

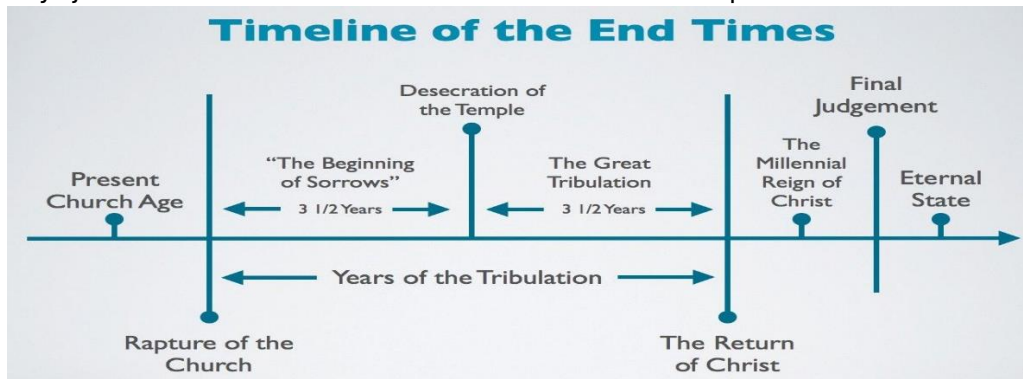
Opening: The Bible tells us of a time in the near future when the inhabitants of our world will be caught unaware in a trap set by our enemy Satan. For the Church we are also warned and encouraged to know the times and seasons in which we live. The Bible is not silent on what the world will look like just before Jesus comes for His church and the tribulation hour begins. This message series is designed to expose the trap that is being set by our adversary for an unsuspecting world, do not let it be you.

1. Why preach on Bible Prophecy?

- a. **Luke 21:34-36** 34But watch yourselves, or your hearts will be weighed down by dissipation, drunkenness, and the worries of life—and **that day will spring upon you suddenly like a snare**. 35For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of all the earth. **36So keep watch at all times**, and pray that you may have the strength to escape all that is about to happen and to **stand before the Son of Man.**
- b. Jesus Christ preached on the final things and warned us many times in His ministry of the last days events. Jesus Himself told us to be prepared and to prepare others so they would not be caught off guard.

2. In the last of the last days things will become Dangerous

- a. 2nd Timothy 3:1 – 17 **3 But realize this**, that in the **last days** difficult times will come.
- b. **“But Realize this”** in Greek is the word **Ginōske** and it means, to know, to emphatically know, this is imperative that you know this, and to know and never forget this truth because it is 100% certainty this will happen.
- c. Last days in the original Greek is the words **eschatais** where we get our word eschatology or the study of last days events and **hēmerais** which is a specific day as in a set time.
- d. “Difficult times” in the Greek is the word **chalepoi** and it is **best interpreted as exceedingly fierce times, where many perils will be present to destroy the body and mostly corrupt the soul**.
- e. Taken together Paul is telling timothy that what He is about to share is concerning the last of the last days just before Christ shall come for His Church in the rapture.



- f.
- g. **Key Point:** Paul is informing Timothy and subsequently the entire church that the final days before Christ will return are guaranteed to be bad, difficult and then He describes exactly what that will look like and characterizes the world as it will be so the Church will be fully prepared.
- h. **It is important to understand that Paul is not painting a gradually perfected planet where eventually everyone gets saved and as the Church, we somehow usher in the full expression of the Kingdom. The world will gradually progress away from God until Jesus returns.**

3. 2nd Timothy 3:2 “For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,”

- a. Greek **philautoi** for Lovers of self, or self-absorbed. The word for selfish in Greek ends in the plural “Oi” meaning that this will not be a sliver of the population but the vast majority of humanity.
 - i. Self-care has been replaced with self-love. God intended that love would be given away, at the time of the end which we are arriving towards rapidly, mankind will not care for others but only for themselves, turning inwards unsympathetic and unbothered by the needs of others.
 - ii. The greatest and highest priority in the last of the last days generation will be themselves.
- b. **Lovers of money or material possessions.** The last days generation just before Jesus returns for His church, will be in love with what they have and never satisfied, coveting others possessions to the degree that they will not be able to wait for a desired possession and will do anything to get them.
 - i. Do we see people unable to delay gratification or desired purchases? The average household debt in America alone as of summer of last year was \$103,358.00.

