

Are We Living in the End Times

It certainly is exciting to be living in the world in this day and age as we see the prophecies of the Bible unfold before our very eyes. However, I do miss the good old days of 2019 when we could still do things like try a new restaurant, or travel to the city for a show or to do some shopping, go to a high school football game, or go see a school musical. Remember how fun it was to go to a professional baseball game or a concert. A person could even go to a nursing home and hang out with some old friends who were always so happy to have visitors. So even though we live in exciting days, a little of the old fun would not be a bad thing.

I remember back in the seventies when I was a young Christian. Bible Scholars were getting really excited about the end times and the prospects of the return of Jesus. Some of the prophecies they noted were that the Jews, God's chosen people, were back in their homeland, many nations were now capable of nuclear destruction on a grand scale, the world was getting more and more dark with evil things and it looked like the return of Jesus for the church was very near. More and more books were being written and movies were being made about the end times and people got really excited about being a Christian, but it wasn't quite God's time yet and after a couple of decades end times enthusiasm cooled off.

So, what happened? I think we could say that some well-meaning enthusiastic Christians did what the Bible says not to do, they decided to set some dates and insist that Jesus would be returning for sure on such and such a day. The fact is they should have known better because Jesus himself said that no man knows the day or hour of His return except the Father in heaven. We are to know the season of His return and to be ready, but we cannot know the exact date. Sadly, there was so much date setting going on that were not coming to pass, that people started to doubt the whole thing. Christians were mocked for it and the church stopped teaching about the end times and the blessed hope of the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13)

Pretty soon new believers and young people lost interest in church and the Lord because some of the most exciting and important truths about the end times and return of Jesus were not being taught in their churches. Pastors and leaders seem to have been afraid to study it for what it is and teach it with passion and authority as Jesus himself taught. The fact is we have very quietly moved quite close to the end times according to the Bible. It tells us in I Thessalonians 4:16-18 that Jesus is about to come in the clouds and catch up all true believers in what is called, the rapture of the church. There is so much incredible Biblical evidence for this event happening before the seven year tribulation period, but since it's kind of a sensational happening, pastors and Churches have shied away from it which is a shame. It's a powerful prophecy of the Bible and we need to remember that Bible has a perfect batting average when it comes to prophecy.

Anyway, after the rapture occurs the earth is going to experience the seven year tribulation where the wrath of God against sin and the rejection of His son Jesus will be severe. You see, God poured out tremendous love for us when Jesus went to the cross and shed His blood to pay the penalty for our sin. Sadly, great masses of people have just blown God off and ignored the Creator's great gift of salvation. They have turned completely away from the truth revealed in

the Bible about our sin and need for redemption and decided that we can be smart enough and good enough in our own strength to earn heaven. Well that is impossible or the Son of God never would have had to die on the cross. The good news is there is still time to get right with the Lord by putting your faith in Jesus and receiving His great gift of salvation by the grace of God. He is standing at your heart's door, knocking. He won't force His way in. He's left the decision up to us. John 1:12 says; *to all who receive Him, He gives the right to become His children just by believing in Him.* Thanks for reading and may God bless you.