

22T14c rant- times

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. I'm very sorry but I have another rant today. A rant is when you speak very emotionally and emphatically about a subject. Today it's the times we live in. I have heard so much about how terrible the times we live in are. You hear pastors all over the country and world telling us it is getting worse and worse out there, Jesus is coming soon. Now I hope Jesus comes soon but are the times we live in today really that bad.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you, Lord, for all you do for us. Help us to keep our focus on you and what you want us to do. I pray we don't get discouraged by the voices and opinions around us. We feel like it's bad. But our focus should be on you Lord, not our circumstances. Help me to share the message you want me to today. And We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Let me start by reading an Old Testament passage from Genesis 15:12-21 (NIV). *¹²As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." ¹⁷When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—¹⁹the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."*

This is a story of God making His covenant with Abram. But what does God mean "*the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.*"? The Amorites had not got bad enough for God to pour His wrath on them. Our God is so patient and merciful. But the reason I read this today is this concept that it's not quite bad enough yet. If you know much about history, these peoples listed did many detestable things, including killing children as a sacrifice to false gods. These people did very very very evil things.

This story is from several thousand years ago, and it was bad then and getting worse.

So, what about this idea we are heading toward the "great tribulation" because of all the evil in the world today. Well, I agree there is evil in this world. I agree it seems to be worse than when I was a kid. But worse than what. Wars and rumors of wars. We have armed conflict in our world Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but we had armed conflict in the early 2000's post 911 with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We had wars in the 1990's, 1960's, 1950's, 1940's, 1920's. we had wars in America in the 1800's. 1700's.

We just had a pandemic but there have been many pandemics throughout history. We've had Hitler, Stalin, the Spanish inquisition, the Roman, Greek, Persian and Babylonians empires, Egypt, communist revolutions. I can go on and on and on. Every century in recorded history has had problems. And for the most part is has always been the same problem us. Our sin, our selfishness, our greed, our... you get my point. Pick a time in history, a span of more than 50 years, which was better than today.

I challenge you to find a time in history when things were better than today. Do you want to go back to the time before the internet, before mobile phones, before television, before the computer? What about before air conditioning. Before cars, before what.

We are so spoiled in our world today. In America we worry about what pronouns people use. People today believe cellphones and internet are necessities. People used to worry more about food and shelter and security more than we do today. We are a bunch of oversized, over fed, spoiled babies.

What is God to do with us? We are so scared of losing our comforts, we forget how much God has blessed us. Far and away more than all the generations before us.

So, yes, I feel like Jesus is coming back soon. I am preparing for the troubles that lie ahead of us. But, no despite my personal feelings “it’s getting worse” thought, it has got a long way to go to reach the same level of depravity we have seen in history.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father. Thank you for everything. I thank you for giving me my life. I thank you for allowing me to be born in these times. I am eager to do whatever you ask of me, Lord. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay, is it really worse than it’s ever been? Well, no. It is hard to find a decade in the past I’d rather be living in. I’m very thankful to God for the opportunity to live now where I do. So no, it is not worse than it’s ever been.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope you will join me as we study and learn about the kingdom of God.

If you liked the message, please click like. And please share the link with a friend to our channel. Send me comments to my email on the screen

until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.