

End Times Session Notes- Fall 2014

Does the Bible speak to what is happening in the world today? With wars between Israel and its neighbors, global terrorism, increasing frequency of famine, new types of diseases, increasing moral decay, collapsing financial markets...*where will it all lead?* Add to that, churches walking away from Biblical Truth and redefining sin as acceptable in both the Christian community and our country.

The Bible gives us so many answers to the questions of life, particularly in this day and time. If you are interested in understanding what the Bible says will be in our future, come to a series of Biblical studies on ***Sunday nights beginning November 2, 2014*** entitled:



Schedule: Sunday night beginning at 6:00pm- 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Title of Session</u>
✓	Nov 2, 2014	Signs of the Times
✓	Nov 9, 2014	Who is the Anti-Christ?
✓	Nov 16, 2014	Can one man rule the world?
	Nov 23, 2014	All Hell Breaks Loose
	Dec 7, 2014	Armageddon
	Dec 21, 2014	Ultimate Destination Wedding Reception
	Dec 28, 2014	Jesus' Second Coming
	Jan 4, 2015	Touchdown!!
	Jan 11, 2015	The Ultimate Hope
	Jan 18, 2015	Q&A on End Times

This is a DVD series by Bryant Wright, Sr. Pastor at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia. We will have a brief introduction, play the DVD session, and end with Q & A. Each session will be facilitated by Jim Lay. **BRING YOUR BIBLE and join us!!**

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Session 3 – November 16, 2014 – Can One Man Rule the World?

Introduction

This is the 3rd of the sessions on the End Times we are doing and tonight we will look deeper into the man we call the Anti-Christ. Last week we discussed “what he is” and this week we will delve further into what scripture says about his characteristics and attributes.

I want to just make two discussion points before we begin and when we talk again after the session I will make another before we get to your questions.

First, all of us come to any study of scripture with some pre-conceived notions of scripture that color our thinking and our responses. As you begin to understand this, you will begin to see how others think as well and what makes their viewpoints visible to us.

Let me define 4 ways of viewing scripture that we will encounter. Of course there are folks who are in-between these points but you will understand that as well.

View 1 – Some people believe the Bible is God’s Word, is the embodiment of absolute Truth, and is inerrant, literal and sufficient plus necessary for living a life pleasing to God. This camp views the Bible as the final word from God to us. *(I am in this camp). This is the normal view held by Evangelicals, at least the old definition. This does NOT mean there are not differences in the ways believers see and interpret the scriptures. There are vigorous differences in views of event sequences in the End Times for example.*

View 2 – Others believe the Bible is mostly true, but there is a large mix of allegory, and myth built in. Usually this view looks at Creation, Adam and Eve, the Flood, Noah, Jonah, and Revelation as myth or just stories with an overall principle, but didn’t really happen. This is the haven for the progressive church, the non evangelical side of the Faith. They are skeptical of being “born-again” and do not teach that doctrine. For the most part they do not think people who hold view 1 are very smart, and you will see this immediately if you express any view of absolute truth... What is Truth anyway?

View 3 – Others believe none of it is true, that it is a crutch that man uses to lean on that gives us hope, where there is none other than this life. This is the common view held by Atheists and Agnostics. They ridicule people of Faith. Unfortunately lots of young people fall into the “don’t care” about God or Faith in living their lives.

View 4 – A large group believes the Bible is God’s Word to us, but it is NOT His Final or complete Word. This is the normal view taken by the cults and those who believe their denomination rules, books, rulings, and “sacred” writings are the final word from God.

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This view is also held by many in the “spiritual life” style movements who believe as long as you are sensitive to the Spirits; you are being guided by the life forces around us. Eastern religions are an example, but also Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, Roman Catholics, and Muslims plus the off-the-radar cults.

In the case of Roman Catholics, they hold an interesting view that the Bible needs to be supplemented (therefore not sufficient) by their church teachings and Papal pronouncements. It is a combination of Grace plus Works based theology that emphasizes RC doctrines and beliefs which are outside of the Biblical record. (ie Mary being a perpetual virgin, and the singular authority of the Pope to be the “Vicar of Christ” on the earth., and Apostolic Authority with Peter being the first Bishop of Rome and thus the first Pope).

