

I. TWO PRIMARY REASONS WHY BELIEVERS DON'T STUDY GOD'S END TIME PLAN

1. IT IS IRRELEVANT TO THE CHURCH

- a) Many Western believers lack awareness and interest in God's end-time plan due to the widespread, and popular teaching that the end time events occur after the church is removed from the earth in what is called the rapture of the church.
- b) Scripture shows clearly that the church will be present on the earth through the end of the age events including the great tribulation, which makes it all the more urgent that we understand God's end-time plan biblically.
- c) Many bible teachers and pastors avoid this subject, prioritizing immediate pastoral concerns over end-time realities. *As a result, many believers lack interest in biblical prophecy, because they have not been fed it, leaving them consumed by the pressures and distractions of the present.*

(1) An important observation: much of the apostolic instruction in the New Testament is written within an eschatological (end-time) framework.

2. IT IS TO COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

- a) Another common objection is that God's end-time plan is too complex and hard to understand, leading many to assume the average believer cannot understand it.
- b) Paul commended the Thessalonian Christians for not avoiding these themes, but giving great attention to them.

(1) But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. -1 Thess 5:1

- c) Believers don't reject end-time teaching outright, they drift from it through distraction, confusion, and a loss of urgency about what Jesus said is essential.

II. WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF NOT KNOWING GOD'S ENDTIME PLAN?

A. WE CAN FALL INTO DECEPTION

- 1. ***"Take heed that you are not deceived"-Matt. 24:4***

B. WE CAN BE OFFENDED AT JESUS

- 1. ***"And blessed is the one who is not offended by me"-Matt. 11:6***

C. UNPREPARED AND UNABLE TO GUIDE OTHERS

- 1. ***Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? -Matt. 24:45***
- 2. ***³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; Dan 11:33***

D. WE GROW INDIFFERENT TOWARDS JESUS' RETURN

- 1. Indifference to Jesus' return doesn't happen overnight, it grows when we become consumed with this life and lose sight of the One who is coming.
 - a) ***³⁴"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.-Lk 21:34***
 - b) ***³⁷But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.-Lk 24:37-39***
 - c) ***³knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? -2 Peter 3:3-4***

III. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW GOD'S END TIME PLAN?

1. It produces confidence in Jesus' leadership
2. It prepares believers to endure darkness with hope
3. It protects from deception
4. It fuels the great commission with urgency
5. It fuels intercessory prayer
6. It positions the church for partnership in God's plan

IV. THREE TYPES OF BIBLICAL SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- A. There are three types of biblical "signs" that indicate the end of the age events and when the Lord's coming is near. These three are called "positive sign events", "negative sign events", and "birth pangs/beginning of sorrows"
- B. **Sign events can be both positive and negative.** These are biblically predicted events that indicate the nearness of the second coming of Jesus to the earth. (Matt. 24:4-35) (2Thess. 2:3-4)
 1. The purpose of these events is to alert the church of the timing of Jesus' return and to exhort us to continue to fulfill the great commission, and warn the nations of the coming judgements, and prepare as many people as we can.

V. NEGATIVE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- A. Jesus spoke about 12 birth pang sign events that would occur in the period leading up to the final time of tribulation, culminating in the Lord's return. These signs are ever growing and increasing today.(see ***-Matt 24:4-8, Luke 21:18-28, Mark 13:5-23***)
- B. These include widespread persecution against Jesus' followers, great deception, (mostly centered around the person of Jesus) geo-political unrest, food shortages, pestilences, lawlessness, and earthquakes.

VI. POSITIVE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- A. Jesus and the apostles did not only speak of negative signs of the times—they also pointed to positive ones. Scripture reveals several positive prophetic trends that will unfold before His return including the outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh, a great end time harvest, the restoration and leadership of Israel back into the land, increasing salvation of the Jewish people, the rise of a global day-and-night prayer and worship movement, and, most importantly the advancement of the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations.(ethnic groups)

VII. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- A. The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ is both Savior, Lord, and King. Through His life, death, and resurrection, God offers salvation to all who believe, allowing them into His Kingdom, with the promise that Jesus will one day return to judge the nations and establish His rule over all the earth.

VIII. THE ROLE OF THE GOSPEL AT THE END OF THE AGE

- 1. ***“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” -Matt. 24:14***
- B. Jesus prophesied the global spread of the gospel as the primary message to the nations before the end would come.
 - 1. ***The end doesn't come because evil increases, it comes because the gospel has gone everywhere.***
- C. The gospel is not just *part* of the end times, It is a requirement before the end comes.
- D. The gospel has a very significant role not only to bring in the greatest end time harvest, but also to prepare the nations for the severest judgements in all of human history.
- E. The gospel will be a double edged sword in the mouth of Jesus' church. To some it will bring salvation, to others it will position them for judgement.

