

The Last Days

Series

Introduction

This is a transcription of the message preached on

August 9, 2009

Open your Bible and go to Matthew chapter 24. Now, this is the first message in a new series. The title of this series will be “The Last Day Series.”

This series will be similar to the spiritual warfare series, because we are going to journey through the scriptures and books of the Bible to try to comprehend and clear up the confusion that surrounds this subject. This series will present to you a very different viewpoint. That is why I have waited almost four years to do this series on the Last Days.

This ministry started four years ago, and most of you had never heard of me—some of you came from a ministry that I was participating in before—but most of all the viewers that watch now had never heard of Joseph Cortes, never heard of Faith Cometh by Hearing Ministries. Therefore, I had to lay down some foundational messages so you could hear with your own ears that I was not a spiritual lunatic. I still have people listening to the Spiritual Warfare series and communicating to me by email how much they are still learning from that series. They finally understand that Paul was not describing some Roman soldier’s armor. Paul wasn’t shallow (far from it) he was not going to take some earthly wardrobe and relate it to spiritual terms and definitions of what God’s Word says that He provides for us to wear.

I have taught on other subjects, such as was Joseph Imhotep. We looked at Joseph’s life and I pointed out how he is none other than Imhotep (*I-M-H-O-T-E-P*) in Egypt’s history; comparing and looking at all the similarities, and some of you were pleasantly surprised.

I still get messages about that series today from people stating that the Imhotep series was a revelation. God has always had His hand somewhere in this world controlling history and people to prove that His word is true and accurate.

In this series, I am going to uncover the history of the current popular prophecy philosophy, and who were some of the principles that created it.

We will be examining closely the seventy weeks; we will be looking at all types of timelines such a time, times and a half.

I know some of you have your minds already spinning; reflecting back to the traditional prophetic principals that have been preached for the last several hundred years. Wait until you hear where it came from and the theories that developed over the years. For example the two witnesses, most scholars have it either Elijah and Moses or Elijah and Enoch, because they did not die or were on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Are they sure about that? Where in God's Word does it say it is going to be those individuals? It is more hearsay than fact? Show me; verify it in God's Word that two of their three possibilities are the two witnesses. Other subject matter will include the two-horned beast, the abomination of desolation analyzing secular history along side Biblical history to show you how it happened and when it happened.

In the book of Daniel, it clearly reads that even Daniel could not understand the interpretations because they were reserved for the Last Days. That means the message of the Last Days would be visible to preachers that exist in that period to prepare saints for the final stage of history categorized in the Bible.

Only the Last Day ministries and the persons that preach it would have the full knowledge (from God's Word) of what to expect and how to interpret the Scriptures. That message is clear, not only in Daniel, but in the book of Revelation. That means theories and doctrines that were developed about prophecies two, three, four, five hundred years ago would miss the mark. I will be preaching also on the olive trees and the candlesticks and how the definitions of those trees and candlesticks have missed the mark. Then, we will look into the Antichrist, what or who it could be.

I am just listing a few topics in this introduction that are coming off the top of my head. We will cover all these subjects and more, using several different books—if not all the books—of God's Word that relate to prophecy and the Last Days.

I was contemplating for the last day and a half, where do I start this series. There are so many different choices to launch this series. Then it came to me why not Matthew chapter 24. Matthew 24, the most misinterpreted chapter probably in Matthew. Let us start with Verse 1, Chapter 24. **“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, ‘See ye not all these things? Look around and take a good look at these buildings. You see the temple over there. Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left, one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”** What Jesus is prophesying is destruction. Around 70A.D, destruction came at the hand of Titus from the Roman Empire. Therefore, what He prophesied is not something that we still need to look forward to; it has already happened, almost 2000 years ago.

I can just picture the disciples there all scratching and shaking their heads talking amongst each other saying, “What in the world is He talking about?” Remember, they were still hopeful that He would be the long awaited Messiah that would deliver them from Roman tyranny. They were still hopeful for a free nation, not controlled by any outside governmental force or kingdom, and here Jesus is saying, **“There shall not be one stone upon another.”** It is all coming down destruction was going to happen.

