

End Times Session Notes- Fall 2014

Does the Bible speak to what is happening in the world today? With wars between Israel and its neighbors, global terrorism, increasing frequency of famine, new types of diseases, increasing moral decay, collapsing financial markets...*where will it all lead?* Add to that, churches walking away from Biblical Truth and redefining sin as acceptable in both the Christian community and our country.

The Bible gives us so many answers to the questions of life, particularly in this day and time. If you are interested in understanding what the Bible says will be in our future, come to a series of Biblical studies on ***Sunday nights beginning November 2, 2014*** entitled:



Schedule: Sunday night beginning at 6:00pm- 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

| | <u>Date</u> | <u>Title of Session</u> |
|---|--------------|--|
| ✓ | Nov 2, 2014 | Signs of the Times |
| ✓ | Nov 9, 2014 | Who is the Anti-Christ? |
| | Nov 16, 2014 | Can one man rule the world? |
| | Nov 23, 2014 | All Hell Breaks Loose |
| | Dec 7, 2014 | Armageddon |
| | Dec 21, 2014 | Ultimate Destination Wedding Reception |
| | Dec 28, 2014 | Jesus' Second Coming |
| | Jan 4, 2015 | Touchdown!! |
| | Jan 11, 2015 | The Ultimate Hope |
| | Jan 18, 2015 | Q&A on End Times |

This is a DVD series by Bryant Wright, Sr. Pastor at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia. We will have a brief introduction, play the DVD session, and end with Q & A. Each session will be facilitated by Jim Lay. **BRING YOUR BIBLE and join us!!**

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Session 2 – November 9, 2014 – Who is the Anti-Christ?

Introduction

Thank you for coming back tonight as we continue this new series on the End Times. Last week we looked at the verses that come from Matthew 24, referred to as the “Olivet Discourse”, which deals with the 2nd Coming discussion Jesus’ disciples had with Him on the Mount of Olives regarding the Signs of the Times and the End of the Age. Remember, these verses dealt with deception, false messiahs, false prophets, wars, rumors of wars, natural disasters, falling away from the truth and Jesus described them as birth pains. These verses set the stage for the coming weeks, and especially this week on the person called the Anti-Christ. This man is also known as the Man of Sin, the Man of Lawlessness, the Son of Perdition, the Beast from the Sea, and we will begin to see where he comes from this week.

I sent those of you whose email address I have a note regarding an additional Sign of the times that I call a Pivot-sign or a Super Sign which enables and initiates other signs. Bryant will talk about this sign this week in passing, but I have included a link to a fuller discussion by Dave Reagan of Lamb and Lion Ministries broadcast from Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, Israel which clearly shows this was a miracle of God. I hope you took the time to watch it. I can send it to you or post on the webpage for ease of watching. *It is well worth the time!*

The First Super sign is the *Nation of Israel*. Most of us have always known about Israel being a country, but I want to say that the fact they ARE a country at all is a miracle of God and since the balance of signs call for the Jews to be in their homeland, it is a sign that enables the rest...a Pivot-sign. Watch this video about the Independence of Israel and you will see the wonder of God and the truth of His prophetic word. Another God-miracle along the way is the re-establishment of the Hebrew tongue which was a dead language. One man saw this as his God given mission and now the world has Hebrew again as a living language in the Holy Land of Israel.

*I also want you to read **Isaiah 66: 7-8** before you watch... and you will see the fulfillment of God's prophetic word.*

Lamb and Lion Ministries: http://www.lamblion.com/television/programs_israel16.php

Before we start the discussion tonight, I want to provide you with additional information on the timing and sequence of events of End Times and the Lord’s 2nd coming, plus some definitions which will be helpful.

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2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 ...The Man of Lawlessness

*Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² **not to become easily unsettled or alarmed** by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—**asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.** ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, **for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.** ⁴ **He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.***

Please understand *that I believe* the next event on Gods calendar is the Rapture of the Church, where all born-again believers who have died since Pentecost and those who are alive when it occurs, will be “snatched up” from earth to be with Him in the clouds. This occurs BEFORE the time of wrath and BEFORE the Anti-Christ is revealed and on the visible scene.

I will discuss this later and give you the scripture that shows it as we get to it in the study. I just did not want you to be alarmed or worry. We should be encouraged that God is Sovereign, God is in total control, and God's plan is being unfolded in His timeframe.

Note: The word “rapture “ does not occur in the Bible but both the Hebrew word “lā-qah “ and the Greek word “ harpazo” mean “took away” or “suddenly snatched away” and the Latin word for this is “Rapturo” which is where we get the English word “rapture”. So the word is not used but the meaning is used both in the Old Testament speaking of God taking His chosen ones away instantaneously without physical death.

