

Revelation 17

“The Stage is Set”

March 18th 2012

Introduction – Two places in the Scripture this morning – Ezekiel 38, mark your place then turn to Revelation 17:1-5 – have them read from there

- Ø We as many of you understand are studying through the book of Revelation
 - **And if you are some of my Wednesday Night Peeps then you know that this is not a hard book to understand**
 - Chapter One – the Vision of Jesus
 - Chapters Two-Three – The church
 - Chapters 4-22 – What happens after this, after the church
 - § Church in heaven – Chapters 4-5
 - § Tribulation on Earth – Chapters 6-18
 - § The Second Coming – Chapter 19
 - § The Millennium – Chapter 20
 - § New Heaven/New Earth – Chapter 21-22
 - § We live forever after with the Lord!

Not a hard book to understand, but sometimes a hard book to believe

- Ø because Revelation is not studying about things in the past, where we can state evidence, talk about historians that lived in Biblical times that say, hey this happened
 - prophecy is just that – prophetic, in the future
 - And so though it is not a hard book to understand, it can be a hard book to believe

But then the evening news comes on and we see situation brewing in the middle east and it is like the Bible is coming alive right before our eyes

And I said to the Wednesday Night Peeps – we need to take a one week break from Revelation sometime and look at Ezekiel 38 due to what is happening right now in the Middle East

- Ø and Pastor Rob after the service said, why don't you do that the next time you are doing the weekend services
 - and after thinking and praying – Here is what I want to do I want to take a few minutes to look at Ezekiel 38 and some current headlines to strengthen our faith, that this is not just an easy book to understand, but believe and then I want to tie it in to Revelation 17-18 and where Pastor Rob is going to be teaching this Wednesday Night
- Ø I can't wait, I can't wait for Wednesday – Mystery Babylon, Revelation 17-18 – subject is good and more interesting to me is to see Pastor Rob Salvato teach 2 full chapters in 45 minutes – I can't wait to see it done!

Ezekiel 38:1-13 – Read

- Ø We can not be sure on the exact timing of this Ezekiel 38-39 battle
 - But I believe it sets the stage for the Tribulation period
 - I believe it is this battle that brings about the chaos, and the need for not only a peace deal in the middle east, but a world leader capable to getting it done known as the Anti Christ
- Ø I believe it starts the process of turning the Jews back to God which remember is one of the purposes of the Tribulation
 - I believe it sets the stage for the seal judgments in Revelation Chapters six, and maybe even be the fulfillment of the second seal itself

Now beyond that, the reason to me we need to give this prophecy such heed – is because Ezekiel 38-39 is preceded by Ezekiel 36-37

- Ø Now that might sound anti-climactic but understand what Ezekiel 36-37 is about
 - Ezekiel 36-37 is the Vision of Dry Bones – it prophesied that there was coming a day when Israel would no longer be a nation – that would appear to be dead
 - And then after a great amount of time, God was going to bring that nation back to life again

And why I mentioned that to you, is Ezekiel 38-39 is a prophecy that your parents or grandparents saw fulfilled before their eyes

- Ø Long after Ezekiel wrote Ezekiel, Israel was destroyed as a nation
 - 70 AD – Titus Vespasian rolls into Jerusalem and conquers the city – pictures of Romans invading Israel if you can find one
 - Israel is destroyed as a nation just as Jesus said would happen.
 - And the Jews spread all over the world
- Ø In fact – more Jews living in New York city than in the Middle East at the beginning of last century
 - Their language was all but forgotten and their homeland over run by others

Scholars would look at the passages in Ezekiel 36-37 and others like it, and laugh

- Ø No nation has ever come back from extinction
 - It has never happened before, how could this be true
 - But on May 14th, 1948 – the Nation of Israel was reborn. David Ben Gurion, quoting this passage, spoke of God bringing back the bones that were dead to life

And when you look at it the passage goes even further than to speak of simply the rebirth of the nation of Israel

- Ø It speaks of fruit growing like wild in the land
 - And that too was a ridiculous prophecy when Israel first moved back in
- Ø But through rebuilding, reforestation projects
 - We see how it is today – a nation only about the size of New Jersey and yet it is the 4th largest exporter of fruit in the world

Ezekiel 36-37 was fulfilled – amazing – How did Ezekiel know???