I believe after the Lord’s comments the disciples were extremely confused and could not wait to get Jesus alone to begin drilling Him with questions. Let’s just read what happens in verse 3. **“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be?”**

Question number one: **“Tell us, when shall these things be?”** When you read most commentaries, they will say that this question specifically was not answered. They just do not understand what God’s Word says on the subject because they are still preaching the doctrines that were created by unknowledgeable men. Question number two: **“and what shall be the sign of Thy coming?”** They wanted to know when certain events were going to take place. Furthermore, they want to know the sign of His coming.

Question number three: **“and of the end of the world?”** They want to know when all these events are going to take place. The throwing of the stones down so there is not one upon another, when was the sign of his coming going to take place, and when the end of the world would come. Three questions there in verse three and Jesus answered and said unto them—I like the way He answered the questions with a visible sign—I’m sure it was not the sign most people were looking for because they wanted to see the spectacular. They wanted to see the moon fall from the sky or some kind of impressive incident like that.

Jesus answered and said unto them, after those three questions, **“TAKE HEED.”** The Greek is very clear—not just **“take heed”** but watch and take heed, with intensity. This simply means always be on the lookout that no men deceive you. The answer is valid for all three questions. The New Testament church would experience many false prophets and Jesus made these disciples aware of what was coming and what they would have to deal with. After Jesus departure, the confrontation began with the false prophets and teachers that would try to pollute and deceive the church. Teachers that would lead New Testament babes in Christ astray, leading them back to Jewish traditions or adopting their old religions and false religions along side with their new religion. Moreover, Jesus knew what was coming, so He gave warning and Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed with great intensity that no man deceive you. Deceiving them about the subject matter surrounding the three questions they asked. Verse four **“For many shall come in my name,”** literally many shall come in my name representing Me.

Here, Jesus is not saying they are coming just in His name only, but they are coming and representing Him and some will even say, **“I am Christ and shall deceive many.”** They are not saying I am Jesus, but Christ, deliverers within themselves, and they shall deceive many. Therefore, the first things to be on the lookout for, is deception. **DECEPTION.** Before the Lord’s return, there are going to be deceivers. False prophets and teachers that proclaim and profess they are a representative of Christ or Christ themselves, carrying an attitude that they can save us. I will keep proclaiming that **Jesus Saves.** Jesus taught his disciples well and they

carried the instructions that were given unto them throughout Asia Minor, Damascus, Syria, Grecian and Roman areas and beyond, warning people also what to expect, especially when it came to Last Day events. There are going to be plenty of deceivers delivering a message that does not rightly divide the Word of God.

That is the point I am trying to make tonight. It is nothing new. You see in 2nd Peter chapter 2, Verse 1 **“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies”**—literally a form of religious worship, and opinions about everything—**“even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction”**—swift destruction.

These false teachers with their damnable heresies, even denying the Lord—some go as far as denying the Lord that bought them and brought upon themselves destruction, **“And many shall follow their pernicious ways”**—literally destructive ways—and many, not a few, are **“by reason, of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness, shall they with feigned”**—circle the word **“feigned,”** The Greek is “plastos”—we get the word “plastic” from this Greek word, literally it means molded, —they are going to mold you into what they want you to believe what God’s Word says so they can have their way with your mind. **“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words (or molded words) make merchandise of you.”**

Once they have you in their trap they are going to make merchandise out of you. For example, remember that fictional series Left Behind? I believe it was around twelve volumes and it covered the Last Day events when Antichrist comes on the scene during the great tribulation. The Christian public went wild over this series, even though the author did say it was fiction. There is nothing worse than fiction Christian authors—they make me sick. With their ability to write why not focus on factual subjects? What an imagination these authors have to come up with some cockamamie story? Give me a break...The Left Behind series is nothing more than Christian Science fiction.

