

1-25-26

END-TIME PROPHECY: LIVING READY IN THE LAST DAYS

A Call to Watchfulness, Faithfulness, and
Hope...

Opening Prayer

**Heavenly Father,
We come before You humbly and,
grateful for Your Word which is living
and active. As we open the Scriptures
today, we ask for the guidance of the
Holy Spirit. Give us ears to hear, hearts
to understand, and lives willing to obey.
Help us not to fear the future, but to trust
You who holds the future in Your hands.
May Jesus Christ be glorified, Your
church strengthened, and Your truth
clearly proclaimed.
In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**

INTRODUCTION: ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS?

Few questions stir the human heart like this one:

“Are we living in the last days?”

Never before in human history have we seen:

- .Global unrest and wars on multiple fronts
- .Rapid moral decline celebrated as value
- .Increasing hostility toward Christianity
- .Technology capable of controlling commerce and communication worldwide
- .Israel back in her land, exactly as the Bible foretold

These are not coincidences. These are **signposts.**

Jesus Himself told us that the end times would not arrive quietly. He said they would come like labor pains...growing in frequency and intensity.

Matthew 24:6-8 NIV

You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. [7] Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. [8] All these are the beginning of birth pains.

End-time prophecy is not meant to scare believers, but to prepare us, anchor us, and motivate us to get closer to God daily.

I. GOD DECLARES THE END FROM THE BEGINNING

One of the strongest evidences that the Bible is God's Word, is prophecy...declared in advance and fulfilled precisely.

Isaiah 46:9-10 NIV

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. [10] I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

God wants His people to understand the times...not “speculate” wildly, but discern wisely.

II. OLD TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONS OF END-TIME PROPHECY

1. Daniel and the Rise and Fall of World Empires

Daniel was shown visions of future empires...Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome...centuries before they existed.

Daniel 2:44 NIV

"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

Every human kingdom rises and falls...but God's Kingdom is eternal.

2. Israel: God's Prophetic Timepiece

Perhaps the greatest sign of the end times is Israel's rebirth as a nation in 1948...after nearly 2,000 years.

Ezekiel 37:21-22 NIV

and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. [22] I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.

Jesus connected Israel's restoration with the nearness of His return:

Matthew 24:32-33 NIV

**"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree:
As soon as its twigs get tender and its
leaves come out, you know that summer
is near. [33] Even so, when you see all
these things, you know that it is near,
right at the door.**

Israel is not the cause of prophecy... Israel is the confirmation of prophecy.

III. JESUS' TEACHING ON THE LAST DAYS

1. Deception Will Increase

Matthew 24:4-5 NIV

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. [5] For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.

Today we see:

- .False gospels
- .Redefinition of truth
- .Spiritual confusion even within churches

Truth is no longer rejected quietly...it is "actively opposed".

2. Lawlessness and Moral Collapse

Matthew 24:12 NIV

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

We are watching:

- .Evil called good
- .Good called evil
- .God removed from public life

Yet Scripture told us this would happen.

3. The Gospel Will Reach the World

Matthew 24:14 NIV

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Despite chaos, God's mission continues. Through technology, missions, and underground churches, the gospel is reaching places once impossible.

NOTE: "Voice of the Martyrs" is a great Christian organization that gets Bibles and resources into Third World countries that Christianity is illegal, and people are persecuted and killed.

IV. PAUL AND THE LAST DAYS CHURCH

1. A Perilous (unsafe) Culture

2 Timothy 3:1-5 NIV

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. [2] People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, [3] without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, [4] treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- [5] having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

This passage reads like a modern news headline.

2. The Blessed Hope

Paul reminds believers not to fear judgment...but to await hope.

Titus 2:13 NIV

while we wait for the blessed hope-the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The end times are not about Antichrist...they are about Christ's return.

V. THE RAPTURE AND THE DAY OF THE LORD

Turn to *1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

This is not escape...it is **rescue**.
Not fear...it is **promise**.

VI. THE TRIBULATION AND GOD'S MERCY

Revelation reveals judgment...but also mercy.

Revelation 7:9-10 NIV

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. [10] And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Even in judgment, God Saves!!!

VII. THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

Look at *Revelation 19:11 NIV*

Revelation 19:11 NIV

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.

Jesus will not return as a suffering servant...but as **King of Kings**.

VIII. HOW SHOULD WE LIVE IN THE LAST DAYS?

3. Be Watchful

Matthew 24:42 NIV

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

2. Be Holy

2 Peter 3:11-12 NIV

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives [12] as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

3. Be Hopeful

Turn to **John 14:3 NIV**

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

CONCLUSION:

LOOK UP...OUR REDEMPTION DRAWS
NEAR

Luke 21:28 NIV

**When these things begin to take place,
stand up and lift up your heads, because
your redemption is drawing near."**

The message of end-time prophecy is not
fear.

It is faith.

Not panic...but purpose.

Not darkness...but hope in Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer:

**Lord Jesus,
Thank You for Your promises, Your
Word, and Your faithfulness. Help us to
live ready, to walk faithfully, and to
share boldly. Strengthen Your church in
these last days. Keep our eyes fixed on
You, our hearts anchored in truth, and
our lives surrendered to Your will.**

**Come quickly, Lord Jesus.
In Your precious name we pray, Amen.**