

Signs of the Times

The End Of The Earth: The Judgements

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CENTRAL TRUTH

At the end of the age, God will pour out a series of judgements on the earth. This will take place during the tribulation – a seven-year period such as the world has never seen.

SERMON DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND

Everyone believes that the world will come to an end at some point. The Bible, however, gives us a clear picture of what will take place and how God will ultimately judge it and rule over it. The Bible is explicit on how the world will end and what will take place, both on the earth and in the heavens. The end times are clearly laid out in the books of Daniel, Ezekiel, Zachariah, and Revelation. Biblical prophets and writers depict the conditions and the circumstances surrounding the end times, including, but not limited to: Jesus, Paul, John, Daniel, etc. From the Old Testament all the way to the Book of Revelation, these events are communicated.

SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What do they need to know?
 - God has already described what the end times will look like.
2. Why do they need to know it?
 - That they will be prepared for what is coming on the earth.
3. How should they apply it?
 - Study the scriptures regarding the end times.

SERMON OBJECTIVES

1. As believers we look for the coming of the Lord
2. We prepare our lives for the things that will come
3. Holy conduct and godliness
4. That we should not be ignorant concerning these things.

OPENING LINE

Let your heart not be troubled.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

When you are watching a suspenseful movie for the second time, you are at ease and watching peacefully because you know how the movie ends. If others are watching that same movie with you for the first time, they will most likely be on the edge of their seat and perhaps a bit stressed because they do not know the outcome. In the same manner, God has already communicated to us what will take place at the end of the age and therefore, we know how the story ends. This provides us with peace and not anxiety.

CURRENT TRENDS WITHIN WESTERN SOCIETY

The end of times will have a combination of a one world government, religion, and economic system. Western leaders are leaning more towards the left, as far as politics is concerned, and are becoming far more controlling, desiring to remove the rights of their citizens. But what is the reason for this? Perhaps it is much easier to hand over the sovereignty of nations once the antichrist comes if people have diminished to no control.

The trajectory of western society is to lean towards the policies and beliefs that align themselves with the antichrist and darkness rather than the Kingdom of God. They all seem to be a precursor to a globalist agenda that is rooted in control, brutality, and in some cases, pure evil. There seems to be a clear agenda to destroy institutions such as the family, marriage, and traditionalist values. Through a woke ideology, values and standards are being redefined and rewritten. Consider some of the trends that we are seeing almost daily:

1. Greater & Stronger Government Control

Nations seem to be more willing to give up their sovereignty in hopes of a globalist government and agenda. It appears that the future desire is that people be citizens of the globe rather than a citizen of their own nation. Nationalism seems to be in jeopardy and borders are being eroded. Perhaps, this is the reason why immigration is such a large agenda item for so many governments, despite the fact that they cannot afford them or that they cannot take care of their own citizens first and foremost.

- a. Borders being broken down – nations eroded
- b. Globalization
- c. War on nationalism
- d. Governments turning against the Bible, Christianity, and Kingdom principles
- e. Digital ID.

2. BRIC: Brazil, Russia, India, and China

The rise of the BRIC to replace the US dollar

- These four nations seem intent on replacing the US dollar as the world economic currency. Their intent seems to be to redefine the global economy and destabilize the American dollar. This will have far reaching impact.

3. War Against The Church

In Canada, for example, during Covid, the churches, pastors and its leaders were treated with disrespect and disregard. The government saw an opportunity to make an example of those that would not comply with government initiated Covid regulations. What was their only crime? To keep their churches open and have services. They were deemed to be enemies of the state and a danger to the country and to its citizens. However, stores such as Costco or the LCBO were open, people were travelling by air and even other gatherings were not deemed as a threat. This is clearly a double standard. The mantra of the Christian faith is freedom and therefore, they become a threat to any government that will not accept this philosophy. In this instance, in order to control the people, you must destroy those that want to be free and those that teach its principles.

- a. Close churches
- b. Pastors arrested
- c. Churches burned down
- d. Various threats and pressures such as the threat to remove their charity status.

4. Cancel Culture

The emphasis of cancel culture seems to be to silence the voice of those that stand in opposition with the new progressive way of thinking. To those in power, to those in the media, to those in government, if you do not comply with what they are communicating, they will simply cancel you. The media uses the power of the mob to quiet all dissenters.

