

An End-Times Perspective

What About America?

Intro

- Where is America in biblical end-times prophecy?
- Do you believe God might speak to us individually about our nation's future?

America's Future

- America will fall, but not be destroyed
 - *There will not be a single decisive cause for America's fall; there will be one blow after another, each hitting a different area of vulnerability until Uncle Sam can no longer stand, and he will fall totally overwhelmed by the ferocity and magnitude of the assault.*
 - *Your nation will not cease to exist ... but it will fall suddenly and completely from world power to virtual oblivion. People will still have jobs and be able to earn a living, but the standard of living will be drastically different.*
 - *This judgment is not for destruction, but for correction and repentance.*
 - *Life will go on; radically changed compared to recent years, but livable.*
 - collapse will be result of internal decay: spiritual & moral decay among Christians, & gross indifference of the church
 - external blows will precipitate the collapse, but internal weakness will cause the fall
 - if our nation were spiritually strong, nothing would take us down
- devastation is coming, will be terrible
 - economic turmoil; dollar will fail, no longer the world's reserve currency
 - military attacks & terrorist attacks
 - supply lines will be cut, stores empty in many places
 - basic systems in society will collapse and many public services will be abandoned for lack of funding and overwhelming problems
 - national infrastructure (transportation & utilities) will crumble due to financial problems
- nature will appear to go wild
 - weather extremes; devastating weather, including hurricanes
 - water resources change location or dry up
 - major earthquakes
 - rivers rerouted by landslides and earthquakes
 - crops fail; destroyed by weather, pests, and diseases immune to man's controls
- government policy problems & failures
 - government actions & regulations create major unintended civil & economic problems
 - this administration's bias toward Islam and against Israel will be a decisive factor
 - administration's pressure on Israel will escalate to public threats & sanctions
 - result of growing ungodliness & antisemitism among the political elite
 - Father will demonstrate the utter incompetence of human government: it's agencies & programs will collapse due to magnitude of difficulties ahead
- this will be redemptive discipline
 - God will temporarily withdraw his blessing and protection, allowing us to experience the natural consequences of our sinful attitudes and behavior
 - will not be God's wrath, which he is reserving for destruction of the world system on the Day of the Lord; this will be his temporary and redemptive warning to his people
 - will last several years; as many as ten, depending on how Christians respond

- purposes: (1) to demonstrate God's glory in the midst of catastrophe; (2) to purify us of worldliness & prepare us for our eternal roles in his kingdom
- people's responses
 - circumstances will seem totally hopeless & will cause people to be paralyzed with fear
 - people will live in despair and try to numb themselves by engaging in every form of indulgent & destructive behavior
 - sin in all its vile forms will explode on the scene as people try to numb their senses
 - will be a spiritual revival, but then a national plunge into depravity, extreme sensuality, & self-indulgence
 - anarchy will rule in many large cities
- spiritual war
 - war between spiritual kingdoms will erupt on social & civil scenes
 - spiritual warfare more intense & widespread than ever before
 - Jews & Christians seemingly overwhelmed with oppression, hatred, physical attacks
 - violence against ministries & churches; not all, but some
 - true believers will meet secretly in many cities
- distinctions
 - chaos & anarchy reign in streets; Gods' power & kingdom will reign in Christian's hearts & lives
 - destruction will be prevalent; God's people will flourish
 - crime will skyrocket; holiness will thrive
 - as wickedness ramps up, Father's grace will explode, providing everything we need to do the work he's given us
 - events will be devastating for earth-dwellers, but will finish the cleansing work Father's doing in us
 - distinction between kingdoms will be obvious to everyone; no gray areas between sinner & saint
- believers
 - Father loves us too much to allow us to continue struggling & suffering under worldliness
 - we have no idea how liberating & empowering it is to be like him
 - "blemished" is a gracious description of the church's current state
 - church's finest hour is approaching
 - Father will use us to minister to those who desperately need help
 - we'll be overwhelmed with wonder at glory & power Father releases thru us
 - miracles we'll experience will be thousands of times greater in magnitude & frequency than anything we've ever seen
 - will include miracles never seen before throughout human history
 - Father will cause us to absolutely flourish in the gifts & abilities he gave us
 - he'll cause us to fulfill our destinies in every detail
 - we'll live continuously in his grace & power
 - he'll purify us, strengthen us, teach us, & empower us
 - it's time to come out of world system, live exclusively in Father's kingdom
 - we'll reject the "great American dream" & embrace reality of God's kingdom
 - if we turn to Father now, allow him to purify us now, the coming hardships will not have as much impact on us
 - if instead we procrastinate & have to purify ourselves under great stress, will be much more painful & difficult

- Perspective is the key
 - We'll have nothing to fear as long as we focus our attention on Father.
 - If we continue thinking as the world does, we'll suffer like the earth-dwellers.
 - But if we transform our minds, we'll see Father's glory and experience its benefits.

Relevant Scriptures

- Jn 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
 - Why is fear not a proper response to such prophecies?
- Lk 10:19, "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."
 - What is the difference between authority and power?
 - What kind of results should we expect if we properly use our spiritual authority?
- Lk 21:14-19 [Jesus explaining what we should do if arrested or called before authorities], ¹⁴ "But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ All men will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By standing firm you will gain life."
 - According to verses 14 and 15, what should our attitude be if we are arrested or called before either civil or religious authorities?
 - Why would people hate or betray us, as described in verses 16 and 17?
- Ro 5:17, "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."
 - "reign" (Gk, *basileuo*): to be a king; to rule or control completely
 - How might circumstances affect our ability to reign in life?

- 1 Co 15:58, “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”
 - Based on the statement, “Let nothing move you,” how must we respond to end-times events, and how can we do that?
 - What is “the work of the Lord,” and how might that change during end-times events?
- General comments
 - It’s vitally important we study Bible end-times prophecies.
 - It’s not about knowing what’s going to happen, but about being ready for whatever does happen.
 - The more I learn about our spiritual authority in the physical realm, the more I believe we can hasten the Lord’s return by doing what he’s called us to do.
 - 2 Pet 3:11-12, “You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”
 - We are spiritual beings temporarily living in the physical realm.
 - Why do we hang on to this life?
 - This life is not about this life. And your life is not about you.

Closing

- Assignment: Read Matthew 6:25-34 daily until it transforms your thinking.
- Blessing: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Ro 15:13).