



Are These The Last Days? – Part 2

Matthew 24 & 25

Icebreaker:

Do you have a favorite “apocalyptic”, end-of-the-world movie or TV show?

The Study:

With the world in so much turmoil today, there’s a lot of “apocalyptic fever” spreading. Most every Bible-believing Christian is at least loosely aware that there are many Scriptural signs of Christ’s second coming being fulfilled in our age. It’s easy to get a little wiggled out.

But God doesn’t want his people losing sleep about things that go bump in the last days. Which is why the Lord teaches us about what those days will be like, and how we should live in light of his return.



What Will Conditions Be Like In The Last Days?

1. Jesus says in Matthew 24:12 that in the last days *“the love of many will grow cold”*. What goes on in your heart when you hear these words?

2. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Paul gives his own analysis of what this might mean, by listing some very specific things. What things stand out to you from the list he gives?

What Signs Will Be Given That The Last Days Are Near?

➤ **General Signs or “Broken-Earth Judgments”**

Read Matthew 24:4-8.

3. Many say, “How can these be signs? They’re always happening!” It’s possible that Jesus is saying that these things will increase in frequency and severity as time goes on, *“like birth pains”*, but that’s a hard case to prove. More likely is the idea that these are general signs which point to the fact that the earth is broken and under a curse.

If this is true, what lessons do these general signs teach us when they happen?

➤ **Spiritual Opposition & Persecution**

Read Matthew 24:9-13.

4. Many have been taught that before the tribulation of the last days comes, that Christians will be “raptured” off the earth. But what does the Bible teach about the suffering God’s saints may have to endure?

John 16:33

2 Corinthians 4:7-11

2 Timothy 3:10-12

What does it mean then to *“Pray for pre- , but prepare for post – ”*?

➤ **End-Of-The-Age Signs...Which include:**

- *The Global Spread Of The Gospel – Matthew 24:14*

- *The Re-Emergence of Israel on The World's Stage – Luke 21:24; Romans 11:25-27*

- *The Use Of Technology For Evil Purposes – Revelation 13:5-8, 16-17*

How Should We Live In Light Of Jesus' Coming?

Jesus tells three stories at the end of his teaching, recorded in Matthew 25. Each story has common elements, but teaches a unique lesson for us to learn. Read each story, then discuss what the central lesson means for you personally and practically.

The Parable Of The Ten Virgins (25:1-13)

The Central Lesson For Us: *Watch And Pray*

In a sentence, what happens in the story?

Who is the authority figure in the story? What does he say or do?

What separates the wise persons in the story from the foolish ones?

In light of this story, what does it mean for me to *Watch and pray*?

The Parable Of The Talents (25:14-30)

The Central Lesson For Us: *Work And Pray*

In a sentence, what happens in the story?

Who is the authority figure in the story? What does he say or do?

What separates the wise persons in the story from the foolish ones?

In light of this story, what does it mean for me to *Work and pray*?

The Parable Of The Sheep And Goats (25:31-46)

The Central Lesson For Us: *Love And Pray*

In a sentence, what happens in the story?

Who is the authority figure in the story? What does he say or do?

What separates the wise persons in the story from the foolish ones?

In light of this story, what does it mean for me to *Love and pray*?

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