
Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

Session 25 – End Times Part 2

We will continue our discussion of the appropriate way to think about the End Times. In the last session we closed with Revelation 21:8 and the prevalence of lying and lawlessness in our culture.

John MacArthur's (Grace to You Ministry) latest newsletter has an article on Contentment and focuses on how to be content regardless of what is going on.

“While some Christians do wrestle with contentment when it comes to earthly possessions, I suspect that in these times the most pronounced challenge to our contentment is much more subtle. Over the past few years I have stated many times in my letters to the Grace To You Family that we live in very dark days. While by definition Christians are citizens of an eternal kingdom that transcends the ups and downs of our temporal circumstances, we still walk in an increasingly evil, hostile, perverse anti-God world. When we see widespread deception, cultural decline, moral decay, and spiritual defections

Spiritual defection means that churches and church people are moving away from scripture and the truth and defecting to the culture. It is being more welcoming to the sinful aspects of our culture so that you get people into the door and into the pews.

the temptation is to let our righteous abhorance of and anger over sin turn into bitterness toward sinners and resentment and fear over our difficult circumstances.

Because we have lived through and remember better times, we become discontent with the time and location in which God has sovereignly placed us. Unless we guard our hearts and minds, we can even start to regard such discontentment as a virtue to be excused or even cultivated.”

In other words, we are in these difficult times, and we remember better times, like in the 50s or 60s when people were more moral, more attuned to God, more principled... at least it seemed people were less prone to lying and lawlessness. Our laws and justice system reflected that. But this is the reality in which we find ourselves today.

The End End Times

We will continue to look at the “End End Times” and the hope that we have. We can see what is really important to God and therefore should be important to us.

Revelation 21 and 22 mirror Genesis 1-3. We see a lot of the qualities important to God.

In the end holiness will reign. There will be purity and righteousness. The devil, evil and depravity will all be burned up and gone.

Revelation 21

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” **10** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, **and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11** having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

God uses jewels to portray the purity, holiness, and glory of what is coming. He uses jewels to illustrate His purity in a tangible way that we can grasp.

18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. **19** The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. **21** And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

See the deep significance of God to illustrate what this will be like in the end: glory, radiance, light! It is hard for us to contemplate how great this will be because of the world we know.

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

In the Old Testament there was a physical temple. Now in the Church age God dwells in us and He can because we have been sanctified and have holy spirit within. The temple will be rebuilt and will exist during the tribulation but when it is all said and done there will no longer need to be a temple. God will dwell. The devil will be eliminated, and EVERYTHING is going to be holy and righteous.

23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **24** By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, **25** and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

Gates were used in a city to keep the bad people out, but all the bad people will have been exterminated by the second death.

26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

27 But **nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false**, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

So huge! Nothing unclean will ever enter it. God wants HOLY, PURE, CLEAN. Even though we are still living in this chaotic devil-run world we can still be holy, pure, and godly in the midst of it.

What a glory that is to God. It is really the purpose of the ages outlined in Ephesians. We have this opportunity to do so and give God and the angels call to applaud us.

We will look at various kings and the opportunity they had and how they squandered it. We can learn from it and not squander the opportunities that we have.

Ephesians 3:8-11

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, **9** and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery [sacred secret] hidden for ages in ^bGod, who created all things, **10** so that **through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **11** This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,**

We can be a part of this! God's "Purpose of the Ages", His eternal purpose.

Revelation 22

1 Then the angel^a showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, **the tree of life^b with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.** The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

The tree of life that was in the original garden returns! It yields a different kind of fruit each MONTH. Not the seasonal, annual fruit of our trees now.

The leaves of the tree were for healing the nations. There will be complete healing and wholeness. We saw in chapter 21 there would be no more pain, tears, death or suffering any more.

3 **No longer will there be anything accursed,** but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and **his servants will worship him.**

Think of the significance of that! Think back to Genesis 3, the ground was cursed, the devil was cursed. Recall the blessings and the curses in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. The curses were a very big deal.

This sets the context for all of eternity and what God wants. God created us to worship and serve Him. We were always designed to be subservient to God. We have the opportunity to start NOW and bring glory to God.

"Worship and Serve" appear hundreds of times in the Bible. We will be doing this for all of eternity. If we start now we will bring glory to Him now and in addition be rewarded.

4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

We will be face to face with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. His name will be on our foreheads. (In the Book of Revelation, people took the mark of the beast!) We want everyone to be a part of this. This is why we speak the Word to everyone we know and everyone we meet.

6 And he said to me, **"These words are trustworthy and true.** And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

He repeats this phrase to cement the truth. In the beginning the Word was “Don’t Eat” but they were deceived.

Think of the Millennial Kingdom, that period of 1000 years when the devil will be chained up. All will be so wonderful but when he is released again people will be deceived.

7 “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

From God’s perspective he is coming soon. It will be soon from the perspective of each man’s lifetime which is short. Once we die the next thing that happens for us is the rapture, or for those who did not believe in their lifetime the next thing is the resurrection as either the just or unjust. It is soon!

Obedience is highlighted once again – keep these words.

