

# **The Last Days Series**

## **End-Time Doctrinal Myths**

**This is a transcription of the message preached on**

**August 16, 2009**

Open your bibles to 2nd Timothy 4:3. This is the second message in this The Last Days series and tonight we are going to look at the prophecy doctrines that are circulating out there. I am confident that the majority of everyone listening tonight does not know where these doctrines came from and how they developed.

Before we look into the history of prophecy doctrines, let us look at what Paul said as a forewarning. Paul, writing to Timothy says, “**For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears**”. Paul knew that Timothy was going to face a variety of heresies and false doctrines. For that reason, he warns his spiritual son that the time will come when they will not, WILL NOT, endure, literally, hold up sound doctrine. If Paul were alive, today he probably would not be so calm. Everywhere your turn on any biblical subject today including end time prophecies someone is trying to make a mint based upon their opinion on God’s word. That alone is their true desire. Most of them do not even know how these doctrines came into existence. Nevertheless, for the time will come when they will not hold up sound doctrine; but after their own lust or desires shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.

Itching ears develop because casual Christians want to know how much time they have left before the Lord’s return. To many today develop an attitude that they will get it together when they know the time is close for His return. They just keep putting off faithing in the Lord and His word believing that they still have some time to do what they want and not what Jesus commanded which is to deny yourself, pick up the cross and start following Him. I hear the same excuse almost every day; I will get it together before the Lord’s return. No, you will not.

It’s like that article I read before I started preaching tonight, on debt: I’ll give to God when I’m out of debt. No, you will not, no, you won’t. You will always find new debt, new desires to spend your money on, and you will forever be behind the eight-ball trying to play catch up believing God will understand. Avoid that attitude that there is always tomorrow. Jesus might come back for you today. Do not be caught off guard and start living that any day could be the day.

With that said there is a lot that can be learned about the last days and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. This preacher has never been content with the present Christian Science fiction. I personally just do not make it a habit

to take someone's word for it if they have not clearly identified how it is verifiable in God's Word. As I teach on this series, you will see the evidence in God's Word, which includes timelines and other scriptural sources that lays it out clearly. I believe that you will join with me asking, how can preachers keep preaching what they preach? The only logical reason to explain this phenomenon is seminary education.

There was a reason why Daniel and the Book of Revelation could not be understood completely until these last days. For example, go to Daniel chapter twelve verse four. **“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”** Until we reached certain key dates in history, the end and when that last age of time would begin could not be clear and understandable. The information needed still needed fulfillment. I am sorry, two hundred years ago was not the time of the end; that is why there are so many confusing doctrines. We have teachers with itching ears who developed erroneous doctrines not proclaimed in God's Word. All they have is some scripture picking theories that makes it sound plausible. There have been many good-intentioned preachers preaching these doctrines without knowing the history behind these theories that have rooted themselves into Christianity. Paul forewarned us to be on the alert in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:4 **“And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”** Fables in the Greek is muthos—M-U-T-H-O-S in the Greek means, fables, where we get the word myth from—they shall turn ears from the truth, the truth that's already been presented in God's word waiting for the last days to be revealed when the Lord designated it to happen (not before).

Daniel or John did not fully understand when these last days would take place. However, we can because through God's word the time for understanding is now. My prayer is that others will start understanding what the Book of Revelation and the Book of Daniel has declared throughout the history of time.

But these teachers that have itching ears will turn people away from the truth by spreading myths. What are myths? In the Christian sense, false doctrines— FALSE DOCTRINES—the Christian community is so gullible to these false doctrines. Moreover, why wouldn't they be influenced there are scores of pastors and teachers that support these theories. I am not saying that they do not have the desire to preach the truth; that is the furthest thing from the truth. I am just saying that the truth has not been revealed to them.

Furthermore, Satan had a head start on developing end time doctrines that today predominantly occupies libraries and bookstores because he knew God was not going to reveal all the facts before the time of the end. Therefore, Satan had a head start; he started about 200 plus years before the beginning of the end.

