



*A study of the End Times  
and the destiny of  
everyperson.*

*Grace Church  
Normal, Illinois*

*Dr. Ed Searce*

*Summer 2016*

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Together Becoming Fully Devoted Followers of Christ

1311 West Hovey Avenue Normal, Illinois 61761 309.452.5076 [www.gracenormal.org](http://www.gracenormal.org)



## *Be Encouraged! The Rapture Is Coming*

May 15, 2016

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Pastor Ed Scarce

### **I. The grave is not the end for the believer.**

- A. Hope replaces mourning! v. 13
- B. Christ has conquered death! v. 14

### **II. Christ is coming to gather His own.**

- A. Christ will descend from heaven. v. 16
- B. The dead in Christ will rise. v. 16
- C. The believer will be "caught up" v. 17

### **III. Christians ought to encourage one another.**

- A. Encourage because there is going to be a reunion. v.17
- B. Encouraged because we will be with the Lord together forever. v.17

**Key Thought:** Whether we Christians live or die, we have nothing to fear because Jesus will come either with us or for us!

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## The Imminent Return of Christ

May 22, 2016

Selected Texts

Pastor Ed Scarce

### **I. The New Testament anticipates the return of Christ at any moment.**

- ⇒ "...for the coming of the Lord is at hand."      Ja. 5 :8
- ⇒ "The end of all things is at hand."      1 Pet. 4:7
- ⇒ "We who are alive will be caught up."      1 Thess. 4:17

### **II. Christ comes for the Church before the Tribulation!**

- ⇒ Living in the last days.      1 Jn 2:18
- ⇒ Nothing in the New Testament suggest we defer  
our expectation of Christ' coming.      2 Thess 2:1-3

### **III. God uses an eternal clock.**

- ⇒ We do not know the hour.      Mt 24:42
- ⇒ Time is of no consequence to God.      2 Pet. 3:8

### **IV. The hope of Christ's imminent return should spur us on to becoming Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.**

- ⇒ Steadfastness      James 5:8
- ⇒ Kindness      James 5:9
- ⇒ Prayer      1 Peter 4:7
- ⇒ Assembling/Encouraging      Heb. 10:24-25
- ⇒ Be like Christ      2 Peter 3:11/ 1 Jn 3:2-3

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## Signs of Christ's Return

May 29, 2016

Matt. 24 and Daniel 9

Pastor Ed Scarce

### **I. Understanding the Inner Canonical Connection**

- A. God has progressively revealed His plan and purpose in the Bible
- B. NT books of Revelation and & Matthew give us valuable information about the end times.
- C. The 70 weeks of Daniel lays the foundation.

### **II. Understanding the mindset of the Disciples**

- A. Jewish people had experienced much oppression.
- B. Jewish people know the OT talked about a bright and hopeful future.
- C. Jewish people believed God would regather their nation.

### **III. Understanding the unfinished role of Israel**

- A. God will keep His covenant with Israel. Jer. 32:40
- B. The Church has not replaced Israel.
- C. Matthew 24 is directed to Israel.

### **IV. Signs of Christ's Return begins with the nation of Israel**

- ⇒ **Statehood**
- ⇒ **Land**
- ⇒ **Allies**
- ⇒ **Temple**

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## Signs of Christ's Return (Pt 2)

June 5, 2016  
Pastor Ed Scarce

Matt. 24 & Daniel 9

### **I. Understanding the Inner Canonical Connection**

- A. God has progressively revealed His plan & purpose in the Bible.
- B. NT books of Revelation & Matthew give us valuable information about the end times.
- C. The 70 weeks of Daniel lays the foundation.

### **II. Understanding the mindset of the Disciples**

- A. Jewish people had experienced much oppression.
- B. Jewish people know the OT talked about a bright & hopeful future.
- C. Jewish people believed God would regather their nation.

### **III. Understanding the Unfinished Role of Israel**

- A. God will keep His covenant with Israel Jer. 32:40
- B. The Church has not replaced Israel.
  - The Church is a "mystery".
  - The "UNTIL" phrases of Jesus
  - God has not rejected His people!
- C. Matthew 24 is directed to Israel.

