

End Time Views Part One

September 2023

When it comes to end time views, there are many. Unfortunately, those who have strong opinions on their particular perspective often become overly rigid and resistant to different opinions. There are several reasons for this.

Repetition - A view that one has heard or taught for a long time becomes the 'truth' to them, even though it may not be completely true. Muslims are indoctrinated in a false belief that they confess 5X per day: 'There is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet.' (Allah is not the same as the God of the Bible, but was a common pagan deity in ancient Mesopotamia known as the moon-god. Archaeologists have discovered the crescent moon on various artifacts and in Muslim countries today you can see flags with the crescent moon.) Christians have their own ideas that they have repeated for generations. We will give a general overview of some of these possible misconceptions in this message and others to follow.

Reputation - A leader who has taught one view only, finds it hard to admit that they may have been wrong. They may feel that if they change their mind, then their followers may lose respect for them and begin to question other things they teach. There is another factor.

Riches - If they change their views, they may lose many followers and also much monetary support. (this happened to Hank Hannegraff (The Bible Answer Man Program) when he changed his views on Matthew 24 from futurism to partial preterism, the idea that much of that prophecy was fulfilled in the past at 70 A.D. when the Romans besieged Jerusalem and destroyed the temple.

In these messages we will try to give a balanced perspective on various end times views. In some ways I call myself a spiritual mongrel or eclectic, as I try to examine various views on a subject and retain those that make the most sense to me based on God's Word. It is good to be humble and respectful to those who differ from us, especially on the subject of end time prophecies.

Our eternal salvation is based more on what we think of Jesus' first coming than what we think about His second coming.

All Bible believing Christians believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ but there are some secondary differences about timing and the atmosphere of the world at that time. Just below our title I used two different underline colors, black for gloomy

days and yellow for glory days. There are some who only see darkness in the last days and others who only see glory days. There are others like myself who expect to see both atmospheres before Jesus returns. For example, during the plagues upon Egypt, the whole country was in total darkness for 3 days while the Israelites remained in the light - Exodus 10:21-23. In our day it is not so much about physical darkness as it is spiritual darkness, although moments before Jesus returns, the whole sky will turn dark. All the people will look up and see the Son of Man (Jesus) appear in all of His glory - Matthew 24:27-31. (A sample of this took place at the crucifixion of Jesus. Between noon and three the whole sky turned dark in Jerusalem, which caught the attention of the people, including Roman soldiers). Have you ever been to a play or concert and all the house lights are on while the people arrive, but when the show is about to begin, the lights are turned off and everyone looks up towards the front in anticipation of the curtain to open and reveal the lighted stage and cast members. It will be the same when Jesus returns. **There is no secret appearing by Jesus as all the world will see Him** - Revelation 1:7. Are there two more comings of Jesus or is there just one? We will explore that subject in another lesson. Now back to the broader perspective on the end times of gloomy and glory days.

GLOOMY DAYS

2 Timothy 3 - Amplified Classic Version

- 1 **BUT UNDERSTAND** this, that **in the last days** will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].
- 2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.
- 3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.
- 4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.
- 5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].

Some of those who emphasize the above gloomy view, also see the messages of Jesus to the 7 churches in Revelation 2-3 as being progressive historical periods in church history. They see the end time church to be mostly lukewarm like Laodicea. I believe this is a faulty interpretation, for every generation has examples of each of those 7 churches. Many churches have characteristics of more than one of them. No doubt there will be lukewarm

Christians and great apostasy from the faith but there will also be on fire believers who are missionary and kingdom minded.

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 they deliberately forget that long ago by God's Word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and with water. By **water** also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for **fire**, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
- 2 Peter 3:3-7 NIV

Jesus warned us that when He returns to earth a second time, the world will be **like the days of Noah and of Lot.**

- **Wickedness in thoughts and actions - Genesis 6:5**
- **Violence everywhere - Genesis 6:13**
- **Preoccupied with daily cares and pleasures of this life - Matthew 24:38**
- **Unbelief and disobedience to God's ways and warnings - Matthew 24:39**
- **Totally unaware of the impending danger v.39**
- **All destroyed in judgement the same day the righteous escape -Luke 17:27-29**
- **Nephilim/ giants from hybrids of fallen angels and women. - Gen.6:1-4 (today there is gene manipulation with cloning, Artificial Intelligence etc)**
- **Sexual perversions promoted - Jude 5-8, Genesis 18:20-33, 19:1-29**

As you can see, the world will not be a utopia when Jesus returns as all the nations of the earth will rise against Him. Jesus returns on a white horse with the armies of heaven to bring the wrath of God upon all those opposed to His kingdom. There will be a great **supper for the vultures** to feast on the wicked. - Revelation 19:11-21, Luke 17:3, Ezekiel 39:17. There are other scriptures that deal with the end times, but those are a small sample. There are various meanings for the coming of the Lord. Sometimes in apocalyptic language in the Old Testament it refers to the Lord coming in judgement upon the people at a particular period of time. In the New Testament it can refer to the 70 A.D. judgement or can refer to the actual coming of Jesus at the final judgement.

