



BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!

Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!

What does the Bible say about the End Times?

2 Timothy 3:1-5

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Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today, we take a break from our verse-by-verse study of Zechariah to continue our series: **Biblical Worldviews: Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!**
- Turn in your Bible to **2 Peter 3**
- When God created the first man, He gave him a job **Genesis 2:15**
Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.
- God made this planet for His creation to live on
- And He expects His highest creation to take care of it
- Through Adam and Eve's sin, all of creation was broken, no longer perfect – humans and the rest of creation are corrupted
- For as far back as I can remember climate activists have been predicting a coming climate apocalypse
- Even before I was a believer, I was skeptical of the so-called 'experts'
- Over the last few years, fear of the sun monster has reached the level of mass hysteria
- There are people who are genuinely afraid that mankind is going to make this planet uninhabitable
- Some suggest that the only hope the world has is to reduce human population to about 500 million – that means something needs to be done about the other 7.5 billion people on the earth
- Recently, California passed a law that will ban the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035
- This series is about looking at the things of the world and comparing them to what the Bible says
- Does the Bible talk about how this world will end? Yes, quite a bit.
- **2 Peter 3:10-12**
- This world is going to end but not because of climate change
- Again, I believe humans ought to care for this planet God gave us to live on, but not to live in fear of climate change
- But first, let's pray about God's plan for the future of this planet

- **Pray**

Teaching

- **What does the Bible say about the End Times?**

- Let's begin with a definition

End-times: the period of time leading up to the Second Coming of Christ.

- There are a number of other terms the Bible uses to refer to this period of time: latter days, last days, latter times, last times
- Interestingly, the phrase 'end-times' is not found in most translations of the Bible
- The Bible has a lot to say about the last days and the Second Coming of Christ
- Many books in the Old Testament refer to it, especially Daniel, Ezekiel, and Isaiah and many of the Minor prophets
- Most books in the New Testament refer to it and there is one book, Revelation, that has the end-times and the Second Coming of Christ as its primary subject
- The reason we study prophecy is because all unfulfilled prophecy is about the end-times and the Second Coming of Christ
- It is exciting to compare what is going on in the world with what the Bible says is going to happen in the end-times
- It is exciting because it means Jesus is coming to get His church – you and me and all believers everywhere – maybe soon!
- Turn in your Bible to **2 Timothy 3**
- The Bible tells us what to be watching for in the end-times
- Jesus said a lot about it in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21
- He said far too much for us to talk about in the time we have
- Paul told Timothy some things we can see in the world right now that cause us to believe the end of the end-times is near
- **2 Timothy 3:1**
- The word 'perilous' there could also be translated troublesome, difficult, harsh, fierce, or violent – doesn't sound like fun
- He then goes on to elaborate
- Won't be because of the sun monster
- It won't be because of what people are doing to the environment
- It will be because people are expressing their basest natures

- **2 Timothy 3:2-5**
- Turn to **2 Peter 3**
- This is what invariably happens when people reject God and the perfection of His holy Word
- They become self-absorbed and can only see the world through the lens of their wrong, godless ideologies
- Peter told us how people would respond when we try to warn them about what is coming
- **2 Peter 3:1-4**
- Another word for scoffer is mocker
- If you warn them about the truth of God regarding the future, you should expect to be mocked by those warnings are most applicable
- And I wish this weren't so but the Bible says that even many who call themselves Christians will not remain faithful in the end-times **1 Timothy 4:1-2**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...

