

## It's Time to Get Ready

The Future, Session 4

### Refining is Extremely Important

- God is preparing us for a major transformation
- Have you been through a very difficult period, one that made you question whether you could keep going or last any longer?
- Have you been irritated with God because he didn't seem to be doing what you expected?
- Do you think God could totally prevent bad things from happening to you?
- Ro 8:28-29, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."
  - My good, mundane & horrific experiences combine to produce positive results in me that are far greater than the experiences themselves
- Jas 1:2-4, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
- Refining is extremely important
- Goal of personal refining: to purify, then identify & prove the value of who you are

### Perspective

- Could God unilaterally put an end to all evil in the world?
- Does he sometimes allow sin to develop to its extreme?
- God set a precedent for this in the Old Testament
  - Gen 15:16, "In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."
  - What does that tell you about God's timing for taking the Israelites into the Promised Land?
  - God's plan for Israel included letting Amorites become increasingly wicked
  - Ex 23:23, "My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out."
  - God wiped out the Amorites after their sin fully developed
- In the end times, God will allow sin to fully develop and express itself
  - Might he have a reason to do so?
  - Php 2:10, "... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."
  - Rev 5:13, "Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!'"
  - How do you think God might use the future flood of perversion to transform us into his image?

- Almost everyone agrees end-time prophecies are scary
  - Mt 24:33, "... when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door."
  - Jn 14:29, "I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe."
  - 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."
- Do you believe God loves you and does only what's best for you?
  - When the world seems to be self-destructing and evil is rampant, will you still believe?
  - Even when you know God could remove you or completely protect you from all evil, but doesn't, will you still believe?
  - Will you be fully committed to him and his kingdom in the middle of Satan's absolute worst activities on earth?
  - We cannot keep living & thinking like the world; that would be spiritually deadly
  - We must commit ourselves to God's kingdom & righteousness, & let him take care of everything else (Mt 6:33)
  - God is who he says he is & he says he's good
  - He's looking for a quiet faith that will not be moved in the face of difficult circumstances
- This life is not about this life
  - Jesus loves you so much he took responsibility for all of your sin, experienced complete separation from God – the first & only time ever – went to hell in your place
  - Now, your life is no longer about you; you no longer belong to yourself
  - 1 Co 6:19b-20a, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price."
  - 2 Co 4:17, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."
  - 1 Jn 5:4-5, "... for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."
  - So, instead of viewing end-time events just as the consequences of eons of spiritual conflict – which they are – learn to see them as training opportunities, circumstances that promote spiritual growth & development
  - Heb 12:2-3, <sup>2</sup> "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."
  - Embrace the cross for the purity it'll produce in you

### **The Beginning of Birth Pains**

- Review: Alignment of Major Bible End Times Prophecies

### **Conclusion**

- Sure, the end times look scary, but our fear is evidence of self-centeredness – concern for our own comfort and protection – and a lack of trust in God. We need to be God-centered, not self-centered.
- "No fear! I choose to let the peace of Christ rule in my heart."

# Alignment of Major Bible End Times Prophecies

For relevance of the scripture passages used, see Note 1

“What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (Mt 24:3)

## Beginning of Birth Pains

childbirth analogy: contractions; increasing frequency & severity

**Jews return to Israel** (began prior to or during Beginning of Birth Pains)  
gathering from worldwide dispersion begins (Jer 30:3; Eze 34:13; 36:24; 37:21; 39:27; Amos 9:14-15)  
Israel united, not separate kingdoms (Eze 37:21-22)

**Deception**  
deception, false Christs (Mt 24:4-5; Mk 13:5-6; Lk 21:8)

**Wars, violence**  
white horse (religion), bow (warfare), crown (government), conquest (goal: world domination) (Rev 6:1-2, Seal #1)  
white horses go toward west (Zech 6:6); i.e., west of Israel  
wars, violence; ethnic (racial, religious, geographical) & national (Mt 24:6-7; Mk 13:7; Lk 21:9-10)  
red horse, sword, takes peace from earth (Rev 6:3-4, Seal #2)  
red horses go throughout earth (Zech 6:7)  
200 million troops near Euphrates River, 1/3 mankind dies (Rev 9:13-19, Trumpet #6)  
Israel's enemies attack, first war (Ps 83), second war (Eze 38-39; Joel 1:1-2:11)