You would be surprised how many people took that as Gospel. They made merchandise of you. They made a good dollar or two from the sales of it, in the millions of copies that were sold, and I'm sure some will read that series, and because it's similar to what Scripture says, will take that as Gospel and have a twisted, warped view of what these Last Days are going to be like.

They made merchandise of you **“Whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”** The individuals that take the teachings of Christ and of the apostles and merchandise it for gain, their damnation is coming. “Well, that's why you don't have very many friends in the ministry.” Good. GOOD. I have told you before; I do not mind you selling things at cost, including shipping and handling, because I know the cost of things. However, the reason they resort to this method is that they cannot get people to give because they do not teach them how to give to God properly. They start resorting to merchandising God's word and put up for sale their books, tapes and Jesus junk to merchandise the Gospel to continue their ministry.

Those types of ministries have a problem. Then there are other ministries that are claiming that they don't sell anything but if you send in \$29 offering they will send whatever they are teaching on a CD set. This is same Madison Avenue technique, just twisting of words. If you want to sell something to me, then sell it—but do not disguise it in your ministry as an offering and you will get whatever. If you want to write, then write your books, set yourself up as a profit-making corporation and sell all you want—but stop selling things in the name of Jesus and using nonprofit status to accomplish your goals. All you are doing is allowing the government to get their nose in it, eventually, to ruin it for the rest of the churches that are doing it correctly because of your greed.

Now, that is just a sidebar. I do not even know how I got onto that—yes, I do. The merchandising of you whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not and their damnation slumbereth not. Now let us go to second Peter chapter 3, verse one. **“Beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance”**—Verse 2, **“that ye may**

be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandments of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior.”

Verse 3, **“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.”** or desires literally, Verse 4. **“and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”** Verse 5, **“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God.”** In other words, there are going to be many that have the same attitude in these last days as the mockers and scoffers did in Noah’s day. Mocking believers that put their trust in God and His word.

There are religions around this world right now that don’t believe Jesus is Lord thereby they go around mocking—including some in the Christian world—saying that there is not going to be any coming of the Lord. They are the ones who are going to be slumbering and gnashing at the teeth when they see His appearance. There are plenty of warnings throughout the New Testament to be aware of the deceivers that are full of deception. That is why we have to contend for the faith.

In Jude, chapter 1 verse 3: **“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write upon you of the common salvation”—**or your own salvation that’s in common with us—**“it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort or encourage you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints.”** Continuing in verse 4 Jude says what they should contend in, but it says, **“Ye should earnestly contend for the faith.”**

There are not that many preachers out there today contending for the Word of God. They are not searching and they are not seeking for the truth concerning these last days. They have memorized and regurgitated what they learned in seminary on this subject. They do not want to make waves or offend anyone. They have no desire to contend for the faith or to enlighten the saints. You should earnestly contend for the faith. Contending for the faith—there again is a Greek word, which means, with the intensity and determination, striving and fighting forward. Verse 4, **“For there are**

certain men crept in unawares”—here comes the deceivers again—“who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into the lasciviousness, or absent of restraint and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Once again, Jude is writing to the saints, because he probably had heard what went on at Corinth and other places. He preached that the grace of God brought them salvation, but they did not want to give up their old life. I do not care what happens to you, the message of grace and peace is going to change your life, like it or lump it. Jesus said you could not serve two masters. Nevertheless, there are some of you that think you can, because, you are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ and His grace and peace. Let me make it clear to you tonight there is nothing you can do to merit or earn your salvation. It is not about works, but on the same token, that old man in you has to die and it is a slow process. You are going to deal with that old man for the remainder of your life and it will keep popping up its ugly head—but that is why the new man is there to respond to the attack.

“Turning the grace of our God into a lasciviousness or absence of restraint and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.” As I said, the church of Corinth, that is all they did. Oh, they would go to communion and use that as an occasion to get drunk and even have sexual orgies in the name of Jesus. They did not want to give up their old style of religion; they wanted the new religion and bring along the old religion with them, and what Jude is saying here, is you cannot have your cake and eat it too.

