



October 4, 2026

“God's Word is a Lamp for Today”

Luke 8:16–18

Context

Four kinds of soils/hearts that hear God's Word:

1. Hard hearts
2. Rocky hearts
3. Thorny hearts
- 4. God's will: Good hearts**

- Hearts that receive God's Word and produce 100-fold fruit
- Hearts that understand what's going on in the world

Luke 8:16–18

16 No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. 17 For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. 18 Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.

Luke 8:16

"No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light."

- In Jesus's day, note the importance of lamps — especially in darkness
- Often literally placed on their feet when walking at night
- **Psalm 119:105** - God's Word is a lamp on our feet, guiding our next steps
- You don't place a lamp under a bed, but on a stand
- In order to guide your next steps
- God's Word is that light to your feet
- And to help you understand what's going on in your life and the world in which you live

Luke 8:17

"For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light."

- Nothing is hidden that won't be made known
- Everything that seems secret will be known and come to light
- A good word for seeming injustice
- No one gets away with anything
- But also for the secrets of God's kingdom in God's Word
- We begin to see the mysteries of what's going on in the world
- How history (HIS STORY) is unfolding

Luke 8:18

"Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

- Take care how you hear — God's Word — the fourth soil/heart
- Study and know God's Word
- The more you understand God's Word, and have "Aha" moments, the more then will be given to you
- The one that does not listen carefully, what he does have will be taken away
- Billy Graham's journey with God's Word
- My own journey

- Over the last seven years especially, "Lord, teach me through your Word"
- Help me understand what's going on in the world
- "Be a lamp to my feet, let me tell others as well"
- The more I've understood, the more insights God gives me

A more intense study of God's Word

- In these crazy times in which we are living
 - Have your phone in one hand, a Bible in the other
 - Look. Observe. The Bible predicted long ago what is presently happening
1. The rise of antisemitism — **Genesis 3:15; Revelation 12:13–17**
 2. Israel will be dispersed around the world, the most persecuted people ever — Assyria, Babylon, and Rome — **Ezekiel 36**
 3. Israel is promised to be returned to its ancestral land — **Genesis 17:7–8; Ezekiel 37; Deuteronomy 28:66**
 4. That's what happened on May 14, 1948
 5. Toward the end times, Jerusalem will be at the center of world events — **Ezekiel 5:5**
 6. **Matthew 24/Luke 21/Mark 13:** Jesus gives other indications of what will happen like birth pangs, with greater frequency and intensity before the end:
 7. A great deception, wars and rumors of wars, unnatural disasters, love of many will grow cold (Lindsay Clancy), persecution (of Jews and Christians — present day Nigeria), widespread lawlessness
 8. A coalition of nations will come against Israel (led by Russia, Iran, and Turkey) — **Ezekiel 38** — will cause chaos around the world
 9. Look at Israel, Jerusalem, and the Temple Mount
 - Solomon's first temple destroyed in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians
 - Zerubbabel's second temple was rebuilt in 516 B.C.
 - Added onto by Herod/Jesus's day; destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Roman general Titus as Jesus prophesied
 - Biblically, a 3rd temple is needed and rebuilt from where Antichrist will reign — **Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Daniel 9:27; Revelation 11:1–2**

- The Temple Institute today: six months the Temple could be rebuilt; all is in place to recommence the sacrifices
- The numbers presently gathering to pray on the Temple Mount
- The Antichrist, riding a white horse — **Revelation 6** — gives answers for peace, perhaps rebuilds the 3rd temple for peace between Jews and Muslims
- He reestablishes all Temple sacrifices
- More specifically, he forms a 7-year peace accord with Israel for peace between Jews and Muslims — **Daniel 7 and 9**
- 3 ½ years into his reign he stops sacrifices and declares himself to be God, God's seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments occur — **Daniel 9:27**
- Is the Antichrist alive today?
- The Antichrist could be (Satan has had one in every age)
- The Antichrist then inaugurates:
 - A one world government — **Revelation 13:15**
 - A one world economy — China's present social credit system — driven by AI algorithms — the mark of the beast — **Revelation 13:16–18**: Neuralink and Elon Musk (forehead) or microchip (wrist) or iris scans needed to buy or sell goods (never available before in human history until now)
 - The advent and sudden advancement of AI — global surveillance and control
 - A one world religion — **2 Thessalonians 2:9** — (Islam's spread) — coercion versus choice — the coming of the Mahdi, on a white horse, a prophet with him to say Jesus isn't Lord (the false prophet — **Revelation 13:11–12**) and he will reign for 7 years, having made a peace covenant with Israel for those 7 years
 - Law versus grace
- The Rapture of the church? — **1 Thessalonians 4:14–19** — before chaos?

- Christians are not appointed to God's wrath — **1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9, Revelation 3:10; Romans 8:1**
- Then the rise of the Antichrist? (After the **Ezekiel 38 war**)
- Please note how all these things can more easily happen if every Christian who believes in God's Word and Jesus's moral authority and uniqueness are suddenly gone;
- The importance of Christians believing Jesus's uniqueness and the authority and inerrancy of God's Word
- UFO's?
- Then, at the end of the 7-year Great Tribulation all the nations come against Israel — **Zechariah 12:3;14:2; Revelation 16:14-16**
- Jesus's 2nd Coming occurs
- Jews are judged
- A massive revival (for 7 years the 144,000 Jewish evangelists in Revelation 7 have been preaching to them) — **Zechariah 4:4;10**
- The time of Jacob's Trouble — **Jeremiah 30:7 / Zechariah 13:8-9** — 2/3rds of Jews don't come to faith in Jesus and are judged (the Jews don't get away with godlessness or secularization)
- Jesus's kingdom comes, his will is done — his reign from Jerusalem for 1,000 years (**Revelation 20-22**)
- The 4th temple is enlarged (35 acres to over 600 acres — **Ezekiel 40-48**)
- The boundaries of the land promised to Abraham are established for Israel
- Jesus rules with an iron fist — **Psalms 2**
- The world regularly comes to worship him — **Zechariah 14:6**
- You are blessed if you read Revelation (**Revelation 1:3**)
- One in every four verses are about prophecy
- Largely, because you know that God is in control of history — HIS STORY

The purpose of all this is not to scare you but prepare you

- To build your faith that God is sovereign over every event in human history
- God said that all that is happening now would happen!
- To encourage you to become biblical Christians
 - To know God's Word (the Story of God as a foundation)
 - To believe God's Word (like Billy Graham and I did)
 - To obey God's Word (next week)
- To reach your friends and family and this nation for Jesus (pray for revival)
- To vote God's Word (44% of biblical Christians did not in the past election)
- To pray our nation will be healed and reclaim our Christian/biblical ethic — **2 Chronicles 7:14**
- To be ready NOW if his Rapture/coming might happen today
- The light is being shown to us; don't hide it under a bushel
- The more you study these truths, the more you will be given by the Holy Spirit

But the key is the condition of your heart/soil

Again, which soil/heart defines you?

Maranatha, Lord Jesus