

What Do I Need to Know About the End Times? - Message 3

Announcements

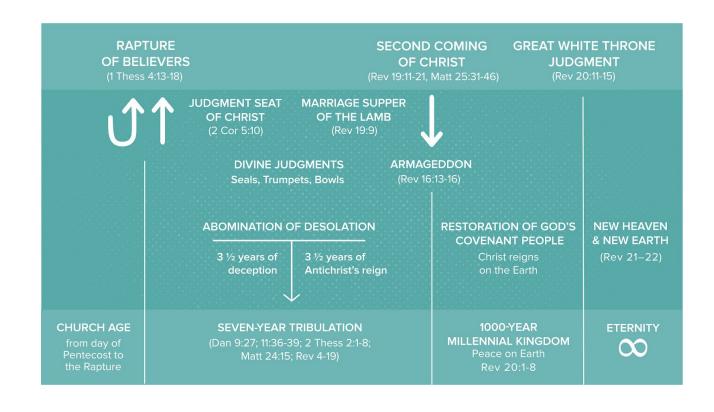
Fall Small Group Semester //September 2-December 8 (15 weeks) // The summer semester ends August 11 and we're looking ahead for the Fall. You will receive an email this week asking your Small Group plans for the fall. Pray and discuss with your group what you will do next semester.

Warm-up

Are you a morning person or a night owl? What are the advantages of coming alive in the morning or evening?

Word and Application

During the *You Asked For It* series, we explored what the Bible says about *Overcoming Depression* and *How Trustworthy the Bible Is.* Week 3 of the series asks the question: *What Do I Need To Know About The End Times?* This topic can often lead to a complicated discussion, leaving many confused and afraid. The good news is as followers of Jesus Christ, we don't have to face the End Times with fear and trembling but with confidence and assurance. The more we understand about what the Scriptures say, the more peace we can have in the challenges ahead. ***Refer to the End Times chart below throughout today's lesson.**



It is important for us to keep sight of what God is doing during the End Times; He is restoring His broken family.

Four Questions About The End Times

1. Question: How does the <u>Day of the Lord</u> relate to the End Times and to us today?

The Day of the Lord referred to in Scripture is a *season of God's grace followed by a season of His justice*. Remember, God is loving, but He's also just. When Jesus came to Earth the first time, He came as the Light of the world. He brought salvation through the Age of Grace (Church Age). When the day time ends at the Rapture, a season of darkness follows--an Age of Judgment that begins the Great Tribulation period.* **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2.** Why do you suppose Paul is addressing the church of Thessalonica with this passage? What is the main point Paul is trying to get across?

2. Question: What happens to believers at the Rapture?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:8 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14. Who are those who have "fallen asleep" according to Paul? What do these passages say about the power of the resurrection of Christ? How do these passages counter fear of death?

When Jesus returns to earth to receive His Church, He will bring Christians who have already passed away. Both those living and those who have passed will receive *new, glorified bodies* that will never decay and never die! We will go to the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive our rewards based on what we have done for Christ. We will be in Heaven and will enter the seven-year Marriage Supper of the Lamb*.

Give examples of what the world and false religions believe about life after death. Ask a volunteer to describe in their own words what happens when a believer dies.

3. Question: What happens during the Tribulation?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-6. The following key events will take place during the Tribulation:

- a. **The Falling Away** A great multitude will be deceived and turn from the truth. Give an example of something society views as right but is actually contrary to the way of Jesus.
- b. **The Antichrist is Revealed** Empowered by Satan, this "man of sin" will exalt himself above Jesus Christ and lead many astray.
- c. **The Abomination of Desolation** The ultimate rebellious act occurs when the Antichrist will enter the holy temple of God and sit on God's mercy seat thus declaring himself God.

4. Question: What does all this End Time teaching mean to me?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14. As believers, what is our response and responsibility to a better understanding of the End Times? **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:15.** The point of all End Time teaching is to live in today. What does it mean to live out the following convictions.

a. Live in the Truth b. Live in the Spirit c. Live in Community

Life Challenge

For an even greater understanding of the End Times, watch the sermon messages and review the small group lessons from Pastor Steve's series *The Book of Revelation*. Go to ChurchoftheKing.com/media and click on **Change Series**. Choose *The Book of Revelation* from the selection of message series.

Prayer

Pray that God would give you a spirit of boldness and the opportunity to share the Good News of salvation with those who are lost. Pray for the specific needs of your Small Group.