

Understanding the Times

Lawlessness

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1/19/14

Pastor Don left off talking about the end times and the Rapture on Wednesday night as he was discussing the spirit of Jezebel and the spirit of Elijah in his Battlegrounds Series. This will lead right into what I want to talk about.

I. Signs – Lawlessness (main scripture reference)

- a. God has opened my ears to hear and see the word “lawlessness” in the news. (Head line news)
- b. I Recently encountered one who was lawless
- c. Definition of Lawless: not governed by or obedient to laws; characterized by a lack of civic order
- d. 2 Thess. 2:2 is talking about our “gathering together in Him” or the Rapture
 - i. Pre-trib, mid-trib & post-trib are the 3 views. By far our best case, is the pretrib
 - ii. Let’s look at a simple pretrib timeline
 - iii. So before He takes up his church, the Lawless one will be revealed
 - iv. Because Lawlessness is already at work
 - v. Matthew 24:10-12 vs 12 “because Lawlessness will abound the love of many will grow cold” – Signs before Christ gathers us up.

1. Vs. 11 False prophets trying to set a date to the Rapture – Harold Camping died Dec. 15, 2013 – I

prophesied Camping's season was over 2 years ago, Oct. 2011 (pretty safe prophecy since he was 90 at the time)

vi. Examples today of lawlessness:

1. Woman has fatal brain aneurysm in car in Taco Bell drive thru
2. Politics in Washington
3. Murders in schools
4. Knock out "game"
5. Muslim Brotherhood burning down churches and killing Christians in Egypt
6. Sex, drugs.....Just change the laws (legalize marijuana)

II. **The man of Lawlessness** (the Anti-Christ)

- a. He will be revealed after the rapture takes place.
- b. He will reign during the Tribulation which Jesus says will be very, very bad.
- c. There are many things he will do. **Note: He absolutely hates Christians!!!!**
 - i. He will come in like a man of peace (similar to President Obama who was given the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples")
 - ii. He will establish a 7 year peace treaty with Israel reestablishing the daily sacrifices then break the treaty 3-1/2 years in setting himself up in the (new) temple as god to be worshipped - the abomination of desolation that Daniel talked about (**Matt. 24:15**)

- iii. He lies and deceives people
- iv. He will persecute the Christians Killing many (Revelation 6:9-11)
- v. He will cause people to worship him (the image of the beast) or be killed (Rev 13:15)
- vi. He will set up a one world currency forcing all to take the Mark of the beast or they will not be able to buy or sell (Rev. 13:16-17)

III. Tribulation

- a. Matt. 24:21 “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”
- b. There will be Wars, drought, famine, earthquakes
- c. Animals will turn on people (which could happen easily if biological warfare was used) (Rev. 6:8)
- d. There are 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 bowls of wrath. John watched it all happen while he was shown a vision
- e. Asteroid collision- Revelation 8:7-12 & Revelation 7:12-14 (different aspects of the same event)
 - i. How many have seen the movie “Deep Impact”? This is a very good description of what an smaller Asteroid could do.
 - ii. February 15, 2013, a meteor hit Russia. It destroyed buildings, shattered glass and wounded many people. It is believed this was bigger than a double decker bus. It came undetected and suddenly!
 - iii. The Chicxulub crater in Mexico was created by an asteroid at least 6 miles in diameter!

iv. If something of this magnitude hit, it could have such an impact that it would cause a tidal wave that would easily destroy 1/3 of the ships

1. Luke 21:25 talks of “the seas and the waves roaring”

v. Dust could come up from the earth and block the sun and moon and stars in that part of the world.

IV. The Rapture

a. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 – For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”

b. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 – The actual experience

c. Matthew 24:27 – It’ll be like Lightning showing how quick it will

d. Matthew 24:36–42 – No one knows when. The Rapture will happen quickly

e. Mark 13:32–37 – Jesus says to watch and pray – like a man going away.....

f. Show Time line again.

V. Jesus’ 2nd coming

a. Revelation 19:11–16, 19–21

b. His first coming he entered Jerusalem on a donkey as our savior, his second coming he is He is a triumphant the king of king and the Lord of Lords

c. Are you ready? Video clip on the rapture

VI. We must be ready

a. Jesus does not want us to go through this.

b. Jesus is our answer.

- i. He is God who became man and sacrificed himself for us, resurrected from the dead and ascended to Heaven.
- ii. He purchased a place in Heaven for us with his own Blood. John 14:3 says he went away to prepare a place for us and then will come back to get us.
- iii. He designed this whole world to demonstrate his love for us. He loves us. Give yourself to him.
- iv. Respond to the call now for today is the day of salvation.
- v. Get right or you take a great chance of getting left.