### **IV. Signs of Christ's Return begins with the nation of Israel.**

- ⇒ Statehood
- ⇒ Land
- ⇒ Allies
- ⇒ Temple

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## *The Difficulty & Distress of the Last Days*

June 12, 2016

Matt. 24:1-13

Pastor Ed Scarce

- |      |                                                 |             |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| I.   | Many will claim to be the Christ!               | (vv.4-5)    |
| II.  | There will be wars & more wars.                 | (vv. 6-7a)  |
| III. | Disasters of all kinds will plague the world.   | (vv.7b-8)   |
| IV.  | The righteous will be hated and persecuted.     | (v.9)       |
| V.   | Pseudo believers will defect.                   | (vv. 10-12) |
| VI.  | The Gospel will be preached to the whole world. | (v. 14)     |

### **Conclusion: Applying God's Word:**

- Sin is a horrendous affront to God's holiness.
- Sin left unchecked will always get worse.
- Jesus is the only answer. Pray for all in your Oikos.
- Children, Jesus will take care of you!

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# The Coming Worst Era of Humanity

June 19, 2016

Matt. 24:1-13

Pastor Ed Scarce

## **I. Jesus warns us of coming time when things could not get any worse. (v.21)**

- A. There has never been a time when it was so terrible.
- B. There will never be another time this terrible.

## **II. God reveals more details about this time in the book of Revelation. (Rev. Ch. 6-19)**

- A. The seven Seals Rev. 6
- 1. Rider on a white horse - - conqueror v.2
  - 2. Rider on a red horse - - no peace v.4
  - 3. Rider on a black horse - - famine v. 5
  - 4. Rider on a pale horse - - death vv.7-8
  - 5. Under the alter are souls - - martyrs v. 9
  - 6. Great earthquake - - hiding v. 12
  - 7. The seventh seal - - silence 8:1

- B. The seven Trumpets Rev. 8
- 1. Hail & fire mixed with blood - - burned v. 7
  - 2. Great mountain thrown in the sea - - blood v.8
  - 3. Flaming star out of heaven - -wormwood v. 10
  - 4. Sun, moon and stars are struck - - darkening v. 12
  - 5. Star opens the Abyss - - locusts 9:1
  - 6. Four angels released - - death 9:13
  - 7. Voice in heaven announces - - kingdom 11:15

- C. The seven Bowls Rev. 16
- 1. Harmful sores - - mark v.2
  - 2. Sea became like blood - - death v.3
  - 3. All fresh water becomes like blood - - justice v.4
  - 4. Sun scorched people - - unrepentant v.8
  - 5. Kingdom of the beast plunged into darkness - - unrepentant v.10
  - 6. River Euphrates dries up - - evil spirits v.12
  - 7. Voice out of heaven - - Finished v. 17

## **III. During this Era Antichrist will set himself up as God Mt. 24:15**

- A. The Antichrist is the "abomination of desolation".
- B. Daniel spoke concerning the coming rule of Antichrist. Dan. 9:26-27



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# The Coming Worst Era of Humanity (Pt. 2)

July 10, 2016

Matt. 24:1-13

Pastor Ed Scarce

## **I. Jesus warns us of a coming time when things could not get any worse. (v.21)**

- A. There has never been a time when it was so terrible.
- B. There will never be another time this terrible.

## **II. God reveals more details about this time in the book of Revelation.**

- |                                                              |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| A. The seven Seals                                           | Rev. 6  |
| 1. Rider on a white horse -- <u>conqueror</u>                | v.2     |
| 2. Rider on a red horse -- <u>no peace</u>                   | v.4     |
| 3. Rider on a black horse -- <u>famine</u>                   | v. 5    |
| 4. Rider on a pale horse -- <u>death</u>                     | vv.7-8  |
| 5. Under the alter are souls -- <u>martyrs</u>               | v. 9    |
| 6. Great earthquake -- <u>hiding</u>                         | v. 12   |
| 7. There was -- <u>silence</u>                               | 8:1     |
| <br>                                                         |         |
| B. The seven Trumpets                                        | Rev. 8  |
| 1. Hail & fire mixed with blood -- <u>burned</u>             | v. 7    |
| 2. Great mountain thrown into sea -- <u>blood</u>            | v.8     |
| 3. Flaming star out of heaven -- <u>wormwood</u>             | v. 10   |
| 4. Sun, moon and stars are struck -- <u>darkening</u>        | v. 12   |
| 5. Star opens the abyss -- <u>locust</u>                     | 9:1     |
| 6. Four angels released -- <u>death</u>                      | 9:13    |
| 7. Voice in heaven announces -- <u>kingdom is here</u>       | 11:15   |
| <br>                                                         |         |
| C. The seven Bowls                                           | Rev. 16 |
| 1. Harmful sores -- mark                                     | v.2     |
| 2. Sea became like blood -- death                            | v.3     |
| 3. All fresh water becomes like blood -- justice             | v.4     |
| 4. Sun scorched people -- unrepentant                        | v.8     |
| 5. Kingdom of the beast plunged into darkness -- unrepentant | v.10    |
| 6. River Euphrates dries up -- evil spirits                  | v.12    |
| 7. Voice out of heaven -- Finished                           | v. 17   |