With that understanding let us go to the end time muthos or myths and see where they came from, and how they were established. Let me start by reviewing some history first: a widely held end time view is that a seven-year time of trouble (the great tribulation) will take place at the end of this age. Few know the origin of that doctrine, but many have generally accepted as a fact.

The reason that I am teaching on this tonight is to give you the foundation of why you believe in what you believe. I have to lay the foundations, so you have an understanding from the ground floor to a complete understanding what God's word says about these last days and the doctrines that go along with it. Few know the origins of the doctrine of the great tribulation, as it is called. However, after tonight you will know. What you do with the information is between you and the Lord. Let us look at the history.

Back in the 1500s, when the last day's tribulation theory came into existence or the early stages of it, they also thought that they could explain diseases on how they started or passed along. Everyone back then assumed diseases were caught by night humors (fluids) and at bed time, folks would board their homes up tight, draw the curtains and raised themselves high-off-the-floor and sleep under the covers in hope they didn't catch the pox or the bloody flux by morning. They had an explanation for how diseases spread, but their explanation was wrong and therein lies the problem. As popular as the seven-year tribulation view might be it might also be wrong because there is no direct scriptural support for it.

I know exactly what most of you are thinking right now; what about the three and a half days that appears twice adding up to seven years. Are you sure a day equals a year? Are you sure about the 69th and 70<sup>th</sup> week, etc? Do you have enough scriptural support, enough verifiables in God's word to prove your doctrine? Now don't turn me off because your thinking "AHH I can't believe he's saying that."

Listen folks, this has nothing to do with our Faith in God, this is an investigation to seek out the truth about these last day prophecies. The Lord

has never been the author of confusion and He has clearly laid out what I will be presenting to you in the months ahead.

As popular as the seven-year tribulation view might be it also might be wrong because there is no direct scriptural support for it. In fact, it had a most dubious beginning so let us examine the history: From the early church fathers until the Reformation the generally accepted view of Bible prophecy was linear historic and I will show you that through the timelines. It is one thing to believe it; it is another to have it proven out to you.

From the early church fathers to the Reformation, the generally accepted view of Bible prophecy was linear historic, that revelation was in the process of fulfillment throughout the Christian era. But in the sixteenth century a new view of Bible prophecy was devised by a Jesuit priest to stop the reformers' belief that the Catholic church was probably the whore of Babylon of Revelation 17:3–6. In the 1590s, this Jesuit priest invented a futuristic view. He claimed that the book of Revelation would not be fulfilled until the end of the Christian era, which is not in itself wrong but what he concluded from it is. This Jesuit priest also taught a rebuilt Babylon, a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and an end time antichrist. By the way, antichrist is only mentioned four times in the New Testament in “the Epistles of John”, from this everyone has assumed that the beast is antichrist and in pre-tribulation doctrines it is; we will get to this topic in the future.

This Jesuit taught a rebuilt Babylon and rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and an end time antichrist. Does this sound familiar? IT SHOULD! This Jesuit priest is the father of the prophetic views taught by many leading denominations today but this Jesuit priest is only part of the story. There was a Spanish family living in Chile who had a boy named Manuel. After fifteen years at home young Manuel decided to become a Catholic priest, so he boarded a ship to Spain. Thirty-six years later when the Jesuits were expelled from that country because of their brutality, the now father Manuel had to move to Italy where he remained for the rest of his life. This Catholic priest claimed to be a converted Jew named rabbi Ben Zarah. Under that alias, he wrote a 900-page book. In it this priest theorized that the church would be taken to be with the Lord some 45 days before Jesus' final return to earth. During that 45 days while the church was in heaven, God was supposedly going to pour out his wrath upon the wicked remaining on the earth. Now this Jesuit priest derived this view from a premature interpretation of the 1290 and 1335 days given to us in Daniel 12.

Now, unbelievably, the Catholic priest that became a Jesuit also known as a Jewish rabbi theorized the earliest mini-trib, pre-trib rapture view on record. Morgan Edwards, a not so well known eighteenth-century pastor here in the United States, might have published a pre-trib rapture paper slightly earlier than this Jesuit priest.

