

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

- A. The end times is the generation in which the Lord will return and those final decades of human history in which many major events occur: “the birth pains” begin, the temple is rebuilt in Jerusalem, the Antichrist is revealed, the abomination that causes desolation is set up in the temple, the seals, trumpets, and bowls are released, a worldwide revival is led by the Church, etc. This culminates with Jesus' physical second coming as He establishes His literal millennial reign on earth, followed by the eternal age.

***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.***

- B. At the HOPS, we do not ask anyone to accept our views blindly, we encourage you to refuse ideas you cannot see clearly in the Bible for yourselves. Be a Berean – ***Acts 17:11***

**II. COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS WHY PEOPLE DON'T STUDY THE END TIMES:**

- A. These common responses seem like wisdom but they rely on misconceptions, and they do not align with the teachings of the Bible so they are not wisdom from God but rather from man.
1. There Are More Important Things to Focus On
  2. Studying the End Times is a Distraction
  3. We Can't Understand the End Times Anyway
  4. Every Generation Thought They Were the Last Generation
  5. Wrong Theological Ideas
  6. Jesus is Coming Any Minute
  7. The Rapture and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming are the Same Event
  8. The Church isn't Appointed unto Wrath
  9. Biblical Prophecy is Symbolic not Literal
  10. The Prophecies in the Bible have Already Happened
  11. Jesus said, No one knows the day or the hour

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### III. WRONG LIFESTYLE ASSUMPTIONS:

- A. Common but False Ways to Prepare:
1. Putting our faith in storing up provisions, building bunkers, etc.
  2. Basing our opinions about the End Times based off news reports, trends, Internet prophecies, etc.
  3. Hoping for the best but not following the prescription of Christ and the teachings of the apostles.

### IV. IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

- A. Pastoral reasons: People must understand the biblical narrative for what will happen and why it will happen. If not, they will by default embrace a secular narrative of the events, making them more vulnerable to being overcome by fear, offense, lust, and deception. God's people will be better equipped to process the pressures in a way that helps us to thrive spiritually and grow in love.
- B. Prophetic reasons: 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. How you and I view the word of God and what He says about the generation Jesus returns effects our prayer life, our family life, our future, ministry focus, and effectiveness in making disciples.
- D. Understanding brings clarity and peace. Our ideas about the end times will affect how we pursue the word of God to get understanding. This will bring peace and clarity instead of fear and confusion regarding the return of Jesus and the events surrounding it.

*Dan 10:11-14* "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you."<sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

### V. GOD WILL FULFILL HIS PROMISES EVEN THOUGH THERE MAY BE A DELAY

- A. We often face a present tension of living in the waiting as we are asking for the outpouring of God's spirit in our lives and society. We must remind ourselves that God will do what He said. He is going to pour out His Spirit, He is coming with all that He is.

*2 Peter 3:2-9* that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,<sup>3</sup> knowing this

*first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

*Mt 25:5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*

## VI. WE WILL ONLY STAND AS HE HELPS US AND ENABLES US

*Heb 12:28-29 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we <sup>14</sup> may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. <sup>29</sup> For our God is a consuming fire.*

*Is 33:14 The sinners in Zion are afraid Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: “Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?”*

- A. Having a truly relevant life that stands in the midst of shaking and the power that God will release, is found as we keep our hearts open before God and let Him help us as the bridegroom God He is.

*Rev 3:15-19 <sup>15</sup>“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot...<sup>16</sup>you are lukewarm...<sup>17</sup>Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—<sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire...<sup>19</sup>As many as I love, I rebuke... <sup>20</sup>Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone...opens the door.*

## VII. LIVING A PRACTICAL LIFE IN CONTEXT OF GOD’S END TIME PROMISES

- A. *Study the End Time Scriptures:* It takes time to be rooted in the End Time themes. The key is to begin the journey of educating yourself on what the scripture has to say about this Last Generation.
- B. *Prayer as a Lifestyle:* The power of prayer changes our hearts and positions us to receive truth. Our hearts are prepared for what is coming on the Earth as we learn to live lifestyles of prayer and fasting. We need to become those who have deep prayer lives (*Jn. 6:9-10, 17:23*).
- C. *Fasting:* Fasting dissolves our human strength; when we are weak then He is strong in us (*2Co. 12:10*). Fasting creates a physical weakness necessary for measures of brokenness and revelation. We don’t fast to earn God’s approval, we fast to reposition our hearts (when our flesh is weak then our spirit prevails) and receive more from Him at the heart level.
- D. *Fellowship with others:* God calls us to cultivate the First Commandment so we can effectively live out the Second Commandment. Being with one another and living out the Sermon on the Mount in our relationships and family context will prepare our hearts for the storms today and coming storms ahead.