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**III. During this Era Antichrist will set himself up as God**

Mt. 24:15

A. The Antichrist is the abomination of desolation”.

B. Daniel spoke concerning the rule of antichrist.

Dan. 9:26-27

**IV. During this terrible era God will protect His people**

A. God will cut this time period short. Mt. 24:21-22

B. God will gather all of His people. Mt. 24:31

**Concluding Thoughts:**

1. God is still on the throne
2. Holy Spirit continues to enable
3. Jesus is coming again! BE ENCOURAGED!
4. Believers are still on a mission!

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## *Key Personages of the Tribulation (Part 1)*

July 17, 2016

Revelation Chs. 12-13

Pastor Ed Scarce

### **I. The Woman clothed with the sun — Israel** (Rev. 12:1-2)

- A. Is representative of the nation of Israel.
- B. It is from Israel the Messiah will come.
- C. Will be protected by God. .

### **II. The male-child - - Christ** (Rev. 12:5-6)

- A. Will rule over everything in the end
- B. Has ascended into heaven but will return.

### **III. The great Red Dragon - - Satan** (Rev 12:3-4)

- A. Representative of Satan's control over world empires.
- B. Indicative of Satan's influence on the cosmos.
- C. Will attempt to kill the Christ-child.

### **IV. Michael and his angels will wage war against Satan** (Rev 12:7-12)

- A. The name Michael means "who is like God"?
- B. Satan will be cast down to earth.
- C. Satan will cause great havoc on earth.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

1. There is a cosmic battle of eternal consequences raging.
2. You are wise to pay considerable attention.
3. God has not abandoned us to defend for ourselves.
4. God has commissioned us to be fully devoted followers who are his light in this world.

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## *Key Personages of the Tribulation (Part 2)*

July 24, 2016

Revelation Chs. 12-13

Pastor Ed Scarce

**I. The Woman clothed with the sun - - Israel . (vv.1-2)**

**II. The male child - - Christ . (vv. 5-6) III. The great Red Dragon - - Satan . (vv. 3-4)**

**IV. Michael and his angels will - - wage war against Satan (vv.7-12)**

**V. The Offspring of the woman - - Israel. (vv.13-17)**

**VI. The Beast out of the sea - - Antichrist (Rev.13:1-10)**

A. There will be wonder. (v. 3)

B. There will be worship. (v. 4)

C. There will be words. (vv. 5-6)

D. There will be war. (vv. 7-10)

**VII. The Beast out of the earth - - False Prophet (vv. 11-15)**

A. He is the counterfeit Holy Spirit (v. 12)

B. He will compel people to worship Satan (v. 12)

C. He will perform great wonders. (v.13)

D. He will deceive many to do his will. (vv.14-15)

E. He will give breath to the image of the beast out of the sea. (v. 15)

F. He will execute all who do not worship the beast. (v.15)

G. He will control the world's economy. (vv.16-17)

### **Key Thought:**

The devil wrestles with God, and the field of battle is the human heart (Dostoyevsky)

### **My Take Away:**

1. Trust God's power to limit the extent and duration of Satan.
2. Be aware of political, religious and economic pressures that attempt to pull you away from Christ.
3. Ask God for patience and faithfulness when evil comes your way.

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## *The Coming Reckoning Day for Every Person*

July 31, 2016

Selected Texts

Pastor Ed Scarce

### **I. The Judgment after the Rapture** (2 Co. 5:6-10; 1 Co. 3:10-15; Ro. 14:10)

- A. Only believers from the Church age are involved.
- B. Believers will be judged on the basis of their works.
  - 1. Did I seek to be a fully devoted follower of Christ?
  - 2. Did I prove to be a faithful steward of God's entrustments?
  - 3. What was my underlying motivation?
- C. The consequences will be negative and positive.

### **II. Judgments at the Second Coming.** (Mt 25:31-46)

- A. Gentiles who make it through the Tribulation. (Mt 25:31-46)
- B. Jewish people who survive the Tribulation.
- C. OT & tribulation Saints who have died. (Rev. 20:4)

### **III. Judgments after the Millennial Kingdom.** (Rev. 20:10-15)

- A. The final and eternal judgment of Satan
- B. The present heavens and earth
- C. All the unsaved from eternity past.