- ii. People will be spending all of their money on themselves and will lack common generosity.
 - c. **Boastful** is not the full translation and meaning for the word we see in Greek. The word is ἀλαζόνες or **alazones describes a people who will; due to pride intentionally manipulate the truth to be whatever they need the facts to be, removing moral absolutes in order to replace them with a new relevant truth.** This word implies that the boastful will fight against the truth vehemently, militaristically so that they can advance their own cause on the earth.
 - d. **Arrogant**, they will be intellectually snooty, puffed up due to their personal achievements of knowledge.
 - e. The world before Jesus comes will be full of **blasphemers in Greek, or abusive slanderous people.** The type of speech that the Holy Spirit tells us will be present in the last days will be Crude, rude and vulgar speech will be present throughout all of society. The blasphemy in this text is not towards God but is the common language of all peoples on earth.
 - f. The world just before Jesus returns at the last of the last days will see children be **disobedient to parents.**
 - i. The word tells us that children will not submit or be controllable, teachable by parents. The original Greek word tells us that what was common will now be uncommon, as if to say, broken intentionally like chains being undone. **Children will be raising themselves without oversight.**
 - ii. Parental rights to train and prepare our children are under attack and have been in the past few decades. This perversion of parental rights and the subsequent unteachable spirit of our youth is a direct fulfillment of the words of this scripture.
 - g. **Ungrateful or unthankful**, thankfulness will be uncommon because the world just before Jesus returns according to the text of scripture will become entitled.
 - i. **Entitlement will replace gratitude** and will cancel out normal gratitude and appreciation for others. Entitlement is the feeling that someone owes you something that they do not. a belief that for base reasons we are inherently deserving of privileges or benefits we have not earned.
 - h. **Unholy:** Intentional irreverence towards anything that is sacred, a loss of respect for those institutions, covenants and relationships that should be honored.
4. 2nd Timothy 3:3 unloving, trucebreakers, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,
- a. **Unloving** is the Greek word astorgoi and is a removal of love and affection between family members namely husbands, wives, brothers, and sisters. Hardheartedness. It represents the breakdown of the family unit.
 - b. **Trucebreakers** is from the Greek aspondoi and is a removal of covenant or treaty. It would be used to describe the breaking of marriage covenants in divorce.
 - i. Since the word is in the plural form it tells us that in the time just before Christ shall come for His Church divorce will be wide-spread.
 - c. **Malicious gossipers:** the original language is **diabolo** where we get “devils” from. This means Paul through the Holy Spirit is telling the Church just before Jesus comes for His Bride to be aware that in the last days demons will be prevalent and they will be in part to blame for expansion of evil.
 - d. **Without-self-control is the Greek word akrateis** which means a removal of or loss of power in society. It will be greater than just on an individual level but instead the word represents societal chaos, systems of government, finance will be out of control and won't work.
 - i. As the Church we must take into consideration the current state of affairs in govt. and financial systems in relation to this word. We are seeing the demise of earthly governments and financial institutions at a rapid pace.
 - e. **Brutal: Greek anēmeroi** meaning the destruction of culture to a degree where people will become fierce, violent lacking common courtesy, control like in the times of the Colosseum, it describes a culture that will delight in brutality and violence making it widespread.
 - i. **Genesis 6:11-12** Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and **full of violence.** 12And God looked upon the earth and saw that it was corrupt; for all living creatures on the earth had **corrupted their ways.**
 - f. **Haters of good:** This word describes a society that will hate those who are good and that will champion and create a system of laws that promote that which is evil over that which is good.
5. We are called to Stand Firm until the end. **Matthew 24:12-13** 12Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold. 13But the one **who perseveres to the end** will be saved. (escape the trap)