Now eventually this Jesuit priest died in Italy in 1801 and that should have been the end of it. You might think the doctrine that developed would die also; that was the furthest thing from the truth. His views even after his death circulated in Spain and in 1812; his book began publishing in Spanish. Fourteen years later, it was translated into English by a radical cultist named Irving. Irving picked up his views and began preaching the same doctrine. The doctrine just did not die. Irving moved it forward and advanced it, and it became even more popular in England.

This is where the plot thickens, folks. About the same time, an Irvingite evangelist named Robert Norton met a little Scottish girl named Margaret McDonald. She was about 15 at the time. Margaret McDonald supposedly had a vision of the church secretly raptured. Norton was so charmed about the idea that he preached her vision all over England eventually inspiring the Millerites. The Millerites in church history are the group who predicted the return of Christ on October 22, 1844. Well, that did not happen, and it should have died, but the doctrine kept spreading and congregations were embracing it.

It should have died but there was always someone or some group that was there ready to pick it up, advance it forward, and spread it even further. There is a popular preacher out here in Southern California named Chuck Smith. He probably wishes that I would not mention this but in 1981, he predicted the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the same spirit as the Millerites, Chuck Smith in 1981 predicted Jesus' return would happen in that year. Of course, it did not happen.

Now, after analyzing Margaret McDonald vision up, down, and sideways. I just do not see why people made a fuss over it. However, they did, and her dream taken by slick religious con men became craftily made into a doctrine to advance their agenda. In addition, what they conveniently forget to point out was her involvement in the occult practices. McDonald even had a recorded levitation experience seen by others. My answer to that is so what, demons can do that too. Nevertheless, they used this girl to establish a doctrine based on the spectacular. People during that time period were

caught up in the spectacular, and they had an interest in unexplainable things.

When people tell me their visions, especially when it's about me, concerning what God has planned for me, I tell them I'd rather go with God's book. If the Lord has something to deliver, I have asked Him that He send it through His word. You might be saying, well, you are too proud, you are boxing the Lord in a corner. My answer to that is what Jesus said to His disciples when they asked Him for a sign. He said the only sign they would need is the sign of Jonah, which is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why do we need a sign? God has provided plenty of prophetic timelines in His word. We just need to start understanding what they are. Why should we need an additional sign when we are still trying to understand all the signs that are already there in God's Word? Only goony Christians go from sign to sign, from dreams to dreams, from visions to visions because they are too busy to mine into God's word.

After analyzing this dream, one comes to realize that it does not actually mention a doctrine. However, they pinned a doctrine on Margaret's dream because they wanted to use something that was spectacular. The religious con men thought individuals would believe what was coming out of her mouth to be gospel—TO BE PART OF GOD'S WORD. Enough said on that.

Now let us get back to Robert Norton. Robert Norton met Margaret McDonald and became charmed by her dreams so that he preached her vision all over England. John Darby; now, some of you remember that name or have heard of that name. He was the founder of the Plymouth Brethren who became interested in this new doctrine and attended several Irvingite meetings. In his letters Darby states that he had come to an understanding of this new truth and made no secret of the fact that he had been influenced by the Jesuit writings much earlier in time. Darby, however, was dissatisfied with the rather simplistic Jesuit/Irving 45-day tribulation belief, so he devised a more complex scheme. Darby taught that the last week of Daniel's 70th week...you can see that in Daniel 9, was still unfulfilled, so he theorized that the 70<sup>th</sup> week might actually be the seven-year tribulation that would take place at the end of the Christian era. So when was this 70<sup>th</sup> week event supposed to happen, according to John Darby's theory at the end of time. To make his theory fit world history, he also invented a 2000-year gap between the 69th week and the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Darby theorized the 70<sup>th</sup> week might actually be a future seven-year tribulation that would take place at the end of the Christian era. It was all guess theology, but there you have it. This is the true origin of the seven-year tribulation and pre-trib rapture doctrines. Upon that foundation Darby, and his Associates started preaching that a Jewish temple would be rebuilt and animal sacrifices would be established. Furthermore, that antichrist would appear and rule the world for seven years; and after three and a half years, he would turn against the Jews, stop the sacrifices, and start the battle of Armageddon. All based upon Darby's imaginary 2000-year-gap theory and the seven-year tribulation he conjured up from Daniel's 70 weeks. If Darby had not visited the United States, his seven-year theory could have died. After all, there were not many Darbyites around. While visiting the United States, Darby met C.I. Scofield. Anyone that has been a Christian long enough remembers that name. Smitten by the Jesuit's story, the McDonald visions, and Darby's theories Scofield decided to include them in the annotated Bible he was creating.

