

The Message Notes

Series: *The Awakening*

Message: Understanding Current Events



TEXT: Romans 13:11. This is all the **more urgent**, for you to know how late it is; **time is running out.** **Wake up**, for our **salvation** is nearer now than when we first believed. (NLT)

Previous Messages:

1. **Who does God use?** God uses Christ followers who are receptive, responsive, and ready.
2. **The Awakening** – to become **spiritually aware** of our relationship with God and to **discern** the signs of the time, so we can know the best course to take. Reference: 1 Chronicles 12:32, Matthew 13:11
3. **Personal Awakening** – We're **awaken** to our **spiritual state** before God and **repent** to become **receptive**, **responsive**, and **ready** to obey God's **calling** upon our lives.

TALK: Understanding our Current Events

1. _____ events: All-natural events of this world are influenced by the heavenly realms.

I John 5:19. We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the **control** of the **evil one**. (NLT) References: Ephesians 2:2, Matthew 16:22-23, John 13:26-27

James 4:7. So, **humble** yourselves before God. **Resist** the devil and he will **flee** from you. (NLT)

2. _____ timing: God's time is based on **events** and **seasons**
- What critical time are we looking for? Christ's return

Jesus said, "So, when all these things begin to happen, **stand and look up**, for your **salvation is near!**" (Luke 21:28 NLT)

Jesus said, "You know the saying, 'Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.' You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don't know how to interpret the **signs of the times!**" (Matthew 16:2-3 NLT)

Jesus said, “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. **Keep alert** at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:34-36 NLT)

3. _____ of current events: What is **spiritually** going on **behind** our current events?

Romans 1:21. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to **think up** foolish ideas of what God was like (**Defiled Worship**). As a result, their minds became dark and confused. (**Distorted Beliefs**) **22.** Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. **23.** And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. **24.** So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desires. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies (**Degraded Behavior**).

- **Defiled Worship** – Heretic prayer (Numbers 6:24) to the monotheistic God, Brahma, God known by many names and many different faiths – Amen and Awoman - **Exodus 20:3.** “You must not have any other god but me.” (NLT)
- **Distorted Beliefs** – House introduces gender-neutral language in new rules for congress - **Genesis 1:27.** So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; **male** and **female** he created them. (NLT)
- **Degraded Behavior** – Trump says, “You don’t concede – pride and haughtiness – produces revolting crowds.” - **Proverbs 16:18.** Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall. (NLT)
- **Church “Identity Culture”** – We identify with the culture by organizing our beliefs in Christ around our race, politics, social activism, etc., so we can be culturally relevant.

I Peter 2:9. But you are not like that, (unbelievers), for you are a **chosen** people. You are **royal priests**, a **holy nation (race/ethnicity)**, God’s very **own possession**. As a result, you can show others the **goodness** of God, for he **called** you out of the **darkness** into his **wonderful light**. (NLT)

TAKEAWAY:

1. Discern the events of our times spiritually, not culturally
2. Worship of God corrects our beliefs and behavior
3. Church is called to be God’s own nation, race, and witness