- a. Cancel the prophets - the truth - cancel culture
- b. Cancel the Bible or portions of it
- c. Ignore history.

5. Progressive Thought

This is not only a threat within society, but it is also making its way into the church. This new thought process is challenging traditions and beliefs that have been held for hundreds, if not thousands of years. They seem to remove the ancient landmarks and erode upheld beliefs, including biblical truths. Unfortunately, this will play into the hands of a one-world religion and dilute the body of Christ. This progressive thought makes it easier for sin and gray areas to come into the church and to confuse people rather than bringing them to a place of holiness. Nothing good ever happens by lowering the standards.

- a. Wokeness culture
- b. Cancel culture
- c. One-world religion.

6. Climate Change

Worship of the earth – pantheism – mother earth

- We have begun to see a shift towards the worship of creation instead of worship of the Creator. Paul told us in the letter to the Romans, in the very first chapter, that this would take place, that people would rather worship the creation than the Creator Himself. The result of this would be strong delusion, homosexuality, and deception. We are seeing this very thing unfold right before our eyes, as pantheism is on the rise once again. It is not that we do not live in a spiritual world, no, we live in a world of many gods – pluralism.
 - a. The one world religion will be connected to this
 - b. Higher taxation
 - c. Restrictions on those who will not comply.

7. War On Children

This truly diabolical agenda seems to have no end in sight. It has an insatiable appetite for blood. The children are at risk from the womb if they are even allowed to be born! Those that they cannot abort, they want to mutilate and those that they cannot mutilate they want to confuse their identity and sexualize them, bringing them into despicable bondage, and slavery.

- a. Abortion (Canada has most liberal laws)
- b. Mutilation/castration of youth (Isaiah 37)
- c. Identity confusion
- d. Parental rights eroded
- e. Take over the schools
- f. Babylonian educational system
- g. Sexualize the children.

8. Magic and Sorcery

In the end times, we will see a greater focus on the demonic, but not from a dark perspective. Rather, they will become the heroes. They will be seen as the answer rather than God. Got Himself will be depicted as the villain as one who keeps things from people while Satan will be the hero that resists the tyranny of God. Because demon worship will become acceptable and open, people will be desensitized to not only except evil, but rather to immortalize it.

- a. Demonic emphasis
- b. Make Satan the hero and God the villain
- c. The rise of ancient demons
- d. Indigenous rituals and rights in Canada
 - Land acknowledgments
 - Dream catchers
 - Rituals – all with spiritual implications
- e. Focus on aliens and extra-terrestrial beings - these beings will be demons.

9. Sexual Perversion – The Whore Of Babylon

The religious system of the end times is called the “*Whore of Babylon*”. She is the one that rides the beast that the antichrist sets up. This pantheistic and pluralistic religion will be drenched in sensuality and sexuality. Perversion will be at an all-time high as people cast away all restraint and give themselves over to seducing and unclean spirits.

- a. Homosexuality
- b. Sexual perversion (Isaiah 47)
- c. Common law living – removal of marriage and tradition.

10. The Obsession With Death

From abortion to assisted suicide, there seems to be an obsession with death and dying. In the New World Order, life will not be sacred. And because of this, you can play God and take your own life at any time. Therefore, if you are willing to take your own life, then certainly the life of someone else will not matter. This would explain why crime and chaos are on the rise as people no longer have any respect for the sanctity of life. This would explain why people are angry and full of wrath - political leaders have used this to their advantage to create further division even within their nations. It is a simplified philosophy of divide and conquer.

11. The War on Israel

The prophet Ezekiel writes that all the nations will turn against Israel and declare war on her with the hopes of completely destroying her. This battle is called “*Armageddon*”. It is here that God Himself will come down and fight for Israel. This is why we are seeing a rise in antisemitism on a daily basis. This being one of the signs of the end times.

12. Economic War on the Middle Class

It seems that political leaders and the globalists of the day desire to have only two economic classes - the rich and the poor and no one in between. The destruction of the middle class will make it easier for them to control the population on a greater scale. Despite the continuous rhetoric of, “being there for the middle class”, they make life increasingly difficult and stressful, and the middle class carries the load of taxation for the rest of society.