APPLICATON

- **Be watchful and ready** for the coming of Jesus - Matthew 24:42-45, Luke 12:35-48
- **Be faithful** over what the Lord has given you to do - Matt.24:45 / Matthew 25
- **Lift up your heads** when you see all the signs appearing, your redemption is near - Luke 21:28
- **Watch and pray** that you will escape - Luke 21:36 (relevant to the 70 A.D. event)
- Hope of Jesus' return and our being transformed motivates us to purity - 1 John 3:1-3
- Be ready to give your life for Jesus - Revelation 12:11
- Note: some of these admonitions most certainly apply to the generation that heard these warnings in light of the coming persecution and death of 1.1 million Jews by the Romans in the 3 1/2 years before and including the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70 A. D.
- Luke 21:32

In 70 AD, the Roman Army, under Titus, destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, to suppress an uprising of the Jews. According to the historian Josephus, about **1.1 million Jews were killed**. Others were taken as slaves. The following is a description of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, according to Josephus, who witnessed the destruction:

" And as for those that are already dead in the war, it is reasonable we should esteem them blessed, for they are dead in defending, and not in betraying their liberty; but as to the multitude of those that are now under the Romans, who would not pity their condition? and who would not make haste to die, before he would suffer the same miseries with them? Some of them have been put upon the rack, and tortured with fire and whippings, and so died. Some have been half devoured by wild beasts, and yet have been reserved alive to be devoured by them a second time, in order to afford laughter and sport to our enemies; and such of those as are alive still are to be looked on as the most miserable, who, being so desirous of death, could not come at it.

And where is now that great city, the metropolis of the Jewish nation, which was fortified by so many walls round about, which had so many fortresses and large towers to defend it, which could hardly contain the instruments prepared for the war, and which had so many ten thousands of men to fight for it? Where is this city that was believed to have God himself inhabiting therein? It is now demolished to the very foundations, and hath nothing but that monument of it preserved, I mean the camp of those that hath destroyed it, which still dwells upon its ruins; some unfortunate old men also lie upon the ashes of the temple, and a few women are there preserved alive by the enemy, for our bitter shame and reproach. Now who is there that revolves these things in his mind, and yet is able to bear the sight of the sun, though he might live out of danger? Who is there so much his country's enemy, or so unmanly, and so desirous of living, as not to repent that he is still alive? And I cannot but wish that we had all died before we had seen that holy city demolished by the hands of our enemies, or the foundations of our holy temple dug up after so profane a manner. "

- Josephus, *The Wars Of The Jews*, Book VII, Chapter 8, Section 7. The text is quoted from the *The Works of Flavius Josephus*, translated by William Whiston

GLORY DAYS

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you. And his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. - Isaiah 60:1-3 NIV

One time while visiting a Hindu in London, he opened the door and exclaimed to me, 'I see a glow on your face and a light in your eyes!' He then asked me, 'Have you ever seen God?'

Note: In the Isaiah 60 passage, the glory does not come down on God's people but **rises upon them**, for the glory of God is already in every believer (Christ in you the hope of glory - Colossians 1:27) When the outer world gets darker, the glory of God in Christians overflows from them so that the world will even see it. This is what happened when Stephen spoke to the Sanhedrin and was then stoned to death - Acts 6:15, 7:54-56.

Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when **His glory (full of radiance and splendor -Amp.) is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the**

Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1 Peter 4:13-14 NIV

When Jesus arrived on the scene, the world was in deep darkness, but he was full of light, grace and truth.

The rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. - Luke 1:78-79

This fulfilled a prophecy given by Isaiah about 700 years before when the unrighteous saw only 'distress and darkness and fearful gloom' - Isaiah 9:27.

Nevertheless, there will be **no more gloom** for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles by way of the sea, along the Jordan - the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.
- Isaiah 9:1-3 NIV

Dark times are opportunities for God's glory to be displayed and a time to bring in a great harvest.

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west. And His glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. - Isaiah 59:19-20 NKJV

It is easy to be distracted or discouraged when tough times come, but we must keep our eyes on Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith and also the captain of our salvation and the army of God. He is our banner and standard bearer. Remember the westerns where the cavalry arrives just in time to rescue those who are under siege. Leading the charge was a rider on a horse carrying a flag / standard and trumpets were blown to inspire their fight. One of God's names is **Jehovah Nissi, The Lord my Banner.**
- Exodus 17:15. Jesus leads the army of God into victory over the forces of darkness. Before Jesus returns both evil and good will have reached their full maturity in time for the final harvest. The clash between good and evil will be clearly manifested as demonic powers are released from the dark pit and God's angelic forces are revealed from heaven as shown in the Book of Revelation. God's angels are available now as ministering spirits to believers in Jesus - Hebrews 1:14. If we or God speak his Word, the angels are listening and will go into action on assignment for our benefit and God's purposes.

