

Sunday, October 22, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Do I Recognize the Signs/Seasons

Series: Why We Need to Learn About the End Times

Text: Text: Revelation 1:1 - 3

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the importance of learning about the End Times.

Introduction:

Last week I had intended to start a 4 – 5 week devotional study on the discipline of prayer; but recent events have caused me to respond with a series on the End Times.

The devotional on prayer was entitled "Heart's Cry:"

- 1) Heart's Cry of Moses, 2) Heart's Cry of the Psalmist,
- 3) The Heart's Cry of Believers

~ Revelation 1:1, "*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,*" "revelation" is G602 apokalypsis and means: 1) laying bare, making naked; 2) a disclosure of truth, instruction, a) concerning things before unknown, b) used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all; 3) manifestation, appearance

~ The modern use of the word apocalyptic is: describing or prophesying the complete destruction of the world.

~ The modern use of the word apocalypse: the complete final destruction of the world as described in the book of Revelation.

~ Isaiah 46:8 – 10, "*Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, (9) remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is none like me, (10) declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'"*

1. God Expects Us to Recognize the Signs:

~ 1 Chronicles 12:32, "*Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.*"

~ Matthew 16:1 – 3, "*And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show a sign from heaven. (2) He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' (3) And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times."*

~ Luke 12:54 – 56, "*He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. (55) And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens.*

(56) You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time."

2. God Promises Blessings to Those Who Recognize the Signs:

~ Revelation 1:1 – 3, "*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, (2) who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. (3) Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near."*

~ Revelation 22:7, "*And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*

~ Revelation 22:12 – 14, "*Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. (13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (14) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and they may enter the city by the gates."*

3. God Wants His Bride Ready:

~ Matthew 24:32 – 35, "*From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. (33) So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. (34) Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. (35) Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."*

~ Matthew 24:36 – 39, "*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, not the Son, but the Father only. (37) For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (38) For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark. (39) and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."*

~ Matthew 24:44, "*Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

~ Revelation 3:1 – 3, "*And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven stars.' "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. (2) Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. (3) Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you."*

Conclusion:

Dr. David Jeremiah states, "People are often surprised to learn that references to the Second Coming outnumber references to the first coming by a factor of eight to one. Scholars have identified 1,845 different biblical references to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ."