



# END TIMES

*What is going to happen when the world ends?  
Will it be like in the movie 2012?*

## **THINGS WE KNOW FOR SURE AND THE LAST THINGS WE *NEED* TO KNOW**

There will be deceptive teachers, wars, natural disasters, famines, severe persecution of believers, spreading of the gospel, and martyrs. Jesus will unexpectedly return to end history, raise the dead, share his glory with God's children, judge the world, and make all things new.

Don't be taken in by tricky teachers. Don't be distressed by disasters. Don't be surprised by suffering. Don't worry about your words. Don't be preoccupied with predictions. Watch yourselves, not the signs. Don't be caught without Christ! Be on guard! Stay alert! Watch and pray!

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8, Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, Acts 1:11, Colossians 3:1-4, 2 Timothy 4:3-8, Hebrews 9:27-28, Mark 8:38, 2 Thessalonians 1:10, Revelation 1:7-8, John 5:28-29, Romans 8:17-25, 2 Peter 3:7-14*

### **Message Series: The Last Things You Need to Know**

<http://www.watermarkradio.com/index.php?id=153&channel=237&series=21>

## **3 WAYS TO INTERPRET THE BOOK OF REVELATION**



**Futurist** - This interpretation views Revelation as chiefly referring to events which will take place at the end of the world. The main focus is the return and triumph of Christ.

**Idealist** - This interpretation, also known as spiritualist or symbolic, views Revelation as symbols which represent larger themes and concepts, rather than actual people and events. It sees in Revelation an allegorical representation of the ongoing struggle of the forces of light and darkness, and the ultimate triumph of good over evil.

**Preterist** - The word "preterist" is taken from the Latin word meaning "gone by". This interpretation views Revelation as chiefly referring to events that have already taken place. It finds parallels between Revelation and the events of the first century, such as Herod's attempt to kill the infant Christ, the struggle of Christianity to survive the persecutions of Judaism and the Roman Empire, the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the desecration of the temple in the same year, and the growth of Christianity from a sect within Judaism to an independent religion.

## **END TIMES DEFINITIONS**

**Second Coming** - A general reference to the final coming of Christ from heaven to earth to establish his glorious kingdom. Hebrews 9:28, "So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."

**Rapture** - This word is not in the Bible. But it refers to the snatching away of believers from the earth mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, "Then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord."

**Tribulation** - A general word referring to the hardships and sufferings that people will always have to pass through. Acts 14:22, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." More specifically Jesus refers to a time of "great tribulation" at the end of the age in Matthew 24:21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be."

**Seven years** - The idea that the "great tribulation" will last seven years. It comes from Daniel 9:24-27 where Daniel predicts "seventy weeks of years" for the accomplishment of God's redemption. The book of Revelation picks up this idea several times in its references to years (Revelation 11:3; 12:6; 13:5).

### 3 VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE & TRIBULATION



**Pre-Tribulation** - The view that before Christ returns in glory, he will return to catch up (rapture) the church and take us to heaven. This happens *before* the seven year tribulation, and so the view is called the *pre-tribulation* view. This implies that the Church will not be here during the tribulation on earth.

**Mid-Tribulation** - The view that the rapture of the Church will happen halfway through the seven year tribulation period that precedes the Second Coming and millennial reign of Christ. This implies that the Church will be here for half of the tribulation on earth.

**Post-Tribulation** - The view that the rapture occurs at the end of the tribulation period, immediately before (basically during the same event as) the Second Coming. The saints rise to meet the Lord in the air and accompany him back as the rightful king of the earth. This implies that the church will go through the tribulation on the earth.

**Characters of the Tribulation** - Antichrist, beast, dragon, false prophet, harlot, two witnesses, the 144,000, angels, and armies

**Mark of the Beast** - This is the special mark that the Antichrist forces people to have on their hand or forehead. Those who choose the mark choose to follow the Antichrist. Those who refuse the mark are put to death.

**Seal Judgments** - Among the worst horrors of the Tribulation are the many plagues that strike the world's people, particularly those who reject the Savior. The Greek word translated "plague" appears eight times in Revelation and is part of the first "birth pains" mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. Most of these plagues are a result of man's inhumanity to man. Like many plagues that usually follow wars.

**Trumpet Judgments** - While the Seal Judgments occur in the first half of the Tribulation, the Trumpet Judgments take place in the second half. In the first period of the Tribulation the earth has known the wrath of the Antichrist, now it begins to feel the wrath of God.

**Bowl Judgments** - During the second half of the Tribulation, God's anger grows and continues to worsen. The Bowl Judgments show the overflow of God's wrath on the earth.