Now, there are three types of Christians. The first are the believers that experience the wonderful salvation of the Lord. After a while, they try to put a list of to-dos and to-don'ts into the equation to remain saved. They come up with a formula, what they have to do to keep saved. Those spiritual morons do not understand the message of grace, faith, salvation and peace. They are the list-makers for Jesus.

Then you have the second group of Christians that understand salvation by grace, faith in Christ Jesus and what He did on the cross, living in a realm of

grace and hope. Yet, after awhile, because they misinterpreted the message, forgetting the pit from once they were rescued, convert back to their old lifestyle doing what they want (my way mentally) saying it is covered under the blood. Paul calls it crucifying Christ continually. Now, we all sin and will keep on sinning—we keep putting Christ on that cross—but He came off that cross. He won the victory over Satan and death for us. Yes, our sins might remind us how miserable of a creature we are without Him, but thank God, we have Him. In addition, thank God when I fall and I will fall there is grace and forgiveness, DAILY, NO EXCEPTION. However, you have preachers that preach grace and peace and tell you, keep living your life as you like. I guess they have forgotten the words of Jesus “Deny yourself, take up the cross, and follow me”. Jesus did not say, do what you want, have a good old time; we will see you in heaven. If you think there is no responsibility that comes with your calling, you are gravely mistaken and you need to wake up.

Then you have got the third type—the people that do not follow to do lists, but are more concerned about pursuing a new life in Christ than what they left behind. If what they left behind was so great, why did they need to pursue a new life in Christ? Those people realize, thank God, He is giving us an opportunity. We can leave the old behind and press towards the mark with the mind of Christ that gives us a new perspective and a new life with a new hope and a new vision that will not only get us through the here and now, but gives us a new hope in the future in eternity with Jesus. These are the true followers of Jesus Christ. People that believed it is not my way but thine oh Lord, these are the true people of the way on the way.

And Jude goes on to say in verse 17,18, **“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers.”** There was going to be mockers of future events and the Last Days. **“How they that told you that there should be mockers in the last time.”** Circle the word “time.” There, “time,” means the time when everything concludes.

“Who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. Verse 19 explains how, individuals who separate themselves, not sensual, but of breath, having not the Spirit, they separate themselves from communicating with the Lord. Those who could be spiritually prepared for what is going to take place—even these New Testament saints were expecting the end of days and the last of times to be in their day—but it wasn’t. Now here we are 2000 years later and are still expecting it today. In addition, do I believe it is going to happen in our day? Yeah! Now I am 51. I do not know if I will live long enough, I am hoping and we will see as we lay out the timelines if it can happen.

However, it is at the door, folks. It has never been closer. It’s never been closer, but let’s continue in verse 20, **“ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying the Holy Ghost,** verse 21, **Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”** Circle that word, “mercy,” and I have preached about mercy before but I did not cover this word. This word, mercy, is about kindness or goodwill toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with the desire to help them.

KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD, LOOKING FOR THE MERCY, LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP OUT OF KINDNESS THE MISERABLE AND AFFLICTED, AND THERE IS NO GREATER WAY OF HELPING THE MISERABLE AND AFFLICTED THAN BY BRINGING THEM THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD. TO GIVE THEM A HOPE FOR THEIR PRESENT AND THEIR FUTURE. Verse 22, **“And of some have compassion, making a difference:”** Verse 23. **“And others save”** or rescue from destruction literally, **“with fear”** bringing them to the knowledge that they are displeasing God. **“pulling them out of the fire;”**—not only the present fire they are in, but eventually the lake of fire where they are headed because of God’s displeasure of them. “They were literally rescued from destruction of the fire, **“hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”** Verse 24, **“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling.”**—Literally, now unto him that is able to watch and guard you from falling, not stumbling but standing firm.

