

Don't be fooled

We are living in troubled times but when you look out through history, there were many troubled times. Many think we are living in the end times, which may be true, but the question is, What are the end times?

Actually, the end times began at Pentecost. With that said, we've been in the end times for almost 2000 years! Many things, both good and bad happened in that time frame.

The Destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD

The scattering of the Jewish nation

Middle East – Been in Conflict for over 2000 Years

False Prophets and Teachers– Muhammad & The Crusades. Maybe 700 Million Deaths in the Name of Religion, none condoned by Scripture

Dark Ages – The Black Plague - Up to 50 Million Deaths

WWI – The Spanish Flu, Maybe 50 Million Deaths

WWII – 20 Million Deaths and 21 Million Wounded

6 Million Jews Executed

Korea – 5 Million Deaths

Vietnam – 1.4 Million Deaths

Covid-19 – 5 Million Deaths

None of this includes things like the revolutionary war, civil war, and more than 100 country to country wars/ conflicts, which could add several million more deaths to the list.

So, when you read what Matthew and Luke wrote when Jesus was asked, “what will be the sign of the end times”, Jesus described was a pretty long timeline.

Besides all the prophecies that were fulfilled both during Jesus’s walk on earth and afterwards, there are 2 main events that will happen that will signal the end times and Jesus’s return.

1st: The Rapture – 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (All this in a twinkling of an eye)

According to scripture, nothing else must happen for the Rapture to occur. Looking at the overall timeline, this could be this afternoon, tomorrow, next year or many years. It

could be in our generation, our children's generation or even longer. Jesus says none of us will know not even the Son. Only the Father knows the time and date of when this happens.

2nd: The Second Coming of Christ – Luke 21: 25-27

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Revelation 19: 19-21 describes it this way;

¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰ But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

We kind of know when this will occur. Once the tribulation period starts, 7 years later is the return of Christ. Thank you, Lord Jesus, that we as followers will be gathered up and not have to go through this.

So, what makes many people believe that this is it, the end of the world is at hand, here comes the tribulation period, the anti-Christ and the mark of the beast? And no, the Covid shot is not the mark of the beast!

Several things have happened in our lifetime that can lead us to this conclusion:

The Jews are back in Israel since leaving Israel in 70AD

Over the last 100+ years, a rapid increase in knowledge

Daniel 12:4 “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Now more than ever, the gospel is shared all over the world due to TV, Radio, Internet and the ability to travel to the “ends of the earth”. Jesus’s command before his Ascension.

Jesus warns that there are many false teachers, prophets and non-believers that are causing confusion, lack of trust, discontent and anxiety in all our lives. Listen to what Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3: 1-7,

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure

rather than lovers of God ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

⁶ They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷ always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

So, whether this is or isn't close to the end times, what should we, believers and followers of Jesus be doing? We should be doing exactly what Jesus said to do before he ascended to the right hand of the Father.

Matthew 28: 19-20, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

We are not to worry about what is happening in this world. Worry will not get us anywhere. God is in control whether or not we think this world is out of control. If this is the end times, then this is what's supposed to happen. Let all of this to God. Civil war, overthrowing our government, killing one another, hatred is not what God has in mind for his believers. A world without God and not being in God's will is a lost world.

We need to concentrate on our loved ones, family, friends and people in need. It would be a terrible thing if we were raptured and some of our loved ones were still here! We

need to pray; pray for God to soften the hearts of the ones we love. Pray that they would know God and put their faith in Him. Pray for them every day. We need to be ready to help them when they are ready. We need to be living examples of followers and believers in Jesus. Did you ever notice that people tend to be around happy, joyful people? That's what we need to be. They'll want to know why we can be so happy and carefree in times like these.

There are many good teachers that preach the Bible as it was originally written and not how some of these bad ones teach what itching ears want to hear.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

We are in that time. You need to always test what you hear with Scripture. I listen to a lot of Christian radio. There are many good teachers like David Jeremiah, Chuck Swindoll, Charles Stanley, Tony Evans to name a few. Beware of the ones that teach wealth, success, health or a wonderful happy life with no sorrow. They do not teach anything about salvation or what it really means to be a follower of Jesus. Stay away from them. Always verify everything with scripture. Scripture and prayer need to be a big part of our everyday lives.

I worry about my loved ones that do not believe there is a God or that you can get to heaven just by being a good person, on their own works. Jesus said, "I am the way

and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Many of the false teachers have said that all religions lead to the same god. Not true! Jesus is the one and only way.

Paul writes in Ephesians 2: 8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

I do worry, but I shouldn't. But in all the scripture about worrying, it's about needing something in **your** life. I'm not sure worrying about someone else's life is necessarily bad. I think that this kind of worrying leads to action in helping them, showing them and being that example of living a life in Jesus. I'm not perfect at it. I try to be careful of the holier than thou attitude because we are not much different than them. None of us are perfect saints, just saints.

So don't worry about what's happening in this world, God is in control. Don't be fooled. Don't live in this world but above this world. Concentrate on being a true follower of Jesus. Put your faith in Him. Live a life of a believer, joyful and carefree. Pray, pray a lot. Put all your worries, loved ones and trust in God. Be diligent about reading the bible. All true answers are in there. Let God reveal them to you and help you be joyful and carefree.

The return of the Jews to Israel in 1948 was an astounding event unprecedented in world history. Never had a decimated ancient people managed to retain their individual identity through almost twenty centuries and reestablish their nation in their original homeland. The event was specifically prophesied, and it happened exactly as foretold. It was clearly a miraculous act of God.

1967 – the Battle for Jerusalem

Jerusalem was reunified under Israeli rule as a result of the 1967 Six-Day War launched against Israel by the Arab world. Despite Israel's appeal to Jordan to stay out of the war, Jordanian forces fired artillery barrages at Israeli cities and also attacked and occupied the UN headquarters in Jerusalem. At first Israel held back but eventually was forced to counterattack and within two days was able to defeat and repulse the Jordanian forces across the West Bank and retake Eastern Jerusalem. On June 7, IDF paratroopers, after fierce fighting with Jordanian soldiers, were able to advance into the Old City and gain control of the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. "The Temple Mount is in our hands" – the report from Paratroop Commander Lt. Motta Gur – remains one of the most dramatic statements in Israel's history. Amen