- Ø How did he figure out something that would happen 2,500 years after he would die??

The reason is this book we have here...

- Ø is more than man's thoughts and wisdom
 - This is the Word of the Lord
 - Ezekiel 36-37 has happened, and now that it has, Ezekiel says what is coming next is Ezekiel 38-39 – where certain nations are going to come against the nation of Israel in a war, still future to you and me, but as certain to God as what we have seen already happen in the past, foretold by Ezekiel 36-37
- Ø Certain to God and we see it coming about in the news nightly...

So who are the nations involved in this battle??? – Ezekiel 38:1-6

- Ø We are first introduced to the villain, the enemy
 - It is identified as Gog of the land of Magog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal
 - Now who in the world is this???
- § And why use such weird names

The reason God had Ezekiel use such weird names is not, **(as some would think)** so you wouldn't be able to understand the passage

- Ø But that so many, for many generations would be able to understand what God was trying to say

Names change – we change the name of stuff all the time

- Ø The city of Petrograd, was renamed St. Petersburg, then it was changed to Leningrad, then they changed it back to St. Petersburg again
 - Byzantium changed to Constantinople, now its known as Istanbul
 - Who knows what the artists formally known as Prince is named now – [picture of The Artist Prince](#)

We change the name of things

- Ø but we don't change the name of our ancestors
 - and so the Lord here in Ezekiel is using ancient names for nations and people we will know in the end times – Genesis 10 – the Table of nations
- Ø So who is Gog, Magog, Meshech, and Tubal
 - One of the world's earliest historian – Hesiod – identifies Magog as the father of the Scythians
 - Josephus – a Jewish Historian living around the time of Christ, [backs this up](#) as he writes..

[“Magog founded the Magogians, who were by the Greeks called Scythians. Who settled north of the Caucasus Mountains” - Flavius, Josephus: "Jewish Antiquities", book 1 chapter 6 page 123](#)

- Ø Encyclopedia Britannica refers to the Scythians as the forbearers of the Russian people
 - North of the Caucasus mountains is the area known today as Russia

[The Great Wall of China was once called – ‘Sud Yagog et Mog’ – the rampart of Gog and Magog – it was built to keep those from Magog out.](#)

- Ø Later in the passage we are studying, it will refer to these people as those who are from the far north
 - Now if you take a ruler and look far north of Israel, you don't come to Europe or South America – you end up in the former Soviet Union

Other evidence comes from the words – Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal

- Ø [“Rosh” – from the same root as Rus \(also spelled Ros\) which is the name of the indigenous Slavs of the southern part of what is today Russia – in fact Russia took her name from this root \(Ros\)](#)
- Ø The tribes of Meshech and Tubal eventually settle in what is today Turkey, but their some of them settled and gave their name to major Russian cities of Moscow and Tubolsk

The Best scholarship points to Magog being what is now known as Russia

- Ø This is not a new interpretation of this passage
 - Walter Scott wrote in 1888..

[“Russia is evidently destined to become the master of Asia, her frontier line will grow to 5,000 miles in length. It would seem as though the Russian policy will be one of steady aggression, not only in Europe but also in Asia. She will become the most ambitious and grasping of modern kingdoms, the most faithless of in public honor and treaty engagements. This is the character described to her in these prophetic scriptures! Coupled with her frequent outbreaks of undisputed and disastrous hostility to the things of God and in the more awful future exhibit, Russia is cast in a most unfavorable light scripturally.” – Walter Scott 1888](#)

- Ø These things were written not by Ronald Reagan in the 1980's, but by Walter Scott in the 1880's when Russia was a farming power in the north parts of Asia.
 - So I believe we are on solid ground to interpret Magog to be what is today Russia

And the Bible says that this nation will be drawn into a conflict with Israel

- Ø They come to battle for a reason, they will be drawn into it
 - As Ezekiel says, [“they will have hooks in their jaws”](#) – Keep that in mind, we will come back to that

- Ø But I want you to understand – they are coming!
 - And I also want you to see they are not coming alone

Verse 5 – 6

- Ø We will not go into as much detail with the supporting cast of nations
 - If you are interested – Joel Rosenberg has a book called Epicenter – this is a well researched and documented book – picture of the book

So who are these other nations?

