

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES
A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Who Told You
About The End Times ?

discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

End Times, Grace, Doctrine, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction and overview to the series / John 14:1-3

Without a doubt for the next several weeks we will be taking on what might be the most controversial doctrine of the Bible, I am of course talking about what the Bible has to say about future events.

But before we go any further today, and before you have a chance to run out of the building, I want you to know that the greatest prophecy doctrine of the Bible was first revealed in Genesis chapter 3 when God Himself prophesied the salvation of mankind. Soteriology (that is, the doctrine of what the Bible teaches regarding salvation) is the grand bookends of the Bible. From Genesis to the book of revelation, God’s motives, intent, and revelation to man – is the message of redemption!

I can tell you today that my motive, my intent, is to reveal to you what the Bible has to say about this Point - - which is that, God knows the future in advance and that is called “eschatology” the doctrine of future events.

More than 27% of the Bible is prophetic in nature and we’re going to be looking at why that is so very important and how a healthy study of this topic should bring you great comfort, joy and enthusiasm in these days.

“Who Told You About The End Times ?”

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2 Peter 3:3-4

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?”

1 John 2:18

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

It is incumbent upon every one of God’s shepherds to follow Ezekiel’s example

Ezekiel 33:7-9

“So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, “O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

So it is in that spirit that I approach these next few weeks with you.

“Who Told You About The End Times ?”

5.) Why would God tell us that He is coming back ?

We must first acknowledge that the Bible speaks clearly and graphically about the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

All Bible students agree that Jesus is going to come back, but some disagree as to when He comes back and the timing of it.

The Two Phases of Christ’s Return

Let’s first of all recognize that the Bible speaks about Jesus Christ appearing. This “appearing” is just that, the Bible speaks of the time when Jesus Christ will physically, bodily appear in the atmosphere of earth to gather together His church.

Secondly we must recognize that the Bible speaks about Jesus Christ returning. This “returning” is in reference to His physical and bodily return to earth for the establishment of His millennial kingdom.

Both of these Advents of Jesus Christ serve as a deliverance.

For the church it is delivered from the time of judgment and wrath that will envelop the earth during the seven year tribulation. The second coming of Jesus Christ also serves as a deliverance when God rescues His people Israel from the nations of the world and establishes His Kingdom upon the throne of David as promised in the Bible.

That said; I want you to heed the following scriptures...

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But I do not want you to be ignorant,
(a willful rejection of knowledge or information) – a non-engagement attitude

Revelation 3:7-8,10

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write... :8 “I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; because you have a little strength, and you have kept My word, and have not denied My name, - :10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

**“Who Told You About The End Times ?”
Why would God tell us that He is coming back?**

5a.) Because He has a day of separation in store.

There is nothing new about God separating His people from the world. The Bible is full of accounts of God doing just that. But we do not always pay close attention as to how He has brought about a separation. In support for the case that I’m making today, God has used a rapture event at various times in the past.

Example of Hebrews 11:5

Enoch was raptured by the Lord and taken up to heaven.

Example of 2 Kings 2:11

Elijah, the prophet of Israel was raptured by the Lord and taken up to heaven.

Both these men escaped death by being caught up to God.

Even in the book of Acts there was an unusual “rapture-like event” that took Phillip the evangelist up and placed him in a distant location.

And what about Jesus Himself?

Acts 1:9-11

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Obviously these are supernatural events that
defy material or natural physics.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be (uneducated) ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. :15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

We are supposed to be both (1) comforting each other with that reminder that He is coming back and (2) we are to be comforted by that truth for ourselves !

End of Study

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