

2024-2025 BSP#18 Group Time Discussion

為反思和應用的題目。Reflection and application question (25 minutes)

今天在我們週圍發生的事情，其嚴重性和違背真理的成份可說是前所未見的：

- 不道德，物質主義和個人主義的文化瀰漫著全世界，滲透傳媒、娛樂界、政府和教育制度(淫婦巴比倫): 安樂死合法化、同性戀正常化、墮胎合法化、變性、傳統婚姻制度被嚴重破壞
- 極端的政治趨向和理念
- 如兩獸般的極權領導人和政權的出現，要人拜偶像(領導人或政黨)，發展核武
- 迫害基督徒(二十世紀的基督徒殉道者比以前總數還多*)
- 由二十世紀末開始了猶太人接受基督的新趨勢*(羅 11:26, CCC674)
- 二千年教會福傳的努力和科技進步已讓福音傳遍普世(羅 11:12, 25; 瑪 24:14, CCC674)
- 大自然失去平衡，污染，氣象改變，天然災禍年年(下筆時洛杉磯正被山火焚城)
- 中東戰火和蘇聯入侵烏克蘭帶來世界大戰和核戰的可能性

撒彈是否已從監牢裏被釋放出來？哥格和瑪哥格是否已如火如荼地在我們週圍發生著？當今世界是否到了最後時日？基督是否快要再來？在這些舉足輕重的問題上，我們一方面要小心下結論，因過去很多基督徒也同樣地問並深信主快來，結果都錯了。另一方面，這樣問是合理的因耶穌要求我們醒寤(瑪 24:42-44, 25:1-13)。請分享你的看法。你的看法怎樣影響著你怎樣去生活？

What is happening around us today is unprecedented in its seriousness and contrary to truth:

- A culture of immorality, materialism and individualism permeates the world, infiltrating the media, entertainment industry, government and education systems (Babylon the Whore): Legalization of euthanasia, normalization of homosexuality, legalization of abortion, gender reassignment
- Extreme political trends and ideas
- The emergence of totalitarian leaders and regimes is like the two beasts, asking people to worship idols (leaders or political parties) and developing nuclear weapons
- Persecution of Christians (there were more Christian martyrs in the 20th century than in all previous centuries combined*)
- A new trend of Jews accepting Christ began at the end of the 20th century* (Romans 11:26, CCC674)
- Two thousand years of church evangelization efforts and technological advancement have allowed the Gospel to spread throughout the world (Romans 11:12, 25; Mt 24:14, CCC674)
- Nature is out of balance, polluted, weather changes, and natural disasters happen every year (Los Angeles was being burned by wildfires when I wrote this)
- The war in the Middle East and the Soviet invasion of Ukraine brought about the possibility of world war and nuclear war

Has Satan been released from prison? Are Gog and Magog already in full swing around us?

Has the world reached its final days? Is Christ coming again soon? On the one hand, we must

be careful in drawing conclusions on these important issues, because many Christians in the past also asked the same questions and firmly believed that the Lord was coming soon, but the results were wrong. On the other hand, it is reasonable to ask because Jesus requires us to stay awake (Mt 24:42-44, 25:1-13). Please share your views. How do your views affect how you live your life?

**Source: CCSS p.335*

CCC 674:

默西亞光榮的來臨懸於歷史的每一刻，直到「全以色列」承認祂(羅 11:26;瑪 23:39)，可是他們「有一部分執迷不悟」(羅 11:25)，「不信」(羅 11:20)耶穌。聖伯多祿在聖神降臨後，對耶路撒冷的猶太人說：「你們悔改，並回心轉意吧！好消除你們的罪過，為的是使安樂的時期由上主面前來到，祂好給你們派遣已預定的默西亞耶穌，因為祂必須留在天上，直到萬物復興的時候；對此，天主藉著祂古聖先知的口早已說過了」(宗 3:19-21)。聖保祿也回應說：「如果因他們被遺棄，世界與天主和好了，那麼，如果他們蒙收納，豈不是死而復生嗎？」(羅 11:15)。繼其他民族全數進入天國後，猶太人也「全體」(羅 11:12)分享默西亞的救恩，這將使天主子民達到「基督圓滿年齡的程度」(弗 4:13)，在祂內「天主將成為萬物之中的萬有」(格前 15:28)。

The glorious Messiah's coming is suspended at every moment of history until his recognition by "all Israel", for "a hardening has come upon part of Israel" in their "unbelief" toward Jesus. St. Peter says to the Jews of Jerusalem after Pentecost: "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for establishing all that God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old." St. Paul echoes him: "For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?" The "full inclusion" of the Jews in the Messiah's salvation, in the wake of "the full number of the Gentiles", will enable the People of God to achieve "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ", in which "God may be all in all".