# **Five Benefits of Studying the End Times – HEART PREPARATION**

## Confidence in the hour of trial.

## We become a people of understanding who prepare others.

## We become urgent in intercession.

## We understand the continuity of our labors.

## We become fascinated with Jesus.

# **2 Peter 3:3-4, 12 - KNOWING THIS FIRST…**

## V.3 – Mockery against the saints by those who walk according to their own lusts.

## V.4 – These scoffers will ask, “Where is the promise of His coming?”. Beloved, we must be ready to give an answer

## V.12 – We must develop a spirit of watchfulness and prayer in regards to the return of Jesus. This watchfulness must be connected to a holy longing, deep in the heart of every believer.

## There is a crown of righteousness promised to all believers “who have loved His appearing”.

### ***2 Timothy 4:8 – Finally, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.***

# **What is our starting point to understanding?**

## The authority of Scripture- 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Our opinions, culture, society, etc., must submit to Godʼs Word. When trying to answer any theological questions we must seek Godʼs opinion because His opinion is truth.

## A basic principle for interpreting prophecy is to accept the plain sense of the text unless thereʼs good reason to adopt some other meaning. In other words, IF THE PLAIN SENSE MAKES, THEN SEEK NO OTHER SENSE.

## EXAMPLE WHEN SOMETHING SHOULD BE INTERPRETED SYMBOLICALLY:

### ***Revelation 1:20; 5:8***

### ***Revelation 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7 ,9***

## Most of the symbols found in Revelation are interpreted in the context of the book itself, or else they are clearly interpreted in other parts of Scripture. For example, the prophet Daniel used some of the same symbols as John (Dan. 7-12).

## End times is full of symbolism. Especially in the books of Daniel and Revelation. Usually, the meaning of figures/symbols is explained in the text itself. When this is not the case, their significance is often found in other Scriptures.

# **YOUR WORLD-VIEW MATTERS**

## A Greek world-view says the earth is a physical realm; while heaven is spiritual and non-corporeal/ethereal (non-physical in nature).

## A Biblical world-view says that the earth is physical and spiritual and so is heaven.

## Is the Bible America-centric or Jerusalem-centric?

## Why does this matter?

# **Matthew 24-25**

## Jesus spoke of three distinct time frames in the end times. We can see this clearly by comparing Matthew 24 with 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 and Daniel 9:27. The first time-frame is related to the *beginning of birth pains*, which occurs over a generation leading up to the final seven years of this age, which in turn is made up of two distinct periods, each lasting 3½ years.

### ***Beginning of birth pains*** (Mt. 24:4-8; Mk. 13:5-8; Lk 21:8-11)—leading up to the final 7 years

### ***Counterfeit world peace*** (increased labor pains)—the first 3½ years of the final 7 years. The second time frame in the end times will be a time of temporary/*counterfeit worldwide peace and safety*. It will be the first 3 ½ years of the final 7 years of this age, just before the Great Tribulation.

### ***1 Thes. 5:3 – When they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains [Great Tribulation] upon a pregnant woman, And they shall not escape.***

### ***Matt. 24:9-12 - “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11Then many false prophets will rise up…12 lawlessness will abound.”***

* + - 1. How will this temporary peace be established? The angel Gabriel showed Daniel that the Antichrist will make a covenant with many nations (Dan. 9:27). Establishing a political covenant with many, i.e., Israel and other nations, will “guarantee” political stability and personal safety. It will involve peace treaties with many nations.

Daniel 9:27 - “Then he [Antichrist] shall confirm a covenant with many [nations and Israel] for one week [7 years]; but in the middle of the week [3½ years] he shall bring an end to sacrifice [in the Jerusalem temple]…and on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate.”

### ***The*** ***Great Tribulation*** (hard labor pains)—the last 3½ years of the final 7 years.

***Matt. 24: 21-22 - 21“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time…22And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved.”***

## *Ten* *trends* associated with the beginning of birth pains, increasing over a generation.

### *Deception and false christs*: Many will come in Jesus’ name and will deceive many (Mt. 24:5).

### *Wars:*There will bemilitary and political conflict (Mt. 24:6; Mk. 13:7; Lk. 21:9).

### *Ethnic conflict*: Civil disorder and racism occur as nation (*ethnos*) rises against nation (Mt. 24:7)

### *Economic warfare*: There will be economic related hostility, aggression, and conflict (Mt. 24:7).

### *Famines*: Massive food shortages will occur (Mt. 24:7).

### *Pestilences (disease)*: The horrors of biological warfare will bring disease to a new intensity.

### *Great earthquakes*: Earthquakes will be great in terms of destruction and loss of life (Lk. 21:11).

### *Commotions*: chaotic events in society and creation (Lk. 21:9)

### *Fearful sights as great signs from heaven*: Signs in the sky and related to the weather (Lk 21:11).

### *Perplexity at the roaring of the sea* (Lk. 21:25)

Luke 21 identifies 10 trends, without calling them the beginning of birth pangs. Luke mentioned the 7 trends from Matthew 24 and added three: *commotions* (21:9), *fearful sights as great signs* (21:11), and *perplexity at the roaring of the sea* (21:25).

## According to Matt. 24: 9-12, Jesus identified *five trends* that will increase during the final 7 years (after the beginning of pains).

### *Persecution* (Mt. 24:9)

### *Social anarchy* as hatred dominates society (Mt. 24:10)

### *False prophets* (Mt. 24:11)

### *Lawlessness abounding* (Mt. 24:12)

### *Love growing cold* (Mt. 24:12) as people suffer the darkness of a seared conscience (1 Tim. 4:2).

## God’s people must be strengthened so that they escape the snare of fear and lust to stand in victory (Lk. 21:36). Both Jesus and Paul emphasized the call to *watch*, in the context of describing pressure in the end times (Mt. 24:42; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33, 34, 35, 37; Lk. 21:36; Rev. 16:15; cf. 1 Thes. 5:6).

42“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.” (Mt. 24:42)

36“Watch…and pray always that you may be counted worthy [have strength] to escape all these things…and to stand [in victory] before the Son of Man.” (Lk. 21:36)

***Watch***: We are to grow in understanding by watching the biblical signs of the times unfold. As our understanding increases, it produces greater urgency in us. By *watching* what the prophetic scriptures say about the end-time distress in the nations, people can see prophecy progressively unfolding before them. As they watch, they inevitably talk about what is occurring and how it lines up with biblical prophecy. Thus, they will connect with more people who have a common urgency.