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BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE SERIES | THE END TIMES

Much of end time teachings seem to center around a timetable, dates and political developments. However Jesus, Himself warned us about setting dates, etc. in Acts 1:7-8 *And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But (instead) you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

When God's Word describes difficult to understand circumstances, it also encourages (Luke 21:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), equips (Luke 21:31), and instructs (1 Corinthians 10:11).

BIBLE FACTS THAT DESCRIBE THE END TIMES...

- 1. Christ vividly describes the end times in Matthew 24 and emphatically states for us to be ready in chapter 25.**
 - **Matthew 24:1-31** *...many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many. 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. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows... And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, then the end will come.*
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*
 - **Luke 21:28** *When these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*

2. The social reality of today...

- **2 Timothy 3:1-5** *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (Also Romans 1:18-32)*

3. The promise of a brilliant Kingdom IN the end times.

- **Isaiah 60:1-2** *Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen on you.*
- Then Isaiah 60:19-21 describes Heaven itself.

4. The Coming of the Son of Man, Himself!

- **Matthew 24:29-31** *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,...*
- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** *...For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God...*

5. The final, eternal end of the devil and his angels.

- **Revelation 20:10** *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where also the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Also Matthew 25:41)*

6. Our glorious beginning!

- **Revelation 21:1** *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.*
- **Revelation 22:1-5** *...They shall see His face, and His Name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

JESUS OUR SOON COMING KING

The Book of Revelation is not necessarily a complete, sequential account of the end times but a “Revelation of Jesus Christ” as the Lamb of God and ultimate Conqueror.

Click the code for information on Jesus our Soon Coming King. Or simply click the link: <https://clr.cm/3blx>.



A SIMPLIFIED PRE-TRIBULATIONAL VIEW

Eschatology is the study of end times and includes topics such as:

1. Christ's vivid description of the end times. (Matthew 24)
2. The Rapture of the Church. (Daniel 7:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 1 Corinthians 15:52)
3. The Great Tribulation and the Antichrist. (Daniel 12:1-3; Matthew 24:15-28; 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12; 1 John 2:18)
4. The Millennial Reign of Christ on the earth. (Romans 11, 8:19-21; Revelation 20)
5. The Great Judgement and the devil, his angels, the beast and the false prophet cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:11-14)
6. The New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation 21)

1 John 3:1-3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him (the hope of His coming) purifies himself, just as He is pure.

END TIME PARABLES FROM MATTHEW 25

1. BE READY (watch and pray) — The wise and foolish virgins.
 - Be filled with the Spirit and with His Word.
 - **Matthew 25:1-13** ...*Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*
2. BE ACTIVE (Live for Him) — The talents.
 - Sow your life into God's purposes.
 - **Matthew 25:14-30** ...*So he who had received the talents came and brought the other talents, saying, "Lord, you delivered to me talents; look, I have gained more talents besides them." His lord said to him, "Well good and faithful servant..."*

3. BE PREPARED (...for eternity) — Christ as Judge.

- Live with An eternal vision. Understand the reality to come.
- **Matthew 25:31-46** *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides sheep from the goats...*
- 1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

IN LIGHT OF THE END TIMES, HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

1. 2 Peter 3:10-14 *...THEREFORE, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*
 - Matthew 25:13 *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

IF JESUS WERE TO COME NOW, WOULD YOU BE READY?

Matthew 24:44 says, *Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.* **Here's how to be ready...**

1. Develop a lifestyle of prayer and reading His Word. (2 Timothy 2:15)
2. Continually be filled with His Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)
3. Keep short accounts with God and people. (Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:7, 9)
4. By faith never loose sight of eternity. (Matthew 24:13; Hebrews 11:10)

Pray this prayer from your heart and live your life in His purpose, looking for His Coming and readying yourself for Eternity.

HEAVENLY FATHER, *You are the same yesterday, today and forever. Therefore, I know You are the God in whose Hands are all the events of history from the beginning to the end. I place myself in Your Hands and in Your care. Create in me a clean heart, fill me with Your Spirit and prepare me to be ready for Your Imminent Return. In Your Name I pray! Amen.*