

The End Times and The Return of Jesus: Part I
October 29, 2023

Main Passage: Matthew 24:1-14, NIV

Eschatology is...

How to Be Calm and Confident in Uncertain Times

1. Remember _____

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, NLT – Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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. 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:18, NLT – Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Romans 15:4, NIV – For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

2. Remember _____

Matthew 24:4-5, 11, NIV – Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many... ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people."

Proverbs 18:2, NLT – Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

Proverbs 14:15, NLT – Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps.

3. Remember _____

Before Jesus returns, the Bible tells us... (*not nearly an exhaustive list)

- A great _____

Matthew 24:6,8 (cf.9-14), NIV – [Jesus said,] “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come...⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.”

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Matthew 24:23-25 (cf. 5,11), NIV – [Jesus said,] “At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time.”

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Matthew 24:29-30, NIV – [Jesus said,] “Immediately after the distress of those days ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.”

- The coming of the _____

1 John 2:18, NIV – Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, NLT – Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don’t believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.

- The gospel will be _____

Matthew 24:14, NIV – [Jesus said,] “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

Revelation 14:6, NIV – Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

- The salvation of _____

Romans 11:25-26a, NIV – I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved.

- The “_____” (Matthew 24:15)

John 8:32, NIV – [Jesus said,] “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”