Ø Persia = Iran

- Iran was called Persia well into last century
- Not until WWII was it known as Iran officially
 - § Easy enough

Ø Cush or your Bible might say “Ethiopia” = Sudan

- Cush was known as the region settled south of Egypt what is now Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia
- I find the Sudan part of that area very interesting

Ø Put = Libya as it is in some translations

- The area settled in North Africa
- Libya is a good translation for today

Ø Gomer = a nation in Eastern Europe

- Babylonian Talmud states Gomer is the father of those in Germania

Not in the sense of this Germany – but that group of people who used to make up the Germanic Tribes

- Ø A nation somewhere in Eastern Europe

Togarmah = Turkey

- Ø Armenians still refer to themselves as “the house of Togarmah”
 - These Old tribes settled in what is today Turkey
 - Which is also probably the best historical understanding to Meshech and Tubal as well

Nations involved in Ezekiel 38-39 War

Russia

Iran

Sudan

Libya

Turkey

So we have Iran, Sudan or one those nations directly south of Egypt, Libya, an Eastern European or Baltic nation, as well as Turkey led by mother Russia in an invasion of poor little Israel –

- Ø What is amazing to me is that this is a genuine Islamic coalition
 - Now this becomes even more staggering when you realize Ezekiel was written thousands of years before Islam even existed as a unifying force for these nations –
- Ø Yet God looks in advance and sees a time in history when these nations would have one common theme, the religion of Islam and hatred of Israel

Nations not involved in Ezekiel 38-39 War – Ezekiel 38:7-13

Egypt

Jordan

Babylon or Iraq

Saudi Arabia

Tarshish = Western Europe

Tarshish’s Young Lions = The United States, Canada, Australia???

Notice even deeper to who is not involved

Ø Egypt and Jordan are not involved

- Now 50 years ago they were sworn enemies of Israel
- Only now – Egypt and Jordan have non aggression packs with each other
- Only in this time in history is it set up this way

Also another great power in Ezekiel day, the nation of Babylon

Ø How come they are not mentioned

- Babylon becomes the nation that is today Iraq – I remember teaching this study years ago and telling people something must happen to Iraq before this can happen, because if a bunch of nations invade Israel they would be first in line

Ø God looks into the future and sees a time when Iraq is taken out of the picture of middle East power

- That time is uniquely right now

Sheba and Dedan – is what is today Saudi Arabia

Ø one of the only friendly nations to the west in the Middle East

- again that was not so not too long ago
- only now in this time in history is this so
- the puzzle is coming together

Tarshish was known in the Ancient world to be an excellent source of Tin

Ø it was also written to be in the direction beyond what is today Spain

- so that leads most Bible scholars to agree the Tarshish is the old Testament name for Western Europe

Ø And what I find so interesting about that is if that be so, then who would the young offspring of Western Europe be - Well it would be our country, Canada, Australia, the nations currently making up the rest of the Western Powers to an Eastern Mind

So you have nations involved in this battle

Nations involved...

Russia

Iran

Sudan

Libya

Turkey

And you have the nations not involved in the region, and sitting on the sidelines outside of region

Nations not involved...

Egypt

Jordan

Babylon or Iraq

Saudi Arabia

Tarshish = Western Europe

Tarshish's Young Lions = The United States, Canada, Australia???

Really Jason, you really believe this..

Ø Well as said at the start of our study

- Ezekiel 38-39 is preceded by Ezekiel 36-37, where Ezekiel says Israel would cease to be a nation and then come back as a nation
- And Ezekiel 36-37 was seen as ridiculous to the Jews in the first century until Rome destroyed them in 70 AD

- Ø And for almost 2,000 years after that, the idea that Israel would once again have a homeland was seen as equally ridiculous – but that is how we stand today
- Ø So because we have seen Ezekiel 36-37 fulfilled literally, I believe we will see Ezekiel 38-39 fulfilled just as literally someday soon on the horizon
 - And it is not just the literal fulfillment of Ezekiel 36-37 that makes me believe that
 - It is also paying attention to the Nightly News