That is what we have been chosen to participate in. We need to have the understanding that there are going to be mockers, especially in these Last Days, saying, “Sure, Jesus is coming. Sure, Jesus came to save the world.” You look at Europe today. I think the figure was 14 percent and I was shocked by it—believed that Jesus Christ is coming. Around the globe, one-fourth of the world does not even believe Jesus was the Savior. Nevertheless, we have compassion, as Verse 22 says, and we ARE making a difference. We are going against these mockers, these naysayers, not only the ones that deny the Lord Jesus Christ but also the ones that are not teaching God’s word correctly. There are plenty of those.

We are going against the tide and I’m not ashamed of it—“**and others save with fear,**” say it by letting them know that they are displeasing God—literally pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garments spotted by the flesh. We should have compassion when we see someone, which does not believe in Jesus the Savior by His blood that spilled on the cross. You should look upon them as a garment spotted by the flesh, and it should trigger you into action. You should start praying for them, interacting with them—or better yet direct them where they can hear God’s Word preached correctly, maybe they will hear, and maybe they won’t. At least you tried to pluck them out of the fire. That is what we do here, we watch and we guard causing you to stand.

Now let us go to Second Thessalonians chapter 2 verses 1-2. “**Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind.**” Paul said I do not know what you have heard. What has been brought into the church whom he was writing this letter to, but don’t let them disturb you, don’t let them bring confusion upon you, “**that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that day of Christ is at hand.**”

Do you know what these scriptures are literally saying: Christ has already come! When? Did I miss Him? Paul in these opening scriptures in chapter 2 was referring to the first advent and not the return of the Lord. The saints of

the New Testament were expecting the return of the Lord. Paul was expecting it to. **“The day of Christ already has come; let no man deceive you by any means.** Christ has already come and gone. The first advent is completed. There is a set time and Paul lays out a small outline of that timing in the following verses.

“Let no man deceive you by any means.” Here we go again. You see the theme in all the different scriptures I went to tonight. It started with Matthew, Chapter 3: Take heed that no man deceive you about the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world—or in this case, when the stones will be overthrown in the city of Jerusalem in the temple. **“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away”**—literally a rebellion and departure. The ones rejecting Christ—well, that has been happening since Paul’s day but now it is happening at warp speed. **“Except there’s coming “a falling away”** or a rebellion and departure, **“and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”** What man of sin? What son of perdition? Everybody assumes this is the Antichrist. Is it? We will see as I get into these scriptures. Verse 4, **“Who opposeth and exalted himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he as God, sitting in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”** What temple is Paul speaking of? Obviously not the temple that was still there when he was writing these letters, because that didn’t fall until about 70 A.D.—well, some say as early as 67 but probably around 70 A.D. This letter most likely written between 51 and 52 A.D., so what temple was Paul referencing? Well, that must mean it is some future temple that still is waiting to be built.

Therefore, Paul wrote about a temple in the future while knowing that there was still an erect temple in Jerusalem when he wrote this letter. Was Paul trying to confuse the Thessalonians or what? Paul could have said that the son of perdition was going to stand in a future constructed temple after the temple that was standing in his time destroyed. However, Paul did not. People should be asking these questions. That is the reason why I dug into scriptures to get the answers, including what temple Paul was referring to which will be part of this series. Let us now move on to verse 5-7.

“Remember ye not, that, when I was with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might reveal in his time. For the ministry of iniquity doeth already his work: only he who now letteth”—or “restrained” is a good translation—**“ will let until he be taken out of the way.”** Most preachers preach that the church is the restraining force. No, it is not. Paul is not referring to the church. If he were, Paul would have made that clear. What Paul was referring to is the Holy Spirit as the restraining force in this world restricting the many little Antichrists, as John in his Gospel speaks of, that existed even in John’s day.

