

End Times – Are We There Yet?

Jude 1:14-18

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Introduction:

- Eschatology is the study of last things.**
- It is perhaps the most controversial of all the doctrines in Christian theology,
- yet according to the Scriptures, although these things have not happened yet, we can be sure that they will happen.
- Before the end, the Bible prophesies that there will be an increase in sin and a falling away from the truth.

- **Matthew 24:3** And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall* be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

- **2Timothy 3:1** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

- **Jesus spoke of the end times.**

- **Matthew 24:36** “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”
- **The Day of the Lord is described by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5**
 - **1Thessalonians 5:1** But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
 - 2** For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
 - 3** For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
 - 4** But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
 - 5** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
 - 6** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
- **With that in mind, let’s look at something we see in Daniel’s prophecy.**
 - Daniel 12:4 “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”
 - “knowledge shall be increased” is not about knowing more of what is to come, although some take advantage of this and fill people with fear instead of rejoicing
 - It is prophesying that many will try to explain away what is coming
 - It is prophesying that many will think they know how to change what is coming
 - Mankind will always try to circumvent what God has promised will happen
- The book of Revelation foretells many things that will happen.
- It is written from a futurist standpoint.
- So, let's look to the Scriptures to see what the major “last things” to come are

1. **The Rapture** - the next major event on God's prophetic timetable is the rapture.

a. The Call Away - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

i. **13** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

b. The Great Deception - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

i. **9** *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2. **The Tribulation** - the rapture is followed by a 7-year time period of the outpouring of God's wrath.

a. **Matthew 24:15** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it* were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25 Behold, I have told you before.

b. The Church won't be a part of this according to Revelation 3:7-11

i. **7** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall

come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

3. **The Second Coming** - this follows the Tribulation.

a. **Revelation 19:11-16**

i. **11** And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies *which* were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

4. **The Battle of Armageddon** - we will be there as spectators.

a. **Revelation 19:17-21**

i. **17** And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

5. **The Millennium** - the antichrist and false prophet are in the lake of fire, the devil is bound, and Jesus will rule and reign with a rod of iron.

a. **Revelation 19:20** - And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

b. **Revelation 20:10** - And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

c. **Revelation 12:5** - And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

6. **The Great White Throne Judgment** - this is one of the most sobering passage in all of the Bible.

a. **Revelation 20:11-15**

i. **11** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

7. **Eternity** - we will be in God's presence forever.

a. Revelation 21:1-6

i. **1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Conclusion:

- ❑ What does all of this mean for you and me today?
- ❑ Bible prophecy is not troubling to someone who trusts God; it is comforting.
- ❑ So, we look to God's Word instead of a man's
- ❑ 1 Thessalonians 4:18 "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."
- ❑ Knowing the truth of God's Word gives confidence and hope in uncertainty.
- ❑ But we must remember, there is still a great work to do today.
- ❑ Pastor Paul Chappell says, "Understanding the past and knowing the future is profitable, but **we each have to live today.**"
- ❑ Like a servant hurrying to finish the task before his master's return, may we fully give ourselves to the Master's work.
- ❑ Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?
- ❑ You can!
- ❑ It means that you must be ready today.
- ❑ These things are all yet to happen in the future.
- ❑ It is as if God's stopwatch is paused, but He could start it again at any time.
- ❑ We do not know when the rapture will take place, but we do know that it will happen quickly.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:52** - In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
 - **Revelation 22:20** - He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly.** Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
- ❑ Amos 4:12 says, "prepare to meet thy God."
- ❑ **Are you ready today?**
- ❑ **2 Corinthians 6:2** "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"
- ❑ **Accept Christ today before it is too late!**