As many of you know - Iran is on crash program to develop nuclear weapons, but it is coming out that it is Russia that is providing the technology and the fuel cells, in fact in the last six months they have provided to shipments of nuclear fuel to Iran

- Ø Iran defense minister – Mustafa Mohammad Najjar, announced on Iranian TV last December that “Russia would provide with the powerful and sophisticated S-300 anti-aircraft missile defense system – for 700 million dollars” – Iranian Defense Minister Mustafa Mohammad Najjar – December 2011

This will vastly improve the Islamic world’s ability to protect its nuclear development facilities

- Ø The missiles can intercept targets at an altitude of 90,000 feet at ranges of 95 miles out
 - They are effective against cruise missiles, and equivalent to the patriot missiles we have currently

Eten Bena Yohu – former Israel air force commander – “The 700 million dollar purchase makes our ability to take out the Iran facilities a very difficult task, even our aircraft not participating in the battle could be targeted and destroyed” – Eten Bena Yohu (former Israeli air force commander)

We see the partnership between Russia and Iran strengthening..

Time – December 2011

“MOSCOW - Russia's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday criticized the United States for what it called over-reliance on force and warned Washington against military action against Iran.”

Former Prime Minister, now newly president again Vladimir Putin said - “Russia has always been the most faithful, reliable and consistent defender of the interests of the Islamic world. We are a friend and a defender of Islam”

- Ø Russia sent this year alone 300 long range missiles to Iran capable of carrying a nuclear warhead

And of course you have been paying attention to the news

- Ø As Iran gets closer and closer to getting nuclear missiles, Israel is saying they for their own national safety will not let that happen
 - And no matter how many European nations or even the United States warn them not to proceed, on Wednesday Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said in a speech to the Knesset

“Israel has never left its fate in the hands of others, not even in the hands of our best friends,” – Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said in a speech that focused on the Iranian threat and drew a direct line from Tehran to the events earlier this week in Gaza. – Jerusalem Post March 14th 2012

And if that wasn’t enough reason for maybe Russia to be drawn into a conflict with Israel it really doesn’t want, if being drawn because Israel bombs Iran, a friend of Russia, maybe it will be this story I ran across this week on Fox news

Read Highlighted parts of the article

“Finally, both Iran and Russia which has surged over the last decade to become the world's leading exporter of natural gas have also taken note of the potential geopolitical shifts that these gas discoveries could bring about. It is, in short, a situation rife with both economic promise and the potential for military peril.” – Fox News March 10th 2012

The relations between Russia and Sudan are strengthening..

“Russia inked a \$200 million deal Jan. 15 to develop untapped oil fields in central Sudan. The agreement is part of an emerging relationship between the two countries that will increase Russia's influence in the continent and strengthen Sudan's domestic arms industry.” – Start for News – January 22nd

The relations between Russia and Libya are strengthening...

“Russia has agreed to cancel \$4.5bn (£2.3bn) of Libyan debt in exchange for major contracts for Russian firms.” – BBC News April 2009

And we see things coming together for Turkey as well..

Turkey which has been trying for years to become less part of the middle east has been denied again access to the European Union and who is stepping in to friend them

Stratfor News May 2011 article..

“Russian President Dmitri Medvedev reportedly will travel to Turkey in the near future to follow up a recent four-day visit by his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gul, to Moscow. The Turks and the Russians certainly have much to discuss. Russia is moving aggressively to extend its influence throughout the former Soviet empire, while Turkey is rousing itself from 90 years of post-Ottoman isolation.” – Stratfor News May 2011

So the nations involved seem to be coming together in the news everyday

- Ø And I believe the conditions of the nations not involved have ripened to the point where this scenario is possible today as well
 - We have already talked about how Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan have non aggression packs with Israel – not true 50 years ago, true today
 - We have already talked about how Babylon – the bad boy on the block in Ezekiel's day and definitely no friend of Israel then or 10 years ago, today is out of the picture just like Ezekiel saw

But what about Western Europe, What about America

- Ø Would we really stand on the sidelines and not get involved if a group of nations came to invade Israel
 - Our President says we will and I hope we do
 - But either due to our economic status, or war weariness or political temperature, I wonder if we won't just sit back as Ezekiel says and say “why are you doing this Russia, what are you doing Iran as it says we will do in verse 13