#### **Key Thought:**

The time to think deeply about one's destiny is now!

<sup>35</sup> Therefore stay awake— for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Mk 13:35–37

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## *Life in the Millennium Pt 1*

August 7, 2016

Revelation Chapters 19-20

Pastor Ed Scarce

### **I. The prelude to the Millennial Kingdom**

- A. Christ, the cross, the empty tomb, the ascension, the Rapture, the Tribulation.
- B. The inner-canonical connection. (Jer. 31:31-40)

### **II. The purpose of the Millennial Kingdom.**

- A. To fulfill God's promises.
- B. The fulfilled promises of God are unimaginably beautiful.

### **III. The removal of Satan from the Millennial Kingdom.**

- A. Satan leads the forces of spiritual darkness. Eph. 6:12
- B. Satan is called the prince of the power of the air. Eph. 2:2
- C. He is the god of this age 2 Co 4:4
- D. Satan is the deceiver of the whole world. Rev. 12:9
- E. He is the dark force that works in connection with the fallen human heart to create all sorts of unimaginative distress and evil.

### **IV. The duration of the Millennial Kingdom. (Rev 20:3)**

### **Key thought:**

The end of the matter is that in the end God will have done the right, just and loving thing for humanity. YOU CAN TRUST HIM FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW. Do you trust Him?

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## *Life in the Millennium Pt 2*

August 14, 2016

Selected Texts

Pastor Ed Scarce

(Outline is cont'd from last week)

### **V. Christ will rule over all the world.**

- A. Jesus the messiah will reign as universal King (Dan 2:35)
- B. Israel will enjoy a special relationship with the King.
- C. The apostles will have a place of leadership.
- D. The Saints will reign with Christ. (Rev 20:6)

### **VI. Christ will rule spiritually**

- A. The Lord Jesus himself will be present.
- B. It will be a unique spiritual time because Satan is bound. (Rev 20:1-3)
- C. The reign of Christ will be characterized by righteousness. (Isaiah 121:4-5; 32:1; 33:5)
- D. The presence of Christ' righteousness has a wonderful impact.
  - There will be peace (Isa 2:4; 11:6-9; 32:18)
  - There will be joy (Isa 9:3-4)
  - There will be knowledge (Jer. 31:34)
  - There will be fullness of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-32)
- E. There will be universal worship of Christ. (Isa. 2:2-4; 11:9-10; Ezek. 20:40-41; 40:1- ; Zech 14:16)

### **VII. The Physical aspects of the Millennial Kingdom**

- A. The curse on all creation will be lifted. (Rom 8:19-23; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25)
- B. There will be health and healing. (Isa 30:??; 33:24; 35:5-6; 61:1-2; Ezek. 34:16)

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## *Life in the Eternal Kingdom*

August 21, 2016

Revelation 21 & 22

Pastor Ed Scarce

### **I. It will be heaven on earth. (Rev. 21:1-2)**

- A. God will create a new heaven and earth.
- B. God's holy city, Jerusalem will come out of heaven to the earth.

### **II. It will be a beautiful place populated with God's people. (Rev. 21:4-6)**

- A. They are a happy people. (V.4)
- B. They are a satisfied people. (V.6)
- C. They are a victorious people. (V.7)

### **III. It will be the eternal dwelling place of God (Rev. 21:3)**

- A. God Himself will dwell with humanity. (V.3)
- B. God's people will see him face to face. (V.3)

**So What? Press on! Press on! Press on!** (Phil. 3:13-14)

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## *What's So New About the New Covenant*

August 28, 2016

Hebrews 8:6-13

Pastor Ed Scarce

**1. The New Covenant is radically different from the Old Covenant that Israel did not keep. (Heb. 8:7-9)**

- 1) The Law did not provide justification by faith
- 2) The Law could not impart spiritual life
- 3) The Law magnified our sinfulness
- 4) The Law led to bondage
- 5) The Law was external
- 6) The Law was a conditional covenant
- 7) The Law did not provide full and complete forgiveness
- 8) The Law was based on an inferior priesthood
- 9) The Law kept worshipers at a distance from God
- 10) The Law was a temporary function

**2. The New Covenant involves God putting His laws into the minds and hearts of His people. (Heb. 8:10)**

**3. The new covenant involves a close, intimate relationship between God and His people. (Heb. 8:10b)**

**4. The new covenant means that every person, from the least to the greatest, knows God personally. (Heb. 8:11)**

**5. The new covenant effects complete forgiveness of sins. (Heb. 8:12)**

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