

The End - Lesson 29

1. Introduction:

- What happened to the Apostle Paul? He went to Rome, but as a prisoner
- The Roman Emperor, Nero, ordered the cruel deaths of many Christians, Paul and Peter were probably two of them. (Nero ruled from AD 54-68)
- Despite persecution, Christianity flourished.
 - Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."
- What happened to the rest of the Apostles? History and tradition tell us all but 1 (John) were martyred for their faith in Jesus.
- John wrote the book of Revelation around AD 95. It was the last book of Scripture written.
- Not all agree how to interpret the book of Revelation, but all agree that God wins in the end!
 - Chuck Swindoll said this about the last book of the Bible: "The book of Revelation wasn't written to confuse, frighten, or entertain. Rather, it was given to believers to read, understand, and apply."
 - Revelation 1:1-4 says God **blesses** all who listen to the book of Revelation and apply the truth in it. We miss the blessing if we avoid this book.

2. Cultural and moral signs that the end is near

The Bible says there will be warning signs leading up to end times events.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- There will be a global "sickness" of people loving only **themselves** and their money.
 - Beware of the cultural push to put self first. We were designed by God to **love others** and consider them as more important than ourselves.
- People will no longer listen to **sound teaching**; instead they'll look for false teachers who tell them what they want to hear.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

3. Future events prophesied in the Bible

Now, let's take an Eternity to Eternity 40,000 foot overview of the major events prophesied in the Bible that have yet to take place, but will!

- "Rapture" of the Church
- Believers will receive their new bodies
- Believers stand before judgment seat of Christ
- Tribulation
- 2nd Coming of Jesus
- 1,000 year reign of Jesus on earth
- The last battle between God and Satan
- Great White Throne Judgment
- New heaven and new earth

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- Rapture of the Church

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- Millions of Christians around the world will instantly **disappear** from earth and be taken to meet Jesus in the sky.

- God will give new, glorified bodies to believers in the Church who have died and to those who are alive and raptured.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

- Judgment Seat of Christ for **believers** (Romans 14:10-12 & 1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

2 Corinthians 5:10

- Believers will stand before Jesus and be judged based on the **good** or **evil** done in their earthly body.

- 7 year Tribulation on earth. (Daniel 9:24-27, Revelation 5-18)

- Daniel prophesied regarding a period of time equalling 70 “weeks”, meaning 70 sets of 7 years or 490 years. Daniel indicated this was a final judgment on Israel’s sin.

- 69 sets of the 7 years have been fulfilled (from the command to rebuild Jerusalem during Israel’s exile to the crucifixion of Jesus), but 1 set of 7 years remains. This will be fulfilled in the 7 year Tribulation.

- The first half will be peaceful, but the second half will be dreadful and horrific. Around half of the earth’s population will die as a result of sword, famine, disease, wild beasts, and plagues. (Rev. 6:7-8; 9:18)

- The “**Antichrist**”, called “the beast”, will be a leader who will rise to global power. He will be controlled by Satan.

- The “**False Prophet**” will lead a one-world false, apostate religion.

- There will be some type of one-world currency. No buying or selling without the “mark of the beast”. (Revelation 13:16-17)

- The Second Coming of Jesus to earth (Revelation 19:11-21)

Revelation 19:11-14

- Jesus will come back in power and glory. Angels and all **believers** in heaven will come with Him.
- Battle of Armageddon: Jesus defeats the Antichrist and all armies attacking Israel. This will mark the end of the Tribulation.
- Antichrist and False Prophet banished to Lake of Fire
- Satan bound in a bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3)

- 1,000 year reign of Jesus on earth (millennium) (Revelation 20:4-6)

- Jesus will reign on this earth as king, as was prophesied in the Old Testament.

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- The last battle between God and Satan. Satan will be **defeated!** (Revelation 20:7-10)
 - Satan freed from bottomless pit at the end of 1,000 years. He will mount one last battle against Jesus, but he will lose.

Revelation 20:10

- Satan thrown into Lake of Fire **forever**

- Great White Throne Judgment of **unbelievers** (Revelation 20:11-15)

Revelation 20:11-15

- All unbelievers judged according to their works, then thrown into the Lake of Fire

- God will create a new heaven and a new **earth.** (Revelation 21:1-4; 2 Peter 3:12-13))

Revelation 21:1-4

- God will live **among** His people forever in a new, perfect heaven and earth.
- Death, sorrow, crying and pain will be gone **forever!**

4. Application

- So, now that we know the end of the story, how should it impact us?
 - It should give us hope and confidence that God will indeed right everything that's wrong, no matter how messy things look now.
 - It should urge us to live Godly lives knowing there will be future rewards. Jesus notices what we do for Him whether anyone else does or not.
 - It should give us new eyes and a burden for the unbelievers around us, knowing the terrible end of all who don't believe in Jesus for salvation.
 - It should draw us toward God and encourage us to live life the way He designed us to live.

1 Peter 4:7-11