

2012 AND THE END TIME
"Don't get caught sleeping!"
Part 8

I. FOUR FACTS

- A. **27%** of the Bible is prophecy? AND In the Old Testament there are over **1,800** references to Christ's return.
- B. Of the 260 chapters in the New Testament, there are more than **300** references to Christ's return one out of every **30** verses.
- C. **23** of the 27 New Testament books give prominence to this subject.
- D. For every biblical prophecy concerning Christ's first coming, there are **8** prophecies about His second coming.

1. *No single individual and no specific theology or school of thought has all the **answers** on this subject, regardless of what we might think.*

1 Corinthians 13:12). Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

2. *The **point** of the return of Jesus is way more important than the **details** of how it's going to happen.*

3. We face two dangers whenever we talk about the End Times:

1. Becoming more concerned about the **date** and the **signs** than about his return.

2. Ignoring the truth of the Second Coming and **living** as though he will **never** return.

II. The Big Stuff

A. The "**Day** of the Lord"

ISA. 2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

B. The "**Age** to Come"

Mark 10:30 "But that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

C. The **Rapture**

I THESS 4:16-17 : "The dead in Christ shall rise first and we who are living shall join them in the clouds with Christ."

D. The **Tribulation**

MATT 25: 15-21 ¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

E. "His **Appearing**"

F. **The Millennium** – a 1,000 year reign of Christ.

I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss [the pit] and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and

bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth ... Revelation 20:1-3,7-8 (NIV)

III. How do all of these big events fit together?

A. There is going to be a time of **tribulation** marked by *rebellion and falling away* from God; The **Anti-Christ** is given power; To be followed by the **Day** of the Lord; And Christ **returns** to judge and set things right; To be followed by the **Age** to Come.

1. "Dispensational **pre-trib.**
 - a. Rapture
 - b. Tribulation (7 years)
 - c. His Appearing"
 - d. Millennium
 - e. The Day of the Lord
 - f. The Age to Come
2. Dispensational Mid-**trib.**
3. Dispensational **post-trib.**

IV. Don't get caught sleeping!" I Thessalonians 5 :1-11

A. **Wise** up to end-times doctrine

I THESS 5:1-3 "Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

B. **Clear** up your Christian identity

⁴⁻⁵ But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are **all** sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

1. The issue is not **where** they are but **who** they are.

1.

C. **Wait** up for Christ's return.

6-11 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

D. "**Clean** up" and be self-controlled.

Verse 7 "For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night."

E. "**Dress** up for the occasion."

Verse 8 "But since we are of the day let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation."

1. Faith protects the **heart**.
2. Our faith must result in **love**.

V. Two contrasting experiences:

A. **Rescue** versus **Ruin**.

Verse 11 "Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."