

## BLESSED ASSURANCE

Revelation 22:6-21

August 31, 2008 Sunday pm

### INTRODUCTION

- A. *Time* magazine featured an article in their May 2, 2005 issue entitled, "How to Get Out Alive: What the science of evacuation reveals about how humans behave in the worst of times." The article explained what researchers have learned from survivors of the World Trade Towers. Those who made it out waited for an average of six minutes before evacuating. Some lingered as long as half an hour.

What did they do while they waited? Milled around. Called relatives. "About 1,000 took the time to shut down their computers ... at least 70% of survivors spoke with other people before trying to leave."

Less than half the survivors knew there were three stairwells in their building, and less than half had ever entered one of those stairwells. One investigator said, "I found the lack of preparedness shocking."

One woman, Elia Zedeño, who was on the 73rd floor to Tower 1 heard a booming explosion and felt the building actually lurch to the south, as if it might topple ... You might expect that her next instinct was to flee. But she had the opposite reaction.

"What I really wanted was for someone to scream back, 'Everything is O.K.! Don't worry. It's in your head.'" Luckily, at least one of Zedeño's colleagues responded differently. "The answer I got was another co-worker screaming, 'Get out of the building!'" she remembers now.

Almost four years later, she still thinks about that command. "My question is, What would I have done if the person had said nothing?"

Amanda Ripley, "How to Get Out Alive: What the science of evacuation reveals about how humans behave in the worst of times," *Time*, (5-2-2005).

- B. The book of Revelation tells us the world will end suddenly and violently. Therefore, we must be prepared to evacuate beforehand.
1. This is Jesus' warning in Revelation 22:6-21.
  2. Jesus also offers three words of encouragement as we prepare for that day. Listen to three things we can count on even though the world is coming to an end.

### I. FIRST, WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S WORD- V.6.

- A. We can count on its **author**-6, 13, 16

II Timothy 3:16

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

- B. We can count on its **accuracy**-6, 18-19

Matthew 5:18.

18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

### II. SECOND, WE CAN COUNT ON THE RETURN OF JESUS-V 7.

- A. His coming will be **soon**-6, 7, 10, 12, 20 "soon"—mentioned 4 times.
- B. His coming will be **sure**-7 "I am coming". Jesus said it!
- C. His coming will be **sudden**-7 "I am coming soon" i.e. unannounced.

### III. THIRD, WE CAN COUNT ON OUR REWARDS-V.12.

- A. **Unbelievers** will receive their rewards-11,15 "outside" of heaven.

- B. **Believers** will receive their rewards.

1. Of our **works**-v.6 "his servants".

2. Of our **worship**-8-9.

3. Of our **witness**-10. Share these words, don't seal "hide" them up.

4. Of our **washing**-14 i.e. “salvation”, washed in Jesus’ blood.

## **CONCLUSION**

Robby Robins was a Air Force pilot during the first Iraq war. After his 300th mission he was surprised to be given permission to immediately pull his crew together and fly his plane home. They flew across the ocean to Massachusetts and then had a long drive to western Pennsylvania. They drove all night, and when his buddies dropped him off at his driveway just after sun up, there was a big banner across the garage—“Welcome Home Dad!”

How did they know? No one had called, and the crew themselves hadn't expected to leave so quickly. Robins relates, "When I walked into the house, the kids, about half dressed for school, screamed, 'Daddy!'" Susan came running down the hall— she looked terrific—hair fixed, make-up on, and a crisp yellow dress. "How did you know?" I asked.

"I didn't," she answered through tears of joy. "Once we knew the war was over, we knew you'd be home one of these days. We knew you'd try to surprise us, so we were ready every day."

Lee Eclov, "Heaven," [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com)