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. - Psalm 103:20 NIV

There is a common teaching that Jesus could return at any moment, but this seems contrary to the words of Jesus.

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. - Matthew 24:14 NKJV

Note: The gospel was preached in the first century to their world and the end of the Jewish age came in 70 AD. - Colossians 1:23

The gospel of the kingdom has not yet reached the whole world in our day. The gospel of personal salvation is valid and important, but it is not the full message of the kingdom of God. If one looks back over the past century, one will find that few seminaries or Bible Schools taught on the kingdom of God. More time was spent on various denominational doctrines, systematic theology and the

views of various theologians. The main message of Jesus and His kingdom was neglected or slighted.

It is important to understand the **process of redemption** which God revealed after the fall of Adam as the **sacrificial death of Jesus at the cross** and His shed **blood** are vital truths along with the **resurrection** as they are what made possible the **purpose of redemption: it was to restore man's relationship with God and His kingdom authority and reign over and through mankind to all the earth.** **Redemption was not the end but the means to the end, which is the kingdom rule of God.** The reign of Jesus starts internally in the individual but it then is to manifest externally over all areas of society through the body of Christ (the church /Gk. = ecclesia)

Ecclesia = Gk. assembly/ called out ones (among the Greeks a body of citizens gathered to discuss the affairs of state.) The church of Jesus should meet together to discuss matters of **kingdom business**; how we as citizens can **reflect the king's character, reign in this life and extend his kingdom.** Jesus told his first disciples to '**occupy until I come back**' - **Luke 19:13.**

The fullness of the kingdom will not come until Jesus returns (Luke 19:11) but the church is still commanded to spread the kingdom message to the world through their words and actions and be salt and light in all areas of society. This was the cultural mandate given to man in Genesis 1. D. James Kennedy had some good teaching on this subject in a booklet called Reconstruction. Jesus wants his influence to be spread in all areas of society. (an upcoming section on our website will have teachings on the 7 mountain strategy)

Occupy = Gk./ carry on business by trading

The church is not to just 'hang on' until Jesus returns. Even as Jesus ascended to heaven, the angels told the disciples '**why do you stand gazing up into heaven?**' - Acts 1:11 God expects his church to be **faithful** to uphold the apostolic truths he gave them but also to be **fruitful** in advancing his kingdom message and pattern of living to the whole world. **Jesus did not come to start a new religion but to introduce a new kingdom, a new government.** Jesus' first announcement to the world was that people must repent, (change their minds), for the kingdom of God was at hand (it had arrived.) Early on in Jesus' teaching to his disciples, he gave them this **world vision.**

You are the salt of the earth.....You are the light of the world - Matthew 5:13,14

This reminds us of the mandate given to Abraham and his descendants (which all Christians have through being In Christ, who is the seed of Abraham - Galatians 3:16). God spoke these words to Abraham.

Your descendants will **take possession** of the cities of their enemies,
And through your seed all nations on earth will be blessed because
You have obeyed me. Genesis 22:17-18

(they were to conquer God's enemies, take possession of the land and occupy it.)

'Once we are born again into the kingdom of Jesus Christ, we become divinely appointed agents of the king to extend the boundaries of the kingdom to those in darkness.-

- Larry Poland in the book Rise to Conquer

We are a royal priesthood, a kingdom of priests, and priestly intercessors.

- 1 Peter 1:9, Revelation 5:10

Before I went to England to live as a missionary, the Lord had me meditate on the first chapters of Joshua.

I will give you every place where you **set your foot**.... Joshua 1:3
Go in and **take possession** of the land the Lord your God
is giving you. - Joshua 1:11

I also meditated my way through the book of Ephesians where I discovered God's spiritual blessings and commitment to me in the first three chapters. The remaining three chapters reveal the type of committed lifestyle believers are to have as they walk worthy of their high calling (4:1).

Seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (2:6-7). This gives us a higher place from which to assess our situations in life from a **heavenly perspective** and with the mind of Christ which is the helmet of salvation/ hope (victory ie. our Nike cap) - 1 Thess. 5:8, 1 Corinth. 2:16.

Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. - Colossians 3:1-2

When Jesus arose and returned to heaven to sit on the throne, He was taking his **place of authority** which was given to Him over all of heaven and earth - Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:21-23. He has given us power and authority in His name.