This verse is not referring to a complete departure of the Holy Spirit but the removal of His restraining power. Now, the reason I am going through this exercise tonight, is because I want you to examine the Last Days doctrine that you have come believe to be true. You should ask yourselves is the doctrine that you have been indoctrinated with the rightly divided Word of God. That is the whole point of this exercise tonight. I want you to have to prove it to yourself that the doctrine you have put your trust in is the Word of God.

Now, some have preached the doctrines that have been around for several hundred years with good intentions and some have preached it and twisted it to deceive you. However, here, the Holy Spirit is the one that restrains the Last Day events that is going to happen, including whatever this man of sin and son of perdition are. You have just assumed it is the Antichrist by creative scripture picking. However, as I said, use the whole bible do not Scripture pick. Use the whole book.

Verse 7-11 does not refer to the departure of the Holy Spirit but to the removal of His restraining power. This will allow Satan and his forces to have free rein on the earth, which he will have. And that time is coming, **“and then shall the wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with brightness of His coming: Even Him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all his power and signs and lying wonders, And with all the deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they receive not the love**

of the truth that they might be saved.” More deception. “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion,”—send who? —“That they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Verse 13, **“But we are bound to give thanks always to God”—**
“Brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and the belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions”—or “ordinances” is a better translation—**“which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”** or letter. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort”—or strengthen and encourage, literally—**“your hearts, and establish, you in every good word and work.”** Not works, work, “ergon,” there we see it once again in the Greek and it means employment of the Word. I have thrown that in because it keeps popping up no matter where we go in the scriptures. Do you know why saints are not going to be ready for the coming of the Lord? They do not know how to decipher the scriptures. They are looking for the wrong signs and events just before the coming of the Lord. They are going to find themselves unaware. It will be like a thief in the night for them because they will not be expecting it. They will find themselves caught off guard totally surprised. They might even join in with the mockers and lose faith. The only reason for this is because what the church has been teaching for so many years. Moreover, you will find yourself unaware, because you were not aware of the other option. What about scripture where it says that no man should know the hour, that is right, but translated correctly points to the remaking of this world, as Peter puts it, and as Jesus puts it. Somehow, Christians have twisted that Scripture and implied that this takes place at the time when the rapture is supposed to happen.

There is a lot of confusion in this subject matter, folks. And it’s going to take time to unravel it and I’m just giving you a general outline tonight but I have

to go into every one of these subjects and lay it out piece by piece so you can clearly understand God's word completely.

Now backs to Matthew 24 verse three, **“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.”** The same truth applies today. Verse 6, **“and ye shall hear wars and rumors of wars: see that ye not be troubled: for all these things must come to pass”** or must be fulfilled, **“but end is not yet.”**

Well, there have been wars and rumors of wars since Jesus' day. There is not anything new about that; you cannot put a certain time on that verse. There have been wars throughout human history. Any generation could have claimed that verse, so you just cannot apply it to the Last Days. Verse 7, **“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in diverse places.”** That has also happened throughout history. Well, it is happening at a greater rate than it has before. Does not surprise me—there are more people on this planet now. There is a lot of media coverage. There are satellites in the sky. You are going to know about the news instantaneously.

Continuing is verse 8, **“All these are the beginning of sorrows.”** So when did these sorrows begin? We will also look at that in this series.

Verse 9, **“Then they shall deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.”** That is just not an end time prophecy; it started in the apostle's day. Verse 10, **“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.”** Nothing-new there, Verse 11, **“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”** Happening since the time of Verse 12-14, **“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world.”** Many people say we are not preaching the Gospel of the kingdom. I say yes we are still preaching that message.

Go to Matthew 4:17. **“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** Now, we live in the age of grace, the Gospel of grace and peace, but that does not necessarily mean that repentance is not a part of that message. In fact, try not to repent; there is no forgiveness of sins unless you have a repenting heart, acknowledging that you are a sinner. The only way we become saved from the miserable wretch that we are is by the blood of Jesus Christ and understanding that He is the Son of God that came for our benefit to reconcile us back to the Father. So repentance belongs also in the age of grace—but the difference was, Christ still had to go to the cross, He was still at hand. The kingdom at hand message still has application even in this day when preached.

