JESUS IS COMING...

ANY DAY NOW

AMIR TSARFATI



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Copyright © 2020 by Amir Tsarfati Published by Harvest House Publishers Eugene, Oregon 97408 www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-8670-0 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7369-8667-0 (eBook)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022931417

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Printed in the United States of America

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 / BP / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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ANY DAY NOW

any mornings I'll wake up, pour myself a cup of coffee, then take my Bible out to my back porch. As I settle into a cushioned chair, I'll take in the beautiful scene below me. Stretched out for miles is fertile land colored by whatever bountiful crop has been sown in it. Often there is a light breeze that the predatory birds take full advantage of as they hunt their scurrying prey. Taking in this beauty, my first thought is often, *Coffee is the greatest proof that there is a Creator God*. But my second thought is how unbelievable it is that conceivably in less than a decade or two that whole valley below me will be filling up with the armies of many nations. These armies will unite to march south to destroy the city of Jerusalem.

You see, that beautiful panorama below my back-yard is the Jezreel Valley, also known as the Valley of Megiddo, also known as the Valley of Armageddon. If I see those armies gathering together, that will alert me to the following: First, I know that Israel has already endured a devastating attack—likely nuclear in nature. I know that a great world leader has arisen, uniting the nations of the world. I know that earthquakes and famines and other natural disasters have devastated the earth. I know that in Jerusalem a new temple has been built. And I know that the Mount of Olives is ready to feel the feet of the returning Savior, who will come as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

I also know that I will not be around to see any of this taking place. If those armies are down there, then I'm not up here—sipping on my coffee, enjoying the view. I'll already be in heaven. I'll be in the presence of my Savior, having been snatched up by Him seven years previously. And I'll be preparing to return with Him to this earth one more time. So, if you're planning on still being around at the end of the great tribulation, I'll leave the keys under the front mat for you—it should be quite a view.

God is working out His plan. There will soon be a day when the church is taken up to meet Jesus in the air. There will come a time when God disciplines the people of Israel in a way that ultimately leads to their repentance. And there will come a day when those who have rejected the free gift of God's salvation will suffer His wrath because of their sins.

The *what* of this coming day isn't the primary question of this book. I dealt with the rapture and the Antichrist in great detail in my previous book, *The Last Hour*. While we will deal with some of the events of the tribulation in *The Day Approaching*, our main focus here will be on the *when*.

Now, it's time for me to come 100 percent clean with you. I have no clue as to the day and time of Christ's return. But I'm in good company. No person knows the day and time. The angels don't know. Not even the Son of God Himself knows. Jesus said, "Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matthew 24:36). The Father has got the timing planned out to the minute, but He's keeping His cards close to His chest. What I can tell you is that as I look at the events unfolding in the world around us, I firmly believe that the day of Jesus' return is rapidly approaching.

I don't know about you, but I can't wait for that day when I see Jesus. I think about it. I imagine what

it will be like. I study the Scriptures to learn all I can about it. This longing to see my Savior is not only in my heart, but also on my lips. I believe that we should proclaim our desire for Jesus to come. The apostle John wrote in the book of Revelation, "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!'" (22:17). John himself expressed his own desire when he said, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (verse 20). Have you asked Jesus to come? Have you expressed to Him your excitement at seeing Him and your desire to be with Him forever? Have you ever taken a moment to close your eyes and picture what it will be like?

Imagine sitting around the dinner table with your family. You're about to take your first bite of your wife's wonderful spaghetti bolognese when you feel something happening—a tingling, a lightness—and suddenly, you are airborne. As you and your family shoot upward, you barely have time to see the look of wonder on their faces when another face catches your full attention. You recognize it immediately, even though you've never seen it before. It is the face of Jesus in all His glory and majesty. All the pains, fears, worries, and sorrows of the world are left behind in your recently departed dining room. Only

joy, peace, and happiness await you as you enter into eternity.

This is the rapture. It is not just a story. It is not a feel-good religious fairy tale. It is an actual event that will take place in real time in the real world. I must admit that as I travel around the globe, I am amazed at how many people in the churches that I visit don't believe in the rapture. Others, more than not believing in it, are hostile to the whole idea. They don't even want to hear it mentioned.

I was speaking to a pastor friend of mine not long ago who told me that rather than looking forward to the advent of Christ's rule on earth, he believes we are now living in the kingdom of God. He says that all the events described in Revelation took place by AD 70. When Rome destroyed the temple and slaughtered thousands of Jews, the wrath of God was sated. No more need for judgment; no more need for hell. Our satisfied Lord will eventually save everyone. I was shocked to hear the extent of this pastor's deception.

We are living in a time of great anticipation surrounding the soon return of Christ, but it is also a time of great apostasy. Many antichrists exist in the world, both outside of the church and inside. As

believers, we must know the truth of God's plan for mankind and how we fit into it. It is out of this knowledge that we find our mission and our hope.

God Wants You to Know His Plan

The title of this chapter is "Any Day Now." If you have ever been on a tour with me, you will recognize this phrase immediately. I say these words probably 50 times a day to those who are casually finishing their cup of coffee or browsing for their next olive wood purchase while everyone else is waiting for them on the bus. It is often accompanied by an eyeroll or a wave of my watch. If these stragglers would have taken the time to look around, they would realize that they were the only members of the tour who weren't with the rest of the group.

If we take the time to look around us, we can't help but realize that there is a strong sense of Any Day Now in the world. It is so obvious to me, and I'm not the only one who feels it. In early 2017, the number of Google searches for "World War 3" hit its highest level ever. What precipitated this spike? The combination of President Donald Trump's escalation of activities in Syria and his dealings with North Korea. Both of these situations have calmed since

that moment of national panic, but there is still a sense that something significant is going on. Within us is a built-in curiosity about what is going to happen in the future, and a sense that the way the world is now must eventually come to an end.

Much of this curiosity stems from a fear of the unknown. Newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels are constantly bombarding readers and viewers with why they should be terrified if the US president does this or Iran does that or North Korea does something. Not long ago, a headline in The Telegraph read "World 'on the brink of thermo-nuclear war', as North Korea mulls test that could goad Trump." Try getting a good night's sleep after reading that. People accuse Christians and the Bible of being doomsayers, but it's actually the media who are the doomsayers. In contrast, it's Christ and the Bible that give hope. It's Christ and the Bible that say, "Yes, eventually this world is going to blow apart. But let Me tell you how you can ensure yourself a flight out of here before it happens."

God wants you to know His plans—His plans for the world, for Israel, for the church, and for you. Are you interested in knowing the future? Then you need to go to the One who laid it out. He's already