

2012 AND THE END TIMES
"Part Five"

I. Opening thoughts:

A. Jesus **rebuked** those who did not understand the signs of the times in his day:

"O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the signs of the times." Matthew 16:3

B. Jesus **reminded** them to look up.

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh Luke 21:28

1. History says, "look **back**".
2. Science says, "look **around**".
3. Philosophy says, "look **within**."
4. Christianity says, "look **up**".

C. No other doctrine in the Bible that ought to **encourage** us more than the second coming of Jesus.

1. It ought to cause us to be **optimistic** in a world that seems out of control
2. And it ought to cause us to be **evangelistic** to a world that is lost without Jesus.

II. Three Facts About His Coming

A. He is coming **visibly**.

Matt 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory." NIV

B. He is coming again **victoriously**!

Matt 24: 30c "They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory." NIV

C. He is coming in **vengeance**.

"God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with

everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. 2 Thess 6:10

1. **Two words...**

Relief and reckoning.

Isaiah 59:17 "He put on righteousness like a breastplate, he put on a helmet of salvation on his head and he put on garments of vengeance for clothing."

Ezekiel 25:14 The God of vengeance pouring out vengeance on edom.

Matthew 5:38-48 "If someone slaps you, let them slap you again. If someone takes a piece of your clothing, give them another piece. If someone asks you to go a mile, go another mile."

Romans 3:5, "The God who afflicts wrath is not unrighteous."

III. Action point

A. Live in **hope**:

1. Seven characteristics of hope

A. Hope is in **God**

Psalm 43:5 "Why art thou cast down, o my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my god."

Psalm 78:7 says, "That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God."

B. Hope is a **gift** from God

2 Thessalonians 2:16 "Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father ... hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace."

C. Hope is **secured** by Christ's resurrection

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

D. Hope is a **defense** against Satan

1 Thessalonians 5:8 "Let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and, for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

E. Hope is to be **continual**

Psalm 71:14 "I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more."

F. Hope produces **joy**

Psalm 146:5 "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord, his God."

G. Hope is **secure**

Hebrews 6:18-19 "By two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."

Our hope is "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil."

Titus 2:13 says, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ."