

Daybreak Gathering 8/3/23

Assignment:

Calm Down, Look Up – by Pastor JD Farag

[Video to watch](#) (Begin at time 2:11)

[Transcript to read](#)

The two rapture viewpoints Pastor JD mentions in the prophecy update that are fueling a rather heated debate are between those who see the new understanding of the Feast of New Wine (summertime) as a high watch time for the rapture versus those who believe the rapture will likely be during one of the fall feasts. This isn't where we will focus with our group discussion, but if you're interested in finding out more about the Feast of New Wine, one of many teachers out there who is discussing it is Tyler at [Generation 2434](#) (this is his livestream link). I haven't watched all of his videos on the topic, but what he presents is certainly an interesting perspective. His biblical support of the topic is compelling. But I have found the fall rapture viewpoint just as compelling. Yes, I hope it's summertime!! If not, I hope it's fall. Anytime, any season, please just come, Lord!

Pastor JD's greater point is that we're not to argue when we disagree. We can investigate and learn more about these differing opinions and even plant our flag among the camp we most agree with, but we're still family. Let's not be the enemy within our own house and ridicule and abuse one another.

Questions

Jesus Himself says to look up

“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” (Luke 21:28)

- 1) The passage above says that we will be able to see “these things,” referring to markers or signposts that indicate our redemption is near. What signposts have you most excited?
- 2) How can you hang on to your excitement even when others belittle your beliefs?

Pastor JD: “Don't let them intimidate you. Don't let them talk down to you. You're standing on the right side of this. You're standing on solid ground and sound doctrine. This is what Jesus said to do.”

A crown awaits the longing

“It's not that we want what the Lord is going to give us, the gift, the crown; we want the giver. We long for the giver.” ~ Pastor JD

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:7-8 says a crown of righteousness is waiting for those who long for Jesus' appearing. Some would suggest that to consider the crown or our heavenly rewards is selfish,

but if it is His promise and what He wants for us, how can our longing for them be self-seeking?

- 2) Why is Paul's use of the word *appearing* particularly meaningful rather than him using the word *coming*? What event does His appearing depict? What event does His coming depict?

Scoffers will increase

"First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come..." (2 Peter 3:3)

- 1) How is the increase in scoffing over the rapture evidence of the nearness of the rapture?
- 2) In what ways can you refute the ridiculous argument that some scoffers use that because the rapture hasn't happened yet, it won't?

We can see the day approaching

"No, we don't know the day or the hour. No, but we can see it approaching." ~Pastor JD

Review Hebrews 10:24-25.

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

- 1) Why is stirring up love and good works vital in our current days?
- 2) Why does our assembling matter now more than ever?
- 3) This passage indicates we **can see** the day approaching. How can this passage assist you as people dismiss the topic of the rapture by saying "no man knows the day or hour"?

Likened to birth pains

"What do we know to be true about birth pains? They come in greater frequency and intensity. So Jesus is likening His return to a baby being born." ~ Pastor JD

- 1) Read Matthew 24:4-8. How is what we're currently seeing in the world like birth pains?
- 2) Do you think a political party or candidate can stop what we're seeing on the horizon?
- 3) How does understanding that political deception will be a key component of the beast system remind us to keep our eyes fixed only on Jesus?

Scared or prepared

"Do not become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report, or letter supposed to have come from us saying that the Day of the Lord has already come." (2 Thessalonians 2:2)

- 1) For those who see the rising chaos in the world around them, how can prophecy prepare them to stand strong?
- 2) For those who are suffering tremendous hardships and sufferings, how can prophecy be their source of hope?

Pastor JD: “You know for me, and this has served me well over the years, the litmus test by which I know I’ve heard truth is when there’s a peace and freedom that ensues.”

- 3) What does James 3:17 say about wisdom from above (which is what prophecy is)?

Four-legged table

Previously in the Gathering, we have heard JD teach on the four-legged table, his method of how to discern God’s will in our lives. I hope this chance to review for some is helpful. And for those who weren’t with us then, I know this topic will be beneficial.

During your quiet time, for each “leg of the table” below, consider a way God has confirmed His will for your life through the following means. Discuss in small groups as time allows.

- The word of God
- The peace of God
- The providence of God
- The confirmation from God

End-time timestamps

From this point forward in Pastor JD’s update, he covered the bickering of believers over disagreements in rapture timing, how the prophetic word provides timestamps, occurrences that signify where we are prophetically, and how a couple of upcoming events could potentially be prophetic timestamps. Caution and wisdom remind us that these events could be more foreshadowing than the actual tribulation kick-off, yet excitement and enthusiasm can’t help but make us hope. Someday, one real day will happen along and be our last day here on this earth as we know it. It sure can’t hurt to hope that day will come this summer or fall. If not 2023, then maybe 2024. We never give up. We never stop hoping today is the day. We never stop looking up.

If time allows in your small group, plan to have open discussion about the UN’s SDG Summit in September or the BRICS summit in August. The [update transcript](#) may help as a refresher if you would like to take some notes to discuss key points. For additional time, we will have our “After Party” this week, so if you would like to discuss more of the unfolding events, you will have additional time for that. Also, if you do some listening to the teaching on the Feast of New Wine, that might be interesting to discuss as well. So much is happening, pointing us to the soon return of Jesus. What an exciting time to be alive!