

Refrigerator Notes 06 December 2015
Part II Is Hell About to Burst Through
'God Amazing Promise of His Love'
Luke 21 25-38

1. Last week, we were reminded by the text that the end is near, but the signs man seeks, in the heavenly bodies being shaken, has not occurred
2. We were also reminded that heaven and earth will pass away, but the words of our Lord Jesus will never pass away
3. Yet, in this Advent season, while we wait on the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it appears that the world has become more fearful
4. It causes one to question, 'has the world lost hope in our Lord and Savior'?
5. As we gather at the Lord's Table on this first Advent Sunday, the Sacraments remind us again, very clearly, of our scripture
6. "When you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again." We proclaim a mystery that says it is through death that God is victorious in Jesus Christ.
7. At our Lord's Table, we proclaim the past, present, and future to be in God's hands and we wait for the fulfillment of God's promise, in the coming again of Jesus Christ.
8. Our Lord's Table reminds us of another truth in life — that we do not escape life's great tribulations, just because we're Christian, nor did Jesus escape His death. God is presently, working and acting through history, through our lives, through the good, the bad, and the ugly, to bring about the redemption of the world.
9. Today, we are living in a period of time much like the days of Noah, when there was no fear of God - before men's eyes (Rom. 3 18). The unsaved know that the judgment of God is upon those who do such things as they do today, yet, they not only do evil, but they have pleasure in them that do them as well (Rom. 1 32).
10. What is even worse, if such could be the case, that the saved have no fear of God before their eyes. You do not love someone whom you do not respect. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding" (Prov. 9 10, cf. 1 7). "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil"
11. We're called into this Advent season to be enveloped by God's promise, to be alert and observant, we're called to think and feel faithfully and sacramentally, to sense the nearness of the kingdom is coming. We're called to look for the hand of God in the whole of life — in the good, the bad, and yes, even in the ugly.
12. Life without war or calamities is impossible in the natural or the supernatural realm of our worlds.
13. The Hebrew Bible uses a familiar, but significant word '*shalom*'. In its purest sense, shalom means "peace."
14. Most people in our world don't understand the concept of peace in a positive sense. All they know is the negative aspect of peace, which is merely the absence of trouble.
15. Where does a man find the kind of peace that is not just 'the absence of trouble'--the kind of peace that cannot be affected by trouble, danger, pain or sorrow? It is ironic that what is surely the most definitive discourse on peace, in all of Scripture, comes from our Lord Jesus on the night before He died in agony.
16. Our Lord knew what He would face on Calvary, yet, He still took time to comfort His disciples with the message of peace "Peace I leave with you, *My* peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." (John 14 27)
17. This peace is an objective peace, not subjected to the worries of one's situation or troubles, but a peace that sustains anyone and everyone in the face of one's fear that only the Lord can give — HIS peace!

18. We remember Jesus discussing His ministry at that last supper. A quiet, genteel affair it was, until Jesus started breaking bread and pouring out wine, talking about his broken body, and his blood flowing out.
19. Salvation, for Jesus, was never something that was going to be cheap and easy. It was bloody and painful. And the final salvation of the cosmos, likewise, will not be something clean and clinical, but is tied up with war and death and blood and pain. Just because you are saved today does not mean you will be saved tomorrow!
20. God's Amazing promise of His Peace cannot be recanted, without our Lord dying for us, there would be no Christmas or Advent Season to celebrate. In this season of Advent, receive the eternal gift of God's amazing promise of His love — the gift that keeps on giving, that can only be found in the hope, love and peace that our Lord and Savior can only give!