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# Our Present Age

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*the final "this generation" that Jesus spoke of*

## THE END TIMES

### WHAT IS THE END TIMES?

Asking, "What is the end times?" is to ask what is it that is being brought to its end, to its completeness? The popular view is that the world will end. The biblical view is that God's anger against Israel's sin and rebellion will come to its end, as well as the end to our present age.

God's anger against Israel began when Israel sinned and rebelled against Him.<sup>1</sup> He compelled them to repent and stop their sin and rebellion.<sup>2</sup> However, when they refused to repent God moved the Babylonians against them in the early 600's BC.<sup>3</sup> The Babylonians took them into captivity and made them slaves. This was the beginning of God's long-term anger against His people.

The Jews were in Babylon for seventy years. When these seventy years were ending, the prophet Daniel talked to God asking to be released from the captivity, which ended when the Persians conquered Babylon permitting the Jews to return to their homeland.<sup>4</sup> Though in their homeland, they were not sovereign and were under the watchful eye of the Persians.

Even though the Jews were released from their Babylonian captivity they were not released from God's anger. As Daniel was talking to God, the angel Gabriel explained to him when God's anger against the Jews

would end.<sup>5</sup> I'm sure Daniel was not prepared for what he heard.

What Daniel heard was that God's anger against the Jews, and the Jews full possession of Jerusalem would not take place until the Messiah, Jesus, arrives and is put to death and the one called the Antichrist arrives and again destroys Jerusalem leaving it in ruins. Here is what Gabriel revealed in what is known as Daniel's 70 Weeks (Daniel 9:24-27).

#### 490 YEARS (70 X 7)

#### Daniel 9:24

Seventy weeks are determined upon your people and upon the holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

God revealed to Daniel that His anger would be upon the Jews and Jerusalem for 70 weeks, or as Daniel understood it, for 490 years. At the end of the 490 years (70 weeks X 7 days)<sup>6</sup> God will remove Israel's sin and rebellion replacing it with eternal righteousness. He will also fulfill all prophecy and establish the Messiah, Jesus, on the eternal throne of David as Israel's eternal King. None of this takes place until God's anger is removed from Israel at the return of Jesus, Israel's Messiah.

<sup>1</sup> Daniel 9:5, 9-11

<sup>2</sup> Daniel 9:6

<sup>3</sup> Daniel 9:12-14

<sup>4</sup> Daniel 9:1-33, 16-19

<sup>5</sup> Daniel 9:20-23

<sup>6</sup> Concerning a week calculated as one year, see the excerpt from my book, *ARE WE THERE YET*, pages 78-82. [Go to link.](#)

**49 YEARS (7 X 7)****Daniel 9:25**

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

The 49 years, seven weeks multiplied by seven years, refers to the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the destruction by the Babylonians. The commandment (decree) to rebuild Jerusalem started the broad countdown to the end of God's anger upon the Jews. This decree is recorded in Nehemiah 2:1-18 and was given by Artaxerxes in 445 BC.

The 62 weeks multiplied by seven days equals 434 years and refers to the period between the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the appearance of Jesus, the Messiah, on the earth.

With Jerusalem and the temple rebuilt, and Temple worship and sacrifices resumed, the preparations necessary for the arrival of the Messiah,<sup>7</sup> Jesus, was in place. When Jesus arrived, he taught and ministered in Israel to encourage the Jews to repent and prepare to enter God's eternal kingdom. However, the Jews chose to reject Jesus as their Messiah.

**434 YEARS (62 X 7)****Daniel 9:26**

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

After teaching and preaching for approximately three years, Jesus is "cut off," killed by his own people. After his death the temple and Jerusalem was again destroyed in 70 AD and would remain in ruins until it was time for

God's anger to end against the Jews. This period of time was characterized by Jerusalem and the temple remaining in ruins until God's anger against the Jews comes to its end. The Jews destiny, after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70AD, would be filled with troubles culminating in its greatest troubles when the Antichrist releases his great tribulation.

**7 YEARS (1 X 7)****Daniel 9:27**

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The "he" in this verse refers back to the "prince that shall come" in 9:26. This prince is the one we call the Antichrist. When God's anger enters its final seven years, the Antichrist will come to power, confirm a seven year treaty with the Jews, then break the treaty three and a half years later. During the first three and a half years the Jews will have peace with her enemies and the temple will be rebuilt. In the second half, the treaty will be broken and the Antichrist will stop temple worship and sacrifice, will claim to be God, then make war against the Jews, and destroy Jerusalem. This rise of the Antichrist, the broken treaty, and the great tribulation upon God's people, will all be done as God's final release of anger upon the Jews.

We will know when God's anger against the Jews is moving toward its end when we witness the Jews returning to Israel and Jerusalem is again rebuilt. This all began to take place after the Jews regained control over Israel in 1948 and Jerusalem in 1967. Now that the Jews have regained control over Jerusalem, we have entered the generation that will see the rise of the Antichrist and God's final anger upon the Jews released through what

<sup>7</sup> Galatians 4:4-55

is known as the *great tribulation* brought by the Antichrist.