To gain acceptance in the church world the Darby Bibles and the Scofield Bibles were distributed by the thousands to preachers in England and in the United States, and some other places around the world. However, the biggest impact of the free giveaway of Bibles happened in England and the United States. These two countries were spreading the word of God around the world more than anyone else was. You could pick up a Scofield bible today and still see the notes regarding the end times and all the theories associated with it.

Therefore, C. I. Scofield taken by the Jesuit's story, McDonald's vision, and the Darby theories decided to include them in an annotated Bible he was working on. Sound Bible Scholars as A. J. Gordon, Charles Irwin and W. G. Morehead tried to dissuade him. Three members of the Scofield Bible project resigned because of his unswerving support for this view. The seven-year tribulation doctrine remained and grew in popularity. Therefore, the Jesuit's imaginative theories grew as a poisonous mushroom and inserted into the now famous notes of the Scofield reference Bible. Just look at it today; they are still sold by the hundreds of thousands a year. There is also a whole commentary produced by Scofield that contains the same doctrines that two Jesuit priests (in two different locations) came up with. In addition, a 15-year-old girl's vision, which was spread by another individual that, should have died because it was not grounded in God's word. Satan had a head start in bringing confusion to the end time prophecies, which were still

sealed according to Daniel. The fact is the last days had not yet arrived. When I say last days, the very end, and that is extremely important to remember; I promise you will have a greater understanding of what I am referring to when I get to it.

Since the Protestant church held the Jesuits and Irvingites to be heretical, everyone involved try to hide the origin of the doctrine. They tried to hide it; they tried to cover it up. It's like what the Mormons do today, try to cover up their past and present a more acceptable doctrine for not only political reasons but for other reasons also. Therefore, they try to cover up the origins of this doctrine and by almost unbelievable deception claimed to be the originators of the creed themselves. They were generally successful, for most pastors and theologians believed that John Darby and C. I. Scofield and what is known today as dispensational eschatology was factual. In the following decades, the Scofield Bible became the most widely read Bible in the English language so that the annotative is a primary vehicle by which the seven-year tribulation was spread throughout American churches. As I mentioned earlier, it was given away, free. Various respected scholars wrote scathing reviews, but others presume the Scofield Notes to be all but inspired. Even today for some folks, the commentator's notes below the line are valued as much as the text above it.

Dr. Ironside—and everyone has heard that name. You could probably go to any bookstore today and pick up his commentary. Dr. Ironside of Moody Bible Institute fully supported Darby and Scofield and but later in life admitted that it was full of holes. Dallas Theological Seminary today still supports Darby's views. There has been rebuttals by considered theologians, but few have bothered to refute the Jesuit's and the McDonald, Darby, and Scofield view.

Well, that is about ready to change. It is almost unbelievable that mainstream end time doctrines of the protestant church began in the minds of a couple Jesuit priests. One of which wrote under an assumed name and even more incredibly were amplified by the supposed vision of a 15-year-old girl who had only been a Christian for a year, who dabbled in the occult and had a documented levitation. Many seminary students have tried to reconcile the basic assertions of scripture with a dispensational position but to no avail. Eventually, the future pastors just accepted these Jesuits view, the McDonald vision, and the Darby and Scofield Bible. And after being ordained, they went forth happily teaching this doctrine to their flocks. Rarely, though, do they question the quivering foundation upon which they

are trying to build the questionable opinions of the Jesuits who started it all.