1. ***30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”-Acts 17:30***
2. ***For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.-2 Cor 2:15***

IX. WHAT THE GREAT COMMISSION SAYS ABOUT THE END OF THE AGE

- A. Jesus echoes these truths in the great commission in Matthew 28. The Great Commission is not just a command for the church, it’s the engine that drives the timeline of the end of the age. Jesus actually tied the mission of making disciples in all nations directly to His return and the culmination of history.
 1. ***18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.-Mt 28:18-20***
- B. Jesus promises to be with the church all the way to the end as she fulfills her primary assignment. This verse gives clear evidence that the church will be on the earth until the end of this age, which means she will be present proclaiming the gospel during the last, and most difficult seven year period of history.
- C. The proclamation of the gospel happens amid tribulation not apart from it. In the midst of the greatest darkness the gospel will continue to be preached, proclaimed in order to set up the nations for the greatest shaking, and outpouring of the Spirit.
 - a) Tribulation doesn’t stop the mission It actually intensifies it. Darkness and glory will increase together, and the gospel advances in the midst of that tension.

X. THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

- A. Matthew 24:14 highlights two key truths: Jesus speaks of the 'gospel of the kingdom,' not merely salvation, and He declares it will be proclaimed as a witness to all nations.
- B. In the context of Matthew 24, the gospel of the kingdom is not limited to personal salvation, it proclaims Jesus as King and announces His coming rule that will replace all earthly governments.
- C. This message will bring life to many, but it will also provoke opposition from the end-time evil systems Satan raises up in an attempt to oppose God's Kingdom.
 - 1. ***Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king, Jesus.-Acts 17:17***

XI. THE THREE FOLD PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL RELATED TO THE END

- A. SENT TO LEAVE A WITNESS BEFORE GOD'S JUDGEMENTS COME
 - 1. God has a consistent pattern of leaving a prophetic witness and warning to the nations before He judges them. God desires to release mercy before judgement, and that mercy is communicated through the message of the gospel.
 - a) ***Mercy triumphs over judgment.*-James 2:13**
 - b) ***The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.-2 Peter 3:9***
 - 2. Before the flood, God raised up Noah as a messenger warning the nations of the judgement to come. Before God judged Pharoah, He sent Moses and Aaron with a message. Before God judged Israel He would always send prophetic messengers.
 - 3. Regardless if people or nations respond rightly, God remains faithful and merciful to give a witness before He releases His judgements.

4. Jesus and the New Testament Apostles continued in this pattern and viewed the preaching of the gospel and the Great Commission as a final witness before God's end time judgements of the nations.
 - a) Jesus will judge the nations at the end of the age only after they have been given a witness of the gospel.

B. WILL BRING IN THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES

- a) ²⁵ ***For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved,***
2. There is a fullness of Gentiles who will be saved—a number known only to God. As the gospel is proclaimed in power, accompanied by signs and wonders, each person brought in moves history closer to its completion.
3. The gospel will reach every unreached people group.(currently over 3 billion).The end-time church will finish what previous generations started taking the gospel where it has never gone.
 - a) ⁹ ***After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" -Rev 7:9-10***

C. MEANS TO PROVOKE ISRAEL TO JEALOUSY

1. ¹¹ ***I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. -Romans 11:11***
 - a) Israel will be provoked to jealousy not by Gentiles having more, but by seeing them saved and walking in the reality of the God who was first revealed to them.

D. ISRAEL'S NATIONAL SALVATION

1. The gospel that first was preached to the gentiles by Israel, will come full circle back to them nationally.

a) ***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.-Rom 1:16***

b) ***"You will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord -Mt 23:39***

XII. THE GOSPEL IS A MEANS TO A GLORIOUS END

- A. The gospel is more than about salvation and forgiveness of sins, it's a divine message to the nations of the infinite and matchless worth of Jesus, and a wedding invitation to the nations to come to a glorious wedding at the culmination of the current age.

1. ***All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations shall worship before You. 28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S, And He rules over the nations.-Ps 22:27-28***

2. ***3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.-Rev 15:3-4***

- B. THE GOSPEL IS THE MEANS OF CREATING A GLOBAL ETERNAL FAMILY

1. The gospel is not just part of the end times. It is a requirement to establish a new humanity made up of the nations

a) ***Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."-Rev 5:9-10***

XIII. GOD'S DIVINE STRATEGY TO BLANKET THE NATIONS WITH THE GOSPEL

1. THE HOLY CONVERGENCE OF GLOBAL PRAYER AND GLOBAL MISSIONS

- a) God will bring the current global prayer and worship movement to maturity and fullness that will result in the greatest thrust of world missions, and evangelism.

(1) ⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. -Rev 5:8

- b) The global church will cry out to the Lord of the Harvest day and night

(1) ³⁶ But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were ^{lil}wearied and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. -Matt 9:36-38

2. THE RELEASE OF THE 144 THOUSAND JEWISH EVAGELISISTS

- a) *14 Then I looked, and behold, ^la Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads-Rev 14:1(see also Rev 7:4-8)*

3. THE ANGELIC

- a) *⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.-Rev 14:6-7*

4. THE TWO END TIME WITNESSES

- a) ***³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.-Rev 11:3***

5. DREAMS AND VISIONS

- a) As we see many Muslims coming to faith in this way, I believe it will increase in the last days.

(1) 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.-Acts 2:17