**Millennial Kingdom** - The period of time mentioned in Revelation 20:4 during which the saints "reign with Christ a thousand years." During this time Satan is bound and thrown into a pit "that he should not deceive the nations till the thousand years are ended" (Revelation 20:3). So the millennium is marked by peace and prosperity for God's people. After this time there will appear the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13).

### 3 VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM



**Pre-Millennial** - The view that there will be a 1,000 year literal, personal, bodily reign of Christ on the earth (Revelation 20:1-6) after the Second Coming (Revelation 19:11-21) and before the final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) and the establishment of the New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation 21) where the redeemed will dwell forever.

**Post-Millennial** - The view that the Second Coming will occur after a "golden millennial" period in which the gospel has been taken (and presumably accepted) by the entire world. After a long period of peace and righteousness there will be an outbreak of evil and Christ will come in person to win the victory.

**Amillennial** - The view that the 1000 year millennial reign of Christ spoken of in Revelation 20, is symbolic of the church age we now live in and not to be fulfilled literally. The second coming will usher in the final state of the new heavens and new earth.

## **POSSIBLE TIMELINE (FUTURIST, PRE-TRIBULATION, & PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWS)**

Current Church Age

Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 3:10)

-----Seven Year Tribulation Begins-----

Seven Seal Judgements (Revelation 6-8):

1. Rider on a White Horse - Antichrist comes in conquering power and promises peace. Two witnesses of Revelation begin their ministry
2. Red Horse – War and bloodshed
3. Black Horse – Famine and disease
4. Pale Horse – Pestilence and death
5. The martyrs of the Tribulation
6. Great earthquake. 144,000 witnesses
7. Silence in heaven

Seven Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8-11)

1. Hail, fire, and blood – One third of the earth, trees, and grass is burned
2. A mountain of fire – Burning mountains plummet into the sea
3. A star called Wormwood
4. Darkness descends – Sun, moon and stars darkened by one third
5. The locusts of Apollyon attack
6. The four angels released – Plague of horsemen kills one third of people
7. Loud voices in heaven – Worship of Christ in heaven. Lightning, earthquakes, and hailstorms on earth

The mark of the beast begins (Revelation 13:16-18)

Antichrist enters and desecrates the temple – Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:15)

Seven Bowl Judgments (Revelation 16)

1. Foul and loathsome sores
2. The sea turns to blood
3. The rivers and springs turn to blood
4. The sun scorches men
5. Darkness on the Beast's kingdom
6. The Euphrates dries up
7. The greatest earthquake in history

Return of Christ to Earth (Revelation 19:11-18)

Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:19-21)

Satan bound in the abyss (Revelation 20:1-3)

-----Seven Year Tribulation Ends-----

The Millennial (1,000 Year) Kingdom (Revelation 20)

Satan released and doomed (Revelation 20)

Judgment Day (Revelation 20)

New Heaven and Earth (Revelation 21)

## **MARK 13**

1 As Jesus was leaving the Temple that day, one of his disciples said, “Teacher, look at these magnificent buildings! Look at the impressive stones in the walls.”

2 Jesus replied, “Yes, look at these great buildings. But they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!”

3 Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives across the valley from the Temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him privately and asked him, 4 “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled?”

5 Jesus replied, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, 6 for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. 7 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. 8 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many parts of the world, as well as famines. But this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

9 “When these things begin to happen, watch out! You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me. 10 For the Good News must first be preached to all nations. 11 But when you are arrested and stand trial, don’t worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

12 “A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. 13 And everyone will hate you because you are my followers. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

14 “The day is coming when you will see the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing where he should not be. Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. 15 A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. 16 A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. 17 How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. 18 And pray that your flight will not be in winter. 19 For there will be greater anguish in those days than at any time since God created the world. And it will never be so great again. 20 In fact, unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, not a single person will survive. But for the sake of his chosen ones he has shortened those days.

21 “Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There he is,’ don’t believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones. 23 Watch out! I have warned you about this ahead of time!

24 “At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

28 “Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. 29 In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door. 30 I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

32 “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. 33 And since you don’t know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!

34 “The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. 35 You, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. 36 Don’t let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. 37 I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him!”

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-8**

1 Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. 2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. 3 When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

4 But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. 5 For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. 6 So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. 7 Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. 8 But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

### **2 Timothy 4:3-8**

3 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths. 5 But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

6 As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. 8 And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

### **Romans 8:17-25**

7 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.

**2 Peter 3:7-14**

7 And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

8 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

**Revelation 21:1-8**

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

8 "But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."