**Famines, earthquakes**  
famines, earthquakes in various places (Mt 24:7; Mk 13:8; Lk 21:11)  
black horse, scales, food shortages, hyperinflation (Rev 6:5-6, Seal #3)  
black horses go toward north (Zech 6:6); i.e., north of Israel

**Plagues**  
plagues in various places (Lk 21:11)  
pale/ashen/green horse, 1/4 of earth killed by sword, famine, plague, beasts (Rev 6:7-8, Seal #4)  
dappled horses go toward south (Zech 6:6); i.e., south of Israel

**Fearful events**  
fearful events & great signs from heaven (Lk 21:11)  
hail & fire, 1/3 earth burned (Rev 8:7, Trumpet #1); causes crop failures & famine?  
blazing mountain into sea, 1/3 oceans polluted (Rev 8:8-9, Trumpet #2)  
blazing star on rivers & springs, 1/3 polluted (Rev 8:10-11, Trumpet #3)  
1/3 sky darkened (Rev 8:12, Trumpet #4)  
smoke from Abyss, locusts torment people 5 months (Rev 9:1-11, Trumpet #5)

**Lawless one revealed**  
3½ years before abomination set up in temple (Dan 9:27)

## Word of the Lord to Larry Fox, 23 May 2011 (excerpt)

You know how I have worked with each individual believer to purify, refine, heal, and strengthen them. When I release the next flood of holiness, you will see simultaneous change in my people around the world. As the veil between the realms suddenly allows the forces of darkness to invade, it will also allow my ministering servants to swarm into your presence to fulfill my plan for my people. I will release my nature and power and authority in my people as never before in history; more powerfully and more widespread than the day of Pentecost. Why? Because the battle between the kingdoms is reaching a climax that will erupt throughout the world and the heavens, producing the events of the last days. This is the “big push” I told you about, when there will be open warfare between the kingdoms, seen by everyone on earth.

Don't be preoccupied with the evil ones and their perversion. Instead, focus on me and what I am doing to transform my children. Be amazed at what I'm doing to uphold righteousness and destroy unrighteousness. Celebrate as you see me pour out my Spirit on those who love and serve me. Be filled with awe as you see me dispense justice and vindicate those whom the enemy has assaulted. Just watch me complete every detail of my plan and every letter of my law. Join me and participate in all I am about to do. There are two reasons I want you to do this: (1) I want you to be part of everything I do; and (2) your participation is a vital part of your transformation. As you work with me, you're stretched and strengthened; my Spirit flows through you to perform my will, which includes transforming you into my image; you learn my ways through first-hand experience; you learn to apply spiritual laws and principles, also through first-hand experience; and you're prepared for your eternal role in my kingdom.

Yes, I'll do all this to enable you to flourish in the days ahead, but this will also help you grow into your eternal destiny. Instead of viewing end-time events just as the consequences of eons of spiritual conflict – which they are – learn to see them as training opportunities, circumstances that promote growth and development. Just as my Son focused on the benefits his death would provide you, you need to focus on the benefits the end times will produce in you. Don't let the potential suffering distract or discourage you; rather embrace that cross for the purity it will produce in you. As sin increases, so will my grace, power, and everything else you need increase even more. As circumstances worsen, your development will increase synergistically; you will get better as things get worse, more rapidly and to a greater degree. The beginning of birth pains in the end times will produce not only a new kingdom on the earth, but also a new family of beings to rule that kingdom with me. Old things will pass away and all things will become new – a new heaven, a new earth, a new Jerusalem, a new kingdom, and a new people to participate in everything I do, to be like me, and to experience me as I really am. A fully redeemed humanity, the pinnacle of all creation, the ones I loved and destined from the beginning. That is what your light and momentary afflictions are transforming you into, an eternal glory that will be astoundingly wonderful. The problems of this life will seem inconsequential and soon fade from memory.

Keep your attention focused on me. Stay aware of what's happening in your world, so you know where you are in time and what I plan to do through you. Make my kingdom and righteousness your absolute top priorities and you won't have to be concerned about anything else.