No longer should any serious Christians should sit back and except the Christian Science fiction theories as scripture. Scripture is full of information on how we should expect and prepare for Christ return. We are near the very end of all things. The signs are there if we know what to look for. The Jews are home in Israel now just as the Lord prophesied. There have been many prophecies fulfilled in the last sixty years. Furthermore, we can state conclusively that all scriptures used to formulate the seven-year tribulation view, including Daniel's 70 weeks, reached fulfillment. We will see the Jesuits, Irvings, McDonalds, the Darbys the Scofields, the sensational end time schemes just is not true. The origins of these doctrines had shaky beginnings, questionable beginnings and because of their questionable beginnings their origins have been hidden from the general knowledge about these doctrines for too long. It is about time they are exposed for what they are. They are not truthful doctrines.

"Well, are you saying that you don't believe in a pre-trib?" I am not saying that at all. I have not given you my opinion on anything yet; I am just reviewing some of the church history concerning these doctrines. You have to dig deep to find the truth. Try going to Fuller Theological Seminary, which is not too far, from where I am at right now and find the origins of these doctrines. Try to find books it in bookstores, whether religious or secular; you just will not find it.

I recommend that you keep listening to obtain a better understanding concerning the last days and what the word of God has to say about this subject.

We will study the book of Revelation and the book of Daniel and see how they clearly point to certain dates and events. In addition, what time we are in now and possibly how much time is left. Do not worry I am not a date setter. Nevertheless, there are key dates in history which points to the past and future.

Are dates like 1948 and 1967 key dates?

Are there other key dates?

Are there time, times, and a half?

Is there another time that prophecy teachers overlooked? Absolutely and

eventually, this series will demonstrate that God does keep His word. This last day's series will be a faith builder, and it will give you a firm foundation using God's word interpreted correctly. He is coming back again folks, but until then, he gave those who proclaim His word a warning in the book of Revelation. Revelation 22:18–19. What does it say? **“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add until him the plagues that are written in this book.”**

God's word is saying that the inventors of these doctrines better watch out because if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. Beware of viewpoints that make up doctrines to fit Christian science fiction theories. Any doctrinal criteria should be verifiable again and again in God's word. Listen, the greatest event that ever happened was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Do you know how much of scripture pointed to that great event? Think about it. Do you know how many scriptures in the Old Testament pointed to Jesus birth, death and resurrection? The New Testament refers back to it, but the Old Testament points forward to that future event; countless number of scriptures.

With that in mind, the second greatest event in history is about ready to take place and the conclusion of all things is about ready to happen. Why wouldn't we have the same verifiable information in God's word that verifies the future. I take that verse we just read very seriously because my eternal well being depends upon this verse. **“for I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”** That is why I take this very seriously. That is why I have to verify God's word and carefully lay out the scriptures and timelines. Once again I am not interested in Christian science fiction.

What a solemn warning in Revelation 22:18-19 to the critics that have tempered with this book and other portions of scripture in arrogant self-confidence that they are equipped intellectually and spiritually to determine what is true and what is not true in the word of God. Why would the Lord assign such a strong rebuke for the addition or subtraction from a book that just painted grandiose ideas and wild pictures if no one could really

understand the book anyway. Preachers have been in the dark for too long because of these doctrines. Well now is the time to step into the light and start increasing your knowledge of prophecy not manufactured by Christian science fiction con men. It is time to explore the riches in God's word and to learn from it, to build faith on and in it.

Before I close tonight let us quickly review. The pre-trib doctrines were developed by Jesuit priests, and because Protestants did not want to be trumped by the Jesuit priests' found a sitting duck in a girl that practiced in the occult. McDonald claimed that she had a revelation from God about the last days, the rapture and the tribulation period and religious con men therefore ran with it spreading a pre-tribulation doctrine created by individuals such as Darby and C. I. Scofield and it took root. Why wouldn't it who wants to hear about going through the tribulation. In addition, some have created a mid-tribulation doctrine. We will look at that theory in the future messages in this series.

God willing the next time we gather together we will start looking into dated timelines; the first being The Time of the Gentiles. Keep looking up folks our redemption draweth nigh. Keep Faithing On!

## To Be Continued...

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Write us at  
**Faith Cometh By Hearing**  
**530 S Lake Ave #701**  
**Pasadena, CA 91101**