As you can guess, to hold **View 2** is to pick and choose those scriptures you believe in according to human wisdom and discard others. To hold **View 4** is a slippery slope of belief that denies the total scripture and puts man in control of adding or changing what is considered orthodox and true.

Your beliefs about End Times will vary considerably depending on which biblical view you hold. The Bible starts off “In the beginning God...” If you don’t believe this, the balance of the scripture will not have much meaning and End Times discussions will be only diversionary discussions.

On the prophecy side, one of the best ways to look at prophetic scripture of the future is to look at what has happened to prophetic scripture in the past. For example, there are several hundred prophecies of Christ’s (or the Messiah’s) first coming. We will celebrate this in a few weeks. All of these prophecies were fulfilled literally not figuratively. This gives me great assurance that the prophetic discussions about both His 2nd coming, Rapture of the Church, and the other events leading up to the 2nd Coming will be fulfilled in the same way...literally.

*On the session after Christmas, I will share a fulfilled prophecy that is not easily visible in His first coming but which will enhance your study of His 2nd coming. Because of the study off prophecy and listening/reading multiple sermons, books, and articles did this become visible to me and it has been a blessing to me and I hope to you as well. This is an example of “progressive revelation” where the more we study and read the Word of God, the more He will make visible. The word “revelation” in Greek is the word “apo-kalypsus” or where we get the word apocalypse but it means a revealing or uncovering. In other words, it was always there but now it is becoming uncovered to reveal it to us. **What a blessing we get by reading the Word of God !!***

By taking scripture literally and as God’s Truth in the past, present and future we can have some assurance and comfort in what is given to us.

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Think about where your belief is centered as compared to these 4 views. It will color your thoughts tremendously. *If you can, ask God through Prayer to give you the will and the thoughts to see His Word as His absolute truth to you.*

Secondly I want to talk about the reality of a person called the Anti-Christ. It is hard to understand how this man can come to unified power in our world today across country boundaries and centuries of differences. This past summer, Vicki and I were blessed to take a river cruise through Germany seeing castles, medieval towns, Roman cities and artifacts of history laid out before us. It was both beautiful and fascinating to hear of the history I must have slept through in my **History of Western Civilization** classes. But what was extremely powerful to me was to visit the city of Nuremburg, Germany. This is the city where the Nazi Party had their parade grounds, stadiums, and outdoor amphitheatres which are still there. There is room 600 where the Nuremburg trials were held after WWII, and also there is a building called the "Document Center" that chronicles the rise of the Nazi party with analysis as to how they came to power, and why the German people and churches allowed it. Without getting political, it was eerily like the ascension to power of our current president with pomp, messianic overtones, and huge columns designed to imply power, set the stage for charismatic speeches, and foster an adoring press. Without trying to make the comparison, they reminded me how easily they and we can succumb to these kinds of emotional risings, if the conditions are right. Think about it...I can totally see how the world could be mesmerized into following an Anti-Christ type figure when the world is in Chaos. Wars are everywhere, we are afraid of everything, and financially and militarily we are very weak. He will come as a peacemaker with all the answers, but he will be a deceiver with Satan's indwelt spirit.

It can be discouraging for sure but two things should be uppermost in your mind:

1. God is Sovereign and God is in control of everything that happens
2. When things look like they are falling into Chaos, they are falling into place

Handouts: You have note paper available to you and also a 3x5 note card. What I want you to do is either send me at jim@jmlay.com any questions you want me to answer for you or write them on the card.

You do not have to sign them but I will not identify anyone's question when I answer it. My plan is to gather the questions and do a question and answer sheet but also for the last session talk through some of the questions so that everyone who might not be sure about some things will hear the answer and be able to follow up.

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I did not get to the **Views on the Rapture** this week but I am working on it and should have it completed by mid week and before next week's session

These sessions will not be a complete expose' on End Times, and I will do a follow up session sometime in the spring for a deeper dive into some parts of this study.

< Let's look at today's session video >

After Session Discussion:

Israel My Glory Magazine

Temple Preparations going on now

Yehuda Glick assassination attempt

Open for general Q's and Q's on Muslims, and Islam from Dr. Emir Caner discussions