the lie.

So, what happens is this group that will not believe the truth, will take their opinions or emotions about a person or a situation and exalt that opinion or emotion about that person or situation above the truth. It is happening in all areas or spheres as Paul said it would.

So what is happening? what is happening in the world and specifically America ? why can the truth both politically, lawfully, biblically be laid out and people will look at it and can't believe it, don't want to see it for what it is - the truth ?

The bible says that in the last days, the wheat and the tare grow together. We have wheat and tares (darnel) in the church throughout America - in every church.

Matthew 13:24-30 AMPC

24 Another parable He set forth before them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

25 But while he was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed also darnel (weeds resembling wheat) among the wheat, and went on his way.

26 So when the plants sprouted and formed grain, the darnel (weeds) appeared also.

27 And the servants of the owner came to him and said, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Then how does it have darnel shoots in it?

28 He replied to them, An enemy has done this. The servants said to him, Then do you want us to go and weed them out?

29 But he said, No, lest in gathering the wild wheat (weeds resembling wheat), you root up the [true] wheat along with it.

30 Let them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the reapers, Gather the darnel first and bind it in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my granary.

Matthew 13:24-30 KJV

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

This is what is going to happen....

Hebrews 12:25-28 AMPC

25 So see to it that you do not reject Him or refuse to listen to and heed Him Who is speaking [to you now]. For if they [the Israelites] did not escape when they refused to listen and heed Him Who warned and divinely instructed them [here] on earth [revealing with heavenly warnings His will], how much less shall we escape if we reject and turn our backs on Him Who cautions and admonishes [us] from heaven?

26 Then [at Mount Sinai] His voice shook the earth, but now He has given a promise: Yet once more I will shake and make tremble not only the earth but also the [starry] heavens.

27 Now this expression, Yet once more, indicates the final removal and transformation of all [that can be] shaken—that is, of that which has been created—in order that what cannot be shaken may remain and continue.

28 Let us therefore, receiving a kingdom that is firm and stable and cannot be shaken, offer to God pleasing service and acceptable worship, with modesty and pious care and godly fear and awe;

This is important, God is telling you and I that there will be a shaking that is going to occur again at the “Time Of The End” on earth and heaven.

Is the devil doing the shaking? NO. Is the world doing the shaking? NO. It is God doing the shaking. So, why is God going to allow there to be this heavy shaking to take place at the “Time Of The End” especially right before His return?

Jesus in Matthew 13:24-26 tells us something...

Matthew 13:24-26 KJV

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

*25 But **while men slept**, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

Matthew 13:24-26 AMPC

24 Another parable He set forth before them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

*25 But **while he was sleeping**, his enemy came and sowed also darnel (weeds resembling wheat) among the wheat, and went on his way.*

26 So when the plants sprouted and formed grain, the darnel (weeds) appeared also.

In this parable, you find that the good seed is the Word of God and the field represents the world. In this passage you can also say the the good seed is the church itself, we (you and I, mimickers of Christ or imitators) are the good seed in the church with the good Word of God.

Notice, it said that men slept “**25 But while men slept**”. In the parables, there were 10 virgins who were sleeping because the Lord did not come back when they thought.

Why are we studying End Times prophecy? why do we look at current events? we are we identifying giants ? because, we don't want to get caught sleeping. There are times in the past that have caused the church to be extra awake - y2k, 9/11 and middle east wars when America was involved, but then it fades away or we go “back to sleep”.

For many christians, if it's not a presidential election year like we just had they don't even watch the news or global news. But, we are commanded to know (Matthew 24:33), especially the news about Israel - that's what we are supposed to be watching.

Remember from our previous studies that in Matthew 24 the disciples asked Jesus about the signs of His return. Jesus didn't tell them “it's none of your business” or that it was not for them to know, no! He gave them a very detailed answer; He gave them and us a command.

Matthew 24:33 KJV

*33 so, you too, when you see **all these things**, recognize that He is near, right at the door.*

The word “recognize” used in Matthew 24:33 in the original Greek is in the imperative mode (a form of a verb) which means it is a command! We are commanded by Jesus to know when His return is near.

So, what happens when you sleep in the biblical sense? Let's learn from Sampson, when he slept...

