

# *“Rooted and Built Up” Discipleship Program*

## **Lesson Thirteen- What about the Future?**

**Scripture- Matthew 24:1-8**

**Memory verse- Revelation 21:4,** *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

INTRODUCTION- “The best is yet to come” is a reality from the standpoint of our Saviour. But, the truest adage for mankind might be that “we ain’t seen nothing yet!” Certainly, suffering will increase on earth, *“perilous times shall come”* (II Timothy 3:1), *“and because of iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold”* (Matthew 24:12). Christ told His disciples that *“great tribulation”* will come such as the world has never seen (Matthew 24:21). But, Christ also instructed His disciples that *“when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh”*



(Luke 21:28). The Bible is filled with many wonderful prophecies that have been fulfilled already; however, there are many predictions that have not yet been accomplished. We live in a special time in the history of mankind, which the prophet, Daniel, called *“the time of the end”* (Daniel 8:17, 11:35,40, 12:4,9). During these “end times”, we see our world in chaos. Nature seems at war with mankind as catastrophic events pound against civilization. False teachers, violent religions, and scientific theories assault the foundation stones of nations originally founded upon God’s Word. Political powers and *“rulers... in high places”* (Ephesians 6:12) delude themselves and arrogantly believe they have become the world’s “messiah”. Is it any wonder that God must *“wipe away all tears from their eyes”* one day? In this final lesson of our study, let us briefly answer the question on the hearts of many people—What about the Future?

### **I. THE INCREASED “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” IN THE WORLD**

**A. The Lord Jesus taught about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world in the “end times” (Matthew 24:1-8).**

Notice Christ’s seven-fold description of the world in that day:

**1. False \_\_\_\_\_ will appear (v.4-5).**

False teachers will go throughout the world turning the hearts of men away from God (Matthew 24:23-24; Mark 13:21-22; II Timothy 4:3-4).

2. **Wars will be \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6).**  
War is characterized by aggression, economic destruction, social disruption, and violent deaths.
3. **Wars will be \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6).**  
Oftentimes, the threat of war can put a society into nearly the same panic as the declaration of war itself.
4. **Nations will \_\_\_\_\_ other nations (v.7).**  
From Egypt to Israel, Babylon to the Medes and Persians, Greece to Rome, and Great Britain to modern day, kingdom has risen against kingdom.
5. **Famines (v.7).**  
Food supplies are shortened by drought and natural disasters more today than ever before (Genesis 12:10, 26:1, 41:56).
6. **Plague (v.7).**  
Disease upon disease afflicts man and threatens his survival today. Just when one virus has been cured, a more vicious strain appears.
7. **Earthquakes (v.7).**  
Just one earthquake in Haiti in 2010 took the lives of 316,000 people, and severe earthquakes were more frequent in the 20<sup>th</sup> century than in any other century before.

**B. The Lord Jesus taught about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world in the “end times” (Matthew 24:36-39).**

Today, our world fits the description of the world before the flood of Noah’s day. Worldliness and immorality abounds even among the so-called “religious”. There is no fear of God in the eyes of man, no thought of God in the mind of man, and no Son of God in many hearts of men. So will it be in the “*times of the end*”.

## **II. THE SECOND “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” OF THE LORD**

**A. Christ’s coming \_\_\_\_\_ the saved (I Thessalonians 4:15-18).**

This coming of Christ is commonly referred to as “the rapture”, which simply means “a catching away” (Revelation 4:1-2). This coming will take place at any moment (I Corinthians 15:51-52; John 14:2-3).

**B. Christ's coming \_\_\_\_\_ the saved (Revelation 19:11-21).**

After the rapture of the saved to be with Christ in Heaven has occurred, there will begin on earth a 7-year period of tribulation for all those who remain. This will be a time of Antichrist rule, deception, hunger, scorching heat, terrible pain, and even supernatural stinging beasts (Revelation 6:2, 9:1-11; 13:15-18; 11:3-4, 14:1-6; Zechariah 14:4). The Antichrist and his false prophet with all their armies will be annihilated at this Battle of Armageddon, and they will be cast into eternal fire.

### **III. THE MILLENNIAL " \_\_\_\_\_ " ON THE EARTH**

**A. The Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ upon earth for one thousand years (Revelation 20:4).**

After Christ defeats the Antichrist and his army, He will set up an physical kingdom on the earth, where He will reign as King from Jerusalem (Psalm 48:1-2). During this reign, the earth will be at peace and the animal kingdom will return to its original form (Isaiah 65:20, 25; Hosea 2:18).

**B. The Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ the Devil for one thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3).**

During this "Satan-free" era, believers will reign with Christ in His kingdom until the conclusion of one thousand years. At this time, Satan will be released from the "pit", and he will go throughout Christ's kingdom deceiving men one last time (Revelation 20:7-10).

### **IV. THE GLORIOUS " \_\_\_\_\_ " OF THE NEW UNIVERSE**

**A. The Lord will sit upon "a great white \_\_\_\_\_" in judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).**

Every unbeliever from every age of human history will be assembled before Christ to receive their final judgment. The verdict of "guilty" shall be cast upon "whosoever was not found written in the book of life", and these souls will be cast into the lake of fire once and for all and forever.

**B. The Lord will destroy the universe and replace it with "a new \_\_\_\_\_ and a new \_\_\_\_\_" (Revelation 21:1).**

This new universe will contain one capitol city called the New Jerusalem, which Christ has been preparing ever since He ascended back into Heaven following His resurrection (John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:2-3, 10-27). This new universe will have "no more curse" (Revelation 22:3), and thus, no more sickness, sorrow, pain, or loss. Death, sin, and Satan will not even be a memory, and every believer shall dwell with the Lord eternally—"Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

## V. CONCLUSION

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Person Who is able to satisfy the human heart with answers about the future. Toward the end of each year, we remind ourselves of the year's events. Some have been good, and some have been painfully bad. This view of *"former things"* prompts us to eagerly look forward to the future Christ has promised with Him on high. God permits the memory of our failures, sufferings, and persecutions to exist lest we should put confidence in our present flesh. Each of us possess a bitter memory of *"the things which have been"*, but there is coming a day when with just one touch every tear and all the pain we have endured will all be wiped away forever. And then, with the saints who have gone on before us shall we sing *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"* (Revelation 5:12).

**Student tip- Dear Lord, my cares I do now cast on Thee, for Thou carest for me. I shall not be troubled where the future leads, for I know in the end, it leads me to Thee.**