

**I. IT GIVES US URGENCY FOR THE HOUR WE LIVE IN**

- A. Urgency of the hour describes the unique times we are living in just before the return of Jesus. The return of Jesus is one of the main beliefs that is core to the Christian faith.

***Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.***

**II. IT HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE LEADERSHIP OF JESUS AS BRIDEGROOM KING AND JUDGE**

- A. Holy Spirit and the Word of God emphasize Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge at the end of the age.
1. *Bridegroom*: Jesus is revealed as One who *enjoys relating* to and partnering with His people.
  2. *Sovereign King*: Jesus is revealed as the One with *all power* and anoints His people with power. As King, He will heal and restore individual lives, every sphere of society in every nation, and even the earth itself.
  3. *Righteous Judge*: Jesus is revealed as the One who *removes everything that hinders love*.
- B. The secular storyline will cause fear, offense, deception, and confusion. Connecting to Jesus' excellent leadership in history and in our own lives helps us to trust Him in the midst of trouble; knowing that everything works together for good for those who love Him.
- C. Understanding the biblical narrative of the end times gives us perspective and faith, bringing His peace to our souls and confidence to continue to grow in love and share Jesus' love with others.

**III. EARLY CHURCH LEADERS CALL US TO THINK ABOUT JESUS' RETURN**

***James 5:8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.***

***1 Peter 4:7-8 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. Above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.***

- A. Jesus and the Apostles tell us clearly of the events leading up to that time frame when Jesus will return. The Church from its beginning has always believed in the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to the earth. The early Apostles lived with clarity, and we should desire it.

B. The biblical signs of the times include events and trends that are predicted in Scripture. Jesus commanded one generation to know that His return was near- the generation living with all 22 signs prophesied in *Matthew 24:5-28; Luke 21:8-36*. Now for the first time many of these signs are being seen and are increasing on a global scene.

C. New believers in Thessalonica got confused and thought maybe they missed the coming of the Lord and Paul the Apostle helps them as seen in 2 Thess. 2.

***2 Thess 2:1 Now brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, ...as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.***

D. There are two clear conditions for the coming of the Lord. The falling away of believers and the man of sin (antichrist) is revealed. Those two things tell us what will happen in earth before Jesus returns, Paul helps the church by giving details.

#### IV. BIBLICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE LAST GENERATION

***1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.***

***2 Tim 3:1-5 But no know this, in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves...***

***2 Tim 4:2-3 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. ...For the time will come when they will not hear sound doctrine, but according to their own desires..they will heap up for themselves teachers.***

A. One of the main things in the last days will be the focus on self. This is one of the descriptions of the generation of whom Jesus is returning to.

B. God's grace will be perverted saying that all can be saved without making Jesus the King of your life.

C. We give our allegiance to Jesus Christ and stay anchored in His word. We teach the word, put our hearts in front of the Word that we may live it out with God's grace helping us, and bear the reproach from the world that comes from living our lives according to it.

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## V. PREPARE JOYFULLY TO GO THROUGH TRIALS AND MOVE IN THE POWER OF GOD

- A. **Matt 24:4-8** gives us a comprehensive look regarding a global context that will happen before Jesus returns. Beginning of birth pangs, this is what the planet will look like before He returns.
- B. **Matt 24:9** Jesus gives us more detail of what it will look like in the Great Tribulation. Jesus is talking to believers. He does not say you will get raptured out and nothing bad will happen to you. The concept that nothing bad will happen to believers doesn't work biblically nor sociologically.
- C. We encourage the preparation of the heart to stand through trials to get your heart ready to stand in the hour of trial and do it joyfully because Jesus is coming!
- D. We look forward to the greatest revival, with multitudes coming to faith in Jesus, with the greatest tribulation that will have a suddenness to it (thief in the night). But followers of Jesus will be alert and focused, expecting His return and God will preserve the Bride of Christ, the Church as He did Moses and Israel in Goshen.
- E. The prepared Church will have the answer to keep multitudes from being offended at God in the End-Times. We will be able to answer the question of why a God of love would allow and even orchestrate the events in the Great Tribulation. The Church also must know how to live in a way that can minimize this judgment. The purpose of God's judgments is to remove all (false props) that hinders love so that multitudes would be saved.

## VI. FILLED WITH HOPE

***Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.***

- A. We live with hope because our lives are not lived in vain.  
***1 Cor 15:58... be steadfast , immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.***
- B. We receive and give God's comfort even in times of trial and tribulation.  
***1 Thess 4:16 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. 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 will always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.***  
  
***1 Cor 15:51-52 ...but we shall all be changed. 52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.***

*Col 3:3 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore...*

- C. We are to live with a focus, an expectancy and urgency. *Matt 24:42-44*