It is the case almost all the time that English words are not in the original Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek texts that comprise the scripture so this should not be of any concern. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 clearly describes the Rapture event and the Greek word Harpazo is the word translated Snatched Up or Raptured. The event is also clear in 1 Corinthians 15:51–52. Old Testament references for Enoch being taken up are in Genesis 5:24 and in the New Testament Hebrews 11:5.

So, do not let your hearts be troubled...we will take a look at timing later but I wanted you to understand the Rapture in concept before we began the discussion of the Tribulation period.

Bryant will also make a reference to Daniel Chapter 2. It is the story of Daniel interpreting the Babylonian King's dream regarding the future. You should read all of it but I will read a part of it now because it enhances the information in the DVD.

Daniel 2:36-45

³⁶ *“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. ³⁷ Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; ³⁸ in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.*

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³⁹ “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰ Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. ⁴¹ Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. ⁴² As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

⁴⁴ “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

This scripture speaks of 4 Gentile kingdoms that will be on the scene from the Babylonian Kingdom where Daniel is existing when he interprets this dream, through the replacement kingdom of the Medes/Persians (*The Medes are the Kurds today, and the Persians are the Iranians although in this time it also encompassed Pakistan and Afghanistan*). The Medo Persian Empire is replaced by the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great, who is then replaced by the Roman Empire. Before this replacement, because of Alexander the Great's early death, his kingdom was broken up into 4 regions, which will still play a role in the End Times discussion even though replaced.

The final stage of the dream includes what is termed the “Revived Roman Empire” represented by the feet of the statue. This final Gentile Empire is the one that will be here in the End Times and is thought by many to be the outgrowth of the European Union. A current set of signs to watch for is the emergence of this EU with more significant power. I expect the currency control will increase, the political sovereignty of individual EU members will give way to more of a “United” sovereignty, and a military force representing all the EU will emerge (like a re-missioning of NATO to be the military of the EU). These will all be signs that this political union is being prepared to be the Revived Roman Empire.

Just as an aside, watch for the ecumenical movement to match the political movement as there will need to be a spiritual realm to the Revived Roman Empire to make it the Holy Roman Empire again, but this will be a false religion since the real born-again Christians will be raptured out before this can occur.

You can see the seeds of this now if you are paying attention.

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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Statue



Definitions:

Anti-Christ: the name given to the man who Satan anoints with his power to be Satan-incarnate. He is the opposer of Christ and therefore called the Anti-Christ. All the many names he also has identify his traits or characteristics. Satan knows scripture, and he knows Prophecy but he does not know timing, so Satan has had a man always prepared to bring onto the stage. We have seen them through the years we see all the evil in the world.

Sea: Usually a symbol in the Bible of restlessness or trouble. It is also a metaphor for the Gentile Nations which are in chaos most of the time. Many people interpret the Beast out of the Sea as meaning the Anti-Christ will come from a Gentile Nation. This is always a subject of great debate.

Rock uncut by Human Hands – this is a symbolic representation of Christ, who is part of God and not created by man who is smashing the empires and all their residue to set up a never ending Kingdom, which refers to the Millennial Kingdom and Eternity, and the destruction by Christ of the Armies of Opposition in the Battle of Armageddon and the End of the Tribulation period.

Tribulation: Means time of trouble and is usually referenced to the seven years of time after the Peace treaty between Israel and the Anti-Christ is ratified or signed. The first 3.5 years are full of deception and wars and other frightening aspects, but the 2 witnesses, and the 144,000 Jewish evangelists are operating and converting thousands. At the mid point, 3.5 years into it,

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the Anti-Christ declares himself God and desecrates the Jewish Temple and begins to crack down on all independent worship and this period is called “the Great Tribulation” because the troubles mount and the wrath of God is poured out (see Revelation Judgments). My belief is that the Rapture is BEFORE this and all of us are with Jesus.

Handouts: You have note paper available to you and also a 3x5 note card. What I want you to do is either send me at jim@jmlay.com any questions you want me to answer for you or write them on the card.

You do not have to sign them but I will not identify anyone’s question when I answer it. My plan is to gather the questions and do a question and answer sheet but also for the last session talk through some of the questions so that everyone who might not be sure about some things will hear the answer and be able to follow up.

These sessions will not be a complete expose’ on End Times, and I will do a follow up session sometime in the spring for a deeper dive into some parts of this study. In the meantime I have brought some books and resources I can recommend. (I will add them to the resource list)

Recommended Books:

End Times by Dr Mark Hitchcock

Every Prophecy of the Bible – Dr. John Walvoord

The End Times in Chronological Order – Dr Ron Rhodes

Revelation: A Chronology – Dr Jimmy DeYoung

The Prophecy Answer Book – Dr David Jeremiah

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Dr. John Walvoord

What in the World is Going On? – Dr David Jeremiah

Seeds of Turmoil – Dr Bryant Wright

Perfect Ending – Dr Robert Jeffress

Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World – Dr David Jeremiah

Storm Warning – Dr Billy Graham

The Cross and the Crescent – Dr Erwin Lutzer