### THE GAP

#### Daniel 9:26-27

From the time that Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD to our present age has been more than 2000 years, which is much longer than the 434 years Daniel understood. The reason for these extra years, or gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks, is to give the opportunity for gentiles (non-Jews) to receive the same promises God gave to the Jews.

Because the Jews rejected Jesus, God then invited the gentiles to receive Him.<sup>8</sup> The pause between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks gives time for any person—Jew or Gentile—to receive the same promises given to the Jews. This opportunity was spoken of when God first gave His promise to Abraham, saying "all the families of the earth," will be blessed through the blessings of Abraham.<sup>9</sup>

After Christ, the Messiah, died, the Apostle Paul, a Jew and Pharisee, was sent by God specifically to the Gentiles to compel them to receive Christ and the promises given to the Jews. He made it clear that since Christ appeared he removed the wall separating the Jew from the Gentile<sup>10</sup> so that all people could receive the eternal inheritance promised to the Jews: "There is neither Jew nor Greek.... for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."<sup>11</sup>

This time of the gentiles, when God invites the non-Jews to share in the Jews inheritance, is also known as the Church age and the age of grace. After all who will receive Christ has received him, then the Antichrist will appear, and God's final wrath will be poured out upon the Jews and all who belong to God.

It is this end to God's anger upon the Jews by the Antichrist that is called "the end." Our present age currently fulfills Israel's last days of wrath when the final events necessary for the one called the Antichrist to arrive are being put into place. It won't be long now. Your eyes and mine will see the appearance of the Antichrist.

## THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN

Daniel's 70 weeks gives to us the broad timetable of the end to God's wrath and lets us know we will soon, our lifetime, enter the last week of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. Jesus' timetable in Matthew 24 gives to us specific events to let us know where we are and how close we are to the end of God's wrath against the Jews, the arrival of the Antichrist, and the return of Christ.

In his Matthew 24 teaching, Jesus outlined the events leading to the arrival of the Antichrist and the final outpouring of God's wrath upon the Jews. In fact, Jesus' appearance ushered in what we call the "end times." Each of the writers of the New Testament confirmed that Jesus ushered in the end times,<sup>12</sup> confirming we have lived in the end times for over two thousand years.

In his Matthew 24 teaching, Jesus revealed that the events leading to God's final wrath would increase in frequency and intensity from the time of his arrival until the Antichrist is in power. These events are organized into four time periods.

*Time Period 1.* These events are recorded in Matthew 24:4-6.<sup>13</sup>

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 22:1-14; Romans 11:11-15

<sup>9</sup> Genesis 12:1-3

<sup>10</sup> Ephesians 2:13-15

<sup>11</sup> Galatians 3:28-29; Ephesians 2:11-22; Ephesians 3:1-13

<sup>12</sup> [Click here](#) for scripture references concerning how Jesus ushered in the end times.

<sup>13</sup> For a brief commentary on Matthew 24, click here to read my [Ebook, COMING SOON.](#)

When Jesus taught that false Christs and wars and rumors of wars “must come to pass” he was teaching that these events will continue to take place throughout all generations and are essentially “everyday events.” Though these events are not good, they are not signs that the end of God’s anger is here, or that Christ’s return is imminent, only that the end to God’s wrath has begun.

*Time Period 2.* These events are recorded in Matthew 24:7-8.

For nation [ethnos] shall rise against nation [ethnos], and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

When Jesus taught that these five events are “the beginning of sorrows,” he was teaching that the countdown to the rise of the Antichrist and the pouring out of God’s final wrath had begun. He taught that the generation that is alive when the beginning of the tribulation/great sorrows begins would be the generation that sees the arrival of the Antichrist.<sup>14</sup> Our present age is this final generation. I mean, like, you and I will witness the Antichrist with our own eyes.

These “beginning of sorrows” events began when the Jews regained their independence as a nation in 1948 and reclaimed Jerusalem in 1967<sup>15</sup> and will end with the arrival of the Antichrist and his great tribulation upon the Jews and God’s people.<sup>16</sup>

During this time of sorrows, many teachers and preachers will offer false hope saying that Christ has returned and is in various locations throughout the earth. But this is a deception. Jesus is clear that he returns in the clouds, not on the earth, immediately after this great tribulation brought by the Antichrist.<sup>17</sup> Jesus teaches that after he returns he raptures his people to

himself by sending his angels to gather them from out of the earth.<sup>18</sup>

I like how some Bible translations interpret “beginning of sorrows” as the “beginning of birth-pains,” revealing that these five events would continue to increase in intensity and frequency until the Antichrist and his great tribulation are here. The “beginning of sorrows” ends with the Antichrist and his great sorrow/tribulation. We are currently living in this time.