Judges 16:19-20 KJV

*19 And she **made him sleep** upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she **began to afflict him**, and his **strength went from him**.*

*20 And she said, **The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.***

Judges 16:19-20 AMPC

19 And she made Samson sleep upon her knees, and she called a man and caused him to shave off the seven braids of his head. Then she began to torment [Samson], and his strength went from him.

*20 She said, **The Philistines are upon you, Samson! And he awoke out of his sleep and said, I will go out as I have time after time and shake myself free. For Samson did not know that the Lord had departed from him.***

While he slept, the anointing was severed - no more power. He was left unaware. Jesus, over and over again said "watch and pray" or watch as well as pray. He says this in dealing with temptation and the rapture.

Mark 14:38 KJV

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Mark 14:38 AMPC

38 Keep awake and watch and pray [constantly], that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Luke 21:36 KJV

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:36 AMPC

36 Keep awake then and watch at all times [be discreet, attentive, and ready], praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.

Why does Jesus say watch? Because He knows that there will be a tendency at the “ Time Of The End” for men and women to lose faith and be weary in well doing. People will be projecting dates and times and when it doesn’t happen people will go back into their complacent state. Don’t you do that!

The bible says that while *good men slept* or while the church has been sleeping (they are the ones sewing good seed) the enemy has come in and sown a tare.

Matthew 13:24-30 KJV

25 *But while men slept, **his enemy came and sowed tares** among the wheat, and went his way.*

What is a tare? a tare is one of four types of wheat translated in many translations as *darnel*. It grows in grain fields and grows the same height as the wheat and even looks like wheat till harvest time comes. The rabbi's called it degenerate wheat and in their writings they called it bastard or illegitimate wheat.

It changes colors near harvest time, it looks like everything else around it except when it comes to harvest time, then it begins to change it's appearance.

This is what happens: The head of it begins to turn dark and there are small seeds in the tare that end up getting a fungus in the seed that is poisonous if it gets ground up with the wheat and made into dough or made into flour. The seed from this tare causes sleepiness, convulsions, nausea and death.

In the bible, the tare represents someone who is not a real follower of Christ (bad fruit), someone who claims to know the Lord but, word and deed don't line up and it also includes false teaching (half truths).

This is so important, there are people out there right now who are presenting and feeding things to christians (deceiving and false teaching), who then are eating them and it is harmful to them spiritually and in many cases causing death. There is no spiritual benefit to them whatsoever, so they are getting filled up on something that can not sustain them. It is allowing people and christians to go into lifestyles of sin (iniquity) and weighing them down so much that they are going to sleep.

It is getting so bad that they are justifying what they are doing, (sin turned to iniquity). There are tare(s) in the body of Christ and it is killing people - so how did it get there?

A watered down Word, milk only and no meat, no preaching against sin, no preaching about holiness, no praying, no fasting, no preaching about Jesus return, no preaching about “we are not promised tomorrow”. The rut and routine of going to church has set in and so has the tare.

This is in every church ! God’s people, the church has allowed what sin is and isn’t to divide us and that has spilled over into all aspects of our lives. From church, government, entertainment, schools etc. and that is why the church has allowed politics to divide us. We have allowed the fact that we are Republicans or Democrats to divide us. God’s church should not be divided but united because there is but one Word and that is the Word of Truth.

People are choosing sides when we are supposed to be on God's side which is the Word. It is impossible for a bible believing, bible speaking, Word and Deed group of believers to be divided on what is truth. That is why the bible calls one wheat and the other a tare. Everyone who goes to church is not the wheat and we just believe a little differently...The wheat believes and strives for perfecting their faith and the tare represents someone who is not a true follower of Christ (bad fruit), someone who claims to know the Lord but, word and deed don't line up and is into false teaching.

At the "End of Time", right now, there is a shaking going on and we see the division in the church that God said has to happen in order for the remnant to be identified.

Romans 11:3-5 AMPC

3 Lord, they have killed Your prophets; they have demolished Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.

4 But what is God's reply to him? I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal!

5 So too at the present time there is a remnant (a small believing minority), selected (chosen) by grace (by God's unmerited favor and graciousness).

You and I are not alone. Sometime we may feel like it because others have left the faith. They have listened to a false teacher, life's worries have over taken them, they've lost hope... but there is still a Remnant. You and I must be light in a dark place !

Biblical Definition Of, *the (a) Remnant:*

...what remains when the others have left