

THE END...IS COMING!

MATTHEW 24:14

“The end” are words we see at the end of a movie, or at the end of a special book that we have read. We see them time and time again in one way or another, but has it crossed your mind recently that “the end” is written over the world that you are and I are living it? Do you realize that the world that we inhabit will one day, according to God’s Word come to “the end”.

1. THE END IS COMING...IT IS THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE. For our human minds, it is a most difficult thing to mentally comprehend the reality that this world as we know it will one day come to an end. Yet, the divine truth of Scripture reveals “The End of the World”. Teaching and preaching on the “end of the world” is not something new at all, but in truth, it has been taught and preached for thousands of years.

First, the end of the world is declared by Jesus Himself. When discussing what will happen to the righteous and the wicked in Matthew 13:39, Jesus makes it very clear that on the calendar of God, there is a definite time when this world as we know it will end. *Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.*

Since it is impossible for Jesus to lie, He has declared by His very mouth that this world is heading toward the end. This world is heading toward the end, in which it shall cease as we know it. Better than 2000 years ago Jesus spoke plainly and clearly about the end of the world. Whether a person believes it or not is not the issue. The reality of God’s Word makes clear that there is coming “the end of the world”.

Second, Jesus disciples spoke of it. *Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?* Better than 2000 years ago, the disciple of the Lord Jesus heard Him speak of His coming so pointedly and so powerfully, that they began to inquire and ask of him the specific time and the sign of His coming and the “end of the world”. These precious disciples didn’t debate the reality of “the end of the world”, but they knew that it was a very literal event that is scheduled on the calendar of Almighty God. The fact that 2000 years has come and gone brings us the sobering reality that His Coming and the end of the world is so very much closer than it has ever been. Irregardless of what “our thoughts” may be. The end of the world is sealed in the mind of God. The end of the world is a sealed issue before Holy God, and He has declared that it is really, actually, literally, deliberately, specifically going to take place. God has ordered.

Third, Paul the chosen apostle of God declared it. *1 Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.* In speaking to the precious saints of God at Corinth, in his closing words to them, he reminds them that “the end” is in and on the heart of Almighty God. Paul makes it clear that the Coming of Christ shall precede the end of the world...but the divine truth of God’s Word to Paul is this...the world as we know it is coming to an end.

Fourth, The Great Commission speaks of it. In sending His disciples out into all the world in their day and time and ours as well, Jesus made it clear to them His words in *Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

The end of the world is not a novel idea, something from science fiction, but the divine Word of God declares that the day is already set in the heart of God in which this world will end. To accept it or reject it is a matter of choice, but “the end” is already set in the heart of God.

2. THE END IS COMING...SPECIFIC SIGNS SHALL PRECEDE IT. When the disciples of Jesus asked Him in Matthew 24, the signs of His coming and the end of the world, it is noteworthy to notice that Jesus did not respond by saying “I can’t tell you!” The truth of Scripture reveals that there will be very specific and deliberate signs that precede the end of the world that Jesus, Himself speaks of. First, there is the sign of deception. Many will be deceived about the fact that there is coming the end of the world. Sadly, many refuse to teach and preach this biblical reality...but it stands nonetheless.

Second, there is the sign of “false messiahs” offering some sort of deliverance. The world is filled with false teachers and preachers, preaching and teaching a false gospel, along with a false hope.

Third, the rise in both number and frequency of wars will precede the end of the world.

Fourth, nations will hate one another, and live and be at war with one another.

Fifth, there will be massive famine, pestilence and earthquakes. Consider recent events in our world. 1) About famine... The New York Times revealed that “the world food stocks are dwindling rapidly” (Dec. 17.2007).

2) About earthquakes.... Consider the recent earthquakes in Haiti, Indonesia, Samoa, Asia, China, and many more. According to the USGS and their mapping, there have been 289,171 earthquakes in the world since 2000. Sixth, there will be worldwide persecution of the people of God prior to the “end of the world”.

The sobering truth of Scripture and God’s Word and His world reveal staggering signs that point to the “end of the world”. These are but a remnant of the events that shall unfold prior to the end of the world....reminding us that it is coming.

3. THE END IS COMING... GOD GIVES A PICTURE FROM THE PAST. Jesus Himself gives to all with a listening ear and a believing heart a picture of what events will be like prior to His coming. *Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.* Jesus makes it clear that we can gain a very real and clear picture of His coming and the end of the world by looking at “the days of Noah”. The days of Noah are significant in understanding the Coming of Christ and the end of the world.

First, Noah’s times were times where people were doing the common things of life. They were eating, drinking marrying. In other words, their lives were not altered one iota by the preaching of Noah, by the noticeable ship they could see being built. With all they heard and saw, nothing affected them. There was no orientation to God.

Second, Noah’s times revealed a complete closure of the hearts of man to hear, believe and walk with God. Noah preached for 120 years without a single person converting to walk with God. In all those years Noah preached faithfully and obediently. Yet the hearts of mankind were cold, indifferent to his preaching. The same will hold true prior to Jesus Coming and the end of the world. Hardened hearts, rejection of Christ is a biblical picture of a people walking closer to the end.

Third, Noah’s time revealed those inside the ark were saved, while those outside the ark, all people, all animals were destroyed. The sobering truth of Scripture reveals that just as God destroyed the wicked in Noah’s time, He will do so at the end of the world. While many don’t desire to think of God as One who destroys, Scripture makes it clear that God will destroy all the wicked. *Psalms 145:20 The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.* While it may not be user-friendly to think about, Jesus said “as it was....so shall it be”, reminding all that there will be a most horrifying reality at the end of the world...namely separation from God.

4. THE END IS COMING...ASSIGNMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN. *Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.*

First, angels have their assignment. Irregardless of what a person believes about the world coming to an end, the Bible makes it clear that assignments have already been given regarding the end of the world. One assignment has been given to the angels. At the end of the world, it will be angels that gather all together who have rejected the Son of God, and rejected the most wonderful gift of salvation. It will be at the end of the world that the angels deliver all of them over before a holy God to be banished from His presence and from his sight.

The end of the world will be a most horrible day for the unbeliever. He will find himself gathered by the angels of God, and he will find himself “banished” from a loving God, for all eternity. This world now that we live in where both the redeemed and the unredeemed live together will change immediately and abruptly before a Holy God. The Bible declares at the “end of the world” the angels of God will come and sever, and separate the wicked from redeemed.

Second, the redeemed have their assignment. They will be separated from the unredeemed and have a wonderful timeless eternity to live and worship and praise the God of gods, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords.

5. THE END IS COMING...THERE WILL COME A TIME IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO BE SAVED. For those outside the “ark” in the day of Noah, they realized how seriously their rebellion and rejection cost them. It cost them their lives, souls and their eternity. The Bible makes it clear that there will be a “time” in which it will be “too late” to be saved. However, for those that repent, the “end of the world” will be a most glorious time. It will be a time, in which peace, of wonder and an eternity both on the new earth and the new heaven, where God shall dwell with His people, in a brand new world.