READING – MAIN PASSAGE

The End Of The Earth – The Judgement

At the end of the age, God will judge all things. But before that takes place there is a great and terrible time called “*The Tribulation*”. This will be a seven-year period of great hardship and pain such as the world has never experienced. During this seven-year period, God will pour out judgments on the earth and its inhabitants. They will come in the form of three sets of seven that are described as seals, trumpets, and bowls. This will all precede the return of Christ to the earth.

Series Text

2Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- Peter exhorts his readers to be holy and to be godly in light of the looming judgements that are coming from God. He describes how God will destroy the earth and create a new heaven and a new earth. This tells us that God’s people must conduct their lives in a certain way in order to be part of this new Kingdom.

The Scroll and the Lamb

Revelation 5:1-7

And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open ^[a]and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

It is very clear from the writings of John, in the Book of Revelation, that only Jesus Christ, the slain Lamb, the resurrected Christ was worthy to open the seals of the scroll. In all of Heaven no one else qualified to open the seals and to release the judgements of God upon the earth. This clearly puts Jesus Christ on a level that no one else can match. It is important to know that the judgements are coming from Heaven—the instructions are coming from God Himself, and it is not just something that is arbitrarily happening on the earth.

The Seven Seals: Revelation 6:1-7

Revelation 6:1-2

The First Seal

¹ Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

- Zechariah 1:8-17; 6:1-8

Revelation 6:3-4

The Second Seal

³ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come ^[a]and see." ⁴ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Revelation 6:5-6

The Third Seal

⁵ When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

Revelation 6:7-8

The Fourth Seal

⁷ When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Revelation 6:9-11

The Fifth Seal

⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

- The Martyr of the believers

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Revelation 6:12-17

The Sixth Seal

¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him

who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

TRANSITION STATEMENT

The Book of Revelation is about Christ, not the antichrist.

MAIN POINTS

Only Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God, is worthy to open the scroll and it seals, no one else in Heaven is worthy. Without Christ, the world could not be judged for its nature and brought back into order. Christ has the authority to judge the earth. Jesus came into the world as The Christ and the Saviour of the world—He returns as the ruling King, and therefore, He will judge justly.

Condition Of The Earth – Humanity And Sin

Revelation 9:20-21

²⁰ But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

1. Despite God's judgements, the people of the earth refuse to repent of their sins. This clearly demonstrates the depravity of the human heart and its absolute stubborn will in doing and choosing its own thing. Despite being shown the error of their ways, they continue to operate in evil, darkness, and as those that are contrary to the things of God. Is it any wonder that God releases such judgement against them? For this reason, God is justified in punishing and releasing judgement upon them. Their own works bring about their own destruction and pain.
 - a. Worship of demons
 - b. Murders
 - c. Sorceries
 - d. Sexual immorality
 - e. Thefts.

The commencement of the judgements will be in line with an era called, "*The Great Tribulation*". This will be a seven-year period of incredible hardship such as the world has never known before. However, it will not start that way. When the antichrist is revealed, he will come as a savior, as one who has the answers and will provide solutions that will deceive the nations and its people.

The beginning of the tribulation will be ushered in with great joy and peace, they will declare, "Peace and safety", "Peace, and safety"! The beginning of this period will be a tremendous time for the inhabitants of the earth, but then all hell will break loose. About halfway through this seven-year period, the antichrist will then reveal his true nature.

Those that he cannot persuade with his charming words will know the wrath of his unyielding ways. What begins in great peace will end in war and violence. One way or another, the antichrist will cause people in nations to submit to him whether they like it or not. Those that defy his leadership will understand the crushing power of his hand and will. He will make their lives unbearable, miserable and he will isolate them from society, including the ability to buy and sell and operate on a normal daily basis.

The first four seals reveal the horsemen of the apocalypse. These are often described as, "*The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*" and are also often referred to as, "*The Four Horsemen of Revelation*". They are given authority to bring devastation to a quarter of the earth. However, their capacity to destroy it, is limited by God.

It is also interesting that they are depicted by the colours: white, red, black, and pale (or green). Only the pale rider is given a name—DEATH—and Hades or Hell follows behind him. In other words, death will kill the body, and Hades will kill the soul. It is interesting to note that these colours could possibly indicate flags or nationalities. There are certain flags from the Islamic control or nations that are very similar and have these very colours within their flags. Perhaps this is a coincidence, or perhaps it is an indication from where these calamities will originate. It is also interesting to note that a quarter of the earth falls under the influence of Islam.

