

# Are We Living In the End Times?

Bible Study led by Dave Smith and Pastor John Foss  
Begins Sunday, October 29 at 9 am



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## **ARE WE LIVING IN THE END TIMES?**

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Eschatology 101

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## Eschatology Defined

**Eschatology** • Eschatology (lit. 'study of the last') is a part of theology and philosophy concerned with what are believed to be the final events in history, or the ultimate destiny of humanity, commonly referred to as the end of the world. • Wikipedia

Eschatology is Bible centered...not man centered

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## Eschatology Defined

- Eschatology is a study of “Hope” as it is the study of Christ’s return. As Christians, this is a reason to celebrate, not worry.
- 1 in 30 verses in the New Testament, refer to the return of Jesus and is the second highest mentioned doctrine behind salvation. It is a major theme of the Bible. There are about 1000 prophecies in the bible, over 500 have come true and the rest are coming true as we speak.
- *Question:* Is the Bible literal or figurative or both? How you interpret the Bible will influence how you interpret the “end times”

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### Are we living in the “End Times”?

<sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.” (Matthew 24:6–9)

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### Are we living in the “End Times”?

<sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup> but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:10–14)

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## No One Knows the Day or Time....but

<sup>36</sup> **“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.** <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>42</sup> **“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.** <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.  
(Matthew 24:36-44)

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## Be Vigilant, Know The “Season”

<sup>25</sup> “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup> people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

(Luke 21:25-28)

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## Be Vigilant, Know The "Season"

### Questions:

- 1) Although the Bible tells us that we won't know the day or time of Christ's second coming, should we act as though it is imminent?
  
- 2) If we thought our time on this earth was short, would we live our lives differently? Is this how God wants us to live anyway?

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## Why Should Christians Study Bible Prophecy?

- Prophecy acquaints us with the most important subject of the ages, **God's plan for man.**
  
- Studying Bible prophecy convinces us that **there really is a God.**
  
- The literal fulfillment of prophecy teaches us that **prophecy should be interpreted literally.**
  
- The study of prophecy **prepares the Christian to avoid the deceptions** of the many false prophets [of the day.]

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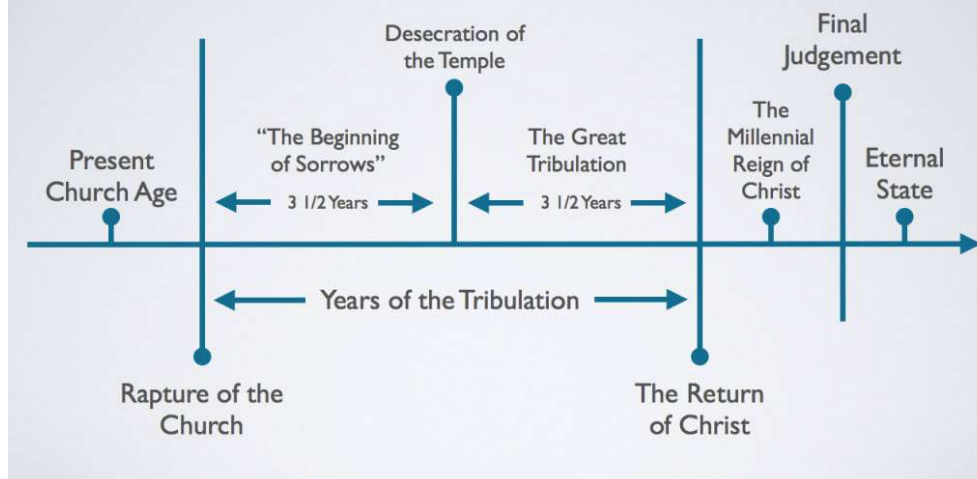
## Different Views on When Jesus Returns (Revelation 20)

- Pre-Millennialism - Jesus to return before He reigns a literal 1000 years on the earth (made popular by the Left Behind series)
- Post-Millennialism - Jesus to return after He reigns a literal or figurative 1000 years from heaven
- Amillennialism - There is no literal 1000 reign of the righteous on Earth; Jesus reigns now and can return at any time (Traditional Lutheran Viewpoint)

*Your view of which of these viewpoints is "true" will shape your interpretation of scripture as it relates to the end times!*

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### Timeline of the End Times



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## The Significance of Festivals in the Bible -- Spring Festivals --

The (4) Spring festivals relate to **Christ's first coming** and have already been fulfilled.

1. Passover – Jesus Crucified. Jesus bound the exact hour that the animals sacrificed for the Passover meal. Jesus was the Passover lamb (1 Cor 5:7)!
2. Unleavened Bread – Jesus Buried. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice as he was sinless & pure, like unleavened bread.
3. First Fruits/First Harvest – Jesus resurrected (1 Cor 15:20)
4. Pentecost/Harvest – Church born (50 days after Unleavened Bread)

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## The Significance of Festivals in the Bible -- Fall Festivals --

If Jesus fulfilled the Spring feast *to the day*, then will He similarly fulfill the fall feasts? The (3) Fall feasts not yet fulfilled that **relate to the second coming** of Christ include (*Premillennial interpretation*):

1. Trumpets (Rosh HaShana) – *Rapture?* Jesus comes for his bride, the Church. Many believe that this next key prophetic event will take place during Rosh Hashana.
2. Atonement (Yom Kippur) – Second coming of Christ to the earth with his Saints
3. Tabernacles (Sukkot) – Possibly marks the beginning and the end of the tribulation. Jesus rebuilds the temple and begins his millennial Reign

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### Christians generally agree on the following as it relates to End Times

- God has promised a kingdom on earth over which Jesus Christ will rule together with his saints.
- Satan will be bound during this kingdom period. Then he will be released for a final confrontation. A last battle will take place where Satan will be completely defeated.
- There will come a day of final judgment.

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### Christians generally agree on the following as it relates to End Times

- At the return of Christ, the dead will be raised up, and the believers alive at that time will be translated into glory.
- After the final judgment will come the eternal state. It will bring eternal perdition for the lost and blessing for the elect.

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## A Message of Hope

- In 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul offers the following encouragements:
  - 4:13 Our grief over death should be replaced with hope.
  - 4:16 There will be a resurrection of the dead.
  - 4:17 There will be a translation of the redeemed to eternal glory (Rapture).
  - 4:18 We are to comfort one another with these truths.
  - 5:6 We should be alert and sober as the day approaches.

**Next Week --- The Rapture of the Church, the next Prophetic Event??**