*Time Period 3.* The events of this period begins the great persecution, the great sorrows, the great tribulation of God’s people. Many will be hated, arrested, even killed.<sup>19</sup> Because of this great persecution many Christians will turn away from their fellow Christians and will betray them and cause them to be arrested and even killed.<sup>20</sup> This includes parents betraying their children, children betraying their parents, as well as relatives and friends and even those you thought were fellow Christians betraying each other.<sup>21</sup> Many preachers and teachers during this time will give false hope and will deceive many causing them to come against true believers, even causing them to depart their faith.<sup>22</sup> These times will be terrible times when the Spirit of God in God’s people will disappear in many because of how dominate sin and evil has become.<sup>23</sup>

What will get us through these terrible, perilous times so we don’t turn our backs on Jesus is endurance and patience.<sup>24</sup> The pressure to give up our faith will be great because of the increasing troubles we will have for being Christian. Endurance and embracing the pain and hardships, coupled with knowing that we will enter God’s eternal kingdom when it’s all over, will keep us from giving up our faith. This great persecution of God’s people begins when the one called the “abomination of desolation,” who is also known as the Antichrist, arrives and from the temple makes the claim that he is God.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 24:34

<sup>15</sup> For more details, be sure to read my brief commentary on Matthew 24 in my Ebook, Coming Soon. [Click here to read.](#)

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 24:9-22

<sup>17</sup> Matthew 24:23-30

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 24:31

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 24:9

<sup>20</sup> Matthew 24:10

<sup>21</sup> Luke 21:16-18

<sup>22</sup> Matthew 24:11

<sup>23</sup> Matthew 24:12

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 24:13; Luke 21:19

<sup>25</sup> Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

This great tribulation by the Antichrist will be so horrific that God's people are encouraged to leave everything and to hide out in the hills.<sup>26</sup>

*Time Period 4.* Immediately after the end to the Antichrist's great tribulation, Jesus returns and sends his angels into the earth to gather out his people. Those left on the earth will experience God's wrath.<sup>27</sup> After the rapture of God's people and the judgment of sinners, the one thousand years rule of Christ on earth begins. After this millennium rule, the final judgement takes place and God's people enters their eternal inheritance with Christ, and those not God's people enter the eternal lake of fire.

I end this section with the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

## IN THE MEANTIME

### LEARN FROM A FIG TREE

Matthew 24:32-36

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

In this passage Jesus uses an object everyone was familiar with—the fig tree, to let us know when we can know we are the generation that will see Christ's coming. With this illustration, anyone—young and old, the highly

educated and illiterate—is able to observe when the leaves appear on the fig tree or any tree. The leaves let us know that summer will soon be here.

So it is with the events Jesus spoke of. When the last day events (leaves) all converge at the same time in the same generation, then we know that Christ will soon be here. The generation in which these events converge will be the generation that also will see their fulfillment: the coming of Jesus, the gathering of God's people, and the end of God's anger against the Jews. It is without question that we are the "this generation" of Matthew 24:34—the final generation of our present age.

### LEARN FROM NOAH

Matthew 24:37-42

"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

In this passage Jesus compares the final generation with the final generation of Noah's day. He encourages us to be alert and not like the people during Noah's time.

Noah and the events of the flood would have been well known historical events that all Jesus' hearers could relate to. While Noah built his ark and preached, the people around him carried on with their daily lives—eating, drinking, marrying—but were not concerned with the warnings of Noah until it was too late and the "flood came, and took them all away."

The day of Christ's coming is not going to look much different than any other day. The pressures and stresses

<sup>26</sup> Matthew 24:16-22

<sup>27</sup> Matthew 24:29-31

will be greater, but life will continue with the normal activities of life: eating, drinking, and marrying. These daily pleasures and cares can be a distraction to move us away from being alert to Christ's coming. All of life should revolve around Christ, not the pleasures and cares of life.

### LEARN FROM THE UNFAITHFUL

Matthew 24:43-51

But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man comes. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord has made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delays his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looks not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

In this life, each of us are entrusted by God to take care of His people in His absence. It is our responsibility to treat them well and live a righteous life before them. When we take our focus off Christ, and stop looking for His soon coming, our focus turns to the ways of the world, and we stop caring for those of God's household.

Those who are not faithful in this responsibility will not enter God's kingdom, will be separated from God, and punished in a place where there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The encouragement here is to keep alert by being faithful and wise in the care of God's household. Faithfulness in this is of the utmost importance since Christ will come on a day and in an hour we are not expecting.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The end times refers to the end of God's wrath upon His people, the Jews, for their rejection of Him. Our present age with sin's dominance, will also end when God's anger against the Jews is complete.

God's anger will reach its fullness with the appearing of the Antichrist and his great tribulation. It will be complete when Jesus returns, removes his people, and the world enters a new millennium age. After the one thousand years is complete, God's people will enter their eternal inheritance and those not belonging to God will enter the eternal lake of fire.

In the meantime, as we continue in our present age, we are to learn from the trees and pay attention to when the final events leading to the end of God's wrath, the arrival of the Antichrist, and the return of Christ all converge together in the same generation. We are also to learn from Noah's generation and not be unaware of the events informing us we are the last generation. We are also to guard how we treat fellow believers and to not fall into the same behavior of living like those not following Christ.

I leave you with this final Scripture:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8)

The days are dark. Hold on! It won't be long.

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"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)