

ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS?

End Times Bible Study – Pt. 1

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I. THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

*“The heavens **will disappear** with a roar; the elements will be **destroyed by fire**, and the **earth** and everything in it will be **laid bare**.” 2 Peter 3:10¹*

*“Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away . . .” Revelation 21:1*

JESUS SAID

*“Heaven and earth **will pass away**. . .”*

Matthew 24:35

QUESTION: Are we living in the Last Days according to the Bible?

ANSWER: _____

“Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?’⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!’¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, ‘They have had too much wine.’

*¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, **let me explain this to you**; listen **carefully** to what I say.’¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!¹⁶ No, **this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:***

*¹⁷‘In the **last days**, God says, I will **pour out my Spirit on all people.**’”*

Acts 2:7-17 (See also Joel 2:28-32)

¹ All Scripture is quoted from the NIV94 unless otherwise noted.

*"And afterward, I will **pour out my Spirit** on **all** people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹Even on my servants, both men and women, I will **pour out my Spirit in those days**. ³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of **the great and dreadful day of the Lord**. ³²And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the survivors whom the Lord calls."*

Joel 2:28-32

*"In the **past** God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these **last days** he has spoken to us by his Son . . ."* Hebrews 1:1-2

**We are living in the block of time in history the Bible refers to as the Last Days.
Therefore, Jesus could return at any moment!**

*"The **end of all things is near**. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray."*

1 Peter 4:7

*"Dear children, this is the **last hour**; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the **last hour**."* 1 John 2:18

*"...be patient and stand firm, because the **Lord's coming is near**."* James 5:7

THE SKEPTICS RANT— "Where is this promised return of Jesus Christ?"

*"Paul, himself, showed...that he was among those who awaited the **imminent return of Christ**. Yes, as the history of that era clearly shows, all was for naught. No messiah appeared . . . The New Testament repeatedly says the messiah was to return in a very short time. Yet, mankind has waited for nearly **2,000 years and nothing has occurred**. By no stretch of the imagination could that be considered 'coming quickly'. . . **It is, indeed, unfortunate that millions of people still cling to the forlorn hope that somehow a messiah will arise to extract them from their predicament**. How many years (2,000, 10,000, 100,000) will it take for them to finally say, '**We can only conclude that we are the victims of a cruel hoax?**'"*

As quoted in: *The Second Coming* by John MacArthur, 57.

THE REASON FOR GOD'S DELAY

*"First of all, you must understand that in the **last days scoffers will come**, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, '**Where is this coming he promised?** Ever since our fathers died, **everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation . . .** But **do not forget this one thing**, dear friends: **With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.**"*

*"The Lord is **not slow** in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone** to come to **repentance.**" 2 Peter 3:3-4 & 8-9*

II. INTRODUCTION TO THE RAPTURE

*"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. 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. Therefore encourage each other with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*

The Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture are two _____ events.

*"There are **no other events** that must occur on the prophetic calendar before Christ comes to meet us in the air. He could come at **any moment**. And it is in that sense that Christ's coming is imminent. In the very same sense, His coming was imminent even in the days of the early church."*

*-John MacArthur: *The Second Coming*, 57.*

III. JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT HIS IMMINENT RETURN (Lk. 12:35-40)

*"Be dressed **ready** for service and **keep** your lamps burning, ³⁶like men **waiting** for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him."*

*"Be dressed **ready** for service . . ."*

*". . . and **keep** your lamps burning . . ."*

*It will be good for those servants whose master finds them **watching** when he comes. I tell you the truth, **he will dress himself to serve**, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.*

“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.”

Revelation 19:9

³⁸*It will be good for those servants whose master finds them **ready**, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.*

The **second** watch =

The **third** watch =

³⁹*But **understand** this:*

*If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰**You also must be ready**, because the **Son of Man**² will come at an hour when **you do not expect him**.”*

² A reference to **Daniel 7:13-14** as evidence to Jesus' divine nature: *“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was **given authority, glory and sovereign power**; all peoples, nations and men of every language **worshiped** him. His **dominion** is an **everlasting dominion** that will not pass away, and his **kingdom** is one that **will never be destroyed**.”*

IV. GUIDELINES FOR LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS

GUIDELINE #1: Remain _____ in God's Word.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

John 14:1-3

GUIDELINE #2: Be _____ to one another.

"The Master could arrive at any time . . . don't complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner." James 5:8 & 9 (Message)

GUIDELINE #3: Be _____ in prayer.

"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray."

1 Peter 4:7

GUIDELINE #4: Be _____ to serve.

"The end of all things is near . . . Each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:7 & 10

GUIDELINE #5: Make _____ a priority.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

GUIDELINE #6: Give _____ to God's Work.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." Matthew 6:19-20

GUIDELINE #7: Live a lifestyle _____ moral purity.

"What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own." 1 John 3:2-3 (Message)

GUIDELINE #8: Maintain Biblical _____ in everything.

"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever." 1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)