- They appear in Ezekiel and Zechariah
- Countries/Islamic States that have these colours in their flags:
 - ISIS
 - Iraq
 - Syria
 - Jordan
 - Sudan
 - Palestine
 - Libya
 - Kuwait
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Afghanistan.

1. The Whitehorse – Worldwide Religion – Conquer And Conquest

- a. Peace will come with this rider – he has no sword. The beginning three to three and a half years of the tribulation will be a time of peace, unity, and great celebration. The antichrist will bring a combination of economic, military, government, and religious harmony. The motto of the day will be “peace and safety”; however, it will be short-lived.
- b. The white horse of Revelation 6 is ridden by the antichrist (not to be confused with the Rider of the white horse in Revelation 19 which is Christ Himself). The rider in Revelation 6 is the false christ, the antichrist, the one that precedes The Christ.
- c. The colour white in the Bible is described as conquering or conquest. It can also denote religion and righteousness. In this case, since the rider is the antichrist, he is the opposite of the True Christ, and therefore brings a false worship and religion.
 - The worldwide religion is described as the “*Whore of Babylon*”. She is the one that rides the beast for some time, ultimately, the beast will turn on her and destroy her.
- d. Jesus said in Matthew 24 that there will be wars and rumors of wars and nation will rise against nation – the world will be under constant threat.

Matthew 24:4-7

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

2. The Red Horse - World War

- a. This horse/rider brings a global war that will impact the majority of the earth – there will be extreme bloodshed from wars
- b. Perhaps the Middle East war will explode into something greater as more nations will be involved.

3. The Black Horse - Famine, Economic Disaster, Inflation

Revelation 6:5-6

⁵ When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

- a. The implication is that food will become extremely expensive and that it will take the labour of one day just to have one meal. People will be desperate – there will be shortage and scarcity. The cause of these conditions may have been set because of the war that was released by the second horse/seal. Therefore, because of extreme scarcity, rations will have to be put in place in order to control the population. In this case, most likely, people will have to qualify with a mark or a digital imprint in order to buy and sell within society.
- b. Measuring balance
 - Oil and wine – serious rations will occur – prices will increase as scarcity increases
 - This will be reserved for the rich – they will get richer while the poor get poorer
 - The mark of the beast will be introduced because of the extreme conditions on the earth
- c. Beasts of the earth can represent plagues (monstrous things).

4. The Pale (Green) Horse - Plague, Famine, And War

a. Revelation 6:7-8

⁷ When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

- b. This horseman actually has a name given to him, he is called death, and Hades follows him. Therefore, it implicates that those that are being slaughtered on the earth are most likely unsaved people and are sent to eternal damnation.
- c. **Death** is associated with the body
- d. **Hades** is associated with the soul and spirit
- e. This would imply that in this season both the body and the soul are being destroyed and sent to hell - unredeemed people are paying their punishment for the rejection of Christ and the Gospel.

5. The Martyrs - White Robes

- The martyrdom of the believers

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

- The martyrs of Christ are asked to wait a little bit longer until they are avenged by the Lamb of God
- Beheadings will be a sign of the time in the last days. It will be a cruel way to kill the believers in Christ
- These are the martyrs that refused to worship the beast or his image and refused to take the mark, therefore they pay a great price – with their lives.

6. Nuclear Fallout?

Revelation 6:12-17

¹²I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- Perhaps the description of the sixth seal is the fallout of a nuclear war or even asteroids that are hitting the earth causing darkness, devastation, and a change in the climate.
- What would it cause:
 - Death of people, livestock, and plants
 - Climate change
 - Darkness and cold temperatures
 - The sun would be blocked
 - It would trigger earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods
 - The food chain would be disrupted, travel would be almost impossible.

7. Silence In Heaven - The Trumpets

After these things, John writes that there was silence in Heaven for the span of 30 minutes. Perhaps the inhabitants of Heaven are in shock or in sorrow at the calamity and catastrophe that has happened on the earth.

SERMON CONCLUSION - THE CALL TO ACTION

Daniel 11:32

Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; ***but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.***

Luke 21:28

Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."