



Doctrine of the End Times and Last Days, #1

I. Why study the end times and the last days?

1. Because we are to be students of the whole Word of God in all matters to which it speaks (2 Tim. 2:15)
2. Because God promises a reward for those who love Christ's appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)
3. Because it gives us comfort and encouragement (1 Thess. 4:18, 5:11)
4. Because it prompts us to live holy lives (2 Peter 3:10-14)
5. Because Jesus exhorted us to be discerning of the times (Matthew 24:29-33, Luke 12:54-55)

II. What are the points of agreement among evangelical believers?

- A. Both Believers and Unbelievers will be resurrected. Believers to eternal life in heaven and unbelievers to eternal punishment in hell (John 5:24-30, Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 13:24-50)
- B. Jesus Christ will physically return to earth (Titus 2:13, Acts 1:9-11, Rev. 19:11-21, Mt. 24:27-31)
- C. Jesus will judge unbelievers and reward believers (John 5:25-29, 1 Thess. 4:13-17, 2 Thess. 1:6-10, Rev. 20:11-21:8)
- D. Jesus will establish His eternal Kingdom (Psalm 145:13, Mt. 25:31-34, 1 Cor. 15:20-28, Rev. 21:1-7, 22:1-5)

III. Why are there differences of belief and doctrine?

- A. Because of the clarity and genre of Scripture
- B. Because of different theological starting points
- C. Because of different approaches to interpreting the Scriptures

IV. Key topics and where to find them:

Jesus' teaching on end times: Matthew 24

The Return of Christ: Revelation 19

Rapture of the Church: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Millennium: Revelation 20:1-10

Judgment seat of Christ: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Tribulation: Revelation 6-19

White throne judgment: Revelation 20:11-15

New heavens and new earth: Revelation 21-22

Hell: Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 20:14-15, Revelation 21:8

The Resurrection of believers: 1 Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:11

Questions for Community Groups

1. When you think about Jesus coming back and the end times, how does it make you feel?
2. What are some of the reasons that Pastor JP gave for why we should study what the Bible says about these things? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 and 2 Peter 3:10-14. What motivations do these passages give for studying and knowing what the Bible teaches about the end times?
3. According to Pastor JP, what do Bible-believing Christ-followers agree on with respect to the end times and last days?
4. Pastor JP discussed the reasons why there are differences of opinion about End Times doctrine. What stood out to you as to why believers might come to different conclusions about what the Bible teaches?
5. Pastor JP concluded his discussion with teaching on where to find specific topics in the Bible. Where would you find Jesus' teaching on the end of the age and His second coming? Where would find the Bible's teaching on the Rapture? Where would find the Bible's teaching on the new heavens and the new earth?
6. Based on this first teaching and discussion, what do think God is saying to you? What is a personal take away for application?