



## Living In the End Times Session 1 – Series Introduction – Watch for the Signs

### I. Introduction

#### A. Why This Series?

1. **There are many in the church who do not know the basics about end time events.**
  - a. Define end time events – *The events happening upon earth as we approach the return of Jesus for the Church – The Rapture*
  - b. I grew up hearing about the coming of the Lord and things that are connected to it.
  - c. The modern church has spent little time dealing with this subject.
  - d. Many terms used in relation to the coming of the Lord are not even recognized by today's church. *Rapture, millennial reign of Christ, thousand-year reign, antichrist, mark of the beast, the tribulation, signs of the times* – What do these words mean to us?
2. **To those who were knowledgeable about some of the prophecies in scripture pertaining to the end times, 2020 was an awakening.**
3. **We saw things happening in our world that reminded us of things that were going to come upon the earth. (Cashless society, technology that would usher in the mark of the beast, the control of government – churches closed, etc.)**

#### B. Two things I can tell you with absolute certainty.

1. **Jesus is coming again.**
2. **His coming is closer than it has ever been.**

#### C. **As we approach His coming for the Church there will be many things happening around us.**



**D. We need to know how to live in these days.**

*Live = How to do life – How to maneuver your way through the things coming until He coming.*

**II. Watch for the Signs.**

**A. Matthew 24:3-14 (NKJV)** – <sup>3</sup>Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup>And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>All these are the beginning of sorrows. <sup>9</sup>“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. <sup>10</sup>And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. <sup>11</sup>Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. <sup>12</sup>And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup>But he who endures to the end shall be saved. <sup>14</sup>And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

1. **Question** – “What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age”?
2. **When** – When will the end be? When are you coming?
3. **What** – What will be happening around us?
4. **Sign** – What will be the Sign
  - a. **Sign** = the same word used for a signpost along the road to tell you where you are on your journey.
  - b. The closer I get to my destination the more signs I see.



- c. **Cities** – As you approach a city the landscape changes – *large high- rise buildings – heavy traffic – major housing – homes & apts.*
  - d. As you see the environment changing – you know you are closer to your destination – eventually, your environment tells you that you have arrived.
  - e. Signs tell me – how close I am to my destination – when I have arrived and warn me of impending danger along the road – *narrow bridge, fallen rocks, winding road.*
5. **The Disciples are asking, “What are the prophetic markers along the journey? How will we know that we have reached the end of the age?”**
6. **The of the Age Defined**
- a. Wrap up of a thing.
  - b. At the time that Jesus died on the cross a new age/dispensation began.
  - c. The church age/the grace age/the Gentile dispensation
  - d. The next age will begin at the coming of the Lord for His church – what we call the rapture.
7. **The Question is – How will we know that things in this age are wrapping up? How will we recognize that things are not going to continue as they are – that something new is coming? HOW WILL WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED IN THE DAYS JUST PRIOR TO YOUR COMING.**

**B. What do these signs mean to us?**

- 1. **Jesus gave a list of many things that will be increasing upon the planet prior to His coming. (Go back and read the text).**
  - a. Widespread deception
  - b. Signs in the heavens
  - c. Economic instability
  - d. Great seismic activity
  - e. Legal persecution of Christians/including imprisonment



- f. Warring political systems
- g. Famines, wars, commotions
- h. Emergence of false prophets
- i. The love of many waxing cold
- j. Unknown disease
- k. Fearful sights

2. **Jesus actually emphasized the importance of watching for the signs – discerning that you are in the end times – WHY?** *There would be so many things changing as we approach his appearing – that we could get caught up in the spirit of this world – and lose sight of His appearing and/or lose sight of faith altogether – QUOTE – “Will the Son of Man find faith on the earth when He returns”?*

a. **My position on the Rapture**

*I firmly believe that there will be day when the Body of Christ will be supernaturally ‘Caught Up’ to meet the Lord in the air = RAPTURE.*

*Following the Rapture this world will enter a time of intense agony known of as the Tribulation. This Tribulation will bring the greatest trouble/suffering that this planet has ever known until Jesus PHYSICALLY returns to establish his millennial reign on earth.*

*RICK RENNER – “I am convinced of these truths; however, I am convinced that conditions before the RAPTURE could potentially become so bleak that it may very well fell like we’ve gone into the tribulation before the time period has actually begun.*

- b. **Jesus wants us to know the signs to prepare us for the days that are ahead.**

c. **Two Analogies**

1) **Noah’s Days**

**Matthew 24:37-39 (NKJV)** – <sup>37</sup>But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup>For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.



*They were oblivious – did not understand  
There will be those who recognize the signs – saved  
There will be others who ignore or do not recognize the signs – lost  
Be Sure to Recognize the Signs*

2) **A Woman in Labor**

**Matthew 24:8 (NKJV)** – *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

**Sorrow – the contractions a pregnant woman experiences as the time of delivery draws nigh. As the time of birth approaches the contractions occur more frequently and with great intensity.**

**According to Jesus, the *Last Days Contractions* will begin slowly at first but the SIGNS will begin to occur closer and closer together, until they are happening one right after another.**

- d. **When you see these things – realize that they are SIGNS!  
These Signs will either trouble your heart or ignite your faith.**

**Luke 21:28 (NKJV)** – *Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.*

**Luke 21:28 (AMP)** – *Now when these things begin to occur, stand tall and lift up your heads [in joy], because [suffering ends as] your redemption is drawing near.”*

- e. **No matter what the world tries to throw against us, how ferociously we are attacked and harassed for our faith or how intensely society is morally changing around us. GODS POWER REMAINS UNCHANGED – and He equips us for such a time as this with supernatural conquering power!**
- f. **We are not panicked and alarmed by the events that surround us or by the signs that indicate we are nearing the end.**
- g. **We are MORE THAN A MATCH for anything we will face in these last days.**



### **III. Closing**

**A. These signs are for our Good.**

**B. God is working on our behalf.**

**C. Do not allow the events on earth to keep you distracted from the Kingdom.**

**D. Don't be moved.**

**E. Set a Watch – Guard.**

1. Guard your Mind.
2. Guard your Spirit.
3. Guard your Devotion to God.
4. Guard your prayer life.
5. Guard you Word Time.
6. Guard your Church attendance.
7. Guard your Service unto Him.
8. Guard your Family.

**F. How do we live through these End Times?**

1. Faithful
2. Strong
3. Encouraged
4. Hopeful
5. Expectant