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me,

I John, who was with Christ for his ministry

I John, who was at the crucifixion

I John, the disciple who Jesus loved

I John, the one who lived from 30AD all the way till the 90s and on the Isle of Patmos wrote this...

THAT’S THE JOHN who is giving this testimony. I am the one who heard and saw these things. God revealed them to me.

And his reaction is that he wants to fall down at the feet of the angel and worship him.

9 but he said to me, “You must not do that! **I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.**”

The angels, the angelic being along with all of saved humanity for eternity are servants of the most high God, the creator of the heavens and the earth.

To worship and serve is our rightful place for all of eternity. The Devil has tricked people not to worship and serve. (Rather to be lifted up with pride as he is.)

Ephesians 1:9,10

9 making known^c to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

ALL are going to worship and serve the creator for all of eternity. This is the End Times we have to look forward to and to pattern our lives after. “**These words are trustworthy and true.** You can hang your hat on them for all of eternity. Hang everything on these words!

10 And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

Why does it say not to seal up the words of the prophecy? Others had seen some or all of this but were not allowed to share it, they were told to seal it up!

Daniel 12 speaks of times of The End:

Daniel 12:1-4

1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. [Tribulation] But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

Here is Daniel writing around 570 B.C. what God showed him then and then showed to John in around 90 A.D.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, [first resurrection before the Millennial Kingdom] and some to shame and everlasting contempt. [second death that we read about in Revelation, after the Millennial Kingdom]

Why is this not detailed here? Because the sacred secret (mystery in most translations) was not revealed until it was revealed to the apostles and Paul. So all Daniel gets is a snippet about these two events.

3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above;^a and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Oh my goodness. Shouldn't we be wise and believe the Word now? Shouldn't we be turning people to righteousness?

4 **But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end.** Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Daniel is told to seal the book.

Daniel 8:26

26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, **but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”**

So Daniel couldn't write about everything God had shown him.

27 And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

What he had seen of the tribulation period made him sick for several days! He could not fully understand what he had seen because it was going to be fully revealed later.

It is similar to the horrific things we have seen that Hamas did and others are cheering them on and think it is okay because they want Israel to give up their land to the Palestinians. It makes us sick.

But in Revelation 22:10 God tells John NOT TO SEAL IT UP.

10 And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

Who else did he show some or much of this to? Paul in Corinthians but he didn't write it, God had not given him leave to do so.

11 Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

DO & BE

What is in the heart and mind of an individual will play out in what they do. We have seen this play out in all of history and we are seeing it play out vividly now.

The righteous will do right the holy will be holy. If someone is righteous, true, and holy it is going to play out in his behavior, reflecting the characteristics of God in the human plane.

12 “Behold, I am coming soon [in relationship to each one’s vapor of a life], bringing my recompense with me, **to repay each one for what he has done.**

Yes we are saved by grace but rewards for eternity are meted out according to what we do with our lives. I Corinthians 3 speaks of what is built on Christ endures, what is not is burned up.

The theme of fire is recurrent in Revelation 21 and 22. The devil is going to be burned up. The second death will consume unsaved people. Possessions and things not done according to the word will be burned up.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes,^c so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

The tree of life again is mentioned here. These are the End Times we should be thinking about and allowing to direct us in our daily lives NOW.

15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Fits with Revelation 21:8 reiterates again the very same thing

Revelation 21:8

8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

For more about the end times Read the Gospel of Matthew chapters 20-28, the virgins who are left out and other parables. If you are left out in the cold you will actually be left out in the hot and you will be burned up. Forgive the fire and brimstone...this is the truth of what will happen.

15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and **everyone who loves and practices falsehood.**

There are those who love to practice falsehood because **it gets them what they want!** Whether it is the elite, or globalists or corporate CEOs, Dr. Fauci... many practice falsehood **to get what they want!**

We see in the Book of Revelation the whole world is deceived by a devil who is exceptionally good at practicing falsehood.

16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

Lucifer was the morning star. He is replaced by Christ who is the bright and morning star. He tried to deceive Christ with the temptations in Matthew 4 and Luke 4 but Jesus always responded with “It is written!”

This drove the devil so crazy he crucified the Christ BUT if he had known the mystery he would not have crucified the Lord of Glory. Because after that, everyone born of God’s spirit has that same Christ in them, the hope of Glory, the new man, the new nature, and the ability to take the place of Christ, shining as lights in this dark and perverse world. And all of these reaching out to save others, so they are not exterminated along with the devil.

17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,**

We don’t adulterate or mess with God’s Word! We don’t add, change, delete. What a warning! We don’t ADD to God’s Word. We don’t TAKE AWAY from God’s Word, (What had Eve done?)

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Adhere to, believe, rely on, trust God’s Word.

Back in Deuteronomy God told Moses write down these words. Don’t add. Don’t take away. This is my Word. It is different. It is living, powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword which cuts both ways as we saw in Hebrews.

20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming **soon.**” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.^d Amen.

AMEN – Thus shall it surely be!

It is only by grace we are saved. It is only by grace that even during the tribulation, those who missed out on the rapture still get another chance to conquer and endure to the end.