

WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE END TIMES

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

By Pastor Eleanor Joy

When I read this passage of scripture, the word “Blessed” jumps out at me. Everyone wants to be blessed, so you’d think this scripture would capture everyone’s attention. Whenever the Lord speaks of blessing you, everyone should stand up and take notice and endeavor to be first in line to receive it. If there’s a blessing attached to reading the book of Revelation, then I’m certainly going to read it so I can obtain the blessing that comes from reading it. Unfortunately, the sad commentary is that there are many Christians who won’t read it, and I’m puzzled by this widespread aversion. It begs the question “Why?”

The disheartening fact is that today, most church leaders won’t attempt to read or discuss the book of Revelation. Many believe that it’s mostly allegorical and therefore shouldn’t be taken literally. This ideology goes against what Revelation 1:3 says: “...the words of this prophecy.” Therefore, the book of Revelation is a prophetic book, where what’s written in it shall come to pass. Studying and reading it is not an option. It’s mandatory for every Christian.

Another reason people give for not reading the book is that the imagery and symbolism is too difficult to interpret and understand. If you’re a student of the bible, having studied and read it using the methodology of systematic theology, you

see that the imagery and symbolism in Revelation can be understood from other books of the bible where the imagery and symbols are mentioned prior. It's worth mentioning again that verse 3 says: "Blessed is he that readeth." We're to take from this verse that there is a blessing to those who read the book. As each person attempts to read Revelation, we can trust that the Holy Spirit is there guiding us as He illuminates our spirits and give us understanding into its writings and meaning.

It's also worth mentioning that a person must be *born again* before attempting to read Revelation or any other portions of the biblical text in order to receive insight into its meaning. Without the Holy Spirit, your attempt to understand the bible is futile. It's God's will for us to understand what He's saying in this generation as he reveals to His people what He's doing in the End-Times, and what He'll continue to do as we move forward on His prophetic time table as His will and purposes are fulfilled in the earth. As we witness global crisis, the Church can rest assured that God is in control, and need not fear. Revelation 1:3 says - the book of Revelation is a prophecy. Therefore, we must understand that what's written in it is going to come to pass and we must be prepared for what's coming upon the earth.

Let's read what the apostle Paul says about the last days.

2 Timothy 3:1

"This, know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." (kjv)

Folks those days are here! Any student of the bible and bible prophecy can discern the signs of the times and realize that the second coming of Christ is imminent! The question is "Are you ready for Christ's return?" This is a question you should ask yourself in light of all the catastrophic events that are happening in America and the world. In essence, it's time to "Wake up Church!" The prophetic trumpets are sounding. When the trumpets sounds, it's a warning to God's people to be alert because evil is on the horizon.

The world is moving towards a “New World Order,” headed up by the Antichrist. The word of God says that everyone whose name is not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be deceived and take the mark of the beast. (Revelation 13:8; 16-18)

There’s another group of people in the Church.

2 Peter 3:4

“And saying, where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”

This passage of scripture reveals to us the attitude towards Jesus’ second coming in the first century Church. There were scoffers. As there were scoffers then, there will also be scoffers in today’s Church. There will be Christians who generally disbelieve the second coming. My prayer is that if you’re reading this, you won’t be in the company of the scoffers who disbelieve.

One of the greatest warnings the Lord gives us is in

Luke 12:40

“Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”

As we witness the prophetic signs Jesus said would precede his return to the earth, remember he instructed the Church to “Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15) When the Church understands the book of Revelation and the End Times, she can be obedient to the word of God and win souls for the kingdom of God.

Jesus said:

John 9:4

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work.”

Just as Jesus had a specific period of time to fulfill the Will of God on earth, the same holds true for us today. Each one of us has been given particular gifts and talents from God. We're to use them for the Kingdom of God whether we're in full time ministry or the market place. We're to use our gifts to glorify God and to advance His kingdom, whatever our sphere of influence. All around us darkness is growing. However, at the same time the Church will get brighter and brighter because of the glory of God that rests upon His people.

In the End Times the wicked will continue life as usual. Jesus said:

Matthew 24:37-39

“But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

So will it be in the End Times. Many will be destroyed because they refused to heed the Church's warning and the warnings of God's true prophets!

In this generation, God is raising up *End Time* messengers that will be a voice for Him like John the Baptist, who was a prophetic voice to herald the first coming of Jesus. God will raise prophetic voices in this hour that will herald the second coming of Jesus. Just as God used Noah to warn the people of the impending flood, (judgment) God is raising up *End Time* messengers to warn the people of the wrath of God to come. As in Noah's day, there will be many people who perish because they didn't heed the warning. But there will be many who listen and escape the judgments coming upon the earth. God may be calling you to be one of His messengers. Will you answer the call?

Most bible scholars will tell you that we've been in the last days (End Times) since the ascension of Jesus. Although this statement is true, most can agree that we're certainly in the last of the last days.

Let's look at another passage of scripture that the apostle Paul wrote.

2 Timothy 3:1

“This, know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”

This passage of scripture is assuredly describing the days in which we're now living. We could agree that as we look at the events that are taking place in America and all over the world, that we'd concur with Paul and indeed bear witness to his word that perilous times are here. Unfortunately, there's a large portion of the Church that seems to deny this fact and goes so far as to avoid the subject altogether, which is detrimental to the Church and God's people. By denying the signs and refusing to get understanding concerning what the bible says concerning the End Times, many of God's people will be left unprepared for those things that are coming upon the world and the people of this evil and wicked generation.

It's imperative that the Church has a clear knowledge and understanding of the End Times so that she's prepared for what's ahead. By being prepared, the Church will avoid fear and confusion and will be equipped to engage with God effectively. There are many voices in the Church today that are giving God's people a false hope by saying things are getting better, but this is a false narrative because it contradicts what the bible teaches.

Dramatic shifts since 2008 and over the last few years from wars and rumors of war, economic and political upheaval, racial divides, a decline in morality and beyond have set the stage for a crisis that's affecting every sphere of society. But this crisis isn't occurring only in the United States; all of humanity is at a crossroads. There is an agenda to secularize and de-Christianize America. The increasing influence of secular humanism, the rise of ISIS and Islamic extremists, the looming financial crisis, Antifa's domestic terrorism are just a few crisis we face in America today. These are prophetic signs signaling Jesus' second coming.

Are You Ready?

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