I say all of this to get you to see when we deal with prophecy, when we deal with Revelation it is easy to understand, follow the outline, and it is easy to believe because we see the stage being set right in front of us every day

- Ø but the question is and how I want to tie this into what Pastor Rob will be talking about on Wednesday, is what do we do in our lives about this

- You see I believe Bible study should not be simply academic – oh Magog, and Persian, interesting..
- I think it should change our lives - why

Pastor Rob on Wednesday Night is going to be talking about Mystery Babylon

- Ø mystery Babylon is the foundation for every false religion and problems in religious centers we see today
 - Mystery Babylon is the foundation for religion
 - Not “religion” in the good connotation of the word
 - But the literal meaning
- Ø **“religion” – literally means to bind up**
 - Jesus said, I have come to set you free

In fact every place the word religion is used in the Scripture with the exception of one verse, it is used in a negative light

In Chapter 17 Pastor Rob is going to show us how the Lord is going to deal with the religious systems of the world

- Ø it is about the destruction of mystery Babylon
 - really the foundation of all religious systems in the world today

In reality to understand this properly, you need to understand the Bible is the tale of two cities in the Bible

- Ø one is the city of Jerusalem – the city of the Lord
- Ø and then there is Babylon – the city of man

Babylon has its beginning in Genesis chapters 10-11

- Ø it was begun by a man by the name of Nimrod – his name means rebel and that was what He was
 - Nimrod makes his way to Babylon in what is today 50 miles south of Bagdad – he founds a city – **“Babylon = gateway to God”** – this is the way to God

Under Nimrod’s leading, man was going to find his own way to God by building a ziggurat, not a stairway to heaven like we think, but a temple

- Ø this ziggurat was a temple and you would walk up and look into the heavens and based on the position of the stars you would determine your life, the direction you were going
 - Not by prayer or by faith, but by climbing the stairs and reading the heavens
- Ø It was the beginning of man’s false way to reach God in the heavens

This was all a terrible perversion of how God laid out to reach Him, it’s a counterfeit religion

- Ø Well, the plot thickens, Nimrod is killed tradition says by a wild boar
 - and his wife SEMIRAMIS does not eat or drink a thing for 40 days she is so heart broken of this guy who was starting a city and building a tower
 - then at the end of 40 days she finds out she has been impregnated by the Spirit of Nimrod, the Spirit of the father, birthing a son who was the incarnation of the Father
- Ø the son’s name was Tammuz – he is a chip off the old block, capturing the attention of the people around him
 - but then in his early 30’s he too dies, he dies in December, the 22nd day of December in an accident, but then behold miracle of miracles – 3 days later he comes back to life again
- Ø and in celebration of this, they do some things – they put a Yule log in the fire and it would burn until the 25th day of December, then the Yule log of the son, now burned

in the fire was replaced by an evergreen tree - to celebrate – this guy who was the incarnation of His father who was dead is back again

Now you say – where do you get all of that?

- Ø Alexander Hislop – The Two Babylons – has the documentation
 - But also we see in the Bible
- Ø Tammuz and the worship of him is described in Ezekiel chapter 8, verse 14 and the description of what they would do is found in Jeremiah 10

“Thus says the Lord: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers, So that it will not topple.” – Jeremiah 10:2-4

Now don't misunderstand me this morning

- Ø I am not saying don't have Christmas trees and Yule logs just because some of what we do at Christmas time and Easter has nothing to do with Jesus or the Bible
 - I have a Christmas tree because it makes my house smell good
 - And I celebrate those holidays with all I am because in my culture no one is thinking about SEMIRAMIS or Tammuz
 - They are thinking about Christ and I want to direct those thoughts toward the God of the Bible in anyway I can with every opportunity I can
- Ø But my point is this...
 - This ancient mystery Babylon, there is an uncanny parallel to real faith, as if someone inspired them and then twisted them

We see this everywhere in pagan culture

In the Canaanite culture the primary goddess was Ashtoreth, another name for SEMIRAMIS and her son Tammuz was known by the Canaanites as Baal

In Roman culture it was Venus and Cupid

In the Greek culture it was Eros and Aphrodite

In the Egyptian culture it was Isis and Horace

Every where we look we see this joining of a mother and her son, a goddess and her son who would die and raise again

