

Are We Living In The End Times? - Message 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In the second message of the new series, *Answers*, we will learn to face the End Times with confidence and hope.

DISCUSSION

- What are some things on your bucket list?

When we grow in our knowledge and understanding of the End Times, we don't have to face the future with fear and insecurity but rather with confidence and hope. **Matthew 24:3-8: *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 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. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."*** Jesus goes on to say in verses 36 and 37: ***"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."***

- How can our growing knowledge and understanding of the End Times help us cultivate confidence and hope, rather than fear and insecurity, in our daily lives and faith journeys?

So, nobody knows the hour and the day of the return of Christ, but we can see signs! The Bible gives us a clear indication of signs that will happen in the earth before the return of Christ. Here are **three key signs indicating the End Times and the return of Christ:**

1. Rampant Deception

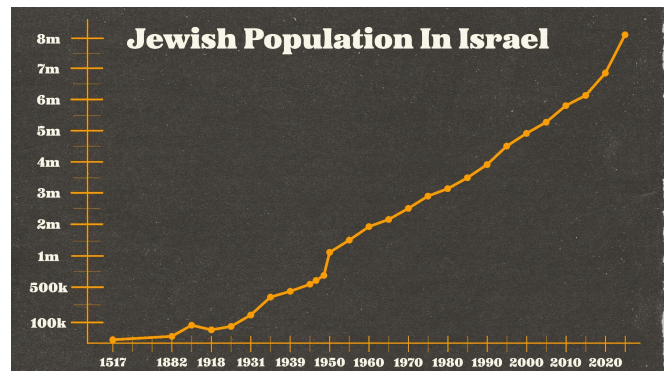
Jesus said that before His return, there will be rampant deception in the earth. People will be and are currently being deceived about the basic realities of life. Jesus also spoke about many false messiahs and teachers who come forth, leading many astray. False religions will lead people into deception. They espouse what man has to do to be right with God rather than what Christ did for man on the cross.

- How can we discern truth from falsehood in a world increasingly confused about fundamental truths and influenced by false teachings?

2. Regathering

There will be a regathering of Jewish people into the land of Israel and its modern-day birth as a nation.

Isaiah 11:11: *In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to bring back the remnant of his people—those who remain in Assyria and northern Egypt; in southern Egypt, Ethiopia, and Elam; in Babylonia, Hamath, and all the distant coastlands.*



No other people group has lost their language and land for nearly 2,000 years and were able to get them back. Remember, God chose Israel and promised His people a specific land in Genesis 12, 15, and 17 through Abraham and his descendants. This land was called the Land of Canaan and is the geographical location of historical and modern-day Israel. There is also massive spiritual significance throughout the Bible on the specific city of Jerusalem in Israel – God calls Jerusalem His very own city. The Jewish people were scattered and then regathered back into the land of Israel the first time in 539 BC. We are currently experiencing the second regathering of the Jewish people to Israel, where many are becoming born again and accepting Jesus as their Savior.

3. Revival Worldwide

Matthew 24:14: *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.* One of the greatest signs we are living in the days leading up to the return of Christ is that the Gospel is being preached to people worldwide at an unprecedented rate – through missions, technology, media, etc. Though there is rampant deception, there is also abundant opportunity. Worldwide revival and global evangelism is here. The stage is being set for the return of Christ.

- How does the global spread of the Gospel affirm the End Times and inspire us to engage in evangelism?

Two Questions About The End Times?

1. What happens next?

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4: *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.*

Paul speaks about the Day of Christ, also known throughout Scripture as the Day of the Lord. Just as a day has both daytime and nighttime – the two-fold day of the Lord has a season of light and a season of darkness. The season of light began with the first coming of Jesus and is known as the Age of Grace—which we now live in. This age ends abruptly at the Rapture of the Church and what follows is the nighttime of the Day of the Lord. This is known as the Tribulation period. The Day of the Lord culminates when Jesus returns to earth to rule as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Two things are happening simultaneously before the Rapture – there will be a great in gathering of souls, and the world will become darker and darker – a falling away will take place. This sets the stage for the antichrist to be revealed during the Tribulation. The only thing restraining the antichrist from being revealed right now is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church. When the Church is removed, the Holy Spirit’s change agents are taken from the earth and sin will run rampant throughout the world. This happens after the Rapture. During the Rapture, the Church will be “caught up” with Jesus in the clouds. This is not the Second Coming—it’s the removal of God’s holy people before He brings judgment on the earth in the Tribulation.

So after the rampant deception, regathering of Jews to Israel, and the revival worldwide is the Rapture of the Church. After the Church is removed, the Antichrist is revealed and the Tribulation begins.

- How does understanding the events before and after the Rapture influence your view of current events and your daily life?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life?

2. What does the end-time teaching mean to me?

The point of all End-Time teaching is – How do we live today?

- Stand firm on the truth.
 - Be filled with the Spirit.
 - Stay connected with others.
 - Share Jesus with a dark, hurting world.
- Out of the four ways to live, which one do you want to grow in? What can you start doing today to grow in that area?

LIFE CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself to deepen your understanding of the End Times, as this knowledge can transform fear into confidence and hope. Stand firm in truth, stay Spirit-filled, connect with others, and actively share Jesus with a world in need.