- Paul is not pulling his punches - some churches are going to, and already are, teaching things that are demonic
- For example, some churches are embracing people from the LGBT movement, endorsing same-sex marriage, even allowing people with perverse sexual ideologies to be pastors
- God's church should be holy, as holy as humanly possible
- The doors of the church are open to anyone who needs Jesus
- We invite sinners to come and meet their Savior, but then we must lovingly call them to repentance from their sins, just like we do with everyone
- The Bible tells us a lot about the end-times, but it doesn't tell us everything about it
- For example, we don't know when the end times are going to end
- One of the names for the end of the end-times is Day of the Lord
- This is when Jesus comes back to establish His kingdom **1**

Thessalonians 5:2-3

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction

comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

- I would like to take the rest of our time to lay out the timeline of the end-times
- Turn to **Daniel 9**
- This will not be exhaustive, just an overview
- We begin with a prophecy from about 600 years before Christ
- This is the prophecy we call the seventy weeks of Daniel
- **Daniel 9:1-2**
- Daniel is in Babylon as one of the Jewish exiles
- Jeremiah has given a prophecy that the exile would last seventy years – and it was almost over
- **Daniel 9:3-5a**
- Daniels prays a prayer of confession, calling upon God for His mercy
- This goes on until verse 19
- **Daniel 9:19-27**
- **Display image: 70-weeks**
- The angel Gabriel lays out the plan for the end-times
- On the chart on the screen, you have a representation of that plan
- Each week is equal to seven lunar years – 360 days each
- The clock starts in about 445 B.C. when the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem which has lain desolate for seventy years
- Seven weeks and 62 weeks equals 483 years
- The sixty-nine weeks ends with the Messiah arriving in Jerusalem
- We refer to that event as the Triumphant Entry of Christ riding into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey which **Zechariah 9:9** prophesied **Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.**
- Daniel 9:26 says the Messiah will be ‘cut off’ = killed
- A week after Jesus rode into Jerusalem He was crucified, but not for Himself, for the sins of the whole world
- Turn to **1 Thessalonians 4**
- Between the sixty-ninth and seventieth week is an indeterminate amount of time known as the Church Age
- That is the time we are in right now

- The church age ends when Jesus comes and takes His church out of the world
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
- We refer to this event as the Rapture
- That is the event we Christians are waiting for
- Nothing else needs to happen
- Suddenly, unexpectedly, forcefully all of God's people will be snatched out of this world and caught up to be with Jesus forever
- **Image: End Times Timeline**
- Another chart will be coming up on the screen
- Sometime after the Rapture of the church the seventieth week of Daniel begins
- It is a seven-year period that we refer to as the Tribulation Period
- During this seven-year period God will do two primary things
- First, He will prepare the Jews to meet their Messiah
- Second, He will pour out His wrath on this wicked, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world
- It will begin with a peace treaty involving Israel and her enemies and will reveal the man the Bible calls the Antichrist
- The Jews will then rebuild their temple and resume their sacrificial system of worship even as God is judging the world
- At the halfway point of the Tribulation, the Antichrist with the help of the False Prophet sets up an image of the Antichrist in the Jewish temple, defiling it
- He then demands the whole world to worship him
- To help facilitate that the False Prophet requires everyone on earth to get a mark on the hand or forehead in order to buy or sell anything
- Anyone who does take that mark is doomed
- The last three and a half years is marked by the worst judgments the world has ever seen
- The Tribulation ends when Jesus returns on a white horse as the King of kings and Lord of lords and establishes His kingdom on this earth
- Satan is locked up and the world experiences a thousand years of perfect peace

- Satan is released for a brief time, and leads the last rebellion against God which Jesus defeats
- Then comes the Final judgment of the wicked
- And then comes the eternal kingdom of God's glory
- After the Rapture of the church and before the Second Coming, the church is rewarded for its works of righteousness and joined to Christ as His bride at the wedding supper
- Life on this earth will continue as it always has until Christ comes back again
- Because everything in this creation has been corrupted by sin, Jesus will wipe it all away and then rebuild it perfectly **Revelation 21:1a**
Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.
- As believers, let's be faithful to care for this world
- But don't worry about the sun monster killing us all
- What we should really care about is there are billions of people in this world that are headed toward something far worse than anything the so-called climate 'experts are predicting
- Going green is not going to save them from that – they need Jesus
- We are living in the end-times - Jesus could come back at any moment
- Let's be busy warning people about the real danger – life without Jesus
- Tell someone about Jesus this week
- **Prayer**