

END TIMES

1.) Eschatology or the study of the last days seems very intimidating and many people avoid it but remember the book of Revelation points to a special blessing for the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and says blessed are those who hear it & take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

What does "the time is near" mean? Well... we will get into that more later.

2.) For now, lets discuss why it is important to study the end times other than the above aforementioned blessing.

The End of days ushers in the most important day in history - the return of Christ.

The doctrine of the 2nd coming is mentioned over three hundred times in the Bible, second only to salvation.

216 chapters of the N.T. contain 318 references to the second coming. 1 out of 30 verses!

Almost all of the N.T. books contain teachings on the 2nd coming and 3 of the 4 books that don't were single chapter letters written to individuals.

Jesus himself mentioned his return in at least 15 different Bible passages

It is important to remember that no matter their view of the end times or other disputed doctrines, most Christians agree that Christ will (in physical form) return to the earth one day.

This will be the consummation of all things and the completion of our salvation.

Oh what a glorious day! **1 Corinthians 15 & Phillipians 1:6**

Speaking of the various views, let's discuss in a little detail some of the different views of the end times.

3.) There are 3 main views that center around a passage in **Revelation 20:1-6** that speaks of a thousand year period known as the millenium. Let's pause here and read it for context

<p>A.) Pre-Millennialism or Chiliasm (as is was know by the early church) is the belief that</p>	
<p>Christ will return and set up an earthly kingdom right before the millenium and</p>	
<p>will rule and reign on the earth in physical form during the 1,000 year timeframe</p>	
<p>This 1,000 year period can be a literal or figurative timeframe depending upon which</p>	
<p>view a person holds.</p>	
<p>There are 2 main views of Pre-Millennialism, they are Dispensational & Historical</p>	
<p>Dispensational - Israel and the Church have separate redemptive plans, this is not to</p>	
<p>say redemption is by other means for it is always grace through faith and Jesus is</p>	
<p>always the means but faith is expressed differently in each dispensation. God has</p>	
<p>revealed his plan progressively through each dispensation. The dispensation of</p>	
<p>the law, grace and the millenium being the three main dispensations but some hold</p>	
<p>to as many as 7, including innocence, conscience, human government and promise</p>	
<p>Dispensationalist are inherently pretrib. & believe in the doctrine of imminency</p>	
<p>This is the only view that ascribes to a literal one-thousand year millenium</p>	
<p>Historical - differs from Dispensational in that they see the the church as the</p>	
<p>fulfillment of Israel & they interpret some prophecy as having a literal fulfillment</p>	
<p>and some as having a semi-symbolic fulfillment I.E. "seal judgments" & "Horsemen"</p>	
<p>(forces in history) that have already taken place not in future powers</p>	
<p>Historical Premillennialist believe certain prophecys must occur before Christs' return</p>	
<p>and thus do not believe in the doctrine of imminency. A few of the prophetic events</p>	
<p>that they believe must occur prior to the return of Christ are the falling away & the</p>	
<p>revealing of the Antichrist. 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-4</p>	
<p>2 things that should be covered when speaking of Premillennialism is the trib/rapture</p>	
<p>Different views of the timing of the rapture - Pre, Mid, Pre-Wrath and Post</p>	
<p>B.) Post Millennialism is the belief that Christs' Kingdom is now being extended throughout</p>	
<p>the world through the gospel and the majority of people will be converted to</p>	
<p>Christ resulting in the Christianization of the world and the return of Christ after</p>	
<p>the 1,000 years but it isn't necessarily a literal 1,000 years.</p>	
<p>In fact it is widely believed by proponents of this view that we are currently in the</p>	
<p>millenium. Post Millennialist tend to believe that unfulfilled prophecy should only be</p>	

interpreted non-literally.					
There are several different views that fall under Postmillennialism but the most prominent is Theonomists. Theonomists adhere to a partial preterists interpretation of the book of Revelation, basically meaning that most of the prophecies in Revelation and other N.T. books were fulfilled in 70 A.D. at the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.					
C.) Amillennialism is the belief that the Kingdom of God began when Christ was resurrected, at this time victory over Satan and the curse was achieved. Christ is now reigning at the right hand of Father over his church. At the end of the age Christ will return and the church will enter the eternal state after judging the wicked.					
An Amillennialist will usually interpret Revelation 20 non-literally and thus doesn't necessarily believe in a literal thousand year period.					
Based on verses in 2nd Corinthians 4:18 and 2nd Corinthians 5:7 the Amillennialist sees the final things as already accomplished, though not yet seen by sight but by faith. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary but what is unseen, is eternal and and "For we live by faith, not by sight".					
Amillennialists believe the church is the eschatological fulfillment of Israel					
Some from other views would call it replacement theology.					
An Amillennialist does not see it this way however. They consider Israel and the church as one in the same. They are together a new "covenant people" who are a continuation and fulfillment of the old. Israel is seen as a spiritual people not hereditary and so there can be no replacement. There are some who believe in replacement theology which essentially means they believe physical Israel no longer has any promise of God and the existence of the nation of Israel is strictly coincidental.					
4.) Remember earlier I said "What does the time is near" mean? Well...the time is near to discuss what that means.					
Probably for most people throughout history, the reason it was important to study end					

times was because many people from every generation has always believed they were the generation to see Christs' return and our generation is no different.	
Whether we are that generation or not, Jesus said to be ready! You become ready by reading and understanding his word which includes prophecy.	
Here are some major Bible prophecies that make Jesus return in our generation an extreme possibility and were nearly impossible in other generations	
A.) Israel - Isaiah 66:7-8, Ezekiel 37 , and many other throughout the book of Revelation	
B.) AntiChrist and the Mark of the Beast - Revelation 13	
C.) Every Eye Will See Him - Revelation 1:7, Matthew 24	
D.) The Gospel Preached to All Nations - Matthew 24 1600 languages (10 years)	
E.) If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive - Matthew 24	
So as you can see, studying end time events is very complex and challenging but not impossible to understand. I pray this presentation has given you at least a basic understanding of complexities of the various end time views and wetted your appetite for more. Thanks and have a blessed day! Maranatha	