- Ø and this was happening in ancient culture, even long before Jesus
 - are you saying Jesus was a made up story
 - no – not in anyway

What I am saying is the plan of our enemy is always to counterfeit

- Ø The Mark of God versus the Mark of the Beast
 - The Trinity versus Satan, Antichrist and false prophet
 - Intimacy in marriage versus fornication and pornography
- Ø Empowered by the Spirit, versus alcohol, the world call them spirits, because why, they can turn you into a different man or woman
 - The enemy is into counterfeits

And what I am suggesting to you is Satan understood since the garden of Eden something theologians call the protoevangelicum – a fancy word that just means the plan of Salvation

From the moment Satan was told about the seed of the woman there in Genesis 3:15, the minute he was told that this seed of the woman would crush his head

- Ø Satan knew enough of the Scriptures and the plan of salvation to come up with a substitute, with a counterfeit
 - And the cultures of the world have bought in

And my point is not to give you a history lesson on Pagan beliefs and cultures but to get you to see Mystery Babylon looks a lot like the real thing

- Ø and its not just one religion, there are many harlots, Revelation 17:5 says
- Ø Falsity, counterfeit faith finds its way into the Catholic church, the Lutheran church, the Baptist church, the Presbyterians, the Methodist and even the Calvary Chapelites
 - Jesus said, the Kingdom of God would grow, sometimes abnormally and the birds of the air, which in Jesus' parables were never good, those birds would come and rest in the branches of the tree, real Bible believing churches

So whether it is Catholics or the Protestants, or the Calvary Chapelites – Look I have been part of this movement for over 20 years, there are some birds in this tree to let me tell you

- Ø There are things people call faith, things church goes do that make them believe they are okay, it looks genuine, it looks real, but its not
 - And that is why because the stage is set for the end time to begin
 - Because I believe we are living in the last generation - We must make sure we are not part of this mystery Babylon that looks real, feels real, but is not real faith

How will I know???

- Ø What do we do to make sure we are not part of mystery Babylon, the imitation, the substitute
 - Well, there is once place is Scripture religion is talked about in a positive light

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” - James 1:27

- Ø Oh James.... Oh practical James who just tells you like it is – we should do James sometimes, I like every book, I don't know which one I would say, I don't like that book
 - James says – unlike Mystery Babylon that we will look at on Wednesday Night – the counterfeit religion, you real, true genuine believers what do you do??
 - Not what are saved by, but what do you do because you are saved

Pure and undefiled religion is this

- Ø Love people – especially the hurting
 - And Keep yourself from being unspotted by the world - I love it
 - It is so sweet, real faith is real simple – take care of kids, be nice to widows, help people especially those who are hurting - just love them
- Ø And don't get sucked into the world – there is a better way to live – don't go into the worldly system
 - In fact more than that – not just don't go into the world system, we all would say, well I am not the world
- Ø That is not what James says, he says don't even let spot you – you know I am always spilling stuff on my shirt, now I'm never wearing an egg burrito, that would be silly - but I am often spotted by one

That is not a real problem with egg burritos, but with the world

- Ø Don't let it spot you precious ones, don't let it corrupt you, NLT, don't let is stain you, ESV, don't let is pollute you, NIV

How I pray, that in these very last days we will see a group of people like you, your number increasing exponentially who break away from religiosity, from any other identity other than Jesus Christ,

- Ø who go around loving people who are hurting, putting time and treasure into people
 - and staying away from the world's stuff – not letting it shape your morals, your thoughts, your priorities
 - those things are what has the world's heart – I want God to have my heart – we are called into a different mentality –
 - I don't care who says what – if its not right, its not right – if it doesn't build me up and edify
- Ø its about loving people and not compromising

We are in the last days – get ready, I want to see another Jesus people movement – the stage is set

- Ø so instead of Mystery Babylon, that looks like faith, looks like real genuine Christianity, but there is nothing there
 - you, you precious ones – your homework is real simple – real important soul searching
 - Do I love people, do I care about hurting people
 - Am I keeping myself, unspotted, unstained by the world?
- Ø If not, this is why we gather here – it is time to do business with God – the time is short, the stage is set, lets be real!