

# Surviving The End Times

January 3, 2021

## Are We In The End Times?

- Rapture of the Church
- The Tribulation
- The Reign of Antichrist
- Battle of Armageddon
- Second Coming of Christ

## Jesus Describes the Beginning of the End Times

- Matthew 24:1-31
- Mark 13:1-31
- Luke 21:5-33

Matthew 24:3-8 ESV

3 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?"

4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray.

5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.

6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains."

*The beginning of birth pangs - but the end is not yet:*

- *false leaders and false teachers - speaking in Jesus' name - lead many astray*
- *wars, famines, earthquakes*

Matthew 24:9-13 ESV

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.

10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

*During the beginning of these birth pangs, there will be an escalation of:*

- *a murderous, global hatred for Christians*
- *lawlessness, everyone doing what is right in their own eyes, flagrant sinfulness with no restraints*

Matthew 24:14-16 ESV

14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

15 So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

## How To Survive The End Times

Matthew 24:13 ESV *"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."*

Mark 13:13 ESV *"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."*

Luke 21:19 ESV *"By your endurance you will gain your lives."*

James 5:10-11 ESV

10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

## How To Endure To the End

James 5:11 ESV *"Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast."*

### Hebrews 12:1 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are **surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

- **Use the Saints in the Bible as our inspiration, motivation and example.**
- **Job** (*suffered unspeakable loss and devastation but never blamed God*)
- **Abraham** (*willing to sacrifice to God the most precious and most miraculous thing in his life*)
- **Joseph** (*hated and betrayed by those closest to him, but freely forgave and never held a grudge*)
- **Moses** (*had no personal life of his own, gave his life away in the service to others*)
- **David** (*overtaken by heinous sins but never stopped pursuing and worshipping God*)
- **Stephen** (*stoned to death*)

### Hebrews 12:1 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us also lay aside every weight**, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

- *To survive and to find the victory in what God has called you to bear, you will have to wisely determine:*
  - *how separate from the world you need to be*
  - *How much of the world you can partake of*
- *A weight (ogkos - weight, incumbrance, impediment) is not a defined, obvious sin, but is something that could cost you your life and salvation.*

*Luke 14:17-20 ESV*

17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.'

19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.'

20 And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

*Luke 14:24 ESV*

24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet."

*Luke 17:28-33 ESV*

28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot--they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building,

29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all--

30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

31 On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back.

32 Remember Lot's wife.

33 Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

*Matthew 16:24-25 ESV*

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

### **Hebrews 12:1 ESV**

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, **and sin which clings so closely**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

- *What deliberate, habitual and unrepentant sin you allow in your life, will produce more rebellion, death and destruction.*

*Genesis 4:3-8 ESV*

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,

4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,

5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

1 Peter 2:11 ESV

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 ESV

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Romans 8:5-7 ESV

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

### Hebrews 12:1 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.**

- *Make a straight path from here to eternity. Stop leaving the straight and narrow because you're distracted and enticed. You will only exhaust yourself and become fatally injured. You won't have the strength to endure.*

Hebrews 12:12-13 ESV

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

- *Count it all joy when you meet all kinds of trials, for they will exercise your faith and strengthen your endurance, so you can endure to the end.*

James 1:2-3 ESV

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

### Hebrews 12:2 ESV

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.