

BIBLE BASICS // Session 9: The End Times

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does it all _____?

FORMAL DOCTRINE

We believe that the second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years.

We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

BIG IDEA

The story of the End Times is the story of the _____ of the Resurrected Jesus.

When reading end time (eschatology) passages, you must consider how to read:

- _____ writing
- _____ writing
- _____ (letter) writing

KEY VERSES

Matthew 24:36, 44 (NIV), “36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ... 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 (NIV), Therefore encourage one another with these words.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT:

- **THE RAPTURE** – the “catching up” of the people of God who are alive at Christ’s return.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV), 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And so we will be with the Lord forever.

- **THE TRIBULATION** – a period of unhindered judgment upon the empires of humanity.

Revelation 7:14 (NIV): I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, **“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;** they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- **THE ANTICHRIST** – a prophesied leader who will draw people away from God.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 (NIV): Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

- **THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST** – a one-thousand year period of Christ’s direct rule of Earth.

Revelation 20:1-3 (NIV): And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, **to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.** After that, he must be set free for a short time.

QUESTIONS:

1. What have you been taught about the End Times? Did it generate hope or fear?
2. How does learning about future events motivate your present behavior?
3. Share something from this session that encouraged or challenged you.