'.....His incomparably great (resurrection) power for us who believe (1:19-20)

I have had occasions to exercise that power and authority over demonic powers.

Jesus taught his disciples that **'the kingdom of God is within you.'** - Luke 17:21
The key agent and activator of the kingdom is the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus returned to heaven after His resurrection he spoke these words to them....

'After the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' He then breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' - John 20:21,22

Ceive = 'to take' Receive = to take again. Many years before God had **breathed** into another person Adam, to bring him to physical life. Now Jesus was **breathing new spiritual life_ into** the disciples. This was a foretaste of the fullness of the **Spirit coming upon** them at Pentecost. Holy Spirit was the change agent to advance God's kingdom from heaven into the earth. Wherever He was stationed inside persons, He would seek to advance the kingdom. Isaiah the prophet spoke these words about Jesus.

Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end. - Isaiah 9:7

In the last days God will pour out his Spirit on all flesh, young people will prophesy and see visions. Old men will dream dreams and God's servants will prophesy. There will be wonders in the heaven and signs in the earth. - Acts 2:17-19 paraphrased

The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' - Peter Acts 2:34-35

He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through the holy prophets. Acts 3:21

Jesus is the head of the church and his believers are His feet on this earth. They are co-workers with Him. 1 Corinth.3:9.

Without Jesus, the church cannot grow, without the church Jesus will not go. The kingdom of God was in the early disciples, but it did not stay there, for they were soon accused of **turning the world upside down** and shaking the Roman Empire for many years - Acts 17:6. (by the 4th century the Roman influence was brought into the church and thus began 1000 years of what is

known as the Dark Ages. The church became top heavy with religious autocrats who suppressed the Word of God and filled the church with 'nominal / name only' Christians.)

The secularists of the world accuse certain elements of the church of wanting to establish 'a **theocracy**' on earth. Admittedly, there have been some extreme 'reconstruction/ dominion' proponents who actually would like to see a return to Old Testament laws and punishments eg. R.J. Rushdoony. They believe that Jesus returns after the Christians have set up the millennium (1000 year reign of Christ) and most of the world becomes Christian. This post-millennial view was popular in the 1600's and later in the mid-1800's.

The leftists of today have taken over the key mountains (influence areas) of society and now attack Christians who want to exert godly morals and righteousness in those places. The leftists spread fear about a theocracy while they exert their own '**atheocracy**' (**atheism/paganism**). One example is the area of education in the schools. Secular humanist John Dewey introduced his philosophy into the schools in the 1930's.

Secular Humanism in Education / John Dewey

- **There is no absolute truth or unchanging truth except change**
- **Truth is that which works for you**
- **Value is that which satisfies you**
- **Everything is judged by the individual**
- **Progressive education and experimentalism**
- **What we learn is not important but how we learn**

During the Covid-19 crisis of 2021, parents became aware of the abhorrent and 'woke' ideas being taught to their children such as sexual perversion etc. After this there has been a dramatic increase of parents who now home school their children. Extreme leftists believe that children belong to the state (the government) and not to the parents. Those are godless Marxist and Communist ideas which come from the devil himself who hates God and innocent children.

The whole woke movement is more about Marxism than true justice. God calls His people to awake to His standards, not the ideas that promote violence, anarchy and perversion.

Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.' **Awake to righteousness**, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. - 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJV

The infant church was powerful and prophetic, how much more should the end time church be so. God desires to bring His church to **full maturity** before Jesus returns - Ephesians 4:12. Is it not odd to think that the early church in its infancy should be more mature and powerful than the end times church? **God is coming back for a glorious church.**

Jesus is not coming back for a worn out and defeated church and bride. There will be many faithful ones who have lived as overcomers. Jesus loves his bride and gave himself for her so that she will be glorious and radiant when he returns to get her for the wedding. He wants a church without spot (stain) or wrinkle. - Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-8. In the spiritual realm, spots refer to sin and impurity while wrinkles refer to divisions. God uses his Word to purify us and also the blood of Jesus. He also uses pressure. The word tribulation means pressure. - John 16:33

I remember my first year of college when I had to iron my shirts to get the wrinkles out, but then permanent press shirts came to the stores. No more ironing for me! Then in the early 1980's when I began to study Bible prophecy more fully, I came up with the phrase, '**There are no permanent press Christians.**' Wrinkles in clothes are removed by the pressure of steam (heat and water). The early church experienced the fiery trials of persecution and grew stronger. The end time church will experience the same.

**Many will be purified, made spotless and refined,
but the wicked will continue to be wicked. - Daniel 12:10**

**The brightest crowns that are worn in heaven have been tried, and smelted,
and polished and glorified through the furnaces of tribulation.**

- Edward Hubbel Chapin (1814-1880)

The Bride of Jesus will be glorious and victorious!

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