In Matthew 24, verse 14, **“And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”** Some people believe that grace is the only message that is pertinent now. In addition, when the church is taken out of this world then the Gospel of the kingdom (back to repentance only) will be preached and people will repent, and that will happen after the church is taken away—but they will not have the same access to grace and peace that the church has now. That is how much nonsense is out there, folks. What I am saying is repentance, grace and peace is the message that preachers need to keep preaching all the way until the end.

Verse 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:)”** I already told you in past messages that already happened. I will preach those messages again in this series. Well, you mean its not some rebuilt temple where Antichrist sits in the Holy of Holies. Well, first it does not say sit—it says stand. Standing on the throne and sitting on the throne is two different things. Even worldly rulers understood that. **“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (who so readeth, let him understand:)”** We will look at secular history along Biblical history to understand what the abomination of desolation was,

and how it fits in the timeline of events. This point is important to understand because it started the clock towards the end.

Verse 16-19, **“Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of this house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!”** That is not the Jews in Jerusalem at some future time.

This has already taken place; we will look at that topic also in this series.

Verse 20-21, **“But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be.”** For whom is the tribulation? He is talking about the Jewish people and the Jewish nation. So the question is, has the great tribulation already started—or is this some future event that still needs to take place? The problem with the present prophecy teaching out there is it does not give you the principles and perimeters to understand these verses. That is why there is so much confusion.

In addition, in fact if you go to Luke—and I will wrap up this message there. Luke 21, and this is not mentioned in Matthew—but Luke 21, verse 24, it says, **“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations:”** Jesus is referring to the Jews and the future destruction of Jerusalem. **“And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”** Has that already taken place? Has the times of the Gentiles past or does it still need fulfillment? Well, what about the Crusaders when they took control over Jerusalem for a couple hundred years? Yes, that is true but guess what they were Gentiles also. They were not the Jewish people. I thought they were Christians. That is not what God’s Word says. Gentiles, whether Christian or non-Christian, would be in control of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel but particularly Jerusalem, until the time of the Gentiles will be fulfilled. Has that already happened? Another topic matter we will be covering.

In Matthew 24 verse 44, **“Therefore be also ready: for in such an hour ye think not the Son of man cometh.”** However, If you only have an understanding what’s been taught for the last two to 300 hundred years with some variations of end time prophecies, you are not going to be ready as scripture states for such an hour because you won’t have any clue when the Son of Man cometh. The most important question concerning this subject then is can we have an idea when Jesus is coming. Absolutely. Absolutely. Absolutely.

In this series we will cover topics such as timelines, we will cover time, times, and a half, we will cover the two witnesses, we will cover the two horned beast, we will cover the vials, we will cover the olive trees and candlesticks. We will cover the antichrist, the false prophet. We will cover the history of the prophecy preaching and how it developed. We will cover history, secular and Biblical, and how it relates to God’s Word, We will cover the rapture and what that means. The reason why I waited all these years and preached over 300 sermons was to prove to you that I am not a nut. I will verify everything with you through God’s Word.

That is my promise to you. I hope that you will stick around long enough to see it unfold. To see it unfold—but as Jesus stated in Matthew 24 verse 3, **“Take heed that no man deceive you.”** There have been plenty of deceivers. Most of the prophecy doctrine that you hear today is a man made concoction of what God’s Word says, not what God’s Word truly says. In addition, you need to the knowledge straight from God’s Word you need to be equipped.

There is a lot of material to cover, folks: the coming of Christ, the Last Days, Antichrist, the beasts—especially the seventh and eighth beasts—the two witnesses many other topics will be covered in this series.

We have to take heed with intensity and not be deceived. Moreover, it is time to look beyond traditional prophecy deception and see what the truth is concerning these Last Days and what to expect. I want to close this message tonight by reading Luke 21 verse 28, **“And when these things begin to**

come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

To Be Continued...

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